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YOUR STATE SENATOR REPORTS:

Legislators Probe Water Supply Problem Again

By Senator Richard Richards

Public attention locally will again be focussed on the question of the state's water needs when the Joint Legislative Committee on Water Resources Development Problem meets in Los Angeles on November 19 and 20.

This will be the first meeting in Los Angeles of the 18-member group that was created especially to seek agreement between conflicting sectional viewpoints in advance of a special session of the Legislature to enact legislation activating a definite state water program.

Although previous hearings have been held in other parts of the state, it was my suggestion that the Los Angeles meeting be reserved until this time, when we are about ready for an all-out discussion on the scene where a future water supply is of the greatest possible concern.

PROGRESS MADE

During this interval I believe we have made real progress in drawing together insofar as our local position is concerned. This has been accomplished through a series of meetings with representatives of interested groups, all of which are better coordinated and more harmonious in their views than they were when the 1957 Legislature adjourned in early June.

During the forthcoming hearings the Los Angeles position will thus be clarified and set out in detail through spokesmen for the major water groups, who will include Joseph Jensen for the Metropolitan Water District, William S.

Peterson for the Department of Water and Power, and William Rosecrans for the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Some new proposals will be made by Southern California jointly, and it is hoped they will find favor through a more receptive attitude on the part of Northern California representatives on the committee.

IDEAS EXCHANGED

Since public support in all parts of the state is, vitally necessary to the success of any water plan, local community leaders, working through the Chamber of Commerce, are making a valuable contribution in meeting with northern leaders to exchange ideas and iron

out differences with a view to greater understanding on the part of the general public in all communities.

In our local meetings preparatory to the forthcoming hearings by the Water Committee, Assemblymen Carley V. Porter, of Compton, and Harold Levering, of Santa Monica, have shown great insight into the essential problems, and great diligence in coordinating our own efforts towards an early agreement which will be satisfactory to the south and agreeable to northern interests which up to now have viewed any proposal from this area with varying degrees of mistrust.

State Economy Shows Signs Of Decline

"Economic activity in California during September continued at a high level although there are some indications of slowing down from the record level of recent months."

That was the report given today to the California State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at their meeting in San Francisco by Robert A. Hornby, Third Vice President of the State Chamber and President, Pacific Lighting Corporation, San Francisco.

At the same time, it was reported that "personal incomes of Californians in the first half of 1957 rose by 7.5 per cent above those in that period of 1956. Later data recently available on payrolls, pension and assistance payments and net farm receipts indicates that in the third quarter of this year also personal incomes have gained over the year before."

Net incomes of farmers so far this year have been "at an annual rate of over a billion dol-

ars, and, largely because of increased government payments, are higher than in 1956."

BALANCE UPSET

"However," the report continued, "the approximate balance of forces observed during the summer months was being displaced by the stronger assertion of restraining factors and signs of decline were noted more frequently."

Thus, the report pointed out that civilian employment in September was at the all time high mark of 5.8 million, but the gain that it represents is not as great as in the previous year.

"With labor force growing more rapidly than number of

jobs, unemployment has risen but it is still only three per cent of the total work force, somewhat lower than the national ratio."

Volume of production was reported continuing to increase but at a rate slower than last year. Construction was cited as "still the darkest spot" while, "one favorable item is the settlement near the end of August of serious labor disputes." Declines in building permits and volume of bank loans were cited.

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