

Councilman's Abrupt Remark Indicates Bad Civic Policy

An Editorial by Grover C. Whyte

If the attitude of the city council—as indicated by its action Tuesday night—toward industries in this area and their employees' welfare is to prevail, Torrance stands to forfeit the goodwill and much of the benefits from the million dollar payrolls which the huge new aluminum and rubber plants will soon be paying to their thousands of workers.

Pointing out that the roadway on Madison ave. leading to its plant was in bad condition and would become worse with the rains, the Dicalite Company requested the city council to repair the street, which lies within the city of Torrance. The company's plant is located just outside the boundary of Torrance. It has 160 employees engaged in war work whose passage to the plant is seriously handicapped by the poor condition of the roadway.

AN EMBARRASSING INCIDENT

But the request was brushed aside following a comment by Councilman Nick Cucci, who said: "They are not paying any taxes to Torrance. I don't see why we should do anything for them."

We hope this regrettable remark was made carelessly and that the action of the council in subsequently tabling the Dicalite Company's request is not the considered policy of the city administration. It most certainly does not express the attitude of the large majority of the people of Torrance and immediate steps should be taken to correct the hasty action.

This incident is particularly embarrassing in view of the long record of civic cooperation by officials of the Dicalite Company. It has contributed liberally to our Community Chest and during the depression years frequently donated needed food supplies for the relief of Torrance families. When we had a Chamber of Commerce, the company indicated its civic-mindedness by renewing its membership year after year.

WHERE NEIGHBORLISSNESS IS NEEDED

Certainly such a friendly next-door neighbor deserves better consideration than was given at last Tuesday's council meeting. We trust that as similar requests for cooperation are made by the aluminum and rubber plants and their employees that they will be received in a more cordial and helpful spirit.

The fact that these plants do not pay taxes to the city of Torrance is of small consideration compared to the other benefits this city enjoys from its nearby industries. Many employees already have bought homes here and hundreds of other families will move here as soon as homes are available. In the meantime, let's help them all we can. Let's be good neighbors.

Large Contingent Leaves Torrance For Induction

A large contingent (new Selective Service regulations prohibit telling how many) composed the draft quota which left Torrance Tuesday morning for the Los Angeles induction station. The group is believed to have exhausted all remaining 3-A-1 registrants in this district and the next contingent to leave will be composed mostly of some married men without children.

The ban on giving the names of the men inducted, as announced last week, was misinterpreted by officials of the local Selective Service Board, this newspaper learned this week from Lt. Comdr. A. G. Berry, Jr., U.S.N.R., who is coordinator for this draft district. He quoted a release from Gen. Hershey, national draft director, that newspapers may publish names of registrants about to be inducted but "no information may be furnished with respect to the number of men covered by quotas and calls."

Tomorrow (Friday) marks the end of the second year of Selective Service in this community. During the two-year period, 29 contingents of selectees have been sent from this community by Board No. 280. The total number of men inducted into the armed services by the draft from here is not available.

Local men who were sent to the Los Angeles induction station Tuesday were:

- Pedro A. Divina, P. O. Box 217, Waverly.
- Leon G. Hall, 2236 203rd St., Torrance.
- Charles G. Riosstrom, 1531 Ebon Lane, Lomita.
- Albert W. Winkler, 1920 Plaza del Amo, Torrance.
- Maurice J. Sutherland, 2252 West 24th St., Lomita.
- Paul E. McConahay, 2717 N. Hotel, Torrance.
- Milburn E. Ingram, 1902 Plaza del Amo, Torrance.
- Neil T. Whitney, 1414 Cravens ave., Torrance, Volunteer Officers' candidates.
- Thomas P. Charuthas, 1023 Annapolis ave., Torrance.
- Earl C. Miller, 25519 South Normandie ave., Harbor City.
- James T. Eccles, 2445 Ward st., Waverly.
- John L. Pearce, Jr., 24648 Moon st., Lomita.
- Conrad D. Shirley, 921 Sartori ave., Torrance.
- William A. Loftus, 1438 El Prado, Torrance.
- Richard M. Belden, 1316 Cota ave., Torrance.
- Joe H. Mumsterman, 2138 25th St., Lomita.
- Oscar E. Deems, 1307 Annapolis ave., Torrance.
- Ernest R. Gorbet, 2132 24th St., Lomita.
- George G. Strong, Rt. 1, Box 640, Lomita.
- Millon C. Sands, 2306 Torrance ave., Torrance.
- Leslie E. Jones, 1730 "A"llington ave., Torrance.
- Ralph M. Watson, Cravens Apts., Torrance, Volunteer Officers' candidates.

City Is Generous With Its Chairs Loaned to Groups

Anybody want any steel chairs for the duration?

The city council has only 100 left of the 500 purchased for the Civic Auditorium several years ago, the others having been loaned out to various organizations.

The chairs were the subject of a lengthy discussion Tuesday night when it was decided to allow the Torrance Labor Temple to keep 180 of them "for the duration" and let other groups who have the rest keep them indefinitely.

Mayor Tom McGuire reported that the city has about 400 of its chairs out on loans and declared he believed they should be returned immediately after they met a temporary demand. A local church has 60, the Red Cross has 24, the bomb shelter under the postoffice has nearly 100 and other groups now possess the rest, he said.

Councilmen Powell and Cucci favored allowing any organization use of the city equipment "until the city needs it" to which McGuire commented: "If the chairs are left out for a long period of time, you know the city will never get them back." The Labor Temple group informed the council by letter that the chairs were obtained with the understanding they could be kept for the duration because none can be purchased on the market today.

ON PHONE JOB

Charles C. Schultz, Jr., an employee of Southern California Telephone Company, has been stationed for the past three weeks at Camp Young, near Indio, in the post signal office.

PALOS VERDES TO PRODUCE DRY CROPS ONLY IN 1943

Here's a piece of information which will guarantee you fresh vegetables on your dinner table next spring and summer when greenstuff will be hard to get on the market.

Start planning to plant a Victory Garden now. If you didn't harvest your own produce this summer.

That there will be a serious shortage of fresh vegetables in this area next year was indicated by the announcement this week that owners of Palos Verdes farm land will plant no green produce next season, devoting their more than 2,000 acres exclusively to "dry crops."

William Hoberg, manager of the Palos Verdes Farms Association, which operates about 450 acres of the peninsula property, said this week that dry beans and peas only will

Dim-Out to Get Dimer; DeWitt Broadens Order

TO ENFORCE RULES

A model ordinance providing for local enforcement of dim-out regulations prepared by the League of California Cities, was adopted for first reading by the city council here Tuesday night. Police John Stroh recommended passage of the measure to enable his department to enforce provisions of the dim-out rules laid down by the Western Defense Command.

Additional measures designed to prevent any illumination that might aid the operations of the enemy along the Pacific Coast from Canada to Mexico will become effective Oct. 25, with the exception of portions covering street lighting, which will become operative Nov. 12, allowing time for civil authorities to comply with the order.

"Results obtained under the present regulations have in the main been excellent," General J. L. DeWitt, commander of Western Defense and Fourth Army, said in announcing the new measures. "But skyglow must be further reduced and certain other restrictions must be imposed in order to obtain the desired results."

All light visible from above, including street lighting, must now be shielded. As in the past all illuminated signs, ornamental lighting and flood lighting are prohibited. In addition restrictions are now placed upon interior lighting which will affect show windows, restaurants and stores which have interior lighting visible out of doors.

Approximately 800 ornamental lights in Torrance must have their tops and perhaps part of

Men to Head Gas Ration Program Here Being Chosen

Recommendation of two Torrance and one Lomita man to take charge of the issuance of gasoline ration books will be made by John Melville, chairman of the Torrance War Price and Rationing Board, to the state director sometime next week.

He declined to say who is being proposed for the job that will be as extensive as the distribution of sugar ration books several months ago. Melville said the announcement will come from the state director.

No date has been set officially for the gasoline rationing but it is expected to start the latter part of next month.

Civil Defense Program Being Arranged

Arrangements are being made by Frank Thompson, senior air raid warden for Post No. 8 with the cooperation of all Civilian Defense leaders here for an impressive public program to be given at the high school auditorium Nov. 4.

In addition to an outstanding speaker, there will be motion pictures, music and other entertainment. Purpose of the program will be to interest more residents in Civilian Defense, according to Police Chief John Stroh. All organizations are urged to reserve the Nov. 4 date for attendance at the free program.

Bill Keefer, Torrance, Commands Bomber on Great Daylight Raid

"Keep your eyes and ears open for news about the 'Liberty Lad' because we're going to have a spot of tea pretty soon across the big pond," Lieut. William Keefer of the Army Air Force wrote here a few days before he flew the big U. S. Liberator bomber across the Atlantic to England.

And sure enough, "Liberty Lad," piloted by the 23-year-old Torrance flyer, made plenty of news last Friday when Keefer sent it on a major raid over Lille in Occupied France.

Holding one of the wing positions behind Col. E. J. Timberlake Jr., of San Antonio, Tex., who at 33 is reputed to be the youngest full colonel in the U. S. Army, Lieut. Keefer flew the four-motored bomber in one of the most successful American raids of the war to date.

Gunners Bag Nazi

It is believed that the Lille assignment was his first combat action. His tail gunner, Sergeant Coin Fiedeman of Indianapolis, was quoted in dispatches from the U. S. Bomber Command as reporting how two Nazi fighters "were coming in at us."

"One of them," he said, "peeled off, but the other kept coming on. I got him."

This was confirmed by Technical Sergeant William Pescosolido of Newton, Mass., waist gunner, who said that when the fighter came into view of his turret it was pouring smoke.

"I gave him a burst that hit, but it didn't matter," he said. "He was going down anyway."

Splendid Group of Men

Others in Keefer's crew were Lieut. Howard Young, Berkeley, Cal.; Lieut. Joe E. Walker, Birmingham, Ala.; Lieut. Phil Ziegler, Milwaukee; Technical Sergeant A. L. Lee, Little Rock, Ark.; Sergeant Ralph Harris, Dubuque, Ia.; Sgt. John Osborne, Indianapolis, and Sgt. John Bazar, Arnegard, N. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Keefer, who live at 2259 Torrance Blvd., are rightfully proud of their son's record in the Air Force. They visited him in Florida and met Col. Timberlake and all members of Bill's crew. "They are a splendid group of men," Mrs. Keefer said this week.

The Lille raid, described as "the greatest daylight bombing attack of the war," was made by 115 U. S. Fortress and Liberator bombers, the Army disclosed. Hitler's best fighters were drawn into a veritable trap in their eagerness to break up the aerial offensive and bombers, by their own prowess, shot down and destroyed 48 enemy fighting planes, probably 38 more and damaged 19, a communique said.

Watch for 'Liberty Lad'

These enemy victims were in addition to the five German planes downed in dogfights with the 500 fighter planes which escorted the four-engined bombers in the mass raid. There was not a single fatality aboard the 112 out of the 115 bombers returning.

The "Liberty Lad," commanded by Keefer, flew the crew to

Quincy Sinking Saddens Local Seaman's Wife

The sinking of the U. S. S. Quincy, one of three heavy cruisers lost in the Solomon Islands attack, was a personal loss to Mrs. J. M. Rubio of 1616 Cota ave.

Her husband, now a chief storekeeper in the Navy "somewhere in the Pacific," was a member of the Quincy's crew when it was commissioned June 9, 1936 and Mrs. Rubio visited aboard the \$8,196,000 vessel many times.

Rubio kept a complete log of the Quincy while he was a member of the cruiser's personnel. He was aboard it when the warship made her "shakedown" cruise to Europe in 1936 and saw active service evacuating American and British refugees out of Spain at the onset of the Spanish Civil War.

The local man served on the Quincy for three years, Mrs. Rubio said, and she has many mementos of the ship named for the city of Quincy, Mass. The name, she said, was chosen Dec. 22, 1932 as the Navy's Christmas present to its then secretary, Charles Adams, who was born in Quincy.

Rubio was a storekeeper second class on the Quincy. He has been in the Navy 18 years.

Housing Effort Put In High Gear By MacDonnell

Even Torrance's new housing coordinator had a difficult time finding space to set up his office because the housing shortage applies to municipal building space as well as living quarters here.

But now Pat MacDonnell has established himself and a part-time secretary in the police darkroom in the city hall which was cleared of its photographic equipment and is gradually losing its odor of hypo and developer.

MacDonnell is operating with an expense account limited to \$10 a month. But this is not yet hampering MacDonnell's efforts to secure "at least living space for about 3,000 workers in the shortest time possible." At the present time he is sending out invitations to some 21 reliable, approved building concerns, urging them to make a study of Torrance and take advantage of the cooperation offered them by the city and industries.

Rental Ratio Is Zero

The housing director is also contacting local industries in the process of making a survey to determine the number of new employees they expect to hire, forms of transportation to be used by workers and what difficulties the plants are experiencing in getting new workers due to the lack of housing here.

"This is considerable, I have learned already," he said this week. "When all the facts are known, I anticipate little, if any, resistance from the priorities division of the F.H.A., and the National Housing Agency to my proposal that Torrance be placed in the ultra-critical bracket of the critical Los Angeles defense area for housing."

"Statistics show that from the Federal census of 1940 to Oct. 1 the population here has increased 650, according to figures of the Community Regional Planning Commission," MacDonnell continued. "And there have been only 194 new rental units developed here in that period of time. All present indications show the rental ratio for Torrance is exactly zero—there are no rentals of any kind available."

All local industries and those on the outskirts of Torrance, (Continued on Page 1-A)

Oil Field Scrap To be Collected By Lomitan

It's patriotic for scrap-hungry Lomitan to rummage attics and down to the last gear tin, but Lomitan's real treasure trove lies buried amid ghostly timbers of the Torrance-Lomita oil fields.

In recognition of that fact, John R. Shanley, Lomita oilman, has been appointed by the Civil Defense committee to lead a metal hunt through surrounding frontier forests and abandoned factories.

Shanley's committee will spot scrap and contact owners with a patriotic plea that they sell it through the Lomita scrap committee.

John Holm reported today that his committee has coaxed more than nine tons of bedsteads, farm machinery, kettles and miscellaneous scrap from Lomita dwellings.

WOMEN'S GROUPS TO MAP WAR BOND DRIVE TONIGHT

Representatives of all women's groups in the city are invited to a meeting at 7:30 o'clock tonight (Thursday) at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Ralston, 1667 Gramery ave., for formal instruction in the technique of selling War Bonds and Stamps in preparation for the drive which will start immediately here.

Formal appointment of Mrs. Harriet V. Leech, of the National Business and Professional Women's club to take charge of the drive was made by the chairman, J. Hugh Sherkey, at a luncheon meeting last Friday which was attended by the co-chairmen, Georgia Marlow and Corlissa Reeve, and representatives of 17 women's organizations.

Since that time letters have been sent to all women's groups, notifying them of tonight's meeting and urging them to be rep-

Pin Ball License Effort Revived After Long Rest

Another effort to license pin-ball machines in Torrance was launched Tuesday night. This time Councilman Nick Cucci, junior member of the city board, revived the "pin-ball" skeleton which has been rattling around in the municipal closet since June 1940 with only infrequent public exposure.

Old Keys Wanted for Scrap Drive

With the slogan, "Unlock the Door to Victory!" Dale Riley, city recreation director, and members of the Torrance police department today launched a drive to collect every available old key to amplify the scrap metal collection here.

There's a big box right outside the entrance to the police station to receive the old keys that you no longer use. Contributions will be strung on a wire across the front of the police headquarters until they are turned over to the scrap drive.

Key collections should be taken up at all schools and churches at once. Riley said he would be glad to pick up the contributions at the schools, clubs and churches and dump them in the police department's bin.

Dicalite Request For Road Work Gets 'Brush-Off'

An urgent request for the improvement of Madison st., in Waverly which leads to the Dicalite Co. plant, an essential war industry employing 160 persons, was shelved by the city council Tuesday night after Councilman A. Nick Cucci declared:

"They are not paying any taxes to Torrance. I don't see why we should do anything for them. Let's table the request until the priorities are lifted and then we can give it consideration."

The Dicalite plant, said to be "80 per cent in war work," asked that the street be improved to a 16-foot roadway before the rainy season starts, pointing out that Madison was in very poor condition at present. This was confirmed by City Engineer Glenn Jain who reported that oil for resurfacing has been "frozen" by the Federal government. However, later in the council session, an appropriation of \$540 to purchase street improvement materials was authorized; and two other appropriations totaling \$325 to rock-and-oid city streets were approved.

Water Demand Here Is Setting New Records

The demand for water to supply local war factories and homes is breaking all previous records. It was learned this week from Superintendent William H. Stanger of the municipal water department.

The jump in water consumption amounts to 7.5 per cent, slightly more than the average increase of 7.3 per cent for other cities in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

* Reading a prepared statement in which he said he estimated there were "about 50 such machines operating in the city," Cucci declared licensing is the "only method to effect their own way." He proposed that the city attorney be instructed to draft an amendment to the city licensing ordinance whereby a fee of \$15 per month per machine "be collected annually."

When Mayor Tom McGuire suggested making the license fee \$180 per machine per year, collected annually in advance, Cucci agreed to the amendment and it was adopted over Councilman James Hitchcock's negative vote. Cucci said he wanted to "specify that under the proposed law a man can purchase or rent a pin-ball machine so that would allow no monopoly."

"Pigeon-Holed in 1940" The last time the pin-ball skeleton rattled out of the oblivion of "further study" to which it was consigned June 11, 1940 was March 10, 1942 when John A. Shidler, then city judge, proposed licensing the so-called games. His comment was received in silence by the council and no action was taken.

Councilman Vern Babcock introduced a pin-ball license law as an "emergency measure" during the summer of 1940. His proposal, modeled after the county's ordinance and presented at the request of Police Chief John Stroh, would have allowed but one license per 12,000 population who could operate 25 of the machines for \$250 annual fee or \$10 each for each additional machine over the original 25. The measure was pigeon-holed "for further study."

Other cities have been enjoying substantial incomes from the pin-ball machines for years. Redondo Beach receives a license fee of \$400 per year for a "blanket permit"; Hawthorne extracts a quarterly fee of \$5 for each machine and an application fee of \$75; Manhattan Beach gets \$5 per year each; Inglewood takes them \$7.50 each per quarter and Long Beach issues a "master license" costing \$50 for the first machine, \$5 per year for each additional one.

Registration for Gas Rationing Starts Nov. 9

Registration for gasoline rationing will begin Nov. 9 in all parts of the country except the already rationed east. In gearing gasoline rationing more closely to the tire conservation program, OPA made these innovations in the plan now operated in the east:

1. Periodic tire inspections as a requirement for any renewal of rations, as well as any application for tires or recaps.
2. Certification that the applicant owns no more than five tires for any vehicle.
3. Revocation or reduction of rations for drivers who exceed the 35-mile-an-hour speed limit.

The registration beginning November 9 will be for "A" coupon books, with the rationing plan to go into effect November 22.

Each applicant will be required to list the serial number of all tires he owns. If he lists more than five tires for each car, he will be denied an "A" book until he shows he has disposed of the excess tires.

OPA said that it would announce shortly details of the periodic tire inspection program. All car owners registering next month will receive "A" (Continued on Page 6-A)

First Rainfall .14 of Inch

This season's first rainfall last Sunday night and Monday morning amounted to .14 of an inch, according to city firemen who are again checking the rain gauge atop the fire department garage. The first rainfall last season occurred Aug. 16, 1941 when .07 of an inch was recorded. The total rainfall last season was 10.66 inches.

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LIEUT. WM. KEEFER
... watch for "Liberty Lad"

Third Fireman, First Policeman In Armed Service

The Torrance fire department added its third star to its service flag this week while the police department will hang up a one-starred emblem "when some kind soul chips in and buys us one."

Neil Whitney is the third fireman to enlist and the second to go into active service, while Motor Officer Willard "Barney" Barnett signed on as a Navy recruit from the police department.

The fire department lost Ivan Kettering to the Coast Guard recently and E. K. "Gene" Walker, who enlisted in the same force Sept. 23, is on a 24-hour call awaiting summons for duty.

"Barney" Barnett is on the active Navy list without pay awaiting a call to shore patrol duty. This is expected within 10 days or two weeks, he was told by Navy officers when he enlisted.

Astoria Survivor Visits Mother In Lomita on Furlough

Raymond W. Biscailuz, fireman 2/c U. S. N. can't talk but he can eat mother's cooking. Raymond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Biscailuz of 22721 Pennsylvania ave., was a member of the Navy personnel on the cruiser Astoria, sunk in a recent Solomon Islands engagement. He was in the water 12 hours, lost a tooth and his hearing was slightly affected by exposure.

Navy men who escaped cannot tell even their experiences unless and until their commanding officer gives permission. So all Raymond can say is that he is glad to be safe.

Young Biscailuz has probably seen more action than any other local service man. He arrived at Pearl Harbor shortly before the Jap sneak attack, participated in Midway, Coral Sea and the Solomon engagements. Ending a three-week furlough, he left yesterday to report for more duty at San Francisco. He is working for a warrant officer's rating.

Before enlisting in December 1940, Raymond was a student at Torrance high school, and captain of the Sons of American Legion, Post 382. His father is a veteran of World War I and served in the army. His uncle is Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz. Raymond reports for duty again in a few days.

Auxiliary Police To Meet Monday

All members of the Torrance Auxiliary Police, unless they are working, must attend the meeting called for next Monday night at 7 o'clock in the city council room. Police Chief John Stroh said today.