

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIF., SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1968

Those Short Memories

Some Torrance councilmen have short memories.

Having seen three of their colleagues romped on at the polls last April, largely because they let the boogeyman of federal urban renewal get a foothold in the city, these councilmen this week invited still another long arm of the federal octopus into town with its cousin, the Southern California Association of Governments, to help with the 52-acre regional park, which the city may or may not need.

We don't know how the council-

men's telephones have been behaving since Tuesday, but we can tell you ours has been busy. Our callers, for some reason, seem to prefer local government to that of the supergovernments.

Another program or two like these, and we can do away with city councilmen, one said. All we'll need will be administrators, supervisors, agents, representatives, and clerks to keep track of the federal programs in town.

And the federal government will be happy to provide these people. By the hundreds.

No Shortage of Bodies

Just as postal officials have anticipated, Congress is giving every sign that it will exempt the post office department's 30,000 employees from its edict to roll back federal payrolls to the 1966 level.

While it could mean that postal service won't be reduced under its present pitiful levels, it probably also means that the hard line of economy voiced earlier by Congress may be eroded.

It also is doubtful whether Congress actually can bring about any cut in the number of federal employees. Sen. John J. Williams, Delaware Republican and considered a watchdog over government spending practices, gave a hint the other day about some of the problems of Congress in this area.

"I asked the Budget officials how they reconcile a request for 46,000 extra employees when at the same time we are being told that they are carrying out a mandate of the Congress to reduce the number of employees by 2 per cent," he said.

"I got this amazing explanation. They said that the 2 per cent is taken off what they would have added if Congress had not acted."

Some idea of federal employment can be seen in a check of just a couple of departments.

The Department of Agriculture (which has one employe for every 28 farms in the United States) has enough employes to equal the populations of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Hermosa Beach combined.

Or if the employes of the Tennessee Valley Authority lived in one city, they could have their own community as large as Lomita or San Fernando.

And the Veterans Administration's employes would easily equal the current population of Torrance and Lomita combined or equal the cities of El Monte, Bellflower, and Arcadia.

One of the smaller federal employes, the Civil Service Commission, has enough employes to populate the cities of Rolling Hills Estates and Signal Hill; or Avalon, City of Industry, Irwindale, Vernon, and Bradbury.

Even if the postal system gets to keep its full strength and other departments are cut 2 per cent, there still will be nearly 3,000,000 on the federal payrolls.

And with the almost daily proliferation of departments, bureaus, committees, agencies, and administrations, we'll guess that the Congressional edict on employment will be short-lived.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Family Remembers How They Got a Postmaster

To the Editor: I was interested to read your comments Wednesday about the sorry state of our Post Office System, and I must say that my family and I agree with you that it truly is in a "sorry" state.

What really ticked us, though, was the little editorial you called "An afterthought" in which you pointed out that the Postmaster didn't have to know anything about the mail system to get the job.

It reminded us of the stories which we used to hear about the lady who was postmaster in the town where we lived for a number of years.

Before being appointed postmaster, she ran a popular rooming house near the main section of the town and the area's Congressman was a frequent visitor there. We were always told he and the lady's husband were war buddies or something. After the lady's husband died the Congressman got her appointed to the postmaster job. She was able to sell her rooming house and spend her time

being queen bee in the town as its postmaster.

She took in a young man as one of her assistants who had been fired by a neighboring postmaster as being incompetent and he was named postmaster when she got too old to handle the job any more. For all we know, this guy may still be postmaster back there.

But it does bear up what you said about the heads of our post office operations not needing to know anything about the business.

I wonder how long the banks, or department stores, or newspapers would stay in business if some Congressman could name his drinking pals, or others whose favors he had enjoyed, to top management positions?

It would probably mean—God forbid—that the banks, stores, and newspapers would be run like the Post Office. How does that grab you?

DONALD GORDON
Torrance

Doesn't Accept Guilty Charge

To the Editor: The people of the USA are not guilty of the murders of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King as some would like us to think. Two men . . . were guilty and did the deeds.

President Johnson, I believe, stated 750,000 Americans died by hand guns since 1900. Then he said 6,000 per year—which multiplied by 68 equals 408,000. Quite a slip in arithmetic. Many of these deaths were accidental and many suicides.

The FBI adds a clincher when it says that only about 3 per cent of crimes involving firearms in the USA.

New York City has 639 homicides with very strict hand gun laws and Los Angeles, with about the same population, has 249 homicides in the same period, with almost no restrictions.

Our permissive courts have allowed 75 per cent of criminals to be second, third, and fourth offenders. Many of these permissive judges need to be put out of office.

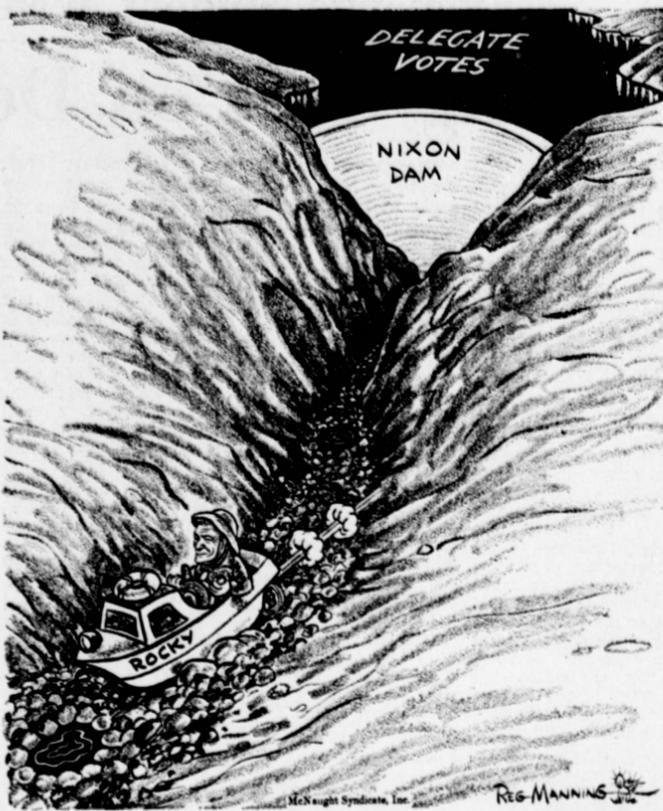
PHILIP H. FAUCETT
Torrance

Bowman Says 'Thank You'

To the Editor: As the retiring president of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, it would not be fitting for me to conclude my duties without taking a moment to express my personal and the Chamber's sincere thanks for the support of your newspaper of all the many undertakings of the Chamber.

By support, we mean more than the excellent and objective coverage given the Chamber activities in the pages of the Press-Herald. We include many hours of time spent by the personnel of your newspaper in participating in the very hard work of making a Chamber of Commerce operate effectively.

We of Torrance are fortunate indeed to have such an asset as the Press-Herald. LARRY BOWMAN
Torrance



SACRAMENTO REPORT

State May Bow Out Of Port Operation

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — End of the 105-year operation of the Port of San Francisco by the state of California appeared to be in sight with the approval of the senate governmental efficiency and economy committee of AB 190, by Assemblyman John L. Burton (D-San Francisco). The measure calls for the transfer of the port's operation from the state to the city of San Francisco, a goal sought by San Francisco legislators for many years, and unachieved because of the reluctance of the state to relinquish its operation of the harbor.

The bill must clear three more hurdles before it becomes law, first, the senate finance committee, then the senate itself and finally, the signature of Governor Ronald Reagan.

Assemblyman Burton, obviously pleased that the bill cleared the major committee of the senate, said he expects no difficulties with the rest of the route the bill must travel. He declared that Governor Reagan is amenable to signing the bill

when and if it reaches his desk.

"This transfer," Burton said, "acts as a guarantee that the Port of San Francisco will not become a ghost port. We have seen in the past few months some of the major shipping companies move to other ports, due to the lack of facilities in San Francisco. Other leading concerns have urged the transfer to the city, to enable developments which will bring the San Francisco port back to its place as the outstanding port of call on the Pacific Ocean."

The state's operation of the San Francisco waterfront for the last century and more, has always been a bone of contention between the city of San Francisco and the state legislature.

The city, and no doubt rightfully so, considered that it should operate and maintain the port, which has been for many years the crossroads of the Pacific, and the pride of the bay city. It has been the distributing center for millions of tons imported from the Orient, the south seas and other far-off lands, as

well as the embarking point for world travelers.

Development of air traffic across the Pacific has hurt the passenger travel, but unlike the railroads, such traffic has not been put virtually out of business because of the changes. Yet facilities for both freight and passengers have declined, and this is one of the reasons the shipping interests in San Francisco want the city to operate the port.

Burton said that the city under his bill will assume the financial obligations of the port, which for many years has been financed for development purposes through general obligation bonds of the state. Ten years ago, the voters of California approved a \$50 million bond issue for port improvement and \$7.5 million of this issue remains to be sold.

The San Francisco assemblyman says it will take more than that amount for redevelopment purposes. In the future, should the bill become law, raising the funds through bond issues would be the responsibility of San Francisco, rather than the obligation of all the people of the state.

San Francisco remains as the one major state-operated harbor in California. Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego ports, which have grown with the state, are municipally operated.

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(Messages for state officers may be addressed to them at the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.)

HERB CAEN SAYS:

He's Still Spry at 82

San Francisco

Mr. Vitamin: Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops is a spry 73-yr-old, but let's not overlook Sol Hurok, the importer of Russian delicacies. Following the Bolshoi's opening, Hurok and his local impresario, John Kornfed, presided over a party in Trader Vic's Trafalgar Room—and Hurok was not only the last to leave, he out-danced everybody. "I understand you're 80 if you're a day," a lady told him. "I'm a day," he replied (actually he's 82). All the dancers showed up except Maya Pisetkaya (maybe she's back with Warren Beatty), but the language barrier prevented much mingling. "We need a universal language, like Berlitz," sighed Andrea Di Socibran. The only dancer who spoke fluent English was Maris Liepi, the fine Prince Albrecht in "Giselle." "I learned it from listening to the Voice of America every night," he said in broad American-English, doing an excellent imitation of a disc jockey ("And now for Number One on the Top Forty!"). "I hope he doesn't defect," whispered Gretchen Kirsch. "More disc jockeys we don't need."

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Add Infinitem: Ex-San Quentin Warden Clinton Duffy, who now lives at Rossmore, is in Rome as the guest of the Italian publisher of a book opposing capital punishment. Duffy provided technical advice. . . . Kiddie korner: Mike Riley of Sunnyvale, Calif., took his four-yr-old son to Candlestick the day Hal Lanier was beamed, and that night he heard him praying: "Our Father Who art in Heaven, Hal Lanier be Thy name—" (Mike: "God isn't dead. He's just hitting around 200.") . . . And Eileen Wyman chuckled over this in Saturday Review: An applicant for a Govt. job, filling out Form 57, came to the question: "Do you favor the overthrow of the Government by force, subversion, or violence?" Thinking it a multiple choice, he wrote "Violence."

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Barrel's Bottom: Shakey Johnson, who sold his Shakey's pizza empire for molto millions and is spending it as fast as he can, showed up at Sam's in Tiburon in a chartered yacht containing three Greek musicians, two folk singers, a mariachi band in full costume, and a Turkish belly dancer writhing away on the poop deck and showing plenty of zeal. "Make way for the Shakey naval forces," cried our hero. . . . Add sightisms that stick: A renowned Carmel conservative ripping the "Support Your Local Police" sticker off the bumper of his Mercedes 300 after Rookie Officer Charlie Brown (yep) bawled him out or making a left turn in front of a police car.

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Fireworks: Stizzling these days is Harold Smith Sr., the grand old man of Reno gambling. The other day he wandered from his Harold's Club to the Holiday to shoot a little dice, wrote a \$1,000 check and found he had been "redlined" (no credit) by the Holiday's new owner from Texas, Tom Moore. In the opinion of Historian John Wesley Noble, it was "the first time in Nevada history that one casino operator has redlined another." As for Harold Sr., he is red-eyed and red-necked.

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Celler Smeller: It was a typical 10 a.m. coffee break yesterday in the basement coffee shop at the Hall of Justice. About 15 inspectors, people from the D.A.'s office, a few newsmen, sitting around and chatting. Suddenly, one man began sniffing the air, then another and another—until the smell became unmistakable. POT! Everybody jumped up, including two outsiders who had been smoking hand-rolled joints. They made it to the elevator and freedom in the very nick, leaving a frustrated band of roach-sniffers pawing in their wake.

Our Amazing World of Communications



Quote

There must be a respect for laws. If there is a law you do not like, don't defy it. Work to change it.—Sid R. Harris in the Houston (Miss.) Times Post.

A lot of things are like a hang nail . . . they don't bother you until you discover they exist.—A. J. Hudson in the Olustee (Okla.) Chieftain.

It's too bad that the future generations can't be here to help us spend their money.—Fred W. Grown in The Bergen (N.J.) Citizen.

Some people's finances are in such a mess you'd think they were getting advice from the government.—Duane C. Griggs in the New London (Iowa) Journal.

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