

Tax Reform Unlikely Before 1968 Session

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

The close margin of partisan representation in both houses of the 1967 Legislature—21 to 19 in the Senate, and 42 to 38 in the Assembly—will probably mean a shorter session. Leaders of both parties are predicting that this close split will result in a bi-partisan approach to business which will speed things along.

The serious situation of the state general fund will require some prompt action on revenue measures, but it now seems that no major revision of the state revenue structure will be attempted at the 1967 session. Stop-gap raises in some taxes may be sought to balance the budget, but a long range reform in the entire revenue program may be delayed to permit further study before the 1968 Legislature.

Committee organization in both houses will be considerably changed because of the new split. Controversial legislation will be given a much more thorough review, and there are indications that much of it will not reach the floor of either house. What does emerge from the 1967 session will probably set the pattern for future annual sessions.

ANOTHER MAJOR innovation which is certain to shatter precedents, is a tour plan, under which newly-elected members from districts in the north will be given a trip to Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside, so that they may gain first-hand knowledge of the problems of the southern areas. Similarly, the group of new southern members will visit Bakersfield, Salinas, Oakland, Stockton, San Francisco, and Oroville.

The effect of Proposition 1-A, approved by the voters at the General Election, will be a major factor in the operations of the 1967 session. The Legislature, unlimited as to the subjects which it may consider, and as to the time it may continue its delibera-

tions, may explore some new fields, but as said before, its leaders do not expect a lengthy meeting. It is anticipated that the new alignment in the Senate, in which the southern coun-

ties will have full control, should not be productive of immediate major controversies. The main issue confronting the session, revenue to balance the budget, is not sectional in its impact.

CHANGES IN the Senate make-up may, however, bring renewed pressures in other areas. Demands for liberalization in workmen's compensation, for changes in old-age aid, are certain to be impor-

tant elements. On the opposite side, the public outcry about the aid to dependent children program will inevitably bring a strong demand for corrective legislation.

Legislation affecting public schools will be another topic of much importance. Not only will increased state support of the school system be argued at length, but also the semi-compulsory unifica-

tion of school districts. The newly elected Governor has made his opinion on the latter subject very clear, so the subject will be reviewed in considerable detail. All of us are looking forward to the 1967 session with much interest. Our operations under the new constitutional provisions will necessarily do much to set the pattern in which we must function in the years to come.

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Tire Firms Study New Standards

Tire manufacturers are studying safety regulations proposed by the California Highway Patrol, which would set physical standards on all new passenger car tires sold in California.

The regulations would implement a new section of the California Vehicle Code passed by the California Legislature in 1965.

According to the Patrol, manufacturers have been asked for written statements or arguments on the proposal by Jan. 6, 1967.

Under terms of the proposed regulations, manufacturers would be required to certify that their products had been tested by an independent laboratory and found to have met physical standards set forth by the Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission.

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