

Copyright 1997 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
Fresno Bee (California)

January 18, 1997 Saturday, HOME EDITION

SECTION: TELEGRAPH, Pg. A3

LENGTH: 313 words

HEADLINE: Costa, Maddy each tapped for 5 panels;
Fresno senators maintain hold on key chairmanships.

BYLINE: Pamela J. Podger, The Fresno Bee

DATELINE: SACRAMENTO

BODY:

San Joaquin Valley senators will help shape welfare, gambling, transportation and health issues under committee assignments handed out Friday.

Sen. Ken Maddy, R-Fresno, and Sen. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, each was named to five committees.

Democrats, who have a majority in the Senate, won 61 percent of the committee assignments.

Republicans got 35 percent and the sole independent politician got 4 percent.

Costa retains chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, while Maddy keeps his role steering Finance, Investment and International Trade.

Costa, an avid train buff, received a new assignment on the Transportation committee. He gave up his berth on the Public Employment and Retirement Committee.

While Costa was in Washington for the presidential inauguration, his spokeswoman Jennifer Galehouse said the senator will play an active role in Amtrak and high-speed rail.

Unchanged from last year, Costa will also serve on Housing and Land Use; Finance, Investment and International Trade; and Budget and Fiscal Review committees.

Maddy said he's likely to be immersed in the welfare debate as policy issues are raised in the budget or the health committees.

"It is going to be a very thorny problem," said Maddy, vowing to make sense of the federally mandated reforms.

Maddy said he remains on the Government Organization committee, which this year is expected to consider important gaming regulation bills.

Included are dueling reforms proposed by Republican Attorney General Dan Lungren and Sen. President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer, D-Hayward.

On the finance committee, Maddy said hot subjects are likely to be capping or otherwise regulating the bank fees on automatic teller machines and changes in the stock offering laws.

Maddy remains on the Legislative Ethics committee.

No vice chairmanships have been named.