

Tax Review Board Plans Wins Support

JANUARY 4, 1967

PRESS-HERALD B-5

A key committee of the State Legislature has endorsed his program for the formation of "tax review boards" in every County in California, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said today.

Hahn said the review boards would provide a check on the possibility of property being under assessed at the expense of the taxing majority.

He suggested the plan last February in letters to the governor and members of the legislature in an effort to

"help restore public confidence in light of recent California assessment scandals." "This idea has a great deal of merit," said the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation in a 195-page report released this week. "A system of checks and balances could be established locally to keep the assessor's office on its toes."

ASSEMBLYMAN Nicholas C. Petris (D-Oakland) heads the committee which has studied assessment practices

in California for more than a year. Hahn said he will press vigorously for enabling legislation in the 1967 Legislature to establish the tax review boards.

They would be set up much like the present Tax Appeals Boards composed of leading citizens who investigate and rule upon complaints of over assessments by property owners.

"The open door to under assessing property provides an easy and silent method of

tax corruption," Hahn said.

"WHILE IT is fairly easy procedure for the property owner to determine if he is over assessed, there are few ways to make sure certain properties are not being given assessment breaks.

"No company knows if another firm is favored. No homeowner knows which lobbyist is getting the best assessment package for his client."

Hahn added that formation of the Tax Review Boards to

search out and review under assessments would meet this problem.

"ANY TIME a piece of property is under assessed, other property owners are left to pick up the difference

in their tax bills," Hahn stressed.

"Many citizens feel strongly that the small property owner is more than carrying his tax load, and this inequity cannot and should not continue any longer."

Three Listed On Honor Roll

Three local youths have been named to the Deans' Honors Lists for the 1966 spring semester at the University of California at Davis. Those honored included

William P. Thomas and Ronald A. Stremel, both of Torrance, and James C. Demartini, a former El Camino student.

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

It is one of the grim ironies of nature that Florence, whose treasures were spared by Allied bombers at General Eisenhower's command, should be almost destroyed by the wrath of the recent floods. The little Tuscan city had survived other onslaughts from the Goths, centuries worth of city-state warfare,

and even the creeping blight of its own industrial suburbs. This past November RAI-TV, the Italian network, pieced together the film made of the destruction and created a first-rate documentary titled "Florence: Days of Destruction." It is directed by Franco Zeffirelli and narrated by Richard Burton.

Although the hour-long documentary was offered gratis to U.S. television, the major networks refused it, presumably because of a long-standing policy which prohibits the use of news documentaries that have not been prepared by the respective network's own news staff. The fact that it was in black-and-white may have been a consideration also.

IN THE FIRST showing on the Italian network, the script by Bruno Colombo was voiced in Italian by Burton, much to the surprise of the viewers who were delighted at his mastery of the language. Burton, who also did the English narration in the export version, has been working closely with director Zeffirelli on "The Taming of the Shrew." Zeffirelli was an ideal choice for the documentary because he is a Florentine. He is best known in America as the man who ensnared Leontyne Price in a gigantic pyramid of pipes for the Metropolitan Opera's opening production of "Anthony and Cleopatra."

The tragic plight of this Renaissance land is intensified by the nation's sloppy taxation system, a small backlog for emergencies, and a far from generous Vatican when it comes to outright financial assistance.

So who was there left to appeal to? The generosity and affection of the American people for other nations in trouble is perhaps our strongest virtue. Already a considerable sum has been raised by America's Committee to Rescue Italian Art which has over 50 branches across the United States. The National Education Network has cooperated closely with the CRIA in this effort by presenting the program on the stations of the NET network.

SAMUEL GOLDWYN'S "Guys and Dolls" will be televised on ABC Feb. 8 but the veteran producer wants some assurance that it will not be hashed up as was his recent "Hans Christian Anderson" which suffered from a severe overdose of Victor Borge. The film was a bore but Borge didn't help. ABC also owns Goldwyn's "Porgy and Bess."

Spies of mine claim that Goldwyn has little respect for the quality of much of the current film fare and viewed the recent NBC-TV-Universal feature "Fame is the Name of the Game" with extreme distaste.

In an effort to overcome the lukewarm reception to its not-so-blithe "Blithe Spirit," Hallmark Hall of Fame is plunging into its next production with even greater enthusiasm. "Soldier of Love" is the title — a period piece about the Duke of Marlborough starring Jean Simmons, Claire Bloom and Keith Mitchell — to be shown April 26.

NBC's "Annie Get Your Gun" with Ethel Merman will be telecast as a new production on March 19. ABC's massive "Africa Project" is now scheduled for a three-hour production in April.

Four TRW Executives On Board

Four executive officers of the TRW, Inc., of Redondo Beach have been elected to the board of MATREL, a Paris-based joint venture company formed by TRW and Engins Matra of France.

The TRW officials are Ruben F. Mettler, executive vice president; Frederick W. Hesse, senior vice president; Howard N. Sachar, director of international operations, and Philippe Newton, European manager for TRW Systems Group.

Newton was elected vice president and general manager of MATREL.

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