

LEGISLATURE MAY ACT

New Efforts Being Made To Stop Child Beatings

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District
 Children are a family's most precious possession, and all our American children constitute our nation's most valuable asset. They, and they only hold for us the promise of a continuing future for our pattern of government, and of further improvement in our way of life.

Only in recent years has public awareness of the basic necessity of providing the fullest possible protection and advantages for our children come entirely alive. For generations, special interest groups, such as those concerned with public education, prevention of cruelty to children, the physically handicapped, and the mentally retarded, have struggled to better the standards of service in their respective areas. Notable successes have been achieved, and as a nation we have reason for some pride. But, as our society grows and

changes, other serious problems in child protection develop, and we must devise legal means to deal with them. It is not a simple task to provide adequate protection for very young children in some instances. One of the most difficult areas in which a Legislature must work is that which involves physical abuse by children's own parents. Despite the fact that all of us are revolted by such many cases of this kind which come to light here in California, and elsewhere, there are grave complications which must be dealt with in reaching a solution.

malicious prosecution, invasion of privacy, defamation of character, and the like. The doctor may win the case, but in so doing, he must put his professional career and reputation on the scales of justice, and risk losing both. The two main features of the main bill are first, a provision for civil or criminal immunity for physicians reporting suspected cases of child abuse, and second, provision for a central state registry of such reports, so that multiple abuses of a child or children from the same family may be identified, and the parents given remedial treatment, or the children removed to safe custody. The measure is supported in principle by medical and social welfare groups.

Guaranteed Bonds Suggested by Supervisor for Rapid Transit

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has proposed a "practical and sound plan to build a complete rapid transit system for Los Angeles County" through federally guaranteed bonds, much like the Federal Housing Authority program.

"I INDICATED then that I had enough faith in the revenue bonds would be paid by the people using the Sports Arena from a portion of their tickets allotted for that purpose," he recalls.

tax, automobile tax, in lieu of tax, or other motor vehicle tax to finance rapid transit," he stressed.

He said the system could be built with self-retiring revenue bonds—with no tax on the property or motor vehicle owner—if backed by the federal government.

With approval by the Legislature, the bonds were issued, the Sports Arena built, and the Coliseum Commission is now 11 years in advance of payments for the Sports Arena.

"I favor sound management and good service in every section of the county by a modern, fast, transit system, and I believe this type of system can pay for itself, with the federal government's only role being the guarantee of the bonds to insure a low interest rate."

"It would seem to me wise for the federal government to guarantee the payment of approximately \$600 million worth of bonds of the Southern California Rapid Transit Board, an official agency of the State of California, over a period of 40 years with a low interest rate similar to the guarantee of a 30- or 40-year loan for private homes," Hahn said.

"A rapid transit system can be built in the same manner, at no cost to the taxpayer," Hahn said.

"I am against any property

"ENGINEERING and financial studies have proved the bonds could be sold at a low interest rate if they are guaranteed by government.

"I am against any property

tax, automobile tax, in lieu of tax, or other motor vehicle tax to finance rapid transit," he stressed.

"The bonding companies, banks, and other financial institutions will quickly purchase revenue bonds from the Transit Board if payments are guaranteed," he added.

Highway improvement projects on sections of Vermont Avenue and 220th Street in the Carson area were authorized this week by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Chairman Burton W. Chace said the work will include 800 feet of storm drain conduit extending from Palos Verdes Drive West to Dalton Road.

Hahn made the proposal in individual letters to Senators Kuchel and Murphy and Los Angeles County's 15 Congressmen.

These improvements will join with the curb and gutter constructed under county permit by owners of the adjacent properties.

Construction is expected to begin within three weeks and be completed in four months.

"I HAVE FAITH a good system, operated soundly and serving every area, would return the full payment out of the farebox and millions of people would use it annually if it were fast, direct and good."

At that time Supervisor Hahn was president of the Coliseum Commission and had introduced in the State Legislature a plan to allow the Coliseum Commission to issue revenue bonds.

Construction is expected to begin within three weeks and be completed in four months.

Storm Drain Project for Hills Voted

A \$75,603 contract for construction of additional storm drain facilities in Palos Verdes Estates has been awarded to Wulff Construction Co. of Long Beach.

Carson Area Road Project Authorized

Highway improvement projects on sections of Vermont Avenue and 220th Street in the Carson area were authorized this week by the Board of Supervisors.

THE HARD-CORE factor

involved in drafting legislation to provide greater protection for children who may be abused by their parents is the understandable reluctance of physicians and other medical practitioners to report cases which come under their care to law enforcement agencies.

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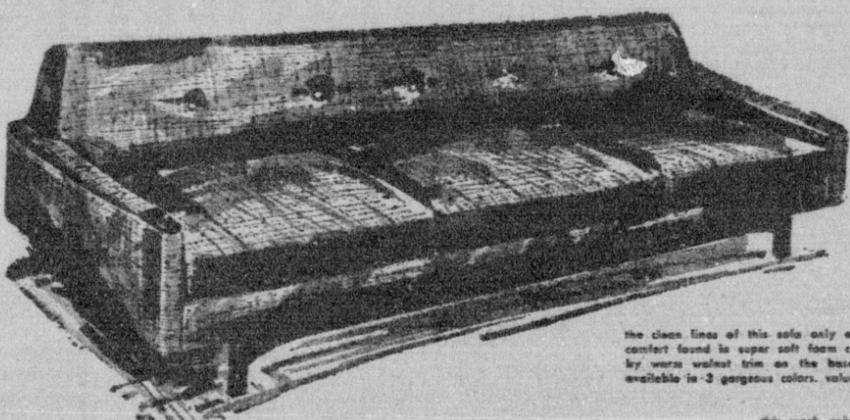
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