

# from the CAPITOL

By GOV. GRANT SAWYER



THE GOVERNMENT CLOSEST to the people is the one which governs best.

This theory has taken some battering in recent years, as a general decline in the effectiveness of local governments has raised legitimate fears about the preservation of their rightful place in the nation's structure.

Growing domination of our affairs by the federal government is threatening the historical separation of powers in the United States. While I have no fear of the federal government--because it is our government and each of us is a part of it--I do share the concern for the gradual erosion of state and local responsibility in many areas. If this relentless spread of federal influence is not halted, the whole structure of government will be weakened and the future of our democracy may be impaired.

How did the states, counties and cities lose their leadership? The answer is two-fold.

First, the state and local governments have been guilty of inaction in many vital areas, requiring the federal government to move into the vacuum in the interest of the public welfare. Many times, Washington has been invited to provide solutions to local problems which the proper officials did not have the fortitude to face. In short, many state and local governments have lacked the guts to take unpopular positions, or to demand the sacrifices necessary, and have taken the easy route of federal assistance. So, the fault for much of the situation lies at our feet. There are responsibilities to be met. If we don't do it, we can expect the federal government will. . .and such action will be altogether proper.

Second, because of a combination of factors, state and local governments are facing the threat of fiscal starvation. Nevada, perhaps, is more fortunate than most in having a solid cash reserve and a continually improving economic situation, making it possible for me to have presented a balanced budget at each regular session of the legislature since 1959. The fiscal squeeze that is throttling many state governments has not stopped our progress yet, and we have reason to hope it will not do so.

IRONICALLY, WHILE WE, in the state capitals and the county seats, are in various stages of poverty, the national government has a huge surplus. This is because we must meet the multitude of demands for increased and better services with 30 cents out of the tax dollar. The other seventy cents goes directly to Washington.

These conditions will be overcome only by a resumption of strong, vigorous and imaginative leadership on our part, and action by the federal government to relinquish, without controls or conditions, a portion of federal tax revenues.

Nevada's leadership at local levels has been outstanding, but it has been stymied to some extent by lack of authority. I feel the state legislature should act to transfer responsibility in some areas to local governments, where it rightfully belongs. Local officials hardly can be exhorted to demonstrate more leadership if the legislature withholds from them the authority to do so. I support broader powers for local governments, specifically in the field of taxation, and I hope this will be prominent on the agenda of the 1967 legislature.

IF WE ARE TO PROTECT the integrity of our political subdivisions, they must have the tools with which to work.

## Have You Checked Your Medicare Eligibility?

ON JULY 30, Congress passed a law--the Medicare Law--which adds a comprehensive scheme of health insurance for people aged 65 or older to the social security programs. A great deal of publicity has been given to this action of Congress by television stations, newspapers, and other news outlets, and thousands of persons have filed their requests to be covered by this health insurance. However, many men and women aged 65 and older have not yet investigated their right to health insurance under this bill.

If you are now 65 years of age or older, and you have never visited your social security office, nor asked about your standing under this new law, we urgently suggest that you write your social security office in Las Vegas as soon as possible.

IF THE STATEMENT on the inquiry card below pertains to you, please fill it out and mail it to:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
P. O. BOX 2326 HUNTRIDGE STA.  
601 SOUTH 13TH STREET  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MEDICARE INQUIRY CARD

Gentlemen:

I am past 65 and NOT receiving Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Civil Service Retirement, or welfare checks. Please let me know what I should do about my Medicare benefits.

(Please Print in Ink or Use Typewriter)

MY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

## State Jobs Open

OPEN-COMPETITIVE Examination applications for a number of various-type jobs are now being accepted by the Nevada State Personnel Division. With one exception, the filing period for applications will remain open until further notice. The exception is an Open-Divisional Promotional Examination for Senior Group Supervisor (Girls); closing date for filing period for that examination is December 12, 1965.

Other jobs for which applications will be accepted are those of Groundsman; Janitor; Watchman; Seamstress; Highway Maintainer Trainee; Bookkeeping Machine Operator; Radio Dispatcher; Food Service Trainee; Clerk Typist and Clerk Stenographer; Laundry Worker; Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind; and Librarian IV.

For the purpose of establishing eligible lists which will be used in conjunction with the High School-State program for training High School students, a Student Examination is also being offered with minimum qualifications being two years of high school training including commercial subjects and being presently enrolled in a program that leads to the awardment of a high school diploma.

For information about minimum qualifications and wage scale for other positions available, the VOICE office has all pertinent data available to interested persons, or the Nevada Personnel Division should be contacted.

ANY PERSON MAY file application to take the examinations, if he possesses the minimum qualifications for the job and meets Citizenship and Residence requirements. All applicants must be citizens of the United States and be able to read and write English. Naturalized citizens must present adequate proof of their citizenship if so requested. Permanent residence in the State of Nevada for at least six months prior to the date of the examination will be given five points preference on the eligible list.

Minimum qualifications information requisite for each job listed can also be furnished by the VOICE office.

## Christmas Seal Drive On

THE NEVADA TUBERCULOSIS and Health Association officially opened its 1965 Annual Christmas Seal Campaign Tuesday, November 16 with the mailing of 130,000 letters containing Xmas Seals and Health Bonds to Nevada residents.

State Campaign Chairman, Judge Clark Guild, Sr. of Reno, and Alex Shoofey, Clark County Campaign Chairman reported that statistics show that 610,000 Americans are directly affected by Tuberculosis, and that the incidence of Tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases are on the increase in Nevada and the nation.

Because the Las Vegas office is limited in staff, and in order to conserve mailing expenses, Shoofey noted that all letters were mailed from the State office in Reno and that all contributions should be returned to the Reno headquarters.

The annual Christmas Seal Campaign gives opportunity to millions of people to help millions of less fortunate people as well as aid the many important programs of the Association. Assistance in funding the recent Governor's Committee meetings on Tuberculosis Eradication in Nevada was one such program of the Association. Out of every dollar contributed in Nevada, 93 cents remains in the State to carry on the program of the Tuberculosis and Health Association.



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