

Renewal Hearing Goes Limit, Ends in Draw

By REID L. BUNDY
Press-Herald Managing Editor
The Cassius Clay-Ernie Terrell fight which started only a few moments earlier had run its 15-round course and was well in the history books before the City Council, sitting as the city's Redevelopment Agency, chalked up a "no decision" Monday night on plans to use the federal urban renewal program in the Meadow Park area.

session ran for nearly four hours and filled several pages of record with the statements of persons favoring and opposing the plan. A decision was put over until the councilmen meet again as the Redevelopment Agency at 7 p.m. on March 7. Monday's hearing opened with City Manager Edward J. Ferraro and redevelopment officials outlining the financing and planning projections. Residents living or owning property in the area spoke generally in favor of expediting the plan, while others

urged the city to drop the plans for federal participation. Petitions were presented which had been passed by a group calling itself Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT) and which were said to contain 4,000 signatures asking that the matter of federal urban renewal be referred to the voters. Interested persons turning out for the hearing overflowed the council chambers of the city hall, filled an adjacent room, and were seated in the employees' lounge ad-

acent to the city hall where the proceedings were followed through a amplified speakers. Residents of the area protested the delays which had kept their land tied up since the City Council put a ban on improvement to property there on May 5, 1964. Several said they had deteriorating property which was becoming a burden for them financially. Coin dealer Mitchell Vladimir, of 24233 Madison, said he had relocated in the belief that his property would have been acquired by the city by

now. The financial drain has proved a particular hardship to him, he said at the hearing. J. B. Mosley, of 23846 Ward St., who has been a spokesman for the residents and property owners of the area, urged the city to "proceed with all possible rapidity." He said the residents were told that urban renewal offered "a quick and painless" solution, but that it had been misrepresented to them. J. B. Smay of Palos Verdes, who said he owns property there, spoke out against the renewal project, saying the

area would take care of itself if the city got out of it. The blight was created by urban renewal planning and will drag on for years, he protested. He disputed statements that property values were dropping in the area, saying that all property near the airport was increasing. He cited his own case, saying the land value had doubled and tripled but that the improvements were declining in value rapidly. Smay said he filed formal protests to a substantial land value increase this year but

had just been turned down by the tax appeals board. Many protesting urban renewal cited the compulsory enforcement of the uniform housing code as a major objection and others spoke out strongly against any federal intervention in problems of the community. A compilation of alternative proposals will be prepared by City Manager Ferraro before the March 7 meeting. The city's planning commission also will make a special recommendation at the March 7 meeting.

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NEW POLICEMEN . . . Two police officers from Alameda, Calif., joined the Torrance Police Department yesterday for a 16-day exchange program. The two Alameda policemen, who will function as Torrance officers during the exchange program, are Officer Bob Carlson (at left) and Sgt. Joe Totorica. With them is Officer James Farquhar of the Patrol Division. Two Torrance policemen—Sgt. Mel Hone and Officer James Weyant—are in Alameda. (Press-Herald Photo)

Council Bans Junkets As 'Economy Measure'

Further Curbs May Be Added

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald City Editor
Torrance councilmen issued a blanket "stay home" order to traveling city officials — including themselves — last night and gave some indication that other economy moves may be forthcoming.

The abrupt move came on motion of George Vico after Mayor Albert Isen, in comments on another matter, indicated he intended to "clarify" remarks he made last week about the city's policy toward official travels. The council last week ordered its Finance Committee to take a new look at that policy after Isen questioned a request to send two members of the Planning Commission and the city's planning director to Texas.

COUNCILMAN Ken Miller seconded Vico's motion and it was quickly approved by a 5-1 vote. J. A. Beasley cast the only negative vote. H. Ted Olson was absent from the meeting.

"I'm tired of being a hypocrite," Miller said. "Let's do it."

"Nobody goes anywhere," Vico commented. Moments later, councilmen voted down a request for some \$8,000 to finance the 1967 Powder Puff Derby which is to terminate here. The funds eventually were approved, but not until Jack R. Egan, airport manager, told the council the city already was committed to the expenditure.

HE TOLD councilmen the Powder Puff Derby has been in the planning stage for some 18 months — with the council's blessing. "The honor and prestige of the city are at stake," Egan declared. "I don't see how we can gracefully get out of it."

The sudden move to cancel all junkets outside the city came as Isen, in comments on a proposal to hire a new secretary to record minutes of public meetings, explained that he wanted to clarify his remarks of last week and would do so at next Tuesday's meeting.

Isen later called the council action cutting off all trips a spite move and said he had

(See JUNKETS on A-3)

Special Census Slated

City Seeking Enumerators

Torrance needs people to count people.

A special census of the city, needed to update the population figures on which state apportionments from gasoline taxes and other funds are based, will begin here March 2, Charles M. Shartle, planning director, said today.

The special census, under the direction of the State Department of Finance, involves a nose count of all citizens of the city, Shartle said.

AND, HE explained, the city needs census takers. The people-counting is expected to last about three and a half weeks. Enumerators will be paid \$1.75 per hour and must devote at least six hours per day to the work.

Persons interested in the work may apply to the personnel department at the Torrance City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., or to the California State Employment Service office in downtown Torrance.

SHARTLE said the city receives about \$13 for each resident in state subventions, including gasoline taxes and motor vehicle taxes.

The city's population, according to the latest state estimate, is 139,000. Shartle said the actual population may be close to 150,000.

P-H Continues Winning Ways

A consistent winner in statewide judging, the Press-Herald scored again in awards announced over the weekend in San Francisco.

The merit award for best front pages among California's larger non-daily newspapers was presented to Publisher Glenn W. Pfeil at the close of the annual convention of the California Newspaper Publishers Convention.

"Very good makeup and lively headlines," the judges said of the Press-Herald entries. The Herald won top honors in that division a year ago, too.

Pfeil was re-elected to the board of directors of the state publishers' organization and was returned to the executive committee for another year.

TO MEET NEEDS

Freeway System To Be Expanded

Continued freeway planning and improved forms of public transportation will be needed in the 1970s to meet traffic problems in Los Angeles County, the Torrance Safety Council was told Monday.

Paul Fowler, a highway engineer for the Southern California Automobile Club, said the freeway system — now about 40 per cent complete — carries 25 per cent of the daily traffic in Los Angeles County.

By 1980 — the completion date set for an 800-mile network — freeways will carry some 60 per cent of the vehicular traffic, Fowler said.

BUT THAT will not be sufficient to cope with increasing traffic problems, Fowler said. The Automobile Club would oppose any effort to halt freeway planning — as has been suggested in recent weeks by one county supervisor — and, at the same time, encourage research toward improved public transportation.

Fowler also said the freeway system is about two and a half times safer than surface streets. The opening of one mile of freeway results in the savings of one life each year, he declared.

In the past six years, Fowler said, the average speed of peak hour traffic on the freeway system has increased by some 6 miles per hour —

Crash Kills Peninsula Woman

A 26-year-old Palos Verdes Peninsula woman was dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital Tuesday night after a traffic accident on Crenshaw Boulevard near Rolling Hills Road. Mrs. Ginny E. Schnitzer, of 26710 Fond Du Lac Road, was northbound on Crenshaw Boulevard, according to California Highway Patrolmen, when the car she was driving collided with one driven by Richard Pyle, 36, of 26207 Grayslake Road, Palos Verdes Estates. Pyle was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Library Chairman Named

George McMullen, a long-time Torrance resident, has been elected acting chairman of the steering committee for the city's \$2.3 million library bond campaign, it was announced last night. McMullen, employed in the budget division of the Los Angeles City Schools, headed the Committee of 100 which worked for passage of a \$9 million Torrance school bond issue last November. Voters will vote on the library bond April 18. The bond committee has scheduled a meeting for 8 p.m. tonight at the Torrance Recreation Center.

TRW Wins Security Award

Establishment of a security program which has become a model for the aerospace industry brought national recognition to TRW Systems Group in Redondo Beach this week. Brig. Gen. Arthur Exon, director of the Defense Contract Administrative Services Region in Los Angeles, made the announcement Monday and presented Dr. Ruben Mettler, TRW president, a plaque representing the first James S. Cogswell Outstanding Industrial Security Achievement Award. Cited along with TRW Systems executives and employees was Robert Merbach, who is in charge of the TRW industrial security program.

Neighbors Argue

Trustees Set New School Boundaries

Boundary lines for three Torrance schools were redrawn Monday night by a 3-2 vote of the Board of Education, ending a neighborhood dispute which, one speaker said, has caused bridge clubs to split apart.

Board action came on motion of Dr. Kurt Shery following some two and a half hours of sharp debate on the advantages of large and small schools.

Some 300 persons jammed the meeting, which was moved to the girl's gymnasium at Torrance High School.

TRUSTEE Bert M. Lynn cast the deciding vote after trustees split 2-2 on the issue. Lynn had first abstained in the voting. He, Dr. Shery, and Dr. Donald E. Wilson voted to keep the current Hickory School attendance area intact by adding eight new classrooms to the school.

Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts and W. E. Hanson, board president, both favored a plan which would have split the area and sent some 150 youngsters to the new Levy School, due to open in April. Both said such a step would create two schools with nearly equal enrollments.

Lynn said his vote was based on Dr. J. H. Hull's contention that children have "equal opportunities at all Torrance schools."

EARLIER, Lynn had said

he would vote for the plan favored by Mrs. Watts because he was afraid the small enrollment at the Levy School would harm the departmentalization program in the seventh and eighth grades.

It was pointed out, however, that the sixth grade at Levy School would probably be included in the program, permitting departmentalization in four subject areas — the same as in larger schools.

Lynn described the plan which finally was approved as "best over the long pull." He admitted, however, that an alternate plan which would split the Hickory School area might be best "on the short pull."

Effect of the boundary

Councilmen Order Salary Hike For City's Acting Fire Chief

Deputy Fire Chief Robert A. Lucas is to be officially named acting fire chief today, following action by the City Council last night.

Councilmen instructed City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to authorize pay for Lucas, who has been in charge of the fire department since the retirement of J. J. Benner last Oct. 31, at the chief's salary rate. Councilmen cited a long-

standing policy which requires that any employee who is temporarily advanced to a superior position to be paid at the rate for the superior position after four days on the job.

Ferraro said he would officially name Lucas to the post of acting fire chief following last night's meeting.

The city manager told councilmen he had not intentionally violated the council's

policy, but felt that the rule did not apply to Lucas. A requirement of the job of deputy fire chief, Ferraro said, is that he act as chief in the absence of the chief.

An examination to select a new fire chief has not been scheduled. The council previously instructed Ferraro not to schedule an examination until the city's new civil service law is considered.