

# EDITORIALS

## An Important Issue

Torrance voters will be asked next Tuesday to mark their ballots for three important community programs—a million-dollar bond issue for improving the safety zone at Torrance Municipal Airport, a three million-dollar bond issue for park acquisition and improvement, and a change in the city council to provide for seven councilmen instead of five, and election of the mayor directly.

Although the issues of the ballot have not been subjected to heated public debates which normally become associated with political campaigns, they are no less important to the city's 33,318 registered voters eligible for Tuesday's election.

Improvement of the safety factors at Torrance Municipal Airport is not a matter of luxury—it must be done. And by providing the city's share of funds now, the federal government will be able to offer financial aid up to 54 per cent of the cost. A delay in providing the city's share may cancel out the government participation, for the program is being ended.

The need for more recreation facilities can be attested to by any Torrance citizen who has tried to find a picnic spot on a Sunday or holiday, or one who has tried to find a place for children to play off the streets during the year. Land costs are rising in Torrance and other Southland areas at a fantastic pace, and land needed now for park development can never be purchased for less money than today.

The need to increase the city council representation to seven persons has long been voiced in various quarters of the city, and their hopes that areas can be represented better with more councilmen may well be justified.

Fortunately, the change in council numbers and the proposal to elect the mayor at large does not interfere with the city manager form of government which has proved most efficient and desirable for Torrance.

A fourth measure on Tuesday's ballot, a charter amendment accompanying the Airport bond proposal, merely insures a ready market for the airport bonds by making them an obligation of the city. The airport during the past years has had ample income to retire such a bond issue, and will be able to support the proposed issue without calling on city funds.

The HERALD recommends that all eligible voters go to the polls Tuesday and "VOTE YES" on all measures.

### FROM THE MAILBOX By Our Readers

## Ballot Comments

### Parks and Cereals

Editor Torrance Herald: What's the deal on all this propaganda that the schools are giving out about the bond election? I thought the schools were supposed to be impartial and now we are finding ourselves pressured by our kids to vote yes on this bond deal.

I don't like it. It's all right for the schools to discuss current events and city affairs, but it seems to me that the kids are entitled to something besides propaganda. They give my kid a city office in this junior citizens day and I get a whole bunch of propaganda from her. She doesn't pay the tax dollars to pay for all those parks and the airport, I do.

If Mayor Ison can't get the parents to vote for the thing, he tries to get our kids to heckle us, like the breakfast food people do. I don't like it.

### UNHAPPY FATHER

### Wrong Time to Vote

Editor, Torrance Herald, As a forerunner to the special election, Oct. 29, in the city of Torrance, I would like at this time to express my personal view upon the pitfalls of this park and recreation bond issue.

The people of Torrance paid \$6000 for the opinion of an expert to make a thorough survey as to our park and recreation needs. The Torrance City Council threw this expert report out and substituted a measure of their own in its place, which cut the proposed "Gold Report" in half.

This measure that they now place before the voters caused the resignation of two-thirds of the recreation commissioners, who were working on the recreation problem for the city. One commissioner stated that the whole plan was a joke.

This bond issue is the direct result of extremely bad planning and very poor timing. To call a special election for a bond of this sort, in which the voters are so poorly informed as to what they are to expect for their \$3,000,000. Nothing concrete has been placed before them and one item has a completion date attached.

The voters of the city of Torrance may wind up with a lot of high-priced real estate and still have no parks. The people of this city

should be well-informed as to where these sites will be located and the completion dates of all park sites throughout the 21 square miles of the city.

A poorly-planned park and recreation issue at this time may set the program back for a period of five to ten years. Let's plan this out more thoroughly and place this bond issue on the general election ballot in April, 1958, where it should have been placed, not in a special election.

E.J.C.

### Keep Present System

Editor, Torrance Herald, Passage of the proposed City Charter Amendment No. 2, providing for the election of a mayor on a city-wide basis, would create a hybrid type of city government in Torrance. This could lead to many unfortunate results without any compensating benefits.

As a citizen of Torrance for 11 years, it is my belief that we have had, in general, an able city government since the city manager type of government was adopted in 1948.

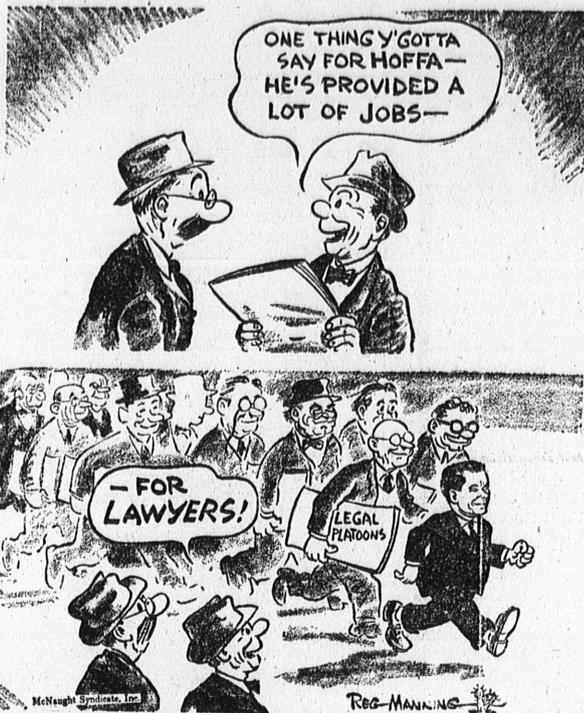
Election of a mayor on a city-wide basis would create a position of personal political power and implied executive power which would be certain to come into conflict with the Council on legislative matters and the city manager on administrative affairs—with adverse results for the city as a whole. It would also result in the creation of city-wide political organizations which would make the office of mayor a political prize, diverting attention in elections from more worthwhile issues.

According to Luther Gulick, director of the National Bureau of Public Administration, there are "over 300 cities governed by a small elected council and administered through a city manager appointed by the council. Though the office of mayor exists, the duties are restricted to serving as the presiding officer of the council and acting as ceremonial head of the municipality." Included in the 300 cities are San Diego, Oakland, and Torrance.

I strongly urge a "no" vote on Charter Amendment No. 2 at the special election on Oct. 29.

M. B. MILLAR

## Speaking Of Employment



YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Londers

## On Setting Parents Straight

Dear Ann: I'd like you to set my parents straight on something. I turned 19 in August and have a wonderful position in the office of a wholesale company.

My boss is a married man who has a family. He's 36 and has been a perfect doll. He's given me several items of merchandise although it has cost him money to do so. I get an excellent salary and pay room and board at home. My folks depend on me for help.

Dad came by to pick me up last week and found me having a drink with my boss. Dad blew his top. This happened at a very bad time because next month there's a business convention out of town and my boss wants me to accompany him.

I'd get paid for the time off and it wouldn't be counted as vacation. It would be a swell chance to learn about my boss' line and meet others in the business.

My folks are 100 per cent against this and say I would cheapen myself if I went on a trip with my employer. Honestly, this is strictly business. Please tell them off—Working Girl.

If you want to learn about your boss' line, check with Mom and Dad. They have his number.

Under no conditions would it be proper for you to attend the convention with his man, unless his wife went along also. Assuming this is "strictly business" why jeopardize your reputation by placing yourself in this situation? (And P.S., there's a lot to be said for buying merchandise retail—in a store.)

Dear Ann: This is a difficult problem to discuss because it involves my own family, so I'm writing to you for advice.

My daughter has two preschool-age children. She and her husband decided if they had a family they would never fall into the "psychology trap" that enticed many of their friends. Old-fashioned discipline was going to be the technique in their home. Believe me, they are keeping their word.

When the children misbehave they double up a thick leather belt and wherever it happens to land is just fine. I've seen wells across the chest of the older child and bruises on the little fellow's back. When I questioned my daughter about it she lied and said they fell of their tricycles. The children later told me that Mommy hit them with a strap.

The odd part of it is, Ann, to meeth these young parents you'd never suspect them of such brutality. They are so charming and pleasant. I'm not one to interfere, but I'm tempted to speak my mind, even at the risk of being told to mind my own business. What do you advise?—Gramma.

This IS your business; in fact it could be the business of the juvenile authorities if these parents are actually beating the children.

By no stretch of the imagination is this "interference". If you saw a couple of strange children being abused you'd speak up, wouldn't you? Why not do as much for your own grandchildren? These little pities need someone to defend them since they can't defend themselves.

There's a world of difference between an old-fashioned spanking and flogging kids with a leather strap. If these parents don't know it, they should be taught—and promptly.

Dear Ann: I've been reading your column a long time but I never thought I'd appear in it. That letter signed "Babe" was aimed at me. I

### THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

Brainstorming, so we read in the papers, is the coming way to settle problems on the international, national, state, county, city, neighborhood, and household levels.

It's a new technique by which everybody gets together and says anything that comes into his head, preferably relating to the problem at hand. Then this mass of ideas is sifted and the solution to the problem will be found, so the theory goes.

One leading executive reported that after a brainstorming session with other assorted vice presidents and moguls, the results were entirely negative. The problem actually was solved by the office boy, who had been playing the brainstormers with coffee and doughnuts.

The trouble is that with many people, giving their all at a brainstorming session might leave them thoroughly brainwashed—with no thoughts at all.

On the other hand, a brainstorming session might make everybody feel better afterwards—kinda like a mass psychonalytic session.

Imagine, if you can, a meeting of Ladies' Afternoon Do-Good Society, on the best way to raise funds for Homeless Hottentots: "I think we ought to raise money by selling doughnuts door to door."

ow! a Thunderbird. I'm not the handsomest guy in town, but I'm not the ugliest either, in spite of Babe's description. She's just burning with envy because I gave her the air. Writing to you was her way of getting even.

It galls Babe that I'm now dating her girl friend. She may be interested to know that her girl friend "snuggled up close" in my old car, too.

If Babe would put a smile on her face instead of going around with that sour puss she might snag a date for herself once in a while. She'll never get a chance to ride in MY Thunderbird again. In fact, no guy I know would take her for a spin in a bicycle basket. T.Bird Smith.

(Ann Londers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

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## How to Help the Hottentots

without my electric dryer." "I knew somebody whose cat got inside her dryer and burned all its hair off."

"Our cat just had kittens—six of them."

"My parakeet was sick last week—poor little thing."

"Ladies, we're getting off the subject—how to raise funds for the homeless Hottentots."

"We could sell Christmas cards."

"I bought my Christmas cards last week, and I've got half of my shopping done already."

"I never do it till the last week before Christmas."

"My Johnny's birthday is the day before Christmas."

"My Susie had a birthday party last week—with 25 guests. Was I tired!"

"Speaking of birthdays, I'll bet that Mrs. Jones isn't 35 like she claims. She looks 45 if she's a day."

"Ladies—the homeless Hottentots."

"Where do the Hottentots live, anyway?"

"I don't know. In the land of the Hottentots, I suppose."

"We could hold a spaghetti dinner."

"Nbt spaghetti please. It always gives me indigestion."

"Maybe you need your appendix out. I always had indigestion before mine was out, but it doesn't bother me at all now."

"Do you know what they charged me to have that boil lanced—"

## AFTER HOURS By John Morley

# Syria and the Middle East

DAMASCUS, SYRIA—Driving up the hill to the new modern section of the oldest city in the world with a Christian friend, I asked him why Syria favored Russia.

His reply was automatic, as though he had repeated it many times before. "Syria favors Russia," he said, "because the United States favors Syria's enemies. He was referring to Israel, France, Britain, Turkey, Greece, etc. This answer probably explains the underlying reason for Syria's favoritism of Russia, as obviously she has no other place to go. We hate to admit it, but it is not possible to be the friend of every nation in a world of spheres of influence and power politics, old and new. By choosing certain nations as allies, we cannot expect the rivals and enemies of those nations to be friendly to us."

There are realistic reasons why Syria cannot be counted as a Russian satellite, as some observers believe. Syria has no common border with the Soviet Union, for between them is Turkey, the most powerful military nation in the entire Middle East—as well as Iran and Iraq. All these three nations are joined inside the Baghdad pact forming a military alliance with the West of formidable proportions.

About 85 per cent of Syria's 4,000,000 people are devoted Moslems—and most of the balance consist of Christians, Armenians, Syrians, Arabs and a powerful segment of superstitious Druses who live in the mountains "so they can be close to God and farther from the devil." There are some Communists in Syria, but ideologically they are few, even though the Syrian government and the army has spokesmen who act and speak like Communists.

We have repeatedly stated in these columns that U. S. recognition of Israel in 1948 lost us most of the Arab-Moslem world. If it had not been for the profitable oil concessions sold to us by Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran—and their fear of Russia—we probably would be out of the good graces of the entire Arab-Moslem world for our support of Israel. Syria's

hatred of Israel, therefore, is extended to Israel's friends.

The core of Syrian Soviet support comes from a strong liberal left-wing element within the Syrian army, as is the case in Egypt. The leader of this group is Syrian army chief of staff General Afif Bizri, who is either a Communist or very close to it. Minister of Defense Khaled El Azm is also pro-Communist. Then there is Moscow-trained Kaled Bakdash, the only Communist ever elected to an Arab parliament, as all other Arab-Moslem countries have outlawed Communism. Closely associated with this group is Syrian director of intelligence, Abdel Serraj, who arrested and purged most of the members of the conservative right wing of the Syrian politics.

Syria is actually in the middle of an untenable position between her friends and rivals. If she chooses to get much closer to Russia, she drives a wedge with other Arab-Moslem countries who are fearful of Communist infiltration into the Middle East. It's one thing to seek Soviet military and economic assistance to fight Israel—which is not forthcoming from the U. S.—but quite another to get so tangled up with Communism that the

price of this aid is total Russian domination.

Even Egypt, Syria's closest ally, would become quite apprehensive at any signs of Syria being turned into a Russian base for Communist infiltration into the Middle East. Any indication of Syria going beyond the present trade pacts with Russia would bring immediate sanctions from Syria's neighbors—Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Jordan and even Egypt. For any closer Syrian-Russian ties would deprive Nasser of his role as spokesman of Arab-Moslem nationalism and take the steam out of his campaign for joint military effort against Israel. Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia could not be expected to sit idly by while Syria brings the Russians into the Middle East by way of an engraved invitation.

It is not difficult to conclude from our on-the-spot observations inside Syria that national pride, more than Soviet friendship or Communist acceptance, is in back of Syria's foreign policy position. Fear of Israel's expansion into her frontiers appears to us to be the root of Syria's pro-Soviet leanings more than anything else. She has no better place to turn to alleviate those fears—imaginary as they might be.

### Rx FOR GOOD HEALTH

## Research on Fever

Scientists in New York and Bakersfield recently took a major step in an attempt to develop a vaccine for Valley Fever—the Southwest's own disease.

This troublesome, infectious disease of the chest is caused by a fungus which thrives in the soil of the arid regions of California and the Southwestern United States. It derives its popular name from the San Joaquin Valley area, where the majority of cases have occurred. Its scientific name is coccidioidomycosis.

The first step in the research project was taken when twenty-three volunteers, who showed a positive skin test to the disease, donated blood samples. (A positive test indicates that individuals have had the disease and have developed protective antibodies against it.)

White blood cells are centrifuged out from samples and flown under refrigeration to New York, where they are injected into the skin of volunteers.

If the Eastern volunteers respond to a skin test, indicating the white cells have caused antibodies to develop, then it will be demonstrated that the sensitivity can be transferred without actual exposure to the disease.

This transfer of sensitivity may open the possibility of developing a vaccine, according to fungus disease specialists.

Valley Fever is transmitted only from soil dust to man, never from human to human. The most infectious period is during the summer when dust laden with the spores that develop from the Valley Fungus is likely to be carried in the air. When these spores are in-

haled they settle in the lining of the windpipe and air passages, where they turn into the "disease-producing parasite."

Symptoms of Valley Fever strongly resemble those of influenza—sore throat, followed by severe cough, inflammation of the windpipe and possible chills and fever. As the infection progresses in the air passages to infect the branches within the lungs, the cough increases and usually is accompanied by pain in the chest.

Occasionally, the lung complications which are the result of an extended siege of Valley Fever require surgical treatment. In such cases, the infection produces an abscess which drains into other parts of the lung and the bronchial tubes causing cavities which completely destroy part of or an entire lung.

There are no specific drugs for the disease. Antibiotics have no effect. Bed rest and medication to relieve the pain are effective in more than 95 per cent of the cases.

(Presented as a public service by the Southwest Branch of the Los Angeles County Medical Assn.)

## Torrance Herald

Established Jan. 1, 1914

Member of National Editorial Association, California Newspaper Publishers Association. Publication office and plant at 1618 Gramercy Ave., Torrance, Calif.

Published Semi-Weekly, Thursday and Sunday. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

KLENN W. PETER, General Manager. REID L. HUNDT, Managing Editor.

Adjusted by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California, under act of March 3, 1927.

Subscription Rates: By carrier, 45c a month. Mail subscription, \$5.00 a year. Circulation office P.O. 8400.

STAR GAZER by CLAY ROLLAN. Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars. To develop message for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.