

## Improve, Don't Scuttle

Sale of the Torrance bus lines to the Southern California Rapid Transit District which has received the green light from a majority of the Torrance City Council may not have such solid backing in the community, this newspaper has been told the past 10 days.

Growing concern has been expressed for the quality of service which would be available to Torrance commuters when the city pulled back its underwriting of local line costs.

Plainly, many people now depending on the Torrance bus system for transportation to and from work, to the hospitals, clinics, shopping areas, and recreational centers are convinced that the level of service now available to them would end the same day the city quit paying its \$70,000 a year subsidy which would be due under the sale proposal.

Torrance residents are not alone in the doubts being voiced on the bus system sale. We are hearing increasingly from those living in the new city of Carson, and from those in the Shoestring strip of Los Angeles. Many of the present services offered by the Torrance bus lines are vital to the daily transportation needs of those people.

Whether sale of the city's bus lines to SCRTD for \$110,000 in cash—of which \$70,000 is to be handed back in subsidy the first year—is a good bargain, we don't propose to determine here.

It does seem like a small price for a going bus system which seeks to meet the needs of so large an area—a price which carries with it the certain condition that when the city decides to drop its \$70,000 a year subsidy, the district will feel no obligation to continue local service.

Not considering the myriad of other complications—including the placement of personnel who do not choose to leave city service—Torrance city officials may be hard pressed to justify disposal of such a public service.

If it's not too far gone, we believe serious consideration should be given to finding ways to improve the city bus lines, not scuttle them.

## An Uptrend in Building

Torrance homebuilders got back into the picture with a bang during the first two months of the new year.

Permits issued during January and February indicate the city is gaining another 251 dwelling units—52 new single family homes, and 199 units in apartment and townhouse dwellings.

As a barometer of activity in 1968, it should be pointed out that a total of 10 new single family dwellings comprised the entire home building efforts in the city during January and February a year ago.

Torrance can never return to the booming residential tract development of the past decade because land is no longer available in large chunks. A residential boom still is possible, however, as the city moves into an area of increased density—high rise apartments and condominiums are sure to be "just around the corner."

Not all of the renewed building interest in the city is in homes, however. A noticeable spurt in commercial and industrial activity is reported in the 1968 building figures. It's all very encouraging.

## Opinions of Others

Close students of political science say that public suspicion and cynicism is greatest where state legislatures and state governments are concerned. There is an urgent need for lawmaking bodies to address themselves to this problem. The adoption of effective and enforceable codes of ethics would be good start. Regulations on campaign funds solicitation and expenditures . . . should be revised and strictly applied at all levels of government. National and state legislatures must represent the peoples' voice in government. One response to the image the public now holds of legislators would be for them to disclose financial assets and operate under a code of ethics. This would not only be right but good politics.—Santa Paula (Calif.) Chronicle.

Much is heard these days about nonlethal police weapons for control of riotous or demonstrative gatherings. Experts in the field predict that by next summer many of the nation's major police forces will be equipped to break up unruly crowds without breaking heads or shooting people.—Terre Haute (Ind.) Tribune.

## Morning Report:

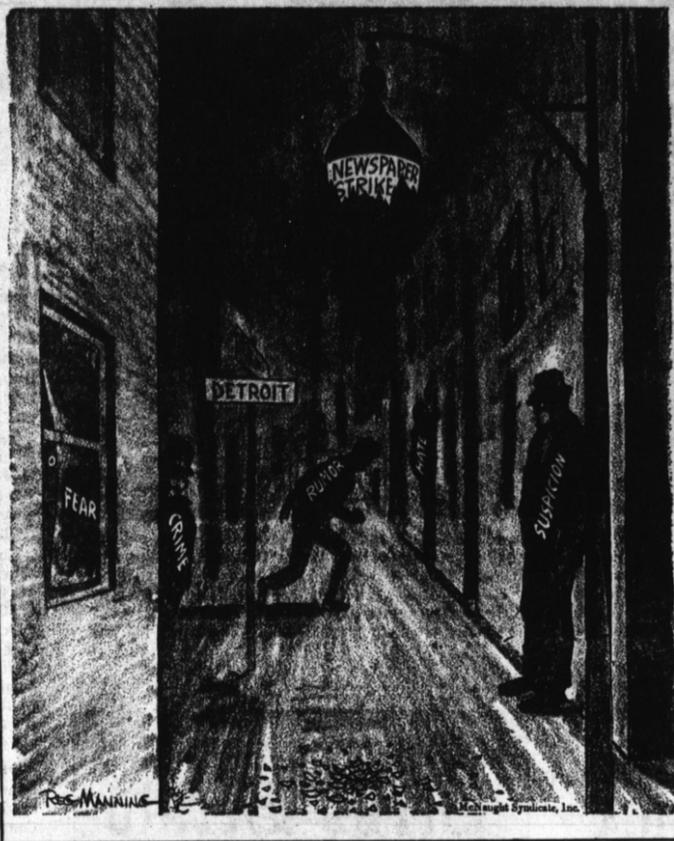
After these many long years, the Government of the United States finally has given women their equal rights. And I can hear the screaming from here. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, without batting an eye, has ruled that the airlines must stop discriminating against men while hiring stewardesses.

I figure this makes women about as equal as they can get. A right—like equality—must be suffered for to be enjoyed. And losing a chance to get hired can be painful.

Of course, we are talking legalisms. What's going to happen to the first man who is hired as a stewardess when he asks his first male passenger: "Coffee, tea, or milk?"

Abe Mellinkoff

## Danger Breeds In Darkened Streets



HERB CAEN SAYS:

## L.A. Bucks Are Peachy; Pat Still Prefers S.F.

The old nostalgic: Ex-Gov. Pat Brown came to town the other day from Beverly Hills, lunched at Bardelli's, and then spent the afternoon walking around town—all by himself. "I may be making a lot of money down there," he sighed, "but boy, how I miss this place!"

We won't be surprised if Joltin' Joe Alioto modifies his somewhat strident support of S.F. police methods in dealing with demonstrators. They Mayor's advisers have been working on him to play the scene a bit cooler. . . . Andreas Papandreou, released by the Greek junta after eight months in jail, will be here shortly, to begin a series of lectures and appearances "that will not end until democracy returns to Greece"—and that could be a lifetime job. . . .

Like the old days: The San Francisco-Tiburon Ferry had a helluva time crossing the Bay in the dense fog the other morning. Almost crashed into Alcatraz twice, ran around in lost circles, and finally landed at Pier 39—that's 39 piers away from its usual spot at the Ferry Building. Some of the regulars were so shook up they could hardly concentrate on their bridge game.

Bay Area Rapid Transit's transbay tube now reaches out a mile and a half from the Oakland shore, and boring begins from the S.F. side June 1. They hope to meet in the middle. Meanwhile, Dick Spurrier keeps wondering why BART doesn't replace that old-fashioned tube with transistors, but I think he's a troublemaker. . . . S.F. Atty. Dorsey Redland (that's a girl) is being sued by a former associate, Atty. John McGuinn, who claims that working with her three yrs. gave him an ulcer! Pretty ungalant.

Add funny old townstuff: Yellow Cabbie Dick Sumner walks up Fourth Street to Market every morning at 6—on his way to work—and is always hit for a handout by the same wino, named Joe. But Monday morn, for the first time in months, no Joe. Yesterday morning Dick asked him as he dredged up a dime: "So what happened to you yesterday?" "Couldn't come to work," explained Joe. "Had a terrible hangover."

The other day was a great one for kite-flying. The cops were summoned to the Marina Green to warn a kid whose kite was something like 450 feet in the air! Reason for the emergency: a plane approaching Crissy Field had to swerve danger-

ously to avoid it. . . . Happy 66th birthday to Winemaster Charlie van Kreidt, a charter member of our Senior Fathers of America. His dgthr., Mary, is just five. . . . The San Andreas Faults, a barbershop quartet composed of Businessmen Jerry Valencia, Bob Jernigan, Dick Kamian, and Hans Adler, burst into 30 minutes of spontaneous song at S.F.'s

### Report From Our Man In San Francisco

Ghirardelli Square last Sunday—to the delight even of a hippie girl who observed: "It's sure nice to see the straights cut loose for a change."

My Phoenix correspondent tips me to the sad story of the plainclothes copper who was ordered to nail a \$150-a-shot streetwalker. Armed with \$20 in spending money from Chiefie, he took her to a bar, where she drank steadily and happily but made no overt move, save for an occasional hand on his knee. Finally, down to his last buck, he said desperately: "How much baby?" For most men \$150, she smiled sweetly, "but for cops, it's free." He tossed the last buck on the bar and walked out, a defeated man.

LBJ's justifiable qualms about appearing anywhere but at military bases inspires Public Utilities Commsr. Bill Bennett to suggest a slogan:

"Join the Armed Forces and See Your President!"

### HE COULD PUT IT TO BETTER USE



## SACRAMENTO SCENE

# New Boards, Regulations Sought in Rash of Bills

By EDWIN S. CAPPS  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — The California legislature appears to be running true to form this year in that, with only about one-third of the year's legislation introduced, there already are 25 proposals to create new agencies, boards, commissions or committees.

On the brighter side, there is one bill to abolish a board and another which, while creating a new agency, would eliminate an existing one.

Fortunately, the introduction of a bill to set up a new agency is a long way from actual enactment of the bill and having it signed into law.

Some of the main interest this year seems to be in the field of construction project inspectors. Three bills have been introduced to create a board of examiners for certified construction inspectors — SB132 by Senator Lou Cusanovich, R-Van Nuys; AB624 by Assemblyman David Negri, D-Granada Hills; and AB834 by Assemblyman Charles W. Meyers, D-San Francisco.

This rash of bills to set up new boards to regulate various professions, trades or industries comes at a time when the state's Little Hoover Commission has issued a report taking a dim view of ever the existing boards and com-

missions. The commission said such bodies should be in existence only if they are performing a service of protecting the public and should not be continued if they merely are regulating or limiting entry into the field.

Here are some of the areas in which the lawmakers feel state control and regulation is needed:

### Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

Assemblywoman Yvonne W. Brathwaite, D-Los Angeles, with AB4, would create a board of interior designers.

Senator Walter W. Stiern, D-Bakersfield, would create a board of governors for community colleges with his SB6.

A state board for vocational education would be set up under AB23 by Assemblyman Earle P. Crandall, R-San Jose, while ACA12 by Assemblyman Paul Priolo, R-Pacific Palisades, would establish a five-member personnel board for the University of California.

Assemblyman Winfield A. Shoemaker, D-Lompoc, introduced ACRI7 which would create the California commission on drugs and society. Senator Tom Carrell, D-San Fernando, with his SB-107, would create an environmental quality control board.

Perhaps the most far-out in the area of new boards and commissions is AB200 by Assemblyman Carlos Bee, D-Hayward, which would set up a board to license astrologers.

Other bills of legislation for new agencies include: AB833-Negri, creates board of professional probation officers and parole agent examiners; AB108 - Monagan, sets up new commission for self-help in housing; AB109-Campbell, provides for California job development corps SB33-Dymally, creates office of California ombudsman; ACRI2-Fong creates joint committee on elementary and secondary education.

AB259-Meyers would set up a bureau of repair services for automobiles; ACR24-Vasconcellos, would create a joint committee on transplanting of vital organs; AB265-Unruh, establishes a joint legislative economy committee; SB221-Collier would create an El Dorado Tunnel authority; SB263-Walsh, would provide for a fair housing commission; AB600-Ketchum would provide for registering or licensing of geologists with a new board; AB712-Millas, would create the commission on 1970 Japanese world exposition.

The one bright spot — AB588-Knox — would abolish the state board of dry cleaners.

## AFFAIRS OF STATE

# Right of Public to Know Extended to Wider Areas

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR  
SACRAMENTO — Another advance in the continuing struggle for freedom of information was scored today when Senator Milton Marks, R-San Francisco, announced an opinion he received from the legislative counsel holding that subcommittee meetings of local government bodies have to be open to the public.

In some instances following adoption of the Brown Act, which requires open meetings of city councils, boards of supervisors, directors of districts, boards of education, and any other local government groups, this right of the public to know was circumvented in some instances by local governments through the device of having subcommittees do the work, which then was approved by the full legislative body.

However, this evasion of the intent of the Brown Act, is now held illegal. Said Senator Marks, "I believe that this is an extremely significant opinion which will further the cause of good government."

"For many years, a number of boards of supervisors, city councils and other local agencies have been able to avoid the plain provisions of the Brown Act by having a meeting of less than a majority of members of the legislative body to consider legislative action.

"The meetings have been held in secret, and the public's right to know has been thwarted. The opinion of the legislative council clearly holds that such subcommittee meetings of less than a quorum are covered by the Brown Act, and must be open to the public.

"I am advising the League of California Cities, which represents a substantial number of California municipalities, of this opinion, and I trust they will inform their members so that the present practice of closed meetings of subcommittees which has now been held illegal, will cease."

Senator Marks said he intends to ask the attorney general for a further opinion relating to this matter, and said if by chance this opinion is any different from that of the legislative council, he would introduce legislation to require such sub-

committees to be open to the public.

The counsel's opinion says in part: "Any committee on which officers of a local agency serve in their official capacity as members, and which is supported in whole or in part by funds provided by such local agency, is subject

### News and Opinions On Sacramento Beat

to provisions of the Brown Act.

"In the parliamentary sense a committee is a body of one or more persons appointed or elected by an assembly to consider, investigate, or take action in re-

gard to certain matters or subjects, or to do all of these things. Both committees and subcommittees are ordinarily composed of members of the body to which they report.

"Hence, with reference to subcommittees of boards of supervisors and city councils, the usual composition of such a subcommittee will be members of the board or council."

Thus, the opinion says, it is concluded that such subcommittees are constituted of officers of a local agency, serving in their official capacity, and are supported at least in part by the local agency, thereby falling within the scope of the Brown Act.

## A Letter . . . To My Son

By Tom Rische  
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,  
Can we afford real peace on Earth? De we really want it?

It disturbs me a bit that at 2½ years old, you're the best dier on the block. When your little playmates go "rat-a-tat-tat" with their plastic machine guns, you are best and quickest at falling down and playing dead. Is it too real a preview of the future?

A new book, "Report from Iron Mountain," by Leonard Lewin, points out rather shockingly some of our confusing and often contradictory views on war and peace. We generally accept war as being "bad" because it kills people, but the book points out some reasons why societies have engaged in war (and thus found them "good").

Wars help solve unemployment problems (recessions are ended by wars).

Most great inventions were created as the result of war-time inventions (probably because nations cram for tests, just as students do).

Men seem to need a cause like war to get them to work together (in peace we go our own separate ways).

Much of our artistic work glorifies war and its

virtues (check your TV Guide to see how many "war" programs there are).

Armies are a place for undesirable elements of society to be controlled (except when they gain control, as in Nazi Germany).

Wars are planned as a method of the older generation controlling the young (for continuity).

Although men throughout history have been saying that man stands at the crossroads, it's literally true today. If we want to do some hard thinking and planning for the future transition to peace, with 10 per cent of the world earning its salary from wars and preparations for wars, then we will have a better world. (Peace tomorrow might wreck the American economy).

If we sit around mouthing the same old proverbs, holding to the same old values which glorify war and military virtues, then we may have no world at all. (We now have enough nuclear weapons to kill all Earth's people and those on 100 other planets as well).

Can we control our war machine or will it swallow us

Yours for better worlds,  
YOUR DAD