

Elected Governor 3 Times Warren Held 2-Party Esteem

By BILL BLOECHER
(Another in a Series)

Earl Warren (retiring chief justice of the Supreme Court), as governor of California during 10 years of the state's most phenomenal growth was called many things politically. These were the years in which cross-filing was legal and political candidates generally found it expedient and rewarding to encourage voters to cross party lines.

In any event friends and foes alike vied in zealous efforts to describe the governor's political philosophy. "Liberal Republican," "moderate liberal," "middle of the road," "leftist Republican," even "radical" are but a few of the sometimes labored descriptives with which Warren was saddled.

Yet substantial numbers of Republicans and Democrats of various shades and colorings found enough in Warren's administration of a fantastically burgeoning state to pack his corner of the political arena.

It should be noted in passing, however, that in the welter of sometimes bewildering Warren political labels, the term "fence-straddler" was seldom if ever used.

In office, Republican Warren's views on the state's social responsibilities often

aroused bitter opposition from camps normally arrayed in his support.

He fought the private power interests, backed health program reforms, was a familiar friend of organized labor, sought expansion of welfare and social programs. And twice, arguing that ill health is one of man's worst hazards, nevertheless failed to put over a public health insurance plan aimed at eliminating it.

Later in an allusion to the need for preserving the Lincoln image of Republicanism he chose to espouse, Warren said it should be "the party of the poor and the rich alike."

Warren achieved quickening national recognition early in his gubernatorial career, and in 1944 he was named temporary chairman of the Republican national convention in Chicago and was its keynoter.

Warren had begun his political career humbly enough. After graduation from the University of California and its law school he was admitted to the bar in 1914. He practiced law for two years, then saw World War I service in this country in the Army.

Afterward, in 1919, Warren was named deputy district attorney in Oakland, and the following year took a similar post for Alameda County. In 1925 he became Alameda



Gov. Earl Warren arrived in Kern County on July 21, 1952, a few hours after earthquake devastated Tehachapi and shook other cities in the county. He inspects damage in Bakersfield with Mayor Frank Sullivan, left, and Police Chief Horace Grayson. Both Bakersfield officials are now deceased.

County's district attorney and married Nina Palmquist Meyers. He was three times elected district attorney, then ran successfully for the office of state attorney general.

His election, in 1938, was marked by the fact that he was the only Republican to weather the Democratic landslide in California, and after serving a four-year term he won the governorship and was twice re-elected to that office.

But even before his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court, Warren had announced that he would not be a candidate for a fourth term, stating "this decision is based upon by firm and long-standing belief that periodic change of administration is essential to the continued health of our representative system of government."

Warren's long tenure in the Capitol was distinguished by marked progress and by the absence of scandal and misdeeds in high office.

Warren once expressed the personal conviction that "most of the bad practices in government can be remedied through administration rather than through legislation."

As governor he filled many key posts with Democrats. It was said of Warren that he advocated non-partisanship or bi-partisanship at state levels, but was a supporter of the two-party system nationally. In the 10 years Warren held

the office of governor, California acquired 10 million new residents and a welter of problems associated with their absorption. Warren advocated and pushed for more highways, schools, hospitals, employment, health and mental care and tax reduction. A state veteran home and farm purchase program was instituted.

Though elected governor three times — the last time with a 1-million majority over his Democratic rival — it was during this period that Warren suffered his first political setback. Twice he was an aspirant for the Republican nomination for President and in 1948 he accepted nomination for the vice presidency.

It was after the defeat of the Republican slate of Thomas E. Dewey and Warren that he was quoted as remarking wryly: "Mr. Truman just got too many votes." No doubt this could be construed not as an admission of defeat for himself but rather as a bow to the success for another.

Over the years in which he occupied the post of chief executive of the state, Warren was a frequent visitor to Bakersfield, which he considered his home. Most often he arrived and left without fanfare, but invariably he displayed a live and continuing interest in the affairs and people in the city where he had spent his youth.



While Bailiff Frank Robertson gathers remains of ashtray from counsel table, court clerk William Burke points to railing where glass fragment imbedded yesterday when irate woman hurled the ashtray at her estranged husband, seated opposite her at counsel table during child custody hearing. Attorney David Goldberg was the only casualty—a minor cut on the back of the head. Superior Court Judge Marvin E. Ferguson had just left when the incident occurred.

Courtrooms May Ban Ashtrays

The decorum of a Superior Court child custody hearing was shattered Thursday afternoon when an irate woman hurled a heavy glass ashtray at her estranged husband, seated opposite her at the counsel table.

The projectile, launched by Marcia Jo Copple, an attractive 23-year-old brunette, fell short of its intended target, Kenneth Copple, and shattered on the counsel table, leaving a gouge mark in the veneer.

Bakersfield attorney David Goldberg, seated next to his client, the husband, was the only casualty. The attorney was struck on the back of the head by a fragment of glass. Other fragments were scattered over a 15-foot area on the carpeted courtroom and one piece was imbedded in the polished railing in front of the desks of court clerk William Burke and court reporter Amelia Spaulding.

It was the second ashtray incident in the courts in as many days.

The earlier incident occurred Tuesday afternoon in the municipal court of Judge Doyle Miller where two Bakersfield attorneys, Gabriel Solomon and Allan McFarland, cast aside the law books while arguing on a motion for continuance and new trial setting of a civil case and engaged in hand to hand combat.

One observer said Solomon picked up an ashtray from the counsel table — identical to the one used by Mrs. Copple yesterday in Judge Marvin Ferguson's court one floor above — and advanced on McFarland. The two fist-fighting attorneys were separated by two bailiffs, with one of the bailiffs, Cal Emerson, the only casualty. Emerson suffered a minor scratch on the cheek.

Both attorneys were held in contempt and fined \$50 each by Judge Miller.

Yesterday's incident occurred about 3 p.m., moments after Judge Ferguson had left the bench en route to his chambers, with his court clerk, William Burke, following.

The jurist had just issued an order, changing custody of the Copples' six-year-old son from Mrs. Copple to the husband.

Judge Ferguson's bailiff, Frank Robertson, said he was standing near the back court railing when Mrs. Copple, former Bakersfield resident now living in the Southland, suddenly rose from her chair at the counsel table, grabbed the ashtray and let fly.

"I never saw a woman move so fast," recalled Robertson. The bailiff pinned the angered woman's arms against her side and escorted her out of the courtroom and into the outer corridor.

Returning to the courtroom later and viewing the scattered glass fragments on the carpet and counsel table, Judge Ferguson suggested to his clerk and bailiff that the ashtrays be removed from the counsel table in future trial matters.

Search for Missing Taft Plane Abandoned by CAP

Search for four missing Taft men who disappeared on a return flight by private plane from Calexico on June 7 virtually has been abandoned, it was reported here today.

Lt. Walter Mercer of the Civil Air Patrol, who has been in charge of CAP search flights from Bakersfield since the disappearance of the quartet and their plane, said there are no new developments in the mystery disappearance.

Nothing has been heard of the men or the plane, he said.

The missing men left Taft Airport at 6 a.m. on June 7 in a Cessna 172 piloted by Taft policeman Paul Johnson. With him were Howard Lear, Clift Calbert and Gene Little, all Taft residents. They are reported to have checked in at the border city at 11 a.m. and to have taken off again

at 1 p.m., presumably for Taft.

Lt. Mercer said all routes from Calexico have been scanned from the air in the CAP searches based at Bakersfield, Banning, Lancaster, San Diego and San Fernando. Additional search flights were made also from Taft by various pilots, he said.

Lt. Mercer said it is usually routine for the CAP to abandon a search after 10 days of fruitless hunt.

He said pilots here may join this weekend in the search for a Cessna 150 with two persons aboard who were reported missing last weekend in the brush fire between Los Angeles and Bakersfield.

Hunt for the plane and missing pair has been hampered by first the fire and see Search—page 14

High School, College Tax Increases Seen as Budgets Presented

It will add another 13 cents on the Kern County Joint Union High School District's tax rate to finance a tentative 1968-69 budget of \$17,843,494 and probably another cent on the Kern Joint Junior College District rate for its proposed \$6,872,292 budget.

The board of trustees for the two districts approved the tentative budgets last night. Final action on the budgets is expected during August.

The high school district's tax rate will move to \$1.72 from the current year's \$1.59 rate, the proposed budget \$2 million more than this year's total of \$15,787,309. The junior college district anticipates a 43-cent tax rate, one cent

more than this year's 42 cents which financed a \$6,072,941 budget. Average daily attendance is expected to increase in the districts, 20,739 total next year in the high schools compared to this year's 20,193; and 7,191 on the college campuses compared to the current year's 7,017.

Dr. John Eckhardt, district superintendent of the high schools, reports more teaching vacancies exist this year, almost 200. All but 26 of them have been filled but Eckhardt expressed concern that employing more teachers may be difficult since recruitment this time of the year is "very lean."

Eckhardt is critical of proposed legislation calling for a tax equalization program in connection with the reorganization of school districts. As drafted the bill will aid in fracturing the Greater Bakersfield area's high school boundaries, he said. However, Eckhardt does not believe the bill will be considered by the legislature during its current session.

Dr. Edward Simonsen, college district superintendent, said it is too early to determine the precise income the district will have available for the next school year. The 43-cent tax estimate could change depending on the amount of carryover funds the district has and possible new sources of revenue, he added.

Simonsen reported the district now has an assessed value of more than \$1 billion. This was attained with the inclusion of the Trona High School District in the college district, he said. The trustees approved purchase of an office building leased since about Jan. 1 for the college district's administrative center. Cost of the building will be about \$70,000. It is located on 24th street in the block east of the high school district administrative offices.

Simonsen credited Senator Walter Stern with successfully carrying a bill through the legislature that made purchase of the building possible. The legislation exempts junior college administrative offices see School Taxes—page 14

7,598 Kern Voters Back Property Tax 1% Limit

Kern County residents contributed 7,598 qualified signatures on a state-wide initiative petition to limit property taxes in California.

County Clerk Vera Gibson said the certified forms were forwarded to Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan. Jordan announced from Sacramento this morning the initiative has won a place on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

The plan is commonly known as the "Watson Initiative" because its primary sponsor is Los Angeles County Assessor Philip E. Watson. It required 520,276 petition signatures to qualify.

The initiative proposes to set a property tax limit of 1 per cent of market value on levies for property-related services provided by counties, cities and special districts, starting July 1, 1969.

It also provides for a phaseout of 20 per cent a year on taxes for education and welfare. By July 1, 1973, schools and welfare no longer

would be supported by property taxes. The limit could be exceeded only for existing and future bond and long-term lease charges.

Its effect would be to compel the state Legislature to develop other revenue sources for these purposes.

Miss Gibson also forwarded to Jordan's Sacramento office another initiative petition bearing 339 signatures. It is also a state-wide petition for placement on the general election ballot an initiative calling for lowering of voting age from 21 to 18.

Car Crashes Home, Backs Out, Escapes

A hit and run driver inflicted damage to the front room and furnishings after ramming into a home at 317 N Street at 1:52 a.m. today, police reported. The Rev. E. G. Gentry said he and his wife were awakened by the crash but not in time to intercept the intruder.



—Staff Photo by Marion Deaver

Two men removed butane tank from trailer threatened by fire already engulfing adjacent shed at rear of 15834 L Street, Mojave, yesterday. Sparks from incinerator near wooden garage and storage shed set off blaze. County firemen estimated loss of storage shed and contents, owned by Glen H. Hanson, at \$3,500.



Just about everything but the kitchen sink, literally, was strewn over Highway 46 a few miles west of Wasco when a westbound pickup went out of control at noon yesterday and turned over twice to achieve the above clutter. Not

seriously injured when dumped out of the vehicle were Clara Mary Kinslow, 48, of Aptos, the driver, Bruster Gains, 57, of Spavinaw, Okla., and Joanne Casteel, 8, of Watsonville.

—Staff Photo by Karyl Towse