

Faster Tempo in Legislature Due In Coming Weeks

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District
 Now that most bills introduced in early January may legally be acted on, the tempo of our current session will speed up considerably. The 30-day waiting period after introduction before a particular bill may be heard in committee gives the public adequate opportunity to study it, but it also admittedly slows our early action.

Excellent advantage was taken of this preliminary lull in activity on measures. Both houses, Senate and Assembly, organized their committees under their respective rules. The members of these groups began to familiarize themselves with some of the bills which come before them.

The \$3.23 billion budget for 1963-64 is, of course, the biggest thing on our agenda. I will probably comment on it in this column several times between now and the end of our session. Our legislative analyst's report on it is expected to be released shortly.

SO FAR, about 1,200 bills have been introduced in the Assembly, 700 in the Senate. These figures are about one-third the totals expected to be introduced in each house. In addition, there are a number of constitutional amendments, and a variety of resolutions.

Bills relating to almost all of the more important topics have been dropped in the hoppers of our two houses. These are the ones which will probably require more work on our part, either because they are controversial, or because of inherent difficulties in working out the best, most precise provisions.

LEGISLATION relating to education will be involved in a great many bills. More support for public schools and higher education are not only in the budget bill, but will also be the subject of many other measures. Scholarships, school

loans, more special facilities for the mentally retarded and the physically handicapped are other proposals we must review.

Three different series of bills propose fundamental changes in our state social insurance programs. Disability insurance, unemployment insurance, and workmen's compensation would be affected. A real problem in this area is the continued drain on the state disability fund which threatens its solvency.

A CLOSELY related field is welfare. This special welfare study commission has submitted a number of recommendations which would bring about sweeping changes in the powers and duties of the state welfare board and the director of welfare, and in the aid to needy children and totally disabled persons. Considerable shifting of costs between counties, the state, and federal governments is involved.

Increases in highway users' taxes to be devoted to improvement of local streets and roads are the subject matter of other measures already before us.

A series of measures in the field of equal rights has been introduced. The name of the fair employment commission would be changed to the human rights commission. Its powers to take action on its own initiative would be strengthened. Many extensions of the program are in various bills.

MUCH ACTIVITY is promised in many other fields. Closer control of dangerous drugs other than narcotics is on our agenda. So is the intricate problem of "sovereign immunity" — the liability of local governments to pay damages under many circumstances.

As I have written here before, this 1963 session will be active, interesting, and productive for the good of California.

Senator Engle Explains His Truth in Packaging Measure

Senator Clair Engle (D-Calif.) has disclosed that the "Truth in Packaging" bill he is sponsoring would require manufacturers to print the net weight of a product on the front panel of its packages, without embellishment.

Senator Engle said, "The net weight must be represented in a prominent and conspicuous manner on the front of the package — and with no qualifying adjectives.

"This will eliminate such absurdities as the 'giant half-quart,'" he added.

The net weight labelling is one of three across-the-board requirements for all products the bill includes, the Senator continued.

The "Truth in Packaging" bill — designed to eliminate deceptive packaging on household goods — provides for other regulations by the rest of them would be applied on a product-by-product basis.

THE OTHER two across-the-board requirements are:

Packages should contain no pictures or illustrations that would deceive the consumer as to content. A can of succotash, for instance, should not carry a picture of a savory beef stew, even if that stew would be a logical end product for

the can's contents. Likewise, chocolate chips should be as evident in the cookies as they are in the package illustration.

Manufacturers should not be allowed to print "cents-off" deals, economy size designations, and other information implying a price advantage on their packages. Implying a bargain by these methods presupposes a control over retail price that the manufacturer usually does not have. This requirement was included because too often the "cents-off" deal passes absolutely no savings on to the customer.

SENATOR ENGLE said, "These three provisions are the only ones that will apply across the board to all consumer market basket items.

"Of course, the bill proposes other regulations but the rest of them must be applied on a product-by-product basis. Obviously, many directives that would be sensible for soap packagers would look silly if enforced on fish canners or ice cream manufacturers."

Senator Engle said the three basic requirements will be enforced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).



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Tomatoes
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Pork and

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VIRGINIA TYPE
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ARIES MAR 21 - 31	1 Ask 2 Full 3 For	31 Appreciate 32 Refreshing 33 Someone	61 Do 62 But 63 Interest
Taurus APR 21 - 30	4 Children 5 Pets 6 Speed	34 Changes 35 You 36 Excellent	64 For 65 You 66 At
GEMINI MAY 21 - 31	7 Lucky 8 Day 9 Talk	37 Ahead 38 Graded 39 For	67 Write 68 Sure 69 Clothing
CANCER JUN 21 - 30	10 Extra 11 Keep 12 Or	40 Admin 41 You'll 42 No	70 Or 71 Some 72 Form
LION JULY 21 - 31	13 Mute 14 No 15 Friend	43 Are 44 Has 45 Romantic	73 Heart 74 Office 75 Court
VIRGO AUG 21 - 31	16 Smile 17 Elders 18 Or	46 Impress 47 Don't 48 Arguments	76 Produce 77 Think 78 Or
LIBRA SEP 21 - 30	19 You're 20 Relative 21 Favors	49 Invitation 50 Forget 51 Anticipate	79 Thrills 80 People 81 A
SCORPIO OCT 21 - 31	22 Twins 23 Start 24 Money	52 Purchasing 53 Those 54 Ha	82 Personal 83 Backen 84 Home
SAGITTARIUS NOV 21 - 30	25 Nothing 27 Small 28 Results	55 Important 56 Slow 57 Your	85 Friend 86 Real 87 Investigating
CAPRICORN DEC 21 - 31	29 For 30 For 31 Good	58 Who 59 To 60 At	88 Favorably 89 Boss 90 Escape
AQUARIUS JAN 21 - 31			91 A 92 Personal 93 Backen 94 Home 95 Friend 96 Real 97 Investigating 98 Favorably 99 Boss 100 Escape
PISCES FEB 21 - 29			101 A 102 Personal 103 Backen 104 Home 105 Friend 106 Real 107 Investigating 108 Favorably 109 Boss 110 Escape