

New State Budget Tops \$5.7 Billion

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO— Governor Ronald Reagan Monday presented to the legislature a \$5.7 billion budget which he said could be balanced without any new taxes but will require cuts in the welfare and Medi-Cal programs to be in balance.
The budget total was \$5,499,536,034, an increase of \$79 million, or 7.1 per cent, over the revised 1967-68 budget. It will be financed with 49 per cent from general fund revenues, 23 per cent from special funds and the remaining 8 per cent from bonds.
The general fund portion of the budget, about \$3.9 billion, is up \$569 million, or

17.1 per cent from the current budget. However, of that increase, \$216 million will be set aside to provide local property tax relief, leaving a balance of only \$354 million in higher general fund costs.
IN ADDITION, \$90 million in the state's capital outlay construction program will be on a pay-as-you-go basis, which also shows in the \$354 million increase.
Reagan told the legislature he will present specific proposals for trimming the level of the Medi-Cal and welfare programs. Medi-Cal is budgeted at \$336 million, as compared to the present year total of \$274 million. However, if the proposed reductions

are not made, the total Medi-Cal cost for 1968-69 would be \$402 million in state funds.
The welfare program is budgeted at \$456 million, if proposed reductions in this program are not approved, it will cost \$466 million.
IN SOME respects, the new budget was not quite as tight as some might have expected. The budget provides \$280 million for the University of California and \$224.3 million for the state colleges. This is an increase of \$36.6 million for the university and \$27.3 million for the state colleges.
In addition to the \$280 million and \$224.3 million in support of the university and colleges, the budget provides

\$14.1 million for salary increases at the university and \$13.5 million for the colleges.
Another \$47.6 million is included in the budget for salary increases for the rest of California's state employees. This will amount to a 5.85 per cent increase. The budget proposes a 5 per cent across-the-board boost, with the other .85 per cent to be used for special adjustments.
THE STATE'S superior and municipal judges, as well as justices in the appellate and supreme court, will receive a healthy 20.7 per cent increase under terms of a law which requires an increase each year. The cost will be \$2.2 million. It will increase

the present \$25,000 to about \$30,000 and raise the municipal judges from \$23,000 to about \$27,600.
Full 75-25 per cent matching will be provided for all counties for the first time in the Short-Doyle local mental health programs, at a cost of \$3.6 million in state funds.
However, the budget was cut by \$22.9 million through elimination of the program whereby the state has paid the matching funds for local hospitals to receive federal construction grants. The change will not affect the federal allocation of two-thirds of the cost of the approved projects, but the hospitals now will have to pay the one-third.
About \$500,000 is provided for creation of a new unit in

the department of justice to fight against organized crime. Retired state employees would receive increases in benefits from 2 to 12 per cent, at a cost of \$3.4 million. Another \$275,000 is provided for the state to help pay the costs of county public defenders.
THE CALIFORNIA Highway Patrol uniformed force will be increased by 500 officers at a cost of \$7.3 million. Another \$1 million is provided to continue the work of improving the communications network for the CHP.
Improved maintenance and services in the parks and recreation areas of the state will be gained by adding \$500,000 to the parks and recreation department budget for new positions.

South High Debaters To Attend Tournament

South High School students will be among 400 California young people to participate Friday and Saturday in the 7th annual Claremont Men's College Championship Debate and Individual Events Tournament for High Schools. The meet will be held at the Claremont campus.
Lynn Curtis and Robert

\$25.7 million in state construction bonds.
Saunders will take part in the Friday debate on the nationally selected topic, "Resolved: that Congress should establish uniform regulations to control investigation procedures."
Participating in the Saturday individual events will be Robert Saunders and David Brenner, men's extemporaneous; Theresa McDonald and Kathryn Shelley, women's extemporaneous; William Seckinger and Jack McTaggart, men's original oratory; and Sandra Souther and Lynn Curtis, dramatic interpretation.
Winners will be announced later this month.

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