

*Employment 1/9/71*

# Round Of County Pay Raises Seen

County civil service commissioners brought the issue of pay raises for top county employees into sharp focus Wednesday by approving hiring an assistant county counsel at a starting salary of \$19,352 per year.

It was the second sharp pay increase in the office and is certain to set off a chain of increases in other offices.

Commissioners were under the gun to accept the recommendations of the county personnel office to create the assistant counsel post. County supervisors already have said they intend to hire Claire Carlson, Ventura city attorney, for the job.

The personnel office had recommended the salary range of \$1696 to \$2062 monthly, or \$19,352 to \$24,186 per year.

Howard E. Gawthrop has been hired as county counsel at \$25,000 per year and goes to work Jan. 19.

Since the district attorney traditionally gets paid more than the county counsel, supervisors now are faced with raising the salary for that job from the present \$23,950. (Part of the district attorney's salary comes from his dual role as public administrator for estates.)

The job of medical administrator at the county's general hospital also may be under pressure for a raise. The job is now the county's highest paid at \$25,000 yearly.

Certainly there is going to be major pressure to raise the County Administrative Officer's salary from its present \$21,434 level.

Supervisor Russ McCallie has been working to centralize authority in the administrative office, and will face the question of raising the salary not only because of increased responsibility, but because other salaries of lesser offices have gone past that figure.

It all has been quite a jump. Former County Counsel Henry Faltz, who resigned effective

Dec. 31 of last year, was paid a basic salary of \$20,090. His next-highest paid man, assistant county counsel James Rankin, had a salary of \$14,171.

County supervisors have said they will consider the whole question of pay increases for top administrators this month.

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