

Press-Herald

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Shery, Watts Endorsed

Two incumbent members of the Board of Education who are seeking new terms next Tuesday have served the school system well and deserve re-election. Mrs. Pauline (Polly) Watts, Torrance's Distinguished Citizen for 1962 and a member of the Board of Education for four years, is seeking her second term. She has been a 20-year resident of the city and active in a number of community and school projects during that time.

Kurt T. Shery, M.D., who has resided and practiced medicine here for 20 years, is seeking a new term. He is a past chief of the medical staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital, and is a past president of the Southwest District of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. He has held many other professional and fraternal positions of leadership. He has been a member of the Board for six years.

Campaigns advanced by the challengers have not shown us why the incumbents should not be re-elected.

The Press-Herald recommends election next Tuesday of Dr. Kurt T. Shery and Mrs. Pauline (Polly) Watts.

Vote YES for Libraries

The Torrance library system consists of five buildings, one librarian, and about 2,000 books.

That's not nearly enough for a city of 140,000 residents, including more than 30,000 elementary and high school students.

All of the other library services now available are provided under contract by Los Angeles County, a contract which is being terminated by the County June 30, 1968. Torrance has elected to take over operation of its own library system, a move which has won near unanimous support from community leaders.

To do the job right, a bond issue of \$2.35 million has been proposed and will be on next Tuesday's combined school and municipal ballot. The Press Herald has joined other community leaders in endorsing the proposal and urging its passage.

The money provided by the bonds will enable the city to buy 80,000 new books to add to 23,000 now being acquired. It will provide financing for a new central library—probably on the civic center—to serve the library needs of the city. And the money will enable the city to expand and improve the branch libraries serving the community.

The bond proposal has been put forward as the most economically feasible method of financing the library system. Such a method would provide the badly needed services immediately and would set up a pass-you read debt retirement program.

Best of all, the City Council has pledged that approval of the bond issue would not mean a hike in city taxes. The debt servicing can be done with current rates, councilmen say. The city's bond position is excellent and libraries, we believe, are an excellent place to put some of our assets.

We reaffirm our strong endorsement of the library bond proposal and urge that all Torrance voters vote YES on the issue April 18.

Opinions of Others

Virginia, (Minn.) News: "Every so often we hear the complaint that while the economic system of the United States is the most successful in the world, the people who enjoy its benefits understand little of how it works. Americans are economic illiterates. Wealthy illiterates, but illiterates none the less. A study made in 1963 revealed that among large school systems in the nation, fewer than one fifth had a required course in economics. Many schools offered no economics at all. Only 22 states required economics courses for social studies teachers. . . . Nikita Khrushchev once said that he would bury us—that is, that his economic system would triumph over ours. Not if we're smart, it won't."

A START TOWARD WINNING



I Liked The Old Honor System Better



HERB CAEN SAYS:

'Credibility Gap' Fancy Phrase for a Simple Lie

Walter Lippman in a recent column: "In order to avoid the embarrassment of calling a spade a spade, newspapermen have tacitly agreed to talk about the 'credibility gap.' This is a polite euphemism for deception, rather like the habit of our Victorian grandfathers who spoke of limbs when they were too shy to speak of legs."

Dear Victorian Walter. Too shy to call a lie a lie?

Ah, what a town for kicks. Or even Kicks. Couple of mornings ago, Luxor Cabbie Leroy Kück was called to pick up a fare in downtown San Francisco. "Where to?" asked Leroy. "Gary, Indiana," answered the man, flashing a fat roll. I won \$4500 in Reno and I don't wanna take any chances on getting home. Here's a \$500 deposit on the fare."

So Leroy picked up his brother, Harold, to spell him at the wheel, and off they started, the big winner sleeping in the back seat. As they were driving through Lovelock, Nevada, the gambler opened one eye, squinted out, saw a gambling joint and hollered "Stop!" In they went, and the winner blew his entire stake. "Lemme borrow back that five hundred," he said to Leroy. He lost that, too.

"That's life," shrugged the winner turned loser. "Might as well go back to San Francisco." Leroy let him out at the same old corner—Ellis and Taylor—and wound up with whatever small change the gambler hadn't lost. "Man," sighs Leroy, "THAT'S life!"

A mess of dottage: I read yesterday that "the least desirable grade of marijuana is called 'California Brown.'" Poor Pat! . . . Writer Tom Wolfe, highly regarded by such hippies as Ken Kesey, snaps, "I'm very anti-hip. Hipness is the worst pose in the world. It's a life style

that started up after World War II, and it's very much like the kind of competition kids indulge in in high school. Hipness is a way of competing for status without doing anything." He's hip, that Tom. . . . When I say the Porter Seasons are fishing nuts, I mean they're fishing nuts. Flew all the way to New Zealand because

San Francisco

they heard that country has the best trout fishing in the world, but you can't prove it by them. First, the airline mislaid their expensive gear to Saigon. And second, only Mrs. Sesnon caught a fish. A six-incher which she gave away. What fun!

When he is too busy to go out for lunch, S. F. Atty. Mansfield Davis has his receptionist phone a Chinese placed called Chuck's to send over hamburgers. Here we have a sound effect of Barbara dialing Chuck's. A Caucasian voice answers:

"Hello?" Barbara: "Uh—is this Chuck's?" Voice: "It was." Barbara: "Was?" Voice: "Well, you see, Chuck's is on fire and I'm a fireman. You'll have to excuse me now—sorry." Click.

Do you, too, find it peculiar that "swinger" is still an okay term, two decades after the death of the Swing Era? . . . Another item nobody has bothered to ask me about: the proposed designs for a fountain at Embarcadero Park. I don't care how many free-form objects are strewn in it, I want to hear about the water. It's the water, not the sculpture, that makes a fountain. Will it sprinkle, bubble, spray and spout? Will it rise majestically at night, bathed in colored lights? Will a present-day F. Scott and Zelda be able to splash about in it? As for the sculpture, I'll even settle for porpoises if they gush a respectable number of gallons hourly. Fountains should be corny because they are.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Here's a Friendly Look Into Network Television

The system: "Of course, the truth was that if we'd had a sponsor willing to pick up the bill for the Vietnam hearings or if the soap opera sponsors had agreed to stay with us, there would have been no problem. . . ."

Fred Friendly comes up with probably the most withering comment on network television ever written by an insider in his book "Due to Circumstances Beyond Our Control."

For 16 years Friendly was a leading figure in TV news and documentary production for CBS, the last two of them as president of CBS

News. When his network superiors last year decided to show reruns of "I Love Lucy" and "The Real McCoys" rather than broadcast the important Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on Vietnam, Friendly resigned from CBS. During that morning "Lucy" rerun, Friendly would have superimposed an announcement on the screen: "Due to circumstances beyond our control, the broadcast originally intended for this time will not be seen."

Instead, he has written this passionate argument for some intelligent reform inside big TV. The book is only incidentally concerned with his clash with CBS brass over the Vietnam non-broadcast. It is an examination of low show business and high finance and how TV got that way. It is also about the great days of the TV documentary during which Friendly and the late Edward R. Murrow produced the "See It Now" series, including the famous broadcast which was the beginning of the end of the late Senator McCarthy's ministry of fear.

It is an anecdotal account of personalities in TV news divisions, including Friend-

AFFAIRS OF STATE

New Anti-Smut Measure Wins High State Backing

SACRAMENTO — The atmosphere seems favorable this year for passage of some kind of new legislation. Tightening up the state controls over production and distribution of obscene materials. This is a touchy area where the fine line of distinction between protecting the public in general and the youth in particular from smut and outright censorship is not too easily distinguishable. Many legitimate publishers thus view such legislation with understandable alarm.

The favorable atmosphere at this session of the legislature goes back to Prop. 16 on the ballot last November, the so-called CLEAN amendment. This was defeated with the opposition of just about every newspaper in California. But their opposition was based on the fact that Prop. 16, itself, was a bad measure, and not that there was not some need for a clean-up in the area.

The vehicle this year is SB78 by Senator Robert J. Lagomarsino, R-Ojai, with another measure, SB79, by the same author, being aimed primarily at distribution of obscene material to persons under 18.

Lagomarsino thinks his bill will permit enforcement of a law against smut peddling without trodding the path of censorship. There are several reasons why he thinks this is so.

In the first place, SB78 changes the test of obscenity. The present law provides that, to be obscene, material must appeal so much to a prurient interest as to be

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utterly without redeeming social importance. Lagomarsino's bill amends this to provide that if the predominant appeal is to a special group for its prurient interest, the material is obscene.

Another point in SB78 would permit a showing of evidence that the circumstances surrounding the sale of the material were such to show that the matter was without redeeming social importance. This means that if the obscene material is mailed in suggested coverings or from fictitious addresses with obscene suggestions, the entire matter might be found to be illegal. The Lagomarsino bill also would define "recklessness"

in connection with such sales. There currently is a problem under existing laws with determining or proving that the seller did so knowingly.

Under the Lagomarsino bill, if a magazine had lewd pictures on the cover, along with suggestive or outright vulgar titles of stories contained therein, it would be assumed the seller knew the contents were an appeal to prurient interests.

Lagomarsino said the bill actually would put into the California law the features which the U.S. supreme court said are legal, as far as protection of the public against obscene material.

The bills have the support of Governor Ronald Reagan, who took no position on Prop. 16, Lieutenant Governor Robert H. Finch, who was opposed to Prop. 16 (and helped to draft Lagomarsino's bill), State Controller Houston I. Flournoy, and Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch. In fact, on the day of the first hearing on Lagomarsino's bill, Lynch issued a 107-page report which detailed the smut industry in California as a \$19 million a year business.

ROYCE BRIER

A Policeman Is Human Despite His Authority

ly some unidentified members of the John Birch Society leashed a big sign reading "Support Your Local Police."

Now, this column can laugh as hard as any at some of the screwy ideas advanced by the Birch people (a new one is that poor old John Foster Dulles was a communist tool), but the idea in question here is both rational and practical. It makes considerably more sense than road signs saying "Impeach Earl Warren!" But the concept of supporting local police has considerable merit, enough, indeed, that large segments of the American people would be in a hell of a fix if the mass of them did not support their local police in the clutches.

Of course, there are reservations to this principle: policemen should be supported when they do their duty, and act with understanding of

their relation to the people collectively or individually, and the law. When they go beyond their duty or act oppressively, they are like any other public body subject to inquiry and restraint.

But as all know in quiet moments, it is extremely

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hard to draw the line between sober duty and excess in exercising the police authority. This is particularly so in angry times involving social contention, such as race and labor troubles.

It is true any police contingent facing a problem in public order can be oppressive or use common sense. This depends in part on the central leadership of the authority, in part on the developing nature of the problem in public order. It is also true that police departments differ, and tend to reflect the mood or character of their communities.

Further, policemen are only people clothed with a unique authority, and they can range from good and responsible to bad and irresponsible.

But in general a majority of policemen, particularly in large cities where the central authority is aware of its true function, are good public servants.

This does not mean that any one of them invariably uses good judgment in official capacity — do you and I? It does not mean they are always fair and never petty in the performance of their duties — are you and I? It means that in the main, they are an effective and necessary safeguard of our civil life.

Some riots, and even maneuvered passive resistance can only be ended by force. San Francisco, Chicago, New York would soon be in total chaos any day or night no policeman reported for duty.

A Letter . . . To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
When things get quiet, we check to see what you're doing. We've found you on the piano, eating vitamin pills, and notching the table with a kitchen knife. We know we can't trust you because you're young.

As you grow, we'll be able to teach you and trust you more and more. But how much and when? As a teenager, you'll have a man's body and you'll act like an adult sometimes. But you'll also act like a child sometimes—to show off for the fellows or a passing girl.

You'll be practicing for the game of life, but you'll slip and make mistakes sometimes. For instance, I wonder when the time comes:

Can we trust you with the car, knowing that somebody will pull alongside, rev up the motor, and shout, "Hey, let's drag?"

Can we leave you alone in our house, knowing friends may come over and announce "It's party time?"

Can we trust you to keep your head when somebody shouts "Whatsa matter? You scared of a little action here?"

When that time comes, Bruce, I guess we'll be able to test the training your mother and I have given you and whether we have set a good example. Too many foolish parents say, "Oh, my boy wouldn't get in trouble." Any boy can get into trouble under the right set of circumstances—or with the wrong set of friends.

Trusting you in advance (fingers crossed).
Your dad

Morning Report:

Fullbacks suffer from trick knees, pitchers are addicted to sore arms, and politicians have inbuilt credibility gaps. That means people don't believe what they say.

A year ago, Bobby Kennedy said he wouldn't run against President Johnson. He repeated that a few weeks ago. And after each denial, more Kennedy-for-President committees were set up. It comes down to the notion that those who love him most, believe him least.

So now, the Senator from New York is reduced to promising a signed, sworn statement that he will not run in '68. I figure that will set off a nationwide organization for his candidacy. It could be that all those Democrats don't love Kennedy so much as they love Mr. Johnson less.

Abe Mellinkoff