

Two Kenya Students At Harbor

Christopher Tolo and Paul Churie from Kenya are beginning their first semester of schooling in the United States at Harbor College.

They are two of 65 students from Kenya chosen by the Agency for International Development to attend American schools for two years as part of a joint program between the United States and Kenya.

On completing their studies here they will return to their country to act as civil servants.

Both boys speak English in soft British accents, as well as Swahili, the common language of their region. Paul speaks nine tribal dialects and Christopher five.

Christopher's studies are in the field of engineering, pre-

paring him for an occupation as surveyor when he returns to Kenya. Paul is taking a business administration course.

Of the 65 Kenya students in the program, 20 are going to school in California. A team of American junior college administrators and teachers is preparing to go to Kenya to study the educational needs of the country.

Major Changes in School Financing System Hinted

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

There are increasing signs on the horizon that major changes in our state-local system of financing public schools are in the offing. Two reports, recently released on a preliminary basis, propose basic changes in property taxation for school support. They also call for a series of shifts in the present formulas for state aid to local districts which would raise state expenditures considerably.

For the past year or more, the Assembly Interim Committee on Education has been studying needed improvements in our methods of public school finance. It has received information from a number of reliable sources, including the legislative analyst's office. These two reports have now crystallized certain suggestions which may have great effect on the committee's conclusions, and an equal impact on deliberations at our 1963 session.

THE FIRST of the two reports has been issued by the State Department of Education, the second by the State Teachers' Association. Neither has as yet been finally approved by the top authority within its organization. Yet the fact that each has been published speaks for itself.

Both reports agree on some basic fundamentals, which is understandable because of close cooperation between the two organizations. Both cite statistics to demonstrate con-

clusively that California state government has fallen steadily behind during recent years in the percentage of school costs it bears. Both recommend legislation to levy countywide taxes for support of elementary and high school districts at the same rates—60 cents for elementary, 50 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for high school.

THEY DIFFER slightly as to the "foundation program" levels recommended. The department proposes \$235-\$245 per unit of attendance for elementary, \$335 for high schools. The association suggests \$255 for elementary, \$345 for high schools. These foundation amounts would be enlarged to meet current needs by a combination of increases in regular district taxation and state "additive" incentive grants based on the size of such increases. Present maximum tax rates would be raised to meet rising costs.

Both reports concur in pointing out that the state share of total revenues for public school support fell from 46.3 per cent to 39.7 per cent in the last eight years. The local share rose correspondingly, and all of it comes from property taxes. California no longer compares favorably with other states in its support of education. It now ranks 34th in terms of school revenue as a percentage of total state and local revenues. California ranks 5th in per capita income, but four states, including Oregon,

spend more per unit of attendance in their schools.

AS THE association report indicates, voters approved a constitutional level of school support at \$180 per unit of attendance in 1952. But by 1961, in terms corrected for inflation, the state school fund had dropped below the guaranteed \$180.

From this it seems certain that school support—and taxes—will be much with us during our 1963 deliberations.

Michael Mullen To Appear in Friday Concert

Michael Mullen, Carleton College senior from Torrance, will appear in a student recital to be presented in Skinner Memorial Chapel Friday.

Mullen, a pianist, will play "Prelude and Fugue in F Minor" from the "Well-Tempered Clavichord, Book II," by Bach.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mullen, 1519 Post Ave.

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YMCA to Send 250 to Exhibit

Two hundred fifty youngsters from the Torrance YMCA will be attending as guests of the 37th Annual Great Western Exposition and Livestock Show, to be held Nov. 14th through 20th at the Great Western Exhibit Center.

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