

# Kurtz Calls for City Library System In Talk to Homeowners

The city of Torrance should establish its own library system when the current contract for Los Angeles county services expires.

That was the statement of George Kurtz, candidate for city council this week, addressing an audience of West Torrance homeowners.

Torrance currently contacts for county library services on a year-to-year basis, under a plan for library services that has been threatened almost annually. The county has expressed dissatisfaction with the special year-to-year agreement

with Torrance, preferring instead to establish the city as a "permanent customer" of the county services so that a permanent county library could be planned for Torrance.

KURTZ TOLD his audience that "it's time that Torrance stopped taking what amounts to a 'library hand out' from the county. With our growing population of young people, we need our own full library system now."

Taxes now paid to the county for what he called "the piecemeal system" could

provide the major share of funds needed for a workable city system, Kurtz claimed.

"THE DAYS when a good, complete and accessible library system was considered a luxury are dead and buried," Kurtz commented, "and library services have become a necessary adjunct of modern school systems. It is just as important to our residents to have our own, efficient library as it is to have our own, up-to-date school system."

Under the best possible contract arrangement with the

county for library services, Kurtz said, Torrance would become the regional center for the county in the South Bay. This would mean that Torrance eventually assume a disproportionate share of the county tax burden for library services to the unincorporated communities throughout the area.

CALLING THE present contractual arrangement "jerry-built and undependable," Kurtz told the homeowners that he intends to call for a Torrance library system as a major issue in his campaign for election to the city council.

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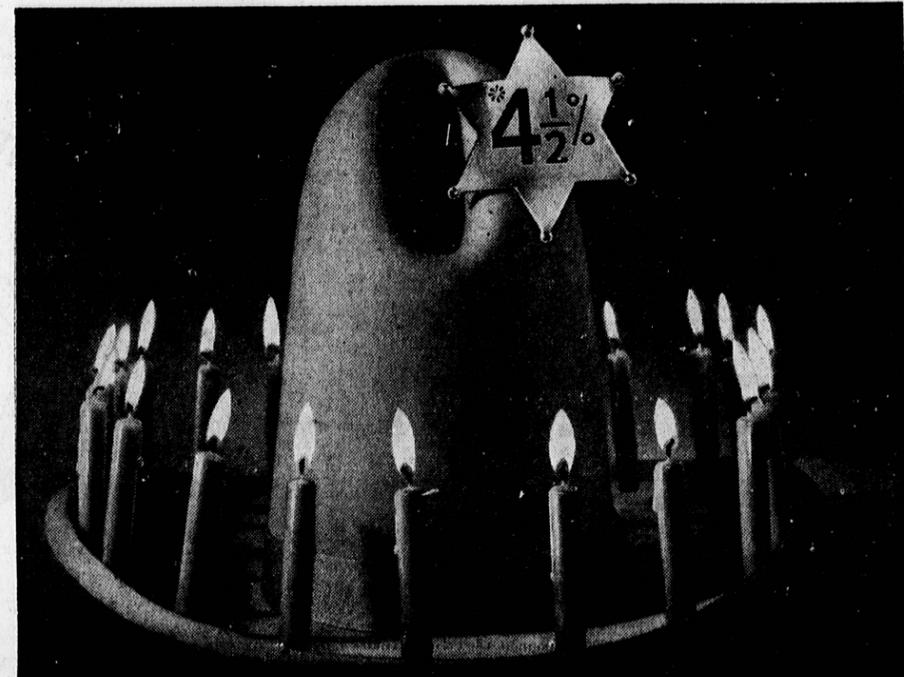
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