

Torrance Herald

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CHOOSING THE LEGISLATURE

While this is national election year and the big news of the campaign centers around the race for the presidency, local and state elections must not be overlooked. The members of the state legislature are to be elected this year, and in the hands of those successful at the polls will rest the shaping of state laws to govern and regulate us for the next two years. The actions of the state legislature will affect us more intimately than national legislation, and some attention should be given this important phase of our governmental life.

There seems to be plenty of candidates for the offices of assemblyman and senator. Many are in the field with platforms and policies which they are pledged to enact into law if elected. How successful they will be with these pledges will largely depend upon how they fit in with the programs of the old wheelhorses who through long experience in state legislation will pretty largely control what goes on at Sacramento. Men go to the legislature with lofty ideals and with a sincere desire to secure the enactment of legislation that they feel is for the general good, only to find that the routine of the legislature swallows up their ideas and their desired legislation is jockeyed about until little is left of it.

The state legislature convenes in January for a 30-day session during which bills are introduced. Adjournment is then taken for thirty days while the legislators go home to find out what their constituents think about the proposed bills. This is a beautiful theory but it does not result in much actual practice. Then with the ideas of their constituents supposedly firmly embedded in their legislative consciousness the lawmakers return to Sacramento and for two months consider the various bills and act upon them. It is a physical impossibility for a member of the legislature to personally study each one of the two thousand bills introduced and inform himself sufficiently upon the merits and demerits to cast an intelligent vote. It is said that one man did read all of the bills some years ago and went insane over his task. A more respected citizen of one of the fine municipalities of the Southland was elected to the last legislature and went to Sacramento expecting to carefully consider each measure that came up and cast his vote according to his findings. He was sadly disillusioned after a few weeks in the assembly.

So with the legislators faced with the impossibility of knowing all about each bill they have to resort to committee hearings, in which those vitally interested present their arguments. Those desiring some bit of legislation can always be counted upon to be present with all of their force and political acumen to secure a favorable committee report. For a bill once out on the floor of the legislature with a recommendation from a committee that "do pass" is almost always certain of success. This has resulted in the building up of lobbies active and alert about the legislative halls and in the hotels frequented by legislators. In the final analysis these lobbies control much of the legislation. The educational lobby probably is the strongest lobby at Sacramento. The educational system and the teachers' organizations are right on the job all of the time. A state deputy superintendent of instruction gave practically his entire time during the legislative session of 1927 to looking after legislation desired by the educational system or the teachers. He sat in meetings of the legislature's committees on education and controlled the action of those committees. With attorneys making up the largest single group in the legislature, they are on the lookout for their interests. At the last session of the legislature they secured enactment of a self-governing bar bill, which puts control of the legal profession into their own hands.

The farm bureau maintains a strong lobby at the legislature. The co-operative organizations have a man employed the year around to look after their interests, with an office near the state house. The barbers were represented at the last legislature, the cosmetologists, the public utilities and scores of other lobbies.

Roaming around the legislative halls one reaches the conclusion that most all legislation must be special interest legislation, enacted because some interests made the effort to put up a fight for it and lobby it through. The one great interest—that of the common people—does not have a lobby. The common people seem to be too absorbed in their own affairs to pay much attention to what is going on in the legislature, and do not understand much of what they do hear or read of legislation.

The candidate who sets out upon an alluring platform, finds when he is elected that he is up against a mighty tough proposition when he attempts to guide that platform safely through the legislative hopper. Members of the legislature occupy an exalted position for the three or four months that they are at the state capitol. Deference is shown them. Honors are showered upon them and it is a long way back to the home town. The legislator finds out how important a personage he is, even if the home folks do not become aware of that fact.

In the ninety days that the legislature is in session laws are enacted that vitally affect the lives, the welfare and pocketbook of the people of the state. One apparently insignificant bill may bring about conditions that affect thousands of people. During the interim between legislative sessions, those desiring special legislation are active in building their programs. The

average man pays little attention to legislation—probably does not long remember the name of his assemblyman and senator, yet these offices are extremely important. In the bigger show of the national election, the home talent for the legislative stage should not be overlooked.—Beverly Hills Citizen.

TOWNE TALK

"Just for Fun"

By RAS BERRY

Every time Buck Buxton shows up any place why somebody gives him a job and the other a. m. he showed up at the C. of C. office and Bill Teal was there trying to get a owl out of the room which had flew in sometime or other and Buck he says in order to drive a owl out of any place why you have got to be wiser than a owl and so he started to try to drive the owl out but he didn't get any place with the job which proved he wasn't so wise and so I offered a suggestion about using a broom and that got the results and went to prove who of them three was wise.

Buck then says the reason I know so much about owls is because I am out more nights than he is and I says is that so.

W. Post is gonna take a train tonight for Flint, Mich. and is gonna drive a new Buick back from there and he is gonna count the toll the world that W. Post is one wise guy to give up all other places in the world and take his vacation in Flint, Mich. I have wired the C. of C. in Flint and told them W. Post was coming and they wires back that they is gonna ask him to unveil a monument to me.

W. Post says if they erect a monument to me it will be because I left there and I says is that so.

I sent some more wires to Flint to warn them about W. Post's coming. Them wires reads as follows:

To the Chief of Police—Suspicious looking character will arrive in Flint next Monday. Do not arrest him. He is not dangerous but has been playing poor golf lately and just looks desperate. Humor him.

To President Flint Country Club—If tall blonde stranger who will register from Torrance, Calif. tries to play golf on your course next week don't permit any members to make any bets with him. He plays his best game verbally on the first tee.

To Ed Strong, President Buick Motor Company—My banker will report to factory next week to secure delivery on new car. Make him pay in full before he gets in the machine.

To Ed Lunt, manager Buick factory garage and service department—W. Post of Torrance, Calif. reporting to Flint for delivery of new car. Place heavy guard on all tools in your department.

To Flint Bankers Association—Torrance banker coming to Flint. Name J. W. Post. Suggest you send delegation to interview him on escrow fees and interest rates prevailing west of the American desert. You can learn much of which you are now innocent.

To Mayor Bill McKeighan—J. W. Post, Torrance banker, visits Flint next week. Be sure and refuse him keys to the city.

To President Rotary Club, Flint, Mich.—Banker of Torrance, Calif. named Post may attend meeting your club in Flint. If you value the size of membership in your club by no means let him make a speech.

Manager Durant Hotel—James Wallace Post will register your hotel next Monday from California. Add up room rent meals and phone calls and then add to the bill your age, street address and telephone number. If he registers protest call the bounce.

To All Traffic Officers, Flint, Mich.—Banker my town visits Flint next week. When he pulls Los Angeles variety left turns on Saginaw street throw him in jail.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beckham of Moon street left Sunday morning to spend a week at Frank Hobart's cabin in White Water Canyon.

Ollie Shitts of Pennsylvania avenue began work last week at the D. & M. Machine shop on Chapman street.

World War Men Declare Choice

Veterans' Group Endorses Candidates for State and County Offices

The list of candidates in the August 28 primaries, endorsed by the Los Angeles County Council, United Veterans of the Republic, was announced today by County Commander Russell Malcolm MacLennan, as follows:

- United States Senator—Hiram W. Johnson.
- Ninth Congressional District—W. E. Evans.
- Tenth Congressional District—Joe Crall.
- District Attorney—Buron Fitts.
- 29th Senatorial District—J. L. Pedrotti.
- 31st Senatorial District—Harrison Cassell.
- 33rd Senatorial District—Frank F. Merriam.
- 35th Senatorial District—E. Neal Ames.
- 37th Senatorial District—George W. Rochester.
- 61st Assembly District—P. R. Hornbrook.
- 62nd Assembly District—Walter J. Little.
- 63rd Assembly District—Clare Woodvine.
- 64th Assembly District—F. T. Heinnessey.
- 65th Assembly District—Willis M. Baum.
- 66th Assembly District—Wm. M. Byrne.
- 67th Assembly District—Kenneth C. Nowell.
- 68th Assembly District—Percival C. Cooney.
- 69th Assembly District—J. V. Schofield.
- 70th Assembly District—Morgan Keaton.
- 71st Assembly District—Wallace Copping.
- 72nd Assembly District—William Badham.
- 73rd Assembly District—No endorsement, James E. Stockwell and C. H. V. Lewis receiving a tie vote.
- 74th Assembly District—J. B. Bass.
- 75th Assembly District—Ralph H. Blakelee.
- Fifth Supervisorial District—Harry G. McBain.
- Fourth Supervisorial District—R. F. McClellan.
- Second Supervisorial District—Jack Bean.
- Judges of Superior Court—Victor R. McClucas, Department No. 1; Edwin F. Hahn, No. 2; Wm. Deane No. 3; Elliott Craig, No. 4; Dailly S. Stafford, No. 5; Fletcher Bowron, No. 6; Samuel R. Blake, No. 7; Thomas C. Gould, No. 8; Leon Yankwich, No. 9; B. Rey Schauer, No. 10; Clair S. Tapanan, No. 11; Walter J. Desmond, No. 12; Myron Westover, No. 13; Joseph P. Sprout, No. 14; Charles W. Fricke, No. 15; Wm. T. Aggeler, No. 16; Emmett H. Wilson, No. 17 and Marshall F. McComb, No. 18.
- District Court of Appeals—Lewis R. Work, Ira F. Thompson and Gavin W. Craig.

All of the endorsements, Commander MacLennan said today, were reached through questionnaires sent to all candidates, hearings over a considerable period of time where the candidates appeared in person, and after the committee holding the hearings made its report to the County Council of the United Veterans copies of the committee's report were sent to each unit throughout the county. The final list of endorsements was reached at the regular meeting of the County Council to which the delegates were sent by their respective units instructed as to how to vote. Only those units in the district affected were permitted to vote in the final endorsement, except in the case of the judiciary where the entire council passed upon the judicial candidates.

The findings, Commander MacLennan said, were not based exclusively on the veterans' viewpoint, but were the result of a conscientious endeavor to obtain the best men for the general welfare of the county and its various political subdivisions.

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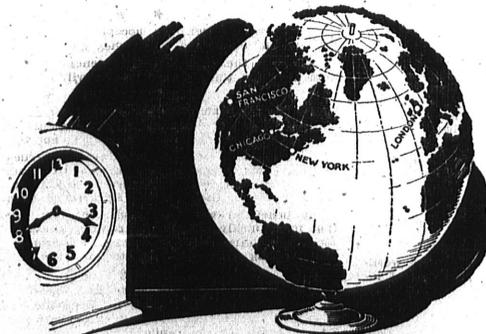
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