

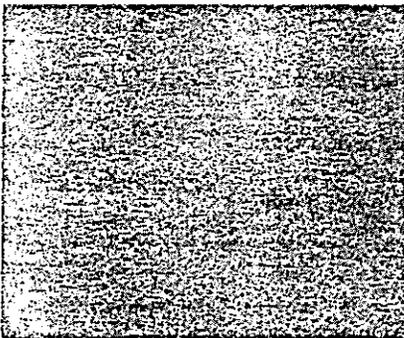


# DIGEST

## Around and About

IF COUNTY offices stay open longer hours, will more citizens use their services? Four departments will seek the answer in a 60-day experiment, staggering the hours of present staff. The County Clerk will keep open, until 9 p.m. each Monday, his Courthouse office that handles marriage licenses, corporation and civil probate filings. Regional Planning's public service counter will close at 7 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. daily. Community Services' Asian service center will operate until 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. And the County Engineer's regional offices, which now lock up at 4:30 p.m., will remain open until 5, with Friday closing at 6 p.m.

In a similar experiment, Animal Control will keep five shelters open Sundays (and closed Wednesdays) to see whether more people come around to adopt dogs and cats.



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## NEW D-A WANTS REINVIGORATION

JOHN VAN DE KAMP, a public defender for the past five years, was making the transition to district attorney this week, taking over an office of more than 1,600 lawyers, investigators, and other employees.

The 39-year-old Pasadena bachelor took his oath of office (Oct. 14) after the Board of Supervisors, ending a lengthy screening of candidates, named him to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Busch, who died last June 27. The new D-A must face election next June 8.

Van de Kamp, who was graduated from Dartmouth (1956) and Stanford law school (1959), became an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles in 1960.

He went to Washington in 1967 as deputy director of the U.S. attorneys executive office, the next year became director, supervising the country's 93 U.S. attorneys' offices.

In a brief foray into politics, Van de Kamp left the justice department in 1969 to win the Democratic nomination in a special Congressional election in San Fernando valley's 27th district. He lost the runoff election to Republican Barry Goldwater, Jr. He later was staff director in Jess Unruh's 1970 primary campaign for governor.

Van de Kamp returned to Washington in mid-1970 as special assistant to the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

When the first U.S. public defender's office in Los Angeles opened in June 1971, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judicial council selected Van de Kamp to head it, a position he held until his appointment as D-A. As public defender Van de Kamp directed a staff of 32.

The new D-A's uncles, Theodore

Van de Kamp and Lawrence Frank, were co-founders of the Van de Kamp bakeries in Los Angeles in 1915. (The family severed its connections with the bakery chain in 1956. The family still has interests in Lawry's, the Prime Rib, in Beverly Hills and in Lawry's Foods, Inc., in which firms John's father, Harry Van de Kamp, was an original shareholder.)

Van de Kamp was sworn in Oct. 14 before a crowd of notables and County employees in the Board of Supervisors hearing room. Among his inaugural remarks:

- "The district attorney's office is nonpartisan, a civil service office. Party politics and political favoritism will have no place in this office."

- "Thorough case preparation will be a major thrust in my administration. Prosecutors should not be reading a case file for the first time while they are selecting a jury."

- "My first priority is to deal more effectively with career criminals and those who engage in violent crime."

- "This is a trial office. I know that some of you seasoned professionals who have taken on administrative responsibilities miss the courtroom. I want to explore how every lawyer in the office may return to the courtroom for at least several weeks each year."

- "I intend to look into every nook and cranny of the office. Waste and duplicative effort will be eliminated. I have met with CAO Harry Hufford to develop plans for an independent management audit, looking toward greater efficiency and effectiveness. . . I want to see the district attorney's office reinvigorated."

## Holiday Out, but 'Equivalent' Due

THE TRADITIONAL holidays on the June primary and November general election days will be wiped out statewide starting in 1976 under Senate Bill 311, authored by Sen. Anthony Beilenson, Democrat, West Los Angeles, and signed recently by Governor Brown.

The bill provides that all state, county, and city offices and courts remain open on election days.

However, anticipating possible passage of SB 311 when they were negotiating a memorandum of understanding on employee benefits last May, the County and the joint council of employee organizations agreed to include a section providing that, if such a law was adopted, the County and joint council would

### Longtimers Retiring

THE BOARD of retirement announces the departure of the following longtime employees:

With 36 and 37 years service — Paul Bosnian, health services; Paul Freed, probation; and Frank Stoddard, superior court.

With 30 to 35 years service — Bernard Kaufman and William Weigel, municipal court; Clifford Galiher and John Graham, sheriff; Alva Collier and Lula Norman, district attorney; Sadie Loftus, Fred Baker, Gladyce Mickelbury, and Dominic Rotunno, DPSS; Frances Holmes, Mary McCarthy, Thomas McClellan, Anna Minkler, Jimmie Neal, and Richard Naylor, health services; Bernard Hennings, fire; and Lester Ingerson, road.

## Appeal Court Upholds Retire-at-65 Rule

A FORMER employee's attempt to have the County's retire-at-65 rule declared unconstitutional failed in the state court of appeal.

Onetime deputy public defender Vince Townsend, Jr., who was 67 when the mandatory retire-at-65 law went into effect in January 1974, contended the law deprived him of a right to earn an "economic livelihood." In addition he claimed

negotiate "an equivalent compensating adjustment." Such negotiations are expected to start soon. Since the memorandum expires next July 1, the only holiday involved in the negotiations will be the June 8, 1976, California primary.

### REMINDER

Under California law, Veterans Day holiday falls on Nov. 11, not on Oct. 27 as it appears on some printed calendars.

## C. S. Coverage Added

COUNTY EMPLOYEES who are Christian Scientists and subscribe to either Blue Cross or Blue Shield health plans now are eligible, for the first time, for coverage for certain services by Christian Science practitioners, nurses, and sanatoria.

Permanent, fulltime employees who wish to enroll for these benefits must call the department of personnel insurance section, 974-2474, for instructions. Deadline for enrolling is Nov. 30.

Blue Shield offers \$5.75 per practitioner visit and \$10 per nurse visit up to 70 visits per year, and 80 percent of reasonable sanatoria charges up to 70 days.

Blue Cross provides 80 percent of customary charges for practitioners' and nurses' outpatient services, up to \$45 a day for sanatoria room and board, subject to the regular Blue Cross \$100 major medical deductible.

a vested right to the retire-at-70 rule that was in effect when he went to work for the County.

The court held (June 20, 1975) that it found "nothing arbitrary, discriminatory or unreasonable in establishing maximum retirement ages." It noted that federal law prohibits discrimination against an applicant or employee because of age, but limits the prohibition to persons aged 40 to 65.

## Shortness No Bar

WHEN WOULD-BE deputy sheriffs file applications next month, no one will find himself automatically excluded because of short stature.

Until now men applicants had to be at least 5 feet 7 inches and women applicants 5 feet 3 inches tall.

The civil service commission, however, has approved director of personnel Gordon Nesvig's recommendation that the height requirements be removed. Rules against overweight and underweight still apply.

The commission also approved adding agility tests, such as running, climbing, dragging a lifelike dummy, and pushing an automobile.

The application period is tentatively scheduled for one day, Saturday, Nov. 15.

### Blood Visits Scheduled

COUNTY EMPLOYEES who wish to donate blood to the County blood bank may make appointments for the following Bloodmobile visits:

1540 Alcazar street, Wednesday, Oct. 29, for donors from road, flood, purchasing, and Juvenile Hall. For appointment, call 226-4353 or 225-1677, extension 75201.

County-USC Medical Center, 1200 North State street, Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 12, 13. Phone 226-6861 for appointment.

Hall of Administration, Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 19, 20. Phone 974-2506 for appointment.

County of Los Angeles

## DIGEST

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