

Republican criticism of the Democratic plans was borne out by the 1982 election results. Thanks to the gerrymandering of congressional districts, for instance, the Democrats captured nearly two-thirds of the California seats in the House of Representatives while getting only 49.6 percent of the statewide popular vote. The Republicans got 48.2 percent of the vote, but won only a third of the House seats. The same kind of imbalance is evi-

beration could have eliminated or at least ameliorated the problems which now make the initiative insupportable. The congressional and legislative districts drawn by Mr. Sebastiani play havoc with the community-of-interest concept that the state constitution requires of district boundaries. This is especially true where northern San Diego County is concerned.

The 43rd Congressional District now straddling Orange and

which would have established a non-partisan commission to undertake reapportionment, did not gain the approval of voters. But hope remains that a revised version of that 1982 proposition may be offered to voters in the future under more auspicious circumstances. Californians are not getting a fair break from their Legislature on reapportionment, and Mr. Sebastiani's effort to redistrict the state single-handedly is no solution, either.

Bullet Worries

Southern California coastal cities have good reason to worry about the proposed bullet train between San Diego and Los Angeles. Its potential for noise pollution, obstruction of scenic views and other adverse impact is a *bona fide* concern of local governments along the 130-mile route.

Unfortunately, these concerns were not allayed by the highly unusual manner in which the bill authorizing the bullet train cleared the Legislature last year. For the bill to have emerged from committee with no advance notice and not a single public hearing was a clear affront to the

open planning procedures customary in California.

Nevertheless, a subsequent bill that would have given a majority of cities along the route veto power over construction was ill-advised. Allowing local governments to block a transit line serving more than one community would be a dangerous precedent. Moreover, the bill raised the possibility of each city insisting that it be the site of a bullet train station. Too many stations would slow the train and defeat its purpose.

Although the state Senate Governmental Organization Commit-

tee acted properly last week in killing the measure, the local governments still deserve some reassurance. The fact that the committee received 10,000 letters in support of the veto-power bill is a dramatic demonstration of the level of the public's concern.

It may not be possible to pass a bill relieving all the fears. But why shouldn't the procedures for obtaining environmental reviews and required construction permits be spelled out in legislation? At the very least, this would assure the affected communities that their concerns about the bullet train will be treated seriously.

Lowell Davies

A life well lived usually leaves a legacy of benefit to others. By that standard, Lowell Davies lived magnificently.

Mr. Davies, who died last Friday at the age of 87, served as president of the Old Globe Theatre for 31 years. Longevity of service alone would have earned Lowell Davies the gratitude of his community. Few, if any, of San Diego's cultural or civic leaders have given so unselfishly of their time over so many years.

But it is what the Old Globe achieved under Mr. Davies' leadership that ensured his place among the first rank of those who have contributed to this city's cultural life. What began decades

ago as an amateur, community theater grew eventually into an internationally recognized Shakespearean program.

And thanks to Mr. Davies' business acumen and success as a fund raiser, more than one-half million dollars was available to begin the rebuilding project when the original Old Globe was destroyed by fire in 1978.

Lowell Davies also found time to lend his talents to assisting the San Diego opera and COMBO, the Combined Arts and Education Council of San Diego County. He served as chairman of the California Arts Commission and as a member of the national Advisory Committee on the Arts.

As if all this were not enough, Lowell Davies maintained an active interest in education, serving five years as a member of the Chula Vista school board and as vice chairman of a county education study group.

By profession, Lowell Davies was a lawyer. His half century of successful practice in corporate and probate law would have been career enough for most. But those who knew this distinguished San Diegan long recognized that his real love was community service.

His many good works and the gratitude of his fellow citizens stand as Lowell Davies' enduring legacy.