

Solons Ignore Wishes of Voters in Rumford Fiasco

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO—The legislative fiasco as it pertained to the Rumford Act accomplished not much of anything this year but to leave the public up in the air as far as the future of democratic government is concerned.

The situation as it stands at the present time leaves the state with a statute on the books which was overwhelmingly and decisively rejected by the people by popular vote at a general election.

The legal technicalities intervening, which culminated in decision of the Supreme Court that the constitutional amendment voted by the people to repeal the act was unconstitutional, in no manner changed the attitude that residents of California want to be the arbiters of how they shall handle their own private property.

THE STATE SENATE realized this when it voted to repeal the Rumford Act. The Senate repealer languished in the Assembly for weeks, and when action finally was taken, the repeal bill was amended by that house into an ineffective compromise which satisfied no one.

Meanwhile Governor Ronald Reagan got into the act, and despite his statements during his campaign advocating repeal of the Rumford Act, he sought passage of the so-called compromise adopted by the Assembly. All of which probably did the governor little good as far as people who expect some constancy in carrying out campaign statements.

Thus, there is a big question right now as to whether the will of the people will ever be carried out and the principles of democratic government maintained in California.

THE LEGISLATURE'S "no action" at the 1967 session presages another battle on the subject when the 1968 session comes around, or even before that if Governor Reagan decides to call a special session and make the Rumford Act and item for consideration. If this occurs, there will be hasty consideration of the matter, similar to the maneuverings which charac-

Hahn Asks Session on Tax Relief

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has asked Governor Ronald Reagan to call the legislature back into special session "because it failed to provide the property tax relief it promised."

Hahn, in calling for the special session, noted "every statewide officer campaigned last year on a platform to overhaul the property tax structure."

"Yet, nothing meaningful has come from this session," he added.

The legislature adjourned last week without taking action on several bills which would have provided some relief to the small homeowner, the supervisor said.

Gets Bank Post

David S. McElrea of Torrance has been appointed an installment loan officer for First Western Bank. A graduate of El Camino, he has been with the bank five years. He will work in the Los Angeles office.

terized passage of the act, and the attempts to repeal or revise this year.

The only solution, therefore, appears to be an initiative for outright repeal of the act, as it seems the people who elect the legislature cannot depend on that august

body to carry out its wishes. But even an initiative is debatable at the moment. The California Real Estate Association, which took the lead in passing Proposition 13, the unconstitutional amendment, has not yet made up its mind whether it will again seek a

vote to establish once and for all the right of the people to handle their property.

OFFICIALS of the organization say the question will be considered by its executive committee, and then will be taken up before the full

board of directors, which does not meet until Sept. 25.

But by that time, the legislature will have wound up its five-day veto session, and will have nothing further to consider this year unless the matter is put on special call by the governor.

So with the various alternatives and possibilities, it is easy to see why democratic government is in a state of confusion, and some length of time will elapse before it is determined whether or not it has broken down completely.

city well for many years, both as a citizen and as a city councilman," Chace said. "His work on the Torrance City Council will be missed."

Olson, who also is lieutenant governor of District 19 of Kiwanis International, resigned from the City Council when he was transferred to Chicago by his company.

Honored by Supervisors

A scroll honoring H. Ted Olson, former Torrance councilman has been authorized by the Board of Supervisors, according to Burton W. Chace.

On motion of Supervisor Chace, the board voted last week to prepare the scroll for presentation at a testimonial dinner Sept. 7.

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