

Torrance Herald

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The Election Dilemma

Consideration of a filing fee as one of the prerequisites for nomination to public office in Torrance, advanced by the HERALD last week, has many advantages in addition to that cited of merely reducing the bulk of the slate.

One third of the slate of City Council candidates polled only about 5 per cent of the vote at the April 10 municipal election which would indicate that those men—while having every right—had no hopes of waging successful campaigns.

The burden of the heavy slates, however, falls on the voters who must decide among the candidates and mark a choice on the ballot.

With 40 candidates on the ballot this year, 20 of them seeking election to the City Council, voters who tried to wade through the information and make a reasoned selection was put to the test.

Public forums at which candidates are given time to make a presentation of city problems and offer means of solving these problems could do much to enlighten the voting public on qualifications of the various individuals, except in operation, the large number of candidates forced a drastic limitation on time during the recent election.

Any candidate that could outline his program for solving city problems in three or four minutes is out of place here—he is badly needed in Washington.

Prior to election day, a number of persons commented that the slates were too heavy, but the next election is two years away and the long slate is easily forgotten.

Now, however, is the time to fix the hole in the roof—on a sunny day—and not wait for the rain of candidates two years hence. The HERALD still believes that a reasonable filing fee should be required for all municipal offices, and contends that it will not operate against serious candidates.

It should tend, though, to discourage a few who get in the race for a lark, to expose their names for other purposes, or to prove a point to a needling friend.

The HERALD urges serious consideration of the matter by the City Council, and suggests that it might even be made the topic of public hearings before the Council at an early date.

The voters deserve a better break than they got in April.

Quote

"One of the great mysteries of life is how the boy we were sure wasn't good enough for our daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchildren in the world." — Earl Gilbert, Evansdale (Ia.) Enterprise.

"An optimist is a woman who starts slipping into her shoes when the preacher says: 'And now by way of conclusion...'" — John L. Teets, Richwood (W. Va.) Nicholas Republican.

"Brains may be superior to brawn, but did you ever hear of anybody lifting a 100-pound weight by 'out-thinking it?'" — Kenny Bennett, Greencastle (Ind.) Putnam County Graphic.

Definition of fact — the ability to make your guests feel at home when you wish they were." — Elma M. Randolph, Logan (Kans.) Republican.

"A Barclay Heights resident claims his neighbor doesn't like TV much. He just sits and glares at it all evening." — Donald S. Fellows, Saugerties (N.Y.) Catskill Mountain Star.

"After all those promises of new TV programs, all they did was reshuffle sponsors." — Louis Nelson Bowman, King City (Mo.) Tri-County News.

"Most teenagers are keenly aware of the value of the dollar. It buys about three gallons of gasoline." — B. J. Dahl, Chewelah (Wash.) Independent.

"The president of a large automotive corporation predicts that by 1975 most families will have three cars. Imagine—a traffic jam right at home." — Edward J. Franta, Cavalier County (Langdon, N. D.) Republican.

ROYCE BRIER

Intangibles Give Power To Nation's President

In the 1830s, a Frenchman named Alexis de Tocqueville, one of the most perceptive visitors ever in America, said the Presidency was a post "weak and circumscribed." This was curious in view of Washington's handling of the Whiskey Rebellion, and it was written during the administration of Andrew Jackson. Yet there was some truth in it, at least until Lincoln's time.

Since, only weak Presidents have suffered from a weak position. And still, the most potent area of a President's power is intangible. President Kennedy demonstrated this recently in the steel imbroglio. His legal power to prevent a \$6 a ton increase in steel was nil, yet it was prevented.

The President in one speech marshaled public opinion against most of the steel in-

dustry in this case. He implied, though he could hardly prove, bad faith in the United States Steel Corp.'s announcement.

The reply of Roger Blough, Big Steel's chairman, failed to establish the necessity for the increase at this time, and persuasive arguments against an increase began to take form. In 48 hours these congealed as an overwhelming adverse opinion, and the steel firms cancelled the rise.

The writer visited a steel plant in Japan last year, and these people are on a run-away production binge. It was conceivable the American rise would admit Japanese steel to a scattering of important markets in the Far East hitherto supplied by American producers.

The same potential could be seen for German and other West European steel in-



How About Him?

Mexico City Is Talking About...

A Subway System

MEXICO CITY — Harried officials are seriously contemplating a vast underground movement here for next year, if the project doesn't cave in. This will consist of building a city wide subway network to ease congested traffic conditions.

A few years ago, nobody would have thought of going deeper than six inches under the ground. Mexico City has been plagued all its life by water and spongy subsoil. Centuries ago, it was a big, wet lake. After the Spaniards came over to claim the Aztec real estate in the name of the King, Mr. Hernan Cortes had the lake drained.

Although the surface water disappeared, a lot remained underground. And everyone began digging wells to supply the new city with water. Three hundred years of this caused the subsoil to shrink and many parts of town began sinking.

Along came the automobiles and the real headaches began. Many narrow streets were spread out into wide avenues and speedways were built around the city.

Every time a small street was widened into a six-lane boulevard, houses had to be ripped out and new dwelling units built.

Earlier this year, federal district engineers began thinking over the idea of a subway system. Tests were begun.

In one downtown section, they sank a 150-foot deep shaft and no water came in. Then they started branching

out from the bottom. A seven-foot-high tunnel was cut, a little over 2,000 feet long. It stayed dry.

Although officials are reluctant to discuss the project, engineers say millions of pesos are being spent on tests.

The system, they report, would operate on a pattern similar to that of New York although not as extensive. Subway stations would be set up at regular intervals along each route. Instead of a jolting, 40-minute bus ride from San Angel, on the southern outskirts of Mexico City, subways would whisk passengers to work in 10 to 15 minutes.

Transportation has been a growing problem in the past 15 years. Automobiles

creep bumper to bumper during rush hours, bottling traffic on all main routes. And people wait hours for taxis.

Buses and streetcars also jam the streets.

All of which got the officials to figuring in subway terms as a solution to the travel crisis.

Engineers say the preliminary tests have been successful so far. They will not be completed until the end of this year.

At that time, if they do not punch through a series of underground rivers, the deep travel project will probably get an official sanction and start moving. The engineers will not estimate how long the job will take.

But they believe that by 1964 a few trains will be operating.

Opinions of Others

Whether your call is communism, socialism, or the welfare state, the result is approximately the same—more government and less individual freedom.—Detroit Lakes (Minn.) Record.

Law in Action

Our law covers the doctor and patient relation. It says what education a doctor must have.

Under the law a doctor must take care of his patients at least as well as other doctors in good standing do where he lives. Should he claim to be a specialist he must meet the standards of specialists in his field.

Where there is reasonable doubt as to the treatment, the doctor may use his judgment, even if wrong. For otherwise, a timorous doctor might be harmful to his patient.

A doctor or dentist needs his patient's consent for an operation. For minors he needs the consent of parents or guardians.

Suppose a surgeon in one operation finds other defects? Unless there is an emergency, he cannot without permission perform further surgery without chancing liability.

When does an emergency arise? Where there is an imminent threat to life or grave injury to health; or, perhaps, where an operation was necessary and the doctor acted reasonably. In such an emergency the doctor may have a duty to take further action. A patient who claims he did not consent, must show the court that there was no emergency.

Surgery patients are often asked to sign a form consenting to extensive treatment which, of course, must be ob-

tained without fraud or force.

Suppose someone is hurt, say in a car accident, and no doctor is at hand. If out of the goodness of your heart, you volunteer to get help, then as a samaritan, you must try to get that help with all reasonable diligence. For in reliance upon you, the injured is unlikely to take other steps to help himself. And you may well be liable for any harm to him resulting from your failure to do what is expected of you.

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Reflections on the Bid To Hike Price of Steel

PHILADELPHIA — Profit gives free enterprise its sense of direction. Free enterprise is the accumulation of private capital and the risking of it for private gain. Out of this gain, salaries of public officials, like President Kennedy and Secretary Goldberg, are paid... and like Messrs. Meany and Ruetheer of the CIO-AFL... and like millions of blue and white collar workers.

To businessmen, like Roger M. Blough, board chairman of U.S. Steel, the risking of capital from profit comes instinctively. It cannot come instinctively among those who do not risk capital... or who have not needed to risk capital to enjoy a good life.

It is to say that any businessman instinctively is concerned with profit on his investment. It is also to say that most politicians, labor union chiefs, workers are not instinctively concerned with profit, but only how to get the biggest slice possible in wages or taxes. Government does not create wealth... it only spends. The wealth is created by those who make a profit.

In his April 11 press conference President Kennedy vehemently charged the steel price rise as "unjustifiable and irresponsible defiance of the public interest." Actually, it would have added 75 cents to the cost of a refrigerator... \$8 to an automobile.

After the present rise was canceled, the president admitted in his April 19 press conference that "the steel industry is desperately in need of modernization and must produce steel at a lower cost per unit to compete."

The inconsistency in the President's indictment is apparent, for modernization comes from profits... and lower cost per unit cannot be achieved by increasing wages without increasing productivity.

In 1960 the steel industry increased wages and fringe benefits 42 cents an hour, without any increase in the price of steel. At the recent March management-labor negotiations, which included Labor Secretary Goldberg, the steel companies were forced to another 10 cents per hour increase in fringe benefits.

A corporation cannot long remain solvent when forced to increase its unit costs without increasing its unit sales price.

The President's indictment centered around the false premise that steel profits were the "greatest in history." What the President failed to explain was that "net profits" after taxes are not the greatest in history.

If U.S. Steel had the "greatest profits in history," then its stockholders would also receive the greatest dividends in history. They have been receiving less and less in recent years... an average of 3 1/2 per cent on their investment.

The only persons in U. S. Steel who had the "greatest net profits" in history were the workers... now averaging \$4.20 an hour, while manufacturing labor averages \$2.98 an hour.

The Securities and Exchange

commission reports that the steel industry earned, after taxes, about \$1 billion in 1959. Last year it dropped to \$803 million in profit. In 1950 the steel industry profits were 7.9 per cent of sales. This has been shrinking to the present 4.6 per cent of sales. Steel earnings dropped from 13.8 per cent in 1950 to 6.1 in 1961.

The President said that "defense costs would have increased by \$1 billion with the \$6 a ton increase." The President has been given false figures. The highest estimate is only \$10 million, based on the government's estimated purchases of 3.5 million tons of steel in 1962.

Secretary Goldberg was former general counsel of the National Steelworkers union. As secretary of labor he sat at the recent negotiations... and then he sat in judgment of the steel companies when

the rise was announced. He acted both as negotiator and as judge... in which the concept of "conflict of interest" is evident.

The President in our opinion has won a short-lived victory. He has encouraged the delusion that "profits are contemptible," except when paid to the government, or to workers. He has blackmailed a private industry into submission.

U.S. Steel, which borrowed \$800 million since 1958 for modernization because it could not save it out of profits, will have to borrow more now. This means lower earnings... and government will get less taxes. Workers will be laid off to cut corners.

But, the worst precedent to come out of the controversy is that for the first time in U.S. history, a President took it upon himself to force the lowering of prices without sanction of law.

Hoppe in Wonderland

Slogan May Tap Generous Uncle

Art Hoppe

If anyone should ask, I am looking confidently for an upturn in South Vietnam. The Pentagon has dispatched a high-level Study Group to make sure that our 6,000 troops over there know what they're fighting for.

The Study Group is comprised of one former Army Undersecretary, one former CIA director, one brigadier general and one Mr. Theodore Braun, who is described as "a public relations expert from Los Angeles."

I'm sure Mr. Braun will soon have the situation in hand. So we can safely turn today to the nearby nation of West Vhtnng, on which I am one of the few authorities.

As you may recall, West Vhtnng became a bastion of democracy in Southeast Asia. And was thus in danger of losing its \$1.6 billion in annual U. S. foreign aid funds.

But just when all looked darkest for President Ngo Mahn Ngo, his administration was saved by what seemed an act of providence: Vhtnng was invaded by the dread Viet-Narians.

President Ngo happily addressed his Cabinet. "Brothers," he began (for all Cabinet members were his brothers, not counting one third cousin), "we can now complete the long-range building task to which we are all dedicated—namely that 148-room family villa on the French Riviera."

But at first the war went poorly. The Pentagon, by mistake, shipped two jet fighters instead of money. In impressive ceremonies, the fighters were turned over to two pilots of the Loyal Royal Vhtnng Air Force. The Loyal pilots bowed gratefully, zoomed skyward and successfully carried out their first pinpoint bombing mission. President Ngo's Palace was heavily damaged.

Mr. Ngo, slightly singed, crawled out of the wreckage and asked the Pentagon to please stop sending planes and bullets. Because his subjects were somehow not terribly interested in dying for Vhtnng. And could we please send him some soldiers instead?

So we did. But the war dragged on. Our Ambassador used to call on Mr. Ngo to suggest more Vhtnngians might die for Vhtnng if the administration were reformed. Like maybe by tossing all Mr. Ngo's brothers out of the Cabinet. "And who is your Attorney General now?" Mr. Ngo would ask the Ambassador politely. So nothing was done.

Then a corporal in the Pentagon thought up a slogan for our troops, which was posted on every U. S. Army bulletin board in Vhtnng. Unfortunately, it had an adverse effect on morale and the Viet-Narians conquered the country in 32 days, installing Communist-trained Ho Ho Ho as Premier.

Luckily, Mr. Ho, who was Mr. Ngo's uncle, announced he was a Titoist. So we increased our aid to \$2.4 billion to "split Vhtnng from the Soviet bloc." The family villa was completed in four months and the story thus ended happily. For the Hoes and Ngoes.

But in South Vietnam the situation is, of course, radically different. Which is why I'm glad we're sending a professional slogan expert like Mr. Braun. I'm sure he'll come up with something better than that disastrous one we used in Vhtnng:

"Vhtnng Is Worth Dying For, Men. And If These Vhtnngians Won't, Who Will?"

Morning Report:

The idea of hooking up the White House and the Kremlin on a direct telephone line sounds good. It will create jobs—a day and night watch at both ends. To keep Caroline and Khrushchev's grandchildren from lifting the receivers.

The purpose, however, is not employment but to prevent accidental nuclear conflicts. If a bomb lands in Chicago, the President calls up Mr. K. to ask him if he really meant it.

Of course, if Khrushchev happened to be in the shower at the time, the whole war might be over before he could get a towel around him and drip his way to the telephone.

Abe Mellinkoff

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By FRED NEHER



"Get a color that will blend with the blue streak you talk up!"