

Bid to License Jai-Alai Betting in State Flayed

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District

John Alessio of San Diego, the undisputed King of the Bookmakers, wants the State Legislature to enact a law legalizing betting on Jai-alai.

Jai-alai is a Spanish game played indoors with a comparatively small, hard ball. The players, unless they are left-handed, wear a small, curved wicker basket, strapped to the gloved right hand. The ball is thrown from and caught in the basket. Normally, there are two players on each side, and umpires or referees.

Jai-alai is a very fast, intricate game of skill played on a rectangular court with a polished wooden floor. The ball is thrown with great force against the end walls and is caught after it bounces or rebounds from the end walls.

Each game lasts only a few minutes, hence the gambling money changes very fast. The owner of the business can make tremendous profits without cheating.

The building housing the Jai-alai court, the seating arrangements, and provisions for betting, is called a Fronton.

John Alessio has owned and operated a Jai-alai Fronton in Tia Juana for many years. He wants to build, own and operate five in California, including one in Los Angeles County. Out of his profits, King John is willing to give some money to the State of California, thereby helping Ronald Reagan reduce the state deficit.

I doubt that Ronald Reagan wants this kind of help. After all, John Alessio has been the close friend and backer of Edmund G. Brown since Brown was District Attorney of San Francisco County.

King John also owns and operates the dog racing and horse racing tracks at Tia Juana as well as horse racing tracks in other Mexican border towns, and four large book making establishments.

He recently was awarded the contract to operate the

Del Mar race track for 20 years, but this contract is yet to be confirmed. If Alessio ultimately gets control of the Del Mar track, the State will lose about one million dollars a year for 20 years.

I am opposed to any more State-licensed gambling including Jai-alai. Regardless of any moral or religious issues, the gambling business is not a constructive part of our economy. Most

of the profits from state-licensed gambling at race tracks and poker parlors come out of the pockets of people with very low incomes who really need their money for food, clothing and shelter.

In the case of Alessio, he may be honest, but some of his associates have felony records. His pals may have "paid their debt to society" but who wants to have a billy goat guard a cabbage patch?

When Social Security Death benefits and/or Veterans burial allowances cover our complete funeral charge.

Management Lectures Scheduled

A series of three lectures on the objectives, practices, and implementations of systems management based on the Air Force Systems Command 375 series manuals will be offered at North High Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 11.

The series, sponsored by the University of California Extension, will be conducted Jan. 11, 18, and 25 from 7 until 10 p.m. George R. Melinger, assistant to the president of North American Aviation, Inc. is the speaker.

Information is available from the University Extension offices at North High, 3620-B W. 182nd St.

Police Set Classes in First Aid

Classes may be out for Torrance's youngsters, but for 22 school crossing guards, classes have just begun.

The 22 guards are enrolled in first aid classes which will enable them to qualify for the Red Cross standard first aid card, according to Walter R. Koenig, Chief of Police.

The two-hour sessions, being held during two five-day periods, will cover all phases of first aid, according to Koenig.

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Better Food/Imported **SLICED HAM** 4 1/4-oz. pkg. 49c

Sliced/Flavorful **SWISS CHEESE** 12-oz. pkg. 59c

Grand Taste **SALAMI** 12-oz. Midget 59c

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