



# DIGEST

## Around and About

THE 8,800 County employees buying Blue Cross health coverage for themselves and dependents are finding an unexpected bonus in their paycheck stubs—a decrease ranging from 66 to 74 cents a month from previously announced 1973-74 rates. The reason: Phase IV price rules.

NEW FACE on the civil service commission: Ernest E. Sanchez, 43, whose law firm is on Wilshire boulevard, home in Pasadena. The Board of Supervisors named him for the remainder of Thelma Mahoney's term, which expires next December.

PRESENT TARGET date to get the County's voluntary computerized car pool system on the road: next Nov. 15.

ANNUAL REMINDER: This is the month for AID givers who select certain charities as beneficiaries to renew their designations at their departmental personnel office. Designations are good for one year. (Non-designated gifts are distributed among 16 major charities.)

## SAVE-POWER EXPERIMENT BEGINS

SPURRED BY a threatened fuel oil shortage at Southland power generating plants later this fall, the County has begun an experimental program to conserve electricity.

The program, approved by the Board of Supervisors (Aug. 7), includes so far:

— Reducing by more than half the exterior lighting at the Hall of Administration, Courthouse, Criminal Courts building, and Hall of Administration

— Cutting back corridor lighting in parts of 13 County buildings

The Board appointed a County Energy Conservation committee of CAO Arthur Will, chairman; mechanical director Robert Sudduth; director of personnel Gordon Nesvig; purchasing director Gene Davis; and building services director William Prater.

The committee selected for the experimental cutback in corridor lights the Hall of Administration, Courthouse, new mechanical department headquarters on Eastern Avenue, DPSS Metro North on Beverly boulevard, Rancho Los Amigos hospital, La Puente health subcenter, Community Health Services building on Figueroa street, and County civic center buildings in Santa Monica, Van Nuys, Norwalk, Long Beach, Pomona, and Pasadena.

On one floor of each building (three floors—five, six and seven—

thermostats from their present year-around setting of 73 degrees to a maximum of 70 degrees to save heating oil.

"If we find that these steps yield worthwhile savings and don't impair comfort and work efficiency, we shall ask the Board of Supervisors to extend the program to other floors and other buildings," Will said. "We also expect to propose further measures for conserving energy."

A three-week experiment in raising air conditioning thermostats from 73 to 78 degrees ended this week after the Board of Supervisors (Sept. 6) concluded the change was impairing employees' efficiency. The trial was conducted in parts of the Hall of Administration and two other buildings.

## Mayor Plan Dies

A PROPOSAL to ask the voters to decide Nov. 6 whether the County should have an elected mayor died last week as the Board of Supervisors deadlocked, 2 to 2, on adopting the ordinance needed to place the charter amendment on the ballot.

The Board earlier (Aug. 7) had voted 3 to 2 to have the County counsel draft the mayor amendment for submission to Los Angeles county voters. The three-man majority at that time included Supervisors Kenneth Hahn, Baxter Ward, and James Hayes.

# Absenteeism--Now Hear This!

(THE FOLLOWING excerpt comes from APCD's irreplaceable publication, Ringelmann Roundup)

MEMO TO: All Employees  
FROM: Personnel Office  
SUBJECT: Absenteeism

The following policy changes are in effect as of today:

**Sickness.** No excuse. We will no longer accept your doctor's statement of proof, as we believe that if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

**Death (other than your own).** This is no excuse. There is nothing you can do for them, and we are sure someone with a lesser position

can attend to the arrangements. However, if the funeral can be held in late afternoon, you may be let off one hour early, provided your share of work is done ahead.

**Leave of Absence (for an operation).** No longer permitted. As long as you are an employee here, you will need all of whatever you have, and you should not consider having anything removed. We hired you as you are, and to have anything removed would certainly make you less than what we bargained for.

**Death (your own).** An acceptable excuse, but we would like two weeks notice so you may teach someone your job.

## Near-65 Retirees Getting Notices

THE COMPULSORY retire-at-65 law goes into effect next Jan. 1, and retirement board chairman Harold Ostly warned this week that all County employees who are over age 65 or will reach 65 by next Dec. 31 should have received a note from the retirement division concerning their upcoming retirement.

"Anyone who has not received

this notification should call the retirement division at 974-2141," Ostly said.

He added that state law forbids paying salary to any employee past 65 after next Jan. 1.

TWELVE STAFFERS with more than 30 years County service are retiring. They are:

Emma Miller, hospitals, 41 years service; Putnam Tipps, sheriff, 38 years; and, with 30 to 35 years service, John Fulton, fire; Cecil Covalt and Lawrence Tolbert, road; Samuel Harlan, municipal court; Merna Rico, John Radosevich, and Juleann Davis, hospitals; Juanita Browning, health; Mervin Neis and George Walsh, sheriff.

budget and reorganizations of County departments and services to the Board.

The Supervisors (Aug. 7) turned down a suggestion to place on the ballot a second amendment—one to enlarge the Board from five members to seven.

The special statewide election Nov. 6 will be a County holiday.

## Salary Increase Agreements OK'd

AGREEMENTS GRANTING pay increases to more than 4,200 County engineers and appraisers have been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The six units, represented by California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE), have a salary year beginning Sept. 1.

The 1,600-member building trades unit, whose pay ordinarily shifts on Sept. 1, is at a negotiating impasse with County management. Both sides will meet with a fact-finder Oct. 11.

Fact-finding also will open Sept. 28 with two units of County fire fighters, totaling more than 1,800.

The pharmacists unit, with approximately 100 members, goes to fact-finding Sept. 20.

## Bond-a-Month Drive

A COUNTY employee Bond-a-Month drive will be held in October, Supervisor Pete Schabarum, honorary drive chairman, has announced.

Employees will be encouraged to buy at least one \$18.75 U. S. bond a month via payroll deductions. Each bond, when it matures after five years ten months, will be worth \$25, an interest rate of 5.5 percent a year when held to maturity. The bond interest is exempt from state income tax.

Auditor-controller Mark Bloodgood said slips giving bond information will be enclosed with Oct. 10 paychecks.

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## COUNTY MAYOR

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22) and announced a week later, when released from Long Beach Memorial hospital, that he no longer favored placing the mayor proposal on the ballot. Hayes was still recuperating at his home last week as the Sept. 6 deadline passed for adopting the special election ordinance.

The ordinance called for an elected mayor who would be "the chief executive and administrative officer of the County" with broad powers to veto Board-passed legislation, to appoint and remove top County executives and County board and commission members, and to recommend the annual