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Executive Department
State of California

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of the State of California

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FRANK M. JORDAN, Secretary of State

By *Walter L. Tucker*
Assistant Secretary of State

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS On October 15 we observe Poetry Day in California--a day to honor our poets and their work; and

WHEREAS In man's culture, from the earliest days, the poet has occupied a special place. For the words he has set to the music of the mind have moved men to great things. Through the ages the poet has lifted the hearts of the sad, stirred romance and recorded man's progress in the epic pages of history; and

WHEREAS Americans will always remember that frosty January 20, 1961, when Robert Frost delivered his memorable and moving poem at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. On that day poetry found a new niche in American life; and

WHEREAS In the tradition John F. Kennedy established four years ago and in commemoration of Poetry Day, 1965, a California poet, educator and legislator, Charles B. Garrigus, has composed a "Sonnet for California" which I am proud to present in this proclamation to the people of California:

Sonnet for California

"What profit is it to a man if, gaining all the world,
He lose the soul which gives it meaning?"
So spoke the best and wisest of us all,
In hopes that we would know life's happiest lot;
But men became enraptured with the treasures of the earth,
And trading peace for pleasure, soon forgot.

This California is a blessed land,
Where every prospect shows its fairest face;
And Beauty boasts where nature's bounteous hand
Has strewn her riches with a lavish grace.
Here a people's faith in learning's power
Has given hope its tools for shaping life.
Great dreams become achievements of the hour,
Reducing time's inheritance of strife.
But all the wealth that farm and factory give
Shall mock the man whose dignity is lost;
Then let us measure gain by how men live
And count the righteous cause and not the cost.

Whoever says that justice can't be done
Has lost the faith by which this world is won.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, proclaim October 15 as POETRY DAY.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this seventh day of October, One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five.



Edmund G. Brown
Governor

ATTEST:

Samuel H. Jordan
Secretary of State