

City Employees' Pay: How to Advance Their Wages And Lower Municipal Costs!

An Editorial by Grover C. Whyte

How to increase wages of city employees and at the same time lower municipal expenses? This is the question that city councilmen and department heads as they plan the budget for the coming fiscal year.

While these objectives may seem contradictory at first glance, nevertheless both may be accomplished if city officials will follow the practice of private enterprises engaged in non-war work who find themselves faced with increasing taxes and other costs and decreasing revenues. And this is how it is being done:

As employees enter military service or leave to enter war-time industrial plants, they are NOT replaced; their duties are taken over by remaining employees who, in turn, are given wage advances to compensate for the increased cost of living. Where sufficient reductions in personnel are not made on a voluntary basis, surplus help is dismissed.

WHERE SAVINGS CAN BE MADE

We can see no reason why this same policy cannot be followed in municipal affairs. The current shortage of materials will preclude launching of municipal improvements for the duration and only the most essential repairs and maintenances should be made.

While many do not seem to realize it yet, the fact remains that we are at war and war means sacrifices all down the line. We'll just have to get along without new street improvements, be content with the very minimum of street repairs and park maintenance. Similar savings can be made in other municipal departments which are not actively engaged in the war effort.

During the depression employment of men whose families were in need was justified by the city on the grounds of humanity. But it is no hardship to discharge unnecessary workers now when other jobs at good pay are available in war industries. Now that taxpayers—and that includes all of us—are required to carry the increased burden of war costs and buy War Bonds, every possible saving in non-war activities should be made.

SOUND BUSINESS AND A FAIR DEAL

The Torrance city council can well follow the lead of Long Beach, whose council this week issued an order to eliminate surplus municipal workers. City Manager Carl R. Erickson and Long Beach department heads were notified "forthwith that all dead-wood is to be removed and if any time in the future we find on investigation that this has not been done they (the department heads) will be dismissed."

Petitions are now in circulation, asking the Torrance city council to increase the pay of municipal workers. With this The Herald is in accord wherever it is found that present rates of pay are below that paid by private business for similar work. Increases commensurate with increased living costs should be made. BUT when a fair rate is paid, a full day's work should be demanded and surplus employees should be dismissed. This may not be good politics, but it is sound business and a fair deal for the public who is paying the bill.

Many of our patriotic citizens are working long hours in Civilian Defense and war activities without thought of financial compensation. In justice to these people, it is only fair that every effort should be made to lighten the burden of municipal taxes in order that these savings may be diverted to the all-important task of winning the war.

Family Men's Draft Delayed

Local Board Gets Order in Which Seven Classes are to Be Inducted in Future

Local draft boards were directed by Selective Service headquarters in Washington Monday to postpone induction of married men until all other sources of manpower for the armed forces have been exhausted. A statement of policy, issued by Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director, established the order in which seven classifications were to be utilized for draft calls, and also contained a list of 34 essential activities compiled by the War Manpower Commission.

Based on recent amendments to the Selective Service Act, the statement was designed to guide local boards, Hershey said, but in no way altered the statutory ban on group deferments. Its purpose, he said, is to protect bona fide family relationships as long as possible.

Order of Inductions
The order in which local boards were instructed to consider registrants for induction was: (1) single men with no dependents; (2) single men with dependents, but not contributing to the war effort; (3) single men with dependents, and who contribute to the war effort; (4) married men, not engaged in the war effort, but living with their wives; (5) married men engaged in the war effort and living with their wives; (6) married men, not engaged in the war effort, living with wife and children, or children only; and (7) married men, engaged in the war effort, and living with wife and children, or children only.

In all cases, said the statement, the dependency must date from before Dec. 8, 1941. Provision was made for local boards to co-ordinate their classification orders with the state director to prevent any community from inducting men

from one group before neighboring localities have reclassified the same group.

May Adjust Calls
Of this provision, the announcement said: "In all instances where it becomes necessary for the local board to reconsider classifications of men with one type of dependent, the local board is directed by national headquarters to notify the State Director of Selective Service before proceeding to the reclassification of men with another type of dependent. Such notification will keep the state director constantly informed of the progress of local boards toward reclassification of all groups so that he may adjust his calls for men to prevent one local board from calling registrants from one group substantially in advance of the time when other local boards are calling them from that same group."

When deferring a registrant for occupational reasons, the local board must decide that the business in which the man is employed is one of those classified as essential, and then determine that his particular job makes him a "necessary man."

Essential Activities
In addition, his work must be in fulfillment of a contract for a government agency engaged directly in war activity; concerned with promoting or facilitating the war effort.

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Two Extra Pounds of Sugar Now Await Each Card Holder

Two extra pounds of sugar are available to all sugar ration book holders, as announced by the Southern California authority of the Office of Price Administration.

Sugar stamp No. 7 may be used for purchase of the extra sugar without any effect on other coupons in the book. This initial sugar dividend came as good news for housewives and families who have been yearning to satisfy that sweet tooth with a rich frosted cake or perhaps a batch of divinity fudge.

Stamp No. 5 is valid now for the regular purchase of two pounds of sugar any time until midnight July 25. From July 26 to August 22 stamp No. 6 will be good for two pounds. Stamp No. 7 becomes an "extra," cashable any time between now and August 22.

There is no red tape in getting the bonus sugar, no need to go to the local sugar rationing office. For example, stamps No. 5 and No. 7 can be turned in to a grocer at one time for a total of four pounds of sugar.

Shidler Files for Special Election; Three in Race

With the aid of 175 volunteer deputy canvassers, Judge John A. Shidler of Torrance amassed more than 10,000 endorsements of his candidacy for election to Congress from the old 17th District in the non-partisan special election Aug. 25, it was announced today. Judge Shidler filed his nominating petitions Monday and they have been accepted.

Tonight at midnight is the deadline for entering the special election, which will be held the same day as the nominating primary throughout the enlarged new 17th District. Judge Shidler, who is also entered in the primary as a Democratic contender for Congress, was the third candidate to qualify for the special election. The others are Cecil King and John Rawls. George H. Moore of Wilmington and Harold Sparling have indicated they may file petitions today.

Would Bar Election
An injunction action filed yesterday by Ernest A. Stewart, Hermosa Beach, to halt the special election was referred to the county counsel by the acting registrar of voters. Stewart claims 46th Assembly District voters were being denied the right to vote for a representative. This district came into the 17th Congressional District thru the Peapacktonment Act adopted Sept. 13, 1941, and will vote in the 17th District primary.

Winner of the special election will take office immediately after Aug. 25 and serve until the first Monday in January, 1943, filling out the unexpired term of the late Congressman Lee A. Geyer who died Oct. 11, 1941.

Judge Shidler's deputy canvassers were not professional petition circulators as were employed by his opponent. Each precinct in the District had but one volunteer who presented the Torrance magistrate's petition for signatures. He said his endorsements came from every part of the old 17th District. A total of 6,658 signatures were necessary to qualify a candidate for the special election, while only 60 were needed for the regular primary.

Local Pastor's U-Turn Violation Is Held Invalid

Because Rev. H. W. Roloff of Torrance brought his traffic arrest to the attention of the Superior Court Appellate Department, a second Los Angeles city traffic regulation—that of "No U-Turns"—was held invalid and illegal Tuesday.

The Appellate Department so held in reversing the Los Angeles municipal court conviction of the local pastor on a misdemeanor complaint following his arrest for making a U turn. Previously the Appellate Department had ruled the so-called pedestrian jay-walking law was void because it conflicted with state laws.

Directing dismissal of the complaint, the Appellate Department held that the Los Angeles city ordinance prohibiting U turns in the central traffic and business district is in error and in conflict with the State Motor Vehicle Code.

The state law, the higher court declared, provides that U turns are permissible in the business district if no car is at the time nearer than 200 feet to the vehicle making the turn, and at any intersection in the residential districts, at any time.

Coast Brick Variance Denied

By unanimous vote, the application of the Coast Brick Co. for a variance of the city zoning ordinance that would permit the firm to excavate further east on the property off Crenshaw blvd. in North Torrance was denied by the city council Tuesday night.

Councilman Vern Babcock voiced the majority opinion when he said he opposed the

Scrap Rubber Drive Nets 7½ Pounds Per Capita In Torrance

If residents of other communities in the U. S. did as well as Torrance people in the recent scrap rubber drive they would have collected an average of nearly seven and one-half pounds for every man, woman and child in the nation.

Torrance "came thru" in fine style for the accumulation of the vital war material. A survey made of all service stations in the city by The Herald Monday revealed that a grand total of 74,399 pounds of scrap rubber was turned out by local residents during the drive. This is \$7.199 short tons—a per capita collection of approximately seven and one-half pounds.

This total includes 10,950 pounds of rubber donated to the 20-30 Club's scrap pile, the proceeds of which are to be turned over to the city ambulance fund being raised by the Torrance Kiwanis Club. According to George Figueredo, member of the 20-30, his club expects to present a check of about \$115 to the ambulance fund in the near future.

The Torrance tonnage also includes 11,568 pounds collected by Air Raid Wardens in the adjoining Shoestring strip, the rubber being turned in at three service stations, according to Joe Page.

LOMITA, HARBOR CITY COLLECTS HUGE AMOUNT OF VITAL MATERIAL

Incomplete figures on the result of the scrap rubber drive in Lomita and Harbor City, as compiled by The Lomita News this week, show that a total of 49½ tons were collected in the two communities. In Lomita, the drive netted 54,455 pounds while Harbor City amassed 32,650 pounds for a per capita contribution of 6½ pounds by Lomitans and 10.9 pounds by Harbor Citizens. The total for the two communities is reported as 109,105 pounds which includes the tonnage turned in from the Shoestring strip.

City's Building Tops on Coast

For the first time in history, Torrance building permits for the first six months of 1942 topped the list of every Pacific Coast city except Los Angeles.

This unusual fact was revealed Sunday with a publication in the Los Angeles Times of the building permit totals for all Southern California communities and major Pacific Coast cities.

The Torrance building total for the first six months of this year was \$7,145,118. Los Angeles city was credited with \$34,497,467.

In third place on the coast was Seattle with \$6,688,795, while San Diego was fourth with \$6,888,647. San Francisco ranked fifth (\$6,597,280). Portland was sixth (\$5,792,965). Long Beach was seventh (\$5,491,955). Tacoma was eighth (\$4,757,862). Burbank was ninth (\$2,850,452) and Oakland was tenth (\$2,632,896).

The Torrance total for June, \$6,818,426, was first on the list of all cities on the Pacific Coast, this figure being followed by the totals for Los Angeles (\$1,969,523), San Diego (\$1,804,493) and Seattle (\$1,090,380).

Defense Workers Must Be 'Mugged'

These Civilian Defense workers who have not had their photos taken for their identification cards must report at the National Supply Co. Sunday morning, July 19, at 10 o'clock to be "mugged," Police Chief John Stroh said today. This is their last opportunity to be photographed, he declared.

CANDIDATES IN COURT



C. Ed Jones of San Pedro, left, tells Judge John A. Shidler of Torrance why he was speeding. Both are Democratic candidates for Congress in this District.

There's no such thing as political courtesy when one candidate for Congress in the 17th District appears before another representative aspirant in the role of defendant before a judge. This was proved here last week when C. Ed Jones of San Pedro stood before Judge John A. Shidler in response to a traffic citation charging him with speeding. Both are Democratic candidates for Congress in this

R.A.F. Worker Returns; Plans To Join Army

Home from England where he served in the Civil Technical Corps attached to the R. A. F. as a machinist, Robert L. White of 2384 Sepulveda blvd. is now looking for more active service.

White, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. White, went to Britain in October, 1941, to do work maintenance for the R. A. F. He underwent several Nazi bombing raids and received a vivid impression of the fortitude of Britons under stern war conditions.

"They are taking it in their stride and are confident of victory as soon as a second front is opened," he declared. White received an honorable discharge from the C. T. C. and left England in May, arriving home last Thursday.

He wants to enlist in the Army. After he registered for Selective Service last year he was deferred and given permission to join the C. T. C. Now he wants to return to active service "but this time with my own country," he said.

Per Capita Fire Loss Here Only 37 Cents In '41

Believed one of the lowest fire loss figures in the state, the per capita loss here for the past fiscal year was less than 37 cents, according to a report prepared this week by Fire Chief J. E. McMaster. The total fire loss was \$3,670. This excluded two oil well blazes which are not figured in the total according to Board of Fire Underwriters' regulations.

The only California cities reporting to headquarters of the International Association of Fire Chiefs as having a lower per capita fire loss than Torrance were: Glendale, 34 cents; Hayward, 25 cents; National City, 22 cents; Palo Alto, 26 cents; Pasadena, 32 cents; Redlands, 19 cents; Riverside, 23 cents, and Woodland, six cents.

During the year July 1, 1941, to June 30, 1942, the Torrance fire department responded to 151 alarms of which 92 were "still" calls when the siren was not sounded and five were false. The department's vehicles covered 319.8 miles in answering calls and laid 13,800 feet of hose, raised 96 feet of ladders.

Seventy-nine drills were held, Fire Chief McMaster reported. Ten first aid calls were answered and 335 fire permits issued. The department also made 691 property inspections during the year.

Tonight Is Deadline to Register; Bourbons Hold Lead In County

With tonight as the deadline to register for the 1942 August primary election, figures obtained today from the office of Registrar of Voters M. J. Donoghue show that about three persons have registered Democratic for every addition to the Republican ranks during the past six weeks.

On June 1, there were 888,959 Democrats registered and on July 15 the figure was 935,094, a gain of more than 46,000. By comparison, there were 512,430 in the G.O.P. ranks on June 1, and 528,222 on July 15, a gain of more than 16,000.

Total for the county for the August primary now is expected to hit 1,560,000 or possibly more, by the time all registrations taken by field deputies are in and counted. Personnel of the more than 5,000 election boards has been worked out by the board of supervisors, and the boards are scheduled for final approval next week.

San Sludge Dumping At City Refuse Site

No more oil and water sludge may be dumped by oil drilling firms in the city dump at the end of Border ave. at Plaza del Amo, the city council ruled Tuesday night following receipt of several complaints that the periodic morning burnings were a nuisance to surrounding homes.

All-Out Scrap Drive to Start Here Next Week

Preparing to "trap the Jap with scrap" and "hit Hitler with junk," arrangements for an all-out continuous salvage campaign starting next week were under way today with the Torrance Kiwanis Club, under direction of President Gaston Areg, taking the leadership in the program. In making plans for this community effort to surpass all previous war drives, civic leaders emphasized:

July Ration Quotas Told by Local Board

Quotas of rationed articles available to local residents from the Torrance Rationing Board during July are as follows:

New passenger cars, five; new passenger tires, 30; passenger car tubes, 100; passenger tires or recaps, 325; new truck tires, eight; truck tubes, 12, and truck tires or recaps, 30.

South Cabrillo Improvement Is Discussed

Cabrillo avenue from Torrance blvd. to Carson st. has taken its place as the "Broadway of Torrance," but the south end of that greatly improved thoroughfare from Carson to Plaza del Amo is still the same old weed-infested "cow path." The condition of the unimproved stretch of Cabrillo came in for considerable discussion at city council meeting Tuesday night.

However, no action was taken to bring the street up to par with the recently improved business section. Councilman Vern Babcock opened the discussion by asking City Engineer Glenn E. White what plans had been developed for improvement of Cabrillo south of Carson and Councilman James Hitchcock suggested that perhaps state funds derived from the city's share of gasoline taxes may be used to complete the job of bettering Cabrillo.

Jain reported that the grade would have to be materially changed to make the south end similar to the improved portion; that this would cost approximately \$6,500 for a light-type of paving or about \$25,000 to pave it in conformity with the thoroughfare from Torrance blvd. to Carson st.

"We still have central parking in mind down the center strip recently cleared of its P. E. trucks and overhead wiring because Cabrillo south of Carson is residential," Jain said. "So far we have not encountered any opposition to this plan."

Engineer Jain also declared that a traffic study should be made at Carson, Cravens and Cabrillo intersection, reporting the double stop signs there were "most confusing to motorists." He said the engineer's office plans some kind of channelization or "island" formations at that five-point intersection to aid the traffic flow. The council approved his recommendation that Cabrillo be double-lined down its center from Torrance blvd. to Carson st.

City Employees Seek Pay Boost

Seeking public endorsement of their move to obtain pay increases, Torrance city employees this week began circulating petitions which will be presented to the city council in support of their contention that the present wage scale of municipal workers is inadequate.

The petitions propose the following pay adjustments: For employees receiving less than \$135 per month, increase to a minimum probationary period pay of \$100 and a minimum permanent pay of \$125; for employees receiving less than \$150 per month, increase to a minimum probationary pay of \$150 and a minimum permanent salary of \$160 per month.

ENTERTAIN VISITORS
Recent guests of the F. A. Lincoln at 1229 Costa ave. were J. R. Bledsoe and son Albert of Santa Ana and formerly of Torrance. J. R. Bledsoe has recently accepted a government position and will leave soon for Alaska.

"The Torrance salvage program will not be a one-week or one-month campaign any more than this is a one-week war. Salvage is an all-out continuing effort and will be organized here as such."

Members of the city council indicated Tuesday night that the city will contribute to the continuous collection program by sending municipal trucks on periodic canvasses of residential and business districts to harvest scrap materials contributed by local residents.

Keep Steel Mills Going
While citizens may sell their own junk to dealers, the proceeds of the general collection here will be turned over to the city ambulance fund now being raised by the Kiwanis Club.

LEGION DONATES ITS SCRAP METAL

Five and maybe six tons of choice scrap iron and steel. That's what the Torrance American Legion's Jack Hallinger promised for the opening of the continuous drive scheduled to start here next week. Hallinger told the city council Tuesday night that the Legion has been conducting a scrap drive here for months and will now turn its pile over to the Kiwanis Club to start the city-wide salvage drive.

When this fund is completed and the ambulance put in service, the proceeds from sale of waste materials will be awarded to other worthwhile community projects.

In addition to periodic collections, junk depots will probably be established at various points throughout the city where residents may deposit their collections. This and other details of the drive are now being worked out by a general salvage committee. A fine job has already been done on the salvage of waste paper and rubber. Now the great challenge is to keep steel mills going full blast this winter. The Bureau of Industrial Conservation, War Production Board, states:

"We must increase the flow of scrap iron and steel by at least 6,000,000 tons—25 per cent more than normal. This means the day-to-day cooperation of every man, woman and child in the country. It means that we cannot afford to relax after a single drive."

As yet no quota has been assigned Torrance. In urging the council's cooperation, Publisher Grover C. Whyte of The Torrance Herald explained that word to launch the salvage drive was only received here a few days ago and there has not been time to organize the effort.

More details on how residents may contribute to the "junk jolts for Japan" will be published next week but in the meantime, every resident of this city is urged to begin now—today—to discover how he or she may help in the salvage campaign; make a survey of home and business places to locate scrap; start saving grease and other materials and volunteer to serve in any way possible to the continuous roundup of waste commodities.

Residence Requirement Waived for Duration

As result of a "general understanding," the residence requirement for new city employees will be waived for the duration, it was announced at city council meeting Tuesday night. Heretofore, under Civil Service regulations, no one could be employed by the city unless he or she was a resident here for a full year.

EASTERN VISITOR
Mrs. Julia Huddleston of Huntington, W. Va., is visiting her sister, Mrs. May McKinley.