

# Budget, New Assessment Practices Law Enacted

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL  
Assemblyman, 46th District

On Feb. 10, 1966, I introduced my Assembly Bill No. 20, which provided that taxable property must be assessed at not more than 25 per cent of its full market value, commencing on the first Monday in March in 1967. This bill of mine was referred to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation, of which I am a member.

Thereafter, Assemblyman Nicholas C. Petris and others introduced similar bills. These were combined into one bill, designated as Assembly Bill No. 80, which was introduced March 1. Since Petris is the Chairman of our Revenue and Taxation committee, the combined bill became what is known as a "committee bill," with Petris as the lead author and the rest of us as co-authors.

Our Sub-Committee on Assessment Practices held hearings on weekends in the Capitol and then reported our findings back to the full committee. The bill was amended twice in Assembly and amended six times in the Senate after we sent the bill to the other house.

Finally, on Wednesday, June 29, Assembly Bill No. 80 was returned to the floor of the Assembly for concurrence with the Senate amendments. The Assembly voted to concur and the bill went to the Governor, who will sign it in the near future, thus making it a law.

The bill in its final form embodies the recommendations of Philip E. Watson, Tax Assessor of Los Angeles County, and other experts on the taxation of real property. Among other things it sets up safeguards against illegal activity on the part of any tax assessor, making it very difficult for an assessor to under-assess property for one person or one corporation or over-assess property. It also provides for appeals by those who feel that they have been unfairly treated.

In its final form the bill is 38 pages long. I recommend that you write to the Legislative Bill Room 215, State Capitol, Sacramento 14, Calif. Ask them for a free copy of Assembly Bill No. 80, First Extraordinary Session, by Petris, Chapel and others, dated March 1, 1966. If you enclose a stamped, addressed envelope you will get faster service.

On pages 2 and 3 of the bill you will find the Legislative Counsel's Digest, which is a simplified summary of the bill itself.

I believe that every property owner should have a copy of this bill. The demand for copies of the bill will be very great, hence I urge you to write to the Legislative Bill Room without delay. If you write to me, I must forward your request to the Bill Room in the Capitol, thus delaying the service to which you are entitled.

On the afternoon of Thursday, June 30, the last day of the fiscal year, the state budget came on the floor of the Assembly for passage. I voted for it because it had been reduced by more than \$51 million from its original amount. In the Republican caucus several Republican legislators seemed willing to vote for a budget reduced by about \$35 million but the majority insisted that it

would be reduced further and this is what happened. I do not want to give the impression that all Republicans in the Legislature insisted on a greatly reduced budget and that all Democrats wanted to pass the large budget originally introduced by the Governor. Such is not the case.

When the budget bill was passed to the Governor, who signed it into law on June 30, nobody was entirely pleased with it. Everyone wanted some items added and others eliminated. Nevertheless, in its final form it was as good a budget as could be produced this year.

If the budget bill had not been enacted into law on June 30, the last day of the fiscal year, chaos would have resulted. Under the State Constitution, only the Constitutional Officers (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, etc.) and the Legislators could have received pay, but there would have been no one to write the checks! This is why it was so important to enact the budget bill on June 30.

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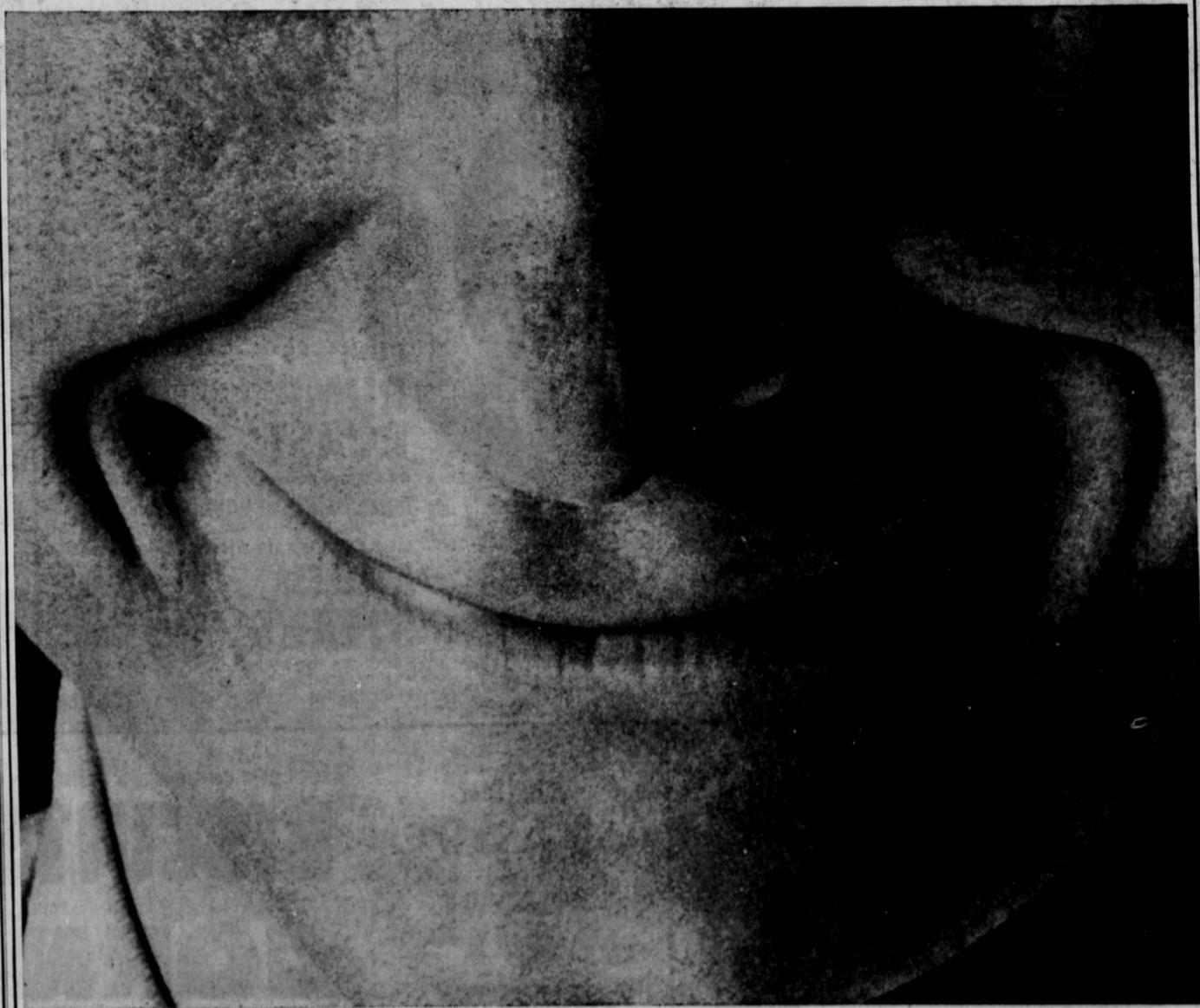
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## Local Chapter Members Attend New York Meet

Eight members of the Southwest Chapter of the National Association of Accountants attended the annual conference held in New York City.

Attending were Lloyd W. Olson, Walter R. Klinger, James J. Brunner, Dr. and Mrs. Richard F. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. O'Connell, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Barger, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Howlett, and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice R. Van Camp.

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### WHAT'S DOING?



Planning a vacation? Your Police Department has a few suggestions for helping you get rid of tell-tale signs that alert burglars that you are away from home. Call the newspaper and milkman and stop deliveries so that papers and bottles don't pile up. A shaggy lawn is also another tip to would-be burglars—make arrangements to have it cut. Then relax and have a good time!



"ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!" Make Smokey the Bear's famous saying a rule to live by, especially during the dry summer months ahead. Drown all campfires and be sure to crush all smokes.



In the 1930's, a movie company moved some buffalo to Catalina Island. They're still roaming there, and we heard recently that one of them found a unique use for an outdoor phone booth. One of our employees was making a call from this particular booth which is located in the interior part of the island. She heard a strange noise and turned to see the buffalo scratching himself against the door. Just goes to prove that telephone booths are in convenient locations for everyone, even buffalo.

I doubt if anyone ever told Alexander Graham Bell (the inventor of the telephone) to "Go fly a kite"; but he did anyway. In 1907, one of his experimental kites lifted a man 166 feet in the air.

#### PLAY IT SAFE!

- RECREATION AND VACATION go together... Everyone looks forward to fun and relaxation. Follow suggested rules and stay healthy:
- Sunbathing—Sunburn—which shall it be? Tan slowly, use protective lotion.
  - Swimming—NEVER swim alone, dive in shallow water or engage in horseplay. Use Buddy system in SKIN and SCUBA diving.
  - Boating—Every person in a boat MUST have a life belt and must remain seated. Distribute weight evenly. Don't take boat out alone.
  - Water Skiing—Be a good swimmer—wear life jacket—have two persons on the tow boat.
  - Poison Plants—Learn to recognize poison oak, ivy and sumac—poison oak is a climbing vine—not a tree, avoid it if possible—wash well with soap and water when leaving habitat of plants.
  - Insects—Use effective repellent—cover body with adequate clothing. If stung many times, get medical attention.

J.P. Leggett  
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