

7 Pollution Bills Gain

Special To The Tribune
SACRAMENTO, May 18.—Seven more of the series of water pollution control bills authored by Assemblyman Randal F. Dickey, of Alameda, chalked up legislative progress today.

An eighth was held in committee for a week after preliminary discussion, but the others had no trouble clearing the Assembly Public Health Committee. In fact, three of them, appropriating a total of \$1,400,000, were marked "do pass" and sent along to the Ways and Means Committee without any discussion as to their scope or merit.

Normally, the committee first hearing the bills considers them as to policy and operation in detail and then passes them on to Ways and Means to see where the money is going to come from.

UNDER ATTACK

The Dickey bills are under attack by cities, counties and state agencies concerned with water pollution and bills embodying their rival views are shaping up in the Senate. Fitted floor battles are in prospect as a result.

The largest appropriation bill oked by the committee late yesterday would create a \$1,000,000 fund for loans to municipalities for construction of sewerage facilities. Another would allocate \$300,000 for administrative expenses of the State Pollution Control Board that would be created by the Dickey bills.

Allocation of \$100,000 to the University of California for research on sewage, garbage and industrial waste disposal is provided under the third bill.

Three other measures also won easy approval, but one proposing exemption of underground mineral rights from sanitary district taxation was marked "do pass" over the opposition of Richard Carpenter, of the League of California Cities, and A. M. Rawm, chief engineer for the Los Angeles County Sanitary District.

PROPOSAL UNWISE

Carpenter read a letter from Rawm declaring that the proposal was unwise, would lead to misunderstanding and confusion "and might start a chain of tax exemptions." It was Rawm's view that there was serious doubt as to constitutionality of the measure.

Put over one week at Dickey's request in case if divergent views could be resolved was his bill to create a state well drillers board to license and supervise both water and oil well drillers.

J. D. Lynch, of the Associated Drilling Contractors of California, appeared in support of the measure, while F. M. Carroll, of the Water Well Drillers of Southern California, opposed it.

It was Lynch's view that present laws are inadequate, not properly applied and "contain so many loopholes it is impossible to control well drilling in California."

Carroll insisted that present laws protect the public, no benefits would be derived from the new board and that the situation could be better met by strengthening the present Contractors Licensing Board.

YELLOW MARGARINE, SMALL LOAN BILLS PASS ASSEMBLY

SACRAMENTO, May 18.—(P)—State assemblymen yesterday disposed of two controversial issues—yellow margarine and small loans—and sent them on to the Senate.

They: 1—Approved 52 to 20 a bill by Assemblyman Thomas A. Maloney, San Francisco, to permit oleomargarine manufacturers to color their product butter-yellow.

2—Passed 66 to 2 the amended Reagan bill to limit small loan interest charges on loans over \$500 to 10 per cent a year.

The Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee blocked an attempt to revive and expand a state supported slum clearance program. The committee agreed to take under submission the proposal of Sen. Gerald O'Gara, San Francisco, to appropriate \$120,000 to the State Redevelopment Agency.

PROGRAM 'SOCIALISTIC'

The latter measure was sponsored by Sen. Jack B. Tenney, Los Angeles, chairman of the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee. He described the O'Gara program as "socialistic."

Tenney, from the floor of the Senate, agreed to a major revision in his series of loyalty oath bills. He consented to an amendment to the bill requiring loyalty oaths of lawyers that would erase the need of listing past membership in an organization deemed subversive. Tenney declared he would offer similar amendments to his other bills now in the Assembly.

The Senate Rules Committee announced it would hear two issues involving Tenney next Tuesday.

First is the appointment to the State Social Welfare of Daniel G. Marshall, Los Angeles attorney, and Wilbur J. Bassett, Los Angeles AFL leader. Tenney is fighting confirmation of their appointments by Social Welfare Director Myrtle Williams.

PROBE DEMANDED

Next is a resolution by Sen. O'Gara demanding an investigation of the employment by Tenney's committee of Edward Gibbons, editor of the publication Alert. An article appearing in Alert naming several legislators yesterday touched off debate in both Houses with Tenney as the target.

Gibbons telegraphed Speaker Sam L. Collins of the Assembly that he would "welcome a full investigation" and added:

"I challenge the gentlemen to request a formal investigation by the Assembly."

The Assembly voted down two attempts of Assemblyman Lloyd Lowrey, Rumsey, to tuck crippling amendments to the also coloring bill. One would have forbid the use of margarine in public places and the other would have required also to be labeled "imitation butter."

Assemblyman Thomas M. Erwin, Fresno, wanted that if the bill passed it would be as repugnant as the legalizing of horse meat.

BUTTER ALSO COLORED

Butter is artificially colored nine months of the year, argued Assemblyman John J. E. Collier, Los Angeles, and "margarine wants to be colored yellow likewise to satisfy consumer demand."

Although strongly supported in the lower House, the measure faces stiff opposition in the Senate where representatives of rural areas are in command.

The small loan legislation passed without debate. It provides that interest rates on loans shall be 30 per cent a year on the first \$100; 24 per cent up to \$500 and 10 per cent up to \$5,000. The State Supreme Court recently ruled there was no limitation on loans above \$500.

Governor Warren wanted the 10 per cent limit to apply at \$300 but Assemblyman Bruce Reagan, Pasadena, author of the bill, wanted the breaking point fixed at \$750. The \$300 figure represents a compromise proposed by Assemblyman Maloney. Reagan told the Assembly he felt the \$750 was a fair breaking point but because of the need for legislation would join in the compromise. Warren also has indicated he would accept it if the bill reaches his desk.

Action Delayed On Memorial

BERKELEY, May 18.—Action was again deferred last night by the Board of Education on a request of veterans groups that Berkeley High School's new \$2,500,000 auditorium, scheduled to be finished next spring, be dedicated as a memorial to the dead of World War II.

While board members agree that 127 former Berkeley High School students who made the sacrifice for their country should be honored, the form of memorial was declared to be a moot question.

Opposition of students to a name other than Berkeley High School auditorium has been registered with the board.

Discussion last night centered around a possible plaque memorializing war dead or installation of an organ to be financed by public subscription. The latter plan, according to Mrs. Mildred Brown, member of the board, "is meeting with public approval."

On motion of Director Robert Miller, action was deferred "until public sentiment is crystallized so that a definite memorial proposal may be presented."

Isaac Silberstein, Americanism chairman of Berkeley Post No. 7, American Legion, declared that veterans groups of the city "insist that war dead be memorialized in some manner, whether by name or installation of a material tribute."

Chinese Artist to Talk

Chang Shui-Chi, professor of Fine Arts at National Central University, Nanking, will deliver a lecture on Chinese and oriental art before members of the Society of Western Artists at their regular monthly meeting, at 8 o'clock tonight, at the Western Women's Club, 111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco.

Highlights of a Day in the California State Legislature

The Assembly Judiciary Committee recommended a ban on crime comics books. It voted 9 to 2 to approve a bill which would make it a misdemeanor to provide anyone under 18 with such a book or magazine.

The Senate urged Congress in a resolution to provide direct home loans to veterans. Sen. Nelson Dillinger, Hemet, said the present system of Federal aid to veterans home purchases has bogged down.

A bill guaranteeing absentee voters from small counties the right of a secret ballot was passed by the Senate. The measure, by Sen. H. E. Dillinger, Placerville, would allow the absentee—if he wants—to have county officials drop his ballot in the small box as all other ballots on election day. The bill applies to counties having population of 14,000 or less. Dillinger said that under present law, absentee ballots are counted separately six days after the election and in many cases it is possible, in small counties, to learn how such an absentee voted.

The Senate approved a bill allowing directors of the Golden Gate Bridge to continue tolls after the original bridge debt is paid. Sen. Nathan Coombs, Napa, said the continuing tolls will be necessary to insure repayment to the state of a \$5,000,000 loan made to the bridge officials by the state in 1945.

The Assembly Social Welfare Committee approved legislation to provide a maximum of \$75 a month in aid to needy disabled persons in California. C. A. Herbage, deputy state social welfare director, estimated the program would benefit 27,000 persons and cost about \$25,000,000 a year. The state would put up \$12,000,000 and the counties the remainder.

An attempt to restrict help cutting off a portion of the Orange County Coast was rejected by the Senate. Fish and Game Committee. The committee tabled Sen. Clyde A. Watson's bill after opponents testified that harvesting of kelp is beneficial to the sea growth. Kelp is used for pharmaceutical products.

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Owner Spots Stolen Car; 3 Men Jailed

Three men were held in jail today for investigation of auto theft after they unwittingly picked the wrong street to park the car they had assertedly stolen.

The automobile's owner, Garfield Wofford, 48, of 752 High Street, was walking along Ninth Street toward the City Hall to report the theft when he saw his car drive by.

He hailed two passing officers, Sgt. Arthur McQuillan and Patrolman Don C. Jones, and pointed out the automobile just as it was parked in front of 468 Ninth Street.

Jones drew his gun and arrested the three occupants as they were leaving the vehicle.

They were identified as C. D. Blackmon, 27, a transient; Henry G. Hezog, 47, who lives in a hotel at 11th and Harrison Streets; and Joseph A. Donnas, 53, of 511 Washington Street.

On the rear seat officers said they found a kit of burglar tools, including a jimmy, a set of punches and a sledge hammer.

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JUDGE DISMISSES SERGEANT'S SUIT ASKING \$252,500

A court dismissal yesterday brought an abrupt end to a \$252,500 damage suit brought by M. Sgt. John Keppelman of Oakland against 10 high ranking Air Force officers and the wife of one of them.

As an aftermath, Maj. Gen. John E. Upston, commander of the Fourth Air Force and one of the defendants, announced that Sergeant Keppelman still is subject to court-martial for counseling a long criminal record when he enlisted.

Federal Judge George B. Harris of San Francisco dismissed the suit brought on charges of slander and false arrest in the first day of the trial and shortly after the selection of a jury.

His action concurred with the motion of Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Karish holding that "if the courts were to interfere in matters peculiarly affected by the Articles of War it would bring anarchy to the ranks of the armed services."

"If this court were to intrude itself as between civil and military authorities, it would no doubt create disastrous results and cause chaos," Judge Harris said.

Keppelman's complaint said he was arrested at his Hamilton Field base in September, 1948, after investigation of a \$100 shortage in the swap shop operated at the field and where he was an accountant. He claimed officers' wives mismanaged the shop.

Defendants included Col. George L. Usher, commander at Hamilton Field, and Mrs. Usher, who managed the shop.

Keppelman, who is 33, lives at 2949 Mountain Boulevard with his wife and two children. After his release in connection with the fund shortage he was ordered to Gunn. A last minute order from Washington, D.C., encoiled his sailing until his suit was settled.

Parley Planned to Avert Baker Strike

Arrangements were under way today to resume contract negotiations between the AFL Bakers' Union, Local 118, and retail shop owners in an effort to avert a walk-out.

Deadlocked for some days, a union committee named by the Alameda County AFL Central Labor Council, said it planned to confer this week with United Employers, Inc., representing about 150 Oakland area bakeries.

The committee said that while strike sanction has already been granted by the council, no walkout date is set. The union seeks a 15-cent hourly wage increase.

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