

Sales Tax Protest Fades As Council Pledges City Manager

(Continued from Page 1-A)

are trying to cut down and get more income. We are trying to do both. I don't want to be a party to the operation of the city if we are still going into the hole."

Then President Parkin took the floor and challenged the need for friction between the city and the Chamber of Commerce.

"It has been pointed out here," Parkin said, "that friction has existed between the City of Torrance and the Chamber of Commerce in the past."

"There is no excuse for it. We have a job to do and we can do it together. There is no reason why something someone did years ago should cause friction to exist now between the City and the Chamber of Commerce."

"The Chamber is fighting to bring people, industry, homes to Torrance. Why should we fight about it? Why carry on an old grudge?"

"We need a meeting of minds, a joining of ways. If we continue to fight, where will it end?"

"It is time the hatchet is thrown out the window and the City and Chamber get together."

"The welfare of the City of Torrance depends upon this. We want to see a balanced government and lots of business."

"We feel that Torrance has enough money to carry on and balance the budget with a City Manager in charge. It is incumbent upon the members of the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council to win over the minority causing the friction and go ahead as of now. There is no excuse to do anything else."

Parkin's statement brought a round of applause from the assembled business men and women.

Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald, took the floor to point out that the Chamber of Commerce had a sizeable part in American-Standard corporation's coming to Torrance, and that this improvement alone will add considerably to the assessed valuation of the city.

Bruce Brown, of Cotton and Brown, city auditors, was asked for his reaction to the Torrance financial muddle.

He said that Torrance cannot operate on the \$100 tax minimum fixed by law if the people want the same services as in the past. He declared that if you lay off help, cut down, Torrance will lose its standard of service.

Sam Levy pointed out that Torrance is spending annually \$200,000 more than El Segundo. He said that Redondo Beach gets by on \$418,000 with 7,000 more population than Torrance. What could Redondo Beach do with a \$28,000,000 assessed valuation, such as Torrance has he asked.

Brown replied that Redondo Beach has other sources of revenue to make up the difference between tax income and budget needs. He said that they have a gross sales tax, amusement tax and parking meters.

Jackson pointed out that the fire protection of Torrance now is not adequate. He said that the police protection is not adequate to take care of the growth of the city.

Jackson was then asked for his opinion on the City Manager proposal of the chamber.

The councilman said that he looks on the business of the

City of Torrance the same as the "business with which he has grown up. "If I started a factory to fabricate steel, I certainly would have a general manager," he declared. "You can't take care of a \$500,000 a year business and not have a man on the job to say 'yes' or 'no.' That is your City manager."

Parkin asked Jackson if he would recommend to the Council immediate action on the proposal of amending the Charter to provide for a City Manager.

"I'd rather not answer that at the present time," Jackson replied.

In the discussion of the merits of parking meters and sales tax, the meeting opened with President Parkin introducing two of three members of the City Council's finance committee, Mayor Sherfy and Councilman Jackson.

Sherfy explained to the Chamber of Commerce members that all departments have been very cooperative in attempting to cut down expenses to the point where the city can avoid future deficits. "There are a lot of problems, however, connected with financing of the City of Torrance," Sherfy said. He declared that the departments were trying to get down 15 per cent, which would reduce the estimated expenses for this year about \$51,000.

However, the mayor declared that the sales tax ordinance means a successful financial year for Torrance.

"If we do not have the revenue from this sales tax ordinance, I do not know what we will do at the end of the year," Sherfy stated. "The City Council would appreciate consideration of the whole picture before you men act."

"The deficiency was caused by the blanket salary increase last spring and to the increased cost in materials, and we doubt frankly if the sales tax will be sufficient to balance the budget. Five months of the year already have gone by and it still is not balanced. As a business man, let me tell you that the sales tax is necessary."

Sam Levy challenged the mayor's statement of necessity to balance the budget this year by declaring that the City of Torrance has been running in the red for 20 years to the extent of 40 to 80 thousand dollars a year.

"Why is it necessary this year, with or without the sales tax, to pay that \$80,000 back?" he asked.

"Why don't you do like the government does, pay it back at \$10,000 a year?" (The City of Torrance owes the Water department \$72,000 in borrowed funds).

Sherfy replied that there is too much of a gap between the income and budget requirements to permit that to be carried on.

Levy pointed out that the assessed valuation of the entire business district had been raised from 20 per cent to 40 per cent this year, with all buildings reassessed on the value of earthquake improvements, stating that this alone is paying off to the city financial deficit.

Sherfy declared that \$522,000 is a lot of money to be raised for a city.

Parkin asked the mayor if consideration had been given to the Chamber of Commerce proposal to set up a City Manager

N. R. CRAWFORD IS PRESIDENT OF DOW CANADIAN, LTD.

N. R. Crawford, formerly plant manager of the Dow Chemical Co. Styrene division in Torrance, now is president of the Dow Canadian, Ltd., it is reported by Leland A. Doan, manager Los Angeles office of Great Western Division, The Dow Chemical Company.

Crawford is well known in Torrance, as a result of his connections with the local Dow plant.

form of government, and Sherfy replied that he thought that the suggestion would provide the only sound, sensible and practical way to operate the City of Torrance.

Albert Isen inquired as to why a suggestion made by Levy months ago that a committee of business men sit down with the Council and go down, the line on the budget, offering advice and suggestions, had been ignored.

Sherfy said that the suggestion probably had been made while he was away and he was unaware of Levy's proposition.

Isen said that the government is interested in city government and in city finances and wants harmony between the city and the Chamber. He appealed for consideration of Levy's plan to go over the whole structure, get the facts, point out the possibilities of economy.

"Do you want such a movement?" Isen asked. "I'm agreed to a committee for accord and harmony, but there are too many problems, too complex problems," Sherfy replied. "You elected us to do this job for you and we want to fulfill the obligation."

Councilman Jackson took the floor and said that experienced men have been on the problem. "It's a little late now," he declared. "We cannot go into January with this problem unsettled."

Sherfy declared that no interest was shown when the finance meetings of the Council were held, and was told that the Council chambers were packed, with persons lining the walls.

Isen insisted that if the suggestion of Levy was carried out, the committee could take the brunt of any blame for consequences of the shoulders of the council.

taxes, Bernard Lee, who has stores both in Torrance and Redondo Beach, said that the sales tax does not hurt business but that parking meters do. He supported the sales tax proposals of the city for that reason.

Jackson said in replying to Lee's question as to whether or not the sales tax would balance the budget said that it would come close to it, but probably would be about \$16,000 to \$20,000 off, after the water department is paid off.

Suggestions were made that the sales tax could go into a fund to pay off the water department, but Brown pointed out that there is no such a thing as a deficit fund, but that the City could set up a sales tax fund to pay back the loan.

After President Parkin had placed the question before the body, he asked for a motion as to the Chamber's attitude on the sales tax and the proposed referendum.

Director Charles Gotts moved that the chamber go on record as supporting the members of the Council in the sales tax for one year, and Paul Diamond seconded the motion. "If we're going to back the Council, let's back them," Diamond declared.

After the motion had been subjected to several unsuccessful amendments, the question was requested, and it lost by a 4 to 3 ratio.

Then Isen's motion that the Chamber appoint a committee to attempt to arrive at some agreement with the City Council within 24 hours and calling start referendum proceeding was offered, amendments suggested and carried.

Sam Levy pointed out that the sales tax might be found unconstitutional for sixth class cities, and thus could be stopped by injunction rather than referendum.

Red Tape In Acquiring Airports Hit

Torrance apparently is not the only city bound by government "red tape" and other details trying to acquire an airport.

An article in a national aviation magazine reads as follows:

"Communities seeking to obtain from the government badly needed surplus airport facilities have been so plagued with red tape they are getting ready to stage an organized revolt."

Sparked by some of the larger airport commissions, a movement is under way to seek new legislation as soon as Congress convenes in January, which would by-pass the clumsy and slow moving War Assets Administration and permit sale of airport properties direct by the War Department. Efforts also will be made to simplify the handling of surplus airport equipment, much of which now sits idle because months are required to go through the government red tape procedures in obtaining it.

Torrance is, in the process of obtaining the army developed Lomita flight strip as a municipal airport, the process having been under way for almost a year.

William H. Dodge, publisher of the Sacramento Union, has announced the appointment of J. L. "Roy" Rosenberg as editor-in-chief to succeed Charles J. Lilley, who died Nov. 18. Rosenberg was executive editor; he formerly was editor of the Inglewood News.

Rosenberg is well known in Torrance, having been at one time city editor of the Torrance Herald. He was a candidate for Republican nomination for Congress at the June primaries, being defeated by incumbent Rep. Cecil King.

ROY ROSENBERG EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF CAPITAL DAILY

"Public Notices"

CERTIFICATE OF BUSINESS (Fictitious Firm Name)
THE UNDERSIGNED do hereby certify that they are conducting a garage and machine shop business at 2130-2132 street, City of Lomita, County of Los Angeles, State of California, under the fictitious firm name of C. & G. Grinding Co., and that said firm is composed of the following persons, whose names and addresses are as follows, to wit:
James T. Courtney, 2130-2132 street, Lomita, California.
George R. Gould, 24223 Neece ave., Welteria, California.
Oliver Lee Courtney 24223 Neece ave., Welteria, California.
WITNESS our hands this 18 day of November, 1946.
GEORGE R. GOULD
JAMES T. COURTNEY
OLIVER LEE COURTNEY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss
ON THIS 18th day of November A.D. 1946 before me OTTO B. WILLETT a Notary Public in and for said County and State, residing therein duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared James T. Courtney, George R. Gould and Oliver Lee Courtney whose names are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year in this certificate first above written.

OTTO B. WILLETT (SEAL) Notary Public in and for said County and State. My commission expires January 16, 1950.

Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 12.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To All Consumers of Water in the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 (Walteria). The Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, (Walteria), will not be responsible for any transactions prior to November 1, 1946.

TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT No. 1 (Walteria)
J. Hugh Sherfy, Jr., Mayor, City of Torrance, California, Nov. 14, 21, 28.

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