

NEED FOR CHANGE, ELECTION ISSUE AT POLLS IN TORRANCE TUESDAY

(AN EDITORIAL)

It's Time for A Change

Good Government by All the People vs. Boss Control! This is the issue to be decided by the electors of Torrance when they go to the polls next Tuesday to elect three members of the City Council.

Three men have joined together to form a ticket—the "BID for Better Government" ticket—and they have come forward with a platform for the betterment of Torrance and the community.

These men are Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale.

They have presented their platform to the people in a fearless and honorable manner, and the people have received it with confidence that here we have a ticket that will DO SOMETHING for Torrance.

Today, the "keep the old clique in power" paper will come forth with an attempt to "bind" three of the other five candidates into a "ticket," in a last minute effort to try to beat the "BID" ticket.

Two of the five remaining candidates have been on the City Council during past years. They have been half of the "ruling four" on the Council. The other three are virtual newcomers in the political field, as well as in Torrance.

The five other candidates have presented no platform, no program and have come up with nothing upon which they can be judged by the people.

While they have been on the side lines waiting for the town bosses to decide who to choose to try to stop the "BID" ticket, the other paper has resorted to a program of sniping, heckling, innuendos, insinuations and derogations which have not been unlike the tactics of past years. These tactics have been aimed even at private citizens, non-candidates, as well as at the "BID" candidates.

The fact is that there is no reasonable nor thinking opposition to the "BID" ticket nor to its platform.

The campaign of Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale not only have been the means of exposing undesirable conditions in city government, but also it has offered a constructive plan for their correction, and an aggressive program for the unhampered expansion of Torrance.

"It is time for a change; it is time for a clean sweep." These words have been on the lips of thousands of citizens since the campaign got underway, and a change there will be — on Tuesday.

The "BID" ticket was formed at the request of Councilman Drale.

For the past four years, Councilman Drale has attempted to bring about constructive measures in the City Council for the benefit of ALL THE PEOPLE of Torrance. He has been blocked consistently by the "ruling four." Consequently, nothing has been done to relieve flood conditions, to relocate the city dump, to eliminate traffic hazards, to improve the streets and alleys which are going to pieces, to give better police and fire protection, to use the treasury surplus for worthwhile projects, to cut the tax rate, to expand the recreation program.

On the other hand, the "ruling four," against Councilman Drale's wishes, peremptorily cut off bus service to necessary parts of the city, adopted a parking meter ordinance which necessitated a referendum petition to halt, threatened nuisance taxes in the form of a rubbish collection fee of \$9.00 per home per year, tried to permit drinking in public parks, permitted dumping in gravel pits adjacent to houses, and refused to cut the tax rate 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation as demanded by Drale.

Therefore, Councilman Drale sought two running mates as a ticket, believing sincerely that he could do much for the betterment of Torrance with favorable support on the City Council. After much screening and discussion by Torrance Unified Taxpayers, Benstead and Isen were picked, and the "BID" ticket took the field, pledged to give Better Government to Torrance.

We believe the majority of voters of Torrance, fully informed and unperturbed by the machinations, antics and heckling of the combine which is seeking retention of "BOSS" control will VOTE FOR A CHANGE, and elect the "BID" ticket.

The Press cautions voters that in order to accomplish this worthwhile program, ALL THREE — Benstead, Isen and Drale, must be elected.

VOTE FOR ALL THREE, and you will have a change.



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THIRD YEAR TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1952 5c Per Copy NUMBER 51

Pumping Underway On Lake

"Walteria Lake" is undergoing a face lifting this week according to City Manager George Stevens. City crews have been attempting all week to pump out the stagnant waters surrounding a half dozen homes in that area. Stevens said that workers are drawing waters from the area, and depositing them on a pasture to the south of the populated area. The owner of the pasture has agreed, according to Stevens.

The officials promise no complete drainage, however. The water will be pumped out only as fast as the field will absorb it. At best, he indicated, the level will be reduced only enough to keep it from seeping into the homes. The rest probably will have to evaporate or percolate into the soil.

Five families have been forced to evacuate their homes because of the intruding waters. E. E. Mitchell of the County Engineer office said today the only sure-fire, permanent method of keeping them on solid ground would be to drill a \$1,000,000 drainage tunnel to the ocean at Hollywood Rivera.

Water which forced the five families to evacuate their homes during the recent rains is being pumped out of the sump by Torrance crews and is being de-

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Father-Son Team Split

The father of the Walteria father and son team who reportedly burglarized buildings throughout this area and Orange County is still at large, Torrance Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett reported yesterday.

Nineteen-year-old Clarence (Salty) Caples has been apprehended and is undergoing questioning about his part in many Santa Ana area heists as well as Torrance-Lomita area thefts, it was disclosed. His father, Clyde, is still at large.

Officers first learned of the father-son tie-in when Floyd Polston, 18, also of Walteria, was trapped red-handed while, detectives say, he and the Capleses were looting a Santa Ana home.

Police said Polston told of the senior Caples making him and Clarence do the jobs with the father.

Bennett said that Caples and Polston have admitted to a recent theft at the high school here.

The BID Ticket



VICTOR E. BENSTEAD
The "B" in BID Ticket

Victor E. Benstead, the "B" on the BID ticket for City Council in April 8 Municipal election, missed by being elected by seven votes two years ago. He was asked to run this year to support Councilman Nick Drale and Albert Isen in an effort to end the virtual boss rule which has held sway in Torrance for more than a decade.

"Running as a ticket, with two other candidates, we can really do something for the people of Torrance when we are elected," Benstead said. "Vote for all three," he continued, "as that is the only way we can overcome the majority which has been running things."

Benstead resides with his wife, Gladys Benstead, in their home at 1621 Beach avenue. They are the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Jane Byk and Mrs. Dorothy Banks, and grandparents of two children.

A native son of California, he was born on a Lancaster, Calif., homestead, and has resided in Torrance for 30 years. Benstead is for more industry in Torrance, more homes, a good and sound recreation program, and for lower taxes.

Benstead has publicly stated many times that he is against all kinds of gambling in Torrance and will fight to keep them out. He declared that he will oppose any move to amend the City Charter again to allow poker halls, or the ordinance to permit marble games.

He has for years been recognized as one of the sound politicians.

Board OKs Bond Sale

The County Board of Supervisors this week announced that the Western Investment Banking Voluntary Credit Restraint Commission has approved the sale of the \$3,000,000 Torrance Unified School District bond issue.



ALBERT ISEN
Lawyer in BID Trio

Albert Isen, lawyer, property owner and business man, has a long record of good, hard work for the betterment of the community.

He was leader of the fight, with the aid of the Torrance Press, to keep the four ruling members on the City Council from installing parking meters in Torrance. The group he organized into the "No Parking Meters for Torrance" committee, with Councilman Drale's assistance, got nearly 1500 signatures in a few days demanding repeal of the parking meter ordinance already adopted, or an election thereon. It was repealed at the next Council meeting.

Isen moved to Torrance with his family when he was five years of age. He was graduated from Torrance schools and got his law degree at University of Southern California. He resides with Mrs. Isen at the family home at Engracia and Manuel avenues, and their daughter, an honor student at Torrance high school and salutatorian of her class when she graduated, now is a junior at University of California at Berkeley.

He is a past president of Tor-

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COUNCILMAN NICK DRALE
New Term Asked on BID Ticket

One of the community's young, honest and aggressive civic leaders running for reelection on the "BID for Better Government" ticket is Councilman Nick Drale.

Long a sponsor of good, progressive city legislation, Drale found himself in a position where "machine politics" were trying to block his every effort to better the community. Therefore, he sought two running mates when he decided to run for reelection, and the BID ticket is the result.

"If we are going to get rid of the boss control which has been running Torrance for 30 years," Drale pointed out, "we must elect all three BID candidates. Vote for all three."

Councilman Drale resides with his wife and their three children, Michael, 12; Stephen, 6; and Patricia, 5, in the family home at 3319 W. 171st street.

He is a member of the Episcopal church, a Mason, Shriner, and member of the Moose lodge.

He is active on the North Torrance Committee of the Boy Scouts. He is vice president of Local 1414, United Steelworkers of America, C. I. O.

Drale has a long record of

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COUNCIL INGORES HEALTH MENACES

By M. L. O.

Continuing to menace the health of children and adults of Torrance are two situations which the "BID for Better Government" ticket in the April 8 City Council election has been trying to eliminate for many months.

Exactly a year ago, Councilman Nick Drale proved that there were mice, rats, flies and other vermin and filth in the city dump located near Western avenue and Plaza del Amo, and tried to have the dump closed at once.

Other members of the City Council, Mayor Bob Haggard, Councilman Ed Karlow, Council-



15,000 VOTING BUTTONS are being distributed by the Torrance Council of Service Clubs in cooperation with Chamber of Commerce. Shown pinning the buttons are the presidents of the service clubs participating, Robert Plomert (right), president of the chamber and Dale Isen-

Boss Rule End Aim Of 'BID' Ticket

Eight names will appear on the ballot before the voting public next Tuesday when Torranites file to the polls to fill three seats on the Torrance City Council.

The election will bring to a close one of the most interesting campaigns experienced in Torrance politics, with Torrance Unified Taxpayers, as

non-profit corporation seeking the election to the City Council of a three-man ticket composed of Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale.

They are known as the "BID for Better Government" ticket, and have come forward with a constructive program and platform for the betterment of the city.

They have disorganized opposition, with five candidates in the field "on their own," but apparently ready to "combine" (any three of the five) in an effort to stop the BID ticket.

They are Mervin Schwab, George Downing, Jack White, Ed Karlow, and Bob Haggard. The only other candidate on the ticket is Harriet Leech, running for re-election as City Treasurer.

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. and voting will continue until 7 p.m.

Polling places and officers for each precinct are as follows: Precinct No. 1—Higgins Brick & Tile Co., 2217 West 174th St. Inspector, H. Watkinson; Judge, T. Odell; Clerks, D. Babb, M. Mc-Bee.

Precinct No. 2—2508 Sierra St. Inspector, D. Hayden; Judge, A. Haworth; Clerks, C. Cannon, F. Rubee.

Precinct No. 3—736 Border Ave. Inspector, H. Funk; Judge, D. Coast; Clerks, A. Smith, V. Page.

Precinct No. 4—1743 Andro Ave. Inspector, M. Roberts; Judge, F. Dalby; Clerks, A. Spangler, F. Williams.

Precinct No. 5—City Hall, 1511 Cravens Ave. Inspector, M. Clayton; Judge, A. Law; Clerks, G. Mothersell, M. Colburn.

Precinct No. 6—2305 Torrance Blvd., Apt. A. Inspector, C. Mumford; Judge, F. Viellene; Clerks, M. Hartley, F. Meade.

Precinct No. 7—1323 Beech Ave. Inspector, M. Connett;

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Milk Price Boost Here OK'd by OPS

Office of Price Stabilization yesterday authorized a one-half-cent-a-quart increase in the ceiling price for milk sold in retail stores in the Los Angeles area, according to a Washington dispatch.

If the State orders a similar increase in minimum prices, milk sold in retail stores will go to 2 1/2 cents. No change was made in the home-delivered price, which was set at 2 1/2 cents recently.

Some increase in egg prices was noted here yesterday, one large market chain reporting a boost of 2 cents a dozen, bringing the price of large Grade A to 54 and 55 cents.

PLANS MEETING

KEYSTONE — Carson Chamber of Commerce members have scheduled a meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 14 in the Lone Pine Inn, Main St. and Sepulveda Blvd., President Henry Blythe reported.

School Named In Honor of Howard Wood

Names and architectural ground plans for two new elementary schools were approved by the School Board at Tuesday's meeting.

Four four-classroom wings, an administration building, and a kindergarten building are planned for the new Alondra School located at 168th St., between Yukon and Crenshaw.

Twelve classroom, with a possible addition of four more, and administration and kindergarten buildings are slated for the Howard Wood School, named in honor of the president of the School Board's Charter Committee. This committee spearheaded the separation of Torrance from the Los Angeles school district. The

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\$5,000,000 Expansion Is Planned

Shell Oil Refinery will begin a \$5,000,000 expansion program immediately, according to R. W. McOmbe, manager of the local plant.

Located in the Carson-Dominguez area, Ombe said that a crude oil distillation unit capable of processing 20,000 barrels per day will be built to replace two Trumble type distillation units erected first in 1925.

Total output there will be about 86,000 barrels of refined products per day, he stated.

The building program is part of a \$100,000,000 expansion move throughout the United States now being undertaken by Shell. When all projects are complete, more than 4,000,000 barrels per day of refined products will be added to the nation's output.

Editor Gives Okay to Bid Council Ticket

The "BID for Better Government" ticket in Torrance has been endorsed by the Redondo Reflex and Lawndale Tribune, according to editorial comment by Lyle M. Webb, editor and publisher of the newspapers which circulate in a greater part of the North Torrance area.

"The 'BID for Better Government' ticket in Torrance wins the approval of your editor. . . . We do not vote in Torrance. However, many of our readers who get our newspaper in North Torrance have asked our opinion. We recommend Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale for City Council of Torrance on April 8.

"Remember, however," he said, "in order to accomplish the change desired by the 'BID' ticket, you have to vote for ALL THREE 'BID' candidates."

Video Showing Scheduled for Columbia Steel

Torrance will again be in the television spotlight, when KTTV's Success Story returns in the near future to present the workings of Columbia Steel to the television public.

Exact date of the scheduled program has not been revealed, but Ed Roden, director of Success Story, disclosed to the Torrance Press that the showing is slated for the very near future, possibly within the next six weeks.

Columbia Steel plant will be the second local industrial plant to be seen on television.

VOTE FOR ALL 3 BID CANDIDATES

Here is the order in which names will appear on the ballot for City Council next Tuesday.

The "BID for Better Government" ticket is marked by "X".

You are urged to vote for all three BID candidates, as all three MUST be elected to overcome the present majority on the City Council.

Remember, vote for ALL THREE BID CANDIDATES.

For MEMBER of the CITY COUNCIL Vote for Three

NICKOLAS O. DRALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BOB L. HAGGARD	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDWIN S. KARLOW	<input type="checkbox"/>
VICTOR E. BENSTEAD, JR.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GEORGE W. DOWNING	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALBERT ISEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MERVIN M. SCHWAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
JACK E. WHITE	<input type="checkbox"/>

Big Parade, Dance On BID Program

Residents of Torrance will be treated with something new in local campaigns Monday evening when members of Torrance Unified Taxpayers stage a big political parade in behalf of the election of the "BID for Better Government" ticket, to the City Council. It will be followed by a rally, Town Hall meeting and free victory dance in the civic auditorium.

The parade will form at the Roodium Theatre on Redondo Beach boulevard between Crenshaw boulevard and Arlington avenue, starting at 5 p.m.

The cars, floats, bands and other entries will move through North Torrance starting at about 6 p.m., and travel throughout the city. All sections will be visited, including the many new tracts. It will visit North, Central, West, Southwest and South Torrance, including Hollywood, Riviera, Walteria, Seaside Ranchos, Seaside Heights, Kettler Knolls and other sections.

After the break-up of the parade at the Civic Auditorium, a rally will be held in the auditorium, to be followed by the victory dance. It is expected that the rally and victory dance will start at about 9 p.m.

Parade marshal is Ross A. Sciarotta, who is organizing a band of young people to play during the parade and at the auditorium for the free dance. He is being assisted by J. A. Beasley, a member of the Recreation Commission and vice president of Torrance Unified Taxpayers, and others.

The "BID" ticket in the City Council election to be held on Tuesday consists of Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale.