

# Taxpayers Take It On The Chin With Higher Rates, Assessments

SEN. RICHARD RICHARDS All evidence up to now indicates pretty clearly that Los Angeles County taxpayers are right in attempting to fix responsibility for this year's increases in local taxes.

The current protest is more than the usual exasperation felt by every taxpayer at this time of year, and it poses a legitimate problem that requires the attention of every branch of government.

In fixing responsibility as between city governments and county government, it is al-

ready plain that clarification and change are called for in the system which plays the tax rate against the tax assessment. One is specific, the other is indeterminate and variable.

**Public Hearing**

For example, the tax rate is specifically moved up or down by the elected members of the city councils and the board of supervisors. This rate, at least, is determined in hearings open to the public.

The assessment rate, on the other hand, is a variable over which the taxpayers have no control whatever, and about which they are able to obtain little information. It can be moved about widely, subject to no limitations in law, and apparently with no logical basis other than obtaining tax monies from one area without relevance to another area—and without balance other than the total need of meeting a total budget.

**Assessments Vary**

Assessments vary sharply from year to year, they vary sharply as between areas in the same county and even within the same city.

Another and additional difficulty is the gross variation in assessments as between the 58 counties in this state. This is not only unfair to local taxpayers, but it results in inequity in apportioning state benefits and money awards to counties.

A good example is in the apportionment of state aid to school districts. When one county assesses at a high rate in relation to true values, and another at a low rate, the first county pays the freight and the

second county draws the benefits. We have been fighting this tendency for years, and the people of Los Angeles County have a real stake in removing these inequities once and for all.

**Fair Share**

Certainly the people of this county have a right to expect to pay no more than their fair share in any area of local taxes. They have a right to be specifically informed as to the burden they undertake when they vote for a bond issue on any level or for any service.

**EVAPORATION RATE**

Sea water is said to evaporate more slowly than fresh water.



A HUNK OF TRUNK... Dramatizing the tremendous trunk space available in the new 1958 Mercury are Hollywood starlet Darlene Hendricks and three salesmen from Torrance Motors, Inc., local Lincoln-Mercury dealership. Salesmen include (left to right) Dean Arthur, Al Hughes and Sales Manager George Carrillo. Lee Norman, president of Torrance Motors, Inc., looks on.

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APPLE SAUCE 303	7 for
CHERRIES Red Sour Pitted—303	5 for
FRUIT COCKTAIL 303	5 for
Grapefruit Sections 303	6 for
PORK & BEANS #2 1/2	5 for
CHILI with BEANS 300	4 for
VIENNA SAUSAGE 4-oz.	6 for
TAMALES 300	5 for
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**PICKLES**  
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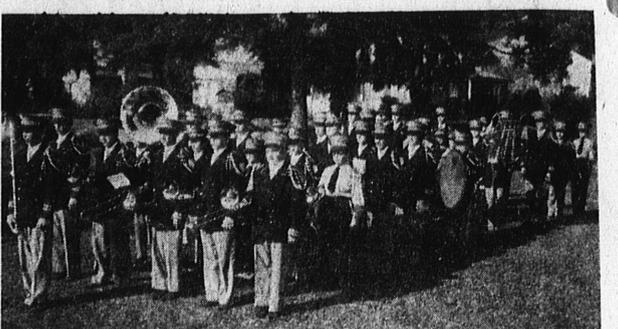
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CADET BAND... The 60 members of the Torrance Cadet Band will vie for honors in the 11th annual "All Southland Salute to Santa Claus Band Review" in Huntington Beach tomorrow. The 33 bands and six drum and bugle corps competing in the parade will be judged by members of the Southern California chapter of the All-American Judges' Assn. The cadets are sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

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