



DIGEST

Around and About

EMPLOYEES TRAVELING on County business soon will be permitted a maximum of \$15 a day for meals (\$3 breakfast, \$4 lunch, \$8 dinner). The maximum has been \$10 a day since March 1969.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS by the Board of Supervisors:
Mrs. Louise Frankel to the civil service commission for the unexpired term (to Dec. 5, 1977) of ousted commissioner O. Richard Capen.
Mrs. Frankel, a Tarzana civic leader, has resigned as vice president of the L.A. city board of zoning appeals.
Jack A. Wood to the board of retirement. He recently retired as manager of the Encino branch of the Bank of America.

Paul Engler as agricultural commissioner. He joined the department in 1951, was chief deputy to retired Ralph Lichty since 1965.
Mathew Jacobs as acting director, mechanical department, following Robert Sudduth's retirement.
Sheriff Peter Pitchess has named Sherman Block as undersheriff, a post from which James Downey retired (March 14).

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BUDGET SHOWS INFLATION SQUEEZE

CAO HARRY Hufford submitted to the Board of Supervisors (April 28) a recommended 1975-76 budget that

—Would total nearly \$3 billion for the general, special, and special district funds, a record high and nearly \$108 million above the 1974-75 total

—Would require an estimated boost of 40 cents in the County property tax rate to \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed valuation, also a record high, but still about 18 cents below the legal ceiling set by state Senate Bill 90

—Would add 895 more positions than contained in this year's budget to handle new workloads and staff new facilities like Wayside juvenile hall and the new 160-bed dormitory at Central juvenile hall. At the same time Hufford proposed reducing many present County services to avert an even greater increase in positions.

—Would allocate all the expected \$103 million in 1975-76 federal revenue-sharing money to the County general fund—this to ease further the pressure on the property tax rate.

The Board of Supervisors, after receiving the CAO's recommended budget, directed him to prepare an alternative budget requiring no increase in the present property tax rate. This the Board will consider when it opens budget hearings May 30.

"Our most severe problem is the impact of inflation," Hufford said. "We are including \$160 million in net County costs to cover wage increases and higher employee bene-

fits, greater costs for food and drugs, and other inflation-hit items."

He also pointed out that the County surplus has shrunk from \$62.8 million a year ago to \$23 million now.

JUSTICE, WELFARE. Hufford recommended a gross appropriation increase of \$18 million for the County justice system, \$5.4 million of it for handling juveniles. For welfare, he projected added net County costs of \$18.9 million, assuming no significant rise in case-loads and a local unemployment rate of 8.5 per cent in the coming year.

POSITIONS. Under Hufford's proposed budget, departments receiving the largest additions to staff would be:

Probation with 349 additions (247 in institutions, 102 elsewhere in the department).

DPSS, 224 more positions. Communications, 207. District attorney, 157. Municipal courts, 80. Mechanical, 55. Fire, 46. Public defender, 40.

Heaviest cuts would be in health services with a net drop of 413 budgeted positions, followed by building services losing 78, flood control 29, assessor 28, agricultural commissioner 18, and sheriff 14.

Eleven departments were recommended for 13 to 25 more positions. They include parks 25, beaches 23, superior court 21, library 21, public administrator 18, Museum of Natural History 18, data process-

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Many Long-timers Head for Pasture

TWO EMPLOYEES with more than 41 years County service — Ann Kriste of the sheriff's department and Dave Kalinger of the auditor-controller's office — head the lengthy list of retiring employees released by the retirement board.

Departing with more than 35 years service are undersheriff James Downey, Jr.; Cloudsly French, John Gangl, and Irene Lancaster of the agricultural commissioner; Juliana Stuess, health services; Helen Farley, William Hull, Chester Bartoo, Ruth Wells, and Howard Woolf, probation; and

One Digit More

EVERY COUNTY employee number, now a figure with five digits, will become a six-digit number later this month, to avert a threatened "shortage" of employee numbers.

Auditor-controller Mark Bloodgood said that, for now, the change-over will consist merely of adding a zero at the beginning of each employee number. For example, John Jones with a present number of 12345 will have 012345 for his employee number; Mary Smith's number of 01234 will become 001234.

Permittee drivers who submit mileage claims must use the six-digit number on claims for accrual periods ending May 20 or later.

Starting June 1, any employee who fills out a payroll deduction card for a credit union, state income tax W-4 form, health insurance, life insurance, union dues, or other voluntary deduction must use his six-digit number.

Bloodgood explained that when an employee leaves County service, his employee number is reused, but not until after the following January when his W-2 forms are filed with the federal and state governments.

As a result of this time lag, the County last year needed nearly 96,000 employee numbers for its 82,000 positions—dangerously close to the 99,999 capacity of the five-digit system.

Waldo Perez, purchasing.

With 30 to 35 years service:

SHERIFF—Paul Frederick, Richard Keller, J. D. Price, Earl Snyder, Richard Frost, James Gregg, Jake Humber, Jesse Hoover, Ruth Durdan, Thomas Regan, and Edward Thornburg.

FIRE — Ralph Russell, Harry Beardo, Fred Stadler, Thomas Brosnan, Fay Prather, and Raymond Woodard.

ROAD — Joseph Avila, Robert Johnson, Harding Retz, George Mundhenk, Frank Perez, and James Caler.

FLOOD CONTROL—Edward Galipo, Marvin Davis, and Alex Kasimoff.

MUNICIPAL COURT—Leo Toomey, Helen Roberts, and Crouch Tallman.

HEALTH SERVICES—Ada Bridge, Ann Britt Erickson, Doris Graham, Katherine Haack, Mary Lewis, Louise Mouchet, Lawrence Seacord, Edwin Skinner, and Carmen Salazar.

PARKS—Seymour Adler, Estanislao Enriquez, Robert Haller, Sr., and Walter Lepisto.

PROBATION—Daniel Boyd, Philip Danky, and George Drescher.

Also James Baker and Bertram Sproul, mechanical; Harold Dooley and Vida Otto, County clerk; Yale Hurt, CAO; Edward Crudup, marshal; Charles Childers, facilities; John Crosby, communications; Eugene Davis and Francis Vaughn, DPSS; Alfred Green, sanitation district; Paul Fosnot, engineer; Simon Rose, district attorney; William Thompson, agricultural commissioner; and Ralph Willoughby, purchasing.

Bloodmobile Coming

THOSE WHO wish to donate blood to the County employees' blood bank may make arrangements for the following bloodmobile visits:

Road department, 1540 Alcazar street, May 19.

County-USC Medical Center, 1200 North State street, May 27 and 28.

Sheriff's Biscailuz Center, June 2.

Donors may make appointments through their department's blood bank coordinator or by calling County coordinator Richard Alexander at 974-2506.

Fatter Paychecks

COUNTY PAYCHECKS distributed last Friday (May 9) reflected the lower federal income tax withholding rates provided by the recently enacted tax reduction act.

The auditor-controller's office, giving examples of the new rates, said a single person earning \$735 a month who formerly had \$119.28 withheld now will find \$110.72 deducted, a gain in take-home pay of \$8.56.

A married person with a \$1,170 salary and claiming three exemption will have \$141.66 deducted instead of the former \$161.10, an increase in take-home pay of \$19.44.

BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

ing 16, auditor-controller 15, Museum of Art 15, County counsel 14, and road 13.

Nineteen departments would have little net change with fewer than ten jobs gained or lost. They are CAO, adoptions, APCD, animal control, arboreta, human relations, community services, County clerk, medical examiner-coroner, military and veterans affairs, Otis art institute, purchasing, regional planning, senior citizens affairs, small craft harbors, treasurer-tax collector, urban affairs, weights and measures, and sewer maintenance.

The Board of Supervisors must adopt a 1975-76 budget by the end of June to go into effect when the new fiscal year begins July 1.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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