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Realty Board President Blasts Federal Tax Plan

Recent recommendations to the Congress for changes in Federal income tax laws are of vital interest to all current and prospective homeowners, according to Ken Peters, president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors.

A homeowner will be adversely affected by one change which, if approved by the Congress, will take away his right to deduct all of certain expenses in computing net income for tax purposes, Peters said. These expenses which are now fully deductible are: interest charges on consumer installment purchases and personal loans, real property taxes, other state and local taxes, contributions to churches and to charities, casualty losses to property from wind, flood, weather, fire, or medical expenses.

THE TREASURY is asking Congress to change this to permit deductions only to the extent that they exceed 5 per cent of personal income. Thus

if taxable income is \$8,000 and there are \$1,400 in deductions, then deductions of only \$1,000 would be permitted. Under the present law the entire \$1,400 is deductible.

In addition only those casualty losses and medical expenses in excess of 4 per cent of income are included in listing the deductions which are subject to the 5 per cent rule.

THE TAX bill provides for some tax reduction in order to "sweeten" this cutback in itemized deductions, Peters said. However, there is always the risk that budget deficits and resulting inflation may force Congress to increase the rates. But once deductions are disallowed, the chances of getting them back are very slim.

The deductions allowed for home mortgage interest and real estate taxes were approved by the Congress many years ago as an inducement for the growth of home ownership. As a result the United States is a nation of 60 per cent homeowners.



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write to their representative in the House of Representatives, House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C., the realtor said.

"Urge him to express his opposition to this threat to home ownership—this cutback in these deductions—to the House Ways and Means Committee. Ask him to make a personal appearance before the House Ways and Means Committee to express his position," he said.

Mrs. Natland Elected by Republicans

Election of Dorothy Natland of Rolling Hills to succeed Robert H. Finch as a member of the Los Angeles County Republican Central Committee was announced following a meeting of the 46th Assembly District committee last week.

Finch, who twice ran for Congress from the 17th Congressional District, and who was campaign director for Richard M. Nixon's bid for the presidency in 1960, resigned as the 46th Assembly District representative on the County committee because he is moving his family to Flintridge.

Mrs. Natland was nominated for the vacancy by Jack Drown, a member of the committee for whom she has been an alternate.

She served as first president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Federated Women's Club, and has been Peninsula precinct chairman and a member of the California State Republican State Central Committee.



GOING UP . . . Irv and Harry Berren, owners of the Hollypark National Paint Stores, look over plans as construction of the firm's newest store at Del Amo Boulevard and Bellflower in Lakewood proceeds in the background. When completed, the store will be fourth in the chain recognized in the Torrance and Norwalk areas for its variety of merchandise, including National Paints, hardware, yardage, wallpaper, screens, tile, and decorator items.

Civic Symphony Scores Triumph With 'Il Trovatore' on Sunday

Las Sunday Elyse Aehle added another triumph to her growing list of fine performances as conductor of the Civic Symphony of South Bay and Torrance. The presentation of the opera "Il Trovatore" at Redondo High School Auditorium was hailed as "the best they had heard" by many members of a near-capacity audience

who applauded all of the melodious arias which are so liberally scattered throughout the score.

It was also, in a way, a national triumph because there were guests from England and Germany in the audience who were lavish in their praise and agreed that "this performance was far better than any given by similar groups in their own countries."

Maestro Aehle showed a complete mastery of the score and led her orchestra and soloists through a dramatic and vivid interpretation of the work in spite of its inherent difficulties of constantly varying tempi and frequent bursts of terrific speed.

WANDA KAROS gave a brilliant portrayal of the "Gypsy," Azucena. She built the tragedies of this great role into climaxes of breath-stopping dramatic power, yet her glorious voice never lost the warm, violine quality of a true mezzo-soprano, and her beauty could not be hidden by the drab garb of a poor gypsy. The public acknowledged their admiration with repeated applause.

Perhaps the recipient of the greatest admiration was Anne Eagles Machamer, who was the perfect "Lenora, Princess of Aragon." Extremely beautiful in her velvet and ermine robes, she had the proud bearing of a noble lady and the sweet, strong, well-controlled voice of a star. Her portrayal made it easy to believe that two great noblemen would risk their lives for her.

A SENSATIONAL voice,

well-trained and very powerful, was displayed by Frederick Gates in the role of "Il Trovatore." He gave a true Italian interpretation to the role and showed perfection of technique and a letter-perfect knowledge of the music.

Enrico Porta was taken to the hearts of the audience like an old friend. They remembered his performance in "Aida" and "I Pagliacci," the last two operas given by the Civic Symphony, and many were heard to claim proudly they were "fans of his."

HE GAVE his usual inimitable performance as the "Count," throwing himself into the role so completely that he seemed actually to "live the part." His wonderful, rich baritone and handsome appearance in the elegant costume with a huge red cape, was a high point of the evening.

Lyle Heck as Ferrando showed a fine bass voice but seemed uncertain of his part and even brought a score on stage with him. Evelyn Gamble sang the part of Inez well. It seemed very short—perhaps she could have sung more.

—VERA MILLS



COUNCIL SPEAKER . . . The Rev. Hugh R. Percy of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, new chairman of the Torrance Traffic Safety Council, chats with the organization's noon luncheon speaker, Ted Bradley of Torrance, information and education officer for the California Highway Patrol. Bradley showed a movie and explained functions of the CHP at the council's Monday meeting. (Herald Photo)

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South High To Feature Open House

The public is invited to South High School's annual open house, Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Following a short PTA meeting in the cafeteria, devoted to the election of new officers, guests will be invited to visit classrooms where teachers will explain why and how various subjects are taught.

A demonstration of the audio-lingual method of teaching foreign languages; music by South High School's band; a student council meeting, and displays of student's projects will be part of the program.

Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria following open house, and there will be a PTA cake sale.



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