

Annual Battle of the Budget in Full Swing

Capitol News Service

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
SACRAMENTO — California's annual battle of the budget is on again in full swing, and is likely to be continued for the rest of the month as Democrats seek to give the Republican budget-makers a bad time and the GOP contingent, with not enough votes to meet the 54 requirement for passage, attempt to get enough compromises to get the \$6.2 billion spending document into operation by June 30.

From all indications, it's going to be close race this year to meet that deadline, which spells the end of the current fiscal year, and starts a new and more expensive year.

The Assembly already has rejected the Republican budget, which stymies operations in the lower house for all practical purposes until the Senate version is sent over for consideration.

And the Senate version had not even come out of committee at the close of last week. Considering all the technical problems of moving the

budget, the time is growing short.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Frank Lanterman (R-La Canada), who's the budget boss in the Assembly as chairman of the ways and means committee, took the lid off the objections of Democrats who refused to pass the budget over a week ago.

Lanterman cited the Democrat amendments to the budget, which the Assembly refused to adopt, stating they "contain glaring errors, and items which have already been eliminated."

In other words, the ways and means chairman used a polite method of saying the Democrats don't know what they are talking about in asking for reductions that had already been made the Assembly ways and means committee.

The proposed amendments, he said, were so "hurriedly concocted and inaccurate, so irresponsible in impact on state programs, so blatant in attempting to undermine the work of more than 1,200 man hours of committee members,

that I can't believe responsible Assembly members could endorse this plan."

He pointed out that in many cases, the proposed reductions were irresponsible and harmful to state programs, and could not be considered.

Thereupon, the doughty chairman proceeded to outline the flaws, errors, and damaging requests item by item in a thick "white paper" designed to heap ignominy on the opposition party.

But regardless of the white

paper, it doesn't look good for revival of the Assembly version of the budget, although this was requested by former Speaker Jess M. Unruh in a letter to Speaker Robert Monaghan. Unruh wants to tie an "effective" tax reform, and a "sound" school finance bill into the budget, and as Democratic floor leader, indicated there would be no budget until his demands are met. As a potential candidate for governor of the state, he seeks as much embarrassment to the administration of Gov. Ronald Reagan as he can dream up.

It is not expected by many legislators that any tax reform program at all will be voted at this session of the Legislature, let alone one which is effective.

And the history of school financing legislation has indicated this phase of government hasn't been "sound for a long time, if ever."

Hence the impossible demands of the Democrats can be chalked up to nothing but a partisan move to delay the functioning of government.

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Is the Key to All Your Liberties

Comment and Opinion

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A Gift of Blood

A new idea for relieving the serious blood shortage that plague many parts of the country, especially in the summer and after Christmas, is proposed in an article, "Why Is It Tough To Get Blood?" in the April issue of the American Legion Magazine.

Tom Mahoney, author of the article, suggests that every eligible person celebrate his or her birthday by giving a pint of blood at their local blood bank or collection center.

"If only one or two additional persons out of 100 would give one pint of blood a year," says Dr. Frank Coleman, president of the American Association of Blood Banks, "the shortage problem would be relieved at least for the near future."

The demand for blood has been rising steadily because of advances in surgery and therapy and has now passed 6.5 million pints a year, the article reports.

But, our population is increasing only about one per cent a year and while nearly 105 million Americans are qualified by age and health to give blood only two to three per cent of them do so. If you are between 21 and 60, or even older if your doctor approves, you can help by donating at your local blood bank or collection center.

You don't need to wait for your birthday.

Answering Skeptics

Space flights capture the public's imagination. But, they also raise the ancient query that has plagued explorers, inventors and pioneers since the dawn of time. What good are they? The answer is a great deal of good. The billions of dollars that have been spent toward putting a man on the moon have not been rocketed into space as many people seem to think. They have been spent here on earth. Like an iceberg, space flights are but the visible tip of massive advances in knowledge that can be turned to the resolution of earth problems.

A top participant in the space effort and a company that has aggressively applied space technology to commercial manufacturing, North American Rockwell Corporation, notes in one of its advertisements that, "Everytime we take on outer space, we learn more about how to tackle the problems on earth. Already, the nation's space program has sparked breakthroughs in fields like medicine, electronics, materials and weather forecasting. And we've hardly gotten off the ground."

The effort that has gone into the space program has infused a large segment of science and industry with new life that could be the salvation of the country in years to come.

A Miracle Medicine

The closer a nation edges toward state medicine, the more prominent the element of mass care which gradually erases personalized attention. An interesting instance that indicates the doctor-patient relationship may be more important than many think. It has been brought to light in a short item in The Reader's Digest telling of the reaction of laboratory rats during an experiment at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Eldon Boyd, professor of pharmacology at the University, tells how one of the University technicians in toxicology treated the rats with affection and even gave them names. The rats in turn ran to meet her and offered little or no resistance to uncomfortable experimental treatment. When the technician gave them lethal doses of a certain drug, only 20 per cent of them died. The same dosage administered by anyone else killed off an average 80 per cent. Dr. Boyd's explanation—the rats appeared to like the technician.

"There is nothing else that accounts for the difference," he said. He pointed out that similar results could be found in people and suggested that doctors take the emotional factor into account when prescribing drugs. The reaction of a child to a drug given by his mother would, perhaps, be different from his reaction to the same dose from a strange nurse.

When the medical profession speaks of the doctor-patient relationship as an important factor in health care, it knows what it is talking about.

Spring House Cleaning



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Home Improvement Note: White House Gets a Tub

Caenfetti: Give us this day our foolish filler: The White House did not have a bathtub until 1891. Half-safe Presidents are nothing new . . . Instant nostalgia for the young: Big Brother and the Holding Company, minus Janis Joplin, have folded. The Quicksilver Messenger Service has disbanded. Of the original great S.F. rock groups, that leaves only The Grateful Dead and the Jefferson Airplane, who, for old times sake, will get together for a weekend in Winterland at the end of May.

For Mitzi: When the news arrived from Vienna that the wife of Maestro Josef Krips had died, the four front-liners of the S.F. Symphony — Concertmaster Jacob Krachmalnick, Assoc. Concertmaster Stuart Canin, Violist Rolf Persinger and Cellist Bob Sayre—wondered what they could do as a tribute to Mitzi. Then they came to a decision: at the Requiem Mass in Old St. Mary's these four master musicians played Schubert's String Quartet No. 14, "Death and the Maiden" . . . Gallant to the end: Mitzi Krips' age was not mentioned in the obituaries here. When the Maestro was reached by phone in Vienna and asked, among other things, "How old was she?", he replied sadly: "Does that really matter — now?"

How the west was won on Taylor St. between Post and Sutter, witnessed by Frank Whittaker the other afternoon: As a black car started to back into a parking place, a white car driven by a sailor nosed in behind it. Neither car would budge — a real Mexican standoff. For 35 minutes, they remained in that position — one car nosed in, one car nosed out — as both drivers calmly sat

behind their wheels. At last the car parked behind the sailor moved out, whereupon he backed in and emerged with a revolver, which he twirled on a finger in the manner of John Wayne. The other driver

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

glanced at the gun and went right on reading his paper (this has to be quite a cool customer). Finally, the sailor pocketed his gun and strolled off . . . "A cop on a three-wheeler came by a couple of times while all this was going on," reports Whittaker, "but I guess he didn't want to get involved."

Pocketful of notes: The unexpected death of Gallatin Powers, the Monterey restaurateur, came as a shock to those who appreciated his driving personality, his dedication to good food and wine, and his transformation of an old adobe house into a restaurant of international acclaim. But Gallatin's will live. His widow, the former Jehanne Monteagle, will be at the helm from now on, and behind the wheel of the classic Rolls-Royce he loved so much. It was only last week that he bellowed: "I oughta get rid of this heap. I had to get a new muffler and it cost \$400!" He never looked livelier as he kicked a tire in mock outrage.

Wunderkind: Rudolf Friml, composer of some of the most beloved musical comedies ever written, arose bright and early yesterday morning in his house on 48th Avenue, where he lives when he's not at his place in Palm Desert, or Los Angeles, or Europe ("I don't know where we live," complains his wife. "He always wants to go somewhere"). After standing

on his head for a few minutes — something he does every morning, wherever he is — he sat down to a breakfast of coffee and doughnuts ("Rudolf, you shouldn't eat doughnuts," scolded his wife) and then walked to the piano. "I'm appearing with a symphony at the Chataqua, N.Y., festival in August," he said in his Austrian-tinged accent, "so I am composing something special. A small composition, but ambitious." He gazed out to sea. "I will be 90 years old in December," he mused. "On my 89th birthday, I received a wonderful letter from President Johnson. Who will write to me on my 90th?" Make a note, Mr. Nixon.

Onward: Writers Herbert Gold, Paul Jacobs, Harvey Swados, Michael Harrington and Nat Hentoff, Prof. Seymour Lipset of UC, Tom Burbridge and a few other members of the illuminati know where they'll be in August. In Superior Court, Harry Bridges' 10 n-g-simmering libel suit against them is finally coming to trial; it was a piddling \$250,000 affair in '66, when filed, but has since been inflated to a million. The only defendant who won't be on hand is the late Norman Thomas . . . Luxury living note: They roughed it here in '06, and they were roughing it recently at the Golden Gateway. Because of water pressure problem, the toilets were inoperative for a couple of days, and tenants were handed notices suggesting: "A bucket of water drawn from the bathtub can be used to flush the toilet." Reaction from Tenant E. M. Seaward, who lives in a \$600-a-month apt. there: "On top of a \$125-a-month rent increase and Reagan's new tax program, this is too much!"

SACRAMENTO REPORT

Bill on State Hospital Program Before Senate

By RALPH C. DILLS
State Senator

The need for new hospital construction and the updating of existing facilities is becoming a major crisis in California and the Legislature is now considering a measure to alleviate the problem.

Voters at last November's general election approved Proposition 5 by a substantial margin, authorizing the state to guarantee private loans for construction of non-profit hospitals. This was in answer to the established need for nearly 4,000 hospital beds, the modernization of existing structures accommodating nearly 9,000 beds, and the construction of facilities for 9,500 beds currently needed for the care of long-term illness.

Under an enabling legislation for Proposition 5 which has just reached the floor of the state Senate, California would guarantee a maximum of \$750 million in loans for the construction and remodeling of local hospitals. The state would guarantee a maximum of \$150

million a year in loans, with anything not used each year to be carried over to the next year. After a five-year period, there would be no ceiling on the loans.

The need for Proposition 5 and the enabling legislation arises from the state's withdrawal from the highly successful Hill-Harris program, which calls for state and federal governments to each contribute one-third of the cost of hospital construction and remodeling.

The state program as proposed would offer a private enterprise means to achieve the additional construction and modernization essential to keep California's hospital system among the most modern in the world, and to meet the demands of our burgeoning population.

The author points out that under the new program no taxpayer's funds would be needed, as the loan guarantee is self-supporting. Fees paid by agencies and organizations whose loans would be guaranteed by the state would provide

the funds necessary to operate the program and, if necessary, pay off any loans.

Proponents of the measure contend it will give impetus economically to the state, allowing utilization of regular lending agencies by hospitals. In addition, the loan program will relieve the state and the already overburdened taxpayer of a large economic drain previously committed by grants for hospital construction and remodeling.

The state Advisory Hospital Council, which in the past has approved grant applications under the Hill-Harris program, will review applications for state-insured loans, one of the several safeguards to prevent unwarranted building of health facilities. Fiscal and managerial qualifications, as well as the need for the proposed facility or renovation, and the fiscal feasibility of the project, form the criteria for eligibility.

Up until last year, federal funds for local hospital projects were granted to the extent of one-third the cost. The state matched these funds, which in recent years have run in the neighborhood of \$15 to \$20 million per year. The remaining one-third has been raised by local hospital-sponsored agencies involved. This was achieved by bonding or public subscription — but hitting the local taxpayer either way.

The need has been established. All that is lacking now is the Legislature's approval of the bill and the signature of the governor.

Other Opinions

SHELBYVILLE, KY., SENTINEL: "The country is suffering from an excess of tolerance regarding dangerous social changes. Instead of being 'understanding' of users of marijuana, or of campus lawbreakers, parents and other adult citizens should take a tough approach to behavioral problems, for the nation is threatened from within by those who want to destroy all the ancient rules of a decent society."

DILLON, S.C., HERALD: "We are facing hot competition from foreign nations like Japan, which are moving into many American market areas with great selling success. And as our wages go up, and prices increase, our products are being priced out of the world market in many cases. Figures show that our trade surplus in 1968 was only \$500 million, when it should have been three or four billions — using the past as a guide."

THE MONEY TREE

Here's a Chance to Buy View Lots By the Acre

By MILTON MOSKOWITZ
Is there still a frontier, a place where you can buy some land for yourself?

The answer is yes. The United States government remains the largest landowner in the country, and parcels are regularly offered for public sale.

The catch is, most of this land is rather barren—dry and rough. Nearly all of the land which can be farmed economically has already passed into private ownership.

Still, there is this land for sale. In 1967, for example, some 439 tracts totaling 60,000 acres were sold at public auction. Right now, in case you're interested, the following pieces of property are up for sale by the government:

- Two isolated tracts — 40 acres each—seven miles west of Angels Camp in California's Calaveras County. This is rough, brush terrain. There's no water supply. The sale price for both: \$4,900.
- A 160-acre parcel 12 miles west of Tombstone, Ariz. You need four-wheel drive to get to the property. There are no utilities and the nearest powerline is a mile and one-half away. Price: \$7,200.
- Two sections — one 200 acres, the other 315 acres—on a rough, steep, mountain hillside four miles north of Rock Island in central Washington. There's no water, vegetation

is sparse. Price: \$10 to \$15 per acre.

One thing you have to admit—the price is right. Where else in this country can you buy land so cheaply? What you'll

A Look at the World of Finance

do with it after you buy it is another matter.

Government land is sold by public auction. The prices quoted above are the minimums at which you can bid for those particular tracts. You don't have to be present for the auction but it helps if there are other bidders and you want to raise your offer.

To find out about public property for sale, you apply to the regional offices of the Bureau of Land Management, which is part of the Department of Interior. These offices are located in the capitals of the 11 westernmost states (not counting Hawaii). They are located there because that's where all the land is.

About one-fifth of the land area of the U.S. is still under federal ownership. And that's not counting those lands which have been set aside for national forests and parks.

However, about one-half of all this government-owned land is located up in Alaska—some 275 million acres. This is

mostly timber or tundra. The continental state with the greatest amount of public land is Nevada—it has 48 million acres. (Howard Hughes hasn't gotten around to this yet. What a perfect hiding place!)

Other big tracts of federal land are in Utah (22 million acres), Wyoming (16 million acres), and Oregon and California (each with 15 million acres).

Much of our land has been acquired, one way or another, by corporations. Railroads, for example. Federal land grants to railroads since 1850 have totaled more than 94 million acres—and much of this is now prime real estate in urban centers.

Paper companies, with their vast needs for timber, are also huge landowners. International Paper owns no less than 6 million acres. Brown Company has 4.5 million acres, Georgia-Pacific, 4 million; Weyerhaeuser, 3.5 million.

That land, of course, you can't have. They grow money there, and it's all been taken.

The Bureau of Land Management does point out that the land it sells, while somewhat inaccessible, offers "some of the most dramatically sweeping vistas of the untamed West."

What price vista?

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Glenn W. Pfeil
Publisher

Reid L. Bundy
Editor and Co-Publisher

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2238 W. Sepulveda Blvd.
Torrance, Calif. 90510