Student Lobby Protests
Bill Which Would Overturn
State Rent Control Laws

By Jane Rosenberg
Sacramento Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — A controversial bill which would put city rent control laws from Santa Monica to Berkeley is actually "the hidden agenda" of developers and landlords, a new rent control lobby charged Thursday.

Californians for Local Control said Assemblyman Jim Costa's latest proposal to eliminate local rent ordinances in "most overcrowded" cities that legislation the Fresno Democrat sponsored last year, which he later withdrew.

The new bill, Assembly Bill 485, allows landlords to raise rents after evicting tenants, and the bill's definition of single-family owner-occupied residences could make any rental unit in the state exempt from current and future ordinances, the lobby said.

"This bill will completely and permanently eliminate rent stabilization in California," said MCLC member and Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board member Lenny Goldberg. "In the past, the issue has focused on cities that have had strong rent control. We believe it is now the intent of landlords and realtors to gut rent control throughout the state."

Californians for Local Control is a coalition of pro-rent control groups including the AFL-CIO, the California Rural Assistance League, the California League of Cities and the California Housing Action Information Network, which was formed to fight the bill. They held a press conference.

"Costa's bill will single-family residences occupied by their owners already protected by state rent control laws. Goldberg and Bob Guantos, chairmen of the Board of the Association of San Diego County housing advocates, said the provision could apply to every rent control unit, since the potential for owner occupancy exists."

"If you own the building and live in one of the units, you could live in any one of them," Gauthorson said, explaining how a landlord living in a 10-unit building could keep the other 9 apartments free of rent control.

The same provision was contained in last year's bill, but was considered too broad by even landlords, Goldberg said. Prevent control lobbies proposed removing the clause before the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the legislation, he said.

"The clause's reappearance this year signifies that landlords really have a 'hidden agenda,'" in the bill, he said.

Costa aide Terry Reardon said the provision only applies to condominiums, cooperatives and single-family homes.

"Rent control activists are focusing on the clause "as a principal way of getting attention," he said. "If they're really interested in solving this problem, they should come to me.""

Reardon said if there are problems with the interpretation of the clause, Costa might open it to amending the bill.

The legislation could have a severe effect on Santa Monica's six-year-old programs (Please turn to pg.12, col.1)

Vietnam Vet Says Country Must Heal Itself

By Robin Stevens
Editor-in-Chief

A co-founder of the Vietnam Veteran Outreach Program told students Thursday that veterans "are a problem today to a lot of people who don't want to hear about Vietnam."

But, he said, the veteran of the war are the "greatest survivors in the history of America," who now serve as the conscience for a generation, more naive generation.

Shad Moshed served in Vietnam as a psyop officer, counseling 30,000 combat troops, helping the young soldiers to understand the terror of the war. In UCSC Religious Studies Professor Walter Geis's class, which studies the religious impact of Vietnam in America, and in an interview, he explained his need to come to terms with his experience of Vietnam, which he described as "an experience that scarred me for life."

"We veterans are an eyesore for you folks. Talking about it is going to make you, particularly the men, question society. People are looking at the vets and saying they weren't taken care of," Moshed said.

One of the problems facing Vietnam veterans, he said, is never becoming angry at the way they were treated.

"I've never had all of the answers, but if you ever want to talk about the bottom line, I'm ready. Hey, I'm not living in Disneyland," Moshed said.

"Ijumped up from the bottom line is that we are here to live and die. Most people never think of that, at least in this society,"

Moshed oversees the outreach program in 10 western states, where approximately 40 percent of the Vietnam veterans in the country live. He announced Thursday that a veterans' center with the primary purpose of providing coordination of programs, coordination of programs, services, and resources within the Vietnam veteran community, will soon be opening in Santa Barbara. He has been working for years to secure funding for the center, against an administration which he said calls his program "a nickel and dime operation."

"Vietnam in Central America would be a repeat for 17 and 18-year-olds. there is no doubt in my mind," Moshed said. "Army, Navy, Air Force. It's not just beautiful. We're back in, and G.J. O is a hero again," he added nonchalantly.

"I am here because people have a choice, they have a choice. I don't want them sent off like cattle in a slaughterhouse. Because that will hurt me. I will cry. I will talk."

( Please turn to pg.12, col.1)
Vietnam Veterans...

(Continued from front page)

out, I will act out. I will probably be looked at as the enemy once again by the administration. But I don't want to bury another American, whether it is in Central America or wherever.

“We veterans are an eyewash for you folks,” Menard told 25 students who gathered after class to ask him questions. “Talking about it is good to make you, particularly the men, question society. People are saying, ‘Why are we here?’

“We don’t want you to feel sorry for me. I want you to feel concern for America and for what could happen again,” Menard said. “Don’t just fest on the agony of the story, of what happened. Try to do something about it so that it doesn’t happen again. Really look at it as if this might happen to you. Because I am here and I made a very staunch effort to be here. So that you can really look at it and see how it can change your life, give you more meaning. If you don’t do that, you are going to be reading with it.”

Lobby Fights Rent Control Bill...

(Continued from front page)

old rent control law, which exempts owner- occupied units from the ordinance until the time the owner moves out. Costa’s bill could keep those buildings rent-control free even when the landlord leaves, said Santa Monica Rent Board member David Finkel.

The latest edition of Costa’s bill no longer contains a provision which would prevent landlords from raising rents upon tenant eviction, noted Joe Pasquale, CHAIN lobbyist. Last year’s bill only provided for de-control if tenants left voluntarily, he said.

But Reardon said Costa will amend that section, and add the slipup to the Legislative Council, which drafts all legislation.

Mobile home parks were exempt from last year’s bill, but could be included in the new legislation. Costa had originally included mobile homes, but they were eliminated during an assembly floor fight last summer. Fifty-three California cities have enacted rent control laws, with all but 11 applying exclusively to mobile homes.

The Costa Bill, which eventually died last (Please turn to pg.16, col.1)