

Press-Herald

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Say NO to Power Play

At least four of Torrance's City Council members will be watching election returns next Tuesday with more than casual interest—and none of the four are candidates for office, in the formal sense.

The four sponsors of Proposition Z, or the Mayor-Go-Round amendment, will be watching to see if their move to substitute muscle for leadership can be slipped past the voters.

Their scheme is simple: strip the voters of the privilege of selecting their mayor. The choosing of the city's chief political officer would thus be shifted from the polling booth to the majority caucus.

Citizens would not know who their mayor would be until the boys in the back room had decided among themselves who would get the honor that week.

While the four Mayor-Go-Round sponsors—J. A. Beasley, David K. Lyman, Ross A. Sciarrotta Jr., and George Vico—are anxiously awaiting the returns, others will be just as eager to learn if the muscle play succeeds.

The test of strength—to cost taxpayers at least \$7,000—has been called ill-prepared and hastily presented by the League of Women Voters.

The League has been spearheading the opposition to the change and its president has said the League will continue to oppose "piecemeal charter revisions."

Their campaign against the proposal has been joined by the Chamber of Commerce, whose president said the expenditure of more than \$7,000 to get the proposal on the ballot was unnecessary.

Joining the opposition this week was the Junior Chamber of Commerce, whose membership was unanimous in the decision to oppose the change. The Jaycee president said the vote came after the group's governmental affairs committee "exhaustively studied the ballot measure."

These groups have been joined by a large number of industrialists, businessmen, and community leaders who have recognized the move as a flexing of muscle by a dissident group with some noses out of joint.

The Press-Herald strongly urges that the voters put an end to the muscle and vote NO Tuesday on Proposition Z.

A Time for Decision

There are a host of school taxes which, under state law, may be levied by local boards of education to finance special programs, costs of the state retirement system for teachers, employee health insurance payments, and other similar expenses.

Most of those taxes have never been levied by the Torrance Board of Education, which has preferred to finance yearly operating expenses from the general fund tax.

But a decision is about to be made to determine if those special taxes should be levied—and the Board of Education will have little to do with that decision.

It will be made largely by the voters, who are being asked to approve a \$9 million school bond issue next Tuesday. The bond issue, which will appear on the ballot as Proposition V, is needed to finance new classrooms and other school construction projects—facilities which are needed now.

If Proposition V fails to win the necessary two-thirds majority for approval, the school board will have little choice but to levy those special taxes and to increase the general fund tax to its voted maximum. That would mean an increase in taxes of about 70 cents for each \$100 assessed valuation.

The increase, which would be about \$40 to \$50 per year for the average taxpayer, will show up on tax bills next year.

The Torrance board has promised taxpayers, in the words of one member, "the best education possible for the most reasonable tax dollar." In recent years, the board has been reasonably successful in keeping that promise.

The Press-Herald believes Proposition V deserves the strong support of every voter.

The Assembly Contests

Torrance stands to make a significant gain in its Sacramento representation when its voters go to the polls with the rest of California next Tuesday.

Although one of California's major cities and Los Angeles County's third largest city, it should send its first resident to Sacramento as a representative of the 67th Assembly District.

The election of Lawrence E. (Larry) Townsend of North Torrance next Tuesday has been recommended by the Press-Herald and he is considered the odds-on favorite to win the seat being vacated by Clayton Dills of Gardena. Townsend is a member of the Torrance Civil Service Commission and should make an able representative in Sacramento.

In the other two Assembly Districts serving Torrance, the city has been served well by the incumbents and their re-election has been recommended by the Press-Herald.

In the 46th Assembly District, which includes much of the south and west portions of the city as well as the beach cities and the Peninsula, Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel has offered a vigorous voice on state affairs and has been a leader in the scrap against the rising tide of government and the rising cost of government.

In the 68th Assembly District, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, the dean of California's lower house, has shown he has the interest of Torrance residents for the quarter century he has represented the harbor area.

While the delegation of Thomas, Chapel, and Townsend may not see eye-to-eye on many issues, we are confident that they will find an area of agreement in their concern for Torrance and its problems.

The Press-Herald reaffirms its recommendation for Assemblymen Charles E. Chapel and Vincent Thomas and for Lawrence E. Townsend.

Tell Me Again, Gramps—



STAN DELAPLANE

Charms of Portugal Put Stan in Expansive Mood

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL — I can't say enough for these coast towns around Lisbon for the traveler on a budget.

You can get a room in a first-class inn with meals for two — \$7 a day.

A de luxe place on the water's edge with meals for two — \$20.

Pleasant little towns. Whitewashed clean. Good weather. Good medical service. Excellent food — and cheap. Dinners in top restaurants, \$3 including wine and brandy.

I had no special help in finding these. In fact, I wasn't even lucky. I fell into a new tourist hotel that belted me for \$200 in two days before I gnawed my leg off and got out of the trap.

But from there on, it was all downhill and shady.

"You mentioned cheap travel in Spain and Portugal, but how do you go about arranging it in advance?"

Spain's going up — especially in Madrid. But here's how to do it in Portugal: Get a reservation for arrival at one of these hotels in suburban Estoril: Miramar, Paris, Atlantico, or Inglaterra. Take the room WITHOUT meals. Should run you about \$7 a day for two.

Now — go down to the tourist office in Estoril. They speak English. Get their list of pensaos and estalagens (small country house inns). Also buy (for 12 cents) a complete list called "Portugal Hotels for 1966." Prices are listed. Pick out a half dozen likely ones under class "1 a." Get a taxi and start looking.

When you get a place, set

it up for room with breakfast and one other meal—not three meals. This gives you freedom to take lunch or dinner out. On figuring list price, remember they add on 10 per cent for service.

Travel

ice and a 3.1 per cent tourist tax. Figure 15 per cent. Because you're going to tip your maid a little on top.

You won't need a car. Taxis are cheap. And there's a fast little electric train running into Lisbon.

The Weather: Warm and dry in the summer — 80 degrees tops. Wet and a little chill on winter — 12 days of rain in the month and around 55 degrees. But you can shift hotels. Go to the south, warm coast in the Algarve.

Don't cash traveler's checks in Lisbon tourist hotels. They help themselves to \$1.50 to \$2.50 off the top of each \$100. Banks take a modest fee.

For housing: House rentals are expensive. Especially in this preferred part. However, you're operating in a favorable exchange economy. Engineers get about \$175 a month. Day laborers get \$1.75 a day. Maids get \$1.05 and haircuts are 30 cents. By law, wine is free with meals. It's cheaper than milk.

... about staying for a year in Spain?"

A couple of years ago I took a Madrid apartment — very small at \$8 a day. But if you'll go for a year's rental, I saw some pretty fine houses at \$150 to \$200. Hard to get maids — who used to

go for \$25 a month. Spain is getting into industry. The girls make more in the factories.

Madrid is hot in July and August. I think you'd want to go to the Atlantic or northern coast. Forget the Costa Brava on the Mediterranean side. It's popular, but it's as hot as Madrid. You're trapped inside at midday.

Madrid is more lively than Lisbon. I think Lisbon is prettier. Also they have a dinner hour around 8-9. The Spanish don't think of sitting down until 10:30. And it's more likely 11-12. I never get used to it.

"We have thought of a Eurailpass. Are trains good in Europe?"

The Eurailpass (with almost unlimited travel) is a bargain. Keep your luggage down. Porters bring it on the train. But you always have to unload it yourself. Off that high shelf and through the window. (There is some way of checking it into a baggage car. But I never found out how to do it in foreign languages. Maybe you can.)

WILLIAM HOGAN

Beauties of the Forest Shown in Print, Photos

(William Hogan is on vacation; this review is by Arthur Carlson)

It has often been said that one stands too close to the trees to see the forest; or that one is so far away from the forest that he cannot see the trees.

Neither of these extremes applies to "The Life of the Forest" (McGraw-Hill, \$4.95), for John McCormick positions his readers so that the whole beautiful and fascinating picture of the forest with its trees, shrubs, flowers, mosses, animals, birds, bugs and insect comes alive almost to the point where one can smell the damp, cool good earth and hear the mystical silence of the deep forest.

McCormick, who is curator and chairman of the Department of Ecology and Land Management at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has done an excellent job in presenting a clear-cut, simple and comprehensive picture

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Notes of an Infomaniac Rambling Along the Bay

It's not quite true that Bobby Kennedy has hired Architect Jack Warnecke to draw up plans for a White House addition to house the 14 children he'll have by 1972, but there's no point in betting against it. . . . There won't be any jobs in the Bay Area Rapid Transit subway stations because, we are told, "they tend to attract undesirable" . . . a pretty mean thing to say about people with weak kidneys. . . . Gloom hangs heavy over a fancy San Francisco automobile agency. Nine of the most elegant and expensive new models arrived last week, and all were bought immediately by — pimps.

"We don't mind the color of their money," laments a salesman, "but the image, the image!" . . . Memorable line in a legal brief rec'd by the S.F. law firm of Firth & Kohler: "The defendant took advantage of her under cover of a legal instrument."

Caendic Camera: Sign outside the Salvation Army's

officers training school at Laguna and Geary streets: "OUR God Is Alive. Sorry About Yours."

Japan Airlines' planes are numbered 8001, 8002, 8003, 8005 and so on because the number 4, having the sound of "shi," is considered bad

lucky; "shi" could also mean death. . . . Phone company employees with over 30 yrs. service get free phones plus "reasonable" tool charges, but by that time they're probably sick of phones anyway.

Questions without answers: Since Coit Tower is the chief landmark of our Italian section, shouldn't it lean a little? . . . When a issue, does he manhole it? . . . Do all blondes have more fun, or just dirty blondes? . . . When will Sammy Davis Jr. feel he is old enough to drop the Jr.?

that the Governor should have worried less about the black and white backlash and more about the Brown backlash? . . . Sine the early bird will get him, isn't the successful worm the one that sleeps late? Let's.

International wire: Is it news to you that a fairly large group of New Lefties in the San Francisco Bay Area wrote to Hi Chi Minh, volunteering to fight as mercenaries with the North Vietnamese Army? Then it might be further news that they just got the word from Hanoi. Or rather, two words: "Stay home." The message was contained in a letter postmarked Hanoi, written by Nguyen Huu Dinh of the Viet Nam Courier, a Govt. mouthpiece. The gist: "You can do more for the cause of peace and justice — and the interests of the United States itself — by staying in your own county, helping to expose to the American people the unjust nature of this war."

ROYCE BRIER

Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' a Best Seller in Denmark

It was a mere two-line reference in a news story out of Copenhagen dealing with another subject. It said the Danes are suddenly reading Mein Kampf. It is a best seller.

In every non-German bookstore in the 1930s, the book was in the front window, and of course it was fatal in Germany for a book-seller not to display it.

But most of the Europeans in the 1930s did not take the book seriously, and they bought and read it for its shock value. Indeed, few in the Western world were able to wade through it, for it was badly written, of deadly length, dull, and wholly disorganized.

What it needs now is to be edited down to a third of its original length, retaining the few hundred central Hitlerian ideas, some of them fairly lucid and all of them evil in design, as well as erroneous, lying or grossly distortional of the human and historical relation.

Why, then, should it be read? Because it is one of the most important books ever written, and its author was one of the most important men who ever lived.

It is fitting the Danes should now manifest interest in Hitler's book, because of all the peoples contiguous to the Germans, the Danes are the most vulnerable. We must not assume they have suddenly become Hitlerian disciples. Rather, it is like one hit in the back of the head with a rock, and dizzi-

ly examining what hit him.

If you have the time and patience to dig for its gems, the book contains all of the imaginable concepts for the degradation of man, and for the obliteration of all designs for lifting him to the human state going back to the Greek political enlightenment. Nothing is left out.

It is not so much a German proposition, as a 2,000-year concept of twilight people of the West — all the abysmally stupid, and superstitious, the winning misfits, the blackly cruel, and generations whose whole lives were dedicated to malice and treachery.

In such a colossal mass of iniquity, persecution of the Jews was a byproduct. The Hitlerian people not

only intended to exterminate Jews, but to enslave or kill all Western peoples who would or could oppose their purpose. These peoples had long been struggling to bring the Greek enlightenment into modern form, and they must go.

This explains the obsessive Hitlerian antipathy for parliamentary processes (which concerns a great deal of the book), for if men could govern themselves in free will, the Hitlerian people could not survive.

The book was then an all-or-nothing testament to a resolve to annihilate the age-old human order and all its human and rational manifestations. It remains important because, though Hitler failed and died, the twilight people he spoke of did not die.

They are among us today in great number, their fires banked—in your home town, in a French or German or Russian or Chinese village. They will never read Mein Kampf; unknowingly, they only pursue its formless dream. But you and I know what is in that book to tell us what they are like. It was a close call, as you remember, and we don't want another like it.

Quote

I have known the people to prove themselves to be much smarter than certain high-powered operators took them to be. — Harry S. Truman.

The more we soak the corporation for taxes the higher prices go and the more the people, the consumers of the nation, have to pay for the goods they need and must have. — Noah M. Mason, former Congressman from Illinois.

If we took every dollar away from every taxpayer who gets more than \$10,000 a year, leaving him without one red cent, we would still have only half enough to operate our spendthrift government. — Noah M. Mason, former Congressman from Illinois.

The Bureau of Land Management wants to abolish a herd of wild horses in Wyoming. Could it be because these horses cannot vote. — Dick Tamke in Battle Lake (Minn.) Review.

A harsh word can never be withdrawn. A kind word will rebound many times. — Frank Bridges in the Smithville (Tex.) Times.

Morning Report:

When I was a college scholar some years ago, "econ" as we called economics was our safety valve. It was dull, dull, dull, but you could always count on "econ" to pull you through if flunking out threatened.

It was so easy, one wonders why the political leaders nowadays don't get with it. Great Britain, for example, just added another 100,000 jobs to the rolls to "help the economy." Even though all of us who sailed through "Econ 1" know that the purpose of an economy is to keep people working and eating.

Of course, "econ" was a study of rules and charts. It was without sex, emotion, politics, or even people. That made it dull then and probably accounts for why it doesn't apply now.

Abe Mellinkoff