

A. L. Jackson Honored by Accountants

A. L. Jackson, 5404 Reese rd., Torrance, was honored at a noon luncheon recently, at the Los Angeles chapter, National Association of Cost Accountants, ninth annual Business

Show held in the Ambassador hotel. Jackson, plant superintendent of Standard Steel corporation was recognized for his contribution in making Standard

Steel "a formidable part of America's industrial might," said Walter M. Colley.

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Council Pleads Ignorance On Mental Health Matters

Finally admitting that they really didn't know anything about mental health matters, five members of the City Council took refuge behind that argument for denying the Mental Health Foundation a request to raise funds in the city of Torrance.

The council had stalled a decision on the matter last week by referring it to this week when the city clerk could give them a more "thorough" report regarding the organization in question.

This was done despite the fact that Deputy City Clerk Jack Hallinger told the council last week that the city clerk's office had given the council members as thorough a report as was available.

Councilman Blount, however, suggested darkly that the members look into mental health legislation a little more thoroughly.

This week Hallinger made a new recommendation stating:

"The serious import of proposed (mental health) legislation . . . should be studied individually by the members of the Council before they resolve to permit any organization to solicit funds in Torrance—funds which may be used to promote passage of the bills."

Although finally voting against the request with the rest of the councilmen, Mayor Albert Isen said:

"If there is no gyping or no subversion involved, we should not substitute our judgment for the judgment of the party who is asked to give money."

Resident Speaks
Mrs. Clyde Haslet of 4915 Milne drive then asked to speak.

"I am questioning the charity of the organization and also your question of subversion," she declared excitedly. "I am not branding them as subversive but only certain legislation which they are backing."

She then went on to emphasize

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cally denounce two proposed mental health measures claiming that "due process of law" is eliminated by them.

"In other words, you'd say 'no' if you were asked for money?" Mayor Isen asked.

"That's right," she said. "Don't you think that others have the same right to say 'yes'?" he asked further.

"The normal individual has no idea what's in those bills," Mrs. Haslet said protectively.

When In Doubt
Councilman Jahn then indicated that if in doubt, it's always best to vote "no."

"I don't know too much about it," Councilman Drae said, in explaining why he would vote "no."

Councilman Benstead and Mayor Isen essentially admitted the same thing.

Mrs. Herma Tillim, who explained that she had not planned to speak on the matter when she came to the council meeting, said that she could speak for the group that it was not subversive.

"Correcting mental health is anything but subversive," she exclaimed.

Mrs. Haslet quickly got up to correct any false impression she might have left.

She said she didn't mean to brand the group as subversive.

Mrs. Eileen Goetz, of 5029 Milne drive, then wanted to enlighten the council further, but Mayor Isen informed her that the council did not need any further instruction at this time, having already turned down the request.

EDITORIAL

Mental Health and The City Council

Pleading ignorance about mental health matters, the members of the City Council denied the Mental Health Foundation the right to solicit funds in Torrance Tuesday night.

In doing so, the members of the City Council were in flagrant violation of their rights and responsibilities as public officials.

To begin with, the councilmen have had enough time since the request was made to acquaint themselves with the mental health issue, if that was their real concern.

But the pros and cons of the mental health controversy really should never have entered into the decision which the council was asked to make.

The only thing the council has a right to decide is whether the group seeking to raise funds is legitimate or not.

Unless the group is subversive or an out-and-out racket, the organization should have the right to go about in an orderly fashion championing its particular cause.

To deny this right is to deny the democratic right to differ.

The right to decide what issues should receive our moral as well as financial support belongs to one person and one person alone—the individual citizen.

While some councilmen came prepared Tuesday night to arbitrarily kill the matter outright, others were swayed against the request by a few loud and rabid individuals who succeeded in planting the seeds of doubt and fear in their minds.

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