

Legislature Slowed By New Roadblocks

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

Roadblocks of various kinds have recently slowed progress on our two major issues, reapportionment and medicare, to a point at which some pessimistic observers foresee the possibility of a stalemate in the current special session. As if to emphasize the seriousness of the situation, a spokesman for the Governor indicated that another special session might be called if we fail to agree on redistricting.

The Assembly bill to equalize districts of that house more nearly on a population basis, about which I wrote in an earlier column, was approved by a vote of 58-18. However, instead of being sent promptly to the Senate, which would ordinarily be the case, the bill was held in the Assembly by the Speaker who gave notice that he would move to have the vote on passage reconsidered. This parliamentary tactic automatically delayed action over a long weekend.

THE PURPOSE of this move was said to be the al-

New Chapter Of Diabetes Group Forms

A local chapter of the Diabetes Association is now being formed, according to Mrs. Mark Hormell. The group will meet Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 8 p.m. at the Hawthorne Memorial Center, 3901 El Segundo Blvd.

Successive meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month, Mrs. Hormell said.

Robert Harmer, a drug firm sales representative, will speak about products for diabetes patients and show a short film. Refreshments will be served.

lowing of more time to line up additional favorable votes for the bill, in the hopes that a sizeable vote for it would convince the court that the Assembly has really complied with the court order. However, after two opportunities to take up the reconsideration motion were passed by, there were those who declared that the motion was really intended to force the Senate to come out with its version of redistricting its seats before the Assembly bill was sent to the other house.

To complete the stand-off on this issue, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment, said that his group will not release its bill to redistrict Senate seats until it has the Assembly measure on new districts for that house.

"We don't want Assembly districts and Senate districts in any great imbalance when we get done," he stated.

While the medicare bill supported by the administration is expected to move quickly out of the Assembly Social Welfare Committee, there are indications that it may have rougher going in the Ways and Means Committee, to which Assembly rules require that it must go. Uncertainties as to costs over the long range, and questions as to eligibility of "medically indigent persons" are sure to be brought up, and there may be difficulty in agreeing on acceptable solutions.

AS I HAVE previously written, the medicare bill in its present form would provide "basic health services" and "extended health services" to all welfare recipients, and to "medically indigent" individuals. The number of persons to be covered by the program will be something over a million, the approximate total depending

can judge too well right now. That is the Assembly Speaker's proposed "Cal-Med" program, which would superimpose upon the prospective medicare system protection against "catastrophic" medical costs for about 14 million of California's 18 million population through bank loans to qualified persons, much of which would be repaid by the state, depending on number of applicants, and funds available. This huge plan will probably be studied carefully before any action.

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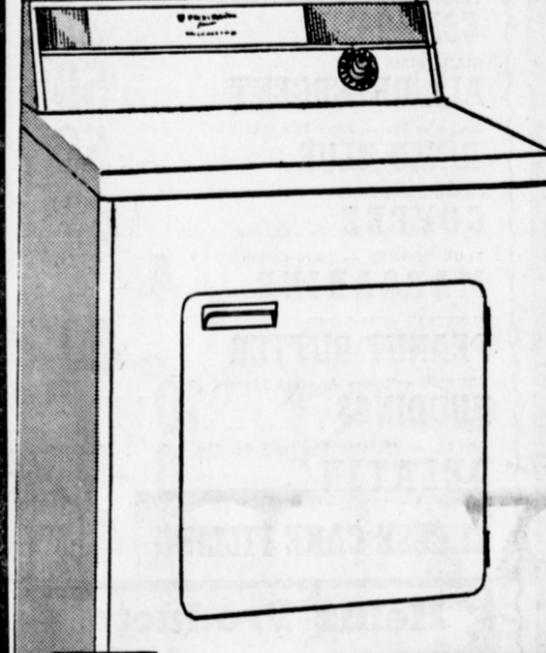
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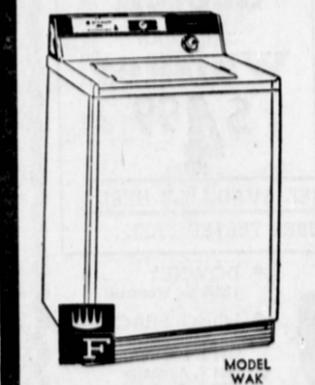
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