



California Senate Facing Battle Over Key State Water Policy Legislation

By JAMES C. ANDERSON
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SACRAMENTO (UP)—A Senate committee, faced with a virtual ultimatum from Gov. Goodwin J. Knight, tries today to come up with a satisfactory compromise on key water legislation.

The Water Resources Committee made up of seven Republicans and four Democrats, is considering four competing proposals to reorganize all of the state's 50-odd water agencies into a single department.

Such reorganization is regarded by the administration as essential before the state can proceed with its plan to develop the Feather River Project and other massive water and flood control schemes.

Knights is on record as strongly favoring one bill, an Assembly measure, authored chiefly by Caspar W. Weinberger (R-San Francisco), which passed the lower house 64 to 8 but ran into strong Senate opposition.

The other three bills on the committee's calendar were competing Senate proposals designed in various ways to compromise provisions of the Assembly bill.

Knights has made it crystal clear he wants a department headed by a director appointed by him. That would give water administration

the same sort of setup as the successful liquor control agency which came into being 15 months ago replacing the Board of Equalization.

The governor does not want, and he has raised the implied threat of a veto to back up his demands, any policy making authority for the director to diffuse authority over water policy.

He said in a speech last week he would sign the Weinberger bill if it were on his desk. He said he is not opposed to "modification of detail" in the measure. But if a bill comes down to him that seriously weakened the power of the director "we would be better off to make no changes at all in our water agencies—scattered and uncoordinated as they are."

Here are the principal provisions in the four bills:

AB4 by Weinberger: Gives a director all policy making powers in a new department. Sets up a separate Water Rights Board. Blankets in almost every existing state agency having anything to do with water.

SB61 by Sen. George Miller (R-Richmond) and 25 other senators: Places policy making powers in seven-man Water Resources Board. Excludes existing Reclamation Board, state and regional Water Pollution Control boards from the new agency. Two influential lobbyists, the County Supervisors Association and the Agricultural Council, endorse Miller's bill.

SB62 by Sen. Hugh P. Donnelly (D-Turlock) and three co-authors: Generally similar to Weinberger bill except provides for Water Rights Appeals Board to review decisions on water filings made by an administrator. Excludes Colorado River Board and District Securities Commission. Commission and continues

in existence pollution control agencies and Reclamation Board.

SB65 by Sen. James E. Cunningham (R-San Bernardino) and seven co-authors: Sets up seven-man Water Board as policy makers. Water rights decisions up to administrator but subject to reversal by three-man Appeals Board. Excludes Colorado River Board, Reclamation Board, pollution boards and District Securities Commission.

While the committee tussled with the water problem, the Senate was preparing for a final vote late today on a budget which now totals

\$1,774,000,000, up \$38 million from Knight's original request.

In the Assembly, Ways and Means Committee approval of a \$25 million flood relief and highway reconstruction measure was regarded as certain. The bill Assemblyman Glenn E. Coolidge (R-Felton) still must pass both houses before it becomes law.

Senate leaders expressed hope the current session could end by

Friday evening although the possibility of a stalemate on the water issue might force the session to run into the first week in April.

Trainees Wind Up Active Duty

Another page in peacetime history was completed this month as the first group of trainees to finish six-months of active duty training under the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 return to their homes.

Sic H. C. Collier, Klamath Falls Army Reserve unit adviser, said today.

According to word received by Headquarters, Oregon Military District, thirty-five reservists were cited Friday, March 17, during graduation ceremonies at Fort Ord, California, marking the end of their active duty military obligation. Returning to civilian life, the men will participate in active reserve units for a total of seven-and-a-half years to fulfill the balance of their eight-year military obligation.

Under the Reserve Forces Act, young men between the ages of 17 and 18½ may enlist in the Army Reserve. After completing high school, or upon reaching his 20th birthday, the reservist takes six-months active duty training. This training consists of eight weeks of basic combat training, eight more weeks of advanced individual training and a final eight weeks of "on-the-job" training.

Participants in the six-month program are given the opportunity to attend Army schools during the second phase of their training on a par equal with regular Army enlistees. Eleven of the March graduates were enrolled in specialist schools at Fort Ord, while almost half of the original group of 88 RFA trainees were transferred to Army schools at other posts after completing their first eight weeks of training at Fort Ord.

The increased popularity of the six-month program is evidenced by more than 480 men now on active duty at Fort Ord under the RFA.

DIES
ROBINSON III (L)—Lawrence S. Heath, 86, founder of L. S. Heath and Sons, Inc., a large candy and dairy firm, died at his home here yesterday. The candy bars made by his firm are distributed nationally. The dairy distributes milk and other dairy products through southeast Illinois.

Television To Probe Ocean Floor

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UP)—Television promises to open the ocean depths for science, a speaker at an international meeting on marine biology said today.

Dr. Harold Barnes of the marine biological station, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland, told scientists from 17 nations that television cameras lowered into the ocean could give a continuing motion picture of submarine life.

Non-pictorial use, he said, could be in such studies as making counts of plankton—the minute organisms that form the dense population over wide areas and furnish the food base for other sea life.

The meeting is sponsored by the U.S. Office of Naval Research and the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

ON TRIP
BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Malaya's chief minister, Prince Abdul Rahman, arrived Monday for a three-day state visit. He was met at the airport by Premier P. Pibulsonggram.

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