

ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE ON JUNIOR COLLEGE ASKED IN SURVEY CONDUCTED HERE

What do the people and the potential students of the area involved in the proposal to establish a Junior college to serve districts west of the Los Angeles shoestring want?

After a bewildering meeting in Lawndale Public Library last Friday night, in which overwhelming Los Angeles city sentiment of "go into Los Angeles" was pitted against automatic desires of those who want to stay clear of metropolitanities in school matters, it was decided to ask this question to guide further discussions of the committee of 15 which was named in Torrance on June 30 to plan for Junior college facilities for the 10,800 high school graduates of communities involved.

The result is, a questionnaire is being circulated, also printed in this edition of the Torrance Herald and Lomita News, to determine the attitude of the people involved. If the sentiment is in favor of the project, get out and sell it to the people, it was urged.

Highlighting the evening was a declaration from Dr. F. O. Evans, supervisor, Los Angeles city schools, that "I would never turn my hand to keep anyone in the district (L. A. city school district) who wanted to get out. That is the official attitude of the board. Mr. Kersey feels the other way, however."

Hope Seen
This would seem to indicate that there is some hope, it was pointed out, that Torrance, Gardena, Lomita and other areas in the proposed Junior college district could get out of Los Angeles to form their own college district, it was pointed out.

Already the matter has been placed before legislators of the state, three different groups having had conferences with an equal number of assemblymen regarding the "multitude of obstacles" preventing political subdivisions in one sense pulling out of larger subdivisions of another sense—Torrance, an incorporated city, pulling out of Los Angeles city school district, or Gardena doing the same.

Chairman Oscar Willett occupied the chair and a full committee was present at the meeting Friday night.

After reading of the minutes, in which Dr. Evans made two slight corrections and apologized to El Segundo for saying the community was not interested in higher education, Chairman Willett said it was apparent the "easiest way to get a Junior college is hard; we have to sell the three high school districts (Redondo Beach, El Segundo and Inglewood) and the people."

Voice Available?
Mayor William H. Tolson of Torrance asked Dr. Evans if Los Angeles would allow any voice to local communities in the operation by Los Angeles of a Junior college in the district in question. Dr. Evans replied that "Los Angeles is very responsive to any request and is considerable of the wishes of the outlying districts."

Mayor Tolson then asked what the attitude of Los Angeles would be if any district in Los Angeles tried to pull out of the Los Angeles district. Dr. Evans replied as above quoted.

The mayor then remarked that we have no junior college, no transportation to one, and that for the good of those who go to school, it would appear better to get rid of the Los Angeles ties and form the local district.

Dr. Evans then admitted that if Torrance districts pulled out of Los Angeles it would be somewhat embarrassing.

C. G. Pursche of Gardena asked Dr. Evans if the Los An-

geles district could establish a Junior college in the area involved without a bond issue, and Dr. Evans replied that it could, that the only bonds floated by Los Angeles in eight years were for rehabilitation after the earthquake.

Questioned about the possibility of Redondo Beach, El Segundo and Inglewood going into Los Angeles, Dr. Evans replied that he could not say that the Los Angeles board would welcome annexation of any new territory. He said he was in favor of independent Junior colleges, outside of Los Angeles—in the Inglewood area, for instance.

Letter Read

A letter from Dr. Evans to Chairman Willett explaining the attitude of the Los Angeles board on the subject was read and set off considerable discussion about the project.

It follows:
"Following our conference at Torrance on June 30, I have found time to do a little work on the proposed junior college for the Centinela Valley. On the basis of 20% of the high school enrollment which is about the average for the state, we could expect some 1600 students, enough to offer a satisfactory range of courses. This would call for approximately 60 teachers and instructional rooms. Such a plant could probably be started at a cost around \$750,000 but when all units were completed might involve twice that sum.

"Considering the various propositions in the order in which they were discussed the formation of a junior college district of all territory west of the 'Shoestring' strip would give an assessed valuation of about \$105,000,000 which would be amply support for such an institution. The chief obstacle to such a move lies in the number of steps required. Disannexation from Los Angeles Junior College District, the formation of a new district, the approval of the State Board of Education would require several years and the failure in any one step would render the other steps useless.

"The three high school districts outside the Los Angeles system could form a junior college district much more quickly and easily. The only steps would be the usual ones, in bringing the matter before the people for vote and in securing approval of the State Board of Education. Such a district would have a valuation of about seventy million dollars, which would place it in the class with Glendale, Glendale's Junior College tax rate before they became a unified district was eight cents on the hundred dollars. Capital outlays would have to be handled by bond issue for it would take all that could be raised by taxation for at least five years to build a minimum plant.

"The proposal to unite with Los Angeles for junior college purposes offers the easiest plan from the standpoint of financing and legal steps. Probably the junior college tax rate would not exceed three cents per hundred dollars. It may be quite difficult, however, to satisfy the people of the communities to such a plan and also to secure the approval of the Los Angeles

JUNIOR COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRE

MAIL OR RETURN TO TORRANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

QUESTION:	ANSWERS.	Yes	No
1. Do you want a Junior College?
2. Would you favor merging all areas and communities west of the Los Angeles shoestring into a Junior College District?
3. Do you want a Junior College run by Los Angeles City?
4. Would you rather have an independent Junior College outside the Los Angeles city system?



When Allies took over town of Calais-sur-Mer, France, people were pathetically glad to see them. Here, mayor of town greets first American soldier there with characteristic kiss, telling him, "France thanks you, my son!"

Board when so many other needs are demanding attention. This seems to be a matter for discussion and mutual understanding rather than for research."

After its reading, Willett asked what method the people should pursue, and Kathleen Mumma, Inglewood high school district trustee, asked for time for Inglewood's answer until present unification discussion is completed next week.

Chairman Willett mentioned that most junior colleges grow out of established high schools and are grafted on to the high school.

J. Hampton Watts of Hermosa Beach schools said that Hermosa Beach is vitally interested in the junior college, and that students there would avail themselves of the opportunity to go to Junior college. He said Alondra park seemed to be the logical location.

Asked by Secretary Harry B. Lewis, representing Torrance Chamber of Commerce and also Manhattan Beach, by request, if Lanham act funds are available for a Junior college, Dr. Evans replied "No, not for that. They are reserved for emergency nurseries, elementary schools and the like."

Lamb Says "Yes"
Lewis at this point read a letter from John F. Lamb of Federal Works Agency, stating that when the district is formed, the project can be discussed with regard to federal assistance.

The letter follows:
"With reference to your letter dated June 20, 1944, requesting preliminary application forms for assistance in financing Junior College facilities, we can supply such forms only to applicants qualified to sponsor the project.

"At the present the Los Angeles School District is the duly constituted body responsible for public education in the Torrance area, and this authority must be respected by the Federal Works Agency until such time as another district is legally established.

"When your new district is formed we shall be pleased to discuss with you any school financing problems in which we can be of assistance."

Lewis remarked that he had been assured by the office of Representative King that up to 75 percent of the cost can be secured by federal aid if the war need and permanence of the people involved can be established.

W. H. Jeppesen of the El Segundo Board of Education, said that El Segundo is vitally interested in the whole project and wants junior college facilities—particularly one of the district's own.

Watt said that his district would go for a bond issue to get one of its own, independent of Los Angeles.

Dr. Evans pointed out that it would take three years to even finance the start of one independent of Los Angeles, with the 20 cent junior college tax limit.

Mayor Tolson renewed his plea. First of all, he said, the need is here; next, the question of support comes up, and he said the district can support it; third, the question of location. He again urged getting out of Los Angeles if the problem would be best served.

The question of the unavailability of Alondra park was brought up again by Dr. Evans, and he said that "once a park, always a park" has been the policy—enforced by park interests—for years.

Judge Frank Carrell of Gardena disputed this, declaring that it is possible to get the park for the college purpose. He said he had done some checking into the matter and found it is possible. He expressed favor for the whole Junior college idea, independent of Los Angeles, and said that the Los Angeles strip east of Gardena had held up the progress of the community for years.

Mayor Tolson remarked that he was chairman of the Alondra Park Taxpayers Association, which brought about the lifting of the bonds on the area surrounding the park, and declared that the people would get more benefit from a school there than from a park.

Formation of the Redondo Beach, El Segundo, Inglewood junior college district loomed as one of the best possibilities of the movement, with Torrance having the choice of attending there or a trade school in the harbor area which Los Angeles continued to promise.

Principal Harold Perry of Torrance High school said that the Torrance students would have the choice of two schools then and could go to either. He seemed satisfied that Los Angeles would start its much promised institution in this area. He also suggested that Redondo Beach come in with Los Angeles and Torrance on the affair.

After much discussion about the various problems of withdrawal, establishment of independent schools, and a statement by Chairman Willett that it is apparent that Los Angeles has the best plan, it was decided to conduct a survey of districts involved, and report back later.

Harbor Chamber Group Meeting To be Tonight

Harbor District Chambers of Commerce will meet Thursday (tonight) for a dinner meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 315 Esplanade, Redondo Beach. Perry Crandall of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation will talk on "Personality in Business." W. Vaughan Scott, president of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce, will open the program, with a response by George Larson of the West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

BUY WAR BONDS & STAMPS

William E. Fox Promoted In U. S. Marine Corps

Marine Private First Class William E. Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Fox of 1424 Hickory ave., recently was promoted to his present rank from private at the Marine Corps base, Camp Pendleton, Ocean-side, Calif.

He is undergoing combat training with a field artillery unit. Private First Class Fox joined the Marines in February, 1943.

Fuller, Blue, Spalding, Bull Pen and Lindsay lakes are now in condition and good catches are being taken on bait.

Four-Foot Shoulders for 190th Street

Four-foot rock and oil shoulders will be installed on 190th st. in Torrance, according to Councilman J. E. Hitchcock. The City Council has allowed \$1750 for road materials for the shoulders.

Repair work also has been authorized for 171st st. between Prairie and Yukon sts., materials costing \$945; on Yukon, between 171st and Redondo Beach blvd., costing \$620, and on Arlington ave. between 182nd and 190th st., costing \$945.

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