

Legislators Busy With Hearings on State's Problems

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

By the time you read this, more than 30 interim meetings of Senate and Assembly committees will have been held in December, and there is still time for others to be scheduled within the month. This heavy volume of work results from the hundreds of bills and resolutions which were referred for interim study by the 1963 Regular and Special Sessions.

Few persons not directly connected with the Legislature are aware of the amount of preparatory work necessary to carry on such an extensive program of investigation. Meeting dates must be selected with care to assure full attendance of committee members. Locations must be picked with an eye to community interest in particular problems. Adequate advance must be given to all interested individuals and organizations, and to the general public through all news media.

FREQUENTLY, research material must be collected from many sources, and summarized for information of committee members. Written statements must be obtained from those desiring to make formal presentations. An itemized agenda must be prepared to notify all concerned of topics which will be taken up. Sometimes subpoenas must be issued to make certain that individuals attend, or records are produced.

Some 20 different topics will have been considered at these meetings. Certain matters will be the subjects of more than one hearing either because of their great importance, or because the needs of various parts of the state differ considerably. Then too, as frequently happens, committee consideration may develop new areas for study.

IT IS NOT possible for me to do more than name a few of the matters considered at these hearings. They cover the alphabet from airports to zoning. Every resident of California, rural or urban, northern or southern, has a personal stake in one or more of the problems investigated.

The Senate Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities, and the Assembly Committee on Transportation and Commerce are continuing their series of hearings on airport location, development, and financing. The two groups are also studying the problems of metropolitan rapid transit.

THE ASSEMBLY Committee on Water, through its subcommittees, is taking up three problems: the pollution of San Francisco Bay waters; the conversion of salt water through nuclear energy; and the intrusion of sea water into ground water from boating marinas. The Assembly Education Committee is considering the financing of the foundation program of local school districts, as well as the knotty problem of authorizing academic research at the state colleges.

One hearing which is certain to attract wide public attention is that of the Senate Committee on Legislative Representation on lobbying in Sacramento. As this is being written, the committee chairman has said that a full-scale investigation of lobbying, the broadest in ten years, will be made to determine what it is, what it does, and how much it costs. The services of a nationally known authority as consultant have been requested.

Chamber of Commerce Seeks Accreditation

Officials of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have announced they will seek official accreditation by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

The decision to apply for accreditation was made by the chamber's board of directors on the recommendation of the executive committee. The national chamber will launch its new accreditation program in January.

Local chambers must apply for accreditation. Once it is granted, the local chamber is certified by a group of judges as a business organization which maintains high and desirable standards of performance in its work.

TO BE ACCREDITED, the Torrance chamber must make a complete evaluation of its organization and work. The report will be examined by the national chamber, which then will send an examining committee to visit the local chamber. The report of the examining committee and the evaluation will be examined by the United States Chamber of Commerce board before final action.

The purpose of the accreditation program is: to define standards of work and planning in chamber of commerce work, to measure achievement, to give encouragement and recognition to outstanding organizations and members who meet the standards, and to upgrade and improve voluntary organizations of business and professional people.

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CHRISTMAS VACATION SCHEDULE
MON. 10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.; 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. NO EVENING SESSION.
TUES. WED. 10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. to 5 P.M.; 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.
THURS. 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.; 8 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.
FRI. 10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.; 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.; 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.
SAT. 9:45 A.M. to Noon; 1:15 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.; 3:45 P.M. to 6 P.M.; 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.; 10 P.M. to Midnight
SUN. 9:45 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.; Noon to 2 P.M.; 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.; 8 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.

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