

# SAN JOSE NEWS

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**Editorials**

Wednesday, July 14, 1982

10B

## Letters to the editor

### State budget: taking from the poor?

Your July 1 editorial did not correctly outline all of the facts of the California budget. After reading your comments, one might think that most of the budget went to the poor.

The facts indicate that the state will spend \$2.5 billion on Medi-Cal, which provides medical services to the aged, blind, disabled, impoverished families, childless couples, single persons and some of the working poor. Another \$1.2 billion will be spent on impoverished families with children, while \$1.3 billion is allocated for benefits to the aged, blind, disabled.

This all adds up to about \$5 billion of \$225.2 billion for 1982-83. In other words the state will spend about 20 percent of its budget for

those who need vital assistance from the government. Your article did not do much to analyze who got the remaining 80 percent.

Your editorial also implied that the California poor are receiving too much compared to other states. It appears that you think that a family of three could live comfortably on \$506 a month in Santa Clara County. This meager \$506 grant is supposed to house and feed two children and generally support their mother. Rents alone should eat up the \$506 a month here.

It is true that the state transferred its program for medically indigent adults to the counties and gave them 70 percent of the funds spent this year. However the counties also received the right to set

their own eligibility criteria, which may deprive many of the working poor of medical services and will free the county from doing the monstrous paperwork that Medi-Cal requires. It seems like a reasonable trade-off for the county, but not for the working poor of Santa Clara County.

We hope that next time you analyze the budget, you'll dive into that portion of the budget that serves the non-needy of our state. These are the people who are not dependent upon government, who voted for Proposition 13, and who generally oppose government.

— Kevin M. Aslanian  
President  
Welfare Recipients League  
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