

EDITORIALS

No Freeways in Sight

Torrance and other communities in the Southwest Bay areas of Los Angeles county must face up to the reality that the benefits of the freeway system are a long way off unless there is vigorous, concerted effort.

The Inter-City Highway Committee, composed of civic leaders who meet monthly to study the highway needs of this area, have discovered that there is absolutely no possibility of the extension of the San Diego and Harbor freeways to this area in the immediate future.

This comes as a shock to the thinking portion of the approximately 500,000 residents who are going to find themselves living beyond the barricades marking the dead end streets.

Talk to the average individual hereabouts and he will tell you blissfully that very soon downtown Los Angeles will be only a few minutes away because of the completion of the Harbor freeway and we will soon be able to travel northwest or southeast, on the broad new San Diego project.

Both freeways are years and years away unless something happens soon to change the thinking and planning of the engineers and officials charged with developing the freeway system.

Defense needs not to the contrary, Torrance and its neighbors will continue to occupy an island of isolation that will have us sitting ducks in the event of armed attack or suffering the blight of a forgotten area.

The situation is serious, about as serious as it could be. We are not going to have the safety and the benefits of the Harbor and San Diego freeways unless the citizens of the area band together militantly to insist on their natural rights.

Here is a program for every civic organization in the territory south and west to the sea from Inglewood. Here is one crisis that calls for unified action. The alternative is the kind of stagnation that occurs when a village is bypassed by a major highway.

We Must Live Up To It

This is a time for rejoicing in Torrance on the occasion of the city's receiving the coveted All-America City award. Every resident of the community may take pardonable pride in the efforts of fellow citizens—past and present—who played their roles well in helping to make the record of municipal achievement that has brought this signal recognition to Torrance.

This has been a long-range accomplishment dating from the very inception of the community. Always there have been individuals on hand to lend their special capacities and foresight toward the development of a city that only now is flowering into maturity. While the combination of climate, geography and blue chip industry created a prosperity for the municipal government, it is to the credit of the city's management as a whole that corruption and chaos did not triumph over civic virtue and efficiency.

Certainly, in all the excitement and rejoicing of this great occasion, many deserving credits will be overlooked. Some who played a vital role in building this community have passed on to their own reward; others, still playing their parts quietly and sincerely, will have the satisfaction that only comes with the inward knowledge of a job well done.

Now it is up to Torrance to maintain the qualification that earned the award and to expand its achievements to make a completely well rounded city. The spiritual and material advantages of life in this community must be so improved that no single family will ever want to live elsewhere.

The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Who's more important — Elvis Presley or James Mitchell, Rock Hudson or Sinclair Weeks, or Tab Hunter and Fred Seaton?

Chances are that the average person will be well-acquainted with Presley, Hudson, and Hunter, all movie stars. The chances are equally good that he has never heard of Mitchell, Weeks, and Seaton, who probably have much more influence on our daily lives than any movie star. They aren't well-known, despite the fact that their names are probably in the paper almost as much as the movie stars.

All three are members of the President's cabinet. As secretary of labor, Mitchell's department has a very direct influence on the activities of Torrance citizens, most of whom are working people. As secretary of commerce Weeks is equally important in determining the business policies which Torrance employers will follow. As secretary of interior, Seaton has much to say about the resources of America.

Nevertheless, we don't know them. Maybe we should.

A lady called the paper the other day, wanting to find out who the cabinet members were for a friend of hers who is taking his citizenship examination. She was desperate, she said, because she had called a number of city and federal offices and schools, and she couldn't find anybody who knew.

Since knowing who's who is part of the newspaper business, we told her. "You know," she said, "I thought I was awfully dumb

until I found out that some of those government employees didn't even know who the big boss was."

Every public opinion poll shows that some of the American people aren't even aware who is President of the United States. Only a minority could name even half of the members of his cabinet. This happens not because there is no information about these men, but because the public doesn't bother to read it.

We lap up the details of Ingrid Bergman's stay in New York, of what dress Marilyn Monroe is wearing, or of Humphrey Bogart's funeral procession. However, we know almost nothing of the men whose decisions can shape our lives and whose mistakes could cost us plenty of tax dollars.

The lives of most of these men would probably make pretty dull copy for Confidential Magazine, but they're probably more important than most of the people whose lives do get spreads in Confidential.

There seems to be no wide-spread concern over what goes on in government — good, bad, or indifferent. Politicians are well aware that a properly-kept appearance is more important than a sound speech—a poor commentary on the public's intelligence.

History teachers nowadays do have one advantage in trying to teach their charges the names of illustrious American political figures. The right answer might win them \$64,000 on a quiz program.

Any Activity In The Pipelines?



Legislators Put Affairs in Order, Study Year's Budget

(Special to the HERALD) Legislators have buckled diligently down to work here under the towering Capitol dome. They have plunged into study of California's record-smashing, almost 2 billion dollar budget, snowed bills into the law-making hoppers, and sorted themselves into committees for business.

In the Senate, split evenly 20-20 on political lines, Democrats were assigned several top posts, including the committee chairmanships of finance and governmental efficiency which were held formerly by Republicans. But the GOP still heads 13 of the 21 committees.

The Assembly, Republican controlled by a slim 42-38 majority, saw a reshuffling of key posts which appeared to reflect the pre-session speakership contest between rival Republican candidates as well as the increased Democratic strength. The Democrats emerged with 10 of the 25 chairmanships, a gain of four from last session, and 13 vice-chairmanships.

Following are the twelve Assembly standing committees which have changed chairmanships:

Agriculture, William W. Hansen (R. Fresno); Constitutional Amendments, Eugene G. Nisbet (D. Upland); Elections and Reapportionment, William S. Grant (R. Long Beach); Finance and Insurance, Jesse M. Unruh (D. Los Angeles); Industrial Relations, Lester A. McMillan (D. Los Angeles); Judiciary, Bruce F. Allen (R. Los Gatos).

Livestock and Dairies, Thomas M. Erwin (R. Puenente); Municipal and County Government, Clark L. Bradley (R. San Jose); Public Utilities and Corporations, Rex M. Cunningham (D. Ventura); Rules, Allen Miller (D. San Fernando); Social Welfare, Carlos Bee (D. Hayward); Transportation and Commerce, Frank Luckel (R. San Diego).

Thomas W. Caldecott (R. Berkeley) retained his chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee. Donald D. Doyle (R. Lafayette) survived as head of the Education Committee, despite his involvement in the current text-book controversy.

Commenting on the appointments by Republican Speaker Luther H. Lincoln of Oakland, Democratic Assembly Leader William A. Munnell of Montebello said he considers the Democrats will have "excellent representation" through their posts on the important Rules and other major committees. The Senate committee appointments were made by the Rules Committee, which is headed by a Democrat, President

Pro Tem Hugh Burns of Fresno. He said seniority accounted for the edge the Republicans have there in chairmanships.

The Democrat chosen to head the Finance Committee, Senator James J. McBride of Ventura, is dean of the Senate, where he has served since 1937. Senator Earl D. Desmond (D. Carmichael), chairman of the Government Efficiency Committee has served since 1945.

Governor Knight's budget message Monday Jan. 4 was pitched to a theme of prosperity and progress in an expanding economy. The \$7.58 spending program actually totals \$1,947,064,993. But some observers expect it to be pushed over the 2 billion mark before June.

Capitol newsmen commented that perhaps the most remarkable thing about the massive budget, which weighs about 7 1/2 pounds and fills 1662 printed pages, is the small stir it created.

"Everybody just seems to take it in stride that California is now a 2 billion dollar state," said one.

The Governor said all this money can be spent without levying any new taxes. True, the blueprint calls for spending more than estimated revenues, even from the enormous yield of booming, expanding business. A carry-over general fund surplus of \$110,300,000 will keep the books in the black, he added.

Knight told a news conference he would oppose any tax reductions now. Senator Robert I. McCarthy (D. San Francisco) already has introduced bills proposing state income tax reductions for small income families. Its easing provisions would permit deduction of federal income taxes paid, and allow a \$600 (instead of \$400) deduction for dependents.

Experts who prepared the budget and studies based upon it pointed out that nearly half the money—49.5 percent—flows out to local government units in subventions. Of every dollar to be spent, 40 cents will go to education, 23 cents to highways and vehicle regulation, and 10 cents to social welfare and health.

State aid to public schools is down for a whopping \$498,630,621, an increase of 37 million over 1955. State Colleges, bursting at the seams with eager learners, have been allotted more than 40 million.

The Governor is asking \$439,821,000 for the building program to improve and enlarge the state's physical plant—a new public works spending record.

Other budget items include 63 million dollars for "initial phases" of the Feather River Water Project; 106 million for old age pensions, 3 million for polio vaccinations for persons under 40, about 4 1/2 million for child care centers and 2 1/2 million more to host the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley.

Legislation to carry out some of the budget recommendations already is under way, with some bills slated for smooth passage and others heading for controversial rocks.

Conflicting interests of north and south over water development already have dampened hopes of easy harmony. A Southern California group seeks legislation providing for firm commitments for surplus water to the South before it contributes money to begin the big Feather River Project.

Northern California counties say they are willing to have their surplus water channeled to the dry Southland, but don't want to sign away so much of it they will one day be short themselves, with resulting stunted population.

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It was a fine affair in the employees' lounge at the city hall, and about 90 persons gathered to salute "Steve" and have lunch with her. The ladies from the various offices prepared the luncheon, consisting of all kinds of very tasty dishes ranging from pizza and baked beans to Danish pastries.

It proved one thing: In addition to being outstanding city employees and office workers, those ladies can cook! Nearly everyone there went back for more.

A harbor newsman we know was little disturbed to find out he was in the doghouse the other evening when he got home from an afternoon affair in a condition which wife characterized as "half stiff." He was sure she would be pleased that he had arrived home half sober, he was moaning to cronies later.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

American foreign policy is actually the brain child of the President of the United States, in consultation with the secretary of state. This is the basic core of our international decisions. War or peace for the United States rests upon the final decision of these two men, influenced in degree by not more than a dozen other U. S. officials in the Congress, the cabinet, the Pentagon and several presidential advisors.

This is true whether the President is a Republican or a Democrat. Therefore, U. S. foreign policy depends to a large extent upon the personality, temperament, experience, political sensitivity, personal ideas and preferences of the President and the secretary of state.

The President always selects a secretary of state who sees "eye to eye" with him on fundamentals. This is a fact of life throughout American presidential history. This means that President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles agree wholeheartedly on certain basic fundamentals of U. S. policy in dealing with foreign nations.

In every contact with foreign officials Secretary Dulles, the entire staff of the state department, our UN representatives, all express the fixed ideas and decisions of the President. Any important deviation means resignation or dismissal.

Every day, 365 days of the year, there come to the desk of the President the confidential reports of some 88 embassies and consulates throughout the world on the prevailing facts inside the nations represented. This includes Moscow, Berlin, Cairo, Tokyo or Timbuktoo. These facts are gathered constantly around the clock by trained experts on the spot. We must assume that these diplomatic representatives are loyal Americans and they report the facts to our government.

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consults the experts on his personal staff for an evaluation of all this confidential data. It is assumed that a President, in moments of critical international tensions, consults with other experienced Americans, not necessarily on the payroll of the government, and not necessarily members of his own party.

It is then reasonable to conclude that the President of the United States has in his possession facts not known or available to even the most informed observers and that includes current affairs columnists and radio news commentators. This being the case, one can see the difficulty we all have in trying to understand the basis of U. S. foreign policy and all the conditions and reasons why it moves in this or that direction with the shifting winds of a thousand "storms" from Moscow to Peiping, from London to Delhi.

The President of the United States is a fallible human being, just like you and me. He is influenced by personal beliefs and principles. Sometimes he is torn between these principles and the dictates of his party responsibilities. He learns things in the presidency about national and international affairs which he was not aware of and to which he was uncommitted when he took office. This is the reason why a President does not always conform to party platforms and political pronouncements.

There are times when the good of the nation is more important than the good of the party. Some Presidents emphasize this attitude much more than others. In the case of foreign policy the President is constantly faced with a changing world. Our former friends become rivals, like Egypt... and our former enemies, like Germany and Japan, become friends.

So in his determination of foreign policy the President must shift the position of the United States as the shifts take place among the nations of the world. He is actually the quarterback of the football team observing the positions of the opposition. But above and beyond the actual ability of this "quarterback" is his personality... daring, conservative, skillful, unpredictable or consistently sound. So beyond the requirements of the President's constitutional responsibilities and authority is the human element, which in the final analysis determines the course of foreign policy, as well as the course of the nation.

Our two-party system of constructive opposition has stood the test of time. The checks and balances and debate the nation in times of national and international stress. It is possible, even with limited facts at their disposal, for the opposition to present certain constructive ideas in regard to foreign policy.

But those ideas and suggestions, as sincere and honest as they may be, simply cannot match the authority of ideas presented by those who have all the current facts at their fingertips and which they cannot reveal for reasons of security.

It appears to us, who are at least a little closer to U. S. foreign policy and the President than the average citizen, that a lot of criticism directed at the White House or the secretary of state on foreign policy stems more from emotions, political preferences, prejudice, bias than from a knowledge of the facts. This applies to Republicans, Democrats, Independents alike. It always will be so. But to understand this public frailty is to diminish some of the frustration and confusion apparent in any discussion of foreign policy, whether it's from the platform, around the living room, or on radio and TV.

GLAZED BITS

By BARNEY GLAZER

Los Angeles can be complimented for its low contribution to our national crime wave. Otherwise we might have been famous as a "sunny spot for shady people"...

Don't know if you like Judy Holiday as well as I do but I find her as welcome as a pair of fur-lined mittens on a cold January morning.

Whenever a boisterous and argumentative person tries to draw you into a public discussion or wrangle, just remember this bit of advice: "Don't wrestle with a pig. You'll get dirty which is exactly what the pig likes."

After suffering through the sieges and stages of a cold, I've come to the conclusion that God gave us common people the common cold just to keep us well reminded how blessed our good health can be.

Bob Vincent tells the story about the two lads standing on the sidewalk in a heavily-trafficked part of town while they made fruitless attempts to cross the road. Said one lad finally: "What do you want to be—IF you grow up?"

Al Harrison comments: "You can't take it with you which is probably the reason why so many people haven't gone yet!... Ain't it the truth department. Small boy: 'Heck, my father is always busy. Only time I see him is when I do something wrong.' If you've seen some frightening plays on TV, here's one that almost scared the pants of your easily excited gallery conductor. I saw a gasser on TV but I wasn't REALLY scared until I noted that the set wasn't plugged into the outlet! Mama!

The price of living in the United States isn't too high when you consider the value received. When asked how it feels to be famous, Liberace replied: "It beats obscurity."

Busline conversation: "Is your uncle still in Philadelphia?" "No, my uncle is still living."

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Bob Vincent watched a group of fifth graders march excitedly through a newspaper plant, while their guide explained the fourth estate's intricacies. At the end of the tour, the guide assembled the group around him and asked: "Now, are there any questions?" One little girl raised her hand and shrieked: "Did anyone notice that I've got a new dress on?"

It is suggested by an erstwhile reader that our public taverns and U. S. postoffices be combined. Would give a man the excuse to his wife that he had to go to the tavern to see if any mail had arrived.

Gus Lampe, entertainment director for the Cooconut Grove, relays the story about the two talking dogs. "One dog told the other: 'I was talking to Lassie and Rin Tin Tin yesterday,' with which the other dog sneered: 'Name dropper!'"

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