

# Ted Bruinsma: Man on The Go

By N. N. SCOTT  
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It's midnight and the patrol car cruising deserted Torrance Blvd. slows to a crawl in the 2100 block.

In the dark doorway next to a real estate office the figure of a man bends suspiciously over the doorknob. The squad car stops. The policeman cautiously steps out into the street.

Suddenly the figure in the blackened doorway spins, drawing a small, flat object from his inside coat pocket.

"Good evening, officer. Have some matches. My name is Ted Bruinsma and I'm running for Congress."

Running for Congress is right!

### ONE DAY

The reporter spent one day this week with the 41-year-old San Pedro businessman-attorney who is seeking the Congressional seat in the 17th District and we can attest that it takes a pace considerably removed from walking.

The midnight episode described in the opening paragraphs occurred in front of 2170 Torrance Blvd., the local Bruinsma For Congress Headquarters. Ted had stopped by to replenish his ammunition for a breakfast meeting the next morning—scheduled for 6 a.m.!

Eighteen-hour-days have been the normal working schedule for Theodore A. Bruinsma since he won the nomination to Congress in the June primaries.

"The main issue of the campaign is that we haven't had any representation in the 17th District for the past several years," Bruinsma says. "Nobody has worked at the job. I want to prove to the voters that a Congressman can work. And, of course, I want to convince them that if I'm their Congressman they'll have one who will work."

### ALL-NIGHT CAFE

The 6 a.m. breakfast where Ted started proving his point during our recent Day - With - The - Candidate took place in an all-night cafe on the West side

of Wilmington. Ted met with three leaders of the Spanish-American community there. The early hours was to allow the men to punch their respective time clocks at 7:30.

At that particular hour, Ted was starting his second breakfast of the day — this one with the civic events forum of the San Pedro Chamber Commerce.

Here, Ted made a ten-minute talk, off the cuff, on ways to stimulate small industry and prevent the loss of jobs in this area. Formerly president of his own electronics company in Redondo Beach, and a member of the Young Presidents' Organization, Ted Bruinsma talks basic facts about paychecks and keeping businesses alive. His economics are not theoretical nor the least bit fuzzy.

### 'HOT WAR'

"This country is in an economic hot war. The new Trade Act opens the door wide to low wage foreign competition. This could well affect thousands of jobs in the Torrance area.

"We're facing our most crucial economic challenge. How well we meet it will determine how many people are at work here in the 17th District and how well they live for many years to come. We need people in government who know from experience just what is involved in creating an enterprise." Applause.

Time now to report in at Ted's campaign headquarters in Torrance where secretary Anne Leighton hands him a four-inch stack of correspondence — invitations, solicitations, reports from his community campaign chairmen.

There's also a stack of telephone calls to return. Three or four of these are from organizations or individuals who want to know the candidate's stand on issues ranging from the Cuba problem to re-location of the Torrance post office.

### 'HOME RULE'

On this latter count Ted

is a strong "home rule" man. "The right to enact local legislation is absolutely essential to preservation of the character of a community," he maintains.

Two hours of telephoning and paper work and Ted is out to squeeze in a fast round of hand-shaking at a north Torrance shopping center.

"I haven't walked this much since I waited tables to pay my way through college," Ted reports. "Even with two breakfasts and several luncheon meetings a day, I'm losing weight."

Son of a carpenter, Ted Bruinsma worked his way through Harvard Business School and then Harvard Law School. He served four years in the Navy during World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific. Ted was general counsel of a 70-million-dollar corporation at the age of 33 despite a second interruption in his career for more Navy service during Korea.

### 'NOT THE TYPE'

At the age of 34 Ted founded his electronics company. He's been a city councilman, school board member, director of the Community Chest.

"People tell me I'm not the type you usually find in politics," Ted says. "But I figure it's past time that we all took more interest. When even the man we pay to represent us in Washington doesn't show any interest in what's going on, it's time for a change."

At lunchtime Ted appears before a Hawthorne Lions Club. Subject of his talk is "How To Keep Our Defense Industry."

"Contracts should not be used as political footballs," Ted says. "Here in the Torrance area we have the skills, the plants, and the experience and right here is where the contracts should stay."

In mid-afternoon Ted drives to 2727 West 175th Street for a coffee hour at the home of Mrs. Jerry Leonard. "No comment on



MRS. JAMES R. HADEN and daughter Kathy Ann, age four, of Harbor City, take a coffee break with Ted Bruinsma, who they hope will represent them in Congress. Kathy Ann's balloon contains a slight commercial message.

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White House fashions," he tells the ladies.

### QUICK TRIP

Then a quick trip to the Harbor to pass out campaign literature to the workers leaving shift at Todd Shipyards.

"Hey, this is you!" one steel-helmeted gentleman tells Ted, waving a campaign folder beneath his eyes. "What's a Congressional candidate doing out meeting the people?"

"His job," Ted grins.

Ted Bruinsma feels that a Congressman should make every effort to keep in close touch with the voters he serves.

"I pledge to open a Congressional liaison office in Torrance to serve the people of the 17th Congressional District," he says. "We should have had one twenty years ago."

Several hundred handshakes later, Ted reports back at his home for dinner with his wife Edith and

four children — Ted Jr. 18, Tim 15, Lynn 11, and Dale 10.

### AFTER DINNER

After dinner Ted travels to Gardena for (1) a visit to the American Legion meeting, (2) an appearance at a Judo tournament, and (3) a late hour conference with his local campaign committee.

"We have the largest organization of voters from both parties ever put together in this area," Ted says. "We have the outstanding civic leaders in every community working along side of us."

Frankly, it will take plenty of people wearing out plenty of shoes just to keep up with Ted Bruinsma.

In just one day with him this roving reporter roved enough for a month.

At least we can report on one scoop.

Ted Bruinsma is definitely not triplets.

It just seems like it.



TORRANCE BUS STOP is on the rounds of candidate Bruinsma. He discusses the Cuban situation with Leslie Amero.



SHOPPING CENTERS are the perfect place to discuss high government spending and increased living costs. Mrs. Helen Gardner, 1632 Hickory Ave., Torrance, has her grocery cart unloaded by Congressional nominee Bruinsma.



MISS GLORIA FRANKS of Torrance accepts campaign literature from the campaigner himself. Candidate Bruinsma has set a new record in personal contacts of Torrance voters.