

Recallees Exposed; Promises-Performances Compared

City Lot Sale Flops On First Council Auction

Indicating there would be spirited bidding if the city was ready to conclude the sale for 21 tax-deeded lots at the time of the auction, several local residents made preliminary offers when the city council announced the opening of the sale Tuesday night.

However, because a week must elapse before the council can, according to the resolution pertaining to the sale, actually sell the properties, Tuesday night's bidders developed no competition. The highest offer was for \$200 on one lot, but the rest of the quotations, ranging from \$100 to \$150, were termed "ridiculous prices" by B. R. Gregg, of the Associated Assessment Engineers, consultants for the city in the negotiations.

It was finally announced that at the next regular session of the council, on August 12, resolutions will be ready to convey final acceptance of approved bids.

Phone Company Putting in New Lines on Desert

Launching a new project in its fast-moving program to aid in national defense, provide flexible emergency service and handle growing traffic, the Southern California Telephone Company started work this week on a new desert long distance line, involving an expenditure of more than \$200,000, according to G. G. Draper, telephone company manager.

This undertaking, covering construction of a pole line along an 88-mile route from Yermo to Cadiz, both in San Bernardino county, and the stringing of additional wires from Cadiz to Danby, is in addition to three other large long distance schedules previously announced and will provide twenty-four talking circuits.

The other long distance jobs are construction of an underground toll route between Santa Ana and Del Mar at a cost of \$1,000,000, the placing of an underground cable between Los Angeles and Newhall at a cost of \$325,000 and the building of new facilities between Newhall and Yermo at an expenditure of \$716,000.

Work on the new job will be pushed through the summer to make possible the use of the additional facilities at an early date. The manager reported rapid progress on the other great long distance lines.

Council to Decide Today On No. Torrance Water

An adjourned meeting of the city council will be held this afternoon (Thursday) at 4:45 o'clock to decide what the city will do about providing water to a few families in North Torrance who are facing discontinuance of service due to the failure of a private company. It is likely that the city will call for bids on drilling a new well, repair a pump and tank there. Deeds for the property have been received, Glenn Jain, city engineer, said but have not been formally accepted.

TO CONVENTION

On motion by Councilman Lawrence V. Babcock, \$200 was appropriated by the city council Tuesday night to pay the expenses of George V. Powell, police commissioner, and Oscar Butterfield, electrical inspector, at a convention in San Jose August 25-27.

Record of Powell-Murray-Babcock Reveals Utter Failure to Carry Out Campaign Statements

TRIO'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN PLANKS FOUND WORTHLESS!

It's not what a man says—it's what he does! This old saying was never truer than in the case of Councilmen George V. Powell, John V. Murray and Lawrence V. Babcock who face recall at the hands of Torrance citizens in the special election next Tuesday, July 29. By their own statements, published over their own names during their campaign for election, this trio stands guilty—not only of the charges filed against them by the Torrance Citizens Committee for Good Government—but of failure to carry out their campaign promises—and here's the proof!

Powell Planks Perish

In 1940 when he was running for re-election, Councilman George V. Powell, with two running-mates, published in the so-called "Greater Torrance News" (a sheet he sponsored for the duration of the campaign) a platform which he termed "Objectives for a Greater Torrance."

Some of the planks of this platform are quite interesting. If they had been carried out the city may have benefited. But they were not. Powell is no longer in a position to blame this failure to want of cooperation because since the last city election in April 1940 he, with Murray and Babcock, have been the majority bloc in the city council.

For the information of the voters of Torrance, here are some of the more-important things which Powell advocated—and a factual report on his lack of performance in behalf of each campaign promise:

PLANK 3

"Reduction of operating costs of the City Government, through careful purchasing, and the adoption of an impartial bid system. Elimination of useless and unnecessary expenditures."

EXPENSES INCREASED . . . This plank in the Powell platform was tossed overboard by the champion of a "Greater Torrance" as soon as he was certified for another term at \$50 per month PLUS. Operating costs of the city government have MATERIALLY INCREASED. Your municipal tax rate for fiscal 1941-42 will be upped unless Powell-Murray-Babcock top off a few of their pet expenditures — all because this campaign promise was only worth the paper it was printed upon. The bid system in making purchases has been almost entirely ignored, even major purchases running into thousands of dollars being made from friends of the trio without even asking for bids.

Three unnecessary special audits alone have cost Torrance taxpayers alone \$158,750 in the past year, plus another \$3,000 additional expense to the county, which of course, is also borne by the taxpayers. Other useless and extravagant expenditures have been made in proportion, resulting in a HIGH TAX RATE for the coming year. Powell and his pals voted for these unnecessary expenses.

It now appears that the ALLEGED "SHORTAGE" in the city judge's department attempted to be shown by "Bookkeeper" Logan R. Cotton's report is based on ALTERED RECORDS. Because of that fact, the report is of no value unless it results in the indictment and conviction of those who altered them. If it so results, that was not the "objective" sought by those responsible for having the audits made. Nobody who had access to those records, except the three men mentioned, had any object or motive for trying to show a shortage. Usually things of that kind are not done without a motive. WHAT WAS THE MOTIVE? In fact, why was Powell permitted to have possession of the court docket — which he exhibited in open council meeting? Such records should NOT BE PERMITTED out of the hands of the court.

PLANK 4

"Completion of Torrance boulevard and Cabrillo Avenue. Opening of Carson street through to Long Beach."

BOLOGNA . . . Just take a

look at those streets and determine for yourself whether this plank broke down.

PLANK 5

"Establishment of adequate park areas and recreational facilities at strategic locations throughout the city . . . \$33,000 is available for these purposes, and if properly applied will take care of all requirements."

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO . . . What recreational facilities have been established and how was the \$33,000 available spent? On recreation? If not — why not? For more than a year the council has had before it plans and specifications for a Youth's Recreational Building. It is still before the council without any action being taken on the project. Now they are promising to spend another \$7,500. Is this just another campaign promise? There must be rotten timber in this plank!

PLANK 6

"Establishment of a NON-POLITICAL CIVIL SERVICE System giving job protection to all city employees, EXCEPTING THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, who should be accountable to the City Council at all times."

IT'S A LAUGH . . . Do you call the recently adopted Civil Service ordinance "non-political"? Every good citizen favors Civil Service for city employees — provided it is NON-POLITICAL. But the ordinance adopted at the instance of Powell and his two followers was so mutilated that heads of departments are not accountable to the city council, and they were included only for the purpose of "freezing" those friends of Powell-Murray-Babcock into their jobs. Future councils will have no power to control their official acts or to call them to account for neglect of duty.

PLANK 7

"Quarterly financial statement and budget report . . . available to the public."

IGNORED . . . Why has this plank not been used to convey vital information to the public? Or was it constructed solely to "convey" Powell back into office. He evidently believes that a platform is useful only to "get in on" — not to stand on.

PLANK 8

"Appointment of a Committee composed of representatives of labor, industry and business to confer with the Council on all matters of policy conducive to the best interests of the City."

FORGOTTEN . . . If such a committee were even thought of, it has been entirely forgotten, or has been confined to a few henchmen. Let's have their names, Mr. Powell!

Murray Mutilates Mottos

First to file a nomination petition for election to the city council in 1938 was John V. Murray, barber. In his announcement statement, published in The Herald Feb. 24, 1938, he disclaimed such things as "axes to grind," "disruption of steady progress" and "mud slinging." But three years and three months in office—the last 15 months with Councilman Powell as his fuhrer—gave Murray experience in all three disreputable factors. Omitting his habit of "putting his foot in his mouth" (a facility which has enlivened many a council session), here is the comparison of his campaign promises with his councilmanic performances:

PLANK 1

"I am offering my candidacy to maintain the good government we have always enjoyed in Torrance."

PHOOEY . . . Not even the pompous Murray, by any stretch of his pliable imagination, can claim Torrance has received "good government" at his hands. Petty bickering, "foot-on-the-brass-rail" pronouncements against those who oppose the Great Murray, and, lately, heckling from the council bench at those who appear in protest to his official edicts have no place in "good" government.

PLANK 2

"I have no axes to grind nor do I want to disrupt the steady progress of our city."

MANY AXES . . . The matter of "axes to grind" is familiar to Murray, whose political weapons have been in constant use — or so he believes — of sharpening. His all-too-evident familiarity with political "executions" — Judge Lessing and City Clerk Bartlett — and the unsuccessful purge of Police Chief John Stroh and City Engineer Leonard Young — reveal Headsman Murray's knowledge of "axes." And speaking of "axes" how about the marble games, Jack?

PLANK 3

"I have no axes to grind nor do I want to disrupt the steady progress of our city."

MURRAY'S MANEUVERS to embroil the city in faction fights have been climaxed by this recall election, which surely is an indication of disrupting the "steady progress of our city."

PLANK 4

"However, I believe my long residence here qualified me for the council position where I shall endeavor to represent all the people—not just a few."

By the Way, Mr. Powell . . .

What do you know about that garbage collection contract adopted by your recommendation June 26?

You know, Mr. Powell, those hog pens do not smell so good. Were you afraid they might be moved away before three years have expired? Is that why you caused the contract to be renewed for THREE years at an increased cost to the city?

Did you give anybody except the one who got the contract a chance to bid on it? If not—why not? That is a pretty remunerative contract as it now reads, don't you think so, Mr. Powell?

You spent quite a bit of money in the last campaign and told quite a few people you were a poor man and needed the \$50 a month. Who furnished the money which you spent in that campaign, Mr. Powell?

BAN WOOD PILES

Councilman James Hitchcock asked City Engineer Glenn Jain Tuesday night to investigate reports that the Southern California Edison Company was installing wood instead of steel light standards in the Hollywood Riviera tract. Steel poles were specified, he said.

New York's 11,000 firemen fought more than 28,000 fires in 1940.

No More 'Iron Ponies' for Police

There'll be no more motorcycle officers riding "iron ponies" in Torrance.

Councilman George V. Powell, head of the police commission, announced the department was abandoning use of motorcycles because of the recent injuries sustained by Motor Officer Willard Barnett. Powell's motion to purchase a Pontiac de luxe sedan for \$1,000 to replace the motorcycle was adopted. He said a car was safer and the "cost was very little more." A \$86.95 siren was also purchased for the new car.

GREAT INDUSTRY North Carolina's biggest industry is cigaret manufacturing with an annual output valued in excess of 532 million dollars. Textile products run a close second with an aggregate value of 525 million dollars.

Babcock Beliefs Baseless

Third man in what at times seems painful subservience to the dictates of George V. Powell, his leader in city council maneuvering, Lawrence V. Babcock was not a bit reticent in the campaign leading up to the April 1940 municipal election.

He, too, announced a campaign platform and had it published in The Herald's issue of February 29, 1940. Candidate Babcock's statements also bear review today when Councilman Babcock faces recall from the first and only public office he ever held, and which was given him in good faith and generosity by his friends who wanted to give him a "chance to come back." His election promises were:

PLANK 1

"I am opposed to autocracy in government or the establishment of 'clique control'."

WHAT CLIQUE . . . Completely disregarding the vast majority of those who befriended him, voted to put him into public office and gave him "another chance" to come back, Babcock eluded up with Powell and Murray to besmirch Judge Lessing and voted with them for the politically inspired special audits that cost \$158,750 during the last year — all of which resulted in total failure.

PLANK 2

"I favor open meeting of the council on all matters of public interest."

PRIVATE HuddleS GALLORE . . . Babcock attended a secret meeting of the council held the day before Judge Lessing was dismissed and joined with Murray and Powell in making a demand on Judge Lessing that he resign, threatening him with prosecution if he refused to do so. Of all men, Babcock should have been the last to condemn a man until he had been proven guilty. There have been more secret huddles of the Big Three during the past year than at any other time in the city's history.

PLANK 3

"I am opposed to secret purchases of public equipment and supplies and prefer submission to public bid of all purchases over \$25 with local bidders being given the preference."

FEW BIDS ASKED . . . How many purchases have been procured by requests for bids? And yet, Babcock has voted for the purchase of thousands of dollars worth of equipment and supplies for which no public bids were even sought.

Did anybody get a chance to bid on the garbage contract, which for the first time in history was awarded for THREE years at an INCREASED PRICE? This contract involves an expenditure of more than \$4,800 per year, and contrary to previous practice, was let for THREE YEARS. Why was this done?

PLANK 4

"I favor demanding increased allocation of gasoline tax refund according to our motor registration, those funds to be used in street maintenance repairs."

JUST A CAMPAIGN PROMISE . . . What increase in the percentage of gas tax refunds has the city received? Ask the people of South Torrance, who just last week sent a communication to the council decrying the utter lack of street maintenance in their district.

PLANK 5

"I believe in annual publication of the municipal budget and semi-annual itemized treasurer's report of receipts and disbursements."

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STILL IN THE DARK

While the taxpayers in neighboring cities are given a full and detailed report of municipal expenditures, including all salaries and expenses paid to public officials, Torrance voters are still entirely in the dark on these vital matters. Why did Babcock fail to give us this information? Are there some items "we are not supposed to know" about? If everything is on the up and up, why don't we get a detailed financial statement even ONCE a year the same as Hermosa Beach, Gardena, Redondo and other cities have published?

PLANK 6 "I am in favor of adequate and proper civil service status for municipal employees and establishment of civil service rules and regulations to give preference to public employment to those who have been residents of Torrance for a least two years."

WHY THE DELAY . . . Why did it take more than a year to pass a civil service ordinance when Babcock was chairman of the city ordinance committee? All the councilmen repeatedly expressed themselves in favor of it and somebody delayed action for more than a year. Is it possible that Babcock and his two pals held it up in order to deprive some one then in office of its benefits, and until they could get their own appointees in office? Or was it passed under pressure of the threatened recall in order to "freeze in" these appointments?

PLANK 7 "I favor school playgrounds to be kept open during vacation periods."

ANOTHER FAILURE . . . Have Babcock and his pals even tried to get the school playgrounds open during the summer? Certainly if his good friend, Janitor George Powell had cooperated with him, Bab-

cock could have gotten these school facilities for the enjoyment of our children this summer.

PLANK 8 "I favor the creation of a Fathers' P.-T. A. council here to work with the regular P.-T. A. organizations to better school condition."

MORE HOT AIR . . . What steps has Babcock taken to create a Fathers' P.-T. A.? Or was it just another campaign promise?

PLANK 9 "I favor government of, by and for the whole people of the city, with equal voice and representation for all."

IGNORED . . . Why did Babcock refuse to heed the wishes of a whole council chamber, overflowing with people from all parts of the city, demanding an explanation of his actions? This doesn't look like "equal representation."

Court Business Continues Good, Shidler Reports

During the 20-day period from June 11 to 30, date of his last report to the city council, City Judge John Shidler collected a total of \$470.50 in fines and civil filing fees. Itemized, this sum was received from \$12 for filing fees, \$85 from 58 parking violations, \$37 from drunks, \$14 for failure to make boulevard stops, \$170 from 15 drunk drivers, \$101.50 for 30 motor vehicle code violations and \$71 from nine persons convicted for thefts, battery or disturbances.

In dividing the court revenue, Shidler reported \$271.50 went to the road fund while the general fund received \$198. Beginning August 1, Shidler announced he planned to make his reports correspond to the calendar month and he estimated that the July collections "should total well over \$1,000."

"Dreams of Future" He revealed that, having netted many violators of the two-hour parking limit (58 who paid \$85 during the 20-day period of his last report), the next objective would be a drive on "jay-walking" in Torrance.

"After an educational campaign we expect in the not too far distant future to enforce this state law which will increase the work of this court as much as the parking law enforcement did," Shidler informed the council.

Even a city magistrate has visions of better things to come, as revealed by Shidler in this paragraph: "Our dreams of the future include a Bench for the Court in the Courtroom, a proper office space for the Court Clerk and adequate remuneration for services rendered to those rendering them."

TOY LOAN PROBLEM A special meeting of the city council is scheduled within the next 10 days to discuss continuing the Toy Loan library here as a city recreation project. Mrs. Flora Wright appealed to the council Tuesday night for this support.

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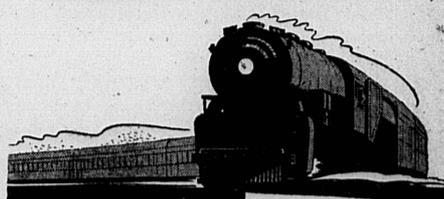
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EAST ON THE FRIENDLY "CALIFORNIAN"



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7 delicious meals en route 2.85
TOTAL in air-conditioned
chair cars . . . \$42.35

If you do want a berth.
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