

Incorporation Laws for New Cities Should Be Beefed Up

California laws governing incorporation procedures need to be overhauled drastically to require that communities must have adequate population, assessed value, and a proper balance between residential, business and industrial areas, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn declared yesterday.

"While it is certainly laudable that the people of some of our local communities have great civic pride and want to incorporate to retain their identities, they should consider most carefully everything that is involved in incorporating as a city," Supervisor Hahn stated.

HE POINTED out that in some cases cities have been incorporated for "special purposes." This includes such cities as Vernon, Commerce, Industry, and Dairy Valley.

Other cities have incorporated purely as a matter of local pride and without giving proper thought to the problems involved.

"Before any community incorporates as a city it should thoroughly study all facets of the incorporation," Supervisor Hahn declared.

IN ORDER to incorporate as a city, a community should determine if it has:

1. Enough population to justify all of the duties and powers of a municipality, to meet the heavy responsibilities of providing law enforcement, parks and recreation, zoning, traffic control, and all of the other duties of municipal government.
2. A well-balanced community, with a proper percentage of residential development, business, commerce, and industry to insure a proper tax base to face any reasonable emergency as well as the day to day "housekeeping" duties of government.
3. A potential for growth and development to meet future challenges.

"I AM CONVINCED that

some of the small cities in Los Angeles County would be in a serious financial jam if any temporary emergency were to arise," Supervisor Hahn continued.

He emphasized that he was opposed to the formation of small cities as a matter of principle, not in opposition to any of the small cities which have been formed in recent years in Los Angeles County.

"I DO NOT believe it is good government or good business for a small community to assume all the duties and responsibilities of municipal government," he declared.

One of the "classic" examples of such a community was the incorporation a few years ago of the City of Industry. At that time, the law required that an area have 500 "inhabitants" in order to incorporate. Proponents of the incorporation succeeded in qualifying the community by counting as "inhabitants" of the community about 150 residents and employees of a sanitarium for mildly disturbed patients.

AS A RESULT of this incorporation, Supervisor Hahn pushed for the incorporation laws to be changed, urging that a community be required to have 5000 registered voters before being allowed to incorporate. The proposed legislation was watered down by the State Legislature to require that a community have 500 registered voters to qualify.

There is another danger if too small a population is included in a city, Supervisor Hahn added, and that is the fact that just a few people can determine the fate of the entire community.

HE LISTED in support of this contention that in a municipal election in the City of Bradbury Estates last April 12, one Councilman was elected to office with just 14 votes cast for him; another was elected with 22 votes.

Hear Speaker From Colorado

Dr. Kenneth Hanson, professor from Western State College, Gunnison, Colo., will address Torrance teachers next Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Torrance High School Auditorium. His topic will be "Educational Philosophy."

The author of four books, he has served as visiting professor or lecturer at the University of Oklahoma, University of Missouri, John Hopkins, and the University of Southern California. He has served as speaker, consultant, and workshop leader for lay and professional organizations, school boards, and the Kellogg and Ford Foundations.

rupted, with an increased tax load on their residents," Supervisor Hahn continued.

The "Lakewood plan" is working well now, but there is no guarantee that it will continue to do so. Already, a number of the small cities have decided to provide some of their own municipal services where they had formerly contracted for them through the County.

"THIS MEANS additional expense to the local taxpayer, who is already bearing a huge tax burden," Supervisor Hahn declared.

"The responsibilities of municipal government are heavy and should not be taken lightly. Yet, the present laws make it possible for communities to incorporate and assume these responsibilities without being properly prepared for them," Supervisor Hahn concluded.

THE CITY OF Commerce has a population estimated at 8899, with 2907 registered voters. At the last municipal election there was a total of 1535 votes cast, with Councilmen being elected by a total of 650 votes.

Dairy Valley City has a population estimated at 3513 of which 958 are registered voters. Councilmen there have been elected with slightly more than 300 votes.

THE CITY OF Industry has a population of 734, of which 220 are registered voters. Councilmen there were elected with 77 and 79 votes at the last election.

Most of these small cities, Supervisor Hahn pointed out, have been formed under the "Lakewood plan," whereby they contract for the County to provide municipal services at cost.

"SOME OF THESE cities depend upon most of their income from one or two major sources. If there should be a serious financial crisis in these industries, it would be possible for these cities to find themselves in danger of being bank-

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"RESPONSIBLE VOTING NEEDED IN CONGRESS"



...Tom Coffee

Tom Coffee is the Republican candidate for the 17th Congressional District. A father of four, Tom Coffee is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and the University of Southern California. As an electrical engineer he has experience in Southern California's problems in power, water and space age. He is a veteran with 2 1/2 years combat service in the Far East.

For nearly 18 years, voters in the 17th Congressional District have been represented by a man whose voting record must be considered irresponsible. The spendthrift voting record of this man—Cecil R. King—can be summed up in the words of Harry Hopkins—"Tax, Tax, Spend, Spend" to get elected.

Here are a few examples of King's inflationary voting record from only the last two sessions of Congress.

- Voted **Yes**
- (1) To raise interest rates on G.I. housing.
 - (2) To raise the national debt.
 - (3) To postpone interest on British loans.
- Voted **No**
- (1) To return to California 25 per cent of Federal cigarette taxes which were to be used for school construction.
 - (2) To exercise stronger controls over the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) financing, and for faster repayment of the TVA debt.
 - (3) To eliminate four flood control projects (outside of California) considered unnecessary by the Army's Corps of Engineers.

These examples are but a few. It's been 18 years of taxing, 18 years of spending. The only tax deferment he has voted for is for large manufacturing firms investing overseas. He is endorsed by the leftwing California Democratic Council.

AFTER 18 YEARS OF IRRESPONSIBLE AND SPENDTHRIFT VOTING IT'S TIME TO CHANGE TO TOM COFFEE for moderate voting. He will cast his vote in the interest of the 17th District instead of "One World" interests. Coffee will vote for reduced spending, and assistance to the wage of earner in the form of tax reduction.

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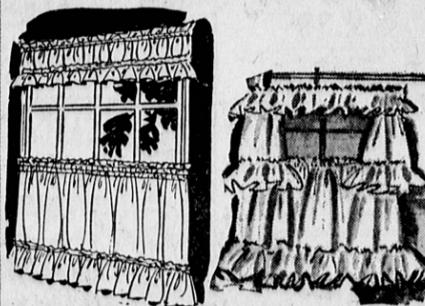
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