

Text of Isen Statement

Following is the text of the charges and demands read by Mayor Albert Isen before the City Council Tuesday evening:

Although not a candidate for office, I was the target of a well-financed smear campaign carried on by a small, unscrupulous group for over 3 months preceding the November 8 election. The public has the right to know what and who were behind it.

Charter Amendment Z was rammed through and placed on the ballot by Councilmen Lyman, Beasley, Sciarrotta, and Vico. If passed, this amendment would have given them control over the choice of Mayor. Thousands of dollars were spent to promote it. Who put up the money? Why?

The purpose of the smear and character assassination was to stampede the voters into sacrificing their right to vote in the choice of Mayor, with the possibility that this would eliminate me from city government. In this way the promoters would have rid themselves of an obstacle to their objectives, one of which was the rezoning of choice industrial land to more lucrative uses.

It is in the area of rezoning that occur most frequently the corruption of public officials. This is understandable when we realize that the rezoning of land can change its value so drastically. Millions of dollars can be added to the valuation of land by a majority vote of 4 persons. Losers are the residents and taxpayers for whose protection the zoning restrictions had been placed. It is because of the importance of proper zoning that we hold hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

This gives all interested parties an opportunity to be heard — and to recommend, approve, or protest, as the case may be.

We come now to the Butcher-Wilson rezoning, which was one of the motives for placing Amendment Z on the ballot and for the libelous smear campaign against me. This concerned the rezoning of industrial land to cemetery and housing tract uses.

In spite of many valid reasons against it and overwhelming public protest, Councilmen Lyman, Beasley, Sciarrotta, and Vico voted in favor of the rezoning. I was one of those who voted against it although repeatedly warned in advance by Robert L. Curry, editor-publisher of the Daily Breeze, to vote in favor of it. I also indicated at the time that I would continue to oppose it. This was on July 26, 1966.

Two days later, the smear campaign commenced in the Daily Breeze with a derogatory editorial, and continued through the weeks preceding the November 8 election. Included were self-serving statements by Councilmen Lyman, Beasley, and Sciarrotta, all of whom aspire to the Mayorship but lack the courage to run for the office. The editorials, news stories, and statements from the councilmen were packed with lies and insults, all perpetrated in the name of free speech. I had never before seen or heard of such viciousness in a newspaper and was deeply shocked by it, as were many other Torrance people. It will take a long time for the people of this community to forget such an exhibition of bad taste and vindictiveness, and the part a hitherto respected newspaper had played in a shameful power play.

In addition to the Daily Breeze's part in this hitting-below-the-belt activity, a costly smear sheet was mailed out over the signatures of Councilmen Lyman and Vico. Robert L. Curry appears to

be the captain of this little team. According to Councilman Beasley, it was Curry who suggested Charter Amendment Z. The same four councilmen voted to put Amendment Z on the ballot as voted in favor of the questionable rezoning. Mr. Curry's interest in this matter is obviously not a civic one, and although his hunger for power is well known, I believe his motive here is on the practical side. His involvement in this venture appears to be considerable.

The other interested parties in this rezoning are Don Wilson and Dan E. Butcher, owners of the land. Neither are residents of Torrance. The influence they exert is financial, both being givers of substantial campaign contributions. Torrance has been good to these two developers, and the community deserves better from them than the devious acquisition of rezoning through excessive influence, with its resultant huge tax loss to the homeowners.

I have no intention of descending to the level of my attackers on the City Council by enumerating in factual detail their many shortcomings in matters of ethics, morals, and integrity, as it would serve no useful purpose. Instead, I suggest and urge that Councilman Lyman resign from the council so that he may be replaced by a man of stronger moral fiber. I submit the following reasons:

1. Since his election in 1964, he has done nothing constructive for the community. He has shown no interest in city problems and his attitude is one of boredom. His intention, evidently, was to use his position on the council as a stepping stone for office in partisan politics.

2. He is primarily responsible for wasting \$7,370 of taxpayers money on Amendment Z to satisfy his ego and to facilitate the favorable outcome of a matter opposed by thousands of taxpayers. In his zeal, he took the lead in a degrading campaign of malicious lies and smears.

3. He has abused city employees in the performance of their duties.

4. It is no longer possible for the people of Torrance to have confidence in him. Expenditures and debts incurred in his unsuccessful attempt to win election to the State Senate were reportedly around \$35,000. This has created a serious conflict-of-interest situation. The question is—how will he vote when his sources of campaign funds request a rezoning? His voting record already indicates that he does not represent the taxpayers' interests.

5. His resignation would serve to break up the council bloc that has been operating against the interests of the people.

In closing, and speaking for all the future mayors of Torrance as well as for myself, I wish to thank the people of Torrance for keeping the Mayor independent in his vote and opinions, for allowing him to be responsible to the people instead of to members of the council, and for not requiring him to agree with any four of them if he doesn't wish to. As long as I can take it, and the people of Torrance want me, I shall continue to serve them faithfully to the best of my ability.

Council

(Continued from Page 1)

Arrangements have been made to relocate some businesses which use the railroad spur and to serve other firms through an alternate route, he said.

Lyman said Del Amo Properties plans an urban complex in the area bounded by Sepulveda Boulevard, Madrona Avenue, and Carson Street and has offered to give the city a site for a civic auditorium—and to help with construction of the auditorium—in exchange for cooperation in removing the railroad spur.

Removal of the tracks, he said, is subject to approval of the state's Public Utilities Commission. Development of the proposed cemetery site as industrial property would reduce the chances for removal of the tracks.

THE CEMETERY is a compromise, Lyman said, and he supports it on that basis. Lyman said he had no interest in the cemetery development except his "concern for the other project."

LYMAN SAID his sole concern is to develop a plan so the railroad tracks may be removed and owners of the proposed cemetery site can develop their property. He suggested that Olson and Miller might meet with representatives of all parties concerned and present a compromise.

"I will support any reasonable compromise," Lyman said. "This may be the last time we have all (the parties) before the council."

Miller said the meetings have been in progress, but warned that the city has no firm commitment from developers of the Del Amo Center for an auditorium site. "We have nothing but conversation," he said.

"IT'S TIME this council gets back to do the job it was elected to do," Miller said, "to run the city with dignity." He warned that the controversy has split the council.

But, Miller continued, "this constant bickering... serves no useful purpose. It's time we stick to the problems and get off of this personality kick."

'Wooden Nickle' Marks Coin Club Anniversary

A special wooden nickle to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Torrance Coin Club has been issued by the club, according to Wayne Dennis, project chairman.

Wood is the symbol of the fifth anniversary, Dennis explained.

Printed in red and green on a rectangular piece of

balsa wood, the commemorative issue carries the official seal of the club along with the designation, "Official Souvenir, Torrance Coin Club."

A limited supply is available, Dennis said, and will be sold to the public. Only one set may be purchased by any person who is not a member of the club. Members will be allowed to buy two sets, he said.

The wooden nickle souvenir may be ordered from the Torrance Coin Club, 18814 Florwood Ave., Torrance 90504. Price is 50 cents and any orders should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Garden Checklist

1. Plant one or another of the heathers for lovely winter bloom in your garden.
2. Try planting some daffodil bulbs in red-wood planter tubs. These can be moved into prominent places when the bulbs come into bloom.
3. Shop nurseries to discover which camellias are early bloomers. The best time to buy camellias is when you can see their blooms.
4. You can get a head start on the seasonal crowds and have better selection by shopping for living Christmas trees this month.
5. When deciduous shrubs go dormant, it is a good idea to use a dormant spray on them to knock out hibernating insects and scale. Be careful to avoid evergreens with the spray.

Vandals

(Continued from Page A-1) Department to repay the first \$100, according to the report.

Ferraro, in comments on the incident and disposition of the case, said it demonstrates the "excellent coordination between our Police Department, other city departments, and other agencies."

"In addition," he said, "it is the opinion of this office that the boys involved are not likely to indulge in such conduct again."

LOTS OF PLASTER Seaman Rct. Louis Pritchard, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Pritchard of 2318 W. 178th St., is undergoing six tons of plaster each year nine weeks of basic training at the Naval Training Center at San Diego.

PHOTO SUPPLIES Photographic supplies form a large part of the inventory at Orthopaedic Hospital, where 57,749 x-rays were made in 1965 for some 16,000 patients.

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<p>Country Style ROLL SAUSAGE 39¢</p>	<p>Lean Boneless BEEF STEW 79¢</p>	<p>BONELESS RUMP ROAST 85¢</p>
<p>BONE-IN SIRLOIN STEAK \$1.19 LB.</p>	<p>BONE-IN RUMP ROAST 69¢</p>	<p>LUER LINK SAUSAGE 3 8-oz. Pkgs. 89¢</p>
<p>BREAKFAST STEAKS \$1.19 LB.</p>	<p>WATERMELON RUMP ROAST 75¢</p>	<p>OSCAR MAYER SLICED BACON 75¢</p>

1-LB. CAN
MJB COFFEE
3-LB. CAN — \$1.89
10-OZ. INSTANT — 99¢

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3-LB. CAN
MJB COFFEE
3-LB. CAN — \$1.89
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<p>DIAMOND "A" SALE CREAM CORN • WHOLE KERNEL CORN CUT BEANS • FRENCH BEANS 303 Size 5 for 99¢</p>	<p>SAVE 12¢ SIMPLE SIMON FROZEN PIES APPLE - PUMPKIN - MINCED 9-INCH SIZE 43¢</p>	<p>SAVE 6¢ TREE TOP APPLE JUICE LARGE 46 OZ. CAN 37¢</p>	<p>FROZEN TREESWEET ORANGE JUICE 6-OZ. 4 FOR 33¢ 12-OZ.</p>
<p>YELLOW CLING HUNT'S HALVES & SLICED PEACHES 5 NO. 2½ CANS \$1</p>	<p>ALL PURPOSE BETTY CROCKER BISQUICK 40-OZ. BOX 37¢</p>	<p>STOKLEY PINEAPPLE JUICE 4 46-OZ. CANS 88¢</p>	<p>Cook 'o' the Walk SLICED PEARS No. 2½ Can 29¢</p> <p>STOKLEY Fruit Cocktail 5 303 Cans 99¢</p>

<p>BETTY BAKER MEAT PIES BEEF-CHICKEN TURKEY 6 for \$1</p>	<p>HAWAIIAN FRUIT BARS ASSORTED FLAVORS 49¢ Pkg.</p>	<p>DOW Bathroom Cleaner REG. SIZE CAN 49¢</p>	<p>PICTSWEEP FROZEN FOODS CUT CORN—PEAS & CARROTS—SQUASH FRENCH FRIES — KRINKLE KUTS — LEAF OR CHOPPED SPINACH 7 for \$1 BROCCOLI SPEARS — MIXED VEGETABLES — SUCCOTASH — CUT OR FRENCH STYLE BEANS 5 for \$1 PKG. OF 4 CORN ON THE COB—3 FOR \$1</p>	<p>KRAFT FOODS SAVINGS!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CREAM CHEESE PHILADELPHIA LOGE. PKG. 3 for \$1 • PARKAY SOFT WHIP OLEO 39¢ lb. • MIRACLE WHIPPED OLEO 27¢ lb. • BALLARD BISCUITS 2 for 15¢
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<p>U.S. NO. 1 YAMS 2 lbs. 25¢</p>	<p>FARM FRESH TENDER CELERY 15¢ ea</p>	<p>SWEET JUICY EMPEROR GRAPES 9¢ lb</p>	<p>SWEET JUICY WINTER NELLIS PEARS 10¢ lb</p>
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