

Board Raps State School Leaders

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GUNMAN ROBS MARKET CLERK

A Penny for your Thoughts

"How do you celebrate Christmas in your home?" asked the Pennies photographer of several local people.

Mrs. William Ritchie:

"We spend Christmas Eve with my husband's family and on Christmas we visit my family for dinner. We usually put up the tree and other decorations about a week before. All the gifts are opened Christmas Day at by folks' home."

Mrs. Tom Reyes:

"Our church holds services the Sunday before Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, we send the children to bed and get out all the gifts. In the morning, we open the gifts. I cook for my immediate family and we spend the day together at home."

Miss Merlene Miller:

"We have all the family in for this Christmas Day. There will be about 30 people. The lights are put up about two weeks before, and we trim the tree. Gifts are opened on Christmas Eve, then we spend the day with all the relatives. Each year, the family is at a different home."

Mrs. Paul Sittel:

"We go to Oklahoma for Christmas because both my family and my husband's family are there. We open gifts Christmas Eve, then Santa comes for the children. On Christmas, the whole family is together for dinner."

Mrs. Darrell Gilbert:

"We put our tree up about two weeks before Christmas. Christmas Eve we have a gift exchange with relatives, then we open gifts from our tree on Christmas morning. We usually have Christmas dinner with my husband's family."

Trustees Bid For Support Of Districts

Education, taxes, and politics may be subject of a little in-fighting among state boards of education and California School Boards Assn. (CSBA) if the Torrance trustees have anything to do with it.

Torrance board members, disappointed at the failure of the CSBA to act on a resolution calling for a state-wide initiative campaign to restore the 50-50 ratio of state to local school funds, have initiated a board-to-board campaign of their own.

The resolution, adopted by the Torrance board and sent to the CSBA convention, was referred to committee for 90 days along with all other resolutions on finance because of recent discussion of a county-wide property tax equalization plan.

Other members of the local board agree with Lynn, and most agree they must approach the matter on a board-to-board campaign. The resolution calls for an initiative constitutional amendment which would require the state legislature to maintain a 50-50 ratio between state funds and local property taxes for school support.

A companion resolution, also tabled by the state association, would require the legislature to appropriate funds for future school programs which are adopted by the Legislature.

A LETTER written by Lynn was approved by the trustees at Monday's meeting which will be sent to the CSBA and all member boards. The letter contends "it is not for the CSBA to recommend the mode of raising the revenue to meet the needs of our schools," Lynn says state law makes it a legislative responsibility.

The letter continues: "The Torrance Board believes that CSBA should take the lead in a direct to the people campaign."

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, San Pedro Democrat, has returned by the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission by Gov. Edmund G. Brown.

Bid for Immediate Victor Building Moratorium Fails

Attempts to declare an immediate moratorium on all construction in an area bounded by Victor Park and Victor and Garnet streets failed again Tuesday evening when the City Council turned down both an emergency ordinance and a resolution instructing the building department not to issue permits in the area.

The emergency ordinance was defeated by a 2-5 vote, but councilmen did adopt, 4-3, a regular ordinance. The regular ordinance will not be effective for about six weeks, and must be adopted on a second reading.

J. A. Beasley charged the council was trying to circumvent the emergency ordinance by adoption of the resolution holding up all permits in the



CONGRESSMAN HERE . . . Congressman Frank W. Becker, a frequent visitor here and contributor to THE HERALD, is spending the holidays with his daughter and son-in-law in Torrance. The congressman, a Republican, represents New York's fifth district. He is pictured here with his wife (left) and his daughter, Mrs. Jack Myers of 2126 W. 230th Place. In an exclusive interview, Becker discussed a wide range of issues with THE HERALD.

Congressman Speaks People Hold Key to Prayer Amendment

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Herald Staff Writer
Congressman Frank W. Becker (R-New York) said here this week the success of his constitutional amendment overruling the Supreme Court decision banning prayer from the public schools "depends on the will and action of the people."

Becker has been a leader in the drive to amend the Constitution and thus overrule the high court's decision.

In an exclusive interview with THE HERALD, Becker said the people who favor his amendment should write to their own congressman, "insisting he sign the discharge petition now being circulated in the House of Representatives."

Then, he added, "we'll get the job done quickly." Emphasizing he was not quarreling with the decision, handed down in 1962 and reaffirmed this year, Becker said, "I believe children should have the right to pray in the schools and to hear readings from the scriptures, as they have had that right for years." He explained the only way to restore those rights is by amending the Constitution.

BECKER FILED a discharge petition with the clerk of the House, known as discharge petition 3, it now has 112 signatures, including those of Alphonzo Bell and Craig Hosmer of Southern California. A total of 218 congressmen must sign the petition before the amendment can be called to the floor of the House for debate and a vote.

Congressman Becker is in Torrance to spend the Christmas holidays with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Myers of 2126 W. 230th Place. He is a frequent

visitor to California — coming here more often, in fact, than many California congressmen.

The congressman is a frequent contributor to THE HERALD. For many years, he served in the New York State Legislature and has been a prominent Republican leader in New York. A veteran, Becker is a member of the American Legion and of the Order of Elks. He is also a Papal Knight.

In addition to the amendment which he is sponsoring, Becker discussed a variety of other issues, ranging over many national and international problems.

"PRESIDENT Johnson," he says, "is moving very rapidly from one thing to another. It makes it look as though much is being done, but there are no accomplishments." He believes President Johnson will follow the policies of the Kennedy Administration, but doubts that the domestic legislation "will get any better treatment by the Congress."

The position of the two major bills — civil rights and tax reform — has not changed in the Congress, according to Becker. He adds, "Both will come up in January, as scheduled before the death of Mr. Kennedy." He predicted passage of a tax bill in a form similar to the recommendations of President Kennedy, but said

Man Stands In Line to Rob Checker

A lone gunman who stood in a supermarket checkout line with a loaf of French bread took more than \$400 in bills from clerk Barbara Cozart Tuesday night at the Lucky Stores market at Crenshaw and Torrance boulevards.

Miss Cozart told officers answering the 10 p.m. alarm that the gunman was third in line when she first noticed him, and that he waited until she had checked out two other customers ahead of him.

HE OPENED his jacket and put his hand on the butt of a gun stuffed inside his belt, Miss Cozart recalled after the robbery.

"Get a bag and put your money in it," he instructed the checker. "Leave the change there," he added after she had put the bills in a sack. The gunman placed the loaf of bread on top of the bills and walked toward the store exit after telling his victim "don't say a word."

THE CHECKER ignored his warning, however, and yelled to the clerk in the liquor department that she had just been robbed. She then ducked down behind her register, she said. The gunman looked back, and then ran out of the store. Witnesses outside the store said the man ran out and jumped into a car driven by another man. They were swallowed up by the dense fog which blanketed the city during the night.

ANOTHER bandit, apparently surprised in the act of burglarizing a Torrance home, took \$535 from a Torrance man at the point of a knife a few minutes after the supermarket robbery.

Jack A. Deats, 50, of 2047 W. 238th St., said he and a friend, Ralph E. Hurst of Redondo Beach, had returned to his home after being away a short time and apparently interrupted the burglary.

As Hurst was leaving the house to go to his own home, the burglar turned bandit and jammed a 7-inch knife against him, ordering him back into the house.

"YOU CAME back too soon," he told the two men. Hurst and Deats were forced to toss their wallets on a small table in the house and the intruder took the money from Deats' wallet. Hurst had told him he had no money in his wallet.

The two men were taken outside and locked in the garage by the knife-wielding bandit. They were able to get out by breaking out a window, they told officers.

Committee To Direct Town Hall

A steering committee to plan the Jan. 22 town hall meeting on obscene literature and juvenile delinquency will be appointed at tonight's meeting of the Torrance Youth Welfare Commission, according to Joseph Piatt, chairman of the commission.

Members of the steering committee, representing the Youth Welfare Commission, residents of Torrance, and other area cities, will be selected by the commission. In addition, a number of volunteers will be needed, says Piatt.

Invitations to participate in the town hall discussion have been sent to the United States Department of Justice, the State Attorney General's office, the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, and other state and local agencies.

Citizens interested in serving on the steering committee, or with the volunteer groups should attend tonight's meeting. It will be held in Room 209 at the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., at 8 o'clock.

High-Rise Variance Withdrawn

In a surprise move Tuesday evening, Sovereign Development Co. withdrew its request for a variance to construct high-rise apartments on the old Riviera Club site.

In a letter to the City Council, Robert Keillor, president of the firm, asked to have the request withdrawn. Keillor also said the firm would reconsider at a later date and, "at that time reactivate our request."

The proposed high-rise apartments had drawn quick fire from homeowners in the area. The Riviera Homeowners Assn. opposed the development from its inception. Final action had been scheduled by the council on Jan. 14, 1964.

Trustees Award Four Contracts in District

Four contracts, totaling nearly \$254,500, were awarded for construction jobs in the district by the Board of Education Monday evening.

Automatic Irrigation Co. received a contract for \$14,420 for installation of sprinklers at Torrance High. Hadd Contracting Co. will blacktop a playground area at Hickory Elementary School for \$2,693.

Also awarded were contracts for the paving of an area near the Child Care Center and for additions to Wood Elementary School. The paving will be done by Scully-Miller Contracting Co. for \$1,485, and the Wood addition and restrooms for South and West High football fields are included in a \$235,900 contract awarded to J. E. Burrell & Sons, Inc.

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