



DIGEST

PRESIDENT PRAISES INNOVATIVE COUNTY PROGRAMS

Before an assemblage of local officials and community leaders at the Music Center on March 3rd, President Ronald Reagan discussed his administration's New Federalism — returning control of certain federal programs to state and local government.

Remarks of interest to the general public were widely reported by the local press. Not so widely publicized, however, were his comments aimed specifically at Los Angeles County Government. The Digest takes this opportunity to provide County employees with a complete report of those comments.

"I have faith," the President said, "that given the authority, state and local governments are more capable of handling their own affairs than the bureaucracy in Washington. The polls suggest that the American people agree with that, too.

"In California and in Los Angeles County, there are numerous examples of creative and innovative government which reinforce that conclusion.

"The use of millions of hours of volunteer service is a fine example of what can be accomplished by involving the people with their government.

"Over 2 million hours of annual voluntary service are contributed to the libraries, museums, medical

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President Speaks

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clinics and mental health facilities of Los Angeles County. And there is a new experimental program to attract volunteers, including those retired county personnel who may want to help but didn't know how to get back into the picture.

"In the sheriff's department there are 1,783 volunteers giving 417,278 hours of volunteer time per year, saving the county \$5 million. The Los Angeles Police Department has a voluntary reserve program that saves the city of Los Angeles \$5 million annually.

"In fact, one of your county supervisors, Mike Antonovich, is a reserve officer in the South Pasadena Police Department and still serves three nights a month.

"This use of volunteers by the state, county and city level is an example of government by the people in the truest sense of the word.

"But the methods of savings must go beyond the use of volunteers. County use of prisoners to clean the beaches deserves recognition, as does a program that sounds a bit familiar: the use of able-bodied welfare recipients to perform unskilled, but necessary, chores. Los Angeles County Government, which has a

larger budget than 40 states, is demonstrating that government doesn't need more Federal mandates and more money to be more effective.

"Perhaps one of the most innovative of its programs is the contracting out of services with the private sector. Contracting out everything from attorney's duties to maintenance of paramedical equipment, from the collection of debts to doing custodial services has saved the people of Los Angeles County about \$10 million. Translated into real terms, that's what it would cost to build five neighborhood health centers or pay the salaries of 320 street patrol officers.

"All of this — the use of volunteers, contracting out of services, the use of welfare recipients and prisoners — is the kind of innovation that is possible when the Federal government gets out of the way and lets local and state government do what it is supposed to do."

The President recalled his experience at the state level with two means of improving efficiency emphasized by the Board of Supervisors—employee suggestions and advice from the private sector.

"One of the first actions I took as Governor of California," he said, "was to conduct a complete survey of the management and administrative practices in all areas of our state government. Two hundred and fifty skilled, private sector professionals volunteered to come in and give us recommendations on how to make our state government operate more efficiently.

"Veterans of the hotel industry told us how to better utilize the space in our prison system. Other business executives showed us how to improve our filing system and cut down on costs at the same time.

"It was charged that the state employees would resent this outside interference. But they were more than anxious to help, and some said that they had never been asked how to improve efficiency.

"In all, about 2,000 cost-saving recommendations were made by business people volunteering their time, working with responsible state employees."

In his conclusion President Reagan

said of the man who delivered the welcoming remarks at the meeting:

"Ten years ago yesterday I made an appointment of which I've always been proud. There was a seat open on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and I selected a member of the California Assembly named Pete Schabarum for the position. As many of you have discovered, he is a man of high principles; and, even more, he's tough. "It takes tough leaders like Pete and the other members of the board to make government work."

Retirees . . .

The following people have retired in recent months after more than thirty years of service to the County:

Health Services: John Paul Alerich, Herbert L. Barnum, Rose E. Rucker, James G. Lewis, Willie Mae Lincoln, Sally G. Gonzales, Victoria G. Fulgham, Willard Dixon, Frances B. Harris, Samuel R. Walker, Ellsworth White.

Superior Court: Margaret J. Lund, Gertrude B. Brown.

Municipal Court: Henry C. Smith, James Jonaitis, Marvin D. Teplitz.

Sheriff: Robert W. Bollong, Lawrence W. Davis, Jr., John T. Kehoe, Alberto Natividad, Loren H. Reeves, Herbert C. Webb, William C. Hunter, Charles R. Knapp, Richard J. Kramer, Edwin H. Swanson, Elroy D. Villines, Toshiko Okazaki.

DPSS: Beatrice Battle, Audrey M. Brantley, Olivia Everage, Gladys O. Hamilton, Elle L. Jamerson, Alice S. Ochiai, Douglas A. Phillips.

Probation: Carle W. Stewart, Rudolph Boutte, Solomon Oziel, Samuel E. Siegel, Sherman E. Van Dyke.

Recorder: Daniel D. Dizon, Dionisio O. Valtierra.

Flood Control: Walter L. Bowman, Robert O. Kimbrell, Meldon Sjkostedt.

Fire: Robert H. Nichols, James W. Kerschener, Jack R. Selis.

Assessor: Frances V. Pizano, M. Paul Costantini, Harold O. Hackett.

Human Relations: Kelly Brady, Aaron Herrington.

County Counsel: Clara M. Groff, Wallace Murray.

Mechanical: Orville M. Echols, Reginald Arceneaux.

Engineer: Perfecto R. Simental, Leslie S. Curtis, Jr.

Richard A. Jones, Parks & Rec., Aaron Glaser, Data Proc.; James H. Craig, Pub-

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County of Los Angeles

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President Reagan receives Irish thorn stick (shillelagh) as a remembrance of his visit to his home county.

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lic Defender; John M. Blair, Road; Robert W. Gee, Sr., Communications; Bernard W. Kemper, Jr., Agric. Comm.; Myron Pallet, Dist. Atty.; Fred S. Truxal, Museum of Nat. Hist.; James C. Wilson, Comm. Dvlp.; John Horne, Beaches.

The following have retired with over twenty-five years of County Service:

Sheriff: Dan L. Duncan, Robert Jordan, Robert L. Steere, Annabelle S. Ishii, Larry Pacheco, George H. Seaman, Jr., Richard L. Titus, Francis G. Turney.

Fire: Van D. Craddock, Jack L. McGowan, Dean E. Russell, Paul R. Rudiger.

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SCAQMD: Abraham Mehterian, Don Earl Morris.

Health Services: Geraldine Gaines, Lester L. Welch, Floy J. White, Thelma E. Wells, Dovie L. Brooks, Irene D. Campbell.

Assessor: Thurman L. Wilson, Evelyn M. Clay, Harvey S. Janis, Bonnie B. Kennedy, Emma O. Martinez.

Also: David Bisno, Comm. Dvlp.; Albert L. Webb, Nat. Mus. Hist.; Jerry Bowles, Pub. Library; Lorene B. Hicks, Data Proc.; Coleen L. Lockhart, Purch. & Stores; Dorothy Lott, Co. Clerk; Leonard Shortland, Small Craft; Theodre Jones, Engineer; Odelia M. Hamblin, Co. Coroner; Leonore Smith, Treasurer; Clarence J. Floyd, Park & Rec.

Digest Meant for All

Any County office failing to receive copies of *The Digest* should write a request to Charles Steakley, Room 358, Hall of Administration—giving the office mailing address, number of employees, and the name and telephone number of the person sending the request.

Bank Offers "Free Checking" Service to County Employees

The Sumitomo Bank of California, at the corner of First and San Pedro Streets, is now waiving the monthly service charge for County employees. No minimum balance is required.

The bank has 18 teller windows, supported by two ATM 24-hour teller machines. You may authorize direct deposit of your salary warrant to Sumitomo by contacting your department payroll clerk.

Retiree Returns as Volunteer

A face familiar to thousands of County employees who have filed applications for job examinations can be seen again in the Department of Personnel. Alma Agabashian had been a member of the County's recruitment team for over twenty five years when she retired two years ago. While enjoying the leisure afforded by retirement she has kept active by assisting newly arrived Armenian refugees.

Then last September she heard about Supervisor Michael Antonovich's interest in expanding the County's volunteer programs. When the Board of Supervisors instructed the Director of Personnel to encourage citizens, especially County retirees, to volunteer their time and talents to provide important public services she called her former Section Chief, Albert Lee. She found that Al had just been named County Management Volunteer Coordinator in the Department of Personnel to help County departments meet their volunteer staffing needs.

Al created just the spot for her. Knowing that she had made many contacts in County departments over the years, he made her a volunteer member of his own staff. Alma is assisting in the coordination of the County-wide program. She finds the assignment a mixture of something old and something new. On the one hand, she feels at home because of her years of experience with the County, and on the other hand is challenged by the newness of the assignment and is obviously enthused since she is a volunteer herself.

Since she will be assisting in the identification of areas with the greatest potential for volunteer program expansion, and for the creation of new programs Alma took a look at what has been done so far.

She found that in the last fiscal year volunteers donated 2,060,293 hours to the County. The departments or facilities with the greatest number of volunteers include LAC/USC Medical Center, other hospitals and community health centers, County Library branches, and DPSS district offices located throughout the County. A broad range of services is being provided by physicians, social workers, legal interns, sheriff reserve deputies, museum docents, hospital candy strippers, counselors, tutors, telephone workers, clerical helpers and many others.

Department of Personnel staff has



Alma Agabashian confers with Albert Lee on Volunteer Program.

worked closely with Supervisor Antonovich's office and representatives from several interested groups in developing a retiree questionnaire. An attempt is made to determine individual volunteer work interests and skills. In addition, departmental questionnaires were developed to accurately assess the extent of current volunteer programs and the existing and projected needs for additional programs and volunteers.

Over 2000 volunteer opportunities in current programs have already been identified. Departments project an additional need for at least 1800 volunteers. Over 400 retirees have already indicated an interest in volunteer opportunities.

Future volunteer recruitment efforts will be directed not only to County employees who are being processed for retirement, but will be broadened to all interested citizens to help the operating departments meet their volunteer staffing needs. These efforts will be an expansion and strengthening of the existing recruitment program.

Those interested in donating their special talents or services to any one of a number of rewarding volunteer programs are encouraged to call Albert Lee at 974-2763 or 974-2764.

Bloodmobile Time

Employees may donate blood on Tuesday, March 23, 1982, or Wednesday, March 24, 1982, between 8:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. in Room B85 FGH, Hall of Administration. Contact Gay Butler at 974-2509.

A Department That 'Measures Up' All Year Long

The Los Angeles County Department of Weights and Measures is one of those agencies most people are unaware of, but they would feel it in their pocketbooks if it didn't exist, Supervisor Deane Dana said recently.

"A trip to the supermarket or the gas station can be traumatic," Supervisor Dana said. "But what if you couldn't count on accurate scales in the meat or deli department, or accurate pumps at the station? At today's prices, even a small error could cost you dearly.

"The fact you can count on honest weight and measurement is a tribute to the little known Department of Weights and Measures," Dana added.

W. R. Mossberg, department director, and his staff inspect thousands of commercial weighing and measuring devices every year to ensure you get what you pay for.

"The element of surprise is important in our work," Mossberg said in explaining why inspections are conducted randomly in the county.

Of the thousands of weighing reports analyzed each year, those with the greatest incidence of shortweight and error are inspected most frequently, Supervisor Dana said.

The inspections involve far more than supermarkets and gasoline stations. The list ranges from warehouses, processing plants, truck scales, livestock operations, and many, many more.

"Most shortweights are due to carelessness or lack of proper scale care, and are not premeditated," Supervisor Dana said. "That's why it is important that everyone cooperate, not only with the Department of Weights and Measures, but with the merchant himself, calling attention to possible weighing errors."