

# County Can Support College, Expert Says

By ED ROBINSON

Dr. Calvin Flint, president of Monterey Peninsula college, piled up a small mountain of facts, figures and estimates Tuesday night to show there are enough students and enough money in Santa Cruz county to support a junior college here.

Dr. Flint spoke before a meeting of trustees of San Lorenzo uni-

fied school district at Boulder Creek.

Santa Cruz county junior college district would be the 12th richest in the state in the point of assessed value per student, Dr. Flint said, putting it well up among the 58 junior colleges now established and well ahead of his own college at Monterey.

He estimated it would take an

initial layout of some \$2,800,000 to get the college underway. This would include a minimum of 100 acres of land, the buildings, architecture and engineering fees and landscaping.

At the rate the assessed valuation of this county is growing, he said, a bond issue to cover this initial cost could be paid off with a five-cent tax rate over a period of 25 years.

Once the buildings are paid for, he said, the tax rate to keep the junior college going wouldn't be any greater than what the county is paying now to send students to other counties. (The junior college tax rate this year is 11.3 cents.)

Operating costs would amount to \$419.20 per student a year, Dr. Flint said, according to figures from the state department of education and California teachers association.

Dr. Flint admitted his Monterey college was riding a gravy train provided by the taxpayers of Santa Cruz county.

"You will be sending more than \$200,000 in tax money out of the county this year," he said, to cover tuition costs for junior college students in other counties.

That does not include what the students spend for books, food and clothing where they go to school.

According to 1951-52 enrollment figures, Dr. Flint said, a Santa Cruz county junior college could have an average daily attendance of 611 students by its second year. He computed this from the enrollments of the ninth through 12th grades of the public and private high schools in this county.

An accepted formula, he said, indicates that a junior college enrollment would be equivalent to 24 per cent of the county's high school population for the given year.

The probable daily attendance by 1962, Dr. Flint said, could be 1,273. However, he warned his audience, nobody can estimate just how fast a junior college will grow. He cited rapid increases in his own college and in other new schools set up throughout the state.

(Editor's note: Tuesday's Register-Pajaronian article on the junior college problem, based on Dr. Flint's book, used smaller potential enrollment figures. Dr. Flint explained Wednesday that the earlier figures quoted were based on preliminary studies, before population growth was taken into consideration. Using three separate methods of computation, he arrived at approximately the figures listed above, with a variation of only 50 between the high and low estimates.)

In passing, Dr. Flint noted that the small portion of Monterey county included in the Watsonville union high school district would, by law, be part of the Santa Cruz county junior college district.

Dr. Flint dodged the question of location for the proposed college here.

He did say that the conditions for a good college would indicate it should be within five miles of La Selva Beach. The Soquel area would appear to be a logical location on the basis of present evidence, he said.

The location would be determined by the available highways, water and utilities. The school should also be out of a single established population center but somewhere close to existing populated areas.