

Residents Charge Signals 'Too Fast'

Quick Light Change Leaves Pedestrians Dodging Autos

The Torrance police department, city manager's office and the office of the traffic and lighting engineer, have been flooded with telephone calls commenting upon the short duration of traffic signals on some Torrance intersections.

Complaints state that the signals, which are newly installed, allow only a few seconds for the pedestrian to scurry across the street and that only a five second delay in leaving the curb will find the walker racing the ears to the safety zone.

According to city officials these signals, like many of the other mechanical contrivances that govern our lives, must be utilized properly or the user will find himself in a precarious and dangerous position.

These signals, according to the city's traffic and lighting engineer Jim Whitmer, are traffic actuated unless the pedestrian takes the precaution of pushing the control button located on each corner of the intersection.

FLASHING LIGHTS

Unless the button is pushed first, and the "walk" and "don't walk" lights begin to flash, the pedestrian may find himself in the middle of the intersection with the trucks bearing down on him from both directions.

Whitmer said that, when the signals remain traffic actuated, the lapse between light changes may be as little as seven seconds.

Signals which receive the most complaints are located at the intersections of Torrance and Cota, Torrance and Arlington, and Carson and Arlington.

Rules of thumb for safely using the lights were outlined by Whitmer yesterday. They are:

"ALWAYS push the control button before you cross the street,"

"NEVER leave the curb when the flashing red sign reads 'Don't walk.'"

Whitmer pointed out that, provided the control button is pushed first, the pedestrian will have more than half a minute to cross the highway.

City officials are currently studying the problem of elderly people and small children crossing the street and may eventually extend the time between light changes to allow them to cross at a slower pace.

Anti-Communist Program Held Monday Evening At Gardena Hall

A kick-off meeting for the all-day anti-Communist program, the South Bay Crusade for Americanism, was held at the Gardena Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Monday.

Praise Director For Insurance Plan, Savings

On Dec. 1, 1960, the California Department of Veterans Affairs through its director, Joseph M. Farber, awarded its Cal-Vet fire and hazard insurance program contract to the National American Insurance Company, largest writers of insurance on homes in California.

National American's successful bid represented a potential saving of more than a million dollars a year (\$5,150,000 over the 5-year spans, 1960-1965) compared to the bid of a signatory group composed of 238 insurance companies.

Over the first ten months of the program operation, California veterans were saved more than a half-million dollars (\$689,738.35), a DVA report showed.

In addition to the savings to veterans, the National American proposal offered broader, unmatched protection at lower rates.

ACTION HAILED

Director Farber's efforts to gain the best insurance deal available for California veterans purchasing homes from the State has drawn the plaudits of individual vets, veteran groups, insurance associations and top-ranking officials.

Says Cal-Vet contract holder M. K. Lannon of Castro Valley: "I personally feel the insurance carried by the DVA is the finest protection we could ever receive from any company."

Says John B. Engberg, State Commander, Disabled American Veterans: "The insurance program now in operation for veterans is

erans of Foreign Wars Post on Monday.

Colonel George W. Nevils, United States Marine Corps Ret., presented the film "Our American Heritage" followed by a talk on the same subject. He retired from the service to become director of public relations for California Free Enterprise Association.

The all-day program will also be held at San Pedro Union High School on November 25. A group of 2,100 people is expected to attend this program from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fred Hall, former governor of the state of Kansas, will be a guest speaker at the day-long session. Ted Bruinsma, chairman of the South Bay Crusade for Americanism group, stated the purpose of the all-day seminar is to "Create a sense of responsibility as free Americans and to educate and inform people on the menace of Communism."

Representatives from service clubs, Chambers of Commerce, women's organizations, and student groups are supporting the overall program.

Says Robert Genhos, Department Commander, Armvets of World War II: "You (Farber) have certainly obtained the best coverage available and your efforts have been to the best interest of the homeowner."

PRESS EDITORIAL PAGE

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New York Approves Plan For Schoolyard Shelters Advocated by Supervisor

A program for construction of fallout shelters at schools has been approved by the New York State Legislature and \$100 million has been appropriated to finance construction of the shelters.

Proposal for fallout shelter construction approved by the New York legislature is similar in many respects to that advocated for Los Angeles County by the board of supervisors.

New York program was pushed through at a special session of the New York legislature which was called by Governor Nelson Rockefeller for that purpose.

The \$100 million to finance the New York shelter construction program was appropriated out of construction reserve funds. The plan calls for the State of New York to pay local

schools \$25 for each person for which the shelter was intended up to one-half the total cost. It was estimated that the plan would provide fallout shelters for more than 4,000,000 school children and teachers in the State of New York.

URGE APPROVAL

In his message to the New York legislature urging approval of the fallout shelter construction program, Governor Rockefeller said: "In this way we may save millions of lives, help to thwart the plan and purpose of the Communists for world domination and further the cause of freedom everywhere."

New York's plan was approved on November 9 by the State legislature.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn's program to build fallout shelters at each of the 1600 school sites in Los Angeles County so that virtually all of the 6,000,000 residents of the metropolitan area would be within 15 minutes walking distance of a shelter was first announced on October 30.

He proposed that a special election be called for February 6 for the people to vote on a \$404 million shelter construction program.

At a subsequent meeting of 107 school district superintendents and key school district personnel, only three voted against having the proposed shelter program submitted to the electorate at a special election.

DONATE SERVICE

An informal poll of election board officials indicated that about 90 per cent of election personnel would donate their services for the special election, thus reducing the cost of the proposed election to about one-half cent per resident of Los Angeles County.

At the November 7 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a motion by Supervisor Hahn to have the special election called was not supported by a majority of the supervisors. Instead, it was decided to give "serious consideration" to placing the matter on the June ballot.

However, on his motion the Board of Supervisors voted to poll each of the 73 cities and 100 school districts in Los Angeles County to determine whether next June 5 would be a better date for an election on the proposed shelter construction program than would be February 6.

Governor Asks Dedication to Puritan Ideal

Governor Edmund G. Brown today issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation calling on Californians to re-dedicate themselves to the principles of Thanksgiving Day expressed by the Puritans 340 years ago.

The text of Governor Brown's statement follows: "In a world clouded with fear and uncertainty, I join with other Californians in a plea for a re-dedication to the principles of Thanksgiving Day as expressed by our Plymouth Colony forefathers 340 years ago."

"On that day, colonists and Indians joined in thanksgiving and celebration of God's gifts. There was an end to the fighting; there was peace and freedom and charity in the hearts of men."

"In recognition of those American ideals of thanksgiving on which this nation was founded, I, Edmund G. Brown, Governor of California, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 1961, as Thanksgiving Day in California."

Tax Relief for Elderly Proposed

A plan to alleviate property tax problems of senior citizens was covered last week in testimony to a State Legislative Committee meeting in Inglewood City Hall. Richard Nevins, Southern California Member of the State Board of Equalization, presented statistics and arguments supporting need for property tax deferral for homeowners over 65 years of age.

Savings Bond Sales Reported High for Year

"Sales of Series E and H Savings Bonds continued to edge upward in the Southern California area for a gain of 1.2 per cent during the 20th Anniversary year of the U.S. Savings Bonds program," Treasury Consultant Howard D. Mills said here today.

"During the first ten months of this anniversary year Southern California-wide sales of Savings Bonds totaled \$148,070,432," Mills said, and compared this with sales of \$146,293,255 for the same period a year ago.

"For the month of October \$14,585,106 worth of Savings Bonds were purchased in the Southland," Mills continued. "Of this amount, county residents bought \$11,031,926."

In praising supporters of the Savings Bonds program he quoted U.S. Secretary of Treasury Douglas Dillon who states that, "Buying



WINNERS LISTED—Winners of the annual American Legion-sponsored oratorical and essay contest on subjects dealing with Americanism were announced last weekend. Shown are Doug Foerster, 17, John Brooks, 17, Sherre Farmer, 16, all of South High, and Carol Echols, 17, of Torrance High, winners of the oratorical contest, and Nancy Morrin, 13, of Arlington School, and Ted Wegener, 12, of Lincoln Schol, winners in the essay contest. Trophies were awarded to each of the young winners and a perpetual trophy went to South High for producing the best speakers.

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