

Torrance Herald

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KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL

REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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A Continuing Dilemma

More than 1,000 seniors were graduated from city high schools this week for a record achievement, but it is a record that is slated to be topped in each of the foreseeable years to come, school officials have indicated.

While 1,000 were going out the top end of the Torrance system during the current school year, more than three times that many came in, and the pace is not slowing noticeably.

It all points up to a problem which has vexed school administrators since the day they took over local operation of the schools 15 years ago with one high school and four elementary schools, and little else.

Right now, just to stay even, the city needs to expand seven schools and build three new ones, Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip said this week.

To do this, the Board of Education has taken the only step left open to them, preparation of a new bond issue which would keep the city's bonding capacity at the maximum of 10 per cent of the assessed valuation.

Proposed is a bond issue to be voted on by Torrance voters on Sept. 18 calling for issuance of \$8 million in new bonds. In all probability, Waldrip said, the issue would not require a tax increase, but would merely extend the current bond redemption rate.

The issue, if approved, would not be the last—the \$8 million would not do all that is going to be needed in the way of facilities.

Many "holes" still exist in the city's population maps, and when those fill with residents, school facilities will be needed. At the present time, Victor school is facing an increasingly large enrollment, and it may well become one of the largest elementary schools in the country, and still another will be needed in the area if it develops residentially.

Hamilton school is facing growth problems, Madrona school will have to be enlarged, and still another school could be required in that area. Development of the Walteria Lake is bringing up new school problems, proposed development of the Standard Oil property in the Sepulveda-Crenshaw area poses others.

Providing classroom facilities for all of these areas is a difficult task and deserves the full backing of all segments of the city.

Unity at Last

Republicans of California will find encouragement in the announcement made Tuesday by defeated candidate Joseph Shell, that he will place no restrictions on his support of the victorious candidate, Richard M. Nixon.

Republicans of California have been thrown into a state of confusion by Mr. Shell's stated effort to secure 35 per cent of all the benefits accruing from his strong showing in the primary election.

His sensible decision does much to eliminate much of the bitterness engendered by Mr. Shell's post-primary attitude and gives partisan Republicans grounds for greater hope next November.

Realistic Republicans should have no illusions about the magnitude of their task, come next fall. The unbalanced registration figures, in favor of the Democrats, constitute a hurdle for any Republican candidate despite his national or international stature, and impose an organization task for Republicans second to none in the nation.

The Republicans must be united and this seems to have motivated the vigorous Mr. Shell in his decision to go it all the way with Mr. Nixon.

Called for Rain

True baseball aficionados, as they are the first to admit, are a peculiar breed. All season long they follow the fortunes of the Dodgers or the Giants, or maybe even some original Eastern team, hanging on every double play and stolen base, convinced that nothing happening in the world is more important. But when the season is over, and they are hard pressed to do so, they have a tough time bringing to mind what all the excitement was about.

No more peculiar breed, however, are the fans who follow all the international conferences. Talking, so the cliché goes, is better than fighting. And even though it's never been proved that talking ever prevented fighting, the yak sessions are deemed to be fraught with significance.

Recently the fans had a lulu. The Russians, who have been very high on the idea of eliminating war propaganda, joined in a proposal with representatives of 16 other nations meeting at Geneva to declare war propaganda a very bad thing. Everybody was all set to sign an agreement calling for "appropriate and practical" measures to discourage any terrible talk like that within their respective countries.

Then the Russian pitcher pulled a balk. He came up with an amendment to require legislation by all the nations making war propaganda a criminal offense. And he pointed to examples he had in mind: President Kennedy was guilty of war propaganda in a magazine article, physicist Dr. Edward Teller was guilty in a book, and the New York Times was guilty in an editorial.

The other 16 nations, including the United States, called the game off because of rain. And now, let's get back to the important happenings at Chavez Ravine and Candlestick Park.

Opinions of Others

Government surveys indicate that less than 1 per cent of the nation's schools have used up their own local financial resources or reached their legal borrowing limits. Yet, in the 10 years from 1950 pupil enrollment increased by 10.2 million and enough school rooms were built to take care of 16.8 million.—Winemucca (Nev.) Star.

Those Foolish U. S. Senators—



ROYCE BRIER

Anti-Propaganda Proposal Killed by Red Amendment

Recently at the Geneva disarmament conference attended by 17 nations, the Russians agreed to a declaration opposing war propaganda. It was considered settled, and only awaiting initialing by the delegates.

Five days later the Russians proposed an amendment to the agreed text which American, British and several other delegations held to be obviously ruinous, if not downright absurd.

What had happened in Moscow between the agreement and its virtual abrogation, is not clear.

The original agreement called upon signatories to take "appropriate and practical" measures to head off war propaganda in their respective countries. Many observers, of course, doubted the realism of making any declaration unless it could be linked with some constructive action toward disarmament.

They need not have worried. Deputy Foreign Minister

Zorin came up with an amendment which would require legislation by all the nations signatory, making war propaganda a criminal offense, punishable by loss of official posts, ranks and grades.

The Russians had suggested this provision earlier, and had been told by several delegates it was impossible of adoption. The Russian demarche, therefore, appeared deliberate.

Rather grandly, Zorin cited four circumstances which he branded as inflammatory. These were: a book by Dr. Edward Teller, the physicist, which Zorin said incited to a nuclear arms race; a New York Times editorial; a magazine article by Defense Minister Strauss of West Germany; a quotation in an American magazine in which President Kennedy speculated on future policy of the United States.

The absurdity of the Soviet amendment hardly needs discussion. No legal definition of "war propaganda" can be written, and neither the American Congress nor any other free legislature is going to curb the freedom of speech of a President or its own members, nor would any free constitution tolerate it.

Hence it is the Soviet motive which is most discussed in Geneva. The Italian delegate suggested Red China's influence, for Red China's leaders frequently declare war to be necessary and inevitable, which is intrinsically powerful war propaganda.

But the involutions of this reasoning somewhat nullify it as a Russian motive, and the free delegates have had to fall back on the thought that the amendment is the kind of riposte the Russians dote on delivering at a conference table.

Mexico City Is Talking About . . .

Col. Glenn's Capsule Introduces Space Age

MEXICO CITY—The space age has come to town and Mexico considers herself a proud partner in Project Mercury.

Colonel John Glenn's Friendship VII capsule arrived here a few days after Astronaut Major LeRoy Cooper, Mexico City, gave both a rousing welcome.

Crowds at the airport watched the U. S. Air Force transport unload the capsule. And there were shouts of "there's our spaceship! We did a better job than the Russians!"

This is the prevailing attitude here.

Mexicans were mighty sad when Russian space travelers Gagarin and Titov made their excursions around the planet. Scientists and officials here radioed polite congratulations to Moscow and waited. When the word was flashed that Glenn was on his way, the city went wild with excitement. Mexican newspapers bannered huge, three-word headlines: GLENN IN ORBIT!

Crowds swarmed around radios listening to Spanish and English broadcasts of the big event. Government officials shooed people from offices and leaned toward the radios.

It was a great day for the gringos and the Mexicans. For one of the Project Mercury tracking stations is located in Mexico's Pacific Coast city of Guaymas, man-

ned jointly by U. S. and Mexican technicians.

This has given Mexico the feeling of partnership that nobody can forget.

And the arrival of Friendship VII and Major Cooper put the frosting on the cake.

An endless throng of Mexicans filed past the space capsule at its show spot in front of the Communications Ministry. They stopped to look

at it from all angles. Cooper showed the spectators what a man in a space suit looks like and how to get in and out of the capsule.

The Mexicans took a great deal of pride in the whole matter. They thought Major Cooper was taller than the Russian astronauts. And Friendship VII was more compact and better built than the Russian job. Who got into (Continued on Page 29)

Mailbox

Children in Street

Dear Sir, I have just read an account about an accident where one 6-year-old boy was killed and one is fighting for his life. My sympathy goes to the driver of the car involved in the accident as well as the parents of the boys. Torrance is the worst place I've ever seen for children playing in the streets and as long as children are allowed to play in the streets, we will have this sort of thing happening.

The father of the dead boy said he thought that there were 30 kids on his block, but sometimes they play in the street. Where else can they go?

Maybe a lot of people don't know it is against the law for children to be on the streets playing. Check with the Police Department. I did and was told not only is it a city

ordinance, but also a state law.

N. J. Torrance.

Candidate Speaks

Dear Sir: I should like to express my appreciation for the news coverage which you gave my recent campaign for the Republican nomination for Congress in the 17th district.

Your paper's reputation for fair and objective reporting of local election contests is one of which you can be proud.

Having been a candidate for elective office, I am more than ever aware of the great but often unrecognized, contribution which the local independent newspaper makes to our community life.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and help. Sincerely, Dr. Merle H. Boyce

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

JFK Administration Hit On Withholding Proposal

The Administration proposal to require corporations and savings institutions to take out 20 per cent from their payments of dividends and interest and turn this money over to the treasury is discriminating and morally wrong.

The advantage to the government is clear — it will save the treasury time, trouble and money in collecting income tax on dividends and interest, as well as get the money faster. But the disadvantages to the citizens, corporations and savings institutions are so overwhelming that it makes the whole proposal imposing and unfair.

Basic to the Administration proposal are treasury calculations that, by design or accident, one-third of interest income and about one-tenth of dividend income fails to be reported on income tax returns. This is contrary to the American system, which essentially puts the taxpayer on his honor . . . and by and large, Americans do respond to this tradition.

The Administration also suggests that such withholding parallels the present system of withholding on wages and salaries. But this analogy does not hold up.

Under wage and salary withholding, allowance is made for personal exemptions in advance. No such allowances would be possible in the case of interest and dividends, where the income of an individual comes from various corporations and savings institutions.

It quickly becomes apparent that the scheme of withholding is impractical and creates insuperable inequities.

Since it is 20 per cent for all, a man with sizeable interest and dividend income would not have enough withheld — while the individual living in retirement on a modest interest and dividend income would have withheld from him the means of paying his grocery bills and rent. This will penalize the senior citizens on retirement who depend on dividends and interest to pay the bills as they go.

What of the cost to the corporations and savings institutions to administer this withholding for the government, involving millions of separate accounts? The 20 per cent base is not equitable to all and will result in time-consuming explanations for both the citizens and the institutions.

The Administration bill would apply, of course, to all dividend and interest recipients without regard to their past record for honest and accurate reporting.

Admittedly the proposed law is designed solely to catch tax evaders. But its sweeping rules apply with equal force to the most conscientious taxpayers — and even worse—hit persons of small incomes, as well as those who are not even taxpayers.

Interest and dividend income is widely dispersed, in small average amounts to tens of millions of persons.

Taxpayers who have substantial amounts of dividends or interest are not particularly concerned, except for a little extra bookkeeping. Their obedience to law is easily enforceable, so far as prodding is necessary, by information filed by corporations, banks, savings institutions, giving the treasury the

names of individuals and what they receive over certain amounts.

The treasury itself is custodian of the records of interest accrued or paid for the benefit of 40 million holders of savings bonds.

Then, there is the complicated additional burden of an "average" widow trying to figure out how to get her refund from the treasury.

How about income from abroad? What will all this do in discouraging investment of funds?

The Administration withholding bill raises another fundamental issue . . . how far should the federal government legitimately go in farming out the job of tax-

collection — and the unpleasant public relations that will result — without compensating private business for expensive time consumed? Canada imposed such a withholding system in 1942 and gave it up soon after as inefficient, confusing and discriminating.

To withhold dividends and interest from millions of senior citizens — depriving them of additional interest to which they are entitled by reinvestment, requiring form-filing and mailing and months of delay for refunds — is an imposition not becoming a nation which can afford to give communist Yugoslavia \$2.5 billion . . . and to scatter \$90 billions more all over the world — much of it without conditions of repayment.

Our Man Hoppe

CIA Backing In Laos Eyed

Art Hoppe

Mr. Kennedy is now investigating whose side our CIA has been on in Laos. I think this is a bad idea.

I think this because I was sitting vicariously in a sidewalk cafe in the Loyal Royal Laotian Capital of Vientiane just yesterday, sipping a saucer of phthhht, the heady native drink, when this familiar-looking fellow took an adjoining seat.

He was wearing shorts, puttees and a bush jacket and carrying a pith helmet and note pad. He ran a hand through his flaming red hair, adjusted his black handlebar moustache and slapped me on the back. "I am just a simple Laotian peasant," he said heartily. "Which Prince are you for, you fellow simple Laotian peasant, you?"

At this point his moustache slipped sideways and I recognized him. It was good old X-937-462 of the CIA. I hadn't seen him since Havana. Just before he filed his report that the Bay of Pigs landing would be a smashing success.

I identified myself as a simple American tourist. "Oh," he said, his dangling binoculars knocking over the sacred statue of Bnph on our table. "It's good to see a familiar face. I've been having trouble with my survey anyway. None of these simple Laotian peasants speak English."

I said it sounded like a tough job. "Oh, I've been in the thick of things for a year," he said, removing his blond goatee the better to drink my phthhht. "Why only a month ago, it was I who gave the warning that those 200 Pathlet Lao guerrillas were about to entrap the Loyal Royal garrison at Houei Sai at any minute. And thanks to my timely information the 2,000 Loyal Royal troops managed to escape beleaguered Houei Sai in a mad dash across the Mekong river into Thailand in order to play mahjong another day."

Good show, I said, but unfortunately the Pathlet Lao troops had only just now shown up in the vicinity of Houei Sai. "See?" he said, "I knew they would sooner or later."

"Of course," he said, "our main job is political. Confidentially, every night I carry money to the fine Prince whom America is backing to the hilt. So far, I've given him—let's see—\$12.6 million from our unappropriated, secret, non-revolving fund. With it, he's purchased 17 rifles, 12 bullets and two bastions of democracy." On the front lines? "No, on the French Riviera. He says he finds it handier."

Well, I said, even though he was a neutralist, Prince Souvanna Phouma must be grateful for such . . . "Prince Souvanna?" said X-937-462, slightly startled. "You must mean Prince Souphanouvong. Let's see now, it's Prince Boun Oum who's the Communist, Prince . . ."

By showing him some old newspaper clippings, I managed to convince him he had it all backwards: "You mean Souphanouvong's the bad guy?" he said. "Darn. These Laotian names. Now I'll have to go back to the office and fill out one of our Mistakes-Will-Happen explanation blanks for my superiors. And \$12.6 million! Why, that'll require the two-page form!"

So I'm afraid the current investigation will merely confirm Mr. Kennedy's worst apprehensions. Nothing else could possibly explain the whole Laotian fiasco. No sir, public opinion to the contrary, I'm convinced the CIA has been on our side. Right from the beginning.

Morning Report:

Ted Kennedy was nominated by the Democratic convention in Massachusetts as a candidate for the U. S. Senate, proving the way to get ahead is to start there. All that Ted has to do now is to see if the voters have the same sense as their leaders.

Of course, Ted's candidacy will prove a burden for the President. All he has to do now is keep the stock market up, Khrushchev down, and our allies on an even keel.

If Ted loses at the polls, the President's prestige will suffer. The only thing worse is to have Ted win. People will blame the President. But in big families the older brother always takes the rap.

Abe Mellinkoff