



**RAPID TRANSIT ON BRIDGE**—This is an artist's conception of how rapid transit facilities would look on the Golden Gate Bridge, according to plans being developed for the five-county San Francisco Bay Area.

**Democrats Learn Of Mass Immersion**

Los Angeles (UPI)—The authoritative voice on the other end of the phone informed the Democratic convention publicity committee that the "mass immersion of the 800 converts will take place this afternoon."

"Are we baptizing Democrats?" asked the amazed committeeman. "Oh heavens," apologized the voice, "I thought this was the Jehovah's Witnesses Convention."

**What Is The Law?**

This column is prepared as a public service by the College of Law, Willamette University, Salem, to explain basic legal principles, not to provide legal advice. The reader is cautioned not to apply these cases to his own problems without an attorney's advice, for differing facts may change the outcome.

**Customer Must Exercise Reasonable Caution**

As she drove into the grocery parking lot, Mary noted a hole four feet square containing grease and oil; and

to avoid it, she parked a few spaces away from the store entrance. But, walking into the store, she slipped and hurt herself quite severely. Mary then noted an area about three feet in diameter containing what appeared to be oil, grease and water through which there appeared skid marks from her shoes. Mary was a long-time customer and she had never before seen such a deposit.

**Negligence Charged**

Mary sued the grocer's owner, charging the defendant with negligence in that he permitted cars to park close to the store entrance; that grease and oil dripped from the vehicles and accumulated where it could be picked up on the shoes of persons entering the store who then deposited the slippery grease and oil on the floor at the entrance; that the defendant failed to remove the grease and oil from the parking lot and from the store floor and failed to warn customers of its presence.

At the trial Mary was asked whether she had observed that the floor was wet before she fell. She stated that she hadn't looked at the floor as she walked in. The store manager testified that the wet spot where Mary fell was water and that he had seen no deposit of grease or oil then or previously. Two clerks testified they had seen no such accumulation at any time.

**Must Prove Charge**

To win her case, the Court held that Mary must prove that the material causing her to slip was placed on the floor by the defendant, or that the defendant knew about the substance and failed to use reasonable diligence to remove it, or that the substance had been there so long that the defendant should have discovered and removed it.

The Court held that the evidence did not establish negligence on the part of the defendant. Rather, Mary's failure to have looked at the floor when entering amounted to something less than the degree of care required of a person of ordinary prudence under the existing situation.

**Budget Officers Elect President**

Salem (UPI)—Robert L. Harkness, Sacramento, Calif., was named President of the National Association of State Budget Officers at the windup of the group's convention here Saturday.

He succeeds Maryland budget director James G. Rennie. Tennessee budget director Edward J. Bowling was elected vice president.

The association approved a resolution calling on the federal government to move faster in applying states costs of highway construction.

**Spirit of Short Ballot Reform Carried Over to Present Voting**

Editor's note: The following article was written by a June graduate of the school of journalism at the University of Oregon as an "editorial summary" of the conclusions developed in the senior thesis required of each graduate. The opinions are those of the writer.

**By HOLLY R. HUTCHINS (Portland, Ore.)**

Over 100 years ago America's voters balloted into office fewer than 200,000 state and county officials. This November the voters will be asked to put more than 500,000 state and county officials into office. This is an average of about 30 elected officials for each 10,000 inhabitants of the nation.

The fact that we are popularly electing more than double the number of officials we elected 100 years ago has caused many politicians and reformers to question seriously the efficiency of our present popular election method in the state and county.

Much of the concern stems from the fact that while the structure of local government has remained little changed in the last 100 years, the functions performed have been increasing and the problems faced have been growing steadily more complex.

**Functions Increase**

For example, in 1860 the typical county government performed about 22 different functions. Today, however, the number of functions performed by the average sized county can run to 700. To make matters worse, the large number of state and county offices to be filled must be listed on a ballot that also calls for the election of a multitude of city and national officials.

In 1910, a group of prominent American citizens, foreseeing the danger of an overcrowded ballot as a tool for the political machine, met in New York City and formed the National Short Ballot organization. The supporters of the short ballot movement believed that under the present system of popular election the average voter was unable to examine thoroughly the qualifications of each candidate because of the many offices that had to be filled by the voter.

As a remedy, the short ballot group argued that the ballot should be shortened so that the only popularly elected official would be the state or county executive head who would be vested with the power to appoint the remaining officials to the various offices. They also believed that state, county, city and national elections should be held at different times so as to permit adequate public examination of the candidates.

**Spirit Carried Through**

Although the short ballot movement died out in the early 1930s, the spirit of the reform has carried through the years to the present. The central question for the voters today is "will our present system of popular election provide us with the most reliable, trustworthy local officials, or will a system of executive appointment give us the efficient state and county government we seek?"

Three possible answers to the question are current today. First, there is the conservative or long ballot view which persists in most of the states and counties. The supporters of this view claim that our present system of popular election is basically sound and any change in the present method would destroy a deep-rooted democratic tradition long guaranteed to the people.

At the other extreme is the reform or short ballot view that considers the present popular election method an outdated, cumbersome burden upon the voter.

Finally, there is the compromise view which agrees with the reformers that a change is needed in the present selection method, but feels that the short ballot view is too demanding and would in the long run do great injury to a basically sound democratic privilege. They instead advocate changing only those state and county offices that

are professional (for example, the county surveyor or county coroner) from their present elective status to appointive status.

**Method Outdated**

A study of current conditions in the state and county would seem to prove that our present popular election method is outdated and too cumbersome to insure intelligent selection of our public officials. Can you name, for example, your present county surveyor or county coroner? If you can, you're an exception, for it has been confirmed that in nine cases out of ten the typical voter is unable to name the minor professional

state and county officials who represent him.

On the other hand, complete overthrow of our present system of popular election. Such a reform would be unacceptable to most voters.

Therefore, the most logical answer to the problem would seem to be the compromise view, which would preserve the voter's right to choose the most important of his public servants and yet would lessen the burden of the ballot.

**Shorter Ballot Favored**

In a few months American voters will once again be

faced with the difficult task of choosing honest and efficient state and county officials from a great multitude of candidates. Doesn't it seem logical to shorten the ballot at least enough so that the voter won't have to spend precious time examining the numerous candidates for the insignificant minor professional offices, and instead allow the executive to appoint qualified men to the positions? This would allow the voter to concentrate on the qualities of the candidates for the more important policy-making offices.

If we are going to get responsible and trustworthy state and county officials to run our local government, we must provide the voters with a plausible and workable means of selection. The compromise method seems to be the answer.

Richard J. Nordquist, D.M.D. announces the removal of his office to the MEDFORD DENTAL BUILDING 24 Crater Lake Avenue Phone SP 2-7234 for appointment

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