

School Officials Fear Sabotage on Bond Program

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FILES SUIT—Jerome I. Scharfman, right, city finance director, files first batch of small claims suits against trash bill delinquents in Torrance Municipal Court. Accepting the papers are Ernie Stout, chief clerk, and Betty Wiseman. Press Photo

Councilmen in Walk-out To Protest Nominations

Row Over Selecting City Board Members

Two councilmen, angrily stalked out of Tuesday's City Council meeting, denouncing procedure used to select members of the new Water Commission as "rigged" and "a farce."

Nickolas O. Draie and Willys Blount deserted the meeting after the second nominee for the commission was rejected by a tie vote.

Councilman George Bradford never returned from a recess called after the walk-out and the meeting only continued after Councilman Victor Benstead, who had been celebrating his birthday, was hastily summoned to give the Council a four-man quorum.

Bradford said that the procedure for selecting the commissioners, was to draw five names out of a hat, and the first five of the

seven names were to be approved automatically. Each Council member had dropped one name into the hat.

But Mayor Albert Isen insisted that the Council was to be polled on each individual name separately with the privilege of approving or disapproving the nominee.

Bradford said he thought a gentleman's agreement had been reached to approve the first five names as they were taken out of the hat.

After Blount and Draie left the council chamber, a recess was called to check the minutes of the meeting at which the deal was made. The minutes appeared to back up Isen's contention of the procedure to be used.

Bradford never returned to the council chamber after the recess, and Benstead, who had not attended the meeting earlier, was called to obtain the necessary quorum in order to pay the city's bills.

Benstead moved that the rest of the appointments be made next week.

One additional name, that of John Melville, of 1512 El Prado, was drawn from the hat by acting City Clerk Gale Whitacre, before the walkout.

Whitacre's nomination was opposed by Isen, J. A. Beasley and Robert Jahn.

The Council has recently split several times on commission appointments, including the law cutting terms of the Civil Service Commission from six to four years.

30 Calls Keep Her Busy on Jangling Phone

Mrs. Glen Scribner, of 1655 W. 255th St., Harbor City was elated with the results she received after she advertised her house for rent in the classified columns of the Torrance Press last week.

She received 30 calls on the ad and commented, "I always get good results from the Torrance Press."

If you have something to sell, buy, rent or swap, call a courteous Torrance Press ad-taker at FA 8-2345, and let her help you with an ad.

Bond "Torpedo" Attempt Seen in False Rumors

Possibility that someone is trying to "torpedo" the Oct. 14 bond issue, was seen today in rumors being spread about the development of a school site for apartments.

Sam E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools, said that the Torrance Unified School District fully intends to build the Adams School on the site and has no intention to sell the land for the development of apartment houses.

"This is a vicious fabrication, and I'd like to stuff the school plans right down the throat of the man spreading the rumors," Waldrip declared.

The school executive said that reports have come into the administration office that a real estate man has contacted residents near the school site, seeking to purchase their properties.

The man allegedly has told the residents that apartments, instead of a school will be built on the site between 237th and 238th Sts. east of Arlington Ave.

Woman Critically Burned When Gas Sets Her Ablaze

A woman received critical burns while her son escaped with minor burns following a fire in their home at 16123 Greville Ave., Lawndale, Monday evening.

County fireman said that Mrs. Mary L. Blaylock, 51, was cleaning clothes with white gas, when suddenly the fumes were ignited and she was enveloped in flames.

Her son, Doyle, 19, received injuries on his hands, when he beat out the flames with his bare hands.

Mrs. Blaylock was taken to Gardena Hospital where her condition was described as critical. She suffered second and third degree burns on her body.

County firemen estimated loss of structure and contents at \$2700.

Clues in Club Fire Sought

Cause of the \$200,000 Hollywood Riviera Club fire is still under investigation, Fire Chief J. J. Benner said.

The roaring inferno which gutted the famed landmark, broke out early Thursday morning in the bar, but firemen have not determined what started it.

"We're still digging all over the scene," said Benner. He, Fire Marshal Bob Lucas, and sheriff's arson squad investigators have been working on the case for nearly a week.

The bar and ballrooms which comprise the west end of the structure were gutted, although the easterly portion escaped major damage.

The club, which was erected in 1928 as part of the development of Hollywood Riviera, has been leased out to Norton Wisdom.

The jam sessions at the club have recently been under attack by residents in the vicinity of the building at 201 Paseo de la Playa.



TESTIMONIAL—Lt. Gov. Harold J. (Butch) Powers was honored at a testimonial dinner given Tuesday night at the Plush Horse by South Bay Republicans. Wishing him success on his campaign for reelection are James Hall, Torrance attorney, left, and Paul Loranger, Torrance auto dealer, members of the sponsoring committee. Press Photo

Torrance Freeway Section Contract Awarded by State

Contract for the construction of the Torrance section of the Harbor Freeway was awarded Monday.

The project, which will carry the freeway from 124th to 190th Sts., is expected to be completed in mid-1960.

Ukropina-Polich Kral of San Gabriel won the contract on its low bid of \$7,576,081.

The segment, on which will start soon is from 2 miles north of 124th St., to 5 mile south of 190th St., for a total of 4.9 miles.

The section from Century Blvd. to 124th St. was completed only last week when the route was opened following a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Harbor Freeway is designed to link up with the San Diego Freeway at 190th St.

Officials of Torrance and nine other cities, are pushing speedy completion of the San Diego Freeway from Jefferson Blvd. in Culver City to 190th St.

The Harbor Freeway will be completed to San Pedro in two years except for a section between 190th St. and Pacific Coast Highway.

Recession Hits City in Purse

The recession has cost Torrance in excess of \$30,000 in sales and use tax revenue, City Manager George Stevens informed the City Council Tuesday.

He said that a downward trend in this revenue was indicated during the first three months of the present fiscal year. Stevens pointed out that there is reason to believe that the trend may be reversed due to upturn in business and sources as new retail stores are located here.

He also noted a \$6500 drop in revenue from court fines and forfeitures, during the first quarter.

Shooting Victim Recover

A 17-year-old Southwood area boy is recuperating at Harbor General Hospital today from a shotgun blast fired at him by another youth over an argument over stolen apples.

70,000 Jam Downtown Area During Mad Midnight Sale

Some 70,000 bargain hunters jammed downtown Torrance early Sunday to participate in the Mad Midnight Sale.

The zany event during which police had to limit the number of patrons in the store because of fire regulations, was termed "a huge success" by Chairman Del Nadeau.

He said that participating merchants did a tremendous business and paid special credit to the Torrance police department, its reserves and the Mountie police.

Police Chief Percy G. Bennett, who made the crowd estimate, said that 80 regular and reserve police were on duty during the three-hour sale which opened at midnight.

Early Start

The crowd started to converge on the downtown area at 10 p.m. Saturday and by midnight all stores had crowds of at least 1000 persons waiting.

"We had no trouble at any time, all streets and alleys were patrolled by uniformed officers and detectives," said Bennett.

He said that bars did a land office business with thirsty patrons ringed around the bars

three and four deep. He said that Daniel's Cafe ran out of food at 2:30 a.m. and all other cafes were jammed with customers.

Orderly Crowd

Nadeau said that everyone was surprised at the orderliness of the crowd and no single arrest was made despite the huge throng.

The chairman of the event said that Torrance businessmen had made a number of friends from people who had never patronized the downtown area before.

Some people came from as far away as Covina and Reseda.

Biggest beef from customers was that the crowds were so heavy, that they had to wait a long time before they could get into stores, which advertised a number of attractive offers.

City Files Suit Against Trash Pickup Delinquents

Small claims suits against 30 home owners who haven't paid their rubbish collection bill to the city for a year, were filed in Torrance Municipal Court Tuesday.

Trial of the first batch of suits will be held Oct. 28 at 11 a.m.

Each of the defendants asserted has never paid the \$1 municipal pickup charge for a whole year, despite efforts by city officials to collect the cash.

In addition to action against trash bill delinquents, the city filed suit against several plane owners who owe the city back rent for tie down fees at Torrance Municipal Airport, Jerome I. Scharfman, city finance director, said.

The average plane parking debt is about \$45, he explained.

Since the city announced its intentions to sue home owners who have failed to pay for the rubbish collection, a number of them have paid up, city officials said.

The city intends to file about 50 small claims suits a week until the judgements have been obtained against all debtors.

When the program of suing home owners was first announced, Scharfman said there are 453 residents who have never paid one cent for rubbish since the city took over the function a year ago.

In addition there are a number of home owners who owe smaller amounts.

Residents who do not use the city service, can file an affidavit to that effect at city hall, and they will not be billed, Scharfman said.

Planned Parking On Beach

Recommendation that the Planning Commission appoint a committee to study a master plan for beach frontage redevelopment as it affects Torrance, was to be made last night.

Planning Director George Powell said that the plans prepared by the County Parks Department for the entire beach front from Malibu to Los Alamitos Bay, should certainly be given careful study.

Ronald Paige, development coordinator for the County Parks Department suggested solution of weekend crowds which invade the South Bay beaches, through a \$100,000,000 program of parking lot development.

Powell said that the plans are being submitted to the South Bay cities, and that Torrance should have a committee to study the plans when they are presented here.

Torrance has a one-mile beach frontage between the gutted Hollywood Riviera Club and the Palos Verdes line.

Unlike other beach cities, it does not have a commercial area directly at the beach, but the weekend crowds do create a parking problem on residential streets near Torrance Beach.

Kidnapping of Co-ed Investigated

Torrance police took over the investigation of an alleged kidnapping of a 16-year-old North High student terrorized by an abductor.

Lt. D. C. Cook said that the girl reported she was forced into an auto by a man while she was on her way to school last week.

The man, described as about 25 to 30 years old, pulled a gun on the girl and forced her to accompany him to a lonely field in the vicinity of 190th St. and Avalon Blvd.

There, according to the young victim, he tried to rape her, but reconsidered.

Instead he blindfolded her, fired a shot in the air to frighten her, and drove off, leaving her stranded.

The girl made a report to sheriff's deputies, who turned the case over to Torrance police this week.

One-Way Traffic Rejected

A program of one-way streets in the downtown business section has met with a rebuff from the Traffic Commission.

Councilman Robert Jahn, chairman of the committee, said that the primary reason the suggestion was recommended for denial, was that too many parking spaces would be lost.

He explained that in order to make the one-way street plan effective, parking would have to be changed from the present diagonal to parallel parking. The change would result in approximately 90 parking spaces being lost.

The one-way street program had the endorsement of the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Retail Merchants Association for a trial period.

Streets involved would have been Cravens, Sartori, Post, El Prado, Marcelina and Gramercy.

Jahn said that, if the city ever obtains sufficient off-street parking lots, the one-way system might be a good idea to expedite traffic movement through the central shopping district.

Nab Pair On Safe Attempt

Two Wilmington men were arrested by Torrance detectives on suspicion of an attempted safe burglary at the American Auto Store, 1323 Sartori Ave. early Sunday morning.

Two other safe burglaries, including one in which the thieves obtained \$35, were committed over the weekend.

Arrested on suspicion of the auto store burglary attempt, were Robert L. Hood, 25, and Donald Wayne Johnson, 23, both of Wilmington.

The thieves in the burglary attempt were frightened off when a witness heard pounding and the use of an electric drill.

The two men escaped out of the rear door.

A more successful safe-cracking job was done at the Duschak Helicopter Service, 22597 S. Western Ave., where \$35 was taken from the safe portion of a filing cabinet. The burglars cut the glass to gain entry into the plant, and pried open the safe.

Another attempted safe burglary was committed in the administrative offices of the Torrance Unified School District, 2335 Plaza Del Amo, where the thieves tore off the safe dial, and broke into a soft drink machine.

HOSPITAL PLANNED

Groundbreaking for a new \$250,000 convalescent hospital to be erected at Hawthorne Blvd. and Garnet St., was announced by Albert Brooks, one of the owners.



HUGE CROWD—This is a portion of the crowd which gathered in downtown Torrance during the Mad Midnight Sale. Police Chief Percy G. Bennett estimated crowd at 70,000. Despite the throng, the area was so well policed that not a single arrest had to be made. Press Photo