

# Medicare 'Moonlighting' Charged by Supervisor

Congress and the California State Legislature should take a hard double look at the loophole in Medicare legislation which permits a "double take for doctors," according to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. The supervisor said he will seek revision of a recently passed County Ordinance which allows staff doctors at county hospitals to collect additional fees from the federal government for treating Medicare patients at the hospitals. The ordinance was approved in line with Federal and State requirements. "In my opinion it is ridiculous to allow full-time staff doctors at County hospitals

to get a 'bonus' for treating poor and elderly patients under the Medicare program," Hahn stressed.

**HE POINTED** out there are approximately 350 staff doctors at county hospitals earning a salary of from \$992 a month (Physician I) to \$1,627 a month (Medical Director).

Hospital officials estimate as many as half of the 7,000 in-patients and 2,200 out-patients in county hospitals are eligible for Medicare.

Interns and residents of the hospital are not eligible to receive the "Medicare bonus" because they are considered part of hospital services. However, state and federal laws provide that all other physicians, including full-time staff members, shall receive payment for treating Medicare patients even if it is in addition to their regular salary.

**HAHN SAID** the Medicare ordinance was placed before the Board of Supervisors "with almost no notice" and Supervisors were urged to approve it to meet the March 1 opening of the program.

The ordinance covers only the period to July 1 to allow hospital administrators to negotiate with doctors' associations with the hope of establishing a fund for the "Medicare bonuses."

Rather than channel the "bonuses" back to the individual doctor, they would go to an association fund for the benefit of all hospital staff doctors in the association.

"WHETHER it goes to the individual doctor or the group, I see no reason why the taxpayers should have to pay twice for doctors' services," Hahn said. "Therefore, I will ask for revision of this poorly planned ordinance and I urge the state and federal governments to close this ridiculous loophole."

Hahn compared the program to "allowing a private tutor to come to a public school, use its facilities, teach during the school day, and then charge parents who are already paying taxes for his services."

Calling the Medicare provision "moonlighting on U.S. taxpayers' funds," Hahn said either an adjustment should be made in doctors' salaries so they won't receive double payment, or doctors should be placed under contract with a set salary whether they take care of Medicare patients or not.

## ... Waldrip

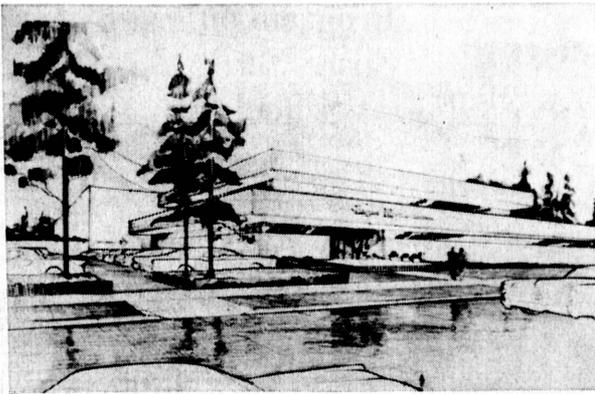
(Continued from Page 1) to the field of education in 1944.

Waldrip is married to a classmate from Arizona State College. He and his wife, Guin, live at 5420 Sharynne Lane with a daughter, Kay, who attends Seaside Elementary School. Another daughter, Mrs. Carol Denmark, lives in Torrance.

A member of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association, Waldrip is treasurer of the California Association of Public School Business Officials, Southern Section. He also is a member of the Association of School Business Officials of the United States and Canada.

**HE IS AN ELDER** at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Redondo Beach and a director of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

During Waldrip's 11 years in Torrance, the local district has grown from 14 schools, 12,000 students to 38 schools, and 33,000 students. The Inglewood District currently serves 14,000 students in two high schools, two junior high schools, and 14 elementary schools.



**NEW QUARTERS . . .** Industrial Molding Corp., now headquartered in Gardena, will move into a new building on 190th Street near Western Avenue soon. The new structure contains 32,000 square feet of space and will house production, engineering, and administration functions of the plant. Risley, Gould, and Van Heuklyn designed the new industrial plant.

## Council Stands Pad On Water Study Bid

Torrance will not hike rates of its municipal water department — at least in the near future.

Councilmen last night unanimously denied a request for a survey which would have led to increased water rates about July 1. The survey, to be conducted by an engineering firm for the city, would have cost \$5,000.

"I would rather see you spend \$5,000 to tell us how to improve service at the same rates," Councilman H. Ted Olson told A. E. McVicar, the city's water superintendent. Olson noted the water department is "operating in the black."

A proposed hike in water rates was rejected by councilmen last June, although they asked City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to conduct a survey of the rate schedules. McVicar, in a letter to the council, said the city's studies "have shown clearly a rate increase is needed." Olson said several basic

questions concerning the city's water department need to be answered, including one proposal that the city purchase the Dominguez Water Co. and California Water Service Co. which now serve parts of Torrance.

Ferraro indicated a report on the feasibility of purchasing the two companies will be forwarded to the council shortly.

Mayor Albert Isen, who first suggested acquisition of the two private firms, said he would "vote against any rate increase."



"Gossips and blotters absorb a lot of dirt, but they usually get it backwards."

### RUMMAGE SALE

A church rummage sale will be held Monday through next Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1741 Border Ave., according to Leona Bashore, pastor. Items will include furniture, lamps, appliances, and clothing.



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## ... College

(Continued from Page 1) dead as a dodo bird," Isen commented.

It was generally agreed, Isen reported, that the State Legislature will approve the special appropriation for purchase of the Dominguez site, bounded by 190th Street, Alameda Avenue, Central Avenue, and Victoria Street. The bill calls for nearly \$6 million to supplement an earlier appropriation of \$5 million.

**REMARKS BY** Thomas that he has not pressed for selection of a particular site were challenged by Isen. The mayor said he recalled a letter which Thomas wrote in support of the original Torrance site, located at Sepulveda and Crenshaw Boulevards.

"At that time, that area in Torrance was in his district," Isen said. "At present, he has a small area (in his district) and little interest in Torrance."

Thomas also pressed for selection of a San Pedro site after the state rejected the Palos Verdes Peninsula location first chosen by the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges.

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