

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL Publisher
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Slow Up Bus Sale

The proposal to sell the Torrance bus system to the rapid transit district is apparently not going to be so simply accomplished as many of us were led to believe it might in the beginning.

Sailing along with only Mayor Albert Isen in overt opposition, the plan has hit one snag after another, and now is beginning to bog down.

It may be just as well, for despite the seeming eagerness of the City Council to get out of the bus business, many others have not been convinced that the move is a wise one. Some of Mayor Isen's objections to the deal have merit.

He says, for example, that the city would lose identity without the lines, that local service would be sharply curtailed as soon as the city cut off the subsidy, and that no satisfactory plan has been brought forward to handle the problem of personnel who will be surplus to city needs if the system is sold.

And now Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. has raised a new question: that of selling the system without a qualified appraisal. While he admits that the figures may not be exactly accurate, he charged at this week's council meeting that the replacement value of the system could run as high as \$290,000.

The offer from the Southern California Rapid Transit District called for them to give the city \$110,000 for the buses and parts supply. To maintain present lines, the city would pay back to SCRTRD a sum of \$70,000 the first year.

If the figures are in the right range, that would mean that the city would sell the \$290,000 bus system for a net \$40,000, and it would still have the very serious problem of placing 12 to 15 employees in other city departments, in many cases into jobs which don't exist. To do this, the councilmen are being asked to waive civil service rules again, a very touchy matter around city hall these days.

It is apparent that the decision to unload the bus system was hastily approved. Longer reflection is showing that many of Mayor Isen's earlier objections may have more substance than he was credited for at the time.

A long, thorough look at the proposed sale is in order. It just could be that the city would be better served with its own bus line, you know.

OTHERS SAY

Public Apathy Protested

A local organization had invited me to attend a special night program during which local student orators would be awarded prizes for speeches on the theme of "Freedom's Challenge."

The name of the organization is not relevant. What happened—or rather, did not happen—there Friday night would probably have been the same anywhere else in town.

At any rate, as the students mounted the platform to await their turn for speaking, I glanced around me. The hall was almost deserted. I kept glancing around during the evening to see if any latecomers had arrived. There were none.

Ladies and gentlemen, do you know how many persons were present to hear those fine, clean-cut youngsters speaking on a topic that should have been dear to all of us? By actual count—including the participants—there were 37 people.

There would have been at least 10 times that amount were a bingo game in progress. I know I could go to any night-spot in town any night of the week and find that many. One fact is certain: More than that number of our men in Vietnam died last week to assure freedom's choice.

Mayor Bob Kane was on hand for the event and as he looked around, I knew we were thinking the same thought: Is this the way we give recognition to the youngsters who bring honor to their families, schools and community?

Where were the people who lament the increase in juvenile delinquency? Where were those who profess to believe we should encourage the leaders of the younger generation? Where were they?

They may have been watching television, going to a movie or doing something else. One thing is sure; they weren't there. This staying away in large numbers—might we explain it by that word we're hearing so often nowadays: Apathy?

Thirty-seven people . . . we should be ashamed of ourselves.—Publisher William J. Hunt, Gardena Valley News.

Holding the line on public spending of a non-defense character and restraining inflation constitute truly vital tasks for this nation in the year ahead. Americans have before them the horrible example of Great Britain. The British are in deep trouble because they have spent more than they earned and because wages were allowed to shoot up to the point where British goods priced themselves out of markets.—Loris (S. C.) Sentinel.

Who said: 'We pledge to continue a frugal government . . . our goal is a balanced budget and a balanced economy.' Benjamin Franklin? Calvin Collidge, Andrew Mellon? Scrooge? All wrong. The foregoing quotation is taken from the 1964 platform of the Democratic Party. We cannot suppress a snicker when we contemplate Washington today. The laugh is on the taxpayers. Hey, that's our money!—Huntsville (Ala.) News.

Don't Blame Me



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Hotel Plans Okay, Glass Elevators Have Gotta Go

The gray eminence of the Hotel St. Francis in Union Square is notable for many things. With its great collection of foreign flags, flown in honor of visiting dignitaries, it serves as a downtown City Hall. I like its beautiful Japanese elevator operators, its bellmen with their proper batwing collars, the doormen in somber greatcoats, the Medallion Room's maitre d'hotel wearing a gray stock, morning coat, and striped pants. The food is of a consistently high quality, which sets the St. Francis apart from most hotels these days. And I applaud the plans for a 34-story tower addition, topped by a two-story roof garden open to the public. I have misgivings only about management's plans to convert all elevators to the outside variety—seven of them, gondola-style, rising and falling in full view of everybody. Why make things easier for the house dick? It's hard enough to get a girl up to your room as it is without suggesting a trudge up the back steps, too. Be still, my heart.

Paris is the greatest eating town in the world. When a girl looks at you across crowded room there, she doesn't have romance in mind—she wants to tip you off to a great little restaurant in a Left Bank alley where the tourists don't ordinarily go. This same civilized interest in degustation prevails in San Francisco, as Jack Shelton is finding out to his pleased surprise. Shelton, a veteran and knowledgeable restaurant prowler, started a private newsletter about S.F. restaurants a few months ago—once a month, at \$10 a year—and he already has well over 3,000 subscribers, a remarkable success in this specialized field. He makes three unannounced visits to the restaurants he reviews, pays the tab, and then writes about the food and service at great length, sparing neither praise nor whip-lash. So far, Shelton has written approvingly of among others, La Bourgogne ("probably the best restaurant in S.F.") Kan's Lupo's Amelio's, and Jack's. Shelled by Shelton: Le Vivoir (to which I add a fervent "Amen"), Empress of China and Oakland's new Mirabeau. I wish Shelton good luck, good eating—and good health.

Pauvre Carol Dora. Her brief excursion into the legitimate theater—as Sadie Thompson in "Rain" at the Encore—ended when the show folded drizzlerably, and she is now jobless. . . . Ron Hunt, obtained from the

Dodgers, may plug the hole in the Giants' traditionally leaky infield, but what about the box office? Almost one-third of the season

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

box seats sold so far by the Oakland Athletics have been bought by (zounds!) S.F. firms and individuals. . . . Waiter Captain Hans Brandt, fired by Trader Vic for telling the press too much about the drinking habits of Dame Margot Fonteyn and Rudi Nureyev when they were here, is feeling better. Dame Margot, who is class down to her little toe, has written him a note expressing sorrow over this "silly incident" and adding: "It isn't fair—we didn't lose OUR jobs, you shouldn't have lost yours."

The Jefferson Airplane, S.F.'s premier rock group, is in-in-in with the Washington Establishment! What I mean is, they have been in the Nation's Capital because Ethel (Kennedy!) PERSONALLY invited them to appear in a five-hour charity show, along with such other celestial bodies as Carol Channing, Perry Como, Jack Paar—oh hell, you name it, they were THERE. Not only that, the Airplane had lunch yesterday with Joanie and Ted (Kennedy!), dinner with the Harrimans (Averell?) and brunch with Ethel and Bobby (right). And as final proof that everybody thinks big in this league, Ethel sent a private Lear jet to S.F. to pick up the local rockers and their lawyer, Rubin Glickman, and fly them to Washington and back. Giddy heights for the Airplane—the only rock group invited to this indeed splendid event.

Jeremy Ets-Hokin, S.F.'s local mover and shaker, is always fretting about something. First he worried about S.F.'s cultural status ("It's

Morning Report:

The great cries of anguish and other less mournful types of hullabaloo over President Johnson's plan to tax travellers to Europe strikes me as nothing less than amazing. I thought the Great American Taxpayer was beyond provocation. After all, nobody is telling him he can't travel. Only that it will cost more if he does.

This is what taxation is all about. The government lets you do whatever you want if you are willing to pay for the pleasure.

Mr. Johnson's plan is just the latest in a long line of infringements on our right to have fun. The Government permits me to smoke but makes me pay mightily to do so. I drink, too, but only if I buy a round or two for the taxman every time I put lip to glass.

Abe Mellinkoff

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Party Leaders Tiff Anew On School Fund Figuring

Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO—There's never any shortage of gaps of one kind or another in Sacramento and now one has been revived about the fact the state will be spending some \$60 million more for support of public schools than was intended when legislation was passed in 1967.

Actually, the overspending first was brought to light by the California Taxpayers Association last December. It was brought up again by Gordon P. Smith, just a day or so before his resignation as director of finance became effective. It gave Smith a good chance to take a parting shot at Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Inglewood, author of the 1967 school finance bill.

That bill was only a formula and best estimates at the time were that it would increase the state support of schools by about \$145 million a year. After the districts began to report, however, it became clear the cost would be nearer \$200 million.

Other surpluses in the school fund can be used to make up the difference this year but it will be necessary to boost the budget for schools in the next budget, unless the program is cut back.

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The State Assembly, with a solid vote from southern members, has passed a bill to the Senate which would give the 13 southern counties 60 per cent of gasoline tax revenues instead of the present 55-45 split. The measure has passed the assembly before and been killed in the senate, where seven of 13 members of the transportation committee are from the north. Senator Randolph Collier, D-Yreka, chairman of transportation, said there is no reason to believe it will be any different this year.

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Governor Ronald Reagan said the drop out of Michigan Governor George Romney from the Republican Presidential race makes no difference in his own plans because he is not a candidate. Reagan said he believes the rank and file Re-

publicans still have open minds about a candidate and he doubts that the August convention in Miami Beach would be open with only one candidate. The only one now is Richard M. Nixon, other than the perennial Harold Stassen.

A comprehensive program aimed at continued improvement in the level of care at the state's 14 mental hospitals has been announced by Governor Reagan. There's a strong suspicion the recommendations are based on a report of the California Medical Association.

A Preview of What May Be Expected on The Sacramento Scene in 1968.

A slate of delegates committed to the favorite son candidacy for President of Governor Reagan has been announced. Republican voters will vote in the delegation at the June 4 primary election. Reagan called the 86-member delegation a broad-based group. It included six assemblymen, four senators and four congressmen as delegates and three assemblymen and a senator as alternates.

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A Democratic slate of delegates also was filed with the secretary of state for the candidacy of Senator Eugene McCarthy. California sends 172 delegates to Democratic conventions. This slate included Senator Anthony C. Beilenson, D-Beverly Hills, and Assemblyman Alan Sieroty, D-Beverly Hills, and John L. Burton, D-San Francisco. The Democratic slate also included actor Robert Vaughn, Simon Casady, former president of the California Democratic Council who was ousted because of his anti-Vietnam statements; and Edmund G. Brown Jr., son of the former governor.

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The California constitution revision committee has recommended the revision of six articles of the state constitution, removing hundreds of words. However, one part of the plan, which would make the office of superintendent of public instruction appointive rather than elective probably will draw most of the attention. Generally, the commission calls for taking much of the authority of the legislature out of the constitution and permitting the legislature to act on its own.

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A total of 1,145 persons have filed declarations of intention to seek legislative or judicial offices at the June primary election but it's not expected more than half that number actually will become candidates. One woman in Los Angeles County filed for 64 of the 65 superior court judge seats up for election. There is no fee for filing a declaration but those actually becoming candidates will have to pay a filing fee of \$160. This was expected to narrow the field and a number of persons were not qualified. Of the 857 filings for the state legislature, there were 268 from the new Peace and Freedom party, 256 Democrats, 233 Republicans and 100 from the New American Independent party.

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Senator Nicholas C. Petris, D-Oakland, has introduced a bill for property tax relief which would permit a \$500 exemption for owner-occupied single-family dwelling and give persons who rent a reduction in their state income tax. Other bills introduced included: AB808-Veneman, exempts 15 per cent of business inventories from property tax; AB799-Dent, increases the length of school day for first three grades; AB802-Belotti, permits cities to levy admissions tax on horse racing; AB712-Milas, sets up three-man council to advise governor in advance of expected civil disturbances; AB680-Pattee, requires persons filing declaration of intent in seek legislative office to pay filing fee; and AB729-Vasconcellos, makes Dec. 28 a state holiday.

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Problem Area: "Teaching young people from poverty areas and ghettos requires someone who is flexible and able to cope with unexpected daily crises. Teaching in this milieu is strenuous. The daily struggle is sometimes so intense that you begin to think you won't be able to go on. Teachers need physical stamina and the skin of a crocodile. . . ."

This is from "On the Outskirts of Hope: Educating Youth from Poverty Areas." The author is Helaine Dawson, a San Francisco teacher who spent three years in a Manpower Development Training Program in the underprivileged San Francisco neighborhood called Hunters Point.

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Her students, in the 18 to 22 age group, included hustlers, pimps, drug addicts, unwed mothers, school dropouts. So you teach Personal Development to these people who are being prepared to enter the working world. In this document, far tougher than Bel Kaufman's "Up the Down Staircase," Mrs. Dawson tells how to break the ice, how to communicate with these young people who rebelliously have turned their backs on a society they hate and fear, and explains why traditional teaching will not work here. She found the undertaking challenging, intellectually, physically and intellectually consuming. She tells it all simply, with classroom dialogue. No jargon, no formal doubletalk.

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This England: "Whereas in the old days to save up all our lives to have a little money to spend in our old age, the bouncers have the money while they are still young enough to enjoy it; for the first time in England's history it sometimes seems that the average pocket money is more than the average old-age pension. . . . to quote the words of one middle-age man: 'The main thing I've got against the new morality is that it wasn't going when I was young. . . .'"

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Teacher Speaks of Work Among Hustlers, Addicts

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