



### Business Continues Trend Downward During December

Business activity in Southern California continued in a slight downward trend during December, James J. Weigel, manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported yesterday.

The bank's index of business activity stood at 214.4 (preliminary) compared with 215.1 in November. The December index was only fractionally below the 1960 peak of 216.0, which occurred in October, and exceeded the year-earlier level by 2.3 per cent, Weigel said.

In reviewing 1960, Weigel noted that the year as a whole recorded the largest volume of business in the history of the area, although signs of weakness in certain sectors of the economy, noted at mid-year, continued to be in evidence during the second half of the year.

SECURITY'S business index for the year averaged 213.7 compared with 208.6 in 1959;



CHARLES P. SOHNER  
Heads Area Demos

### Demos Pick Sohner to Head Party

Charles P. Sohner, political science instructor at El Camino College and Democratic nominee for the Assembly in the 46th District last year, has been elected to head the 17th Congressional District Democratic Council for 1961.

"Our chief objective is to make the Democratic Party so strong that Governor Brown and the entire ticket running on its splendid record will carry the district next year by an even greater margin than in 1958," Sohner said after the election.

"AS WE seek to serve the interests of all the people, we invite the support of participation of all the people in every phase of party activity," he added.

Officers elected to serve with Sohner were Louis Petrich, Lawndale, first vice president; Sam Flood, Wilmington, second vice president; Mrs. Marlene Rothstein, Gardena, recording secretary; Mrs. Frances Grassi, San Pedro, corresponding secretary, and Larry Sprecher, Inglewood, treasurer.

THE 17th Congressional District Council includes all members of the Democratic State Central Committee, all Los Angeles County Central Committee members residing in the district, and a delegate from each of the 31 chartered Democratic clubs in the district.

Among the functions of the Council is the annual testimonial dinner for Congressman Cecil R. King, usually held each fall on his return from Congress.

a gain of 2.4 per cent. However, if allowance is made for a population increase of approximately 3 1/2 per cent in 1960, business volume on a "per capita" basis averaged about 1 1/2 per cent lower in 1960 than in 1959, the report said.

According to the report, new 1960 records were established in total employment, income, retail sales and total construction volume.

TOTAL employment in the southern half of California averaged about 3,855,000 during 1960, an increase of 108,000, or three per cent over the 1959 average, with a general leveling-off tendency apparent throughout the year.

Personal income in the Southland was estimated at \$27,300,000,000, a gain of 6 per cent over 1959, the previous record year.

Retail sales in 1960 were estimated at \$14,485,000,000 for the 14-county area, up \$285,000,000 or two per cent over 1959's record total. The number of new automobiles sold in Southern California during 1960 was the highest of any year with the exception of 1955.

TOTAL building and construction in the State's southern half totaled a record \$3,502,000,000 in 1960; a slight gain over 1959. The report noted that, although the residential and non-residential building categories recorded declines from 1959 levels, these reductions were offset by a strong rise in the volume of engineering construction, which topped 1959 by 61 per cent.

Another significant factor noted by the bank's research department during 1960 was the rise in unemployment. During 1960 unemployment averaged approximately 226,300, an increase of 26 per cent over the 1959 average. The number reported unemployed averaged 5.5 per cent of the total civilian labor force; about the same as for the United States as a whole.

Homebuilding activity for 1960 was below 1959's record level. In the 14 southernmost counties, permits were issued for about 130,500 family dwelling units, 18 per cent fewer than in 1959.

### Torrance Student Gets Harbor College Office

Glenn G. Gooder, dean of student activities at Los Angeles Harbor College, has announced that six candidates have been elected to student offices on the Harbor College campus for the spring semester.

Winning uncontested election as freshman president is Lynn Welch, 18, business major, 22102 Nicolle.

Orientation for new officers will be held Saturday morning, Jan. 28; and orientation for incoming freshmen will take place in the afternoon of the same day, Gooder said.

### VURPS CAFE COCKTAILS DANCING

Every Fri., Sat., 9-2  
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### Nineteen Local Students Graduate at L.A. Harbor

Los Angeles Harbor College graduated 63 candidates for the Associate in Arts degree last Thursday, according to President Wendell C. Black. Students from Torrance were

Jim Ralph Allen, Paul Duane Brown, William Louis Clothier, Harold James Duprie, Larry Melvin Galloway, Raymond Eugene Hassen, Louise M. Hitt, George Lockhart, William

Marr Neville, Jr., Melvin Doyle Smith, and Ronald Edward Thayne.

Those from the Lomita area were Hubert Paul Barton, Dale Edward Langley, Cynthia

Jo Pedersen, and Eugene Edward St. Amand.

Also from Harbor City the following were listed: Raymond A. Henrich, Ralph John Kosoff, and Marie Anita Robertson.

QUICK ACTION CLASSIFIED RESULTS  
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### North High Sets Discussions on Student Testing

On Tuesday night, Jan. 31, from 7:30 to 8:30, parents of the ninth and tenth grade students of North High School are invited to attend a meeting with their child's Teacher-Counselor to discuss the results

of the Iowa Tests of Educational Development and the Differential Aptitude Test. Parents will meet in the Teacher-Counselor's classroom for an explanation of each test and the implications to the child's fu-

ture education.

At this time parents will have an opportunity to arrange for individual conferences with the Teacher-Counselor or the Counseling Advisor to discuss their child's program in detail.

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- Sav-on Aspirin U.S.P.—5 grain. Bottle of 100 . . . . . 11c
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54x76" bleached seamless fabric. Single diamond lockstitched. 100% cotton filler.  
3.49

**CUT-RITE Wax Paper**  
Extra Strong  
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**8 Transistor Radio**  
2 Band—All wave portable; retractable antenna. Picks up short wave. Guaranteed.  
29.95

**Envelopes**  
Return Address 10" Size  
Box of 50 28c

**Mr. Sleep TABLETS**  
Helps to let you sleep and keeps on working all night long.  
1.50

**SKIPPY Dog Food**  
Ready-to-Eat  
15-oz. Cans 12 for 88c

**Ice Cream Scoop**  
Polished cast aluminum finish with plastic handles in assorted colors.  
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