

Legislative Fight Leaves Big Scars

Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO—The battle for the organization of the two houses of California's legislature is over for the year but some of the wounds suffered may be in evidence for some time, subject to being reopened.

There never really was a contest in either house but the fact that opposition candidates were fielded against Senator Hugh M. Burns (D-Fresno), president pro tempore of the senate, and Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood) was significant.

Left to their own devices, probably most of the Republicans in the legislature would not have put up the two candidates to oppose Burns and Unruh — Senator Donald L. Grunsky (R-Watsonville), GOP leader in the senate, and Assemblyman Robert T. Monagan (R-Tracy), the leader in the assembly. Most of the veterans in Sacramento don't believe in going to a rollcall when you know you don't have the votes.

BUT THERE was heavy pressure on the Republican senators from the party itself and were some indications of pressure from Governor Ronald Reagan. This was because the GOP picked up its 20th seat in the senate last August and, according to the 20-20 division, had as much right to elect a leader as did the Democrats.

Senator Burns had said that, if the Republicans could unite behind a single candidate, he'd supply the 21st vote necessary to elect a GOP president pro tempore. This was a pretty safe offer. Four Republicans announced they would be candidates to succeed Burns but, when it appeared none of them could command all the Republican votes, one of them said he'd vote for Burns.

That was Senator John F. McCarthy (R-San Rafael), senior Republican in the senate who was ousted from his position as GOP leader in December. Once McCarthy said he'd vote for Burns the contest really was over.

SEVEN MORE Republicans joined McCarthy in voting for

Burns. And there are some hard feelings among the 12 Republican senators who voted for Grunsky, as well as among some party leaders, about the eight who voted for the Democrat.

Ironically, Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco), the man whose election gave the GOP its 20th vote in the senate, voted for Burns. Much of Mark's campaign had been based on the fact that his

election would give the Republicans the chance to control the upper house.

Marks, along with Senator Fred W. Marler Jr. (R-Redding), may owe the Republican party more for their positions in the senate than any other senator. Both were elected in special elections with the entire power of the statewide Republican party behind them.

WILL THE Republican sen-

ators close ranks now on the many issues that will be coming before the legislature this year? That's still a good question.

However, many feel the matter of organizing the senate and electing officers is more of a senate operation than a party operation. Thus when it comes to a straight Democrat-Republican issue, the senators may be expected to vote solidly for their party.

Of course, Senator John G. Schmitz (R-Tustin), the ultra-conservative from Orange County, voted for Democrat Burns. And during the 1967 session, Schmitz seldom voted for any of Governor Reagan's programs, opposing him on the budget and the tax increase program.

In the assembly, there was no breaking away from parties in the vote for Unruh. If there's bitterness there, it's

probably because a few of the Republican members forced the issue and required the vote.

But some Republican assemblymen say they feel better now that they're on record as having voted against Unruh. They complain that Unruh claims he is non-partisan in the assembly but then becomes very partisan in his continual attacks on the governor and his programs.

Garden Checklist

1. Many perennials such as Shasta Daisy, Phlox, Coral Bells and others may be divided now for increased plantings.
2. Canna roots may be planted now. Likewise Amaryllis bulbs and Lily of the Valley.
3. Geraniums and Pelargoniums should be cut back to within two or three buds from the ground.
4. The first Gladiolus are now available in nurseries and ready for planting. Make successive plantings every few weeks of these bulbs to extend the blooming season.
5. Deciduous fruit trees should be pruned at planting time. Ask your nurseryman to show you how.



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