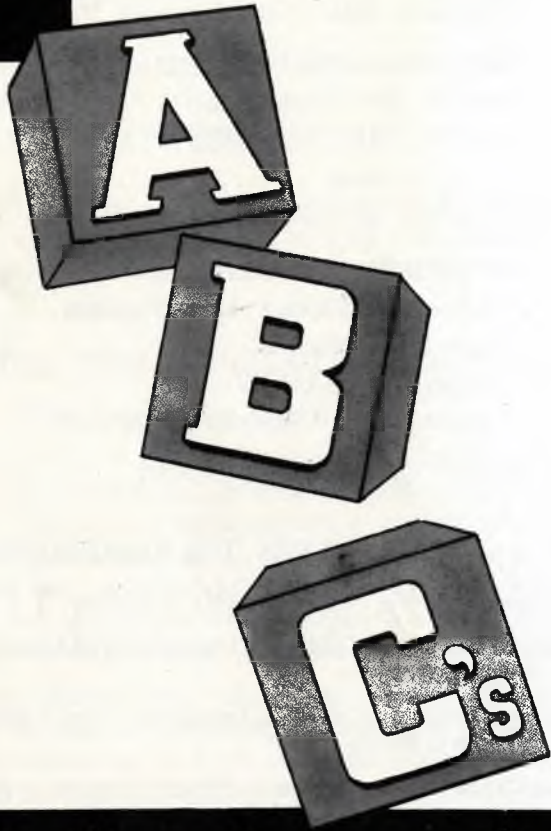


The



of Legislative Action

Friends Committee on Legislation

15¢

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. PREPARING FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION.....	3
Why Legislative Action?.....	3
Sources of Information	4
II. CHANNELS FOR ACTION.....	5
Organizations, Political Parties, Voting.....	5
III. THE LAWMAKING PROCESS.....	6
The Role of Committees.....	6
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW.....	8
In Congress	8
In the California Legislature.....	10
IV. INFLUENCING LEGISLATION	11
When and Where to Make Contacts.....	11
How to Be Effective.....	11
When Writing Letters	12
Working with Legislators at Home.....	15
V. YOUR OPINION DOES COUNT	16

DATES TO REMEMBER

Congress convenes — First Monday in January

General Session of California Legislature (odd-numbered years) — First Monday in January

Budget Session of California Legislature (even-numbered years) — First Monday in March

Last Day to Register to Vote in Primary Elections — April (54 days before Primary Elections — e.g., April 12, 1956)

Obtain Absentee Ballots from County Clerk — May-June (20th to 5th days before Primary Election — eg., May 14-31, 1956)

Primary Election Day — June, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (First Tuesday after first Monday — e.g., June 5, 1956)

Party State Conventions (mandatory) — August (First Saturday in August after a Primary Election — e.g., August 4, 1956)

Last Day to Register to Vote in General Elections — September (54 days before election — e.g., September 13, 1956)

General Election Day — November, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (First Tuesday after first Monday — e.g., November 6, 1956)

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet is a primer. Hence the title, "The ABC's of Legislative Action." It grew out of questions asked about the California Legislature and the U. S. Congress. These range from, "Who is my Assemblyman?" to "How can we help get the UN Technical Assistance appropriations through Congress?" On a particular issue, the question most often asked is, "What can I do?"

Many people do nothing about the laws we live under, not because of apathy, but for lack of information. It is for those who want to know where to find some answers to questions like these, and to act effectively, that this pamphlet is written.

One might say that we are here applying the "Do-it-yourself" approach to the political arena, where, you'll probably agree, there is an evergrowing need at all levels of government for informed people with a will to "do it themselves."

I. PREPARING FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Why Legislative Action?

There is no such thing as a vacuum in political life. Decisions must constantly be made, and we may be sure someone will be there to influence the making of them. The positions which our elected representatives take on a given issue will depend in part on their personal values, integrity, and political courage. But the people back home carry at least equal weight with the Legislator. His attitudes will often be largely determined by the extent to which the electorate is informed, interested and vocal.

If politics is the "art of the possible," we can make that which is possible more consistent with our religious and democratic ideals. For, more often than not, political decisions reflect the moral, social, and economic attitudes of the people. Or, as one sage has bluntly put it, "People get the kind of government they deserve."

There is the tendency, fostered by those who distrust the people, to keep the business of government in the hands of professional politicians. And in this age of the specialist, there is also an ever-present temptation for the people to abandon the reins of government to the full-time professionals. A functioning democracy demands that the people select the *goals* for society, while the expert creates the machinery and, ideally, gives direction toward the goals. Sometimes the professional does know best, but more often he proves no wiser than the rest of us. He needs, and often welcomes, constructive ideas.

Sources of Information

Informing ourselves presents two problems: First, where can we find reliable information and careful analysis to help us in making our own judgments? Second, once having formed these judgments, how can we best act on them?

1 — NEWSPAPERS: These vary tremendously in different parts of the country. State legislation is most extensively covered by the *Sacramento Bee*, though most major dailies carry some information. Two or more newspapers might be read to get both sides of a question. In terms of editorial approach on state and national issues, the *San Francisco Chronicle* differs somewhat from that of the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *Oakland Tribune*; the *San Francisco News* from that of the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*. In southern California, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Mirror-News* might be read with a weekly newspaper of Democratic party slant, such as the *Free Press*, Box 2975, Los Angeles 54.*

The *New York Times* is probably more widely subscribed to by public and college libraries than any other newspaper. It has the most complete coverage and background on international and domestic issues. Some people subscribe to the Sunday edition for source material. The *Christian Science Monitor* publishes a West Coast Edition with excellent coverage of the UN and Washington scenes. *Labor's Daily*, P. O. Box 338, Bettendorf, Iowa, and the West Coast Edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, 415 Bush Street, San Francisco, provide good coverage on labor and economic legislation.

2 — MAGAZINES: Of the many magazines on the newsstands, the following are typical of differing points of view on political issues:

Liberal

The Reporter—biweekly
The Christian Century—weekly
The Nation—weekly
The New Republic—weekly
The Progressive—monthly

Conservative

Time—weekly
Newsweek—weekly
U. S. News and World Report—weekly
Business Week—weekly
Fortune—monthly

If one reads, say, *Time* and the *New Republic* or *Nation*, or *U. S. News and World Report* and *The Reporter*, he is in a better position to assess statements and opinions of others.

3 — NEWSLETTERS: Typical of a variety of Newsletters covering state and national issues are:

National

The Washington Newsletter of the Friends Committee on Legislation, 1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco, and 122 North Hudson, Pasadena 4.

Memo of the National Council of Churches, 122 Maryland Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C.

* Addresses are provided for those publications not widely known to the general public.

Christian Newsletter of International Affairs, National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Report from Capitol Hill, League of Women Voters, 1026 - 17th Street N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

I. F. Stone's Weekly, 301 East Capitol, Washington, D. C.

Kiplinger's Washington Newsletter, 1729 H Street N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

State

The California Newsletter of the Friends Committee on Legislation, 1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco, and 122 North Hudson, Pasadena 4.

The California Voter of the League of Women Voters, 26-A Mariposa Avenue, San Anselmo.

The Sacramento Newsletter, 3310 Harmony Lane, Sacramento 21.

California Federation of Labor Newsletter, 995 Market Street, San Francisco.

CIO Council Newsletter, 117 West Ninth Street, Los Angeles 15.

California Farm Reporter, California Farm Research and Legislative Committee, 740 Hilmar Street, Santa Clara.

4 — OTHER SOURCES: Your Congressman might send you or your organization the daily *Congressional Record*, which he can supply free to a limited number of people. It contains the daily history of all votes, debates, and business in the House and Senate, plus editorials and articles from a variety of sources as inserted under "Extension of Remarks" by Congressmen. Though expensive, the weekly *Congressional Quarterly*, 1156 - 19th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C., is indispensable for committees and organizations which want all the facts on happenings in Congress. Both are available in large public libraries.

The Friends Committee on Legislation, the AFL-CIO, and other organizations prepare voting records for each Legislator from California, both state and national, covering a variety of significant roll-call votes.

Careful reading, listening, and analysis can help provide us with an adequate basis for action. But what is the next step?

II. CHANNELS FOR ACTION

Organizations . . .

Important channels for action which we often overlook are those organizations in our own communities that can strengthen our hand, and in which we can participate and support. There are many of these in California, ranging from the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union to that of the Mental Health Society. Check the Yellow Pages of your phone book under "Associations."

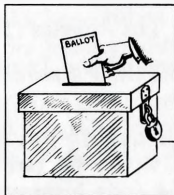
Political Parties . . .

Who is your local Assemblyman? Your Congressman? How does he or she stand on the issues with which you are concerned? Many of us pride ourselves on being "independents" and in avoiding politics or parties. And, you may say, "What could I do in politics?" In his book, *California Politics*, Professor Joseph Harris answers this succinctly:

"How does one start? Take an active interest in community, state, and national affairs. Keep well read on public affairs. Attend public meetings. Have an opinion on local issues, but be sure of your facts first. Join a political club. Become acquainted with local political leaders and volunteer your services. Within a short time they will be in demand, and you will be started on a political career."

Not all of us want a "political career," but a healthy two-party system depends on the widest interest and participation.

Register and Vote —



in your party primaries, in local, state and national elections. Help organize and participate in registration drives. The percentage of people who vote compared to those qualified to do so is pitifully small.

III. THE LAWMAKING PROCESS

The Role of Committees . . .

Legislators upon entering Congress or the State Legislature are assigned to committees where the main work of lawmaking is done. Here is where the fate of most bills is decided. As they serve, they accumulate knowledge about the subjects with which their committees deal and their opinions come to carry weight with other members not on the committee, who often look to them for leadership. One indispensable guide for the person interested in politics is a list of legislators and the committees on which they serve. Another is the knowledge of what subjects these committees consider.

A number of religious organizations cooperate in distributing a convenient guide to Congress called *Register Christian Opinion* (available for 10¢ plus postage from the Friends Committee on Legislation). This pamphlet lists Senators and Representatives by states, and then gives the membership of most of the important Congressional Committees. Similar lists can be obtained from the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C. At the beginning of each State Legislative Session, the *California Newsletter* of the Friends Committee on Legislation contains a complete list of committees and their members. You can also get these lists from your Assemblyman or State Senator.

Committees and Subject Matter — Who Handles What?

Here is a guide to some of the subjects which come before Congress, and the Committees which usually deal with them:

- AGRICULTURE—House and Senate Agricultural Committees
- ATOMIC ENERGY—Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
- CIVIL LIBERTIES—House and Senate Judiciary Committees (wire-tapping); House Rules and Senate Rules Committees (fair codes of procedure)
- CIVIL RIGHTS—House and Senate Judiciary Committees (anti-lynch and poll tax); House Education and Labor and Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committees (FEPC)
- CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS—House and Senate Armed Services Committees; House and Senate Judiciary Committees (for immigration matters)
- DISARMAMENT—Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees
- EDUCATION—House Education and Labor and Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committees
- FOREIGN POLICY—House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees
- HEALTH—House Education and Labor and Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committees; Senate and House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committees
- HOUSING—House and Senate Banking and Currency Committees
- IMMIGRATION—House and Senate Judiciary Committees
- INDIANS (AMERICAN)—House and Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees; House and Senate Judiciary Committees
- LABOR—House Education and Labor Committee; Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee
- LIQUOR ADVERTISING—House and Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committees
- MILITARY AFFAIRS—House and Senate Armed Services Committees (conscription, UMT); Appropriations Committees (military aid and spending)
- NATURAL RESOURCES—House and Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees; House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee; Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee
- PUBLIC POWER—House and Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees
- REFUGEES—House and Senate Judiciary Committees; House and Senate Appropriations Committees
- STATEHOOD FOR HAWAII AND ALASKA—House and Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC AID—House and Senate Appropriations; House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees

TRADE POLICIES—House Ways and Means Committee; Senate Finance Committee

UNITED NATIONS—House and Senate Appropriations Committees; Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees

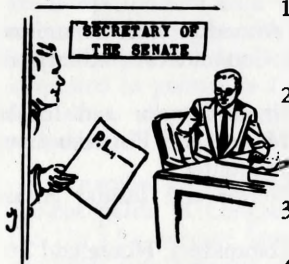
Once you know (a) which committee is handling the matter on which you are concerned, and (b) the membership of the committee, you need to know the time-table — *when action is needed and when you can be most effective*. Each bill or resolution introduced in Congress or the State Legislature follows a complicated route through committees and hearings and debate before it is finally passed or defeated, and there are various points along this route where a citizen can take action.

How A Bill Becomes A Law

IN CONGRESS: A *bill* is an attempt to enact a specific measure into law, and may advocate setting up a commission, appropriating money, or establishing a program. A *resolution*, on the other hand, is a statement of opinion or the expression of advice, usually beginning, "Resolved, it is the sense of Congress that . . ." It needs executive or further legislative action to have a practical effect. A proposed constitutional amendment is usually introduced in the form of a resolution, and then awaits state action — approval by three-fourths of the states — before becoming law.

After a Congressman introduces a bill, it is given a number, e.g., H.R. 3000 in the House, or S. 2743 in the Senate. *The Senate or House Document Room(s), Washington 25, D. C.*, will send you a copy of bills free of charge, upon request, if you ask for them by number. After a bill becomes law, it is designated as Public Law (*number*), and may also be obtained from the Document Rooms.

Following introduction in the House of Representatives or Senate by any member of Congress, there are some fourteen steps in the process. Let's follow a bill that your Congressman might introduce — for instance, H.R. 1 by Representative Blank to change the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act of 1952.



- 1) After introduction in the House, H.R. 1 is assigned to the appropriate committee. (In this case to the House Judiciary Committee.)
- 2) Committee hearings are held. Some bills may be acted on by the committee without hearings, others radically amended and given a new number, and others may be "shelved."
- 3) The committee reports on the bill, favorably or unfavorably.
- 4) If reported favorably, H.R. 1 goes to the Rules Committee to be assigned a place on the agenda of the full house. (Here is another place where the bill may be shelved, as the Rules Committee can decide not to place it on the agenda at all.)
- 5) If approved by the Rules Committee, the bill is debated by the House. An amendment on the floor of either house may alter its meaning.



- 6) The bill is voted on. There are four main kinds of vote. A *record vote* is one where each man's "aye" or "nay" is recorded. More frequently, a simple count is used, either a *teller vote*, where the members are counted as they file past two "tellers," or a *division vote*, in which the members stand to indicate their opinions. A fourth method is the *voice vote*. One reason the actual record vote is used infrequently is the time it consumes. More important, however, is the fact that many Congressmen would prefer not to have a record kept of their every vote.

- 7) If passed, H.R. 1 is signed by the officer of the House.
- 8) H.R. 1 (originating in the House) then goes to the Senate. (Note: all appropriations bills originate in the House; other bills may begin in either body.)
- 9) H.R. 1 then goes through the same procedure in the Senate. (If a Senator had introduced the bill, it would be numbered S. 1 and start with Step 1 in the Senate before going to the House.) The House or Senate may ignore a bill from the opposite chamber while it completes work on its own version.
- 10) Joint conferences committee (made up of representatives from both houses) iron out the differences in the bill if it is amended in the Senate or House, or there are separate bills with conflicting clauses.
- 11) Conference report voted on by both House and Senate; if they fail to agree, the bill may return to the conference and come back to be voted on again.
- 12) Bill is signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.



- 13) Bill goes to the President to be signed or vetoed. To over-ride a Presidential veto, both houses must pass the bill again by a two-thirds majority. If not signed by the president within ten days, and Congress is still in session, the bill becomes law *without* his signature. Should Congress adjourn before the ten days expire and the President has failed to sign, it does not become law. The latter is known as the "pocket veto."



- 14) If signed by the President, the bill is filed with the Secretary of the Senate and becomes the law of the land, thereafter known as Public Law (*number*).

IN THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE: California has a bicameral Legislature (Assembly and Senate). A general law-making session of 120 days is held in odd-numbered years — 1953-55-57, etc. The even-numbered years are reserved for a thirty-day budget session only, unless the Governor designates a special session to deal with issues that cannot safely wait until the next regular session.

Any one of the 80 Assemblymen or 40 State Senators may introduce an unlimited number of bills during the month of January. The Legislature then recesses from the last day in January to the first working day in March. After this February recess, legislators may introduce no more than two bills each for the balance of the 120-day session.



An Assembly Bill is designated AB, followed by a number; a Senate Bill as SB (*number*). Many are "skeleton" bills, introduced to beat the January 31 deadline, and contain merely a title and a change in one or two words of a present law, to be written in detail if the author decides to take up the bills. *The Clerk of the Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol, Sacramento*, will send you copies of bills on request. Be sure to ask for them by number.

A bill may go through six major steps to become a Public Law:

- 1) Each bill is assigned to a committee. Assembly Bills are assigned by the Speaker of the Assembly; the five-man Rules Committee does this in the Senate.
- 2) The committee can amend a bill, combine it with others, hold it for further study, table it, ignore its existence, vote it down, or send it to the floor with a "do pass" recommendation. Every bill carrying an appropriation of funds must also go to the Ways and Means Committee (Assembly) and the Finance Committee (Senate). During committee hearings, proponents and opponents of a bill have an opportunity to be heard.
- 3) Once on the floor, a bill is debated by the entire chamber. It can be defeated, amended, or passed as written. If passed, it goes to the other house.
- 4) In the other house, the bill, retaining its same number, goes through the entire process of committee study and vote, and floor debate and vote. *All bills must go through this process in both Assembly and Senate.*
- 5) A bill amended by the second house must be approved by the originating body. If approval is not given, a compromise committee composed of members of both Assembly and Senate attempts to write a version satisfactory to a majority of both houses (or to two-thirds for certain types of bill).

- 6) A bill passed by both houses goes to the Governor for his signature. A two-thirds majority of both houses is needed to over-ride his veto.

IV. INFLUENCING LEGISLATION

When and Where to Make Contacts

Careful reading of a newspaper, and information from a Washington or California organization are two ways to keep informed on the status of a bill. For example, when important legislation is at a crucial stage, the Friends Committee on Legislation provides its members with Action Bulletins. Other organizations use similar bulletins and newsletters.

On both state and national issues, the *latest* time to *begin* action is while a bill is being considered by a committee. Over 90 per cent of all bills pass in the form they are approved in the committee. Committees or subcommittees meet regularly and have hearings on bills which are before them. This is the only opportunity for individuals or organization spokesmen to be heard in person. Most hearings in Sacramento and many in Washington are open to the public. You may write and ask the chairman to notify you of the hearing date. A large number of bills are tabled or voted down in committee and do not reach the floor for debate or vote. Your letter should be written to the chairman or to your own representative if he is on the committee. If he is not on the committee in question, send him a copy of the letter you write. Numerous interim committees are appointed to investigate certain issues between sessions and make recommendations for legislation. Here again is an opportunity for the concerned individual or organization spokesman to be heard.

The next point of public influence comes after a bill leaves the committee but *before* it comes up for debate and vote on the floor.

As the bill goes through the same process in each house (if successful in passing the original), we have at least four chances to influence its passage or defeat.

How To Be Effective . . .

As a rule, contacts with legislators are effective in the following order:

- 1) *personal interview* — speak to him yourself
- 2) *letter* outlining your reasons why you are for or against the bill
- 3) *post card or telegram* with one or two "reasons why"
- 4) communications simply *stating your position*, for or against.
- 5) *resolution*
- 6) *petition*

The Personal Interview is difficult to arrange, but it is most worthwhile.

Congressmen are often home between sessions. They are interested in knowing what their constituents are thinking, particularly in an election year. State legislators are more accessible, and they often return home

during the February recess and over week-ends during the session. Some suggestions:

- 1) Set up an interview with two or three competent friends; one might discuss a specific bill, another the problems of foreign policy, another civil rights, etc.
- 2) Invite your legislator to a home meeting for discussion and exchange of ideas.
- 3) Ask him to appear before your club, church, or union.

When Writing Letters . . .

Combine your own ideas with those from some of the source material suggested in this pamphlet and you are ready to write that letter. It can be typewritten or in longhand. If you make an extra copy, send it to the editor of your newspaper. Think of a letter as a tool for your law-maker. Try to make it as useful as possible — he may want to quote from it or keep it on file for reference. Or he may simply count it for or against. There are exceptions, but *most legislators do not ignore thoughtful letters.*

Let's hear from a law-maker on the subject. Congressman Walter H. Judd of Minnesota read the following into the *Congressional Record* under the title, "Concerning Letters to Congressmen" (and these suggestions also apply when writing to State Senators and Assemblymen) :

What Your Congressman Likes



- 1) He likes to hear opinions from home and wants to be kept informed of conditions in the district. Base your letter on your own pertinent experiences and observation.
- 2) If writing about a specific bill, describe it by number or its popular name.
- 3) He likes intelligent, well-thought-out letters that present a definite position even if he does not agree with it.
- 4) Even more important and valuable is a concise statement of the reasons for your position — particularly if you are writing about a field in which you have specialized knowledge.
- 5) Short letters are always best. Members of Congress receive many, many letters each day, and a long one may not get as prompt a reading as a brief statement.
- 6) A Congressman likes to know when he has done something of which you approve. He is quite as human as you.

Forms of Address

When a new policy is under consideration, it is helpful to write to the President and to the cabinet member whose department is concerned *before* Congress considers the matter.

THE PRESIDENT

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Department heads with cabinet rank include the Secretaries of State; Treasury; Defense; Interior; Agriculture; Commerce; Labor; and Health, Education and Welfare; plus the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, and the Assistant to the President. Examples:

The Secretary of State	The Attorney General
Department of State	Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.	Washington 25, D. C.
Dear Mr. Secretary:	Dear Mr. Attorney General:

U. S. SENATORS

Senator ——
Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Dear Senator ——:

REPRESENTATIVES TO-CONGRESS

The Honorable ——
House of Representatives Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Dear Mr. ——:

CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR

Governor ——
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California
Dear Governor ——:

STATE SENATORS

Senator ——
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California
Dear Senator ——:

STATE ASSEMBLYMEN

Assemblyman ——
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California
Dear Mr. ——:

UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARY GENERAL

H. E. Mr. Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary General
United Nations
New York 17, New York
Dear Mr. Secretary-General

UNITED STATES MISSION

H. E. Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.
United States Mission to the United Nations
2 Park Avenue
New York 16, New York
Dear Mr. Lodge:

A Model Letter

(This is one effective form for a letter to your Congressman or State Legislator. You will want to use others and vary each according to subject matter, etc.)

Smithville, California
Jan. 1, 1956

Assemblyman John Jones
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Jones:

STATE PURPOSE
IN BEGINNING
OF LETTER
AND COMMEND
HIM IF POSSIBLE

I hope you will support AB ___, providing for local mental health clinics, which has been introduced in the Assembly. I feel that this bill deserves your support, as these clinics will meet a real need in California. I've appreciated your support of other social welfare legislation in the past.

BRING IN
PERSONAL
OBSERVATIONS
OR INFORMATION
IF YOU CAN

In Smithville, we have had cases where people might not have been hospitalized if there were treatment available locally. Unfortunately, the nearest clinic is in Berkeley, some fifty miles away. Even there treatment is sometimes not available because of long waiting lists. I have read that the State Department of Mental Hygiene estimates that about 20 per cent of those persons now hospitalized by mental illness could have been kept out of hospitals if treated early enough.

A DIRECT
QUESTION
WILL HELP
INSURE AN
ANSWER

I wonder if you can tell me whether there are any other bills dealing with this problem, and if there have been studies made which are available? I have been asked to report to the local Social Action committee of my church.

ASK HIM TO
STATE WHERE
HE STANDS

Again, let me urge you to support this important and humanitarian bill. Can we anticipate your "yes" vote when the bill comes before the Assembly?

Sincerely,

Working with Your Legislator at Home

"I have never been asked to speak to a church group in my district. About the only time I'm invited to meet with any organization is just before election time," comments a Congressman. He describes a situation which is even more common with State Legislators. Yet we expect these people to speak for us in Sacramento and Washington.

Some groups have successfully influenced their legislators through meetings with them. They have asked their representatives about a wide variety of issues in order to judge the overall program that he supports. Or, they have discussed one or two specific issues.

Write to your Congressman while he is still in Washington (or to your State Legislators in Sacramento), requesting an appointment when he returns, and indicating who will participate. Better yet, meet with him prior to the opening of the session.

The group as a whole should be familiar with your legislator's record, and the stand he has taken on specific issues. You might draw up a checklist of the problems which concern you and note his votes or his public statements on these matters. Then you could ask him for elaboration on the points on which you have little information, and for clarification of his position on others. The voting records sent out by various organizations at the end of each Congress and State Legislature can help you here.

Someone should be appointed as spokesman to introduce the members of the group and to start off the conversation. At this point, it is important to make it clear that the group is interested in a *serious* discussion and not in the social distinction of meeting a Congressman or State Senator. (Legislators meet far more people interested in the latter, especially in their Washington or Sacramento offices.)

"Loaded" questions should be avoided, but *specific* ones should be asked. It is better to ask, for example, why the Congressman voted for (or against) a particular UN appropriation, and what his views of the bill were, than to ask whether he believes in world federal government, or what he thinks of the UN. His views on these general subjects will probably become apparent in the course of the conversation.

The discussion should be an attempt to discover areas of agreement as well as of disagreement, and an exploration of new ideas. If you succeed, both you and your legislator will come away feeling that you have gained from the interview.

WORKING WITH CANDIDATES. The forum or group interview can also be very helpful in getting to know candidates before an election. This could be arranged separately for each candidate, or all candidates might be invited to address a town meeting. Someone in the community could then act as moderator, allotting time to each speaker and leading a discussion. If such an interview or forum cannot be arranged, you might consider sending a questionnaire to each candidate, asking for his answers on specific questions which interest you. The League of Women Voters does this in many areas, so that such information may already be available from the local League office.

CALIFORNIA ROSTER

1956

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, COUNTY AND DISTRICT

County	Assembly District	Assemblyman	Senatorial District	Senator
Alameda.....	13	Carlos Bee.....	16	Arthur H. Breed, Jr.
Alameda.....	14	Randal F. Dickey.....	16	Arthur H. Breed, Jr.
Alameda.....	15	L. H. Lincoln.....	16	Arthur H. Breed, Jr.
Alameda.....	16	Walter I. Dahl.....	16	Arthur H. Breed, Jr.
Alameda.....	17	William Byron Rumford.....	16	Arthur H. Breed, Jr.
Alameda.....	18	Thomas W. Caldecott.....	16	Arthur H. Breed, Jr.
Alpine.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	28	Charles Brown
Amador.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	9	Swift Berry
Butte.....	4	Harold Sedgwick.....	6	Paul L. Byrne
Calaveras.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	26	Stephen P. Teale
Colusa.....	3	Lloyd W. Lowrey.....	8	Louis G. Sutton
Contra Costa.....	10	Donald D. Doyle.....	17	George Miller, Jr.
Contra Costa.....	11	S. C. Masterson.....	17	George Miller, Jr.
Del Norte.....	1	Frank P. Belotti.....	2	Randolph Collier
El Dorado.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	9	Swift Berry
Fresno.....	32	Wallace D. Henderson.....	30	Hugh M. Burns
Fresno.....	33	William W. Hansen.....	30	Hugh M. Burns
Glenn.....	3	Lloyd W. Lowrey.....	8	Louis G. Sutton
Humboldt.....	1	Frank P. Belotti.....	3	A. W. Way
Imperial.....	76	J. Ward Casey.....	39	Ben Hulse
Inyo.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	28	Charles Brown
Kern.....	38	Dorothy M. Donahoe.....	34	Jess R. Dorsey
Kern.....	39	H. W. "Pat" Kelly.....	34	Jess R. Dorsey
Kings.....	35	Vacancy.....	27	Robert I. Montgomery
Lake.....	3	Lloyd W. Lowrey.....	4	James E. Busch
Lassen.....	2	Pauline L. Davis.....	1	Stanley Arnold
Los Angeles.....	40	Edward E. Elliott.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	41	Allen Miller.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	42	William F. (Bill) Marsh.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	43	H. Allen Smith.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	44	Herbert R. Klocksien.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	45	Thomas J. Doyle.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	46	Charles Edward Chapel.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	47	Albert I. Stewart.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	48	Frank Lanterman.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	49	Ernest R. Geddes.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	50	Thomas M. Erwin.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	51	William A. Munnell.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	52	Frank G. Bonelli.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	53	Montivel A. Burke.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	54	John L. E. Collier.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	55	Vernon Kilpatrick.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	56	Seth J. Johnson.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	57	Charles J. Conrad.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	58	Joseph C. Shell.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	59	Thomas M. Rees.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	60	Harold K. Levering.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	61	Lester A. McMillan.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	62	Augustus F. Hawkins.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	63	G. Delbert Morris.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	64	Patrick D. McGee.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	65	Jesse M. Unruh.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	66	Charles H. Wilson.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	67	Clayton A. Dills.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	68	Vincent Thomas.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	69	Carley V. Porter.....	38	Richard Richards
Los Angeles.....	70	W. S. (Bill) Grant.....	38	Richard Richards
Madera.....	31	George A. Clarke.....	24	James A. Cobey
Marin.....	7	Richard H. McCollister.....	13	John F. McCarthy
Mariposa.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	26	Stephen P. Teale
Mendocino.....	1	Frank P. Belotti.....	4	James E. Busch
Merced.....	31	George A. Clarke.....	24	James A. Cobey
Modoc.....	2	Pauline L. Davis.....	1	Stanley Arnold
Mono.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	28	Charles Brown
Monterey.....	34	Alan G. Pattee.....	25	Fred S. Farr
Napa.....	5	Samuel R. Geddes.....	11	Nathan F. Coombs
Nevada.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	7	Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson
Orange.....	74	Earl W. Stanley.....	35	John A. Murdy, Jr.
Orange.....	75	Vacancy.....	35	John A. Murdy, Jr.
Placer.....	6	Francis C. Lindsay.....	7	Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson
Plumas.....	2	Pauline L. Davis.....	1	Stanley Arnold
Riverside.....	71	L. M. (Lee) Backstrand.....	37	Nelson S. Dilworth
Sacramento.....	8	Thomas J. MacBride.....	19	Earl D. Desmond
Sacramento.....	9	Roy J. Nielsen.....	19	Earl D. Desmond
San Benito.....	27	Glenn E. Coolidge.....	23	Donald L. Grunsky
San Bernardino.....	72	Eugene G. Nisbet.....	36	James E. Cunningham, Sr.
San Bernardino.....	73	Jack A. Beaver.....	36	James E. Cunningham, Sr.

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, COUNTY AND DISTRICT—Continued

County	Assembly District	Assemblyman	Senatorial District	Senator
San Diego	77	Sheridan N. Hogland	40	Fred H. Kraft
San Diego	78	Frank Luckel	40	Fred H. Kraft
San Diego	79	Wanda Sankary	40	Fred H. Kraft
San Diego	80	Jack Schrader	40	Fred H. Kraft
San Francisco	19	Charles W. Meyers	14	Robert I. McCarthy
San Francisco	20	Thomas A. Maloney	14	Robert I. McCarthy
San Francisco	21	Caspar W. Weinberger	14	Robert I. McCarthy
San Francisco	22	Bernard R. Brady	14	Robert I. McCarthy
San Francisco	23	John A. O'Connell	14	Robert I. McCarthy
San Francisco	24	Edward M. Gaffney	14	Robert I. McCarthy
San Joaquin	12	John J. McFall	20	Alan Short
San Luis Obispo	36	James L. Holmes	29	A. A. Erhart
San Mateo	25	Vacancy	21	Harry L. Parkman
San Mateo	26	Richard J. Dolwig	21	Harry L. Parkman
Santa Barbara	36	James L. Holmes	31	John J. Hollister
Santa Clara	28	Clark L. Bradley	18	John F. Thompson
Santa Clara	29	Bruce F. Allen	18	John F. Thompson
Santa Cruz	27	Glenn E. Coolidge	23	Donald L. Grunsky
Shasta	2	Pauline L. Davis	5	Edwin J. Regan
Sierra	2	Pauline L. Davis	7	Harold T. (Biss) Johnson
Siakiyou	2	Pauline L. Davis	2	Randolph Collier
Solano	5	Samuel R. Geddes	15	Luther E. Gibson
Sonoma	7	Richard H. McColister	12	F. Presley Abshire
Stanislaus	30	Ralph M. Brown	22	Hugh P. Donnelly
Sutter	4	Harold Sedgwick	10	Ed. C. Johnson
Tehama	3	Lloyd W. Lowrey	8	Louis G. Sutton
Trinity	2	Pauline L. Davis	5	Edwin J. Regan
Tulare	35	Vacancy	32	J. Howard Williams
Tuolumne	6	Francis C. Lindsay	26	Stephen P. Teale
Ventura	37	Rex M. Cunningham	33	James J. McBride
Yolo	3	Lloyd W. Lowrey	11	Nathan F. Coombs
Yuba	4	Harold Sedgwick	10	Ed. C. Johnson

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

Dist.	Name and party	Counties or assembly districts comprising congressional district	Home address
1	Scudder, Hubert B. (R)	Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma	St. Helena Ave., Sebastopol
2	Engle, Clair (D)	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne	1010 Jackson St., Red Bluff
3	Moss, John E. (D)	Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba	111 Moss Dr., Sacramento
4	Mailliard, William S. (R)	San Francisco	P.O. Bldg., 3375 Jackson St., San Francisco
5	Shelley, John F. (D)	San Francisco	c/o House Post Office, Washington, D. C.
6	Baldwin, John F., Jr. (R)	Contra Costa, Solano	1010 Ulfian Way, Martinez
7	Allen, John J., Jr. (R)	Alameda	662 Longridge Rd., Oakland
8	Miller, George P. (D)	Alameda	1424 Benton St., Alameda
9	Younger, J. Arthur (R)	San Mateo	146 W. Bellevue, San Mateo
10	Gubser, Charles S. (R)	San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz	280 N. Princeville St., Gilroy
11	Johnson, J. Leroy (R)	San Joaquin, Stanislaus	1159 Elmwood Ave., Stockton
12	Siak, B. F. (D)	Fresno, Madera, Merced	3860 Balch Ave., Fresno
13	Teague, Charles M. (R)	Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	Butman Rd., Ojai
14	Hagen, Harlan (D)	Kern, Kings, Tulare	1206 N. Kaweah St., Hanford
15	McDonough, Gordon L. (R)	Los Angeles	4121 S. Bronson Ave., Los Angeles
16	Jackson, Donald L. (R)	Los Angeles	15460 Albricht St., Pacific Palisades
17	King, Cecil R. (D)	Los Angeles	8704 Tenth Ave., Inglewood
18	Hosmer, Craig (R)	Los Angeles	1066 E. 46th St., Long Beach
19	Holifield, Chet (D)	Los Angeles	2001 Lincoln Ave., Montebello
20	Hinshaw, Carl (R)	Los Angeles	1401 S. Oak Knoll, Pasadena
21	Hiestand, Edgar W. (R)	Los Angeles	1574 E. Foothill Blvd., Altadena
22	Holt, Joseph F. (R)	Los Angeles	4901 Haskell Ave., Encino
23	Doyle, Clyde (D)	Los Angeles	8948½ State St., South Gate
24	Lipscomb, Glenard P. (R)	Los Angeles	4316 Brunswick Ave., Los Angeles
25	Hillings, Patrick J. (R)	Los Angeles	1137 Panorama Dr., Arcadia
26	Roosevelt, James (D)	Los Angeles	1488 S. Beverly Dr., Los Angeles
27	Sheppard, Harry R. (D)	San Bernardino	Yucaipa
28	Utt, James B. (R)	Orange, San Diego	819 E. Santa Clara Ave., Santa Ana
29	Phillips, John (R)	Imperial, Riverside	65 N. Fourth St., Banning
30	Wilson, Robert C. (R)	San Diego	338 Del Mar St., Chula Vista

V. YOUR OPINION DOES COUNT

Some of us may still feel, even after writing letters and discussing issues (or perhaps *because* we have done this), that our opinion does not amount to much. Of course, there is no way to measure total effectiveness, but we can cite many specific examples. Among these are:

- 1) A few years ago, three students who came to Washington for a seminar on government visited their Representative, and in an hour's interview changed his mind on the Universal Military Training Bill, by pointing out their objection to a section he had not read carefully.
- 2) Legislators sometimes wait for a clear expression of public opinion before taking a stand. One Senator stated that after studying further, he afterward opposed a resolution he had earlier helped sponsor. However, he made no public statement, because he got very little mail or other indications of interest on the subject.
- 3) A State Senator who was originally opposed to a complex but positive change in the penal code, changed his mind after a spokesman for a citizens' group outlined what the bill would accomplish. Without his vote, the bill could not have received a favorable recommendation in committee.
- 4) An Assemblywoman said that her understanding of a restrictive civil liberties bill was clarified by letters and personal conversations. She voted against it.
- 5) Still another Assemblyman who voted for a bill adversely affecting the tax status of churches changed his mind after getting a well-written letter from his former minister. When the bill, due to a technicality, was referred back to his committee the second time, he voted against it, and it was defeated.

Not every letter or interview will net quick results. Your vote in elections may be on the losing side a large percentage of the time. Your legislators may completely oppose everything you believe, and continue to tell you so. But in the long run, informed public opinion is important and effective. It is the very bulwark of our democracy. Political and social action only for the sake of immediate goals can be disappointing and sterile. The growth of individual awareness through religious and humanitarian concern for others, and the simultaneous raising of the standard of government and public life in response to this individual awareness is, on the other hand, a dynamic and vital factor in the preservation of our representative form of government. Popular government is not only a right; it is a challenging responsibility!

Prepared by the

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