

of the woodwork. These are a few judges and lawyers who want to drag their feet against any change, while at the same time mouthing in public speeches the crying need for court reform in order to meet the increasing backlog of cases.

WHAT THE BILLS DO

In a nutshell, the reorganization measures call for the merger of the justice courts and municipal courts into a single trial court of general jurisdiction called the superior court, administered on a state-wide level by the Judicial Council.

Municipal court judges would become superior court judges and justice court judges would become magistrates of the superior court. Municipal court judges would receive the same salary that they are receiving at this time. All present court attaches and personnel would be phased into the new system at their same salary levels. Filing fees would be uniform statewide and would be paid into the State Court fund. Cities would receive their present percentage to cover their costs in traffic law enforcement. Counties would not receive their share of fines and forfeitures (currently \$49 million yearly) but they would not have any further expenses for judges or courtrooms.

Property taxpayers would be saved approximately \$80 million yearly according to Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post.

Uniform filing fees would go a long way toward making the system self-supporting. The efficient use of judges will provide greater savings, e.g., in lesser populated areas, the judges would "ride the circuit" as they are needed.

The new system would reduce the number of delays that take place under the present three-court system.

Delaying motions, under present law, can be made in one court and repeated in another court in order to prevent the trial of a case. I am referring to motions to dismiss and motions to suppress evidence, in criminal cases primarily. From all of these motions, appeals can presently be taken to all of the appellate courts, thus dragging out trials for

ent of its introduction on March 30, provided that such cases in all but the very small courts in California would be handled by magistrates, commissioners or referees. Their real opposition is that my legislation is interfering with the pecking order by eliminating "inferior court judges" which many of them once were. They are miffed that others may become superior court judges without coming up the same way they did.

2. The Judicial Council.

The Judicial Council has opted for further study of this subject. I served on the Judicial Council during 1969 and 1970 when I was Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. During those two years my committee thoroughly reviewed my legislation on this subject and asked the Judicial Council to do the same. They did nothing but delay. Now, this year, when I would stand for their feet-dragging no longer, I pushed the legislation through two Assembly committees and the Floor of the Assembly. The Judicial Council did not utter a word of opposition. But when the measures reached the Senate, the Judicial Council hastily contracted with Booz, Allen and Hamilton to tack a study of this subject with a study of another subject nearly completed. This is a usual tricky ploy used by opponents of legislation in order to sidetrack it.

3. A very few municipal

court judges. Three or four municipal court judges have expressed opposition because they say it will interfere with the power of the people to remove judges in a judicial district. My legislation calls for judges and magistrates to run for office county-wide. However, voting a judge out of office is such a rarity that it is a toothless right. It usually takes flagrant misconduct by a judge to cause the voters to remove him or some decision by a judge on a highly emotional issue, where this decision is unpopular with the thinking of a great majority of the people, e.g., the decl-

Welcome to Water, Water But Not a Drop to Drink

Dreams really do come true.

A number of Antelope Valley residents today will join with top officials, including Gov. Ronald Reagan, in the dedication of the A. D. Edmonston Pumping plant on the north side of the Tehachapi Mountains.

The pumping plant, located 35 miles southeast of Bakersfield, is scheduled to go into operation during the ceremonies to mark the start of pumping water over the mountains.

The Antelope Valley Board of Trade and the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency are planning another celebration sometime in the next few months to mark the delivery of water into the aqueduct on the south side of the Tehachapis.

The California Water Project is one of the greatest achievements of civilized man.

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency was brought into existence in 1959 for the express purpose of providing an agency that could accept and distribute supplemental water. AVEK, the Palmdale Irrigation District, and the Littlerock Creek Irrigation District subsequently contracted with the state to take water from the East Branch of the aqueduct.

But a tragic thing happened on the way to obtaining water for most of Antelope Valley when the voters failed to approve the \$49 million AVEK bond issue last Feb. 16.

This means that Antelope Valley residents are faced with the grim irony of watching water flow down the aqueduct in the next few months without being able to use it.

The Ancient Mariner's complaint about "water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink", will become a frustrating truism in our own community.

AVEK has notified the state it does not expect to take any water from the aqueduct until 1975.

In order to do this, AVEK must pass a bond election by at least late 1973, because it will take a year or longer to build the distribution system.

But in the meantime, the water table throughout Antelope Valley continues to drop... about 5 feet per year.

This means that wells go dry, become less productive, and that it costs more to pump water for both agriculture and domestic uses.

Another sad thing about this situation is that construction costs (except during the wage-freeze) continue to spiral upward and it is estimated that the \$49 million system would cost at least \$51 million today... and more in the future.

And so it is with mixed emotions that Antelope Valley welcomes the delivery of California Project water to Southern California. It is quite literally a dream come true, but it is a dream with overtones of a nightmare for water-thirsty desert residents.

LAW IN ACTION

EX-STUDENT

In 1960 several students of a state school were expelled af-

quired? First the hearing is not a trial. The student must be given notice of the charges,

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