

The work of the agency divides into three broad categories: Community redevelopment, housing, and questions relating to building requirements and materials. It is the policy of the agency to inquire into all means of stimulating redevelopment, alleviating the housing shortage, of working toward uniformity of building requirements and leading to greater production and better distribution of materials.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Legislature reconsider the functions of this agency and its necessity in light of what it can do.

The organization which has been set up to function the provisions of Chapter 1515, Sections 95 and 96, Statutes of 1947, with slight modification probably represents the minimum staff which can do the job. However, *we believe that this organization illustrates the fact that the duties given to this agency are too broad, too many, and include functions which either are already being performed or should be performed by other state agencies as presently constituted.*

For example, it is recognized that the law charges this agency with the duty of surveying veterans' housing needs. However, part of this work should be accomplished by the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with the making of housing loans to veterans, and other veteran problems.

The conditions in the building industry are at present such that no amount of state expenditures could relieve or eliminate many of the principal defects of shortage of building materials related to the lack of steel, for example, and will not be eliminated by any work performed by this agency. Likewise, it should be pointed out that the housing for veterans is largely curtailed by the fact that the building costs at the present time are so high that in the judgment of the Veterans' Administration and State Department of Veterans Affairs it is not advisable to approve loan requests to many veterans. It must also be recognized that the various veterans' organizations are making every effort to stimulate more housing facilities, both for sale and rental. This is one of the functions planned by the Redevelopment Agency.

It should also be noted that under the law which provides for local planning commissions, the majority of local governments have already created planning agencies. The job envisaged for this agency, therefore, will not be primarily one of encouraging the creation of new planning bodies, but will be one of activating existing bodies. *This will involve the State in much useless controversy with local governments in a sphere where the State has already recognized the responsibility to be a local one.*

### **OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

#### **For Support of the State Fire Marshal from the General Fund**

Item 192 of the Budget Bill and pages 391 to 394 of the Budget. The amount requested is \$248,071 from the General Fund for the support of the State Fire Marshal. *This is an increase of \$2,392 or 0.97 percent over the amount of \$245,679 estimated for expenditures for 1947-48.*

The amount requested for the 1947-48 Budget was \$164,198. *This, however, was supplemented by appropriations made by the 1947 Legislature in the amount of \$111,005, as follows* (the following items appear for the first time in a State Budget) :

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Chapter 1549 (flammable materials) -----                   | \$10,000         |
| Chapter 1542 (flammable materials) -----                   | 12,000           |
| Chapter 1534 (study of fire training school) -----         | 5,000            |
| Chapter 1296 (inspection of schools and night clubs) ----- | 72,122           |
| Chapter 2486 (salary increases) -----                      | 11,883           |
| <b>Totals -----</b>  | <b>\$111,005</b> |
| <b>Budget -----</b>  | <b>164,198</b>   |
| <b>Total authorized expenditures -----</b>                 | <b>\$275,203</b> |
| <b>Actual expenditures -----</b>                           | <b>246,679</b>   |
| <b>Excess fund -----</b>                                   | <b>\$28,524</b>  |

The increase of \$2,392 proposed for 1948-49 over 1947-48 represents an increase in salaries and wages in the amount of \$21,867, which includes \$1,951 for normal salary increases, \$4,126 for one new position and a decrease of \$15,790 in salary savings. Operating expenses advance \$5,505, or 8.73 percent, due to increased cost of services and supplies. Expenditures for equipment show a decrease of \$24,980, or 77.9 percent, due mainly to the purchase of \$19,315 of equipment for two new functions in 1947-48 which are nonrecurring.

#### For Other Current Expenses, State Fire Marshal, from the General Fund

Item 193 appropriates \$2,500 for a Fire Training School Survey. This amount represents an increase of \$1,500, or 150 percent, over the amount of \$1,000 expended last year. Chapter 1534, Laws of 1947, appropriated \$5,000 for this purpose. Item 193, therefore, is a reappropriation of \$2,500 of this amount.

We recommend approval of this item as requested.

#### Suggestion

Although many of the recommendations of the Fire Marshal have been carried out by the various state agencies and provision for making other recommendations effective has been included in the 1948-49 Budget requests, it has been noted that some State agencies do not regard measures suggested by the Fire Marshal as practical or sound, and have not conformed therewith.

It is recommended that the Legislature review the function of the State Fire Marshal to determine whether or not his recommendations are sound.

#### DIVISION OF BANKING

#### For Support of the Division of Banking from the Banking Fund, a Special Fund Agency

Item 194 of the Budget Bill and pages 395 to 396 of the Budget. The amount requested is \$257,500 for support from the Banking Fund. *This is an increase of \$49,468 or 23.78 percent over support expenditures*