

State's Leaders Up Tree

Subcommittee Ponders Dues

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

The refusal of Russia to pay its United Nations assessments for peace actions in the Congo and elsewhere was not mentioned, but it was brought forcibly to mind at a recent meeting of a subcommittee of the Assembly Committee on Interstate Cooperation. The group was considering a 1963 Assembly resolution which calls for an interim study of California payments to the Council of State Governments because that organization had endorsed three proposed amendments to the U.S. Constitution which had been rejected by our California Legislature.

The first of the three amendments would permit a coalition of the highest courts of the several states to overrule the U.S. Supreme Court. The second would deprive the Supreme Court of control over apportionment of state legislatures. The last would change the method of amending the U.S. Constitution to increase the power of the smaller states.

THE RESOLUTION as originally introduced in the Assembly would have called for the study "to insure that such funds will not be used to support causes which are contrary to the interests and policies of this state." This language was stricken from the resolution on the grounds that it implied a threat to withdraw California financial support from the council. Milder language was submitted, but the implication is still apparent, as was brought out at the meeting.

Our legislative analyst reviewed for the subcommittee the facts concerning the organization and financial support of the Council of State Governments. He explained that the council is a national organization of all state governments, founded in 1933, which provides its members with meetings, committees, and other means by which they can study their common problems, work out solutions for them, and achieve effective results, either through joint action or national legislation when necessary. He referred to the several affiliated groups which are adjuncts of the council, such as the Governors' Conference, the National Legislative Conference, and the State Attorneys-General Organization.

THE COUNCIL'S entire annual budget, set for about \$731,000 this year, is apportioned among all the states on the basis of population, and California's current annual assessment is \$63,000. The Analyst concluded that this expenditure is made well worthwhile by the benefits obtained, and gave it as his personal opinion that it could well be unwise to even suggest withdrawing support from a valuable organization because of disagreement over a few issues.

A member of the subcommittee took the opportunity to declare that he, also, felt it would be foolish to threaten to withdraw from the game because we do not like the way all the plays are being run. Other states with similar disagreements have not even hinted at withdrawal, he pointed out.

A spokesman from the western regional office of the council in San Francisco told the group that a special study commission has recommended changes in council organization and procedures which will prevent action of constituent elements being taken for final council action without approval of its board.

The subcommittee will submit recommendations on the resolution to its parent group in the near future.

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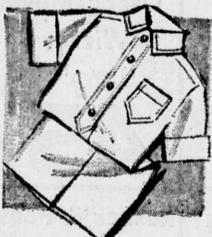
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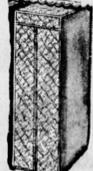
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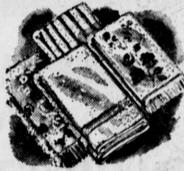


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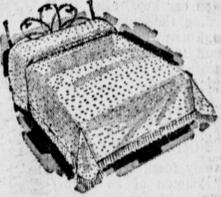


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