

# Ihrig Thanks Backers Of CMA Continuance

Commo. Russell M. Ihrig, USN, Ret., superintendent of the California Maritime Academy, issued today the following statement regarding the favorable decision of the Ways and Means Committee of the State Assembly to continue the academy in operation and to approve the forthcoming annual budget:

"The decision of the Ways and Means Committee by a most favorable majority to continue the academy in operation and to approve the next year's budget is gratifying evidence of the soundness of our contention that the education and training of Merchant Marine officers for the vital privately-owned and operated maritime industry of the state is a necessary state function that should not be surrendered to the federal government.

"Together with the unanimous vote of approval by the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education on Feb. 28, it is also gratifying evidence of the confidence of the legislative committees in the soundness of the training program of the academy.

"At no time in any of the three hearings were either the adequacy or the efficiency of the program questioned by members of the various committees.

"I wish to make prompt acknowledgment publicly to the many civic, fraternal and business groups which rallied to the support of this very essential and educational institution in the future economic welfare of the state.

"Special thanks and credit are due to the committee of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce which prepared under the able direction of Dugald Gillies, the secretary, a most informative brochure briefing the arguments which I presented at the hearings. I am sure that this very excellent pamphlet, which was widely distributed throughout the state by the local Chamber of Commerce,

had a decisive effect in backing up the very gratifying support which was accorded to the academy from throughout the state.

"The vigorous and able support of Senator Gibson, Assemblyman Crowley and Senator Crittenden of Stockton, based on the inherent merits of the academy, was, I am sure, a decisive factor in the favorable result."

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