

By BURTON W. CHACE
County Supervisor

Just how much should county government subsidize cultural programs?

In a nutshell, this was the issue facing supervisors recently when the time came to make a decision on county participation in the development of an Academy for the Performing Arts in the Civic Center.

The final vote was 3 to 2 in favor of county participation, with my vote recorded

in opposition to the arrangement.

The deal is this. The county will dedicate a block of property it owns. The land is bounded by First Street, Grand Avenue, Second and Hope streets.

PRIVATE donations will be used to raise funds for construction of the \$6 million Performing Arts Academy, and the county will build a \$4.8 million underground parking garage.

In addition, the county will pay the bill for maintenance, which will amount to at least \$100,000 annually.

Clearly the land still will remain under County ownership. And the use of private funds for construction of the Academy will relieve the County of any financial burden in this area.

MY OBJECTION to the proposal was based on the issue of the annual maintenance cost. I believe the Academy and its sister project, the Music Center complex, should be self-supporting.

When the matter first came before the board, a special committee was formed to study the proposal and make a recommendation to supervisors.

Each supervisor named one member of the committee, and my appointee was Jack Merrick of Long Beach, a man of integrity and insight.

While Mr. Merrick thought the program generally was a fair one, he expressed reservations concerning the maintenance subsidy which would be required of the county.

PERSONAL investigation on my part further strengthened Mr. Merrick's position that the county would be committing itself to a costly contract if it agreed to maintain the Academy structure.

Originally the Board of Supervisors sold on the idea that the Music Center complex would be a self-supporting facility once the county provided the land. This has not been the case.

And when the Grand Jury came out on the eve of the final Academy of Performing Arts vote with a strong recommendation not to enter into such an agreement, I believed a "no" vote was fair and proper.

I HAVE BEEN a great supporter of the Music Center because it provides a new dimension of wholesome and cultural pursuit for the entire county. But I cannot support subsidies for the cultural complex when the taxpayer is carrying such a heavy burden as he is now.

My "no" vote on the Academy proposal was accompanied by a pledge to do everything possible to make the Music Center complex fully self-supporting. This, I believe, is in the best interests of the taxpayer.



By ARTIE DEE
Transportation Editor

The good folks down at RTD should be commended for their actions in improving some old lines, and adding some completely new service. Here is a thumbnail description of some of those improvements. The 151 line in El Segundo, is a new local line within the city limits that connects shopping and financial areas to the downtown business district.

The 176 line is also completely new and provides more direct bus service from the Watts-South Central Los Angeles area to Beverly Hills, UCLA, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades. Not only can a person save up to 45 minutes travel time, but you can save yourself a bundle on the fare. Four trips a day are offered in each direction during rush hours beginning as early as 5:40 a.m.

The 87 line is a new service to Romana Gardens, connecting the housing project area with General Hospital. The line provides connections with the 50 and 92 lines on Soto Street.

The 89 line (due to the completion of Fairfax Avenue between Venice and Adams) has been extended to Washington and Adams. The extension will offer connections to major east-west lines, direct connections to Culver City and the Santa Barbara-Crenshaw shopping complex. Next time you see Councilman Edelman, give him a pat on the back for his part in this much needed extension.

Just because summer is on its way out, doesn't mean you can't see the places you missed during vacation time. In fact, places like Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Marineland are even better now that some of the rush is over. Send for a "21-Tour Guide" and a system map, and take in one of these relaxing fun spots. Junior has had his, now it's time for us older kids to have ours.

Q. I used to take the 51 line to Los Angeles, now I see another bus marked Los Angeles going through Redondo Beach. What line is this and where does it go? Mrs. S.L.

A. That would be the 125 freeway flyer that cuts a good chunk off your travel time. I'll send you a timetable and a map.

Q. Can I get to the South Bay Shopping Center from Hermosa Beach? I want to take a friend and shop there. Mrs. J.Z.

A. Catch the RTD 101 line in Hermosa Beach and you're on your way. I'll supply the timetable for your shopping spree, but you supply the

Q. We live on Manchester near Westchester High. How do you get to the State Building on 1st Street in Los Angeles? Mr. M.P.

A. Ride the 54 line to downtown Inglewood and change to the 5 line. Get off at 1st and Broadway. The building is just across the street.

Q. Can you tell me why the lines in the South Bay area do not have night and week end service? Mrs. J.L.

A. Not enough people use the service, RTD can't stand some losing service, but not too much. Remember, RTD is not subsidized; it pays its own way out of the fare box.

Send your questions to Artie Dee, Transportation Editor, care of this newspaper. All questions will be answered in the column, or by mail. A system map will be sent FREE to each person writing in. NO RETURN STAMPS OR STAMPED ENVELOPES ARE NECESSARY.

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ALPHA BETA GREEN BEANS 19¢

CUT OF FRENCH SLICED 303 CAN 75¢ VALUE

GERBER BABY FOODS

STRAINED 11¢ 11¢

JUICES 11¢ 11¢

JUNIOR 16¢ 15¢

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CARNATION • 11-OZ. JAR COFFEE MATE 79¢ 71¢

MAXWELL HOUSE • 1-LB. CAN COFFEE 71¢ 69¢

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1-LB. CAN • ALL GRINDS YUBAN COFFEE 75¢ 73¢

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5-LB. BAG 2.59 \$2.52

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8-OZ. CAN • CREAM STYLE GREEN GIANT CORN 20¢ 18¢

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