

Touchy Bills, Politics Snag Adjournment Hopes

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

It's only too evident that our current meeting will set a new record for length of a special session. When it was decided during the week I was writing this that we would reconvene after Memorial Day, thus going into the 17th week, the possibility was raised that the session would come close to equalling the constitutional 120-day limit on an odd-year general session.

Most members are obviously concerned about the coming primary election, now just around the corner, which all political observers agree will be the most momentous in California history. They are anxious to get back to their districts so they can devote full time to campaigning. Some critics have been unkind enough to remark about absenteeism among legislators who face tough election problems.

VARIOUS major issues are still having rough sledding in both houses. Antagonism between the Senate and the Assembly, usually kept pretty well in the background, has been pushed more into the open by reapportionment, and is creating obstacles for some important bills.

The impasse between the houses over proposed revision in the state Constitution continues, but as of now shows some signs of breaking. The controversial provision now

holding up agreement is that intended to eliminate conflict-of-interest problems for legislators who are attorneys. It would prevent them from representing clients before state agencies for fees. The chairman of the informal ten-member committee on revision has just released word that an apparently acceptable solution has been worked out, but would not comment on details.

The revision measures, the \$4.6 billion budget bill and the tax accrual bill which is necessary to balance the budget are both tied up in the assembly. As I have written before, passage of both these measures must occur by June 30th, otherwise operations of state government cannot continue into the new fiscal year.

Senate objections continue to plague the local assessment reform measure which passed the Assembly handily. A second day of hearing on the bill

will be held in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, but more trouble is anticipated. The senator from one of the metropolitan counties complains that in its present form, the bill would double assessments for most taxpayers in his county. He is also critical of the lack of standards in the bill for the determination of "true cash value" of property.

reform bill, an assembly leader has proposed that its provisions be amended into the tax accrual measure before the latter is returned to the upper house. No enthusiasm for this suggestion was expressed by the authors of the two measures.

The implied consent drunk driving bill is still having problems on the assembly floor. It cleared the Ways and Means Committee after days of controversial discussion. However, an attempt to set it for early floor action went down to defeat, causing further delay.

As one long-time observer commented, "this is the most mixed up session ever."

Extension Given To Construction Of Golf Course

The county supervisors recently gave ratification of a 105-day extension agreement in constructing Victoria golf course in Dominguez.

Extra time was requested by the J. V. Nicks Construction Co. due to the problem of finding additional earth to be used to fill the 177-acre site.

October has been set as the estimated completion date of the course, including the extension.

PENDING agreement on

IN OPPOSITION to this senate tie-up of the assessment

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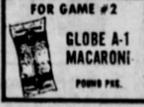
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