

County Assessor Phil Watson has renewed his call for a Governor-appointed tax commission to overhaul the property tax with the State Association of County Assessors behind him.

In review of property tax problems delivered at the opening day of a two-day hearing of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee in Los Angeles, Watson, representing the Assessor's Association, urged legislation to restrict the property tax to property-related services, re-states opposition to the exemption of business inventories from property taxes, urged assessment of inventories on an annual average, supported the exemption of household furnishings, and asked tax relief for homeowners.

He pointed out that if the property tax were restricted to services which benefit property, such as fire, police, and sanitation, an approximate 50 per cent reduction in the property tax would be achieved. Revenue for education and welfare, he said, should be raised from broader-based tax sources on an ability-to-pay basis.

ASSESSORS' opposition to exempting inventories stems from three principal points: 1) It would result in a tax loss of \$150 million in Los Angeles County alone, which, if replacement revenue is not provided, would result in an intolerable tax shift to owners of real property; 2) owners of inventories receive services paid for through the property tax, such as fire and police protection, and should pay their share of such services; and 3) exempting inven-

ories would result in favored treatment for a special group of property owners which would magnify inequities already present in the property tax structure.

"If the state wishes to ease the tax burden on business," Watson said, "it should not do so either at the expense of local government or by the imposition, at either the state

or local level, of additional regressive consumer taxes which hit hardest at those most hurt by the high property tax, the single-family homeowners."

WATSON, speaking for himself, also renewed his plea for an overall 1 per cent property tax limit.

He told the committee that restricting the property tax

to property-related services and raising revenue for people-related services, such as schools and welfare, from other sources would accomplish an effective 1 per cent property tax ceiling at the present time but would not prevent renewed escalation of the tax in the future unless an overall limit were enacted at the same time.

Concert Slated at Cal State

Three popular folk groups will be featured Friday evening in concert at California State College, Dominguez Hills.

The concert, scheduled for 7:30 p. m. in the Theatre Upstairs, is sponsored by the Student Activities and Cultural Programs Commission of the

college's Student Association. Admission is \$1 for the general public. Tickets for students from colleges and schools other than Dominguez Hills are 75 cents.

Featured will be Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party, The Up and Coming, and The Chandlers.

The Chandlers is a Dominguez Hills group which has performed at several high school assemblies, at the Ice House in Pasadena, and for various civic and social groups in the area. Tickets may be reserved by calling the student activities office at the college.

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Vets Get School Benefits

Both Vietnam and Cold War veterans can attend high school under the new G. I. Bill to prepare themselves to meet college entrance requirements without reducing eligibility for college study, according to Mort Webster, manager of VA's Southern California regional office.

Webster noted that thousands of veterans eligible for education benefits would need further schooling before being ready for college, based upon current military discharges.

These new veterans may be eligible for special VA benefits provided in recent veterans' legislation.

SINGLE veterans can receive \$130 per month while attending full-time programs at either high school or preparatory school level. Veterans with one dependent receive \$155, and those with two dependents get \$175 per month and \$10 more per month for each additional child.

Eligibility for G.I. Bill education requires at least 181 days military service with part of it after Jan. 31, 1955. One month of VA educational assistance is authorized for each month of service up to a limit of 36 months.

THE NEW LAW has the effect of raising this limit for those veterans who may be "educationally disadvantaged" They can receive the payments while taking courses that lead to college entrance without affecting basic eligibility for college courses.

The new benefit applies to those veterans who have "not received a high school diploma," and those who need "additional secondary school training, either refresher courses or deficiency courses to qualify for admission to an appropriate education institution."

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Pork Roast
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