

Those Convention Trips: Who Benefits?

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald Staff Writer

To the average taxpayer, \$30,000 is a lot of money—especially when there are no visible benefits for the great mass of taxpayers who must eventually pay the bills.

The \$30,000 is what the city's taxpayers have paid in the last 18 months to be represented at national and state conventions, seminars, and on international goodwill missions. Unlike a new city park, however, the benefits—if there are benefits—of a convention are not tangible things.

The expenses, the names of the organizations, the location of the conferences, and the names of city officials who attend are facts. They can be dealt with as facts, tabulated as data, and interwoven into prose. But a thorough discussion of city travel involves more than just the cash-and-carry tabulation of expenses.

There is a question of benefits to the city—real or imagined. Does the information gathered at a given convention "pay for itself?" Should the city send 1, 5, or 25 representatives? Should the word of any official—garageman or mayor—be accepted without supporting documents when public funds are involved? And regardless of the convention, doesn't the city have a responsibility to account for every dollar which is spent?

There are two schools of thought in the matter of city-paid travel. Both ideas have been voiced by members of the council and by departmental officials at city hall. There also is support for both ideas among the taxpaying public.

One theory holds that a free trip is a fringe benefit for public service. After all, say some councilmen, "we only get \$100 a month and spend a great deal of time on behalf of the city." Some

salaried civil servants also consider their trips a fringe benefit of public service.

The other theory holds that councilmen and departmental officials have a responsibility to the community to keep up to date on the latest innovations in municipal government, the latest action of the state in some areas, and the newest pronouncements of the federal government. Reasonable expenditures are necessary, say the proponents, but representatives should attend the sessions and report back—at least informally—on the conference.

Fringe benefit? No public official, elected or appointed, is coerced into his job. Councilmen seek election of their own volition, and they fight hard to win. The career government specialists enter the profession of their own choice. The salary, the fringe benefits, and the amount of work re-

quired are known when the decision is made to seek public office or enter career government service.

Necessary? Goings-on at most conventions—especially the professional meetings—are generally reported in detail in the various trade publications and professional journals published by the organizations. Anyone who can read can follow most major conventions without leaving the city. Admittedly, however, the personal contact which is sometimes valuable is missing from the publications.

Once the information is available, there is still a question of its benefit to the city. Obviously, some conventions are of direct benefit to the city. A demonstration of a new and cheaper traffic signal or a seminar on bookkeeping methods and cost controls can save the city money. Ideas from

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TO TEACH HERE . . . Arden von Dewitz, Marymount College art instructor, has joined the staff of the Jostyn Studio of Arts and will teach an eight-week course in basic art (oil painting) beginning tomorrow. An advanced class will begin Feb. 8. Recreation Department officials say. The artist is currently appearing each morning on Channel 7 under the sponsorship of the Los Angeles Board of Education.

Specialists to Discuss Heart Here on Thursday

A "heart-to-heart" talk will be given by a group of medical specialists Thursday evening when the Los Angeles County Heart Association will hold its first open meeting of its Southwestern Branch at the Little Company of Mary Hospital.

A 7:30 p.m. meeting, a team of medical authorities will discuss what is being done to combat the nation's number one killer and how today's medical knowledge and research — helped by Heart Association funds — have saved and rehabilitated the lives of many who have been affected by various heart disorders.

Those giving the "heart-to-heart" talk will include Sister Mary Xavier, chief dietician at the Little Company of Mary Hospital; Dr. Robert F. Nielsen, Torrance internist cardiologist and chairman of the Southwestern Branch; Dr. Ronald T. Piccirillo, Torrance internist cardiologist

In Montana

Airman Rogelio Martinez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel E. Martinez of 327 W. Nielson St., has completed Air Force basic military training at Lackland AFB, Tex. He is being assigned to a Strategic Air Command (SAC) unit at Glasgow AFB, Mont., for training and duty as an air policeman. Martinez is a graduate of Carson High School.

and medical vice chairman of the Southwestern Branch; Dr. Richard J. Lescoe, Torrance thoracic surgeon, chairman of the Southwestern Branch's Professional Education Committee and a member of LACHA's Closed Chest Cardiac Resuscitation Committee and Dr. Richard Call, vice president of LACHA and chairman of LACHA's Program Planning Committee.

Before the panel discussion, a Heart Association film, "Coronary Heart Disorders" will be shown.

Hosting the program will be Mother M. Patricia, administrator of the hospital at 4101 Torrance Blvd. and her staff. The program was arranged by Mrs. Joseph Merino, Wilmington Coordinating Council and Unit Chairman for the Heart Sunday campaign in the Harbor-South Bay area; Mrs. Clark Trevers, Southwestern Branch Public Relations Chairman and Mrs. Earl A. Moles, Rebekah Heart Sunday Chairman, the community co-chairman for El Segundo.

Councilman David K. Lyman, citing an analysis of councilmanic districts submitted last week by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, asked that a five-man committee to begin a study of the present system of representation.

"Our present system of representation is not adequate for a city of 128,000," Lyman said. "In my opinion," he added, "the present at-large popularity contest type election that we use is not the best system for the city of Torrance."

COUNCILMEN agreed the

plan was "worth thinking about," but questioned the size of the committee. Lyman had suggested the committee include three councilmen, a representative of the Torrance League of Women Voters, and a member of the political science faculty at El Camino College.

"There are other interests in the community," Mayor Albert Isen said. "My thinking is that you'd want a large committee representative of the entire community."

Although Lyman did introduce a resolution, he did not push the issue. He told councilmen he was interested only in getting the matter before the council.

"I am certainly not ready to vote tonight," J. A. Beasley said, "and I'm not sure I will be next Tuesday."

UNDER THE proposal, the

Atom Bomb Monitoring Class Set

A course in radiological monitoring will be held this spring at Gardena Adult School, it was announced today by H. Lee Hansen, coordinator of school defense activities for the Los Angeles City Schools.

The Civil Defense class—to be held once a week through June—will be conducted at the school, 1301 W. 182nd St., Gardena.

It will meet Thursdays starting Feb. 4, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Material to be covered during the three-hour weekly session includes the basic facts of atom and hydrogen bombs, proper use of detection instruments such as Geiger counters and ion chambers, and communications in case of an attack.

Students will be trained to give a detailed monitoring report and to properly evaluate, supply and distribute data received on radioactivity during an emergency.

Classes will consist of 18 three-hour sessions and one six-hour field exercise—making a total of 60 hours of class instruction. Instruction will be conducted as part of the Los Angeles City Schools adult education program and a \$4 fee will be charged.

Official registration will be held at the first and second meetings, Feb. 4 and 11.

Local Red Cross Office to Close

The office of the Torrance Branch of the American National Red Cross at 1617 Carbrillo Ave. will be closed as of Feb. 1, it was announced here yesterday by Chairman Stanley Heiman. Heiman said the move was being made in the interests of economy.

Closing of the office will in no way curtail the services and activities of the Torrance Branch, he said. Heiman said the committee would remain active.

"The Blood Bank will continue to function locally, Capt. Walter West of the fire de-

partment will continue as first aid chairman, and Allen Quignon will continue as chairman of the disaster committee," he said.

Staff aid services will continue under the leadership of Mrs. Jean Raynor who will accept calls from volunteers at TE 3-5372.

Construction of the new regional offices at 1st Street and Western Avenue in San Pedro prompted the decision to close the Torrance office. Little use has been made of the local office, Heiman said.

Harbor College students prefer Peanuts. In politics anyway.

Running as candidates of the Peanut party, "representing the little people," Geoffrey Waring of San Pedro was elected Associated Students President and Dave Chavez of Carson was elected vice-president in a run-off election Wednesday.

They defeated the slate of Ron Williams and Blaine G. Happy, representing the Effective Party. The two slates were survivors of elections Monday and Tuesday that eliminated Glen Banta and

Tim Clark, representing the United Students Party, and Kenneth Thompson and Greg Merideth of the Unicoil Party.

Thirty members of the Student Body Senate were also elected. The successful candidates will take over their offices at the start of the Spring Semester from John Cairns, President and Bob Myers, Vice-President for the Fall Semester.

In the hotly contested election the candidates started campaigning the week before Christmas vacation and continued until the elections this week with most parties offering a slate of senatorial candidates to back up the presidential and vice presidential candidates that had to run as a slate.

This is the second election held since the Harbor students adopted a student government modeled after the federal pattern.

Waring, of 3433 South Walker Avenue, San Pedro, was formerly student body president of San Pedro High School. He was a Marine League champion on the parallel bars in gymnastics, an Ephebian and a Gold Seal Bearer. At Harbor he has been president of Tars, chairman of the Harbor Youth Forum and a member of the gymnastics team. He plans to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara after completing the courses at Harbor.

Chavez of 216 W. 219 Street, was student body president of his high school, Banning. He was an Ephebian, a JV cross-country letterman and class valedictorian. At Harbor he has been

Trio Stopped To Aid Woman

A 39-year-old Gardena woman was assaulted by three men in their early 20s and dumped out of her car in Torrance Tuesday night to climax an hour of terror which started with a flat tire.

The victim, enroute to Lomita from her Gardena home, was stopped with a flat tire at 206th and Western Avenue about 9 p.m. Tuesday, she reported.

A trio of men she described as about 23 or 24 years of age, each short and of Mexi-

can descent, stopped and changed the tire for her.

After completing the tire changing chore, one of the trio jumped into the front seat of the victim's vehicle beside her and the other two jumped into the rear seat, she said. Her attacker tore her clothes from her while his buddies in the rear seat urged him to "speed it up," she said.

The other two joined in the attack before leaving the scene, she reported.

She was driven around for about 20 minutes after the assault and finally put out in the 1900 block of 231st Street, she said. She called police from a nearby house.

Carson Boy Elected HC Associated Student Veep

Director of Campus Organizations and a member of the Forum, Homecoming and Student Activities committees.

Senators elected were:

Tanda Williams, Jim Steek, Sharon Brkich, Joan Abel.

(Continued on A-2)

Airman James J. Coffman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy J. Coffman of 820 Patronella Ave., has been selected for technical training as an air policeman at Lackland AFB, Tex. He is a 1963 graduate of Torrance High School

At Lackland

Director of Campus Organizations and a member of the Forum, Homecoming and Student Activities committees.

Senators elected were:

Tanda Williams, Jim Steek, Sharon Brkich, Joan Abel.

(Continued on A-2)

Rezoning Bid Opposed - - -

A bid by the County Housing Authority to have more than 50 acres of federally owned property rezoned to permit residential planned development (RPD) was protested by more than 170 persons when it was brought before the Lomita City Council Monday evening. Residents expressed fears that rezoning would lead to development of apartments.

Health Delays Hearing - - -

Serious health complications has led to the postponement of a scheduled arraignment for 70-year-old Louis Koullapis, who allegedly shot up three Gardena poker parlors last week, a spree which ended in the death of a Burbank man. Koullapis, confined to the prison ward of Los Angeles County General Hospital, is suffering from injuries he received during his capture last week in Gardena and from what has been described as a severe psychic depression.

Watson Decries Protests - - -

County Assessor Philip E. Watson has a one-word answer to charges that Santa Monica tax assessments had been boosted because city officials were receptive to the hike. "Hogwash," Watson said when a protest group from Santa Monica appeared to appeal assessments. Santa Monica spokesmen said other areas of the county were assessed below the average of 25 per cent of market value.

Senator Asks Thoughts - - -

A new City Council committee was formed last night in response to a request from Senator Thomas M. Rees for comments of Torrance officials on the reapportionment plans now being considered by the State Senate. David K. Lyman, Ken Miller, and Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. were named to the committee to communicate with Rees on the Senate reapportionment problem.