

City Aides Accused of 'Playing Politics'

By REID L. BUNDY
Editor and Co-Publisher

Were the city attorney and the city manager "playing politics" when they polled the councilmen confidentially last week in reference to consideration of the bus line sale?

They were in the eyes of Mayor Albert Isen who blew the whistle on the affair by reading out in public the full communication from City Manager Edward J. Ferraro and City Attorney Stanley E. Remelmeyer on the matter.

"It's no breach of confidence," Isen said during Tuesday's Council session. He added that members of administra-

tion have no right to even label such a document confidential and then demand its return.

The memorandum to Isen and other councilmen had been labeled "Confidential" with a note asking that it be returned to the city's legal department.

"As a matter of routine, the said transfer ordinance together with the final approval of the amended contract for the sale of the bus system will come to you for decision next Tuesday night—March 19, 1968," the memorandum read.

"However, if it is your wish that we hold this matter until after the Election,

place your initial after your name below. (Separate letters have been prepared for each Councilman). If a majority of the Council initial this memorandum, Ed and I will consider it to be the will of the Council that the entire matter (both the ordinance and the contract) be held until after the Election," the note from Remelmeyer and Ferraro concluded.

"It looked to me like a move to get the incumbent council candidates off the hook," Isen said. He said after Tuesday's meeting that he had not planned to bring the matter up, but was moved to do so after the Council voted to put the bus sale

matter on the June 4 primary ballot.

Whether the high ranking city officials are guilty of "playing politics" can be debated. Mayor Isen thought they were, and other councilmen apparently agreed, because none of them returned the memo as requested.

It caused at least one observer in the audience last Tuesday to wonder in a whisper what else might be under wraps around the city hall pending the April 9 city election.

While a few have told us they think the mayor was overplaying the matter, most express amazement that top city administrators would

get caught trying to set up a hush-hush agreement on agenda items with political implications.

"Playing politics" is a perfectly honorable avocation, and it is the fuel that propels the politician. City administrators are generally expected, however, to confine their politicking to off-duty hours.

In the "Case of the Confidential Memo," as Perry Mason might label it, the city manager and city attorney stand accused of dabbling in politics during working hours.

Even Perry Mason might not be able to beat the case against them.

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PASSING INSPECTION . . . Weapon inspection was a cinch for Sharon Terrill, newly crowned Miss Torrance, when she visited Oxnard AFB this week to invite Security Police Section, 414th Combat Squadron (ADC) to participate in the Ninth Annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration on May 17-18. S/Sgt. Dennis R. Kygar gave Miss Torrance a perfect rating. (Photo by John Hales)

Sharon Begins Official 'Miss Torrance' Duties

Seldom does Miss Torrance go to the dogs. But, on her first duty as newly crowned Miss Torrance of 1968, Sharon Terrill toured Oxnard Air Force Base to inspect its sentry dog teams. They will appear for the first time in the 9th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade next May 17 and 18 at Torrance.

Miss Terrill, blonde 21-year-old senior at Cal State, Long Beach, witnessed the security techniques used to guard the million-dollar F101B interceptor aircraft between missions. These jet fighters are part of the vast Air Defense Command which provides air defense for Southern California and portions of Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada.

Sharon extended an official welcome to the sentry dog teams. They are part of

the Security Police Section of the 414th Combat Squadron at Oxnard AFB. Captain John H. Jachimowicz, Security Police Chief, explained to her that dogs are used by all branches of the Armed Services and used by the Air Force to provide security for parked aircraft, ammunition dumps, warehouses, missile complexes and isolated radar sites throughout the U.S. and overseas. More than 500 dog-handler teams are on active duty in Vietnam.

The detection of intruders is the key role assigned to the dogs. Sharon learned that a dog's keen sense of smell is far superior to that of man and its hearing ratio holds a 20-to-1 edge over man.

All military scout or sentry dogs are male or spayed females. They are part of

are chosen for their intelligence, size, strength, alertness, fearlessness, agility, adaptability to varying climates, and unique ability to detect intruders at great distances. Training time for dog and its handler is eight weeks. The dogs are trained to detect, attack and hold intruders. They have a useful duty life of about nine years.

Last year the Armed Forces Day Parade at Torrance was comprised of some 6,000 military marchers, bands and motorized units from all services—active, reserve, National Guard, ROTC and auxiliary units. The annual parade is reputed to be the largest civic-sponsored military parade in the Nation.

This year the Grand Marshal is four-star General (See SHARON on Page A-2)

Police Trace Get-Away Auto in Bank Robbery

Alert Banker Gets License Number of Car

A quick-thinking bank executive jotted down the license number of the get-away car used in Thursday's daring robbery of the Security First National Bank at 21700 Hawthorne Blvd.

Edwin H. Peters of Redondo Beach, assistant manager of the branch, told Torrance police he was forced to hand over \$5,000 when a gray-haired man entered the bank about 11:15 a.m. and pulled a blue steel revolver on him.

Few bank patrons were aware that a robbery was in progress as Peters calmly got up from his desk and walked across the bank floor to a vault in the southeast corner of the building. As he entered the vault, Peters inconspicuously flipped the silent alarm, directly linked with the Torrance Police Department.

The assistant manager then emerged from the vault with a white canvass bag filled with bills in large denominations. Peters said the suspect demanded to check the contents, saying, "I don't want a bundle of ones." The suspect remained in the customer area of the bank throughout the hold-up, never venturing behind the tellers' cages, Peters noted.

Grabbing the sack full of money, the suspect fled the bank, driving off in a 1967 two-door blue sedan parked at the door. The car's license number — TOP-457 — was traced to a registered owner in Angel's Camp, Calif.

Peters and other witnesses described the suspect as a man in his 50s, wearing a brown sweater, white shirt,

sunglasses, and a hat. He appeared calm during the robbery, but had a scaly rash on his face, possibly resulting from a nervous disorder.

Torrance Police Detective James Farrar said the suspect has temporarily eluded the authorities but police expect to apprehend him soon. The FBI is also working on the case.

Edison To Open Offices

Southern California Edison Co. will open a district business office and service center in newly constructed quarters at 505 Maple Ave., Monday, April 1, it was announced by L. E. Jenkins, district manager.

Jenkins said the present district business office at 125 S. Catalina Ave., Redondo Beach, will be closed on that date.

A Redondo Beach office will be maintained, however, at 243 Avenida Del Norte in the Riviera Village, Jenkins said. Lowell V. Goss will be manager.

IN ADDITION to the new Torrance facilities, Edison also will have a downtown collection office at Arrowman in his 50s, wearing a brown sweater, white shirt,

FROM WATSON

Council Wants Statement on Taxing Policy

Claim Assessor Can Control Zoning by Assessment Rates

Fears that the county assessor may be setting future zoning on property within the city through assessment of "potential" value of land was expressed by member of the City Council this week as they voted to ask for a formal statement of zoning practices from the county.

The local lawmakers voted at Tuesday's meeting to send a letter to County Assessor Philip Watson, asking whether it is the county's policy to tax land on its present value or on some assumed future usage.

Councilmen expressed dis-

may when they learned that the County Assessor's Office had allegedly taxed property in the East Victor Tract on the basis of its potential value, which was considered by that office to be high intensive residential.

It was disclosed that the Torrance Planning Commission had received a letter from a couple living in the tract complaining that their property taxes had tripled in the last three years.

In their letter, the area residents stated, "This high assessed valuation and the uncertainty about future rezoning makes it impossible to sell property for M-1 (light manufacturing) use."

The Planning Commission is considering a zone change in the tract from M-1 to high density residential.

Educators To Attend Conference

Six Torrance educators will represent the school district April 7 through 9 at a conference of the California Association of Secondary School Administrators in Fresno.

Principals who will attend the meeting include Dr. Carl Ahee of Torrance, Dr. Robert Ford of West High, Dr. Richard Guengerich of North High, and Dr. John Lucas of South High.

Assistant principals Harold Klonecky of Torrance and Joseph Rotcher of West High also will attend the conference.

IN FURTHER action the council requested the Board of Supervisors to provide \$100,000 for the improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard. The project will include installation of curbs, gutters, pavement, raised landscaped medians, drainage facilities and traffic signal modification.

The street segment to be improved extends from 182nd Street to 192nd Street.

Public Works Director Walter M. Nollac stated that the \$100,000 figure represents half the total cost of the project.

Police Find Room 'Neatly Ransacked'

Torrance police reports indicate that burglars "neatly ransacked the bedroom" Tuesday when they broke into the home of Larry V. Hannon, 1772 Calamar Ave.

Operating by daylight, the burglars escaped with a color television set and two bottles of liquor, worth \$607. The Hannon's dog was found locked in a service porch keep its barking from alerting neighbors.

In another burglary Tues-

day, suspects walked off with a color television and records worth \$800 from the home of Nicholas Fuscardo, 4807 Scott St.

Party guests are suspected of taking nearly \$700 worth of jewelry from the home of Nobuko Uchio, 23820 Ocean Ave., Apt. A, sometime since December. Uchio noticed the loss Wednesday, listing the missing items as a pearl ring, a jade ring, two men's watches, and one gold ladies'

watch.



DR. GEORGE PORTER
Heads Rotarians

Rotary Elects Porter

Dr. George A. Porter, Torrance veterinarian, has been elected president of the Rotary Club of Torrance for the 1968-69 term. Porter will assume his duties on July 1.

A member of Rotary since 1964, Porter is a graduate of University of California at Davis. He practiced in Visalia before coming to Torrance and was a member of the Rotary Club of that city.

ACTIVE in the Torrance Family YMCA, Porter is a member of the Southern California, California and American Veterinary Medical Associations. He resides in Torrance with his wife Marilyn and their three sons, Brad, Bart, and James.

A veteran of the Korean War, Porter has held the offices of secretary and vice president of the Torrance club. The new president has appointed Donald H. Mehlig and Harold E. Wolpert to serve as club secretary and treasurer, respectively.

TORRANCE optometrist Dr. Robert E. Fleming was selected to serve as vice president of the club under Porter.

Elected to serve on the board of directors with Porter and Fleming were Thomas McGuire, C. S. Morrison, Michael T. Quaranta, Jerome I. Scharfman, Alan D. Smith, and Chris Sorenson.

Porter succeeds Donald L. Meyer, president of Handling Equipment Corporation, who will remain on the board of directors.

Councilman Sciarrotta Files . . .

Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr., who had announced earlier that he would seek the Republican nomination in the 17th Congressional District, filed nomination papers Friday to qualify for the contest. Sciarrotta said he was seeking election to help "stem the tide of a colossal welfare state which is lowering the fiber of many able-bodied Americans." An instructor in political science at Long Beach City College, he has been a member of the Torrance City Council for six years. He served another seven years on the city's Civil Service Commission.

Trial Scheduled in Shooting . . .

Trial for the New Year's Eve shooting death in Carson has been scheduled in Long Beach for May 3. Henry Magee, 40, of 22018 Bonita St., is free on \$12,500 bail pending trial on charges that he was responsible for the death of Thomas Wadena of Long Beach in the holiday shooting at 22016 Bonita St. Magee denied he was guilty when he appeared for arraignment Friday.