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**THE PRESS**

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD. — Phone DA 5-1515

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 42

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1963

10c A COPY

# 'Put Up or Shut Up,' Mayor Defies D.A.

## ISEN COMPLIMENTS POLICE ON 'TAKING THE GAFF'

With flashes of spirit, Mayor Albert Isen last night at City Council read a statement in which he defied the District Attorney's office to "put up or shut up" on charges of corruption within the Torrance Police Department.

The Mayor also complimented the police force for "taking the gaff" as well as they have. "The people of Torrance should be complimented," said Mayor Isen, "for taking this in their stride and keeping faith in the Torrance police department."

Manley J. Bowler, Chief Deputy District Attorney, countered the mayor's defiance by saying that in view of the seriousness of the situation in Torrance that he was asking the State Attorney General's office to step in and take over the investigation.

The Mayor's statement follows in full: I am sure that all of you were greatly disturbed and deeply concerned, the same as I was, when the metropolitan newspapers, radio and television, last Friday and Saturday, quoted Chief Deputy District Attorney Manley Bowler regarding an alleged syndicated crime ring operating in the City of Torrance and protected by Torrance police.

Portions of his news release were later retracted but the damage was done. Such reckless and irresponsible statements from the office of the chief law enforcement officer of the county could have had no purpose other than to smear and slander the good name of the City of Torrance.

**Great Fanfare**  
With a great fanfare of publicity from newspapers, television and radio, the Deputy District Attorney announced over two months ago that his office and a staff of ten investigators would conduct an investigation of the entire Torrance Police Department to ferret out criminal activities.

He later retracted this, stating his investigation was only for the three police officers and their relationship with the department. His announcements were made public to news media without contacting responsible officials within the City.

During the conduct of the investigation by the District Attorney's office, headed by Bowler, no attention has been paid to the offers of cooperation that have been extended by city government and thus it would appear that the District Attorney's investigation is for purposes other than true law enforcement.

As an officer of the court representing the chief law enforcement agency in the county, Bowler's conduct should have been such as to instill in this community a respect for law enforcement and not to tear down the sincere efforts of honest police officers.

To the contrary, Bowler's **Political Charge**  
The manner in which Bowler's office has conducted this investigation has produced political overtones because Mr. Bowler is admittedly the hand-picked candidate to succeed District Attorney McKesson.

Bowler's loose, reckless, irresponsible statements, since retracted, have caused the Office of the Attorney General concern. Attorney General Stanley Mosk said,

**Burglars Get Ring and Cash From Home**  
An \$800 ring, \$50 in cash and miscellaneous items worth over \$200 were taken by burglars from the home of Willis R. Taylor, 2713 W. 225th St. last Sunday just before the family returned home from their vacation.

According to police, the burglars had planned to take much more but were possibly scared off by the owner of the home returning. The house was strewn with items from drawers and cupboards and it appeared the burglars had set many items aside.

Stacked on a ping pong table were several items including a pillow case filled with miscellaneous jewelry which were left behind in the burglars' haste.

Every room in the Taylor family's home had been ransacked and every drawer opened and its contents dumped out or messed up.

as quoted in the Los Angeles Times, Saturday, September 7th. "In view of the serious charges made by the District Attorney's office, we expect that the District Attorney and the Grand Jury will immediately go into the problem of alleged corruption within the Torrance Police Department. Our office stands ready to be of assistance if requested."

Bowler is quoted in Sunday's, September 8th, Herald-Examiner, as saying that he did not need the assistance of the Attorney General in this matter.

We want our house to be in order. We have nothing to hide. We resent "hitting below the belt" tactics by Bowler. Because of the manner in which this investigation has been conducted, I believe it necessary at this time to make a direct appeal to the Attorney General's office to step in and investigate this entire matter including Mr. Bowler's activities.

**"Vice Town"**  
In addition, Bowler has diligently sought to give the impression that "ten midnight arrests" are the equivalent of Vice Town, USA.

The City Manager, City Council and the Mayor have been extremely willing to cooperate and help ferret out any criminal activities which may exist in this city.

We do not feel that "ten midnight arrests" makes the City open to the charge that there is organized crime or vice operating under police protection or that a "crime cartel" exists here.

The time has come for Mr. Bowler to "put up or shut up." It is the public duty of the District Attorney's office, and specifically Mr. Bowler, to make any information he has available regarding alleged crime rings or irregular activities of police officers available to both the Grand Jury, the City Manager and to this Council; so that if such charges are true, necessary steps can be made to prosecute the individuals.

**Makes Motion**  
Based on the authority of the above section of the California Constitution,

I move that the City Attorney hereby be instructed to contact the Attorney General at once regarding the investigation of the Torrance Police Department being conducted by the Chief Deputy District Attorney,

Manley J. Bowler, and request the Attorney General's assistance in determining:

1. If Manley Bowler presently has any definite information regarding illegal activities of any member of the Torrance Police Department.

2. If the Attorney General deems further investigation is necessary, it be done under the auspices of the Attorney General's office in cooperation with the City

Council and City Manager.

3. That the Attorney General conduct a thorough investigation of the political activities of the Chief Deputy District Attorney, Manley J. Bowler, to determine if such activities in Torrance are politically motivated and if he has used the Torrance Police Department as a vehicle to advance his own political ambitions via the media of the newspapers, radio and television.



**POLICE OFFICERS ASSIST** Mrs. Leona Watkins, 70, 904 Madrid Ave., up the side of a steep bank from the ditch where her auto landed in a collision late last night. Mrs. Watkins received minor injuries and was taken to a private doctor. The accident occurred on Hawthorne Blvd. south of Lomita Blvd.



**TRAPPED** in her auto, Mrs. Leona Watkins waits for rescuers to clear brush and barbed wire to free her. The Watkins vehicle crashed into a ditch while traveling North on Hawthorne Blvd. last night. A Torrance officer at

the scene received a cut finger from portions of a barber wire fence wrapped around the door. The driver received minor injuries and was not hospitalized. —PRESS photos by David Ranns



**AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE** was the covered wagon two girls from Europe visited with their Torrance hostess during the climax of a six-week tour of the United States. Pictured are, from left, Miss Evelyn Ninkoff of Geneva, Switzerland, Mrs. R. S. Briggs of

26019 Crest Road, and Miss Annelore Schrubba of Dusseldorf, Germany. Mrs. Briggs met the girls while vacationing with her husband in Yellowstone Park last month and invited them to see the sights of Southern California as her houseguests.

## Kids Will Try Anything... Once

Kids will try anything once, but it is doubtful that Todd Quist will ever try to eat a spring or bolt again.

Todd, 16-month-old son of Mrs. J. E. Quist, 320 W. 187th Place, was playing in the family auto while his mother went shopping in a market on Crenshaw Blvd. Tuesday morning.

Somewhere in the car young Todd found a screw or small spring and couldn't resist taking a small taste of this new found item.

When Mrs. Quist came out of the market she discovered her son choking, and when she tried to remove the object in his throat it kept going further down.

The police department was called and officers sent to the scene turned the boy upside down to extract the object but were unable to do so.

An ambulance rushed the boy and his mother to Little Company of Mary Hospital, where x-rays revealed what appeared to be a screw in Todd's stomach.

The hospital reports the boy was no longer in any danger since the object had cleared his throat and he was released.

## Goodwill Ambassadors Entertain European Guests

Two unofficial ambassadors of international goodwill from Torrance recently did their bit to erase the picture of the "Ugly American" painted by less thoughtful citizens in visits abroad.

Extending the hand of American hospitality at two European girls they met on vacation were Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Briggs of 26019 Crest Road.

While vacationing in Yellowstone National Park, the Briggs overheard two fellow-travelers conversing in German. The sound of the language took the couple back in memory to Christmas of 1958 when they had spent an unforgettable holiday in Dusseldorf during a two-year stint in England with the Douglas Aircraft Corp.

They introduced themselves to the girls, Miss Evelyn Minkoff of Geneva, Switzerland, and Miss Annelore Schrubba of Dusseldorf, and learned that they were planning to wind up a six-week tour of the United States with a visit to Los Angeles at the time the Briggs were due to return to Torrance.

Feeling that the visitors from abroad could get more out of their stay if they spent their visit with an American family, the Briggs invited their new acquaintances to be their houseguests for three days.

While here, the girls were escorted to Marineland, movie studio lots in Culver City, Hollywood, Knotts Berry Farm, their first major league baseball game in Chaves Ravine, and Disneyland.

—Needless to say, Southern California proved to be the high point of their United States tour.



**GETTING READY** for their first day of school as they prepared to join 30,000 youngsters returning to Torrance classrooms this morning were Joyce and

Joanne Douglass, kindergarten students at Madison School. As Joanne struggles with her shoelaces Joyce gets a final hairbrushing from mother. —PRESS photo



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