

Assemblyman Promises Narcotics Control Laws in Next Session

By ASSEMBLYMAN VINCENT THOMAS 68th District

The "clouds of confusion" about narcotics control legislation are likely to be blown vigorously around again at our coming session. The "half-truths, semi-facts, rumors and fantasies" which a joint legislative committee found to surround suppression of the illicit traffic may be dispelled by action on suggestions for improved and stronger laws which will be put before us.

For the past ten years, the narcotics evil has grown like a weed in California, until now our state has the greatest problem in the Nation. Legislative committee after committee has commented on the rapid rate of increase. In 1955, total state felony arrests for narcotics violations were 7,313; in 1959, 12,155. During the first six months of 1960, they reached 6,957, as compared to 5,666 in the same months of the preceding year.

DANGER OF TRAFFIC

All of these committee reports emphasized the danger of the narcotics traffic to youth, and the growing menace it creates in juvenile delinquency. While marijuana continues to be the principal cause of youthful vice, it frequently leads to addiction to more dangerous drugs, and the percentage of youth authority wards using them shows a significant rise.

Penalties under our California laws for narcotics violations were stepped up in 1953 and again in 1954, but the results have not been what was hoped for. Even though our laws provide stiff

penalties for repeated violations, our legislative investigations by both Senate and Assembly groups reveal that in a shockingly large proportion of cases, prior convictions are disregarded, so the criminals get the lighter sentences of first offenders.

COURTS INTERFERE

Our law enforcement officers have complained strongly that several State Supreme Court decisions interfere with adequate execution of anti-narcotics laws because they severely restrict the use of unidentified informers, and make more difficult the use of search warrants. Others support these decisions as necessary to protect citizens against unlawful searches or seizures, or being "framed" into conviction by enemies.

Recently, another exhaustive study of the various narcotics problems has been made, and the many specific recommendations based on its results will undoubtedly be introduced as bills at our forthcoming session. Others, too, have produced proposals for basic changes in the laws, so we will have a variety of al-

ternatives to consider.

GOVT RESPONSIBILITY

The study pins responsibility for cutting off the sources of narcotics squarely on the federal government. It cites the undisputed fact that 100 percent of the heroin used in the state comes from outside its borders. More than 90 percent of the marijuana also comes from outside. It discounts the supposed importance of "crime syndicates" in the narcotics traffic, pointing out that any car-owner can obtain a plentiful supply south of the border, and detection is difficult at the many border crossing places.

Subject to heavy criticism is the commonly accepted theory that the "addict-peddler" is a poor "victim," who should be treated more leniently than the non-addict seller. The report states bluntly, "When the addict peddler is removed from the streets of California, the narcotics traffic will be substantially eliminated."

A minimum prison sentence of 10 years with no parole is recommended for any adult convicted of selling

Disabled Persons Under 50 Years Receiving Social Security Checks

This month 104,318 disabled persons—workers under age 50 and their dependents—received their first monthly social security checks, William L. Mitchell, commissioner of social security, announced today.

These are the first of an estimated 250,000 persons made eligible for payments under 1960 changes in the law. Commissioner Mitchell pointed out that before the recently enacted amendments to the social security law, disabled workers and their dependents were not eligible for cash disability benefits while the worker was under age 5.

Now these disabled workers and their dependents have the same kind of pro-

tection that is provided for retired workers. Under the provisions of the law before the 1960 social security amendments, the younger disabled worker could apply to have his social security record frozen so that the years when he was unable to work because of his disability would not be counted against him in figuring any future benefits payable to him and his family.

About 100,000 disabled workers under 50 years of age had applied to have the social security records frozen under the old law.

BUSINESS INCREASE

Savings and Loan business in California has increased more than 500 per cent since 1950, according to a Stanford Research Institute report delivered last week to Governor Edmund G. Brown.

CHIEF NICKEL SOURCE

Canada is the chief source of the free world's nickel supplies, furnishing more than three-quarters of total deliveries.

Bethlehem Steel Transfers Bay Area Engineers to Torrance Area

W. E. Edwards, San Francisco district engineer, fabricated steel construction of Bethlehem Steel Company, has just been appointed Los Angeles district engineer. In his new position, Edwards will be located at the company's Torrance fabricating works. This announcement was made this week by W. J. McClung, general manager of operations.



W. E. EDWARDS
Torrance Plant

Although born in Seattle, Edwards received his primary and high school education in the Los Angeles area. In 1944, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and he spent the next two years in officers training at Occidental College and the University of Southern California.

Following his discharge from the service, he entered Stanford University where he graduated with a BS degree in civil engineering and an MS degree in structural engineering.

Edwards came to work for Bethlehem in 1950. He spent the next year in the company's loop course, a special-

ized indoctrination and training program for selected college graduates. Upon completion of the course, he was assigned to the engineering department at the company's Alameda works. In 1955, he was transferred to Bethlehem's Seattle works as an engineer. In 1957, he was appointed district engineer for the San Francisco district.

OBITUARIES

Funeral services for Isaac Choate, 85, of 1410 Mansel Avenue, Lawndale, were held Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. in the Hawthorne Church of Christ, Ramona & El Segundo Blvds., with Hardin and Flanagan Hawthorne Mortuary directors. Mr. Choate was a native of Jamestown, Tennessee; had lived in California for twenty-three years; past seventeen years in Lawndale. He was a retired school teacher from Oklahoma. He passed away Friday at the Hawthorne Community Hospital following a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Myrtle and three daughters Mrs. Irene Dawson of Hawthorne, Mrs. Lois Mays of Manhattan Beach and Mrs. Nadine Vorels of Torrance. Also surviving him are nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Interment will be in the Mausoleum, Del Prado, Inglewood Park Cemetery.

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST BABY OF '61?

ENTER THE TORRANCE PRESS ANNUAL FIRST

BABY CONTEST



OFFICIAL BABY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Have your doctor fill out this official entry form. Bring it in, or mail to to this newspaper.

EXACT TIME OF BIRTH.....BABY'S NAME.....

SEX OF BABY.....WEIGHT.....PLACE OF BIRTH.....

PARENT'S NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

DOCTOR'S NAME.....

MAIL OR BRING TO
3238 WEST SEPULVEDA
TORRANCE, CALIF.

TORRANCE PRESS

- This contest is open to all expectant mothers who reside in our circulation area.
- The first baby born in 1961 will be declared the winner. In case of a close contest, hospital and city records will be the deciding factor.
- Judges are the publisher and editor of this newspaper. Their decision will be final. No claims may be entered after the winner is declared.
- The baby may be delivered anywhere, but records must be readily available for judging the contest.

PRIZES

READ THIS COMPLETE PAGE

The valuable and useful gifts listed here will be presented by the community merchants listed below to the very first baby born in 1961, and to his or her proud parents. Who will the first child be? Watch this newspaper for the announcement of the winning name.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN TORRANCE PRESS OFFICE
BY 10:00 A.M. JANUARY 7, 1961

For Mother
Cologne or
Perfume Set
RUTH DAVIS
1331 El Prado
Downtown Torrance

First Red Goose Baby Shoes
FOR THE FIRST BABY BORN IN 1961
TORRANCE BOOTERY
1333 El Prado Downtown Torrance

For Little '61
Fully Automatic
G.E. Baby Food Warmer
Heats three different foods at once. Approved by U.L., Good Housekeeping and Parents.
McMAHANS FURNITURE
1306 Sartori
Downtown Torrance

Our Gift to
The Winner
3 Dozen
Birdseye Diapers
From
FOODS CO. MARKET
17500 Crenshaw
2655 Pacific Coast Hwy.
Torrance

We'll Give Tiny
A Head Start
Toward Thrift
We will open a savings account with \$5.00 for 1961's first little newcomer.
Southwest Savings & Loan
1603 Cravens
Downtown Torrance

FOR 1961'S FIRST
COME IN FOR A
SURPRISE GIFT
McCOWN DRUG STORES, INC.
1327 El Prado
Downtown Torrance
A Free Portrait of Little '61
The winner of the contest will be photographed any time during the first three months and a lovely gold toned 8x10 portrait given free of charge as our gift.
PHOTO ARTS STUDIO
1311 Post Downtown Torr.

OUR GIFT TO FATHER
A Carton of Cigarettes
(His Choice Brand)
HOLIDAY LIQUORS
3531 Torrance Blvd.
A Surprise Gift Awaits You at
VERBERG DAIRY, INC.
2093 W. 174th Torrance.
or
18158 Crenshaw Torrance