

# MILLER QUILTS UNDER FIRE

## Isen Hits 'Bossism'

### Lashes at Rule of Minority

Mayor Albert Isen this week issued a stinging denunciation of forces in Torrance "that would reject the good government principles that have prevailed in this city during the past three years and, instead, substitute the 'political boss' ideas of my opponent."

"It appears that in spite of efforts to promote a clean campaign," said Isen, "the opposition has decided to fabricate campaign issues, to broadcast half-truths and to 'create' local public distrust of city civil service employees and elected officials that have been commended by all agencies that measure government."

**Government of Few**  
"I doubt very much," continued Isen, "that the citizens of this city would tolerate a return to a 'government of the few' represented by my opponent and those who have endorsed his candidacy. The growth of our city was retarded by these same people who believed that a small city could be more easily controlled. They dedicated their efforts to the fulfillment of their desires, not the welfare of the city or its residents."

Mayor Isen made reference to his opponent as a typical "fence-straddling political office holder, who, rather than considering a decision with the welfare of the city and its people in mind, thinks only of the political effect of that decision."

**Cities Progress**  
"The candidate to succeed himself as Mayor of Torrance asked if the people of Torrance believe that he was at fault in (1) assisting in the tremendous residential growth of our city, (2) instituting a public relations program that has brought fame and industry to Torrance, (3) promoting a sound parks and playground program with a maximum use of the tax dollar and a minimum gain to the owner of the needed land, (4) appointing commissions of respected, trained and informed residents rather than just 'political henchmen,' and (5) attempting successfully to keep our city tax rate low, and city services at a high standard of efficiency."

"If I was wrong," said the candidate, "in doing these things, then perhaps my opponent is right. 'I would like to think that our citizens are proud of the growth of their city,' concluded Isen, our opposition, however, by including among its supporters certain individuals who wanted a part of North Torrance annexed to Gardena, apparently does not believe in the potential of our city or desire its continued growth."

Councilman Victor Benstead and Robert Jahn, according to Isen, have indicated that they will vote for him on April 6th. "These two worthy representatives of the people," concluded the Mayor, "have not, however, always agreed with me in council matters. If the voters elect my opponent and the candidates for council he has endorsed by inference, Torrance will be able to 'boast' of one of the most well kept political machines in the country operating for itself and not for the welfare of the city or its people."

### Taxpayers Group Supports Isen

Mayor Albert Isen has received the endorsement of the Torrance Homeowners and Taxpayers Association, the first time the organization has backed a candidate for public office, according to Earl L. Chambers, president.

"Mr. Isen's intelligent and capable handling of our economic problems have saved the city many thousands of dollars, thereby holding down our tax rate. We are fortunate in having the services of someone of such an exceptionally competent person," Chambers said.

### Editorial

For its size, Torrance is an extremely clean city.

It is devoid of organized vice and gambling, and their political handmaidens, official corruption.

Torrance is a progressive city of homes, businesses and industry and does not face the sordid spectacle of political cloak and dagger campaigning which is dividing the residents of Gardena.

But it could have been otherwise.

On at least two occasions in the past, Mayor Albert Isen has stood firm against insidious attempts by a small but loud-mouthed North Torrance clique to involve Torrance in the gambling picture.

At one time, leaders of the same group which is now fighting hard to defeat Isen in his campaign for reelection, were ready to splinter the city by annexing to Gardena. This plot was quickly squelched by Mayor Isen and the City Council.

More recently Isen blocked a clever scheme for granting a North Torrance franchise to a Gardena taxi firm.

Although disguised by its councilmanic supporters as providing better cab service, it was quite obvious that the plot really amounted to a jitney service to Gardena poker palaces seeking to expand their territory.

This city has been served well by a Mayor who works for the best interest of Torrance and is not swayed by selfish forces which stand ever ready to place private advantages over public trust.

Mr. Isen deserves our thanks for his record of honesty and integrity.

### Boycott Of Air Fair Fails

A planning session for Torrance Airport Day continued smoothly despite a boycott by two candidates who claim the event is "politically inspired."

The committee voted to go ahead with plans for the May 3 event after Chairman J. D. Thomas announced that Councilmen Willys Blount and Nickolas O. Drale "voiced objections and said they would not attend."

Councilman Robert Jahn, who was present, assured the committee that all members of the Council had voted unanimously for the staging of an airport day to promote better public relations for the airport.

He said that the affair will be held several weeks after the election and could not be considered political.

Thomas said he would have to withdraw from chairmanship of the committee if the event is a political affair.

An informal vote indicated that the majority of the committee wanted to go ahead with plans. Chairmen for several committees to take charge of specific events, were given assignments.

Idea for the event originated with Mayor Albert Isen, who asked the Chamber of Commerce to plan the event in order that residents will learn more about the airport.

**GETS LIBRARY POST**  
William Hoag, of 21909 LaDeen ave., a Torrance High School teacher, was confirmed by unanimous Council vote as a member of the Library Commission.

### Second Beating Charge Placed Against Spouse

For the second time in a month Ruben Sepulveda, 36, faces trial on charges of beating his estranged wife, Lillian.

Municipal Judge John A. Shidler set a jury trial for the unemployed defendant for April 24 and set \$1000 bail for this and a prior case.

Sepulveda is charged with beating his wife on two occasions, and biting her on the leg on the latest incident. A previous count of battery was still pending when he was arrested by Torrance police Thursday night.

Mrs. Sepulveda, of 18504 Falda ave., said the defendants actions have frightened her four children.

**VANDALS CAUSE FIRE**  
Vandals who tossed a flare pot into a house under construction at 2529 W. 164th st., Thursday, caused only minor damage, Torrance firemen reported.

### Group to Survey Small Park Sites

Recommendations on the locations of three neighborhood parks to be included in the \$3,000,000 park bond issue, will be made at a special meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Monday at 5:30 p.m.

The committee, composed of Ralph Morris, Lawrence Gitschier and Mrs. Naomi McVey, will also study location of the proposed 25-acre park in South Torrance.

Committee assignment was made at Wednesday's meeting of the Commission, as it went over a report on where the bond funds will be spent if approved at the April 8 election.

**Council Policy**  
Under the policy approved by the City Council, \$2,000,000 will be spent on land acquisition and \$1,000,000 on improvements.

The program calls for the purchase of 130 acres, including a major park site each in North, central and south Torrance, and 10 neighborhood parks ranging in size from five to 13 acres. Improvements at existing facilities include \$16,000 at the adult center; \$120,700 at the civic center, including a community building, picnic area, swim pool improvements and lights.

**Other Parks**  
El Retiro will receive \$60,000 of work, including new game courts; \$33,500 at Guenser Park; \$131,000 at La Romeria Park, including a community building; \$131,000 at Los Arboles Park, including a community building; \$60,200 at McMaster Park, which will include expansion or rebuilding youth center.

Another \$131,000 will be spent on Paradise Park which will also receive a community building; \$10,000 for Pueblo Playground; \$28,000 for Sea-Aire Park; \$52,000 at Torrance Park; \$51,000 at Waverly Park.



A. H. BARTLETT



HERMA TILLIM

### Leaves Bartlett, Tillim In Race for Clerk's Post

Bernard (Barney) Miller withdrew from the race for the city clerk's post Friday, after he was asked by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier to prove his residential qualification for the job.

Remelmeier said that "undisclosed sources" informed him earlier in the week that Miller, formerly of Long Beach, had moved into Torrance only last August.

The attorney said that in order to hold elective office in Torrance, a candidate must have resided here at least one year before the election.

**Leaves Two**  
Miller, whose withdrawal leaves the race to incumbent A. H. Bartlett and Mrs. Herma Tillim, former chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission, said he was ignorant of the residential requirement.

In his formal statement, he denounced "tactics used against me by Herma Tillim" which he described as "malicious" and threw his support behind Bartlett.

"I am leaving the race for city clerk of Torrance although I have lived in this area for two and one-half years. The city attorney informed me that one year's continuous residence is required to be eligible to serve in a city office.

"My residence here has not been consecutive, although I have lived here for the past nine months. At the time I filed for office, I was under the impression that the requirement for office was 90 days," Miller added.

**Asked Proof**  
Remelmeier said he asked Miller to write him a letter affirming or denying allegations that he had lived here the required one-year period.

The attorney said he had received no reply.

Remelmeier said he believes it will be possible to strike Miller's name from the ballot.

Bartlett is seeking his 10th consecutive term as city clerk. He has held the office since 1922. He has been a Torrance resident since 1912, when he came here as a private building inspector.

**Accountant**  
Later he joined the Union Tool company as a cost accountant until his election to the municipal office. He has been active in several organizations and was one of the founders of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

He is a charter member of the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs past governor of Moose Lodge 785, a member of the Masons, and former secretary of the United Association of Pipefitters and Steamfitters.

"My platform has always been honesty, efficiency, economy cooperation and service to the public, citizens and taxpayers of Torrance," Bartlett said.

**Businesswoman**  
Mrs. Tillim has resided in Torrance since 1951, and is the owner-manager of a private employment agency. She formerly was employed by the U.S. Air Force as a section head in classified material department, and has worked as an auditor for the Maritime Commission.

She studied business administration at Oregon State College and took extension courses in business, economics and psychology at the University of Washington; City College of San Francisco and Los Angeles City College.

She has been a member of the Torrance Civic Improvement Association since 1953 and served on the board and as treasurer. She has been active in the Coordinating Council, and served three years on the Park and Recreation Commission.

She won the "Outstanding Woman of the Year" award for 1957. In addition, she has served as member or director of numerous other civic and business associations.



BERNARD MILLER

### Building Upturn In March

Construction continued at a fast pace in Torrance during March, surpassing building totals during the same period last year.

Building permit valuation for the first 20 days of this month was \$1,870,406, with a least another \$475,000 to be added for the period since March 20, building officials said.

This compares for total permit valuation of \$1,235,015 for March 1957.

One of the bigger permits was filed this week by the county for the construction of the municipal courthouse in the civic center. Permit valuation was \$325,000.

Biggest single project during the month was a subdivision of 50 homes amounting to \$727,950. The homes will be built in the 20500 blocks of Madrona, Avis and Osage ayes, by the Cen Investment Co.

Three, five-unit apartment houses permits with a total valuation of \$150,000, were taken out by M. Gourley Construction in the 3700 block on 174th st.

Although March construction this year is nearly double that of last year's, it is not expected to exceed the \$2,937,828 record in March 1956.

### Rainfall Boosted

A brief but heavy rainstorm which lashed Torrance Thursday morning, brought another 80 inch of rain, boosting the season's wet total to 18.30 inches.

This is more than double the 8.23 inches of rain recorded by Torrance firemen last year to date.

### Driver Pinned in Car After High Speed Accident

A driver, who police say sped east on Pacific Coast Highway in excess of 85 miles per hour, narrowly escaped death early this morning when his car careened out of control and flipped on its top in front of South High School.

Richard Abraham Vandenberg, 36, of 5413 Calle de Ricardo, was taken to Harbor General Hospital with serious, but undetermined injuries, after being helped out of the smashed auto.

Police said his stationwagon spun out of control, crossed Pacific Coast Highway, sheared a fire hydrant and turned upside down on the service road in front of the school.

The fire and Water Departments were called in to turn off the water and to stand by in case of a car fire.

### Long Distance Dial Service Launched

Intend to telephone New York? Do you have a friend, relative or acquaintance in Maryland, Massachusetts or Michigan you expect to call?

If you do and have a Fairfax telephone—then according to Pacific Telephone manager Dick Pyle today is the time.

For early this morning (3-30) 13,000 Torrance telephones entered the sphere of cross-country long distance dialing.

The new king-sized service, labeled DDD for Direct Distance Dialing enables local FAirfax customers to call over 30 million telephones in the US and Canada with just a few extra spins of the dial.

According to Pyle, the service came to the exchange after months of installation of the very latest switching equipment.

The manager said that the history of DDD dates back to 1951 in Englewood, New Jersey. There this small exchange was slated to try out on a test basis of miles away—without the help of an operator on most calls.

Following months of tests, checks and surveys, the service was to be stopped after a half-year trial period. But due to the whole-hearted endorsement of this modern convenient approach to telephone by the citizens of the community the service was made permanent.

An aqua colored booklet has been mailed to all FAirfax telephone subscribers who will get this new service," the manager said. "The instruction booklet points out the major cities that can be dialed direct by the customer and describes how to go about doing it."

Some of the cities on the call list include Boston, Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia. West Coast cities include Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco and Portland.



**DIRECT DIALING**—Pacific Telephone service representative admiret aqua colored instruction booklet on DDD recently mailed to all FAirfax telephone customers. DDD book gives complete instructions in dialing long distance numbers direct in such cities as New York, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburg, Milwaukee and San Antonio. West Coast cities include Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco and Portland, Ore. New service permits local customers to dial station-to-station long distance calls without help from an operator.

### Student Grounded On Fourth Ticket

A high school student who received his fourth traffic citation in less than six months, will have to take it slower for a while.

Municipal Judge John A. Shidler, suspended the driver's license of Harold Paul Balma, 18, of 2001 Matthews st., Redondo Beach, for 10 days.

The Mira Costa High School student received his latest ticket from Torrance police for running a red light.

**EASTER VACATION**  
Easter vacations for 21,000 Torrance Unified School District students will be held this week.

### Park Department Offers Special Easter Vacation Programs in City

Torrance Recreation Department is preparing a week of special activities and sports to be held on 15 school playgrounds and six park areas beginning Monday and concluding Saturday, April 5th.

The planned Easter vacation programs include Easter egg hunts, kite construction and flying and making midget racers in addition to movies and supervised play.

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Supervision of the schools and parks will be handled by qualified recreation leaders, many of whom are teachers in the Torrance District.



**TALENT SEARCH**—Showing their talent in first audition held for Kiwanis Kavaladee, to be presented in Civic Auditorium May 2 and 3, are Carol Johnson, 11, on piano, Shirley Johnson, 9, singing, and Chuck Thibadeau, with accordion. In rear is Harlan Stephens, Kiwanis Club chairman, and Roy Gordon, left rear, producer of the show.