

Controversial Civil Service Issue Defined by City Attorney

The City Council and City Manager have considerable control over Civil Service matters—more than the Civil Service Commission has been willing to concede as a result of recent controversies.

On the other hand, there are some definite limitations, too, to the council's and city manager's power. That, in general, is the meaning behind the opinion issued last week by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier in regard to the status of Civil Service.

Remelmeier came up with five major conclusions. Regarding the long-standing controversy over the methods whereby the Civil Service law may be amended, Remelmeier ruled that it can be done by a majority vote of the council.

Some have tried to argue that one Civil Service ordinance may be amended by the council since it was adopted by the council, and the other must be submitted to the voters, since it was adopted by the voters.

Remelmeier ruled that the authority to make and change laws was given to the council following the adoption of the city charter by local voters. This charter confers that right on the council, extending also to ordinances adopted prior to the adoption of the charter, such as some Civil Service legislation.

The council, however, cannot withdraw any department, appointive officer or employees from the operation of the system.

Increase or Decrease Authority

The council, by amending the Civil Service code, may also increase or decrease the present authority of the Civil Service Commission, Remelmeier concluded further.

This power springs from the council's legislative power and

certain charter provisions (article VI, section 1), Remelmeier found.

The council, the city attorney stated, must be cautious in delegating its authority. "The better judgement would be that the present system of having the council ultimately approve the rules and changes therein should be continued," he declared.

However, judging by the spirit of the city charter, the council probably could not abolish the Civil Service Commission, he indicated.

Appointing Commissioners

His third finding states that the council, by amending the Civil Service code, may alter the membership of the commission as well as the rules of appointment and discharge of commissioners.

This is so, he reasoned, because commissioners are not appointive officers or employees hired by the city.

A majority vote of the council could increase or decrease the commission's membership and also change the rule making a 4/5 vote necessary to fill a vacancy or remove a commissioner.

Regarding the proposal to have two members of the commission appointed by the council, two by the Coordinating Council of City Employees, and a fifth member chosen by the other four members, Remelmeier stated:

"Such provision is illegal. Because, as provided in article IX, section 1 of the charter, all legislative power is in the council, all members of the commission must be appointed by the council. The legislative power of appointment of commissioners cannot be delegated to the coordinating council or to any other person or group."

The fourth major point stressed in Remelmeier's findings involves the relationship between the city manager and the Civil Service Commission.

The city manager administers the Civil Service rules and regulations established by the commission and council, the attorney ruled, except where expressly provided to the contrary as in the formulation of job requirements.

Remelmeier said that it is nowhere stated in the city code that the Civil Service Commission shall administer any of the provisions established by its rules and regulations.

Before there was a city manager, the commission administered its own rules and regulations. But this power was granted the city manager with the establishment of a city manager form of government.

In Remelmeier's opinion, the formulation of job qualifications and standards, on the other hand, is to be determined by the Civil Service Commission and not the city manager. This power has been granted to the commission specifically.

City Manager and Council

Remelmeier also cautioned as follows: "The right to make rules for the Civil Service does not vest in the city manager, who has little legislative power."

This power belongs to the council. "Nevertheless," he went on, "the rule-making power must be carefully exercised so as not to detract from the powers of the city manager as set forth in the charter, including his broad power to administer such rules."

The fifth and final finding deals with the removal of the appeal board. "By reason of the failure of the council to adopt an ordinance removing the commissioners from their position as a trial board or board of appeal (August 1955), it is my opinion that such offices were never vacated," the city attorney found.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE

Voters of the 17th District who will be away from their homes on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, are reminded to apply promptly for their absentee ballots.

The last day for receipt of an application for an absentee ballot is Thursday, November 1.

The way to secure an absentee ballot is to:

1. Write a letter for such ballot, giving name, correct address to which the absentee ballot should be sent. Address application to Benjamin S. Hite, Registrar of Voters, 808 N. Spring st., Los Angeles 12, Calif.

2. Each person requiring a ballot should apply individually. One application will not be sufficient for man and wife, for example. Each must apply.

KUCHEL TO VISIT CITY

Senator Thomas A. Kuchel will make his appearance in Torrance at two different places today, Thursday, October 25, according to the local Republican headquarters.

He is scheduled to be at Crenshaw and 174th street at 10:30 a.m. and at Crenshaw and Torrance boulevard at 11:30 a.m. A motorized Kuchel caravan will form at both locations. Individuals interested in joining the caravan may do so at either location.

MONEY UNLIMITED; Yes, Classified Ads know no limits when it comes to turning the things you don't need into cash. You do it by dialing FA. 8-2345 or write the TORRANCE PRESS, 1406 Cravens, Torrance.

Park Comfort Station Bids Under Study

The apparent low bid for the construction of a new comfort station and other improvements at El Nido park has been submitted by the Robert Miller Construction Company, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced today.

The seven bids received ranged from the apparent low of \$48,853 to a high of \$51,836.

Supervisor Hahn stated that the improvements had been planned with a view to preserving the primitive section of the park, which has proved popular as a campsite for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth groups.

In addition to the new comfort station, the work will include the construction of a service building and yard, landscaping, and the enlargement of the existing softball field.

All bids are now being analyzed and it is expected that the contract for the work will be awarded within two weeks.

Located at 182nd street and Kingsdale avenue, El Nido park serves the people of Lawndale, El Nido, Hawthorne, Torrance and Redondo Beach.

Coach Praises Local Players

Two Californians, Skip Smith and Carlos Skaggs of Torrance, are making a deep impression on Freshman Coach Gene Stauber of the University of Nebraska.

Stauber pegs the 193-pound Smith as the top prospect among his yearlings. Smith is the fastest man on the squad. He is playing halfback. Skaggs also is a halfback and is improving rapidly, Stauber said.

If you want classified results call FA. 8-2345.



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DE MOLAY OFFICERS

Officers of the Torrance chapter, Order of DeMolay were installed at ceremonies held Saturday night. They are (l-r) Thomas F. Quaggin, junior counselor; John Sherfey, master council; and C. Kent Jackson, senior counselor.—Photo Arts Photo.

NIKE SITE READY BY DECEMBER

A unit of the 47th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade will occupy a permanent Nike guided missile site near the Torrance Airport in early December, Brigadier General Olaf H. Kyster Jr., brigade commander, said today.

The unit, Battery D, 865th Antiaircraft Missile Battalion, will have about 115 officers and men, all of whom will reside at the site or within 10-minute traveling distance from it.

Completion of the site and its occupancy will accomplish another link in the Nike defense of the Los Angeles area.

The launchers and underground missile storage area will be located near Sepulveda and Crenshaw boulevards. The control site and radar units will be located near El Camino Real and Tulita, west of the launcher area.

THE ANSWER! To solve your problems phone a Classified Ad to FA. 8-2345.

Republican Headquarters

Local Republicans have opened their Ike-Nixon campaign headquarters at 161E Cabrillo ave., with Patty Rudnick and Florence Sommers acting as co-chairmen.

The headquarters is open six days a week from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., it was announced.

The Cabrillo location also serves as the headquarters for

other local Republican candidates, namely, Charles Franklin, who is seeking the 17th District Congressional post, and Thomas Brewer who is running for the State Assembly.

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All newcomers to Torrance area or those who don't as yet have their credit established, can have their dental work done immediately under our new credit plan.

Pensioners may come in and receive a written estimate of what their dental work will cost. When this estimate is approved,

their work is started immediately and they make their first payment when they receive their additional funds from the State.

If you have any questions concerning dental problems, you want answered in this column, write to

DR. TARR

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