

Urge C-of-C Support for City's Future

Chamber Manager Will Need Support, Backing of City

The city of Torrance is toasting a brand-new Chamber of Commerce manager, a man with tremendous background of community progress.

Great things are expected of him . . . because he has done great things in the past. He has been responsible for exceptionally successful community projects in the area from which he came.

He is a personable individual and he inspires confidence in people to whom he talks. He is slow to speak but, when he does, what he says is worth listening to.

PROGRESS POTENTIAL

He holds an immense potential for progress and for the future of the community.

But . . . it must be remembered, . . . no Chamber of Commerce manager can do more than the membership that supports him.

It will be up to the individual members of the Chamber to support his programs and back him in his attempts to implement Chamber policy.

And, it will be up to individual businessmen and citizens of Torrance to contribute their cooperation, their time and their willingness to work for the future of their city.

For in the future of the city lies the future of its business community, its residential community and its Chamber of Commerce.

PRESS EDITORIAL PAGE

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IT'LL BE OVER SOON—More than 200 parents who attended the Arlington Elementary School Spring Dance Festival had a good time last week, but David Jordan couldn't wait until the performance was over to take

off the great big bow which adorned each member of his first grade class. Each room in the school presented a dance, climaxed by the annual Maypole ceremonies by seventh and eighth grade girls.

Current Bill Before Legislature Would Define Responsibility to Youngsters

ASSEMBLYMAN VINCENT THOMAS

Last year about this time great public indignation was being expressed over the serious defects in our California aid to needy children program. County officials, parents' organizations, taxpayers groups, all were levying criticism at the program on the ground that its extreme liberality was encouraging illegitimacy, and the breakdown of family units, at the expense of the very children the system was designed to protect.

And there seems to have been considerable ground for such appraisals. Ten years ago, 131,349 children in families were receiving this aid. In June of last year, the figure had jumped to 209,498, an increase of almost 60 percent during the period. Costs had zoomed ever faster. Total payments in 1959-60 were \$73.7 million. In 1959-60 they were up to \$129.8 million, a rise of 78 percent.

INVESTIGATION

The Senate fact finding committee on labor and welfare started an intensive investigation of the aid program, and held several public hearings on the problems involved. Representatives of the state department of social welfare presented much factual material. County wel-

fare executives, and district attorneys, described their difficulties in making sure that aid was granted only to those really eligible, or in tracking down deserting fathers who evaded their family responsibilities at the taxpayer's expense.

As a result of its studies the committee developed a series of bills to tighten up the law relating to aid to needy children. These bills were introduced early in this session. Recently several of them passed the Senate by substantial majority votes, and they are now before the Assembly committee on social welfare for consideration and action.

One of the most important of these measures would fix the responsibility of stepfathers and common law husbands with respect to children in homes which they support. Under present law, a stepfather is liable for support of an unadopted stepchild only up to the limit of his wife's community right in his income. The bill would remove this limitation, so his liability would extend to his total income.

RESPONSIBILITY

The bill would also write into the law a provision that "an adult male who is assuming the status of husband" would be responsible for support of children in the home.

This would spell out the effect of a recent Supreme Court decision on this point, which the department has included in its regulations.

Other bills would establish policies for the guidance of administrators. One would change the purpose of the law to give aid "reasonably and fairly" instead of "liberally." Another would require the counties to emphasize economic rehabilitation of needy families. A third would add to the law a statement that its principle requires equal treatment by administrators of both recipients and taxpayers.

Still other measures would strengthen enforcement powers of district attorneys with respect to support liability of parents in several ways. One provision would make any adult who wilfully uses any part of a grant under the law for any other purpose than that for which it is made, guilty of a misdemeanor. Another would permit counties to require written statements from families seeking aid, or from absent fathers, under penalty of perjury for false statements.

Many agencies and groups which have cooperated in the development of these bills will watch their progress in the Assembly with great interest.

State's General Fund Is Finally 'Out of the Red'

The State's general fund is operating in the black again. State Controller Alan Cranston said the general fund has repaid the final \$20 million installment on the \$90 million it borrowed to tide it over the lean revenue months, thus clearing up its temporary indebtedness.

day operations, borrowed \$55 million from the Architecture revolving fund in December and \$35 million from the special deposit fund in January. Installments repaid in February, March and April reduced the amount to \$30 million. Cranston said the temporary loan was repaid on schedule.

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