

# Sacramento's Fourth House Eyed Closely

By VINCENT THOMAS  
**Assemblyman, 68th District**  
 The shortest article in California's novel-length Constitution (which certainly does not read like a novel) is Article III. In 57 blunt words it states that the powers of the state government shall be divided into three separate departments — the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. It prohibits any person charged with responsibilities in one department from performing functions in another, except as specifically provided.

The fundamental system of checks and balances thus created has served our state well. However, as is only to be expected, the relationships between the three branches have shifted from time to time, depending on political alignments and power. A strong Legislature could dominate a less powerful executive, or vice versa. Our California history during the past half century reveals that there has been practically constant sparring for position, at least between the Legislative and Executive branches. The functions of the Executive branch have

## March of Dimes Head Appointed

Clara A. Conner, postmaster, has been appointed Torrance chairman for the Los Angeles County 1965 March of Dimes by Eugene W. Biscailuz, county campaign chief and former county sheriff. First duty of Miss Conner will be to supervise the recruitment of men, women, and teenagers to serve as volunteers for the January fund-raising drive. The chairman pointed out that past local March of Dimes campaigns helped bring about the conquering of polio. Both the Salk and Sabin vaccines were solely financed through the March of Dimes.

He outlined the organization's full-scale concentration on a program to fight birth defects. "Here in Los Angeles County alone, at least 10,000 babies are born each year with a major defect, with over 700 deaths due to congenital malformations. One baby out of 16 will need special care," states the leader. The March of Dimes supports a local Birth Defects Treatment Center for Children as well as 43 additional birth defects centers located throughout the nation.

grown steadily to meet public needs, and as they have there has developed a persistent trend toward streamlining the state administration to give it added strength. Equally, the Legislature has forged new tools to help it maintain parity with its opposite number, and to assist it to handle one of its primary jobs, control of the state pursestrings.

FIRST OF the auxiliary agencies set up by the Legislature was the Office of the Legislative Counsel, to provide expert and unbiased assistance in legal research and the drafting of proposed legislation. Years later came the establishment of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee with its adjunct, the Office of Legislative Analyst, to provide an analysis of the state budget made independently of the budget request submitted by the Governor. Still later, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee was created, with the Office of Auditor General under it, to provide information as to how state funds are actually spent.

The enormous demand for expanded and improved state services has brought about a proliferation of state executive agencies which has heavily increased the burden on the Legislature of securing all the facts on proposals of all kinds put before it. To meet this need, interim committee activities have been greatly expanded, but even this has left gaps in investigation which need to be closed if we are to fulfill completely our responsibility of enacting only the soundest legislation for California.

RECENTLY, the Assembly took an important first step to keep itself fully abreast of all developments in fields with which it must concern itself. Through its Rules Committee, it established a complete framework of staff consultants to assist each of its 24 standing committees to analyze proposals and determine facts. It also approved the hiring of four consultants to assist the minority Republican party.

Topping this structure is a chief consultant, and four senior consultants with roving authority to supplement the work of those assigned to committees. All consultants, after screening by the chief, are appointed by the Rules Committee.

Already the press is referring to the consultants organization as the Fourth House. Supporters and critics of the program are watching with interest to see how it works.

## Garden Checklist

1. Plant perennials for spring bloom. Delphinium, day lily, sweet Williams, Canterbury bells, coral bells and many others may go in now.
2. All manner of shrubs can be planted in November. Camellias and azaleas are good bets because they will bloom in winter and spring to give you quick rewards.
3. There are many items in nurseries which make good gifts for gardeners. In fact, it is almost impossible to find a nursery item which doesn't make a good gift for someone. In addition to blooming plants, there are garden tools, garden books, spray equipment, attractive planters and many other possibilities. Check with your local nurseryman to give yourself new ideas. Reserve what you want now before the big Christmas rush. You will then be assured of getting just what you want for that special friend.
4. While you are at the nursery picking out Christmas gifts, put in your order for bareroot stock. Mid-December is the start of the bareroot season. This means that all manner of things may then be planted at less cost and less effort than at any other time. Roses are the big items, but so are fruit trees, shade trees, many spring-flowering shrubs and a host of spring-flowering trees.
5. Cut back chrysanthemum plants to about three inches above the ground when they go out of bloom.

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**3 FOR 25c**  
 SAVE 8c

PACIFIC THIN FLAKE  
**SODA CRACKERS**  
 1-LB. BOX  
**25c**  
 SAVE 6c

Virginia Lee  
 LUNCH BOX SIZE  
**POTATO CHIPS**  
 6 PACK  
**19c**  
 SAVE 10c

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 VEAL & TURKEY  
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 12 OZ. PKG.  
**59c**  
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 1 LB. PKG.  
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