

# Solon Step up Efforts To Meet Court Deadline

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

This last week activity in our efforts to deal with our number one problem, redistricting of both our houses, stepped up considerably. The California State Supreme Court has given us until Dec. 9 to enact laws containing our own solutions for Senate and Assembly reapportionment, failing which, Court developed plans will go into effect.

The Court's decision retains jurisdiction of the matter until after the deadline passes. It also sets two standards for our guidance in dealing with the population factors upon which new district boundaries must be established. The first is that the 1960 population of no Senate or Assembly district can deviate by more than 15 per cent, either up or down, from the average population per district in the 1960 cen-

## School Permit Wins Approval

A zone exception to permit the continued operation and expansion of Chadwick School in Rolling Hills Estates has been approved by the Regional Planning Commission. The commission acted on a petition filed by the Roessler Chadwick Foundation, 4040 Palos Verdes Drive North. The school currently is planning some new facilities on the site.

sus. The second is that a minimum of 48 per cent of the total state population must be able to elect a majority of the members of each house.

The Assembly Committee on Elections and Reapportionment has started a series of hearings on a measure to redistrict its own seats. It hopes to agree upon a plan by the time you read this, so that floor consideration may begin the following week. One idea which has received quite a bit of public attention would be to take one Assembly seat from San Francisco's present five, transfer it to Orange-San Bernardino counties, thus increasing their combined total

to six seats, and to leave the rest of the districts relatively unchanged.

**THE CHAIRMAN** of the committee reminded the members present, "You can disagree with the Court (decision) but you certainly cannot ignore it or defy it." He expressed optimism that an acceptable plan for the Assembly will soon be devised by the group.

One spokesman at the hearing, from the Legislative Counsel's office, told the committee that a possibility does exist that our State Supreme Court and the U.S. Court could disagree about any legislative solution for Senate reapportionment.

"Each Court is free to exercise its own independent judgment, and the courts may or may not agree as to the validity of a particular plan."

He noted that the State Supreme Court had ordered both the Senate and the Assembly to reapportion by Dec. 9. The special panel of federal district court judges has meanwhile deferred action on its order for Senate redistricting until Jan. 10, to give the Legislature every opportunity to act.

**IN THE** meantime, the Senate Special Committee on Reapportionment has again met behind closed doors to continue its difficult and delicate task of deciding the po-

litical futures of many of its veteran members. The committee did, however, prepare "reapportionment kits" of background materials, and delivered a kit to every member of the Senate.

Each kit contains the complete text of the California Supreme Court decision, with accompanying tables and maps. These latter documents show that the population per Senate seat under the Court plan, as compared to the av-

erage of 392,334, would be 13.3 per cent over in the largest, and 12.3 per cent less in the smallest district.

For the Assembly, as compared to the average of 196,167, the largest district would have 222,194 population, and the smallest, 168,397, both within the prescribed 15 per cent margin. For both houses, the Court plan would also meet the 48 per cent standard for electing a majority of members.

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