

State Assembly Unwraps Own Redistricting Plan

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

Chances that the Assembly will complete its work on the reapportionment of its own districts before you read this now look fairly good. Just before I started to write this, the Assembly Committee on Elections and Reapportionment held a hearing at which was unveiled a new proposal for redistricting the seats of that house. While first reactions to it were mixed, it was generally anticipated that the measure will be quickly passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate.

The plan would alter the boundaries of 58 of the 80 districts. It would reduce the disparity in population between the most populous district (Riverside County) and the smallest (Imperial County) from the existing 4.2 to 1 to 1.3 to 1, just inside the standard set by the State Supreme Court. Under the plan, the largest district would be the 26th in San Mateo County, the smallest the 18th, in Alameda County.

The City and County of San Francisco would lose one of its existing five seats, which would be transferred to Orange-San Bernardino counties. As was not unexpected, the plan involves altering the boundaries of many districts so that they include parts of two counties. The limits of the existing geographically huge 6th district, which contains 11 counties stretching along the spine of

the state from Yuba on the north to Inyo on the south, would remain unchanged.

THE COUNTY boundary crossings are too numerous to list in full. I am briefly describing only a few as illustrations of what this major

change in policy on districting will mean. Riverside County, now at the top of the population scale, would be divided and its eastern end combined with Imperial, now at the bottom, to make two districts of about average size. Part of San Joaquin County

would be joined with Stanislaus, to bring districts in those counties nearer the average. Eastern parts of Yolo County would be attached to a district now wholly within Sacramento County. Politically, it has been estimated that the plan would in-

crease voter registration advantages for 15 Democratic incumbents and 16 Republicans. Redistricting would produce registration changes to the disadvantage of 18 Democrats and 7 Republicans. The Chairman of the Elections Committee said there was no

partisan gerrymandering, "because there wasn't time for that luxury."

DEMOCRATIC leaders of the Assembly were confident that the bill would pass with strong bipartisan support. Republican leaders were more

restrained in their comments. Pointing out that the bill only requires 41 votes to pass, one declared that party members do not have the voting strength to affect the outcome, and said it is a foregone conclusion that the bill will pass. Another, however, said that barring a major political upheaval the bill would tend to freeze Democrats into office until 1980.

The Assembly, with this plan opened for public study and reaction, thus took a lead over the Senate in complying with the Court order. The most hopeful recent word from the Senate side was stated by Los Angeles County's sole Senator, who said he is confident the Senate will produce an acceptable plan before the deadline.

Law Agency To Sponsor Open House

Sheriff's Stations throughout Los Angeles County will roll out red carpets for visitors Saturday, Oct. 30.

The occasion is the fifth annual Sheriff's Open House. All 14 facilities will be open and Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess has extended an invitation to all residents of the county to visit one of the facilities.

Behind-the-scenes law enforcement activities are as educational as they are exciting, Pitchess said. He especially encouraged school-age boys and girls to visit the sub-stations.

LOCAL STATIONS which will participate in the program include the Lennox Station, 4331 Lennox Boulevard, 7901 S. Compton Ave. The Lennox station serves the Lomita area, while the Firestone station serves the Carson-Dominguez area.

Programs will include guided tours, inspection of departmental equipment, static displays, and a demonstration by a mounted posse. Brochures describing the activities of the Sheriff's Department will be distributed to all visitors.

Mountain area facilities will feature a special demonstration by Mountaineers with rescue equipment, Pitchess said.

The event is co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Jaycees will be on hand at each station to serve light refreshments. The visiting hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Parents of Handicapped Set Meeting

"Structuring the Classroom and Home Life of a Neurologically Handicapped Child" will be the subject of Dr. Alice C. Thompson at a meeting of the California Association for Neurologically Handicapped Children (CANHC) tomorrow.

The meeting will be held in the Long Beach Memorial Hospital cafeteria, 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, at 7:45 p.m. A question-and-answer period will follow Dr. Thompson's presentation.

Dr. Thompson is associate professor of psychology and director of the learning and behavior problems project at Associated Clinics, Los Angeles State College.

CANHC is an association of parents of neurologically handicapped children whose purpose is recognition, education, and rehabilitation of neurologically handicapped children.

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