

Opposition Grows to Council Power Grab

(An Editorial)

It is an often observed fact of life that political power goes to the person who exercises it.

In their zeal to embarrass the city's elected mayor, a four-member bloc of city councilmen may have overlooked this when they decided to substitute muscle for leadership by fixing it so they could get together and pick their own mayor.

We don't think they'll get away with it, but the four-man majority—referred to as the "foolish four" the other day—was able to get a shotgun proposal on the Nov. 8 ballot which—if approved—would strip the people of the privilege of selecting the city's mayor and would hand it over to a council bloc.

It is incredulous to suggest that the rule of four councilmen could supplant the rule of the people. But that is what Proposition Z has been designed to do.

Torrance voters are being asked to go back

to a system they rejected overwhelmingly just nine years ago.

Torrance is not alone in its desire to let the voters select the mayor, authoritative compilations of the National Municipal League show.

In fact, the postwar trend has been heavy in that direction, and now more than half the manager-council cities in the United States select their mayors by a vote of the people, a sharp contrast to some of the pronouncements made by sponsors of the shotgun effort to alter Torrance's form of government.

But then, as we've pointed out before, double gibberish is their stock-in-trade.

The trend toward the Torrance system has been so great in recent years that the National Municipal League's Model Charter for cities, first drawn up in 1915, was amended to include the

election of the mayor by the people instead of his colleagues.

Opposition to the hastily offered amendment developed in the city council chambers the night it was unveiled by the four-man bloc. Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen Ted Olson and Ken Miller—who obviously had not been cut in on the plan to shake up the city's government, led the protests. They were joined on the spot by several citizens in the council audience to whom the proposal was a surprise, too.

The League of Women Voters of Torrance voted official opposition to the proposal, pointing out that the League had been trying for two years to get a charter review going—without much encouragement.

In a review of the charter study background this week, League officers pointed out that this was the sixth charter amendment proposed by the

councilmen since the charter review study was first recommended.

Of these, three have made it to the ballot: two pay hike proposals which had been vigorously opposed by the Press-Herald were rejected and an amendment barring so-called "topless" attire in public was approved.

Torrance residents should not be carried away by high-sounding phrases or the last minute arrival of a knight in shining armor coming to save this fair damsel of a city from the knave.

Amendment Z is a display of raw muscle, flexed in the hopes of a take-over by those who have not been able to turn Torrance into their private vineyards. Some of this muscle has been showing a new interest in civic affairs recently, causing some to wonder what has awakened this zeal for community welfare.

But then, that's another story.

Torrance

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FIRST TICKET . . . Dr. Robert E. Fleming Sr. gets first ticket to a special banquet honoring visiting Turkish government officials from Mrs. John A. Tweedy (at left) and Mrs. H. Ted Olson. The three are members of a committee making plans for the salute to the visiting officials. The banquet, open to the public, is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4. A six-man team from Turkey, including the mayor of Konya, is due to arrive here Sunday for a week-long stay. Tickets may be purchased at \$5.50 per person from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Ave. (Press Herald Photo)

Turkish Delegation Has Full Itinerary

A six-man team of Turkish government officials, including the mayor of one of Torrance's sister cities, is scheduled to arrive here Sunday afternoon for a week-long visit.

The group will be met at Los Angeles International Airport by Torrance officials

on arrival at the American Airlines terminal. Headquarters for the group in Torrance will be the Jump 'n Jack Motel.

Members of the team, in the United States to study organization and relationships of federal, state, and local agencies, will leave here Nov. 4 to return to Washington, D. C., for conferences with officials of the Department of State.

FETHI TANSUK, undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and governor of Balikesir Province, is the team leader.

Other members include A. Hilmi Nalcaci, mayor of the city of Konya and secretary general of the Municipal League of Turkey; Ali Metin Dirimtekin, general director of personnel for the Turkish Ministry of Interior; Osman Meric, governor of Eskisehir Province; Huseyin Meydanoglu, governor of Kocaeli Province, and Ali Cahit Betti, governor of Konya Province.

They will be accompanied by interpreters and representatives of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

THE TEAM will be welcomed at the airport by city officials and the Torrance Area Youth Bands, which will salute the visitors with the Turkish National Anthem. (See VISITORS on A-2)

Council Cites City Employees

Twenty-one veteran employees of the city were honored last night for their service in brief ceremonies before the City Council. Also honored were five city employees who retired during 1965.

Mayor Albert Isen presented service pins to employees who have been on the job for 15 to 20 years.

Receiving 20-year pins were John G. Cox and Robert E. Lamphere of the Sanitation Department, Milton T. Langum of the Fire Department, Milo L. Gilbert of the Bus Department, and Robert R. Faren of the Parks Department.

Fifteen-year pins were presented to Mary H. Andrus and Michael Orend Jr. of the Finance Department, Beverly J. Grubb of the Engineering Department, Robert A. Schrauben of the Parks Department, and Joseph A. Williams of the Street Department.

Hall Backed For Fourth Judgeship

A former Torrance city attorney last night was recommended for appointment to the South Bay Municipal Court by the City Council. Attorney James Hall received backing from the council, which acted unanimously on motion of David K. Lyman, Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown is expected to appoint a fourth judge to the South Bay Municipal Court shortly. The State Legislature created the vacancy when, during the last session, it approved a fourth judgeship for the local court.

Contract Approved for New City Fire Station

Safety Run for Teeners

Eighty high school students, representing five Torrance high schools, will take part in the Torrance Safety Council's first Safety Economy Run next Saturday.

Students taking part will be from Torrance, South, West, North, and Bishop Montgomery high schools.

The route of the run will cover 100 miles and has been logged and routed through the combined efforts of the Automobile Club of Southern California and the California Highway Patrol.

TORRANCE Chief of Police Walter R. Koenig, who is serving as chief steward for the run, said it will take approximately two hours and 45 minutes for each driver to complete the route.

Purpose of the run is to emphasize the relationship (See SAFETY on A-2)



FOR THE WINNER . . . Miss Lynn Vandermead, "Miss WALTERIA," and Ozzie Grimes, exalted ruler of the Torrance Elks Lodge, display the sweepstakes trophy to be awarded at the conclusion of Saturday's Safety-Economy Run for area high school students. Some 80 drivers will participate in the run and the school with the best team score will receive the sweepstakes award. Grimes will serve as official starter for the run.

No Compromise on Dump, Walteria Residents Say

Walteria residents will renew their fight against a proposed rubbish dump adjacent to their homes next Wednesday when the city's Planning Commission again considers the proposal.

At issue is a plan to establish a dump in a sand and gravel pit adjacent to the southern city boundary and west of Crenshaw Boulevard. The proposed dump backs up to a residential area.

Action on the proposal was postponed by the Planning Commission at its Sept. 7 meeting after residents presented a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures in opposition to the dump.

THE COMMISSION ordered a 60-day study of the plan and agreed to meet with residents and with proponents of the dump. A delegation from the area, accompanied by Planning Commission members, also visited several other dump operations in the area.

Residents contend the dump will be a nuisance and will cause property values to plunge, according to Claude Hendrex. He said he believes a "more desirable" method of converting the land to a useful parcel of property can be found.

"We believe that the land can be graded and subdivided and, even with costly excavation—the landowner would realize fine profits," Hendrex said. "Sooner or later the land will be developed, but it should be developed in accordance with the highly developed community that surrounds it," he added.

HENDREX ALSO said the group feels the problems of developing the land "should be shouldered by the landowner, not the entire community."

William Borton, another representative of the homeowners' group, said claims that the Palos Verdes Landfill, operated by Los Angeles

County, will "soon come to an end" are untrue. Borton said his group has been told it will be at least 7 or 8 years before the current county dump site is filled to capacity.

Residents said six rubbish dumps are in operation within a 5-mile radius of central Torrance. Five of these dumps, it has been reported, are owned by private operators.

HENDREX, following the inspection tour, called the differences between the privately operated and the county dumps a "real eye-opener." "The differences, he said, are like comparing a shovel to a modern caterpillar tractor."

But, Hendrex added, Walteria residents are in no mood for a compromise. "We can't accept a dump in our community, no matter who runs it."

\$78,981 Offer Wins Contract For Facilities

A construction contract for the city's fifth fire station, to be located on Del Amo Boulevard just west of Hawthorne Boulevard, was awarded to a Long Beach firm last night.

City Councilmen voted unanimously to accept the bid of Rutter and Burges Construction Co. for the facility. The firm submitted a low bid of \$78,981.

Eleven bids were received by the city, ranging to a high of \$104,000.

COUNCILMEN appropriated \$48,900 to complete financing of the new station. A total of \$43,500 was earmarked for the project in last year's city budget.

Total cost of the project, including architect's fees, landscaping, and security fences, is estimated at \$92,400, William Dunmore, director of finance for the city, reported.

begin in about 10 days. The new station will serve the Victor Precinct and adjacent areas which are now served by stations in north and south Torrance and by the city's main station at Carson Street and Crenshaw Boulevard.

Young Cyclist Killed by Car

Sixteen-year-old Frank Julian, 3332 W. 135th St., was killed Tuesday afternoon when he apparently lost control of his motorcycle at 190th Street and Felbar Avenue and fell in front of an oncoming car.

Police said Julian failed to negotiate a turn at the intersection shortly before 4:30 p.m. and fell in front of a vehicle driven by Jane Douglas Grandpre, 20620 Anza Ave.

Pro and Con Meeting Set

Voters may hear pro and con discussions on the seventeenth state, four county, and three local ballot measures Thursday evening at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., beginning at 7:35. A panel of speakers from the sponsoring Torrance League of Women Voters will give brief explanations and pro and con arguments about each of the measures and will then answer questions from the audience on each issue. Mrs. James van Oppen, voters service chairman of the non-partisan group, is in charge of the meeting. Mrs. William Radcliffe is president of the Torrance League.

Industrial Worker Killed

Twenty-one-year-old Robert R. Long was killed Monday afternoon when a forklift onto which he had been helping load steel pipe ran over him at the Cal-Metal plant at 1313 W. Sepulveda Blvd. The forklift was operated by Oreste Serrano, 1633 W. 208th St., according to reports made to Los Angeles police. Workmen indicated Long may have been trying to step onto the moving vehicle when the accident occurred.

Lomita Office Space Voted

Expansion of the county engineer's branch office in Lomita was authorized Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors with the approval of a two-year lease for an additional 750 square feet of room at 1823 W. Lomita Blvd. The county currently leases 3,725 square feet of space in the same building, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace, chairman of the board. The contract goes into effect on Nov. 1 and calls for payment of \$3,310 over the two-year period.