

SCHOOL CRITICS MEET TONIGHT; COUNCIL CHOICES TO BE BARED

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Council Row Gives City Workers Right to Select Group Insurance



HUNTERS AND HUNTED—George Theil, Alaskan Eskimo guide who visited Dr. Donald R. Tompkins last week, views rug with doctor. The last Theil saw of the hide was on the hunt in the northland, when it was full of bear. —Press Photo

Konya Mayor Assured Ride, Room and Board

If the Mayor of Konya, Turkey, and his wife hear the transcript of ways and means of getting them here for the Konya celebration, they may not come. John Barton, City-to-City Committee chairman, laid his group's needs before the City Council Tuesday.

The event, Feb. 26-27, calls for attendance by the Mayor and other high Turkish functionaries. The State Department will fly the Mayor and his wife to Washington. Torrance has to get them here.

Dick Fitzgerald, Chamber of Commerce manager, now in the East, is trying to arrange a military flight — for free. Meanwhile, Barton wanted a subsidy to ensure the pair won't be stranded in Washington.

The council agreed. Then, ventured Barton, there is the question of putting them up while they're here. Two days? That should be OK, mused Mayor Isen.

"A week," Barton corrected him.

Isen loosed a strong expletive. "What are they going to do? — use this for a base for trips to Disneyland — Marineland — Hollywood?"

"Why not put them up at your house, Al?" asked Barton. The suggestion was met with a loud silence.

Then there's a magnificent plaque, professionally designed free of charge, to be struck and presented to the visitors as a token of friendship. It will hang in Konya's municipal Torrance Auditorium.

"The price will be \$250," Barton noted.

For the plane trip, a week's keep, and the plaque, the council voted a positive, unanimous yes, Councilman Willys Blount moaning "We've been snookered."

FILM TO REPLACE BULLETS

Alaska Guide Visits Torrance Doctor, Plans Polar Bear Hunt

George Theil, an Alaskan Eskimo, took his midwinter thaw with Torrance's Dr. and Mrs. Donald R. Tompkins last week.

Theil, whose occupation is guide on polar bear hunts, is in the states to drum up business for the spring. He spent several days as guest of the Tompkinses while transacting business with 20th Century-Fox studios in Hollywood.

Last April a Fox photo crew filmed a short in Alaska, featuring Theil as the hunter. The production, soon to be released, contains footage of the principal character permitting a charging polar bear to venture within 75 feet of certain death to himself.

Theil became a hunter of his family when he was orphaned at age 11. In this capacity he and his brother set forth on dog sled to provide food for themselves and their relations. This method was considerably removed from

his present one of flying his clients to the hunting snows.

Among his patrons has been Dr. Tompkins, whom he has guided to bear during the past two springtimes and will again this year. The doctor has made three trips to the northland and fetched back a polar bear each time, hunting on the ice shelf 150 miles north of Point Barrow with a .300 Magnum.

Since the late bears, now fashioned into rugs, cover a major part of the square footage in the Tompkins home, the doctor this year will hunt with a movie camera.

Shooting 16-mm. color, he will work to perfect the film's continuity with action from the air and on the surface.

Theil, who has gone on to Denver and Tulsa to confer with prospective hunters, soon will head home and keep cool until the doctor comes.

Citizen Group Meets Tonight to Roast Schools, Name Demo Council Candidates

The Torrance City Council chambers will accommodate the Citizens' Committee for Better Schools and interested citizens, parents, and teachers tonight at 7:30.

Henry Carreiro, chairman of the committee, said he has received no reply from Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of Torrance schools, consenting to participate in debate or to answer questions directed from the chairman and the floor.

"We feel failure of Dr. Hull to appear must be accepted as being indicative of responsibility on the part of a public servant to be extremely lacking," Carreiro said.

Carreiro, president of the Torrance Young Democrats, will announce three prospective candidates Young Democrats will support for the April City Council elections.

"We have based our decision on their stated positions on the conduct of Dr. Hull and the school board as it relates to the controversy over school sites and other issues exclusively dealing

with the operation of city government. These latter issues will be stated this evening and the campaign is waged," said Carreiro.

The current criticism of the school board and superintendent is centered about four issues. They are, the controversy be-

tween the city planning commission and the school board on choice of site for new schools, turnover in teachers each year, the educational philosophy, and charges of a lack of democratic co-operation between administrators and teachers.

Carreiro indicated support for the independent citizens group has increased in such numbers as to justify the proposed inquiry and he re-asserted determination of his committee to continue its work and sponsor candidates for the next school board election.

He also hinted at possible recall action if the school board and their appointed representative continue to "maintain an air of indifference as to any problem existing."

"Our position is that the people are the better judge of the product of education and government than are the experts. If we wanted a government of experts, we would accept autocracy and exchange Jeffersonian principles for those of Lenin," Carreiro said.

YMCA Loses Round

Council Refuses to Give Up Land

The Torrance YMCA and the Community Chest ran into a solid brick wall Tuesday night in their efforts to obtain city land at the Civic Center for their private enterprises.

Impassioned pleas and protestations of the great good done by the agencies won sympathy from the councilmen but failed to budge them one scintilla from their awareness that they are custodians of property belonging to the people.

Mayor Isen wondered "Where will we start and where would we finish?" if the city began a policy of leasing ground to private facilities.

Councilman J. B. Beasley noted that he felt he would be voting against friends (the agencies, not the personnel), but in good conscience and responsibility to the people, he would have to vote no.

George Bradford emphasized that this is a civic center — a municipal entity — and that any discussion would have to center around a four- or five-year lease with a 30-day cancellation clause. He speculated at the consternation of an agency having to move a \$150,000 building in 30 days.

Councilman Willys Blount said leases to private bodies would open the field to all comers — he listed many possibilities — and some day the city will run out of land.

James Becker, chairman of the Civic Center Promotion Committee, which recommended leasing land to the two welfare organizations, expressed disappointment that his group had not been enlightened in advance as to the kind of policies it safely could propose.

Joe Wilcox, executive secretary of the YMCA — which is housed in one of the seediest buildings in town — said the price of adequate land in Torrance will be \$80,000. He dwelled articulately and at length on the fiscal problems confronting the Y.

"We will gamble \$400,000 you won't kick us out," he said.

The reaction was the same as Councilman Nick Drales' when the Community Chest representative said \$150,000 would be available for that agency's building; that they should own their own land, since the city could kick them off any time.

Much hay was made of the fact that the YWCA is situated on city property through a lease. The council was of one mind on that, too: The YW is on an odd-shaped parcel unusable for anything else. Come up with a similar plot, and the city will consider talking lease.

The Community Chest was not excited by the refusal. The council was told the agency wanted to be in Lomita anyway. But Wilcox and his group made no effort to conceal their disappointment.

Councilman George Bradford heartily concurred, noting that when the bumps, dips, and pocks begin to form, it may be called holey Toledo.

Municipal Consultant Fights Torrance Employees' Choice

City employees Tuesday night won the right to pick their own health and hospital insurance when the City Council reversed itself on choice of an underwriter.

Last week the council approved Pacific Mutual as the carrier, over objections by employee representatives, who held out for Blue Cross. The motion carried by a bare majority of one, with Councilman Victor E. Benstead absent and Councilman J. B. Beasley, an insurance man, having left the room during the discussion.

This week Mayor Albert Isen moved to abrogate the previous decision and throw the issue open to discussion.

The employees still favor Blue Cross, Fireman Albert Saleido, chairman of the Council of United Employees, declared. He said that although the price is higher, the coverage is broader. He told the council the city personnel are quite willing to stand the difference in cost.

Charles L. Robinson, insurance consultant hired by the city, stuck to praises of Pacific Mutual, even in face of a half-dozen witnesses who told the council he had declared Blue Cross to be superior in a meeting with employees and city officials.

Benstead, who favors Blue Cross and has been covered by it in the Steelworkers Union many years, acridly questioned Robinson's motive.

Councilman Robert B. Jahn held with Robinson, observing that the city should take the advice of the consultant it hires. He remarked that Blue Cross had risen 400% in cost over the years, a contention that was shredded by Kelly Williams, Blue Cross service representative, who

Torrance Still Under Siege of Burglaries

As Detective Miles Hamilton continues to head an investigation into the three-man \$25,000 robbery of Lucky Market, 3860 Sepulveda, police are mystified as to the causes behind a recent outbreak of violent crime, capped by the Lucky holdup.

"Can't understand it," said Det. Sgt. Don Hamilton. "This sort of thing usually starts after Thanksgiving and continues through the Christmas holidays. There's no precedent for this. More patrols is the only quick answer."

He referred to six weeks of influx in residential burglaries combined with the past two weeks of commercial entries. Two home jobs and five business burglaries have been cleared up within the past 10 days, he said, as well as crimes in county and Los Angeles city territory. Five

(Continued on page D-2)

Inside the Press

A standard pay scale for all grades of city employees has been drafted by the city manager's office and approved by the City Council in principle. City workers' pay days now will occur every other week rather than twice monthly. These vital stories are on Page 6-A.

Elsewhere in today's edition:

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TEENAGE MISS—Carol Johnson (seated) Torrance Teenage Miss in contest sponsored by the Junior Women's Club, District 18. Runerup is Kathleen Taylor. (Story Page 3-C)