

# Demands for Salary Hike Put Supervisors on Spot

By BURTON W. CHACE  
County Supervisor

There are many occasions when an elected official is "caught in the middle," and circumstances surrounding the current County labor picture form a perfect example.

On one hand, there is the taxpaying public, which is rightfully demanding economies which will reduce their property taxes.

On the other hand, there is the County employee who is demanding more and more in terms of salary and benefits.

In the middle are the five County Supervisors, who must keep the tax rate as low as possible and yet attract and retain competent employees in competition with private industry. And this isn't easy to do.

RIGHT NOW the Supervisors are faced with just such a dilemma—one which promises to reach an emotional peak before the matter is settled.

The County's registered nurses who staff our general hospitals earn approximately 12 per cent more than nurses in private hospitals. This differential is paid County nurses because their work load admittedly is heavier and more demanding.

On April 1, private hospitals are expected to raise the wages of their nursing corps to within approximately 4 per cent of County nurses. Private hospital nurses still won't earn as much as County nurses, but they will reduce the difference.

Even though the Board of Supervisors has indicated normal raises are in the works for July 1, the nurses have threatened a mass resignation unless the increases are given April 1. The question of a raise is not contested, only the timing is under fire.

MY POSITION is this: If the Director of Personnel recommends pay raises for the County nurses at budget time—effective July 1, like all other County employees—I will support his proposal. But not before.

The County should try to attract the best nurses available by paying a little more than private hospitals.

However, the Supervisors should not bow to threats of a walkout. The nurses must recognize that all County employees entitled to raises will get them as of July 1.

If Supervisors make an exception for nurses, then other employees will be on our doorstep.

YEARS AGO, the Board decided to consider all salary proposals at budget time; namely, May and June. If approved, the raises would be effective July 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

This is no time to change this policy, particularly under threat of a mass resignation.

It is hard to believe that nurses, who are dedicated to their profession and the needs of hospital patients, would take a hard line approach to

orderly salary discussions. But it's been done.

SENIOR CITIZENS who have questions about welfare, recreation, or any matter pertaining to their needs may wish to use the services of the Torrance Information and Referral Center.

The service is sponsored by the County in cooperation with the Torrance Committee on Aging and the Torrance Recreation Department.

It is designed as a community service to individuals and groups from the South Bay, Torrance, and Peninsula areas.

Trained volunteers man the telephones from 1 to 4 p.m., answering queries about health and welfare, homes, legal aid, volunteer opportunities, recreation, or other matters.

The telephone number is 320-6550. A personal visit to the office at 1318 Cravens Ave. is welcomed.

## Press-Herald

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# Designers Retained for Museum

The Los Angeles planning and design firm of Leach, Cleveland and Associates has been retained by the Museum of the Sea to design the Queen Mary Story exhibit aboard the luxury liner at Long Beach harbor.

The Los Angeles Loan Association of Los Angeles. The Museum of the Sea, a nonprofit institution, will be financially self-supporting and is being developed from funds allocated by private industry.

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RICHARD D. HOWARD  
Republican Candidate

# Attorney Makes Bid For Post

Richard D. (Dick) Howard, a deputy district attorney, has filed nomination papers to seek the Republican nomination for Congress in the 17th Congressional District.

Howard said he would campaign on what he called the "three gravest issues threatening the security and well being of all Americans—crime, corruption, and communism."

Frank Cavanaugh of Torrance will serve as campaign chairman for the Howard for Congress campaign. Cavanaugh held the same position for the 1966 Republican nominee in the 17th Congressional District.

# Bruce Bovee On Honor Roll

Bruce W. Bovee has been named on the scholastic honor roll at North Texas State University with a 2.5 average. He is among 717 students on the honor roll for the fall semester.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Bovee of 3717 181st St.

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**Meet Mike Quaranta at Cabrillo Savings.** He's our Executive Vice-President and Managing Officer... a long title, and he's used to putting in some long days as Cabrillo continues to grow. He's been with this Association since its opening in 1961—first as appraiser, then as head of our Loan Department. Previously he was with Union Bank, and Great Western Savings. He's a native Californian, attended UCLA and lives on Palos Verdes Peninsula with his wife, Dona, and 2-year-old daughter Andrea. The Quarantas are members of St. John Fisher Church, and Mike's interest in civic affairs find an outlet in the Torrance Rotary. Mike finds it both challenging and gratifying to play his key role in the savings and loan industry; he puts the big emphasis on the principles of personal service and community identification.

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