and sites within the next
e years to house the ever-in-
sing numbers of children in
schools. The district's present
ting capacity is $580,000. Of-
ls are trying to determine
ther it would be to the dis-
's advantage to try to obtain
difference from the state.
e said the Pacific Grove dis-
"is kind of in the gray area
een getting advantages and
getting advantages from state
it needs to be looked at."
consultant explained that the
doesn't give money outright
hool districts, but lends it.
law requires that the dis-
earmark roughly 42 cents of
ix rate at the elementary
and an equal amount at the
school level to repay its own
s and the state loan.

Bond Payments

e Pacific Grove district now
32 cents of its $3.21 tax rate
arked for bonds. If it ob-
d state aid for both high
ol (which includes junior
and elementary school
truction, the 32 cents would
to be raised to about 85
s, an increase of 33 cents.
e indicated it was doubtful
Pacific Grove could get
h state aid to make up the
rence between the $580,000
could be raised by a district
issue and the $950,000 which
nticipated will be needed.

He explained that state aid is
made available partly on the
basis of the number of square
feet per child in present build-
ings, and corridors and audi-
toriums are included in this
square footage. The present Pa-
cific Grove High School and
Robert Down School have audi-
toriums which count heavily
against the square footage total.
However, said Lee, there's a
possibility that the state might
"forgive" this "excess space" in
order to make sure the district
has enough classrooms.

Better Deal

In answer to a question, Lee
said, "It's a better deal if you
can get aid from the federal gov-
ernment," which makes outright
grants rather than loans. Federal
aid, however, would be available
only if the district could show a
sizeable increase in the number
of children of federal employes
entering the schools, and even
then it wouldn't be a sure thing.

It was explained that the dis-
trict could pass a bond issue for
the entire $950,000 building pro-
gram, or even a larger amount
to cover building needs for a
longer period. But bonds in ex-
cess of the $580,000 bonding ca-
pacity couldn't be sold until
higher assessed valuations in-
creased the district's bonding ca-
pacity. The maximum tax in-
crease if the district financed its
building program entirely with
bonds would be 38 cents.

However, Supt. Thomas Turner
pointed out, financing the pro-
gram entirely with bonds would
mean the $950,000 program
couldn't be completed for about
three years. With state aid, the
whole thing could be done imme-
diately.

Some Controls

In answer to questions about
how much control the state would
exercise if the district went un-
der state aid, Lee said there
would be no state control except
on the size of classrooms and the
maximum building costs.

He said, however, that the dis-
trict "would be virtually turning
your treasury over to the State
Department of Finance. You'd
have to consult with them every
time you wanted to spend a cent
more money" on the construction pro-
ject.

Lee said studies of anticipated
enrollment increases indicate the
district will need about a dozen
more classrooms in the next
three years. He also said the
studies showed "no drop-off fac-
tor" in the district's growth. Ex-
isting classes will keep getting
bigger each year.

On the proposal to move the
junior high school to the present
senior high school campus, and
vice versa, Lee said more build-
ings will be needed whether the
change is made or not. He indi-
cated, however, that he thought
it would be better to move the
high school to the larger junior
high school campus.

Several members of the school
board and administration attend-
ed last night's meeting of the
citizens committee. The commit-
tee will hold its next meeting
June 12.

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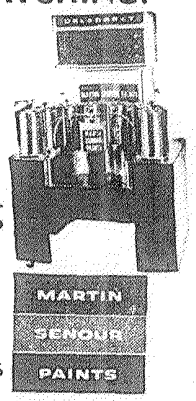
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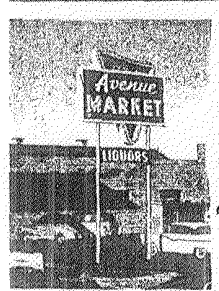
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