

Taxes—Are They Inevitable?

Editor, HERALD:
I don't know about the thinking behind the recent exchange between School Superintendent J. H. Hull and Mr. Beaver on whether the schools should get money from the federal government. Somehow, I think Mr. Beaver has the better of the argument.

But from a practical standpoint, I think the schools are to be congratulated for getting the money. As long as the cash is going to be handed out to somebody, it might as well be given to Torrance.

We'd be paying the money out the government anyway and if Torrance, Calif., can get part of it back, rather than Portland, Me., I'm for that. I only bet the people in Portland, Me., wish they could get back that much of it too.

If it's inevitable, we might as well lay back and enjoy it.

JOSEPH P. ECKERMAN

Nothing for Nothing
Editor, Torrance Herald:
I spent the entire school year of 1956 debating the problem of federal aid to local schools in the National Forensic and Southern California Debate League competition, and I am wondering what happened to logical thinking on the subject.

The points brought up in Superintendent Hull's recent letter may appear fairly sound at first glance, but I fear that a novice debate team could bring up sounder ones.

In the first place, regarding federally-made jobs, and therefore federally made children, may it be pointed out that if the federal government did not grant contracts to rapidly-growing Torrance, someone else would have to bring in industry. I

suppose Mr. Hull, in that case, would blame Harvey Aluminum and National Supply on the increase in school-age children and ask them to provide their own education facilities for employee's children. Come on now, Mr. Hull.

In the second place, "Congress has recognized this responsibility." What responsibility, Mr. Hull? The responsibility to provide (and ultimately control) educational facilities in a comparatively wealthy area like Los Angeles County, or has it recognized the responsibility to provide these facilities to areas like Arkansas, Mississippi, or Alabama, which cannot possibly afford their own schools?

In the third place, Mr. Hull states that the whole question boils down to whether we would rather pay \$4 million in 30-year state bonds, or be "thankful" for the federal government building our schools for us. It might be pertinent at this point to bring up a few figures.

Mr. Hull, did you know that for every \$11 that the state of California receives from the federal government the people of the state (and the city of Torrance) pay the government \$22 in taxes. In other words, we, the citizens of Torrance will actually be paying Uncle Sam an immense sum of \$8 million in order to receive a "gift" of \$4 million. Personally, I'd rather pay the state bonds.

I hope these few basic points will answer both Mr. Hull and help to convince the people of Torrance that "you don't get something for nothing," particularly from Uncle Sam.

ELIZABETH BEAVER
221 Via los Miradores

Rest Periods
Editor, HERALD:
I have noted some quotes in the papers regarding Assembly Bill No. 2835 which provides a "rest period" in incorporation procedure. There seems to be some attempt to give the impression that this was a secret put over by anti-incorporation forces in Lomita and that it was done to facilitate annexation to Torrance.

Last February 21st an Assembly Committee held a public hearing in Lomita to receive recommendations for changes in laws on both incorporation and annexation. This meeting was attended in force by incorporation promoters and was given wide publicity.

On behalf of the Lomita Civic League I made some recommendations to this Committee and after reading them, filed a written copy with the committee. These were afterwards put into legislative form by them. A verbatim copy of my recommendations on an annexation of both inhabited and uninhabited territory is attached hereto. Note they ask the same "rest period" for annexation attempts as for incorporation. Also that they require annexation petitions to be signed by property owners instead of registered voters as at present.

Promoters of incorporation, who claim to be deathly afraid of annexation, gave no support whatever to these recommendations or to the legislation embodying them. If they wanted protection against an annexation they should have supported this legislation at Sacramento. They did not do so.

The reasons are obvious. They know that annexation is not a threat in Lomita; that Torrance has not annexed an inch of Lomita territory in the last thirty years. Torrance officials know that Lomita would be a tax liability, they do not want us, and have declared publicly that they are not trying to get us.

Promoters are making desperate attempts to scare people with this phoney annexation threat in spite of the fact that it has been thoroughly exposed and is worn threadbare. They keep saying Torrance has repeatedly chewed off pieces of Lomita; but we notice they very carefully refrain from telling what pieces have been taken, and the reason is, there aren't any.

L. E. ROSS, Chairman
Committee Opposing Incorporation
Lomita Civic League
Recommendations
ANNEXATION, Inhabited

period of three years. It is recommended that Section 35134 of the Government Code relating to successive annexation elections, be amended to provide an interval of three years instead of 12 months at present.

The arguments here are the same as for incorporation, namely, that when the community has decided the issue it should not be subject to constant harassment by repeated attempts to annex.

ANNEXATION. Uninhabited Territory.
Section 35313 of the Government Code provides that if protest is made against annexation in accordance with that section "Further proceedings shall not be taken."

If this means that only one attempt can be made and if it fails the city is forever precluded from making another attempt upon its own motion, we are satisfied with the section the way it stands. If, however, additional at-

tempts can be made, it should be amended to provide a three years before any additional attempt can be made.

Flowers and Friends
Editor, Torrance Herald:
This letter is for the readers who enjoy growing flowers and like to learn more about them and are also interested in social activities of the most congenial sort.

We recently joined the North Torrance branch of the California Fuchsia Society and are so pleased. We really feel that so many other of all age groups would enjoy it too. There is interesting question and answer gardening expert and much informal social fun afterward, as well as refreshments.

For those who would like new friends and want to add beauty to our Torrance yards, this is certainly one answer.

MRS. FRANK HINKEL

Alarmed at Indifference
May I take this opportunity to commend you on the provocative editorial which appeared in your publication a few weeks ago concerning the selection of "Miss" USA in the recent Long Beach Pageant.

To those of us who are concerned with aiding youth in building their character structure, are alarmed at the apparent disregard and indifference to moral precepts, your editorial was timely and of much value, and I want to express my personal gratitude for it.

Yours truly,
Don J. Shelby
Associate Pastor,
First Methodist Church,
Torrance.

EROSION LOSS
Soil washing and blowing during the past 300 years has destroyed 282 million acres of U. S. territory and has damaged 775 million more acres.



CARBIDE SUPERVISOR ...
Myron W. Black has been named production supervisor at the Union Carbide Chemicals Co. plant here. Born in San Pedro, he moved to Salt Lake City, attending the University of Utah, where he was a member of Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi, national engineering honorary societies. He and his wife, Madelyn, now live in Torrance.



NEW OFFICIAL ...
Donald B. Larsen has been named production supervisor at the Union Carbide Chemicals Co. plant here. Born in San Pedro, he moved to Salt Lake City, attending the University of Utah, where he was a member of Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi, national engineering honorary societies. He and his wife, Madelyn, now live in Torrance.

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