

# State's Disability Fund Encounters Own Problems

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

The state's general fund is not alone in suffering from major revenue problems. The state disability fund, from which benefits are payable to those of the 4.5 million workers covered by the program who incur off-the-job illness or injury, has an even worse case of dollar deficiency. Unless prompt legislative remedies are quickly concocted, severe damage to the system could result.

Since the enactment of our California disability insurance law in 1946, the system of benefits has been financed entirely by the revenues from a one per cent payroll tax on employees. However, the current revenues from this source have been supplemented, under a combination of state and federal permissive law, by revenues from the employees' tax previously paid into the federal treasury, to the not insignificant tune of \$70 million.

Of course, revenues from this one percent tax have been rising over the years since the program started, as the number of covered workers increased, and the average wage rose. But this increase in income has not been sufficient to offset the frequent raises in the weekly benefit amount, or the addition of a limited daily hospital benefit.

AT PRESENT, the maximum weekly benefit is now \$90, and the hospital benefit, \$12 per day for a limit of 29 days. As a result, the disability fund is not only broke, but has even been forced to borrow against future revenues to pay current benefits.

As of January 31, the disability fund sank to a low of \$2.5 million. Even with revenues accruing for the last quarter of 1964, the total available would not be enough to pay anticipated benefits for the first quarter of 1965, so the disability fund borrowed \$37 million, \$5 million from the Department of Employment contingent fund, and \$32 million from the motor vehicle fund. To indicate the size of the problem involved, the total paid in benefits during the calendar 1964 was almost \$211 million.

Earlier in our current session an administration-backed bill to do something about the matter was introduced in the Assembly. The measure would have raised the tax on employees to 1.1 per cent of wages from a nine-month period starting April 1, and would have raised the "base" for measuring the tax from \$5600 per year to \$7500 on a permanent basis. The Republican minority countered with their own proposal, which called for no tax increase, a smaller raise in the base, and for some limitations on benefits payable to temporary and seasonal workers. However, the bill passed the Assembly in its original form.

IN THE SENATE, the Assembly measure was referred to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Institu-

tions. There, in a sudden move which surprised and shocked administration leaders, the Democratic majority of the Committee acted to amend out of the bill the tax increase and other important provisions. Substituted for these were provisions similar to those advanced by the minority in the Assembly.

As amended, the bill now provides for no tax rate increase, raises the base to only \$6900 instead of \$7500, and would keep the disability fund solvent by cutting back benefits for temporary and seasonal workers by determining their weekly benefit amounts on the basis of "average" wages earned. Administration spokesmen said they would fight this "middle-of-the-road" program, but conceded they would have small chance to stop it in the Senate.

# Yellow Flag Warns Men Of Safety Procedures

The yellow flag of caution has special significance for safety conscious men at the Southern California Gas Co.'s customer service and distribution base, 3400 El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne.

Special emphasis was given to the regular safety program recently when assistant service supervisor Kenny J. P. Smith fell heir to a discarded mobile sign.

Constructed in three sections with each section three-sided, the sign is illuminated and rotates the individual sections slowly so that three separate messages can be presented in sequence to the viewer.

SMITH WORKED out a three-pronged purpose for the sign, allocating one face to safety messages, one to work simplification and one as a bulletin board.

### NEW NURSE

Laura Reed of 224 Vista del Parque, Redondo Beach, was one of 29 student nurses to receive her white nurses' cap in the traditional capping ceremony held for second semester freshmen at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital.

Prominent is the safety message which drives home the slogan: "Watch for the yellow flag."

The sign now hangs in the general assembly room where it attracts the eyes of the men before they leave on their work assignments and after they return from a day's work.

DIVISION service superintendent Howard J. Johnson was so taken with the idea that he carried the idea a step further. He ordered black ties with bright yellow safety flags embroidered on them for each of the supervisors plus an extra one for the company's safety engineer, Carl Pulliam.

The entire program has been well received by the men and a marked improvement has already been noted in the division's safety record.

### At Conference

Ernestine B. Dunlap will represent Torrance Schools at the annual conference of the California Speech and Hearing Association in Fresno March 26 and 27.

# Instructor At Meeting

Steven McSweeney, an instructor of English, represented West High at the Commission on English and College Entrance Examination Board meeting held at the University of Southern California.

McSweeney participated in discussions of the final report from the Commission on English. The report deals with the commission's work on kenescope and the teaching of English.

**BETTER FOOD**

**DUNGENESS COOKED CRAB**  
WHOLE LB. **49¢**

**GERBER'S STRAINED BABY FOODS** 6 Jars **59¢**

**IRIS • CANNED MILK**  
TALL CAN **10¢**  
SAVE 5c A CAN

**YOUNG POPPY DUCKLINGS**

Save 20c OVEN READY  
**39¢**  
4-LB. AVG. LB.

ARMOUR'S **STUFFED TURKEY** LB. **39¢**  
BETTER FOOD **ROLL SAUSAGE** 3 1-LB. ROLLS **\$1**  
STREAM FRESH **Mountain TROUT** 12-OZ. PKG. **59¢**

**SMOKED HAM**

READY TO EAT  
**35¢**  
BETTER FOOD HICKORY SMOKED SHANK PORTION  
Save 24c LB.

WHOLE OR BUTT PORTION **SMOKED HAM**... LB. **49¢**  
LUER QUALITY OR IOWA BRAND **SLICED BACON**... 1-LB. PKG. **59¢**  
CENTER CUT **HAM SLICES**... LB. **89¢**

**IRIS • ALL PURPOSE FLOUR**  
LB. BAG **539¢**  
SAVE 10c A BAG

**KRAV SALAD**  
EXTRA LIGHT  
SAVE 12c FULL 16-OZ. BTL.

**SWEET • JUICY • ARIZONA GRAPEFRUIT**  
8 1-LB. FILM BAG **35¢**

**CAULIFLOWER**  
FRESH SNOW-WHITE HEADS EACH **10¢**  
**BROCCOLI** 2 lbs. **25¢**  
**PRUNES** 4 12-OZ. PKGS. **\$1**

SPRINGFIELD/SAVE 8c **FRUIT COCKTAIL** TALL 303 CAN **15¢**  
SPRINGFIELD/SAVE 10c **APPLE CIDER or JUICE** FULL QT. **19¢**  
6 FLAVORS SAVE 6c **SPRINGFIELD GELATIN** REG. PKGS. **319¢**  
COCK OF THE WALK **CLING PEACHES** LARGED NO. 2 1/2 CAN **19¢**  
SAVE 5c ON RIGHT GUARD **DEODORANT**... 7-OZ. CAN **69¢**  
4 FLAVORS/11 C **FRUIT DRINKS**... 3 JUMBO 46-OZ. CANS **\$1**  
DRE-IDA/FROZEN/HASH BROWN **POTATOES**... 2 12-OZ. PKGS. **39¢**

**PICTSWEET FROZEN VEGETABLES**  
**PEAS** 6 REG. PKGS. **\$1**  
PEAS & CARROTS CUT CORN LEAF & CHOPPED SPINACH

**LUNCHEON MEAT**  
**MAJESTY** 3 IMPORTED FROM DENMARK

SAVE 10c ON GOLDEN CREME IMITATION **ICE MILK**... 1/2 GAL. **29¢**  
FINE QUALITY COMO **TOILET TISSUE**... 4 -ROLL PAK. **23¢**  
REGULAR OR IODIZED **SPRINGFIELD SALT**... 28-OZ. BOX **10¢**  
**OLD CHARTER "7 YEARS OLD" 96 PROOF KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON**  
SAVE \$2.38 A BOTTLE! **\$11.99**  
FULL HALF GALLON  
CASE OF 24 \$2.98 "EASTERN" **BUCKEYE ALE**... 6 12-OZ. CANS **79¢**  
Chanson Du Valle Sparkling Burgundy/Reg. or Pink **CHAMPAGNE**... 5th **\$1.99**

# Microwave Exhibits Visit Here

Students at Fern-Greenwood and Arnold Elementary Schools will have the opportunity this week to delve into the mysteries and miracles of microwave transmission.

Through the help of two speakers from Pacific Telephone's public relations department, the students will see how, on a long distance call, their voice may travel for miles through empty space.

The speakers will use a working scale model of a microwave transmitter and receiver to demonstrate how voice, data and television transmission are carried simultaneously over a single radio beam.

In addition, several interesting experiments probe into the very nature of the microwave.

The program will be presented this afternoon to Fern-Greenwood students by Al Ouellet and tomorrow afternoon to Arnold students by Jim Kessinger.

**BUTTERNUT COFFEE** 1-LB. CAN **83¢**  
**NABISCO OREO CREME SANDWICH** 11-OZ. PKG. **39¢**  
**PRELL LIQUID SHAMPOO** Medium Size **60¢**

**BANQUET CHICKEN**, Whole/Fried... 18-oz. **99¢**  
**C & H SUGAR**, Granulated... 5-lbs. **52¢**  
**FELS SOAP**... 1-lb. **35¢**  
**GHIRARDELLI** Ground Chocolate... 1-lb. **59¢**  
**PICKLED BEETS**, Greenwood's sliced... 303 can **29¢**

**GUEST RANCH Toilet Tissue**... 4 Pak 33c  
**GOODWIN'S AMMONIA**... Qt. **29c**  
**GLORIETTA** Tomato Juice... 46-oz. **31c**  
**HAWAIIAN PUNCH**, Frozen... 6-oz., 5 for **\$1**  
**KNORR SOUP MIXES**... 2-Pak **39c**  
**LOLLIPOP** (bag) Ca  
**M.D. TOILET TISSUE**  
**LIBBY'S PUFFLE** P  
**LIBBY'S TOMATO**  
**LIBBY'S CORNED**

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