

## Fake Fertilizer Deal Draws State Wide Warning

Housewives were warned against purchasing lawn fertilizers by the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture recently, who said that there is an alleged gang operating in the southern part of the state who are selling a mixture of shavings, gravel, or just plain soil and receiving as high as \$127 for the lawn material.

The warning was issued by Allen B. Lemmon, chief of the bureau, who stated that not all peddlers were engaging in fraud but that a number of housewives had complained about buying a worthless mixture of sand and gravel full of stones that damaged lawnmowers.

He urged persons who buy from door-to-door fertilizer peddlers to note any identifying data and report it to the State Department of Agriculture in Los Angeles.



### THERE'S A BARGAIN IN YOUR PLANS!

Gas service costs you less today than in 1939

If you are planning to build today, you naturally expect to pay more for almost everything than you would have paid in 1939. But you have one pleasant surprise ahead. When you specify gas—there is a real bargain in your plans. For gas actually costs you less today than in 1939!

Thanks largely to so many new customers, the cost of gas has stayed low. Additional revenue from the sale of gas to more and more customers has contributed in part to offsetting a steady rise in expenses. New customers help when they happen to live where they can be served by existing facilities.

On the other hand—some new customers add to our operating expenses. And heavily, too. Taking care of thousands of new homes located where gas-main extensions are required to reach them, costs us 2 1/2 to 3 times more than in 1939.

Materials and labor are at an all-time high...and taxes, and payrolls and even the cost of gas in the field—have climbed steadily.

Adding new customers has, of course, increased the demand for gas. So—to provide an additional supply of low-cost gas for this enormously growing area, we participated in one of the largest natural gas projects on record. The mammoth \$70 million Texas-California pipeline was constructed from the nearest practical source, some 1,200 miles away, and is now in operation.

Meeting rising costs...serving more customers...providing more gas...these are our problems—just as managing a household budget is yours. So whether you are planning to build...to buy a home already built...or to remodel your present home...remember—gas is truly the bargain in your plans!

NOW MORE THAN EVER YOUR HOUSEHOLD BARGAIN IS GAS



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY



RECENTLY INSTALLED . . . as officers of the Torrance VFW Post No. 3251 are those pictured above: Left to right, back row: George Warburton, trustee; Carl Mirabello, trustee; W. P. Walker, secretary; George Sciler, officer-of-the-day; James Caldwell, service officer; and F. Henderson, trustee. Front row: A. Moore, chaplain; A. E. Palmer, adjutant-quartermaster; W. Martin, senior vice-commander; James Brodie, commander; V. Coil, past commander; and A. Curler, junior vice-commander. (Hal Cameron photo.)



VFW AUXILIARY OFFICERS . . . Seated in an impressive ceremony held in Civic Auditorium, officers who will serve VFW Auxiliary of Post 3251 during the ensuing year, are, in the foreground: Florence Martin, president; Mabel Weigand, retiring president; left to right: Jackie Disario and Betty Sullivan, color bearers; Mary Towler, senior vice-president; Esther Cook, color bearer; Hilma Malin, banner bearer; Ann Hight, flag bearer; Eunice Crabtree, junior vice-president; Pauline Coil, conductress; Ethel Edwards, guard; Ann Warburton, flag bearer; Frankie Brown, secretary; Pearl Jones, treasurer; and Velma Kent, publicity chairman. (Photo by Hal Cameron.)

## N.L.R.B. RULING HOLDS BUTCHERS' LOCAL GUILTY

Holding that a chain of retail grocery stores comes under the Labor Management Relations Act, a trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board April 10 found a local of the A.P.L. Meat Cutters Union guilty of refusing to bargain collectively by insisting upon a closed shop in the Los Angeles and Torrance stores of A&P.

At the same time the examiner recommended dismissal of charges that the local's parent International was guilty of a joint violation. He based his recommendation on his finding that only the local union had been recognized by the employer, or designated by the employees, as bargaining agent in the stores. The general counsel of NLRB had contended that the local and International were joint bargaining agents.

It was the first time that a union has been found in violation of the new law's Section Eight B Three, which requires a labor organization to bargain in good faith with an employer. It also was the first time that an NLRB trial examiner had ruled upon the Board's jurisdiction over chain grocery stores.

The examiner, William E. Spencer, recommended that Local 421 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workmen of North America be required to bargain with the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company for a contract to cover employees in the meat departments of the company's 11 stores in Los Angeles area. Unless exceptions to the recommendations are filed by any of the parties within 20 days, the examiner's recommendations take the full force of a Board order.

In addition, the examiner recommended that the local union "cease and desist from in any manner inciting or encouraging the employees to represent to strike or engage in a concerted refusal to work, for the purpose of inducing the employer to sign a closed shop contract."

The Union meat department employees have been staying away from their jobs since Nov. 3, 1947, but the Union officials have denied that any strike had been called.

Encouragement of the refusal to work, he said, is "intimately tied in to the refusal to bargain."

"While there is no evidence that Local 421 issued a strike order in furtherance of its insistence that the employer sign a closed shop contract, and no evidence that it exerted compulsion of any sort to induce the employees to refrain from work, it is a reasonable inference that it did at least incite and encourage the employees concerted to refrain from work."

In bargaining sessions, the Union had insisted upon a closed shop contract on the ground that the new Federal labor law, which prohibits such contracts, did not apply to retail grocery stores. Under the closed shop, all employees are required to join the Union, and new employees must join as soon as they start to work. The Los Angeles and area A&P stores last

year received more than \$189,000 worth of meat, in addition to substantial quantities of other foods from outside California, the examiner held that the stores were engaged in commerce within the meaning of the law. He declared that, in this case, "the jurisdiction of the Board is clearly established."

However, the examiner recommended dismissal of two other charges which the general counsel had brought against the local and its parent international. The charges in which he recommended dismissal were:

1. That the local union had violated the section of the law forbidding unions to "restrain or coerce" employees in their right to bargain collectively with their employer. He held that the refusal to bargain and the concerted refusal of the union members to work did not constitute restraint or coercion in violation of the law.

2. That the union's insistence upon a closed shop provision amounted to a violation of Section Eight B Two of the Act by attempting to cause the employer to discriminate against all employees in the bargaining unit.

"The Union in this case attempted to cause the employer to agree that it would discriminate at some time in the future if and when the contingency arose which would bring the closed shop provisions into play," Spencer wrote. "But an agreement to discriminate upon some contingency which may or may not arise in the future, is not discrimination, and an attempt to cause the employer to make such an agreement is therefore not an attempt to cause discrimination."

"Congress has provided an adequate restraint on any labor organization's insistence on the closed shop by making this a refusal to bargain under Section Eight B Three and by making any attempt to cause the enforcement of such a contract,

## State Maritime Academy Taking Applications

Commodore Russell M. Ihrig, superintendent of the California Maritime Academy, announced today that applications for admission to the Academy are now being accepted. The Academy is a State educational institution, training candidates for appointment as officers in the Naval Reserve and for licenses in the Merchant Marine. The course is for three years, and graduates are given a Bachelor of Science degree. The midshipmen make an annual cruise of four months duration to foreign ports as part of the training. This year the Training Ship Golden Bear carried a cargo of relief food and clothing to Mediterranean ports of France, Italy, and Greece.

The Academy is subsidized by the Federal Government through grants from the U. S. Maritime Commission and the loan of modern training vessel Golden Bear. Midshipmen receive \$65 per month pay from the Federal Government and free subsistence.

Applicants must be between 17 and 23 years of age—24 for veterans, must be high school graduates, and be recommended by the principal of their high school and two other responsible citizens of their community.

### SMALLEST CAPITAL CITY

Carson City is the capital of Nevada and is the smallest capital city in the United States.

If entered into in violation of the Act, a violation of Section Eight B Two. There appears to be no need and no justification for a strained, illogical construction of Eight B Two which would make the mere attempt to cause an employer to enter into such a contract a violation of that section, and I find nothing in the legislative history of the Taft-Hartley Act to support such a construction."

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## Landlords Have Time To File New Leases

Landlords will be given a reasonable time in which to file a report with the area rent office of leases increasing rent up to 15 per cent which terminated on or before April 1, 1948, the office of the Housing Expediter announced today.

The Housing and Rent Act of 1948 requires that if a lease increasing rents has been terminated before the expiration date, a report of its termination must be filed within 15 days after termination with the local rent office. In the situation of leases which had expired on or before April 1, 1948, the report was required to be filed with the area rent office on or before April 16, 1948.

Because landlords in some areas were not familiar with this provision of the new law which went into effect on April 1, and because of the necessary delay in printing the forms, OHE said it would allow a reasonable time after April 16 for filing reports on terminations on or before April 1. The report of termination (Form D96) may be obtained at local rent offices.

### MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCTION

Motor vehicle production of American factories for the first two months of 1947 was nine per cent higher than that for the first two months of 1947. While 788,662 units were turned out during January and February of this year only 721,056 were turned out during the same months of last year.

## Obstruction Of Waterway Basis Of Action Mon.

A hearing on an order to show cause why A. M. Barnard, local dairyman, should not be restrained from obstructing a natural waterway is scheduled for Superior court, Department C, Long Beach, on April 26. Barnard is alleged by the City of Torrance to have caused a dike to be constructed across 171st street, at Kashmir street, on the border line between his property and that of Torrance Manor, new home development project of Homer Bal, causing flood waters which normally would flow to lower lands and across the dairy farm of Barnard to back up, damaging streets, walks and making access to new homes impossible.

A temporary order was issued early this month, restraining Barnard from obstructing a natural waterway and it was set for hearing April 12. It was continued until April 26 by the court at the request of the defendants.

City Attorney C. Douglass Smith is representing the city in the matter.

### REDUCING ACCIDENT RATE

Our traffic accident rate can be substantially reduced if motorists and pedestrians will practice the Golden Rule. When driving your car, drive as you would have others drive. When turning off this year only 721,056 were turned out during the same months of last year.

## BIDS SEEN NEXT MONTH FOR HARBOR COLLEGE

Bids for the work of clearing the site of the proposed Harbor Technical Junior College are expected to be advertised early in May, it was announced this week by Board of Education officials.

Planned east for the Figueroa and Anaheim street educational plant is \$2,100,000, with \$1,000,000 having already been budgeted by the Board. Another \$500,000 is expected to be earmarked for the college in the 1948-49 budget.

Raymond J. Casey, former Torrance High principal who was named director of the college, is planning to assume his new duties as soon as he is relieved at Belmont High School, where he now is principal. Educational officials hope to have several classrooms and the administration building of the new college ready by the September semester.

Advisory Council Chairman Erle B. Smith is scheduled to meet soon with Board officials to plan a curriculum for the school.

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