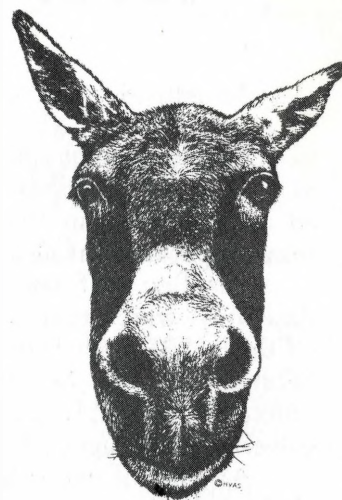




The Assembly Democrat



BOB MORETTI
Assembly Speaker

JACK R. FENTON
Assembly Majority Leader

November, 1973

WHAT'S MY LINE?

Supreme Court Reapportionment Helps Democrats

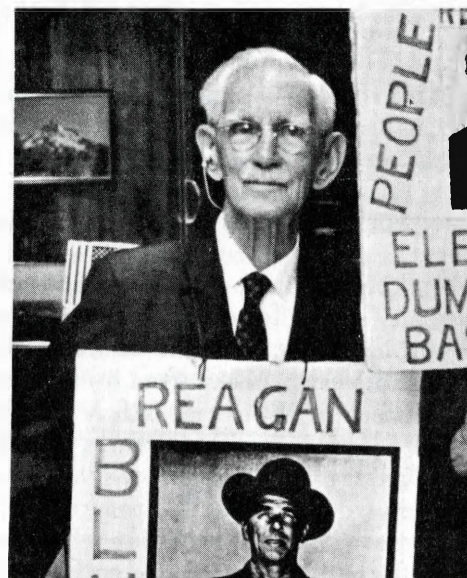
After three years of failure by the Legislature to reapportion itself, the issue has largely been resolved by the three special masters appointed by the Supreme Court for that purpose. On August 31st, the masters issued their reapportionment proposal and the court heard oral arguments on the proposal on October 30th. Most legislators believe the court will accept the plan with only minor revisions.

The plan does not drastically change the present political lineup in either Sacramento or Washington. The Democrats can probably pick up a seat or two in both the State Senate, which became 20-19 in their favor with the resignation of Senator Coombs, and in the House of Representatives, now 23-20 Democratic. They *may* lose a seat or two in the Assembly, but several of the non-Democratic seats there are leaning and may go Democratic in future elections.

Earlier this year, Governor Reagan vetoed an Assembly bill on reapportionment even though it had the support of many Republicans. The bill gave the Democrats a majority with a range of from 41 to 48 seats, but it also kept 6 or 7 seats marginal enough so that the Republicans could conceivably have had a chance to regain a majority in the Assembly in three or four elections. The masters' plan appears to eliminate that possibility.

In the judgment of the unofficial experts around the Capitol, the masters' plan creates 32 safe Democratic seats in the Assembly with 13 leaning toward Democratic. The Republicans get 23 safe seats with 3 leaning and there are 9 seats in doubt.

Speaker Bob Moretti has publicly stated he feels the Democrats can win 48 or 49 seats in the Assembly.



Robert H. Simpson, 93, continued his daily picketing inside the Capitol and was arrested for the 257th time after Governor Reagan vetoed AB 964—a bill by Assemblyman Willie Brown to repeal the anti-picketing law passed in 1969.

1973: THE LEGISLATIVE YEAR IN REVIEW

An editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* called it "a good first half"—the 1973 record of the State Legislature. The second half of the first two-year session, as established by a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in 1972, will begin January 7 with some important unfinished business on the agenda.

The first half saw 2,676 bills introduced in the Assembly, which passed 1,181 of them to the Senate. Of those, 825 made it to the Governor's desk and 718 became law. The Senate initiated 1,473 bills, sent 766 to the Assembly which passed 562 of them to the Governor, who signed 497 of them into law.

Any list of major bills passed would have to include the following:

- **The budget** — After seven years of the Governor's "cut, trim and squeeze" policies, the \$9 billion budget for the 1973-74 fiscal year was more than double the first Reagan budget. Such growth during an economy minded administration caused some wonder at the Proposition 1 notion of setting fixed constitutional limits on state expenditures far into the future.

- **The surplus** — Confronted with an estimated \$800 million surplus last January, the Legislature was presented with a variety of proposals for disposing of it. The Governor suggested a flat, across-the-board 20 percent income tax refund with no top limit—which, of course, would have greatly favored his upper bracket friends. The Legislature rejected that and passed SB 425 putting the one-cent sales tax increase off for six months and providing a 30 percent income tax refund, but with a top limit of \$200 per person. This bill got the votes of 65 Assemblymen (17 Republicans) and 33 Senators (16 Republicans), but the Governor vetoed it. After the July recess, the Legislature made another run at it and SB 90 was enacted. It still contained a sales tax moratorium and an income tax refund, but the refund is based on a graduated scale giving larger percentage refunds to lower and middle income earners.

- **Working people** — It was one of the best sessions in many a year for working men and women. AB 150 (Fenton) put into law the California Occupational Safety and Health Act drafted by the Assembly Select Committee on Industrial Safety. It abolishes the Industrial Safety Board and creates a tough new Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to protect workers from the slipshod practices which resulted in the death of 17 Sylmar Tunnel workers and took six lives in the Pasadena bridge collapse. In addition, there were the social insurance laws: AB 580 (Deddeh), raising maximum weekly unemployment benefits from \$75 to \$90; AB 806 (Deddeh), raising maximum weekly disability benefits from \$105 to \$119; and AB's 750, 751 and 752 (Fenton), raising the maximum disability payment under workmen's compensation law from \$105 to \$119 weekly for temporary disability and \$70 to \$119 for permanent disability

and nearly doubling death benefits for widows to \$40,000 and \$45,000 for widows with dependent children. On the negative side, for the third consecutive year the Governor vetoed legislation extending unemployment insurance to farm workers, AB 255 (Fenton).

- **Consumer protection** — AB 620 (Moretti) requires pharmacists to post prices of the hundred most frequently prescribed drugs. AB 312 (Waxman) provides that women must be granted credit in their own names on the same basis as men.

- **The environment** — AB 227 (Z'berg-Nejedly) strengthens controls on logging for protection of the watershed and timberland resources, and creates a new state forestry board with more members representing the public. AB 1279 (Sieroty) authorizes the State Air Resources Board to conduct tests on fuel additives, another step in air pollution research. AB 2283 (Moretti) would have created a basin-wide air pollution control board for the South Coast, but the Governor vetoed it. Also vetoed was SB 283 (Alquist), creating a State Energy Commission to cope with the energy crisis.

- **The elderly** — AB 2263 (Burton) establishes an Office of Aging under the Health and Welfare Agency to give the elderly more strength and voice in developing programs for seniors. A package of three bills (AB 1600, AB 1601, AB 1607) introduced by the Joint Committee on Aging will provide stricter controls and improved conditions in nursing homes. AB 1606, to provide chore services for the elderly who wish to stay in their own homes, was vetoed.

- **Education** — AB 451 (Moretti) restored \$41 million in lost federal funds to continue pre-school and child care programs. AB 770 (Lanterman) creates a 19-member California Post-Secondary Education Commission as the statewide planning and coordinating agency, replacing the Coordinating Council on Higher Education. Its scope will include vocational education as well as colleges and universities.

Prominent on the list of unfinished business:

- AB 666 (Moretti) establishing a California Consumer Action Network, with matching grants for consumer fraud units and consumer bureaus at the local level. Now awaiting hearing in the Senate Finance Committee.

- AB 50 (Fenton), no-fault auto insurance bill requiring a rate reduction on basic bodily injury coverage. In the Senate Judiciary Committee.

- AB 581 (Burton) allowing a pharmacist to substitute another drug for a name brand drug if it is of comparable effectiveness and does not cost the consumer more money. In the Senate Business and Professions Committee.

- AB 1245 (Moretti) setting up a collective bargaining system for public employees. In the Senate Public Employment and Retirement committee.

KNBC

EDITORIAL REPLY

KNBC broadcast an editorial on October 15 critical of the Legislature's 1973 record. Chosen to respond was Assemblyman John P. Quimby (D-Rialto).

ASSEMBLYMAN QUIMBY: There's no arguing California has the "best-paid, best-supported lawmaking body in any state." If that rankles the KNBC Editorial Director, it didn't the Citizen's Conference on State Legislatures which rated all 50 in the nation and found California Number 1.

The KNBC Editorial Director gives the impression he'd just as soon your "full-time, professional" Legislature found itself another state to run.



ASSEMBLYMAN QUIMBY

Partisanship is the greatest sin. The KNBC Editorial says "get the job done first and make political hay second."

Your Legislature this year increased social benefits of eight million workers and made job conditions safer . . . gave you an income tax rebate and delayed a sales tax increase . . . required greater openness in our political processes . . . ordered prescription drug price posting to save your money . . . continued preschool and child care centers after they were abandoned by Washington . . . protected our timber resources . . . and asked the people to unlock gas tax funds for use in public transit.

We also wanted to make the fight against air pollution a sensible regional attack, guarantee decent housing for more citizens, provide alternatives to the energy crisis, and repeal the relatives' responsibility law. But the Governor vetoed these efforts, among others.

Ventura County
Star☆Free Press

Opinion

Ed. Note: The following editorial is excerpted from The Ventura County Star-Free Press.

Governor Reagan is accustomed to requests for his autograph, but not in bunches of 1,000. That's how many he got when the State Legislature dumped its final flurry of more than 1,000 bills on the Governor's desk, to await his signature . . .

It would be impossible for the Governor to go through that mile-high stack of bills—signing this one, vetoing that—without making a lot of folks unhappy along the way. And if you place what he signed opposite what he vetoed in some specific cases, an unfortunate pattern appears:

- Governor Reagan signed a law extending a tax break, via lower property assessments, to private duck hunting clubs—but he vetoed for the third straight year, a law extending unemployment benefits to jobless farmworkers.

- The Governor signed into law a measure that seems certain to permit breweries to short-change 12-ounce cans of beer by half-an-ounce a can (at an estimated saving of \$250,000 a year to just one brewery)—but he vetoed a bill that would have limited the State's power to dun the relatives of the poor and the aged to supplement state welfare benefits, even though those being dunned are often close to welfare themselves.

- Mr. Reagan approved a \$1 million subsidy for the California Arts Commission—but turned down a measure that would have let the State's senior citizens use state parks free.

This pattern of priorities is hard to explain, unless the Governor thinks that well-to-do duck hunters are more in need than unemployed farmworkers, that breweries need our sympathy more than people whose folks are on welfare, or that underwriting who-knows-what for the State's dilettantes is more important than underwriting wholesome recreation for the State's senior citizens.

We doubt very much that any pattern was intended, or that the Governor was even conscious of these contrasts. But it seems to us that he should have been, that he should always be more sensitive to the people who don't have fat-cat friends of liquor lobbyists or Charlton Heston to plead their case . . .

The record is a good one. Not perfect. It'll never be that. The KNBC Editorial Director can call it hay-making if he wants. I call it trying to make California a better place for us all—within the limitation of being 120 humans with sincere but sometimes different ideas about how it ought to be done.

I'm proud to be one of the 120.



"Say I told you so."

Quotes from around the Capitol

Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti on the Governor's veto of AB 2283 to create a South Coast Air Basin Pollution Control District:

"It once more indicates his support of the major corporate polluters in California. As this bill moved through the Legislature, expressions of support were continually made by the Reagan Administration. But now, the Governor has vetoed the bill hoping that his action will be hidden among the numerous bill signings and vetoes of the very last day."

Assemblywoman March Fong on the Governor's veto of AB 1177 and AB 1178, relating to sex education:

"I appeal to the people of California once again to educate their Governor about the facts of life concerning teenage sexuality . . . There are over 100,000 abortions performed each year on teenage girls. Giving cute advice about shaking one's head doesn't help much . . ."

Assemblyman Barry Keene on the Governor's veto of AB 881 giving income tax deductions for blood donations:

"Study after study has shown that purchased blood is at least ten times more likely to contain the dangerous serum hepatitis virus than volunteered blood. The Governor has chosen to ignore the 3,500 deaths and 50,000 illnesses resulting from hepatitis—infected blood—so he can say he saved a few dollars for the State."

Assemblyman Ray Gonzales on the Governor's veto of AB 268 to simplify the wording of ballot proposition analyses:

"Because the Governor did not want to upset an old-fashioned governmental practice, voters are stuck with wading through as much as three different analyses totaling 1,350 words per proposition."

Assemblyman Joe Montoya on the Governor's veto of AB 614 to extend dialysis treatment benefits to Californians not covered by Social Security:

"We drafted a bill with particular respect to the Governor's view, including rigid guidelines. We now have a situation where Californians not covered by federal law will not be assisted by the State. We are punishing our own middle income people and denying them benefits available to others."

The Law says...

The infinite variety of subjects dealt with in 1973 is exemplified by the following selection of bills passed by the Legislature that will become law in 1974:

Assembly Bill 189 provides a 24-hour "grace period" to persons convicted of misdemeanor violations of the Vehicle Code, to give them time to clear up personal business. (Dan Boatwright)

Assembly Bill 320 requires the Department of Consumer Affairs to register, bond and regulate persons who, for a fee, assist with or prepare income or franchise tax returns for others. (John Knox)

Senate Bill 323 requires that new service stations, shopping centers and office buildings be equipped with restrooms for the physically handicapped. (George Zenovich)

Assembly Bill 469 makes it illegal to throw any object at the ring during a boxing match. (Alex Garcia)

Assembly Bill 640 protects a borrower's right to privacy of personal insurance information and ensures fair competition between private insurance companies and savings and loan associations. (Louis Papan)

Assembly Bill 663 allows women to participate in the California Cadet Corps. (Leroy Greene)

Assembly Bill 1065 allows Amtrak to couple freight cars to passenger cars, thus enabling vacationers to take their cars with them when traveling by train. (John Thurman)

Assembly Bill 1539 requires automotive repair dealers to obtain the customer's permission to have any work done by another party. (Walter Ingalls)

Assembly Bill 1816 requires the State to give small businesses special consideration and preferences when awarding contracts for services or goods. (Willie Brown)

THE ASSEMBLY DEMOCRAT

Published by The Assembly Majority leadership for the purpose of helping inform the citizens of California about the activities of the State Assembly. Your comments and criticism are welcome and should be addressed to: Hon. Jack Fenton, Assembly Majority Leader, Room 3112, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA. 95814.

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