

# Need to Equalize School Aid From State Explained

MARCH 9, 1966

PRESS-HERALD A-7

Three major provisions of property taxes earmarked for schools were proposed by David K. Lyman.

In an appearance before supporters of his campaign in the 32nd State Senatorial District, Lyman called for measures which would equalize the amount of state aid in all school districts, whether rich or poor, end discrimination in state school aid, and encourage school districts to unify among themselves for streamlined operation.

To equalize state aid, Lyman said, the formula used to reckon financial assistance would be increased by 20 percent — but only in districts where there was insufficient business and industry to support efficient schools.

"MANY BEDROOM communities can barely eke out an existence for their educational programs," said Lyman, "while others, like Beverly Hills, have the best that money can buy and don't need state aid."

In Beverly Hills, Lyman noted, the total assessed valuation for each unit of average daily attendance — the figure used as a gauge for state assistance — is 79.9. In Inglewood the figure is 20.4, in Torrance 10.8 and in Willowbrook 1.1.

"In Beverly Hills the youngsters get free recreation, and every other educational

fringe benefit. But even if the school district didn't provide those extras, the kids could get the same thing, and better at home. In other districts, however, the children desperately need school-provided services which they cannot get now, either at school or at home," Lyman said.

Lyman said that an increase in state aid would narrow the gap which now must be breached by local com-

munities between \$264 presently allocated per student and the \$442 it actually costs. At present to raise the difference, school districts must place the burden on property owners through increased taxation. The revised aid

formula would lessen that burden, Lyman said.

To end discrimination in state school aid, Lyman proposes abolishing the mandatory Constitutional requirement that all school districts, regardless of resources, accept \$125 for each student.

As for unification, Lyman called for a variety of programs which would encourage districts to follow the recently-enacted state requirement that smaller districts join with neighboring districts under a single school system.

SUCH PROGRAMS, he said, would include a decrease of \$15 per student in the amount of state aid paid to districts which vote "no" on unification proposals. At the same time, districts voting "yes" would continue to receive the \$15 extra allotted them.

Another proposition, Ly-

man said, would be to average the daily attendance figure in all the districts, both rich and poor, comprising the parts of a unification election. If the issue failed, the state would require the richer school districts to contribute funds bringing the poor district up to the average of the others.

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