

Order \$250,000 Trimmed Tax Boost for Smokers From New School Budget Could Drop Property Levy

Trustees of the Torrance Unified School District adopted a tentative budget of \$19.8 million Monday after ordering \$250,000 cut from a tentative budget submitted by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

Board members acted after a two-hour debate, voting 4-0 to order the cuts and adopt the budget. Dr. Kurt Shery was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Hull told the board he would try to make the cuts in areas "that will do the least damage to the instruction program." He warned trustees that the cut would probably mean some deviation from board policies regarding the ratio of staff members to students.

The lump-sum reduction was approved at the suggestion of Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts. "I feel we should ask for a reduction in the total amount and leave it to administration," she said. Mrs. Watts first asked that \$300,000 be cut from the spending program.

"I think we have to face the fact that the people have turned down two bond issues," Mrs. Watts declared. She said she would not vote in favor of an 8-cent tax increase recommended in the tentative budget.

Some 85 per cent of the total school budget is for salaries, while the remaining 15 per cent—about \$3 million—covers all supplies, maintenance, and plant operation costs. Most of the cuts will be

made for the smaller portion of the budget.

The tentative budget must be submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools for review by July 1. Trustees then must adopt a publication budget and order public hearings on the document. Final action must be completed Aug. 1.

The \$19.8 tentative budget does not include a \$700,000 deficit in the district's building fund which, because of the failure of a \$9 million bond issue June 7, may have to be paid from the general fund surplus. In addition, the tentative budget calls for some \$560,000 to be spent from the \$3.9 million reserve fund.

Trustees did not discuss (Continued on Page A-2)

Torrance property owners apparently are going to get a slight reduction in their taxes, but smokers will pick up the lag.

In an informal work session prior to last night's public hearing on a proposed \$12.6 million city budget, councilmen agreed to a 2-cent hike in the current city tax on cigarettes and a 2-cent reduction in the property tax rate. No formal action was taken, however, since a second public hearing must be held next Tuesday before councilmen formally adopt a budget.

The reduction in property taxes was achieved by a \$158,963 reduction in City Manager Edward J. Ferraro's proposed budget. With the suggested cuts—which involve

reductions in personnel and deferrals of some equipment and personnel to the last half of the fiscal year—Ferraro's budget will be reduced to about \$12.4 million.

In addition to the increased cigarette tax (the city currently has a tax of 2 cents per pack on cigarettes), a 25 per cent increase in business license fees will be imposed. Current business license fees of \$28 will be increased to \$32, while the additional fee per employe will jump from \$2 to \$4 per employe.

Mayor Albert Isen, comments during the regular council meeting, warned that the proposed budget is merely tentative and that changes suggested during the work session may not materialize

when formal action is taken next week.

A budget must be adopted by July 1.

Changes in actual expenditures proposed by Ferraro involve a \$6,000 increase in the city's contribution to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the elimination of three new policemen. In addition, some 20 new members of the police and fire departments will be needed only for the final six months of the fiscal year, resulting in a savings of about \$88,000.

The COUNCIL also agreed to eliminate the purchase of one new bus for the city's bus lines, saving about \$25,000 in the proposed budget.

Net savings to the average (Continued on Page A-2)

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PROMOTED . . . Torrance Police Chief Walter R. Koenig (left) presents a sergeant's badge to Officer Eugene J. Erbetta of the Torrance Police Department. Sgt. Erbetta, who joined the department Jan. 21, 1952, was promoted June 13. He and his wife, Marie, are parents of four children. Erbetta currently is taking classes at El Camino College for a degree in police science.

NINE SCHOOLS ON LIST

Double Sessions Slated In Third-Grade Classes

Double sessions, absent from the Torrance schools for the past five years, will be back with the district when classes begin in September.

Members of the Board of Education agreed Monday to permit double sessions in nine schools to avoid overcrowding in classrooms. Special classes will be moved in three other schools to avoid double sessions.

Two third-grade classes will be on double sessions at each of the nine schools—providing enrollment predictions made Monday are accurate, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

DR. HULL told trustees double sessions would be the "best thing" for the district in view of the critical problems confronting the schools. He said the plan would provide the "least educational disadvantage for the least number of children."

Opening of two new elementary schools next spring—the Sam Levy and Grace Wright schools—will permit most of the schools to eliminate the double sessions within the year.

Schools which are affected by Monday's action include Hickory, Meadow Park, and Wood schools, where double sessions are viewed as "al-

most definite." The six other schools where the half-day classes are expected to be necessary are Anza Carr, Jefferson, Newton, Walteria, and Yukon.

AT MAGRUDER, Steele and Torrance Elementary schools, special classes for educationally handicapped children will be moved so classrooms may be used for regular classes.

Dr. Hull said the half-day

Across the Wall

East Berlin Visit Described

(Press-Herald staff writer Jerry Reynolds returned to his desk last week after a 30-day visit to principal cities of Europe. His account of a visit across The Wall to East Berlin is the first of several reports planned for Press-Herald readers.)

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald Staff Writer

It twists and turns through the heart of the city, topped by strands of barbed wire, jagged glass, and an occasional gun tower. Wreaths mark spots where men have died

trying to cross the gulf it creates.

It is the Berlin Wall—and the very sight of it brings a lump to the throat, a throb to the heart, and tears to eyes. Here, in the heart of a great city, the true contrasts between East and West become unmistakably evident.

West of The Wall, as Berliners call it, lights are bright, people are gay, and a city thrives. East of The Wall it's a different story, seen most often in the sameness of faces, in the drabness of dress, in the absence of traffic. The

scars of war are everywhere East of The Wall, while to the West virtually all the scars have healed.

The Wall is a fact of life in Berlin, recognized, but not accepted by Berliners on either side. To cross it—a relatively easy journey for non-Germans—is to breach the Iron Curtain.

I crossed in a sightseeing bus, which provides the easiest and most convenient access to East Berlin. Tourists may cross The Wall alone at Checkpoint Charlie and remain in East Berlin up to 24

hours (you may not, however, secure lodgings in the East Sector). Although lone tourists need no special permits other than a valid passport, Soviet authorities can be exceedingly slow in completing the miles of red tape required for crossing.

Once inside the maze of tank traps, concrete walls, and road barriers which make escape from the East virtually impossible, a guide—an East Berliner—joined the tour (our West Berlin guide was not permitted to cross (Continued on Page A-2)

Voters to Get Third Chance at Bond Issue

New Water Rate Voted to Begin In City July 1

Residents who get their water from the Torrance Municipal Water Department will get a slight increase in their monthly bills come July 1.

But their bills will be substantially below those received by residents served by private water companies. Torrance councilmen, by unanimous vote, approved an increase in water rates charged by the city's water department last night.

Trainmen Told To Step on It

If you're a train engineer and you have to pass through Torrance, there's a new ordinance which you'll have to know.

Briefly stated, it prohibits the blocking of a street for more than five minutes. If you break that law, it could cost you \$500 and six months in jail—or both.

The new ordinance is intended to halt long switching operations which block major intersections and result in major traffic jams. It must pass on a second reading before it becomes law.

The new rates, which become effective at the start of the 1966-67 fiscal year, will increase the monthly bills of the "average" homeowner by about 65 cents. Major reason for the hike is an increase in the cost of water delivered by the Metropolitan Water District.

Average bills are based on the use of some 2,000 cubic feet of water each month. The monthly bill in such a case will jump from about \$4.10 to \$4.75. But, councilmen were told, customers getting water from private water companies operating in the city are now paying from \$6 to \$6.50 per month for the same amount of water.

IN OTHER ACTION last night, the council:

• Delayed until July 5, a decision on the proposed rezoning of a parcel at 203rd Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. The city's planning commission has recommended approval of a C-3 zone for property now zoned C-2 and R-3.

• Delayed until next Tuesday a decision on a building permit for a restaurant at 2732 Sepulveda Blvd. The de-



DON H. HYDE
New Chamber Chief

Chamber To Seat Leaders

Don H. Hyde, director of personnel services for U. S. Steel in Torrance, will be installed as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for the year 1966-67 as a highlight of the annual banquet Friday night at the Pen and Quill Restaurant in Manhattan Beach.

A veteran of 34 years of service with the steel firm, Hyde has been active in

Board Picks November for New Proposal

Torrance voters will be asked to decide the fate of a school bond issue for the third time this year at the Nov. 8 General Election.

Members of the Board of Education voted 4-0 Monday to place the district's twice-defeated bond issue on the General Election ballot. Dr. Kurt Shery was absent from the session.

Voters rejected a \$12.5 million bond proposal last Feb. 8 and then turned down a \$9 million bond issue at the June 7 primary election. In both elections, a majority of voters favored the bond issue, but the issues failed to carry because they required a two-thirds majority.

The Nov. 8 date was selected after Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told trustees a constitutional amendment on the November ballot will reduce the requirement for bond approval to 60 per cent of the votes cast. The new requirement, if approved by a majority of the state's voters will apply to school bond measures submitted at a statewide election, including the Nov. 8 ballot.

Trustees did not discuss the amount of the Nov. 8 issue. Following the rejection of the \$12.5 million bond issue in February, the board cut the request by \$3.5 million.

"We've got to keep trying until we pass it," William J. Hanson, president of the board, remarked as trustees approved the Nov. 8 date.

Safety Run Planned . . .

The thirteenth annual Youth Safety Run for teenage members of police advised car clubs will get the green flag in West Covina next Monday and will follow a course to Yosemite National Park and return. The Torrance Police Department, a participant for many years as a member of the Police Advisory Council for Car Clubs, will host a meeting here tomorrow to introduce participants and to outline details of the event.

Interns Graduating . . .

Forty-two interns were scheduled to be graduated at 3 this afternoon at Harbor General Hospital, receiving Certificates of Completion which attests to their competence to enter private practice or residencies. Dr. Harold Mazur, medical director, and Leslie R. Smith, administrator, planned to present the certificates. Dr. Marshall J. Orloff, chief of surgery at the hospital and professor of surgery in residence at UCLA, was to give the commencement address.

Anti-Smut Petitions Win . . .

Backers of an anti-obscenity initiative have been notified by Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan that they have sufficient signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot. Sponsored by a group calling itself California League Enlisting Action Now (CLEAN), the measure sets up procedures for prosecuting suspected violators and for seizure of suspected material pending determination of the obscenity content.