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SACRAMENTO ROUNDUP EDITION

SELECTIVE
SALES TAXES KILLED

Another victory chalked up by organized labor in the '57 state legislative session was the defeat of a proposed cigarette tax and an increase in the beer sales tax sponsored by the California Teachers' Association, the teacher "company union," to finance a school expansion program.

The cigarette and beer tax measures were both killed by a 5-11 vote in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. 11 votes were needed for passage out of the 20-man committee. A later attempt by Assemblyman Ernest Geddes (R) to pull the cigarette tax bill out of committee for a floor vote lost by a 29-43 count. 41 votes were needed.

VOTE IN REVENUE
& TAXATION COMMITTEE

Voting for consumer tax proposals (bad vote): Bradley (R.), Crawford (R.), House (D.), Klocksien (R.), Lanterman (R.)—5.

Voting against consumer tax proposals (good vote): Bonelli (D.), Britschgi (R.), Chapel (R.), Dahl (R.), Francis (R.), Samuel Geddes (D.), Hawkins (D.), Marsh (R.), Pattee (R.), Thomas (D.), Wilson (D.)—11.

However, the "ability-to-pay" approach to the school expansion program was also defeated by the Revenue and Taxation Committee. The bill, AB 4159 (Carlos Bee, D.), called for an increase in state income tax payments for all earning above \$7,500 a year. An effort to bring the measure to the floor failed by 39-30 in an assembly floor test.

The cigarette measure, AB 3046 by Geddes, would have imposed a three cents per pack tax on cigarettes; the beer measure, also authored by Geddes, would have increased the present beer tax from two to ten cents per gallon.

Both measures were strongly opposed by the California CIO Council, the AFL State Federation and the AFL-CIO teachers union. These measures were branded as an attempt to fasten the cost of school taxation on those least able to pay—that is, those in the low income groups.

LEGISLATURE APPROVES
LONGER SESSIONS

The state legislature has approved a proposed constitutional amendment, ACA 36, Miller, to lengthen the legislative sessions.

The measure, which will be on the November, 1958, general election ballot, will call for 120 day sessions, exclusive of Saturdays or Sundays, in odd years.

Assemblyman Allen Miller (D), author of the amendment, said it would add 32 days to the legislative sessions.

The amendment would call for discontinuance of the February 30 day recess.

The Miller proposal called for 150 day sessions originally but the senate amended it to 120 days and the change was accepted in the lower house.

The present sessions are limited to 120 days counting Saturdays and Sundays.

LABOR
ACHIEVES GAINS IN
WORKER INSURANCE
PROGRAMS . . .

Repeating a precedent set in the 1955 state legislative session, the 1957 session again raised benefits under the three worker insurance programs: unemployment insurance, unemployment disability insurance and workmen's compensation.

Ten Dollar Benefit Increases
in Disability Programs

The approval of ten dollar benefit increases in both the workmen's compensation and unemployment disability insurance programs marked the largest increases won by organized labor in a single session since enactment of these two compensation programs.

Maximum weekly benefits for *temporary* disability under the workmen's compensation program were upped from \$40 to \$50 as were the maximum benefits under the unemployment disability insurance program (for non-occupational illness or injury). The disability insurance program was also improved when hospital benefits were increased from \$10 a day for 12 days to \$12 a day for 20 days.

Permanent disability benefits under WC were raised from the \$35 a week maximum to \$40.

In addition the death benefits under the workmen's compensation program were increased:

1. from \$12,500 to \$15,000 for a surviving widow with one or more minor dependents;
2. from \$10,000 to \$12,000 in all other survival cases of total dependency;
3. from possible maximum \$10,000 to \$12,000 for survival cases involving partial dependency.

Seven Dollar Increase
in Unemployment Insurance

Maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefits were increased from \$33 to \$40, marking a \$7 increase.

It is expected that the Governor will sign these measures.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES
PROGRAM APPROVED

The long struggle for the establishment of state-supported community mental health services has finally brought positive results. In one of the most significant actions of the 1957 state legislative session, the two houses approved the Short-Doyle bills establishing the program and appropriating \$850,000 for the first year's operations. Since Governor Knight endorsed the legislation the proposal will receive his signature. Some senate opposition to certain features of the bill collapsed with an impressive vote to concur in assembly amendments—assembly

TIDELANDS OIL
ROYALTIES PROVIDE
POTENTIAL SAVINGS
OF HUNDREDS OF
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
FOR TAXPAYERS

In analyzing his opposition to the state tidelands oil bill, AB 47, by Assemblyman Allen Miller, D., Democratic Senator George Miller, Jr. cracked, "Drilling for oil is nothing more or less than a crap game." Despite the opposition of Senator Miller as lead-off spokesman against AB 47, the state legislature has placed on Governor Goodwin Knight's desk for his signature, the finest state tidelands oil royalty measure in the nation. The state senate passed AB 47 without changes from the assembly-passed version of the bill.

This measure would end the present give-a-way flat 12% of production royalty plus a cash bonus and substitute a minimum 16% with a sliding scale upward royalty income geared to high producing wells. In addition to the mandatory sliding scale royalty requirement, the State Lands Commission also was provided with the option of employing provisions for cash bonuses in competitive bidding if the State Lands Commission deems it desirable.

Measured by the yardstick of the public welfare of the people of California and the interest of California taxpayers (including members of organized labor), AB 47 will mean substantially increased income to the state in the event that oil "bonanzas" are discovered on the state-owned tidelands. Assembly committee estimates indicate that at the very least AB 47 should mean additional hundreds of millions of dollars of tidelands oil royalty income paid to the state in the years to come. This means that you, as a taxpayer of California, will have to pay out that much less in taxes to meet the future costs of state government.

In urging support of AB 47, the Executive Council of the California Industrial Union Council pointed out that this was potentially the biggest single financial income issue in this session of the state legislature. In adopting its resolution in support of AB 47, the Executive Council had urged early this year that letters and messages of support be sent by the people of California and the members of organized labor to the state legislature. The California Industrial Union Council now urges those who have followed the passage of this important legislation to write letters of commendation to the members of the legislature who voted and worked for the passage of this income producing bill. Some estimates of the amount of income that may eventually be produced from the tidelands oil royalties run as high as the equivalent present annual state budget, namely, \$2,000,000,000.

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DESPOL SUMMARIZES 1957 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In a thumb-nail description of the 1957 California State Legislative Session, John Despol, Legislative Representative for the State CIO, commented:

"This session was the best in a long time when measured by what the legislature did as compared with the performance of past legislative sessions. Many constructive measures were passed covering such subjects as disability insurance, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, old age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to the totally disabled, substantially increased tidelands oil royalties to the state, enabling legislation for the establishment of local community mental health programs, increased medical service for pensioners, the needy and blind, permanent child care centers, providing that scores of public agencies must hold meetings open to the public with certain limited practical exceptions, licensing debt adjusters, state regulation of psychologists, increased aid to education, and improved language in the law providing comparable pay for women workers when they are doing comparable work in the same classification of work as men."

Pointing out that this was a relative yardstick of measurement, Despol went on to say that "the 1957 session was not so good if you measure the legislative record of performance on those subjects the legislature failed to act on. These subjects include many which involve the solutions of major state problems of the present and future. Some examples are: the inequities in the present state tax structure, the complex water problems including who will pay for the additional water, on what basis and will the cost of the water projects pay out to the benefit and advantage of the general welfare. Other important legislation not passed by the legislature included: a state minimum wage law, public financing of the election campaigns of party nominees, complete reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures, civil liberties and civil rights legislation including FEP, reform of the legislative process, measures designed to provide the tools that really bring about more economy in government, implementing the right of public employees—including teachers—to organize into the unions of their choice, more solutions to the existing problems in transportation, education and recreation, many health measures including health insurance for those who now have no means to secure same on an economical basis."

Despol concluded with the remark that "considering fairly the political composition of the legislature and the legislative tools and processes the state legislators have to work with, the 1957 session emerged as one of the busiest, most hectic and most productive sessions in the state's history."

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(Continued from Page 1)

amendments were made following earlier action by the senate in which major changes in the measure had been made, including a prohibition against use of funds for bed patients. This ban was deleted in the lower house.

The authors are Senator Alan Short (D.) and Assemblyman Donald Doyle (R.). Doyle got similar legislation through the assembly two years ago but it received the death knell in the Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee.

What This Legislation Means

The basic aim of the community mental health services program is to catch mental disturbances in early stages at the community level so that necessary treatment can be given in time to prevent serious disorders.

Funds will be appropriated by the state to communities or special districts now operating or desiring to establish clinical, rehabilitation, consultant or information services in the community mental health field. State appropriations will be on a 50-50 basis. Individuals using these services will be charged fees based on ability to pay.

The funds can be used for psychiatric wards in the general hospitals, both public and private, that meet established standards. Private mental hospitals, rest homes and the like cannot qualify.

SICKNESS TAKES STAGGERING TOLL IN STATE

It seems apropos since mental health legislation is discussed in this Newsletter to report on a comprehensive health survey recently disclosed by the State Department of Public Health. The findings are based on the biggest and most intensive statewide health investigations ever undertaken—it involved detailed studies of 10,000 households during the period between March, 1954 and May, 1955.

The study reveals that each year disease costs Californians the staggering total of more than 300 million lost man-days!

About half of the state's 14 million people are afflicted with one or more chronic ailments. In any four-week period, 12% are hit by a brief illness, 27% by an attack of a chronic illness, and 13% by both, while only 48% remain in good health.

During the investigation it was discovered that the typical Californian was ill 5 or 6 times a year and was disabled for an average of 24 days. The typical subject called a doctor an average of 5 times yearly, in addition to any care received in a hospital.

Among short illnesses, the common cold was the most frequent reported, followed by accidents. In the chronic illness category, the most frequent were migraine and other types of headaches, followed by asthma and hay fever, and chronic arthritis and rheumatism.

Special Findings

Among special findings were the following:

1—Residents of the San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego areas were generally in better health than those of other parts of the State.

2—In comparison to white subjects, Negroes and Spanish-speaking subjects were ill less frequently but their illnesses were usually more severe.

3—Divorced subjects were in poorer health than married subjects.

4—Health insurance coverage for Californians was below the national average, and was seriously lacking for older subjects who needed it the most.

5—The study upset the popular idea that California has been a Mecca for old people in poor health.

"This survey," it was reported, "shows that persons who have migrated here in recent years . . . do not differ greatly in their health and medical care pattern from persons who lived their entire lives in this State."

ASSEMBLY ATTEMPT TO REVIVE FEP DIES IN SENATE . . .

The lower house of the California legislature, during the final days of the session, attempted to revive fair employment practices legislation only to have it chloroformed on the senate floor. Earlier in the session the Senate Labor Committee had killed the Hawkins' FEP measure which received approval by the assembly.

Although the latest attempt was knocked down again by the upper house it has had the healthy result of getting a test vote on FEP in the upper house so that voters will have—for the first time—a score sheet on how respective senators feel on the subject.

Here's What Happened

SB 1955 by Senator Short (D) came to the assembly floor for a vote. The bill related to the employment of minors; FEP amendments were voted into the senate approved measure. In effect they made it illegal for employers or unions to discriminate in hiring or union membership because of "race, religious creed, national origin and ancestry." Court action could be brought against violators who would be subject to a fine of not less than \$200.

Since this was a senate bill, it went back directly to the floor of the upper house for concurrence in the assembly amendments, thus bypassing the hostile Senate Labor Committee.

The amended measure was killed in the Senate on a motion to table—21 to 13. Obviously since the original senate version of the bill passed in the upper house, the motion to table was a test vote on the FEP amendments.

Here for the first time is a recorded senate floor vote on FEP:

FOR TABLING (Bad Vote)—Abshire (R), Berry (R), Breed (R), Brown (D), Burns (D), Busch (R), Byrne (R), Desmond (D), Dilworth (R), Dolwig (R), Donnelly (D), Erhart (R), Gibson (R), Grunsky (R), Ed Johnson (R), Kraft (R), McBride (D), John McCarthy (R), Murdy (R), Thompson (R), Williams (R)—21

AGAINST TABLING (Good Vote)—Arnold (D), Beard (D), Collier (R), Coombs (R), Dorsey (R), Farr (D), Hollister (D), Robert McCarthy (D), Montgomery (D), Regan (D), Richards (D), Short (D), Teale (D)—13

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING—Christensen (D), Cobey (D), Cunningham (R), Harold Johnson (D), Miller (D), Sutton (R)—6

WORK OVER, SENATE DROPS DIGNITY

The State Senate Chamber, which has seen sessions of the legislature come and go since 1869, on the evening of June 12 saw the members bid farewell to the 1957 session with an exhibition of hilarity unparalleled in the 88 year history of the capitol. As the hour of adjournment—midnight—approached, senators tossed into the air stacks of bills which cascaded down like so much confetti. Exploding firecrackers were joined by shrill sirens and other noise makers. In addition there was the playful tossing of prunes, the dumping of wastebaskets on desks and backslapping and handshaking which buried legislative and political differences, at least for the time being.

Democratic President Pro Tem Hugh Burns was given a standing ovation by his colleagues. He is the first Democrat to hold the post since the turn of the century.

On the assembly side the assemblymen put on a quiet farewell celebration. Toward the close of the session minority floor leader William Munnell (D.) publicly praised the handling of the budget by Republican Assemblyman Thomas Caldecott who, in 1956, held the post of chairman of the Republican State Central Committee.

ALIEN PENSION BILL GETS OKEY . . .

Awaiting the approval of Governor Knight is a bill enabling 14,500 alien residents who have lived in California 25 years or more to qualify for the California Old Age Security payments.

Supported by the California CIO Council, the measure was a prime objective of the Community Service Organization (CSO).

WHAT HAPPENED TO OTHER TOP MEASURES

Here is a brief rundown of other significant measures approved and disapproved by the 1957 legislature during its 120-day session which ended on June 12.

In most instances, Governor Knight had until July 17 to sign or veto the legislation. Again in most instances, bills signed by the Governor will become effective September 11.

BILLS PASSED

The record 1957-58 State budget bill, appropriating \$1,-914,482,660, including funds for expanded State colleges, mental hospitals, highways, and a 5 per cent pay raise for State civil servants.

Establishing State-supported child care centers on a permanent basis.

Initiating a new \$225 million State bond issue for construction loans to local school districts (Constitutional amendment).

Appropriating \$37 million in extra funds for local school operations, most of it to go into teachers' salaries.

Permitting cities and counties to sell highway construction bonds to be repaid from gas tax funds accruing to the local agencies in the future.

Requiring school boards to prescribe a procedure for selection of school library and supplementary textbooks.

Licensing and regulating "pro-raters" who handle personal debts for a fee.

Increasing aid to the blind from \$99 a month maximum to \$110.

Empowering the California Veterans Board to raise interest rates on Cal-Vet farm and home loans to as high as 5 per cent, as against a present ceiling of 4 per cent.

Placing a two-year moratorium of refinancing of other types of loans under the Cal-Vet program.

Raising minimum teachers' salaries from \$3400 to \$4200 annually.

Increasing salaries of county school superintendents by varying amounts in various counties, not affecting San Francisco.

Authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt "one or more" basic textbooks in major subjects, in lieu of the present single standard text; shifting from teachers to superintendents and principals responsibility for failure to put State-supplied texts into classroom use.

Authorizing school districts and State colleges to contract for educational television programs, but prohibiting them from owning or operating TV stations.

Requiring that the meetings of more than 70 State agencies be held publicly, with specified exceptions.

Permitting local governmental agencies to hold secret meetings to consider hiring and firing of personnel.

Making persons who release unsigned statements attacking candidates for public office subject to the libel laws.

Creating a Bay Area rapid transit district.

Creating mass rapid transit system under L.A. Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Permitting San Francisco to sign reciprocity agreements with other Bay counties in connection with local one-cent sales taxes.

Increasing amount of tidelands revenues to be spent annually on beach and park development from \$7 million to \$12 million.

Exempting candy from the State sales tax.

Strengthening anti-narcotics laws, including a provision that school authorities may expel students using, selling, or possessing narcotics illegally.

Licensing and regulating auto dealers and salesmen.

Licensing and regulating psychologists.

Facilitating spot redevelopment in urban renewal programs.

Regulating union-management health and welfare funds.

Permitting the State Department of Public Health to require licensing and inoculation of dogs where rabies is found.

Appropriating \$3 million for free polio shots for persons under 40.

Abolishing the State Alcoholic Rehabilitation Commission and transferring its functions to the State Department of Public Health.

Increasing the amount of financial responsibility required of drivers involved in personal and property damage accidents.

Favoring California insurance companies handling workmen's compensation insurance over out-of-state companies.

Prohibiting State legislators and other State officials and employees from receiving commissions on insurance placed by the State.

Mandatory jail terms for second drunk driving offenses with a minimum \$200 fine for first offenses.

Requiring permanent revocation of driver's license for second felony drunk driving conviction within any three year period.

BILLS THAT FAILED

Reducing personal income taxes by increasing exemptions for dependents and medical expenses.

Permitting accelerated depreciation of business properties for State income tax purposes.

Controlling cancer quackery.

Legalizing wiretapping.

"Purifying" elections by tightening up requirements on reporting campaign contributions.

Conflict of interest legislation: Prohibiting lawyer-legislators from practicing before State agencies; prohibiting legislators who are also real estate men from receiving commissions on property sold or leased to or by the State; requiring legislative employees to disclose any private interests that may conflict with public duties on penalty of perjury; pro-

hibiting employees of the State Water Department from holding stock in utilities doing business with the department.

Changing the State loyalty oath to an affirmation of loyalty rather than denial of subversion.

Outlawing or drastically regulating trading stamps.

Extending State farm and home loans to veterans not born in California and not residing here when they entered the service.

Regulating billboards on State highways.

Suppressing crime comics.

Establishing a flat 65-mile an hour speed limit.

Compulsory sobriety tests for drunk drivers.

Permitting police to detain and question a person for up to three hours without arrest.

Government reorganization: Creating a Department of Revenue; creating a Department of Banking and Commerce; changing the makeup of the State Lands Commission.

Death penalty moratorium.

Lowering voting age to 18.

Legalizing radar traps by State Highway Patrol.

Changing method of reapportioning the State Assembly (Constitutional amendment).

Death for narcotic sales to minors.

Allowing news cameraman, radio and TV to cover court trials.

Restricting authority of State Public Utilities Commission to investigate utility books for rate-setting purposes.

Establishing a one-cent per gallon aircraft gasoline tax for airport development.

Providing pay raises for superior and municipal court judges.

SENATOR BURNS PRAISES SOCIAL WELFARE, TIDELANDS BILLS

State Senator Hugh M. Burns (D.), President Pro Tem of the Senate, cites the social welfare legislation and the new tidelands oil bill as major accomplishments of the 1957 session of the California legislature.

He states: "We are particularly proud of the tidelands oil revenue legislation with its promise of a fine return to the whole state. Labor has gained more this session than from any other I remember, with increases in disability, sick and unemployment insurance compensation.

"We have broadened benefits for children, the blind and the needy aged. There is a fine new program for community mental health clinics.

"Aid to the schools has been substantially increased and four new state colleges are being provided. The list of achievements is a long one.

"Perhaps it should be noted, too, that this is the first time there has been an equal division of political party membership in the Senate. I think the influence of this fact has been felt and with beneficial results."

Burns states that the one "big disappointment" was the failure to enact the water program.

"Except for this, I think the session has been a constructive one with enactment of much important legislation," he said.

SALARY EQUALITY BILL WINS . . .

After a 5 year campaign by Assemblywoman Dorothy Donahoe and Pauline Davis, both Democrats, employers have been directed, under approved legislation, to pay women the same wage or salaries as men for "the same quantity and quality of the same classification of work."

It is anticipated the governor will sign the proposal, AB 3350, in view of the fact that it cleared both houses without a dissenting vote. However, an upper house committee had amended out some of the stronger features of the bill.

As a result of a senate amendment, the burden of proof lies upon the claimant to show that she is getting smaller pay because of her sex and not for some other reason.

LIBERALIZATION OF LAWS AIDS PENSIONERS, DISABLED . . .

A maximum of \$105 for many old age pensioners and a long sought public assistance program for needy permanently and totally disabled persons were approved in the closing hours of the state legislative session.

The program was sent to the governor's desk when the senate—by unanimous vote—approved SB 1509, by Senator Sutton (R.), as amended by the assembly. The latter had approved an amendment which would provide for an additional \$5 for pensioners in special hardship cases. SB 1509 called for an increase to \$100 a month from the present \$89.

Main Provisions

Here are the main provisions of the legislation:

1. About 13,250 permanently and totally disabled persons in California would be made eligible for benefit payments up to \$105 a month.

2. About 115,000 of the state's 265,00 senior citizens receiving pensions would become eligible for the new \$105 a month maximum, an increase of \$16 from the present \$89.

3. The total state cost of the two programs would be \$21,500,000—\$16,000,000 for the old age pensioners and \$5,500,000 for the disabled.

4. The federal government would contribute about \$6,000,000 yearly for the disabled persons and would share in the increased cost for old age pensioners.

Amendment Succeeds

When SB 1509 left the senate for consideration by the assembly, it contained only the funds for the state pension program. Assemblyman Bruce Allen (R.), succeeded in amending the bill to provide for the new program for disabled persons.

Up to this time the state legislature repeatedly had refused to approve in the senate this program which was enacted as public policy by the federal government in October, 1950.

Persons falling into this category are presently cared for by direct relief from the county social welfare departments.

Fourth Catagory of Aid

When Governor Knight signs SB 1509, and he has stated he will do so, California will have adopted a fourth category of aid on a state level. The other programs include: old age pensions, aid to needy blind and aid to needy children.

Another Pension Bill Approved

The legislature also approved another old age pension bill — AB 3124 by Assemblyman Edward Elliott (D.). This would increase the maximum benefit to \$100 a month but extend it to about 165,-000 pensioners as against 115,000 in the Sutton bill. The bills are also different in that the Sutton bill grants the \$105 only to hardship cases, while the Elliott bill gives increases on a lesser degree of need.

Across the Board Boost is Beaten

Attempts to increase the pension across the board for all of the 265,000 old age recipients failed.

Governor Knight could sign either or both bills. It is believed the aid to the disabled program would remain intact so long as he signs SB 1509, but, provided he signs both bills, the degree of pension aid would depend on the order in which he signs the measures. The last signed bill would control.

\$30 Million Yearly Medical Care Program

While on the subject of pension matters, it is noteworthy that a \$30 million-a-year medical care program for all recipients of public assistance passed both houses with Governor Knight on record in support of it, thus assuring its approval.

The bill, AB 679, was authored and guided to victory by Republican Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge.

SACRAMENTO ROUNDUP EDITION

FORM 3547 IS REQUESTED

TIDELANDS OIL ROYALTIES

(Continued from Page 1)

It is regrettable that three of our most outstanding, able and hardworking state senators did not vote in favor of the state senate's bill or AB 47. Undoubtedly Senators Miller, Regan and Richards each had their own reasons for voting against AB 47. Senator Miller stated his in a well organized presentation on the senate floor. He declared: "We are asking the oil industry to buy a pig in the poke." Miller argued that exploration of the state tidelands has already cost the oil industry \$70 million to date. He said he did not mean to suggest that the oil companies will not continue to explore the oil tidelands if AB 47 is passed but he went on to maintain that the mandatory royalty sliding scale perhaps is bad and would adversely affect the amount of exploration because the oil companies would have no way to compute their cost or secure assurance of getting their costs back when they strike oil in the state-owned tidelands. Other opposition arguments to AB 47 were based on the fact that other tideland oil state such as Louisiana and Texas have a flat 16% royalty with no graduated scale.

These were essentially unsound arguments. The opponents to AB 47 did not say that those states with a flat 1/6 royalty also have severance taxes which the oil companies must pay. California, as yet, has no severance tax on oil. The argument that AB 47 would place California at a competitive disadvantage becomes even more of a phoney argument when it is realized that measure would cost the unsuccessful oil explorer no more than the present law. This is so because when the oil companies hit a dry hole obviously there would be no royalties to pay. In fact, in the long run, AB 47 will mean increased exploration for oil in the state-owned tidelands. It will mean increased competition between the oil companies.

AB 47 will provide the people of California a greater percentage return than similar laws in any other state. It has the same minimum effect in other tideland oil states, namely, 1/6. Its graduated provisions help offset the absence of a severance tax in California. It would permit the state with its great financial needs in meeting the future problems of state government to share in the vast potential of its own resources. Oil companies would pay more only as they find more oil. It certainly is a vast improvement over the existing law, the Shell-Cunningham Act, which, to use Senator Miller's phrase has had the state in the position of "buying a pig in the poke" when the State Lands Commission signed oil leases with the oil drilling companies.

Senators Hugh Burns, Allen Short and James Cobey deserve the gratitude of organized labor and the people of the state for leading the fight that blocked a crippling amendment to AB 47 in the senate.

Assemblymen Allen Miller (D.), Bruce Allen (R.), Jess Unruh (D.), along with all the members of the assembly who voted against the Shell bill (supported by the major portion of the oil industry) deserve credit for their leadership in assuring a responsible performance by the legislature in the adoption of AB 47.

With the signature of Governor Knight the potential "give-away" of the oil resources of the state becomes a potential income producing measure which the State of California will badly need in solving the problems created by the explosive population growth.

NO STATE MINIMUM WAGE LAW THIS YEAR . . .

Attempts to establish a state minimum wage law failed passage even after the minimum wage figure of \$1.25 per hour was lowered to \$1.00 and coverage exemptions amended into the Burton bill, AB 245. The major exempted group was agricultural labor.

The assembly approved the Burton measure after it came out of committee with the \$1.00 minimum wage figure, and with coverage exemptions added. The original bill proposed to cover all workers engaged in "intrastate" commerce. The federal minimum wage law of \$1.00 covers most workers engaged in "interstate" commerce.

The demise of the measure came on the floor of the senate on a motion to refer the proposal back to committee. The 16-13 tally referred the measure back to the Senate Labor Committee, thus putting state minimum wage legislation into mothballs until the next regular session in 1959.

Referral Vote Rated "Bad"

Although the Burton proposal had been watered down and was not in line with labor's objective of a \$1.25 minimum wage in California and for full coverage, it should nevertheless be noted that the amended version at least established a minimum wage law on which to seek improvements in future sessions. As it now stands, the state is still without a minimum wage law to protect men. The Industrial Welfare Commission sets minimum wage rates for women and minors; recently IWC action resulted in upping the minimum from 75¢ an hour to \$1.00 an hour for women and minors, effective in the fall of 1957.

Because AB 245, even as amended, did offer a start for labor's objective in this field and because about 200,000 workers in manufacturing and related industries would have been brought under state protection, the California CIO Council rates as "bad" the vote to refer back to committee; "good" the vote opposing the motion to refer back to committee since this referral move meant there would be no action on minimum wage legislation during the 1957 regular session of the California legislature.

STATE SENATE VOTE ON REFERRING MINIMUM WAGE BILL BACK TO COMMITTEE

AYE (Bad Vote)—Abshire (R), Berry (R), Breed (R), Brown (D), Burns (D), Byrne (R), Dilworth (R), Dolwig (R), Donnelly (D), Erhart (R), Hollister (D), Kraft (R), Montgomery (D), Murdy (R), Thompson (R), Williams (R)—16

NO (Good Vote)—Arnold (D), Christensen (D), Collier (R), Combs (R), Farr (D), Gibson (R), Ed Johnson (R), Harold Johnson (D), John McCarthy (R), Regan (D), Short (D), Sutton (R), Teale (D)—13

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING—Beard (D), Busch (R), Cobey (D), Cunningham (R), Desmond (D), Dorsey (R), Grunsky (R), McBride (D), Robert McCarthy (D), Miller (D), Richards (D)—11

PUERTO RICO 'STEALS' CHAPTER FROM STATE COUNCIL PUBLIC FINANCING PROPOSAL

While once again the public financing of campaigns measure pushed by the California CIO Council has failed to see the light of day in Sacramento, the legislature of Puerto Rico has passed a bill which establishes the concept of public financing of campaigns. While not similar in details to the State Council proposition, it nevertheless has gotten the ball rolling in the right direction.

The Puerto Rican bill proposes to pay to each political party \$375,000 every 4 years. In non-election years, \$75,000. Any unused portion may be spent in the following years.

The election year grant would be \$150,000 but the unspent portion would not be usable under the terms of the measure.

The bill was originally proposed by Gov. Luis Muñoz Marin who said the plan would keep parties from being dominated by a few rich politicians.

CROSS-FILING STILL ON BOOKS

Once again efforts to abolish the practice of candidates' cross-filing—in effect since 1913—was killed in the state senate on a 13-24 vote. 21 votes were needed for upper house passage. Only one Republican supported the measure and six Democrats voted against it.

The opponents of the bill branded it a Democratic scheme to set up party bosses and political machines. Democratic Senator George Miller, Jr., sponsor of the legislation, scoffed at any suggestion it was "a Democratic plot to get the Republicans out of town," joined by Republican Senator A. A. Erhart, the sole GOP member who voted for the bill.

Miller Opposed to Pre-Primary Endorsements

Miller declared that the unofficial California Democratic Council and the California Republican Assembly—both organizations make pre-primary endorsements—are "kingmaker-type organizations and I'd like to see both done away with and the people fill the void."

The California CIO Council has consistently supported the position that the abolition of cross-filing would be healthy for both political parties in developing party responsibility on the part of candidates and subsequent office holders and that the purpose of a primary is not to "elect" a candidate to office but rather that each party—through the voters registered within the respective parties—"select" the "best" possible candidates for the November run-off.

Also, for all practical purposes party identification on the ballot has materially lessened the number of candidates who win on both tickets in the primary, thus being elected or re-elected to office—in fact in each instance where there are two opposing candidates who engage in a substantial party primary campaign, both parties are sure to nominate a party nominee for the general election.