

Press-Herald

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Urban Renewal Chaos

When the federal government late in August granted its approval of the city's Meadow Park Redevelopment Project, we said the approval "assures the city that it will be able to go ahead with plans to clear the west end of the airport and establish a new industrial park on the property."

Events of the past 10 days indicate that we may have been a bit premature in our pronouncements.

As of the moment, the project is in a state of chaos. The City Council agreed to call an election on the matter after petitions signed by roughly 15 per cent of the voters were presented. Then the court stepped in and issued an order restraining the Council from setting the election date until it can hear the matter next week.

Urban Renewal as a way of life has turned out to have some drawbacks, although not as many as many of the petition passers would have the residents believe.

Whatever the outcome, one thing seems clear at this point: Torrance councilmen are not going to be in the mood to look at new renewal projects in the near future. Several have told us privately that "this is it."

The Press-Herald has pointed out several times that the city probably was committed beyond the point of return in the Meadow Park project. The only question now in the Meadow Park mess is whether the city's taxpayers will take up the whole burden of the financing, or whether some of the money they've already paid in federal taxes, will be made available. If the election is permitted and the voters vote to overthrow the renewal machinery, Torrance will surely be obligated to spend city funds to bail out. The costs could be crippling.

What we said last August, however, still stands: "We hope the councilmen have learned, at least, that they had better take a most serious look before they go jumping into any more urban renewal projects."

Opinions of Others

The government spends more than \$425 million a year on its public information, news, views, and self-pleasings — more than double the outlay for news-gathering by the two major U. S. news services, the three major television networks, and the 10 biggest American newspapers. Much of this huge expenditure — as reported by the Associated Press — is devoted to convincing Americans (with their own money) what the government does is for their welfare. — *Browerville (Nim.) Blade*.

In Florida, Commissioner Francis Bridges said names of juveniles who commit adult crimes should be publicized. "When a juvenile commits an adult crime, then he should realize through prompt, positive action what he has done is not to be laughed off as the act of a juvenile," he said. Stating that no youth should be allowed to hide behind his age in committing vicious acts, the veteran parole commissioner said, "There has been too much of this shielding from publicity . . . I think names, including those of the parents, should be used by news media." — *Washington (Ill.) Reporter*.

President Johnson has promised the postal employees an increase in wages and has tied the raise in postal rates to the package. The question becomes: Is the post office department a service of the government for the people or is it to be a self-supporting institution? If it is to be self-supporting, we feel that the government should get out of the business. It won't be long before it will be out of the parcel post business anyway as private parcel delivery services are taking over in many areas due to quicker service and better rates. — *Waterloo (Wis.) Courier*.

The next time they hold hearings on firearms regulations we hope someone will mention what happened in the Congo. Belgians there used to carry firearms for protection. Then the president, Joseph D. Mobutu, went in for firearms regulations in a big way. He forced the Belgians to give up all their firearms; in fact, he confiscated them. Since that time, according to a press report, "robbers have had a field day in Belgians' homes." Of course, such a thing couldn't happen here. We are, after all, a law-abiding people. — *Coatesville (Pa.) Record*.

STAR BALLCARRIER



FROM THE MAILBOX

'Political Blackmail' Is Charged Against Council

Editor, Press-Herald
The following is an open letter to the Torrance City Council and Councilman George Vico.

George, you have no idea of how right you were when you said we citizens who signed the ACT petitions would scream when we get our tax bill. (Press-Herald, Sunday, Oct. 29). Do you know why we will scream, George? I'll tell you why. Because you and the rest of our illustrious Council started this mess. Who voted a moratorium on all building, repairing, and improving by the residents and owners of their private property in the Meadow Park area, thereby creating and establishing our very own substandard, underdeveloped area? Our City Council, that's who!

Now I must admit, that's a pretty slick idea. If you don't have a slum area, let's proclaim "Eminent Domain" and create one, then one can appeal to the Federal boys for help to rid our fair city of this blighted area by buying up this run-down private property and we'll build us an elegant "Airport," of which the people of Torrance can beat their chests and proclaim to the whole country, that Torrance, the "All American City" has done it again!

At what seminar of mayors and councilmen was this tasty tidbit learned? Yes sir, those conferences sure save us taxpayers a barrel of money.

You bet we'll scream, George. We'll scream because you and your associates give mighty big lip service to private enterprise, except you feel the Council can do a better job of developing the airport land than private enterprise can.

The citizens of Torrance are well aware of the importance of Torrance Airport; its close proximity to

Los Angeles International and Long Beach airports, the fact that small airports are disappearing at a rapid rate, that Hawthorne Municipal Airport cannot expand and as for Compton airport, forget it.

We are aware of the fact that in the coming years Torrance Airport may be the only intermediate airport left in the Goldmine Valley. We own a gold mine, and believe it or not, George, we the people of Torrance know it (and so does private enterprise) as well as the Council. I'll bet you didn't know THAT, George!

And therein lies the greatest fault of the City Council. You just don't know that we the people know what's going on. You think because when we come before you in the Council chambers and you're "on camera" and you talk to us sweet and polite, that we are going to forget what was said to us, and how we were treated when the TV show was over. This time you're wrong. We the people have let George and Company do it long enough. I believe you will see a definite change for the better in the future.

You are mistaken when you say the Council has been working on Urban Renewal for months, George. They've been working on it since they declared their moratorium which was several years ago. You see, George, that's something else you are wrong about.

As for the political blackmail the Council is trying to pull by tying in an override tax with the special election, I don't believe the people will fall for that anymore than they did when the Council tried to burn in on the School Bond election.

What you and the rest of the Council do not know, George, is that the citizens of Torrance have been

watching the store while our City Council has been out of town, gathering these money-saving ideas; and we have come to the conclusion only a clean sweep in the next election can again make the City of Torrance the "All American City" it should be.

By the way, may I humbly suggest our City Council try asking Heloise for money-saving suggestions. Her ideas are free and they do save money. Your money-saving ideas are driving me (and I presume a lot of other people in Torrance) to the poor house.

See you all at election time!

PHILIP KELLER

Better Signal Timing Needed

Editor, Press-Herald
I agree with you, as you state in your Oct. 25 editorial, that "Torrance is slowly strangling in traffic and it probably will get worse before it gets better." Your solution is that the City Council quickly approve the extension of Madrona south of Sepulveda. It would be nice if it were as simple as that!

Before Madrona can be completed in this section, the railroad tracks must be removed, and the railroad company has not even decided as yet to abandon this line. There are customers using this line who cannot stay in business if the service were discontinued. Even if the railroad were willing to abandon the tracks, it would take several years to win ICC approval for such a move. Having the City Council pass the proposal route for Madrona now would not speed this process up in the least.

It is true we are unhappy that any homes must be eliminated, but we are even more unhappy about making a hasty decision which does not incorporate future planning in it. One of the four proposed freeway routes crosses Madrona in the vicinity of 228th Place. Within three months, hearings will be held on the freeway routes. We need not wait 10 years for the freeway to be COMPLETED before we start to plan for it.

We would also like to know what it would take to synchronize the traffic lights on Hawthorne Avenue so that traffic may be speeded on the main existing route.

Inasmuch as it would be impossible to put Madrona through at the present time, we feel it would be prudent to consider this plan when the uncertainties are solved.

MRS. OWEN GRIFFITH

Morning Report:

Dean Rusk, our secretary of state, has finally achieved the impossible. In his recent pronouncements he has "raised the emotional level of the debate" about the war in Vietnam — according to Senator Eugene McCarthy, of Minnesota.

I was under the impression the debate had reached the emotional limit long ago. We have had burning of draft cards, burning of flags, and people turning themselves into human torches. We have had protest demonstrations and marches small and large. The President has been called a murderer and the Secretary of Defense has been waylaid by a mob on the Harvard campus.

For Rusk, who always sounds like a political science professor in a girl's school which he once was, to escalate emotionalism in that fiery league is unbelievable. I don't believe it.

Abe Mellinkoff

CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

Riding Herd on State's Boards a Fulltime Job

By EDWIN S. CAPPS

Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — Some 31 licensing boards and commissions in California regulate a total of about 700,000 professional and trade people.

Are the operations of these boards and commissions designed to protect and benefit the public or are they operated to aid the profession, industry or trade?

This is one of the prime questions which must be answered by Henry M. Shine, Jr., director of the state department of professional and vocational standards.

It is a question made even more significant by a report of the California Commission on Government Organization and Economy, generally known as the "Little Hoover Commission." In a report of several months ago, the commission suggested that, if a regulating board or commission is not performing a definite service of protecting the public health and safety, the legislature should consider whether such a board or commission should not be abolished.

Conversely, the "Little Hoover" report said that, if a board or commission appeared to be primarily concerned with limiting access to a particular profession or trade, it should be eliminated.

Shine heads the department which controls all of these boards and commissions, most of which have little in common other than the fact they are in the business of regulating a trade or profession.

"I personally think the Hoover Commission went too far in assailing the boards," Shine said. "But we have to take a good look at what they're doing for the public. The legislature, at one time, was convinced the boards were needed to protect the public. The question is whether the legislature was sold a bill of goods."

The boards and commissions and the number of

people licensed by them include: accountancy, 26,048; architectural, 6,377; athletic commission, 1,208; barbers, 44,878; cement masons, 1,473; chiropractors, 4,822; collection agencies, 3,983; contractors, 88,382; cosmetology, 136,046; dental, 15,000; dry cleaners, 19,760; employment agencies (effective Nov. 1, 1967) 1,031; en-

The Men in Action on the Sacramento Scene.

gineers, 48,438; funeral directors and embalmers, 4,394;

Furniture and bedding inspection, 20,885; Guide Dogs for the Blind, 18; landscape architects, 802; marriage, family, and child counselors, 1,762; medical examiners, 60,100; nursing education and nurse registration, 125,107; optometrists, 2,990; osteopathic, 368; pharmacists, 19,827; private investigators and adjusters, 1,869; shorthand reporters, 1,222; social workers, 3,371; structural pest control, 5,471; television and radio repairmen, 6,347; veterinary medicine, 3,679; vocational nurses, 29,607; and yacht and ship workers, 654.

All of the boards and commissions are industry-supported—they operate on license fees charged from the particular business, profession, or trade.

The main philosophy of Shine is that he intends to run the department, rather than letting the boards and commissions go off in their own directions. He recognizes that the members of these bodies are dedicated, although sometimes over-impressed with the fact that they know their business and no one else is qualified to make a judgment.

Some of the boards, Shine said, are used by the Little Hoover recommendation that there should be more representation of the public on their boards.

"They take exception that there was an inference they were not honoring their oath of office," Shine said. "But there is a fine line between the protection

of the public and regulation of the profession."

One of the problems, as Shine sees it, is that each of the boards works on its own budget, supported by special funds and not subject to the usual scrutiny afforded state agencies. The theory is that the boards' activities are self-supporting, not costing the taxpayers any money.

But Shine, and Governor Ronald Reagan, for that matter, believe these are indirect taxes on the public and these agencies should be operated economically.

"Under the present special fund system, the boards have little incentive to cut the costs and it permits Parkinsonism to run rampant," Shine said.

Asked if he would favor transferring operations of all the boards to the state general fund, where they would come under complete control of the department of finance, Shine said:

"This would simplify our problems but, from a political standpoint, the chances of making them general fund agencies are remote."

However, Shine said he believed much could be done under present laws to improve the operations. If money is saved in operations, this could be translated into lower license fees or, failing that, eliminating the need for fee increases.

Shine said he believed the boards should hold public meetings in public buildings. He said he intended to attend as many of their meetings as he could and, when he could not, to see that a deputy director was in attendance.

Too many employees of the boards are well grounded in the particular business or profession but do not know the rudiments of administration, he said. Other boards are hampered by arbitrary rules: one board licenses some 20,000 persons and each license has to be signed personally by eight members of the board. Shine said he would move to put the licensing process on computers.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

A Columnist's Syndrome: It's Hard to Get Started

Unemployed resident of a boarding house: idle roomer . . . I just wrote that to get started (getting started is the hardest, don't you agree?) and because I've been thinking about idle roomers, which, in the case of movie stars, become idol roomers, but it is half-time well spent. For today I can report it is definitely not true that LBJ has a plastic statuette of himself on the dashboard of his car. Nor is it true that George Lincoln Rockwell is alive and in Argentina (W.C. Fields, however, may well be alive and drunk in Oakland).

So far as we can find out Eric Hoffer is neither a low camp edition of Daddy Warbucks nor Ayan Band in drag. As for the rumor, spread by Bob Maroney, that the Giants are merging with Avis, that's not true either, but now that Herman Franks has been hired for another season, hedge your bet. If you're a gardener, bet your hedge.

You are entitled to a Sterling Silver Status Symbol if you were on record against our involvement in Vietnam (B.D. (Before Diem); drive a Rolls Royce station wagon with a trailer hitch but no trailer, are entitled to shoo strangers away from the "Family Table" at Enrico's restaurant and sit there yourself, alone; "own" one of those chain-locked parking spaces behind the San Francisco Opera House and never go to the opera; without asking, are served French-fried zucchini by Maitre d'Hotel David at Amelio's bar (five demerits if you're waiting for a table); smoked pot

when it was called "muggles."

Last year Americans spent \$12 billion on alcohol, \$8 billion on tobacco and only \$2 billion on books. Now you know why writers drink and smoke so much . . . The result of four glorious years in the Army: every time I pull a tab off a beer can I

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

feel I should count to three and throw it . . . Social historians are at a loss, but off-hand, I'd say the decline of gracious living in the U.S. began with the death of the siphon bottle for soda water. However, Crackerjack boxes still contain prizes . . . Add annoying flaws in San Francisco's metropolitan pretensions: still no direct flights to Mexico City . . . Add touches of class in our ever-more-commercial world: wedding invitations that specify on a separate engraved card, "No gifts, please."

Larry Collins notes in the financial columns that Bacbe & Co. likes United Nuclear, the nation's largest producer of uranium, and why? Because "We feel the uranium industry is on the threshold of boom conditions." Very funny, Mr. Bacbe . . . And the fun continues in San Mateo, too. Ex-Publisher Ed Keating is filing for Congress, all the while holding a black cat named Shirley. Here's this pretty girl at the bar in the La Barca Room, wearing two buttons that read from left to right: "See Next Button" and "ignore

First Button" . . . And then there's this local wit, gaily singing: Double your pleasure, double your fun — Xerox your paycheck!"

Add Infinitem: Jeremy Ets-Hokin's first book, "The Transfiguration of a Fat Slob" (certainly it's autobiographical), will be published in the spring by Diablo Press. In it he describes how he lost 82 pounds while continuing to eat everything, including his words . . . Here we are at the Iron Duke, and there's a pretty financial dist. secretary signing the luncheon check. After "Name" she writes "Janet Hoagland." After "Firm" she writes "Yes."

Alan Grey Says . . .

In the Middle Eastern crisis . . . Each side has claimed abuse . . . They both are now pre-claiming . . . The other broke the truce . . . The U.N. has observers . . . That must think this a game . . . Just where are they appearing . . . If they can't place the name . . . They're like a group of parents . . . Whose children played a prank . . . They know someone is guilty . . . But don't know who to spank.