

PRESS EDITORIAL PAGE

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SCHOOL BOARD SHOWS SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Activity towards progress and advantageous change for the children of Torrance has been the trend of the Torrance School Board throughout the summer in preparation for the fall.

Bett Lynn, president of the board, has brought many innovations to it — some of which were campaign promises — and has seen them become policy.

For the first time, agendas are being sent out to reporters to enable pre-study of events slated to come up at meetings.

Joining Forces

A Citizen's Advisory Committee was established to help the board "join forces" with the public and the parent. It is the duty of the committee to present suggestions by the public to the board.

Since the new board's term there have been no closed meetings. The policy has set that all meetings will be open to the public and press.

Letter grades will be given out for the first time to students of the district from grades kindergarten through eighth grade.

The letter grades will be given in addition to written progress reports.

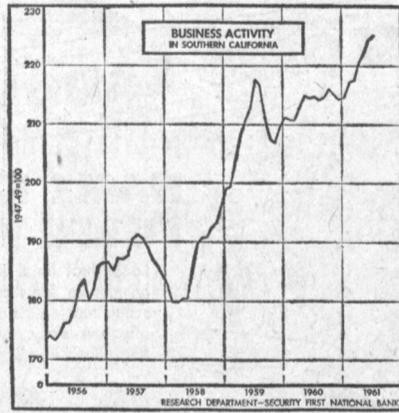
The use of team teaching at the high schools will be begun. This will enable each teacher to instruct in his major and will eliminate the necessity of having teachers lecture on subjects in which they are less proficient.

Seventh and eighth grades will begin the platoon system of class rotation. This will give the effect of a junior high without the expense.

Flag Ceremony

The "Star Spangled Banner" will be played each morning 10 minutes before classes begin; a flag ceremony will be held at this time. This will get the students ready for their academic schedule 10 minutes before the bell rings rather than 10 minutes after.

With the action taken on these innovations, the board is moving with the community toward progress in education for children and citizens-to-be of Torrance.



LOCAL BANK HEAD REVEALS REPORTS

Southern California's business activity continued on the upswing and moved into the year's second half by estab-

CONTROLLER REPORTS ON STATE FUND

State Controller Alan Cranston recently reported that the State ended the 1960-61 fiscal year with an unappropriated surplus of \$38,017,561 in the General Fund.

The figure is contained in a report on the State's year-end fiscal position prepared by the Controller for distribution to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Director of Finance Hale Champion and other State officials.

Cranston said that in addition to the \$38,000,000 surplus available for appropriation, the report also shows "unencumbered balances of continuing appropriations" amounting to \$67,081,645.

"These represent funds which were appropriated for various specific purposes and still are needed for those purposes, but for one reason or another they were not expended before the close of the fiscal year," Cranston said. "In prior year-end reports, these funds were lumped with surpluses available for appropriation."

"This year the report was revised in the respect to differentiate between surplus funds available for appropriation by the legislature and

lishing a record high in July, J. J. Weigel, manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported today.

According to Weigel, the new high marked the seventh consecutive month in which the level of business activity has advanced. Security's business index for the month of July stood at 226.2% (preliminary), up slightly over June's figure and 5.4% above the similar period of a year ago.

Department store sales, building activity, man-hours worked in manufacturing and motion picture employment were among the index's 14 components which showed gains, Weigel said.

Partially offsetting these gains were moderate declines in each of the bank debit series, manufacturing employment (seasonally adjusted), and industrial power.

Weigel disclosed that employment in most Southland counties registered only slight changes from the June figures.

In the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan area, contrary to the usual seasonal pattern, a small increase was reported. On the other hand, in the San Bernardino-Riverside area and in San Diego County, employment declined moderately.

carryover funds already committed to specific projects."

Total General Funds revenues for 1960-61 amounted to \$1,597,887,158.

Glenn H. Child

HEALTH OF YOUR SCHOOL CHILD

In a very short time, Torrance children will be starting to school, and whether or not they are adequately prepared for the experience depends almost wholly on the adults who are responsible for their welfare. Chief among these individuals are the child's parents.

There are certain questions that all parents should ask themselves before their child starts to school and perhaps the most important one is, "When did my child last have a complete examination by a physician?" If more than a year has elapsed since it was given, another physical check-up is due.

For, when all is said and done, it is parents who have the major responsibility for the health of their children, whether of school age or younger. In the case of the school-age child, however, it is a responsibility that school officials must share because so much of the child's time is spent in the school environment. Community agencies are also concerned in varying degrees, particularly health departments which provide immunizations against certain communicable diseases.

Health Service

Public schools in Los Angeles County generally provide certain health services when a child enters school and these include a physical examination, a dental check-up, and vision and hearing tests. These tests should be repeated at intervals throughout the child's school life, otherwise any deviations from the normal that later develop may go undetected for several years—or at least long enough for them to become chronic and serious—unless teachers, school nurses, and parents are sufficiently alert to detect the signs that may reveal all is not well with the child.

It is preferable for parents to have a periodic consultation with the teacher or school nurse and, if not informed, it is their task to find out precisely what observations have been made on their child's physical condition and personality, what tests have been given and the findings of these tests, and if, through accident or neglect on their part, there has been any lack of follow-up on recommendations that may previously have been made by the school physician or nurse.

A conference of this nature provides the parent an excellent opportunity to discover whether there are any social or emotional maladjustments that may have developed which, owing to the opportunity for observation and to training and experience, the teacher is most likely to observe.

No remediable handicapping condition in a child should ever go uncorrected. When parents cannot afford the necessary medical or technical assistance required, there are nearly always resources within every community to provide whatever is needed—aid that may range from a hearing device or glasses to the services of a child psychologist.

Key Person

It is current opinion that the teacher is a key person in the school health program since it is the teacher that has the child under day-long observation. Indeed, the effectiveness of a school health program depends a great deal on the teacher's conscientious observance of each child's physical and mental development.

It is also the teacher who is best situated to make health services an educational experience for the children under her care, so that healthful living habits and knowledge of the body's functions will remain with them through the years. By way of the children she may also reach the parents and perchance correct faulty health habits with the family group.

Focus of Attention

The health of the school child is increasingly the focus of attention in this disturbed and disturbing world, for children find it more difficult to reach their full potential as responsible and well-adjusted adults when struggling against some physical or mental handicap. This is particularly unfortunate when the defect is one that can be corrected.

It is worth remembering that although the skills and services of a number of individuals including professional workers in schools and in voluntary and public agencies are freely given, the primary responsibility for the health of the school child rests with the parents who, whenever possible, should keep the child under the supervision of the family physician.

VACATIONERS ADVISED ABOUT DUTY, IMPORTS

Vacationing Torranceites shopping or gathering souvenirs abroad should not be hampered by the new restrictions on duty-free imports, according to Automobile Club of Southern California travel counselors.

Although President Kennedy's recently signed bill will limit duty-free imports to \$100 in value, returning globetrotters can exceed this amount by paying the appropriate tariff.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE SHOWS SURPRISING INCREASE

In the space of 20 years, the number of people protected by health insurance has gone from one out of every 11 persons in the United States to the present figure of three out of every four persons, the Health Insurance Institute said today.

In 1940 nine per cent of the U.S. civilian population were protected by some form of health insurance, the Institute said, while at the beginning of this year 73 per cent of Americans were so covered. At the midway point, 1950, some 51 per cent of the population had health insurance.

Twenty years ago, only 12 million Americans were covered by hospital expense insurance. Since then there has been an 11-fold increase and some 132 million persons were protected against the costs of hospital care at year-end 1960, declared the Institute. In 1960, nearly 77 million were insured.

The Institute said this explosive growth can be attributed to many factors, among which is the public's growing awareness of the value of modern health care and its need to find a mechanism to help prepay the costs of such care.

The same type of growth has been shown, said the Institute, by surgical expense insurance, and by regular medical expense insurance, which helps pay for non-surgical care by physicians.

In 1940, five million Americans had surgical expense insurance, but in the following 20 years there was a 23-fold increase and at the end of 1960 more than 121 million persons had protection

against the cost of surgical bills, the Institute said. In 1950, some 54 million persons had surgical insurance.

Regular medical expense insurance covered only three million Americans in 1940. However, there was a 29-fold increase in coverage in 20 years so that more than 87 million persons were covered last year. In 1950, less than 22 million persons were so protected.

The Institute said the breadth of health insurance protection was revealed by the fact that 92 per cent of persons with health insurance have both hospital and surgical expense insurance, and 68 per cent have hospital, surgical, and regular medical expense insurance.

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