

RESERVISTS MAY APPLY

Inactive Marine Corps Reservists may apply at once for two weeks of active duty training on the West Coast, Colonel J. O. Brauer, director of the Eleventh Marine Corps Reserve District announced today at Los Angeles.

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Downtown City-Owned Parking Lots Gain Favor Over Meters

Establishment of municipally-owned parking lots in and surrounding the shopping center was the most favored solution to Torrance's problem of traffic congestion, a survey of Chamber of Commerce members reveals.

Installation of parking meters on streets in the shopping area was less favored, but second in consideration in a report on a Chamber-wide questionnaire prepared by Charles T. Rippey, chairman of the chamber's parking committee.

The third, and most immediate solution revealed by the questionnaire would be the lease of more than 200 parking spaces in the shopping area now used all day by store and shop employers and employees; if those users would park a few blocks away from the shopping area.

All day parking was revealed as the most serious immediate problem, and an estimate was made that parking meters would increase the parking turnover—and therefore the trading population—400 per cent. A majority of those who did favor parking meters preferred parking time limits of less than two hours. Almost as many, though, favored two hour parking.

The committee's report included a comprehensive study

of other cities' experiences with parking meters. Among the results in this study were the following facts: Sacramento installed 1200 meters and realized \$9 a month per meter with general approval of the meters after the first six months; Long Beach installed 1036 meters, took in \$101,071.45 the first year, and favored the rate of one cent for each 12 minutes; Huntington Park, with a population of 33,000 and a shopping population of 150,000, grossed between \$6,000 and \$8,000 a month on meters, multiplied parking turnover 400 per cent and cut average parking time from two hours to 23 minutes. Pomona with a population of 32,000 installed 678 meters, averaged \$3,500 income a month, and increased turnover at least three times.

Municipally owned parking lots could be established by a parking authority under the parking law of 1949 in which the cost of acquisition and oper-

ation from parking revenues, rents, special taxes or other such means.

Parking lots could also be established through creation of an assessment district in the shopping area by petition of owners of 20 per cent or more of the assessed value of all land in the district. Acquisitions and total improvements of land acquired under this act cannot exceed 20 per cent of the total assessed valuations of all lands in the district and such a project can be defeated if owners of one half of the assessed value of the land object.

The third method of creation of parking lots suggested by the committee is the formation of private corporations by business men who can buy land for parking purposes and finance the operation either through direct charges or a parking ticket valuating system.

Other suggestions of quizzed members included parking in El Prado park between Cravens and Arlington avenues; require parking spaces to be left when construction of new buildings is authorized; parking garages, roof parking and underground parking; parking meters on streets and parking lots; and a system of signs advertising various parking facilities available and their location.

Copies of the report were sent to all Chamber members and

Rippey said a meeting for formation of plans will be called after members have had time to digest the report.

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**A STATEMENT BY
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
ABOUT NEW RATES FOR
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On January 5, 1950, the California Public Utilities Commission granted Southern California Gas Company an increase in rates for gas service, to take effect on February 1. The Commission has prescribed several new rates that will vary by zones or rate areas, designed to reflect differences in the costs of service to various cities and unincorporated areas. The new rate schedules are available for inspection in Company offices, and individual customers will be advised of the new rate applicable to them by an enclosure in their gas bills.

When applied to all residential and commercial customers throughout the Company's system, and averaged for the year, the increase will amount to about 10.8%. The effect on individual customers' bills will, of course, vary.

This is an interim rate increase to provide, partially, the income which is immediately necessary pending final establishment of permanent rates by the Public Utilities Commission. A series of hearings in this matter is being conducted by the Commission, and the next hearing is scheduled for April 3rd.

This is the first general increase in gas rates in over thirty years.

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HUNT'S 15 1/2 OZ. PORK and BEANS 8c	LOAF OLD FASHIONED OLIVE PICKLE 38¢	CUDAHY SLICED BACON 41¢	LEAN GROUND BEEF 39¢
CRYSTAL WHITE SOAP 2 bars for 9c	LEAN, Choice Cuts PORK CHOPS 46¢	SWISS STEAK 48¢	CHOICE CHUCKS BEEF ROAST 43¢
ROSEDALE, 19 oz. can CUT BEANS 19c	S. and F. Heavy Embossed NAPKINS 30-count 10c		SWIFF'S ALL MEAT WIENERS 39¢
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