

Political Futures Of Brown, Nixon May Depend On Legislature Session

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — While the rest of California is watching the Rose Bowl game or otherwise observing the New Year's holiday, the strongest Democratic Legislature in the 20th century will begin its 1961 session.

When the gavel is dropped to start the five-month session Jan. 2, probably the underlying questions will be political ones: —Is the honeymoon really over for Gov. Edmund G. Brown? —Or can the Democratic governor push through his programs by controlling the strong Democratic majority or by gaining some Republican support from GOP legislators whose hold on their offices could be weakened by the Democrats?

—Will the pulling and hauling within the GOP develop into a full scale battle to challenge Vice President Richard M. Nixon's state leadership?

The political future of both Nixon and Brown could be affected by the 1961 Legislature.

The Democratic party will start the session with its strongest majority in both houses since 1883. Democrats gained two Senate seats in the November election to give them a 30-10 majority in the upper house. In the Assembly, Democrats retained the 47-33 superiority they had in the 1959 session.

One thing going for Brown is that his program is expected to be less controversial than in the 1959 "honeymoon" session—his first as governor—when he pushed through a \$200 million tax boost.

This time, Brown says, he will not ask for new taxes but will propose removing the sales tax from prescription drugs.

One tax boost is possible, however. At this writing, the Senate Transportation Committee was considering a report from its own consultant recommending that motor vehicle licensing taxes be increased an average of \$7.22 a year for every car in the state.

The proposed tax increase from two to three per cent of the value of the car would cost new car owners up to \$30 more a year

and drivers of transportation cars less than the average. The money would go for the improvement of city streets and county roads.

Brown has said his program also would go into the field of narcotics, the criminally insane, juvenile delinquency, and aged persons.

But the main problem facing the lawmakers is the 10-year reapportionment of state assembly and congressional districts. Representation in those houses is according to population, and district boundaries are readjusted after every federal census to reflect the 10-year change in population.

California's booming population gives California eight new congressional seats at the expense of states that have had a relative lag. California will now have 38 seats in the House of Representatives, adding new ones probably in the East Bay, Sacramento Valley, Central Coast, Orange County, San Diego County and three for Los Angeles.

The state assembly will remain at 80 seats, so California's population changes will result only in a reshuffling of assembly district lines, and the Democratic majority can dictate how this is done.

This has struck fear in the hearts of GOP assemblymen whose districts could be weakened to the point of almost guaranteed defeat at the whim of the Democrats.

But Brown said last week, "I intend to do everything within my power to see that we have an absolutely fair reapportionment."

Politically, the fur will fly between the two parties, probably mainly over Brown's tax program which swelled state revenues to the point that last year's budget had a surplus of \$129 million.

However, this year state finance experts say a falloff of state revenues, mainly because of reduced buying by the people, should make the budget come out about even.

There also was good prospect of fights within the parties. Assembly Speaker Ralph M. Brown, D-Modesto, and Senate President

Pro Tempore Hugh M. Burns, D-Fresno, were considered sure to be reelected to their posts, but one or more fights were expected for other legislative posts.

Assemblyman William A. Munnell, D-Montebello, who was majority leader last session, was believed a possibility for replacement. Munnell backed Adlai Stevenson for the Democratic presidential nomination at the Los Angeles national convention.

Assemblyman Joseph C. Shell of Los Angeles, last year's Republican minority leader and a close friend of Vice President Richard M. Nixon, had troubles last year with a dissident group of GOP members who might try to unseat him this year.

Murderer Chooses Death Row

VACAVILLE, Calif. (UPI)—Suppose you had this choice: —Be confined for the rest of your life in a state institution as insane. —Or, be sent to San Quentin's death row where you would face execution unless you could win a commutation to life imprisonment with possible parole in 30 years.

Which would you choose?

Erwin M. (Machinogun) Walker, 42, a graying, quiet-spoken ex-Army officer who has been under sentence of death longer than the late Caryl Chessman, chose the second course.

The former Signal Corps second lieutenant was sentenced to death June 19, 1947, for the murder of California highway patrolman Loren Roosevelt during a year-long crime spree in the Los Angeles area. He also admitted shooting two policemen and when captured had an arsenal of six machineguns, eight .45 caliber automatics and 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Blaming his crimes on "war nerves," Walker pleaded innocent by reason of insanity, but was convicted of murder in a non-jury trial. The judge who condemned him called him "a menace to society beyond the possibility of rehabilitation."

Walker was ordered to die in the San Quentin gas chamber on Good Friday, April 15, 1949. But two days before that date he tried to strangle himself with a radio earphone cord.

He was examined by psychiatrists just 90 minutes before he was to be executed and they found that he did not know the difference between right and wrong.

A superior court jury subsequently ruled that Walker was legally insane. He could not be executed unless he regained his sanity.

Since then Walker has been confined as criminally insane. But recently he was examined again by psychiatrists at the California medical facility here and this week was found to be sane. A full sanity hearing in a Marin County court in the next few weeks will determine whether he must be returned to San Quentin's death row.

Dr. William C. Keating Jr., head of the medical facility, indicated that Walker might have feigned insanity in the recent examinations if he had so desired.

Keating said the sandy-haired inmate realizes he is taking "a calculated risk" of being executed in exchange for possible eventual freedom "in the twilight of his life."

He is pinning his hopes on commutation to life imprisonment by Gov. Edmund G. Brown, who is on record as opposed to capital punishment.

California Briefs

Mount Hebron
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Craddock and family, Red Rock, were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cavener and Eileen and Denise.

Nancy Steffenson, Bray, spent Monday night as an overnight guest of Denise Cavener.

Gwen Clark, who is attending Humboldt State College, came home Wednesday night and spent the Thanksgiving holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Les Clark and family, and returned to college Sunday.

Mrs. Bruce Watson, Terry and Randi, and Marc and Walt Cannady, all from Alameda, spent the Thanksgiving weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Les Clark and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Phelps and family, Lovelock, Nev., spent Thanksgiving week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ross and family. Also present at the Thanksgiving dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Reames and family, and Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Patterson, Aptos, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Buehl Fisher, Doris, visited with the Jerry Ross family Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Glidden E. Titus and family spent Thanksgiving Day in Klamath Falls with Titus two sisters, Mrs. Robert Clark and family and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Penzgeras and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Goode and son Kenneth, who was home on leave from the armed forces in the Pacific; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pierce, Klamath Falls, and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pierce, Mount Hebron, were all dinner guests Thanksgiving Day of Mr. and Mrs. Don Griffin and Jim and Kathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Walton and family, Bray, were hosts to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Morgan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Zack Walton and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Maloney, Bray; Sandy Stone and Harold Andrus for Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson spent several days in Stockton and Sacramento over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Wilson spent a week in Portland visiting Mr.

Youth Killed In Car Crash

NEWMAN (UPI) — One youth was killed and another injured Friday night when their car crashed into a canal bridge abutment while being pursued by a patrol car.

The crash occurred in the rural Newman area at Draper and Moorehead avenues.

The fatality was Gary Joseph Caldre, 20, Gustine. The driver, Duane Edward Ouse, 20, Newman is in a Newman Hospital in satisfactory condition.

Ouse admitted to investigators he tried to outrun the patrol car after spotting its red lights behind him on State Highway 33. Officers said Ouse was traveling at speeds up to 90 miles an hour.

Ouse said he lost control of the vehicle on a curve and struck the abutment.



CANDIDATES for an American Field Service Scholarship are Lakewood High School juniors Vicki Sue Carlson, left, and Virginia Ann Brown. The winner will visit a foreign country next summer. Final selection will be made sometime early next year by AFS headquarters, New York.

Honest Man Gets Credit

MIAMI (UPI)—Al Arnstam, an out-of-work bassoon player, has found out that the city of Miami just won't take his money.

City Manager Melvin J. Reese mailed out a form letter recently to 7,000 Miami residents whose property is not assessed high enough to require them to pay taxes. Arnstam's name was on the list.

But in spite of that, Arnstam, 56, tucked a \$10 bill in an envelope and mailed it back to the city manager.

"Every time the garbage or trash men pick up, every time a police or a fire vehicle races by, every time my two little girls ask me for money to visit Sliandoah Pool or draw a book from the neighborhood library, I get a slightly uncomfortable feeling," he wrote Reese.

"It's as though I'm letting George do it . . ."

Reese put Arnstam's \$10 bill in a frame and hung it over his desk in City Hall. He sent another \$10 back to the musician.

What's more, the city manager said, Arnstam will be given a certificate of appreciation next week and also be given a chance to take a civil service test for a job.

Water Program Needs Board Okay

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Gov. Edmund G. Brown's \$175 billion water program, approved by voters in the Nov. 8 general election, today was only one step away from having enough water to flow through the gigantic system of dams and canals.

The California Water Commission Friday assigned eight state water filings along the Feather River to the State Department of Water Resources.

The commission holds the water rights in a "trust" for water users to get when they plan projects in the state. The only step now remaining is approval of the State Water Rights Board, expected as a matter of form but possibly with minor modifications.

The water agency was granted use of a total of 4,075,000 acre-feet of water for use at Oroville Dam and power plant, Thermaito Diversion Dam and afterbay, the Delta Water Project, the North and South Bay Aqueducts, San Luis Reservoir and the San Joaquin-Southern California aqueduct system.

The approval came as no surprise since allocations of state-owned water are withheld only when the projects involved conflict with the "general and coordinated" state water program. And the department's request was for water to carry out the program.

However, three reservations written into the permit raised controversy.

One was a reservation for use of water by the northern counties of origin, when necessary due to a water shortage. Some circles attacked this provision as unnecessary since state law already requires preference to counties of origin.

Another was a one-year privilege granted to Richvale Irrigation District to work out a controversy over a conflict of its proposed project with the state's planned

Patrol Informs Of Child Death

WEST SACRAMENTO (UPI)—The California Highway Patrol tracked down a West Sacramento truck driver to Portland, Ore., Friday to tell him that his two-year-old daughter had been killed in a traffic accident.

The patrol said the child, Patty Maurine Faulkerson, died when the car driven by her mother, Patsy, 34, was hit broadside at a blind intersection by a vehicle driven by Kenneth Morris, 18, of West Sacramento.

The father, Harry M. Faulkerson, works for Portland Transfer Co. Mrs. Faulkerson suffered minor injuries.

Radiant Liz All Ready To Resume 'Cleopatra'

BEVERLY HILLS (UPI) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor and Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox Studio, discussed last weekend resumption of filming of "Cleopatra" in London.

Radiant despite her recent illness, the 28-year-old actress and her 32-year-old fourth husband, singer Eddie Fisher, arrived at Los Angeles International Airport Friday afternoon from New York.

They were met at the airport by Ketti Frings, wife of Liz's agent, Kurt Frings, a studio publicity man, and the actress' dog. The couple also was met by a swarm of photographers and reporters.

After posing for photographs and answering newsmen's questions, Liz and Eddie, former husband of actress Debbie Reynolds, hustled to the Beverly Hills Hotel and a posh five-room suite.

The actress was taken ill with meningism — an infection which forced extraction of one tooth — while making the picture in London and the film had to be halted.

Skouras arrived here Friday night for the talks.

The agent said the studio and insurance companies currently are engaged in a dispute over losses in production caused by Miss Taylor's illness. A contract dispute, expected to be settled in a few days, further delayed filming.

The film couple told newsmen they might leave here today for Palm Springs—favorite Southern California habitat of President Eisenhower—and two weeks of rest in the desert sunshine.

Fisher said he and his wife planned to return to London to spend Christmas with her three children by previous marriages. Liz has two children by her second husband, actor Michael Wilding, and one by her third husband, the late producer Mike Todd. She also formerly was married to hotel heir Nicky Hilton.

Liz is "feeling wonderful" and does not plan to consult any doctors while in the United States, Fisher said. He added that the two weeks of rest and sunshine he and Liz plan to spend in the desert community will be "psychologically good" for her.

GET SEPARATE ROOMS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Spokesmen for Israel and Jordan appeared on the same television program Sunday — but, at Jordan's request, they were in separate rooms.

The program was CBS-TV's "U.N. in Action" recorded on tape last week. Foreign Minister Amusa Nasir of Jordan was interviewed in one conference room and U.N. Ambassador Michael Comay of Israel in an adjoining room.

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