

# MR. TIDWELL REPLIES:

(A Letter)

Retail Clerk's International Association  
Local Union No. 905  
414 West Seventh Street San Pedro, Calif.  
October 24, 1947

Mr. Ed. Brown, Co-Owner

Torrance Herald  
1336 El Prado  
Torrance, California

Dear Mr. Brown:

On the front page of your newspaper, under date line of Thursday, October 23, 1947, in an editorial entitled, "ITS 'YES' OR 'NO' NOW", you, in a very scurrilous statement slandered, libeled and attacked my character as a representative of 1100 Retail Clerks employed in retail stores in the harbor district. I request that you publish this letter on the front page of your newspaper, or else I must assume that free press, which is the heritage of America under our Bill of Rights, no longer exists in the City of Torrance.

You accuse me of engaging in broken promises, intrigue, and bad faith. You indicate that I, personally, have conspired with a "small group of selfish, short-sighted San Pedro merchants who have hoped for years to put the major chain stores out of business." "They sign," you say, "any contract for wages Tidwell offers. It makes little difference to them," you say, "as most of them do not pay it anyway. . . they run their businesses with their wives, sons, brothers, cousins, and other kin. It's a beautiful game. They give Tidwell what he wants. . . no trouble. . . and put their competition out of business at the same time."

You further state that the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce is willing to release me, personally, from any obligation; to insist that its members continue to pay whatever wage scale that might be negotiated with the chain stores that are now closed in the City of Torrance.

May I call your attention to the following facts:  
In the first place, every contract that is negotiated by this Union is at the request of all of the retail clerks employed in the retail stores in the harbor district; that every wage scale that is requested and every wage scale that is accepted is done so by the employees in the retail stores who employ them; that I personally, have no Union, run no Union, and dictate to no Union in the Harbor District.

There are approximately 1100 retail salespeople employed in the retail stores in the harbor district who are not, as you say, "wives, sons, brothers, cousins, and other kin of the employers." Of this group approximately 500 are employed in what are termed Textile Stores that are more or less competitive with the chain stores which are closed.

For instance, in the McCown Drug Store in Torrance, fifteen people are employed. I assure you that they are not relatives of Mr. McCown. In McCorkell's Department Store, eleven are employed. In the Dunlop Department Store six are employed. In the O. K. Drug Store in San Pedro, seven are employed. In Gilbert's 5 & 10c Store in Wilmington, six are employed. In Coopers Department Store five are employed. In Holmans in San Pedro, seven are employed. None of these people are relatives as you mentioned.

The wage scale under which they are now working was arrived at by their request, through honest, collective bargaining with their employers. They are now drawing these wages. Certainly the membership of this Union has a moral obligation to say to these employers, that if their competition such as J. C. Penney Company and the chain drug stores are given a lower wage scale by the Union than they are paying, then they should be entitled to pay this lower wage scale. This would mean a cut in wages for these clerks when the cost of living is rising.

You published a Communication from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to the effect that its members are willing for us to negotiate a lower wage scale with the chain stores.

I have talked to employers in Torrance who state that this is not true. That it would be unfair for their competing employers to pay less than they are paying and that they will not stand for it.

The membership of this Union is willing to arbitrate the dispute with the chain stores, realizing that should the arbiter rule that the chain stores are entitled to pay less money than they are receiving, that it would mean a wage cut for them. However, they are willing to take their chances before an arbiter. The chain stores are not.

We are convinced that the people of Torrance do not think that our wage scale is too high, that they think that our effort to arbitrate is fair.

Instead of making a libellous attack upon me personally, why don't you ask the chain stores to arbitrate our dispute in a fair, American way? You would be doing the City of Torrance a tremendous service by so doing. You would be helping hundreds of chain store employees to obtain a decent living.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) Haskell Tidwell

HT/eca

Editor's Note: The above communication from Mr. Tidwell is published verbatim, and WITHOUT EDITING, on the part of The Herald, in order that Mr. Tidwell have no possible reason for doubting the existence of a Free Press in Torrance. While The Herald disagrees with many of Mr. Tidwell's statements, it is reserving comment. The Herald believes its readers and particularly the clerks in the stores are familiar enough with the FACTS to properly evaluate the truth or untruth of Mr. Tidwell's claims.

## HARBOR GROUP DEMANDS KIMBELL RESIGNATION

It was predicted, from a reliable source yesterday afternoon, that a group of San Pedro merchants in the San Pedro Business Men, Associated, would demand resignation of the association's secretary-manager, R. E. Kimbell, at a caucus held last night.

This action, it was said, came as a result of the group's dissatisfaction with Kimbell's labor relations policies. Six major San Pedro stores, which contributed to a large share of the retail trade of that community, are closed in a dispute with Haskell Tidwell, head of the Retail Clerks' Union. Four Torrance stores are closed in the same dispute with Tidwell.

This development on the part of San Pedro merchants, followed within two weeks of the withdrawal of all of the Torrance retail stores from the San Pedro association because of a similar feeling in this city.

It was an expressed hope in San Pedro that this action would save the Cunningham's Men's Store in that city, who announced yesterday in a two-page advertisement in the San Pedro News-Pilot that "circumstances beyond our control have forced our closing." Cunningham said: "We are closing out because the larger department stores have closed their doors, channelling

the business to other districts. Not knowing when conditions will become adjusted we have no alternative!"

## MRS. ISAACS, T.H.S TEACHER, INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Mrs. Marion Isaacs, 2104 Cabrillo ave., foreign language instructor at Torrance High school, suffered a broken collar-bone in an automobile accident in El Monte Saturday.

Mrs. Isaacs was enroute with her husband, Robert R. Isaacs, to a teachers' institute in El Monte when their car was side-swiped by a truck.

She will be out of school for an additional week or 10 days recovering from her injuries. Her husband, who was driving the car, suffered only minor bruises and cuts.

# TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . THREE SECTIONS — 24 PAGES  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1947

33rd YEAR—No. 44

PER COPY 10c

## CITY MANAGER AMENDMENT TO CHARTER IS OFFERED BY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

The final draft of the proposed amendment to the City Charter of the City of Torrance, calling for establishment of the City Manager form of government, will be presented to the Citizens Committee at a meeting Tuesday night in the Chamber offices, according to Charles T. Rippy, chairman.

## David Sowle Is Commissioner For Boy Scouts

E. A. Greene, Harbor district executive for the Boy Scouts of America, this week announced



DAVID SOWLE  
New District Scout Commissioner

that David Sowle, personnel manager, the National Supply Company, has been named as district Boy Scouts commissioner for the Harbor District, Los Angeles Area Council, for the year 1948.

"The Harbor District nominating committee feels that the Boy Scouts in this area will benefit greatly under your guidance and leadership," Greene told Sowle in notifying him of his appointment.

He will be one of the guests of honor at the annual dinner to be held in Boy Scout hall at 24822 Narbonne ave. on Nov. 10, Greene said.

Sowle has been active in work of the Boy Scouts of America for many years, having served on advisory boards in the east before coming to California.

## BUXTON, TOLSON ARE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEES

Councilman B. C. Buxton was appointed by the City Council Tuesday night to the finance, inspection, auditorium, transportation and public library committees, to replace G. V. Powell who has resigned.

Councilman W. H. Tolson was appointed to the police and fire committee.

The draft was prepared by a sub-committee including Rippy and three other attorneys, City Attorney Otto B. Willett, Albert Isen and James Hall, as well as N. H. Cucci, former councilman representing the C.I.O., Councilman A. L. Jackson, Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald and George W. Downing, citizen who has had much to do with establishment of the city manager government in Toledo, Ohio.

The sub-committee was named at the first meeting of the Citizens Committee which was formed from leaders of local organizations and groups to consider the needs for modernizing the government of the City of Torrance.

The proposed amendment will be discussed by the whole membership of the Citizens Committee Tuesday night. It is subject to approval by the people at an election which the City Council has agreed to call without necessity of circulating petitions, and it must be

ratified by the California Legislature. The complete draft follows: Amendment To Article VII Of The Charter Of The City Of Torrance

We, the people of the City of Torrance, State of California, do hereby ordain that Article VII of the Charter of said City of Torrance shall be amended by adding thereto a new section to be known as Section 5, Subsections (a) to (d) both inclusive, and that said Section 5 and said Subsections (a) to (d) both inclusive, of said Section 5 of Article VII of said Charter, as added hereby, shall be and are as follows:

Section 5. City Manager Form Of Government. That the City Manager form of Government be and the same is hereby established for the City of Torrance, a municipal corporation.

(a) Office of City Manager. That the office of City Manager in and for the City of Torrance is hereby established.

(b) Appointment, Removal and Salary of City Manager. That

(Continued on Page 5-B)

## COUNCIL ORDERS FOUR NEW BUSES NEEDED TO EXPAND LOCAL, INTERURBAN LINES

Responding to a city-wide appeal, the Torrance City Council Tuesday night purchased four new 34-passenger Reo buses, on a long-term lease-purchase plan, and agreed to institute service covering all outlying sections of Torrance; improved service between this city and Los Angeles, and a new line serving the

area from Long Beach to Hawthorne, through North Torrance.

Within a few minutes after City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, as purchasing agent, was authorized by unanimous vote of the members of the City Council present to sign the agreement providing for the four new buses, the order was on its way to New York City where officials of the Reo Motor Co. have agreed to have two buses here not later than Dec. 1, and two more not later than Jan. 1.

Two worn-out buses purchased in 1941 from Santa Monica Municipal bus lines will be scrapped, but the new buses will enable the Torrance lines to establish service as follows:

(1) Establish a new service from Long Beach to Inglewood, on an hourly basis, this line also serving North Torrance.

(2) Service to Seaside Ranchos and Hollywood Riviera.

(3) Three new schedules to Los Angeles.

(4) Extend local bus service already in operation in various sections of the city.

A slight increase in fares will be instituted in the near future, it was announced, amounting to about five cents per trip on Los

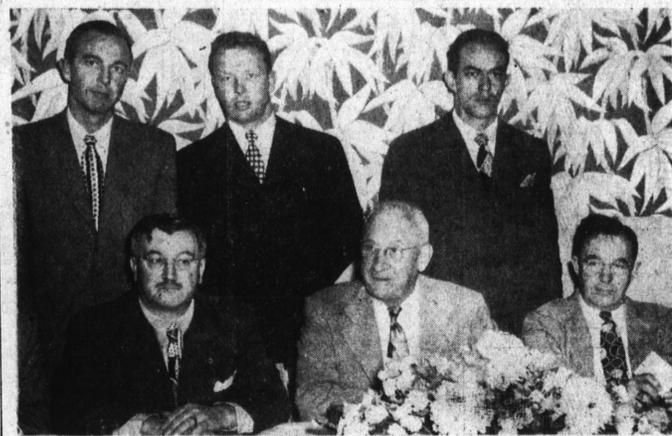
(Continued on Page 4-A)

## Rowdies Warned By Chief Stroh On Halloween Eve

With Halloween coming tomorrow, Torrance Chief of Police John H. Stroh has issued a warning to potential troublemakers that "property damage and violence will not be tolerated here."

All Torrance police officers will be on duty tomorrow night and instructed to enforce the 10 p.m. curfew, Chief Stroh said. "We are not trying to spoil anybody's fun," he said, but pointed out that the police have orders to pick up persons who are causing trouble and bring them to the station.

Malicious mischief-making will lead to prosecution, and the chief added that under the curfew law, parents are subject to fine for the actions of their children. "The burden of the children's conduct is placed squarely on the parent," said Stroh.



REALTORS HEAR PRIVATE HOUSING PLEA . . . Attending the meeting of Torrance-Lomita Realty Board to hear President Louis Gairaud, of the California Real Estate Association's plea for private housing to stop public housing were representatives of three Torrance tracts building 1319 homes this year. They are, standing, left to right, Ben Haggott, of Seaside Ranchos who is building 600 homes; G. B. Boltis, of California-Nevada Properties, Inc., who are building 519 homes, and C. R. White, of Torrance Manor Corp., building 200 homes. John Kettler, building another 200 homes, was unable to be present. Seated are President Gairaud, Councilman B. C. Buxton, president of the local Realty Board, and W. E. Bowen, secretary. (Torrance Herald photo).

## 'STOP PUBLIC HOUSING BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE,' WARNS REALTOR LEADER

Voicing a vigorous appeal to realtors to throw their weight and influence in opposition to further expansion of public housing, Louis Gairaud, president of the California Real Estate Association, addressed a meeting of Torrance-Lomita Realty Board on Friday at noon in Daniels cafe.

He declared that Washington bureaucrats are making a drive against all types of private business, and that the public housing program proposed for consideration in the next session of Congress is nothing short of "socialized housing."

"The whole drive behind the public housing program is a drive to stop private housing," said Gairaud.

"If private housing is let alone to pursue a normal course, it can solve the nation's housing program in two years."

With a warning note, Gairaud urged the slogan: "Own your own home today because tomorrow we don't want America to go down the road Britain is following today," he concluded.

He criticized the indictment of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, declaring that they have been accused of raising the cost of building because they have a uniform schedule of commissions. He said the uniform schedule is protection to the people.

Also speaking at the session was Eugene P. Conser, secretary of the California Real Estate Board, and Oscar Holmquist, vice president of the state board.

Councilman B. C. Buxton, president of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board, presided over the session and Bob Haggard was in charge of the dinner.

Ben Haggott, developer of Seaside Ranchos; G. B. Boltis, of California-Nevada Corp., developing some 519 homes in the Riviera section of Torrance and C. R. White, of Torrance Manor, were present and introduced.

Sponsored by the Torrance Lions Club in cooperation with the Torrance Fire Department, the Moose lodge and other organizations, the program will include a visit from Santa Claus singing of carols, movies, and distribution of bags of nuts, candy and fruit.

Contributions are being taken by Ridgeway or by W. B. Hickcox, secretary and treasurer of the committee, at the Torrance National Bank.

## Reception For Teachers Not 'Problem Meet'

Patrons of Torrance City School District will play hosts Thursday night to teachers and administrators of the district at a reception to be held next Thursday evening, Nov. 6, at 8 o'clock, in the auditorium of Torrance Elementary School.

Sponsored by the Torrance Educational Advisory Council, made up of representatives of some 25 organizations in Torrance, the affair will be open to the public as well as to members of all organizations in the Educational Council.

"This definitely is not a 'problem meeting,'" said Mrs. Grace W. Wright, moderator for the Educational Council. She stressed that the affair is one asked by people in the community to give them an opportunity to meet and talk with the teachers. "Johnnie's and Mary's problems will not be discussed," Mrs. Wright said, stressing that such topics are handled in the regular manner in every-day school activities.

Mrs. George A. Bradford is chairman of the committee in charge of the affair, and it was announced that a musical program is being arranged by Abe Milstein. She is being assisted by Mrs. D. A. Murby, Mrs. W. E. Bowen and L. Milton Isbell.

## Weather Report

Oct.	Maximum	Minimum
23	74	48
24	72	45
25	72	45
26	77	50
27	78	51
28	73	50

## BAY LEAGUE ACTS ON FOOTBALL ROWDYISM

A special Bay League meeting was held Tuesday afternoon to discuss the actions of spectators at football games, it has been disclosed.

The most recent incident was the burning of a large block "T" in the lawn at Torrance high school, believed to have been perpetrated by students of Inglewood high school.

## G. M. Jain May Quit Engineer Post In City

That City Engineer G. M. Jain may resign to take a better position in Redwood City, Calif., was revealed this week.

Jain has been offered the Redwood City position, one which pays more than the \$435 a month he receives from Torrance as Engineer, Public Works Director and Planning Commission secretary, and he told the Torrance Herald this week that the offer will be accepted this week if problems involving housing here and in Redwood City can be solved.

He said that the San Francisco peninsula city's position involves supervision over the Water Department, building of a new sewage disposal plant and other fields which offer greater experience than that afforded by the Torrance position.

Jain said that he had offered to stay with Torrance at a salary comparable with that offered in Redwood City, but that the Torrance City Council members had indicated they could not meet that figure, \$500 a month.

## Trillingham Talk Slated

Dr. C. C. Trillingham, county superintendent of schools, will deliver an address on the subject "Some Challenges to Modern Education" at the Woman's Club Monday, Nov. 3. The address is being sponsored by Torrance Kiwanis Club as a joint club affair and starts with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

President Ed Brown of the Kiwanis club will preside. It will be an informal ladies' night and reservations have been made for the event by Rotarians, Lions, 20-30 Club members and members of the various educational groups, including the Torrance Educational Advisory committee, faculty members and principals.



TORRANCE LEADERS MEET . . . Local business men plan their share in the Red Feather appeal which supports 159 hospitals, clinics, children's homes, veterans centers and youth character building agencies which work for thousands of men, women and children throughout the year. Shown are (seated left to right) Charles Jones, Sam Levy, campaign chairman; Wm. A. Zoeller, Paul Diamond, (standing left to right) George Johnson, Jack Dabs, Robert Deininger, Riley McIntire, Albert F. R. Ewalt, Henry Berkowitz and B. T. Whitney.

## Yuletide Party Set For Dec. 22

Use of the civic auditorium on Dec. 22 for the Torrance Children's Christmas Party was authorized Tuesday night by the City Council at the request of Linsay D. Ridgeway, chairman of the committee in charge.

Sponsored by the Torrance Lions Club in cooperation with the Torrance Fire Department, the Moose lodge and other organizations, the program will include a visit from Santa Claus singing of carols, movies, and distribution of bags of nuts, candy and fruit.

Contributions are being taken by Ridgeway or by W. B. Hickcox, secretary and treasurer of the committee, at the Torrance National Bank.