



DIGEST

Around and About

THREE LABOR experts are expected to begin hearings shortly into what kind of an employee relations ordinance the Board of Supervisors should adopt. The Board approved a \$12,000 contract with the three men Tuesday, March 19. The three—Prof. Ben Aaron, Dr. Lloyd Bailer and Howard Block—will hear from spokesmen for County management and employee organizations. The contract provides the experts will submit their recommendations no later than June 30.

THE BOARD of Supervisors has asked a speedup in plans to build a major international airport in Antelope Valley. The Board last Tuesday directed its Aviation Advisory commission to seek a meeting within 30 days with the Los Angeles City airport commission to discuss the idea. Supervisors said a "jumbo jet" airport in the Lancaster-Palmdale

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IN NEXT ISSUE

Many a County employee has asked "Do I have to join an employee organization if I want to subscribe to group health insurance?" And the answer is "No."

The next issue of the DIGEST two weeks from now will give side-by-side comparisons of the three health plans that the County administers.

Board asks Nurses 'Wait until July 1'

THE BOARD of Supervisors listened Tuesday (March 19) to pleas for immediate pay increases for County nurses, but decided the nurses must wait for any rise until July 1, the traditional date for County salary changes.

Spokesmen for the nurses told the Board increases should become effective April 1 because most private hospitals will begin giving 5 percent rises during April.

Board members replied that even with the private hospital increases, County nurses still will be receiving more pay than private nurses. In addition, Board members said it would be unfair to other County employees to grant nurses their increases three months before the customary July 1 date.

The Supervisors also declared they had never committed themselves, during negotiations with the nurses in March 1967, to reopening the salary question on April 1, 1968. Ralph Eliaser of the California Nurses association had argued that such a commitment was implied by the 1967 wage agreement which

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Talks Begin on '68-'69 Salaries

THE DEPARTMENT of Personnel has begun this year's round of meetings with employee organizations to hear their demands before drawing up the department's 1968-69 salary recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Personnel director Gordon Nesvig said his recommendations will go to the Board on May 3.

Personnel staffers already have met with representatives of BSEIU Local 434, California Nurses' Association, Social Workers union Local 535, Los Angeles County Employees association, California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE), and several others.

The meetings are continuing.

No-raises rumor

Nesvig discounted a rumor reportedly being spread among some employees that County workers will receive no salary increases in the coming year — this because the Board of Supervisors has not passed an employee relations ordinance and so the Personnel department is powerless to negotiate wage agreements.

Nesvig said:

"This rumor is false. The absence of an ordinance will not prevent raises. Just as in years past, they will be recommended wherever necessary to equal the prevailing wages in private industry and other government agencies.

"Accordingly, our department is completing the annual joint salary

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Computers Taking on Election Night Load

TWENTY-ONE cities are preparing to give the County's new "vote recorder" system of balloting a major workout April 9—a preliminary to the big test of the automated fast-counting method in the June 4 primary.

At least 150,000 voters are expected to use the punch-card ballots in municipal elections in Torrance, Whittier, Norwalk, Monterey Park, Lakewood, Glendora and elsewhere.

Key element in the new system is the vote recorder — about the dimensions of a paperback book, and consisting of a series of pages listing the candidates and ballot propositions. Each voter is given a ballot card, takes it into the voting booth, inserts it into the recorder, and punches out his choices. (See illustration below.)

Primary plans

After the polls close at 8 p.m. June 4, precinct workers will deliver their ballot cards to one of a hundred collection centers. From there deputy sheriffs will take them to one of two counting centers—the

IBM center, 3424 Wilshire boulevard, or Service Bureau, Inc., 2511 West 3rd street.

Batteries of computers at these two centers will record the ballots at 10,000 a minute. Results will be fed over leased wire to computers in the Registrar of Voters office, 808 North Spring street. There the totals will be given to news reporters.

Ray Lee, Recorder-Registrar, estimates first returns will be available shortly after 9 p.m. and many votes should be counted within an hour after that. He anticipates final results will be wrapped up before sunrise. This will include absentee ballots, which Lee expects to have tabulated within minutes after the polls close at 8 p.m.

Final county returns in primary and general elections previously have taken two to three days or longer.

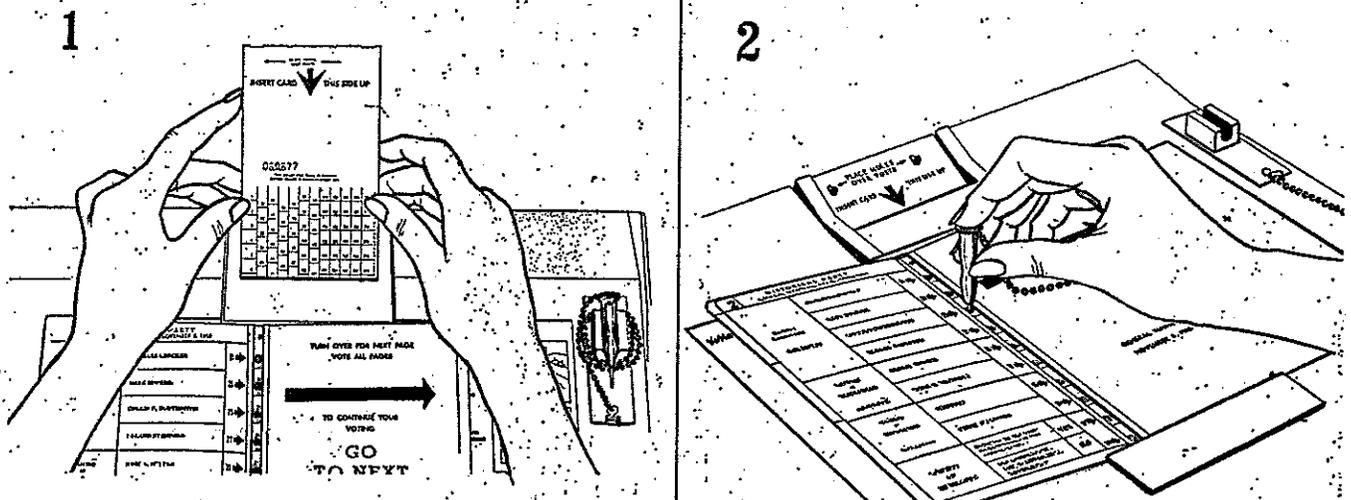
The automated ballot counting will sharply reduce the number of election workers required, both at polling places and in the counting. The county's 13,250 precincts are

being consolidated into some 7,000 precincts (this is possible because precinct workers need not tabulate the punched-card ballots but merely bundle them up for centralized counting). Each precinct, in addition, will require only four or five workers instead of the previous eight.

No graveyard shift?

The changeover also will mean that some 400 employees from the Assessor's office, Tax Collector's, Auditor-Controller's and other County offices probably will not have to be drafted for special duty election night at the Registrar of Voters office, taking in telephonic returns early in the evening, and adding precinct totals from midnight until 8 a.m.

The CAO's office estimates these labor savings over the next ten years will total \$13.9 million. During that time the County will pay \$9.4 million for the 40,000 vote recorders needed now, plus additional ones as the voting population grows. This will leave an expected net saving at the end of ten years of \$4.5 million.



HOW IT WORKS. (1) The voter receives a ballot card, enters the booth, and slides the ballot card into the vote recorder. (2) Using the metal stylus, he punches out his choice for each office, turns the page

to another list of candidates, punches out his selections there, and so on. On each page, the holes through which the voter may punch occur over a different row in the ballot card.

MARSHAL LEADS BY ONE

THE MARSHAL'S department appeared to be ahead on points this week in the early rounds of its fight in Sacramento to avoid absorption by the Sheriff's department.

The merger, recommended by the Citizens Economy and Efficiency Committee and supported by the CAO'S office and the Board of Supervisors, would in effect be blocked by AB 470. That bill, after passing the state assembly March 14, now awaits action in the state senate.

Meanwhile, the bill that would make the Sheriff-Marshal merger possible, AB 947, still awaits action in the assembly Governmental Efficiency and Economy Committee.

More papers for Marshal

AB 470, introduced by Assemblyman Walter Karabian (D-Monterey Park) would block the consolidation by expanding the responsibility of the Marshal's office—giving it authority to serve all civil processes for both municipal and superior courts in nine counties, including Los Angeles.

AB 470 is supported by the state Association of County Marshals and by the municipal court judges.

The Citizens Economy and Efficiency committee contends that merging the Marshal's 490 employees into the Sheriff's department (5,460 employees) would permit eventual elimination of 110 positions with a saving of at least \$1.4 million a year.

NURSES

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specified it would run from April 1, 1967, to March 31, 1968.

Several Supervisors indicated they will consider favorably a July 1 increase for both hospital and public health nurses, to maintain a higher pay level for County nurses.

County officials also are watching closely the progress of AB 149, which contains provision for distributing \$191 million in state funds among all California counties, presumably to be used for lowering county taxes on property.

The bill also provides, however, that the counties would have to take over \$36 million in programs now financed by the state—crippled children's aid, adoption services, superior court judges' salaries, and certain health department costs.

The remaining \$155 million could be used by the counties to reduce property taxes, although the bill at present does not specify this.

Los Angeles County's share of the \$155 million would allow an estimated property tax reduction of 35 to 40 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Assemblyman John Veneman (R Modesto), who is chairman of the assembly Revenue and Taxation committee, introduced the measure at the request of Gov. Ronald Reagan. Veneman said his committee will open hearings on the measure March 27.

Question & Answer

"My father is in his seventies and his health is not good. Our family home is in Denver. If my father becomes critically ill, will I be able to take time off from my County job to go home?"

Yes, you may. Salary Ordinance, section 240 (2-a) says that if an employee is absent because of critical illness or death of an immediate relative—that is, a parent, a husband or wife, a brother or sister—he may be paid for such absence, up to three working days. Check with your supervisor, payroll clerk or personnel officer before taking leave, just to make sure the ordinance covers your situation.

Around and About

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area is needed because Los Angeles International airport can expand no more without causing intolerable traffic congestion, noise, and displacement of nearby residential neighborhoods.

THE COUNTY'S Marina del Rey has moved "into the black" for the first time and expects to stay there, Supervisor Burton Chace told fellow board members March 12. The marina, built over the past decade with \$36 million in public funds and revenue bonds, is still incomplete. Marina income from leases to private developers of anchorages, apartments, restaurants and other facilities is expected to rise as more leases are signed. At present the boat anchorage capacity is two-thirds developed, land development less than one-third complete.

ALL COUNTY bond issues have been knocked off the June primary ballot. Two had been scheduled to appear—\$3.5 million for a new Medical Examiner-Coroner's building and another \$3.5 million to expand Los Padrinos juvenile hall. Both facilities probably will be included in bond issues on the November ballot, along with \$15.8 million in bonds to renovate and enlarge Wayside Honor Rancho. The CAO's office asked the Board of Supervisors to remove the bonds from the June ballot to permit more time for planning.

Phone Monitor System Rejected

EMPLOYEES WHO dial long-distance calls to relatives, friends and business contacts are a rare breed, and generally end up having to pay the bill anyway.

Such was the gist of a CAO's report to the Board of Supervisors last week.

And the report declared it is unnecessary to install a mechanized system to monitor long-distance dialing—a system that would cost nearly \$500,000 for equipment and personnel the first year, and half as much each year thereafter.

The Board accepted the CAO's recommendation against installing the monitor equipment.

The control system was suggested after a young woman employee at the DPSS office, Adams and Grand, was found to have placed long-

distance calls to her boy friend totaling \$1,264.

Communications director Maurice Kennedy said, however, that this was the only such case on record. And he said his department, collaborating with the Sheriff, has developed relatively cheap methods for tracing unauthorized calls.

The tracing method, based on an audit of the County's phone bills, led to recovery of \$701 from offending employees in 1965-66, \$872 last year, and \$915 so far in 1967-68.

SALARY TALKS

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survey and other special salary studies. We are meeting with employee organizations and listening to their pay requests before we make our recommendations to the Board.

"But," Nesvig continued, "without an ordinance we have no authority to go into full-scale negotiations with employee organizations, to make counter-proposals to them, and to arrive at written agreements on total wage-benefits packages that we can recommend to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

"Our power right now, in other words, is limited to recommending to the Board what salaries should be increased and how much."

Growth Slows

GEORGE MARR, Regional Planning's population expert, reports that growth of Los Angeles county has slowed markedly in the past year or so.

In the early 1960's the county was gaining approximately 1,000 new inhabitants a month. Now the rate has dropped to around 700 per month.

Part of the story, Marr told The DIGEST, lies in fewer births. But he believes a much larger factor is the Vietnam war, which has slowed the movement of young job-seeking immigrants.

These people, Marr thinks, now either find jobs where they live, or are staying close to their military reserve units and the draft boards and deferments, or have been drafted into the armed forces.

Marr added that once the Vietnam conflict ends, the in-immigration here will zoom again, just as it has after every war.

610 More for DPSS

THE NATIONWIDE rise in welfare caseloads in major U. S. cities has caught up with Los Angeles, to force the hiring of 610 more DPSS social workers.

County supervisors approved the new jobs March 12. They were required under federal regulations setting limits on the number of cases a social worker may handle.

Failure to comply would have cut the U.S. share of welfare costs in the County from 75 percent to 50 percent.

U. S. Offers Cash to Vet Trainees

THE PERSONNEL department announced this week a program of cash benefits that are available to service veterans now employed as County trainees.

The U. S. government will pay the money directly to the employee. Benefits range from \$20 to \$100 a month, depending on the veteran's length of military service and the number of his dependents. He must have served at least six months and have been discharged after Jan. 31, 1955.

Jim Harrigan, Personnel training, said the County already has asked federal approval of benefits for trainees in its building crafts apprenticeship programs, but he said many other trainees may find they are eligible. Harrigan said they should consult with their department's personnel officer.

Harrigan said the federal rules apparently will admit trainees in the more complex programs such as electronic data processing, appraising, and clinical lab technology. However, the rules appear to exclude certain other kinds of job training—for clerk, attendant, food service worker, custodian and unskilled laborer.

County of Los Angeles

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