

Sacramento Report



By CHARLES CHAPEL

Assemblyman, 46th District

The Special Crime Study Commission

The Special Crime Study Commission on Organized Crime was organized under the chairmanship of General LeRoy P. Hunt, U. S. Marine Corps, Retired, under whom I served many years ago when he was a Captain and I was a very young Lieutenant with pink cheeks and lots of hair. The members and staff of the Commission were appointed, directly or indirectly by Governor Earl Warren. The subpoena power of the Commission ended on June 30, 1952, and the Commission submitted its report on May 5, 1953.

The report made detailed and specific recommendations for the detection and apprehension of criminals, the suppression of crime, and the maintenance of good order in the State of California. My Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 82, dated May 12, was counter-signed by Assemblyman G. Delbert Morris, of the 63rd Assembly District (Los Angeles), and by Assemblyman Herbert R. Kloft, of the 4th Assembly District (Long Beach). There is a very limited supply of bound copies of the report which I can send to readers of this column who apply immediately.

Constitutional Amendment to Make Board of Equalization Perform

In accordance with one of the recommendations of the Crime Commission, on May 18, I introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 59, which adds Section 22.5 to Article XX of the California Constitution, which forces the State Board of Equalization to revoke any alcoholic beverage license for premises on which narcotics are sold, or which are resorts for dissolute and immoral persons named in the proposed Amendment, but which I cannot mention specifically here because this column is a family journal read by many young children. However, I can say that the proposed Amendment is one of the most stringent directives ever aimed at the State Board of Equalization to force it to do what it should do in good conscience. The proposed Constitutional Amendment is counter-signed by many Members of the Assembly of both political parties.

Gambling Abatement Law

On May 1, 1953, I introduced Assembly Bill No. 2829, commonly known now as the Gambling Abatement Law. This is an extremely stringent act modeled after the so-called red-light abatement laws. It may surprise you, but up until now California has not had a gambling abatement law. One of the co-authors is Assemblyman Stanford C. Shaw, Democrat of Ontario. Incidentally Assemblyman Shaw, who is a man of great courage, is also a co-author of the Constitutional Amendment which forces the State Board of Equalization to behave. I make this statement because it requires real courage for any person in public office to criticize, in the slightest, the State Board of Equalization.

The gambling abatement law is too long to quote in full here, but it gives law-enforcement officers the authority to padlock the doors of any public or semi-public building which is used for gambling, as gambling is defined in California. The only loophole is that draw poker is legalized gambling temporarily, but the minute that it becomes illegal, then the gambling abatement act applies to it. Meanwhile, the gambling abatement act is the strongest of all laws proposed to drive professional criminals out of California. It is not aimed at the citizen who enjoys a quiet game of bridge or poker in his home or club.

Write or Telegraph Your Assemblyman
If you are in accord with any of the proposed laws, or resolutions, in this Report, please write or telegraph your own Assemblyman, telling him your interest in carrying out the intentions of the Crime Commission. If you live in the 46th District, you know that I am with you, anyhow.

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