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## State C. of C. Recommendations On November Ballot Issues

Recommendations of the California State Chamber of Commerce on propositions which will appear on the ballot at the general election November 5 were made public today by the State Chamber, following action on the various proposals by its board of directors. The State Chamber's recommendations on these measures are based on several months of study by its six regional councils, its statewide tax committee, and by the board of directors.

The Chamber's recommendations, and the reasons therefor, are as follows:

**Propositions No. 1 and No. 2 (A.C.A. 6 and A.C.A. 1), Release of Old Age Pension Liens.** The State Chamber recognizes that inequalities now exist in the treatment of persons who have received old-age assistance from the State. However, neither the State nor any county has at any time had power to deprive old-age assistance recipients of use of their property during their own lifetime. Release of liens and mortgages as proposed by these two amendments would benefit, not the needy aged, but their heirs or transferees of the property, amounting in some instances to a gift of over \$1000. The State Chamber believes that a more desirable solution to the problem of equity would be to provide a uniform system of liens in all cases. Recommendation: "No."

**Proposition No. 6 (S.C.A. 9), Judicial Review of Administrative Determinations.** Because of existing doubt on the proper method and scope of court review of decisions by administrative boards, officers and commissions, the Legislature should be authorized to make provision for orderly review, and to define exact scope of such review, as provided by this amendment. Recommendation: "Yes."

**OVERLAPPING TERMS**

**Proposition No. 8 (A.C.A. 45), Fish and Game Commission.** Provides staggered overlapping terms for commission members, eliminating political control of the commission and allowing continuity of experience and policies. Recommendation: "Yes."

**Proposition No. 9 (S.C.A. 36), Taxation of Vessels.** The existing provision of the constitution has been interpreted to exempt only vessels, of more than 50 tons burden, carrying goods for hire and not the many vessels carrying their own goods. There seems to be no valid reason for this distinction, and its continuation would mean transfer of registration of many vessels to other States. Recommendation: "Yes."

**Proposition No. 10 (A.C.A. 79), Special Assessment Procedure.** This amendment gives property owners in chartered cities and counties the same protection against unduly heavy assessments for improvements as is now afforded property owners in other areas of the State. Recommendation: "Yes."

**Proposition No. 12 (A.C.A. 2), Interim Committees of the Legislature.** This amendment would enable fact-finding committees in the Legislature to function after adjournment of the Legislature. With the increasing complexity of legislative problems, such committees can serve a useful function. Recommendation: "Yes."

### STATE PARK LANDS

**Proposition No. 13 (S.C.A. 33), Oil and Gas Rights in State Parks.** This amendment authorizes the Legislature to provide for sale or lease of State Park lands for production of oil or gas, without obligation to use the proceeds for purchase of other lands for the State Park system. The State Chamber board believes that the State Park system was established for the benefit of all citizens and should be protected from commercial exploitation. Recommendation: "No."

**Proposition No. 14 (A.C.A. 75), Apportionment of Moneys for Local Purposes.** Under present statutes moneys returned to cities and counties from the in lieu automobile tax and alcoholic beverage tax may be used only for State purposes. This amendment provides that these revenues, which are frequently in excess of the needs for which they are specified, may be used for local general fund purposes, as may be subsequently provided by the Legislature. Recommendation: "Yes."

**Proposition No. 15 (S.C.A. 24), Transfers of Funds by City Treasurers.** This amendment would unnecessarily prohibit temporary transfers by local treasurers from municipally owned public utility debt funds. Such transfers are now allowed from these and other special funds to meet general government needs during the lean periods before property tax revenues are received. Recommendation: "No."

### ANNUAL SESSIONS

**Proposition No. 16 (S.C.A. 29), Organization of the Legislature.** This amendment provides for annual sessions of the Legislature and for annual instead of biennial budgets for the State. The State Chamber board feels that in spite of some desirable features in the amendment, such as the increased compensation for legislators, it contains many provisions which would not improve legislative procedure. Recommendation: "No."

**Proposition No. 17 (A.C.A. 42), Insurance for Public Officers.** This amendment authorizes the Legislature to permit purchase of insurance by State and local governments against personal liability of officers, agents and employees, in connection with their work. The State Chamber board believes the language of the amendment is so broad as to open the door for purchase of all kinds of personal liability insurance with a resulting heavy tax burden on all government. Recommendation: "No."

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