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Ans'd.....

To: Supervisor George Bailey, Chair
Supervisor Brian Bilbray, Vice Chair
Supervisor Susan Golding
Supervisor John MacDonald
Supervisor Leon Williams

From: Patricia Gayman and John Sweeten

Date: Wednesday afternoon, June 17, 1992

Re: State Budget Deliberations

After several weeks of the Legislative Working Groups trying to come to grips with various areas of the Budget (Local Government, Education, Boards and Commissions, Special Fund Agencies, and Health and Welfare), it appears that the Budget Conference Committee is beginning to attempt to deal with the horrendous issues concerning the budget.

Yesterday and today the Conference Committee has been eliminating state advisory and other boards, effecting consolidations, and eliminating positions in state departments. For instance, the Committee abolished all Public Information Officer positions in the State. Whether these decisions will "stick", however, is yet to be seen.

The Committee this afternoon decided to postpone discussion of a proposal to transfer $150 million in "excess revenues" from port districts to the State General Fund. Everything appears to be up for grabs -at least once.

We have been told that this afternoon Senate Pro Tem David Roberti announced to the media that he was in favor of removing

a very important list of mandates from counties -- including Section 17000 (both general assistance and health care), maintenance of effort requirements, data reporting requirements, and Beilenson hearing requirements. The extent to which his views will be embraced by his colleagues -- particularly in the other house -- is uncertain. Roberti also noted that he was not representing his caucus in stating his views.

We have been told that the caucus meetings in both houses have produced little in the way of concensus. There are those members who feel strongly that certain programs must be protected at any cost and are not interested in entertaining any of the ideas embraced by Senator Roberti.

The Conference Committee will meet again tomorrow morning - maybe. We have not heard yet if there will be meetings over the weekend.

We will keep you posted.