

# Press-Herald

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## The Council Dilemma

If members of the City Council complain that they didn't know all the ramifications of the urban renewal program when they sought federal aid in the area at the west end of Torrance Municipal Airport, they well may be telling the truth.

Several have made such a complaint privately during the past few weeks to those with a sympathetic ear.

To boll down their complaint, it appears that they have been spoon fed information on the project in supposedly digestible chunks but now it's midnight and someone's got a belly ache.

The truth is, it's later than midnight and a sizeable crowd of people have a belly ache.

Councilmen find themselves on an unenviable hot seat. If they go ahead full bore with urban renewal, they stand an odds-on chance of bringing about a referendum and possible defeat at the polls. If they back off, their position is equally untenable because of the long-term disruption of residents and landowners in the area involved.

The councilmen each get a mountain of printed material each week, and it probably is asking too much to expect that they have the time to read and assimilate every line of it.

As councilmen, however, they are in a position to insist that those supplying the information see that they get it all.

Whether the councilmen were asleep when the subject of housing code enforcement was introduced, or whether it was not given to them until they were well into the urban renewal picture now is academic.

Maybe all is not lost, however. Today's dilemma must certainly be of some value as an object lesson which may be recalled at some future date when councilmen are tempted to swing off into that limbo of federal largess which offers easy solutions to local problems.

As a lesson, however, the tuition may be very, very high.

## Support the Scouts

Ever since its beginning in 1910, the program of the Boy Scouts of America has helped boys to build useful lives, based on action and doing, to achieve the objectives of building character, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness into the lives of American boys.

Boys like Scouting. This is evidenced by the fact that 40 million American males have been in Scouting. This is further borne out by the fact that one out of every four American boys is a Scout today.

Because boys like Scouting and want to be Scouts, a major effort of the Boy Scouts of America now is to make Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Exploring available to many more boys in our area.

The roundup has as its theme Follow the Rugged Road to Adventure. The experience and excitement of the outdoor activities that are a natural part of Scouting help build boys into men who are physically, mentally, and morally fit.

As a partner with many of our local religious, civic, fraternal, school, and community organizations, Scouting has become a vital, educational force in the lives of thousands of boys. Great strides have been made in bringing Scouting to boys wherever they are found.

The continuing program of the Boy Scouts of America is a potent force to reach and recruit even more boys. New Scouts are being invited into existing Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Explorer posts. It also is a plan to organize new Scout units to take care of the exploding youth population.

Another vital part of the roundup is the recruiting of additional volunteer adult leaders and committee-men. The success of Scouting for boys of all ages is reflected in the enthusiasm of the volunteer leader. He teaches ideals along with skill, has a genuine interest in the program, and proves that his great concern is in seeing boys grow into the right kind of men.

We encourage every boy who wants to be a Scout to sign up. We urge interested adults to join up as well.

## Short Takes

The need to fight against air and water pollution was emphasized by M. A. Wright, board chairman of Humble Oil and Refining Company, when he said, "Either we voluntarily implement effective pollution abatement programs at all levels of business and industry or in the near future our actions in this area will be spelled out by Congressional legislation. Today, we still have the freedom to make a reasoned and resolute response to the problem. Tomorrow our actions may be tightly controlled by government regulations."

Writing in a recent issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Director J. Edgar Hoover reminds us, "The role of the policeman in our society goes far beyond the sworn duties of enforcing the law and arresting lawbreakers. Modern-day computers would be taxed to process the thousands of special services performed for the public by law enforcement officers every day."

In the United States, suicide has become the fourth leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults, reported Dr. Kurt Glaser of the University of Maryland in a recent issue of Today's Health.

"To let oneself be bound by a duty from the moment you see it approaching is a part of the integrity that alone justifies responsibility." — Dag Hammarskjöld.



## AFFAIRS OF STATE

# Day of the Professional Legislator Has Arrived

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Hopefully, the people of California voted Prop. 1A last fall on the assumption the state legislature might get down to business.

After a month of operation under the new constitutional amendment, the facts belie the assumption.

Under the old system, the end of January marked close of the bill introduction period. In some sessions, as many as 6,000 bills have been introduced.

This year, legislators in both houses have submitted approximately 600 bills, or roughly 10 per cent of what formerly was handled.

Now that legislators are on a \$16,000 annual salary, plus \$25 per day living expenses seven days a week; plus state-leased automobiles plus aides and secretaries salaried with public funds; plus luxurious office space stocked with the finest in furniture; plus little gifts like boxes of oranges from grateful constituents; plus etc., ad infinitum; they have managed to cut down their meeting time in session devoted to public service.

During the first four weeks of 1967, the senate and assembly spent 6.6 hours in actual session, out of a possible 144 hours the two houses could have worked during the 18 days of time checked in the journals. Normal work-week for the taxpaying peasants is 40 hours.

Joint rules of the two houses provide for not more than a three-day recess each week.

The legislature is interpreting this rule literally—three days at home and nearly two days to get there and return to Sacramento.

Rather early Thursday mornings, the houses convene, hold a short session, and recess for the week-end. They reconvene rather late Monday afternoon, usually at 3 p.m. Thus the

three-day weekly vacation is not disturbed by the necessity of travel.

This leaves Tuesdays and Wednesdays, which could be used as full legislative days. However, Tuesday is "Derby Club" day, devoted to a long lunch hour. On Wednesdays, the pattern is either some luncheon, dinner, or party given by more of those "grateful constituents," or constituents who hope to be grateful later after their legislation is acted upon.

Pure patronage and incompetence are bound to infect the existing appointment procedure—where the sole discretion of the controller can handsomely reward his political friends.—State Controller Houston I. Flournoy on inheritance tax appraisers.

We shall need all the wisdom we can muster to see to it that our present interesting period in history really marks an end of man's beginning, not a beginning of man's end.—Dr. Robert Sinshemer, Cal Tech biophysics prof.

By my taste, Lurleen Wallace is the prettiest of all the 50 governors. Of course, if I had my way, I'd rather have Julie Christie in the Alabama Statehouse.

But let's face it. Mrs. Wallace looks better in high heels and a pill box than any of them—prettier even than Governor Ronald Reagan playing Charley's Aunt. She may also be the daffiest.

As when she declared her principles would "not be suppressed by force . . . from China, from Russia, from Cuba, or from Washington, D.C."—in that order. How did she get the idea that my government is only a fourth-class menace, behind those other three? If she thinks Washington is now using force to keep Alabama in the Union, she should check up on what ole Jeff Davis went through.

## Sacramento

Only time will provide the answer to whether this enhances chances of the republic for survival, or infringes on the pursuit of democracy.

And the answer will affect the welfare of the people materially as far as government is concerned. How much the over-all cost of the legislature will be this year cannot be estimated exactly at the present time.

But it is a fact the costs have shown increases each year the law-making bodies meet in Sacramento.

And there I was, sitting alone at the counter of David's Delicatessen. My group, including even my faithful wife, had gone home

Like all great cities, San Francisco takes on a seductive glitter and glow after dark. Red tail-lights swim up the hills, while headlights skitter down. The new buildings, so brutal by day, are bathed in a warm glow; even the signs seem less ugly as they spring to light.

The night is a time of whispers and shadows, silhouettes behind drawn curtains, pale yellow reflections in Chinatown alleys. The

bridges reach out fancifully to nowhere and everywhere. Smell of smoke, incense, perfume and rot, sound of laughter, guitars and misery. As the great hands of the Ferry Building clock droop past midnight, the night owl keeps reminding himself that anything can happen. Even as he says it, he knows it won't.

I come by my heritage honestly. At 16, I was already on the night shift of

Back to earth! Three sailors from the Soviet ship, Mikhail Lomonosov, went to Pierre's to see the topless dancers — and brought along an interpreter! They don't believe everything they see? . . . Atty. Mel Belli has been served with divorce-plus-alimony papers by Pat Montandon's lawyer, George T. Davis, which brings up an interesting legal question. Since she claims they weren't legally married in Japan, how can she sue for divorce? It would seem to some observers that she merely had a nice trip, as in taken for a ride.

We are delighted to learn that the lovely if smallish town of Roseville is coming along, too. They have prostitutes. Or one, anyway. That is, they did have one, who fell victim to the Roseville Police Dept.'s scientific crime detection methods. A strapping young officer was assigned to arrange an assignment with the lady and he prepared for his dangerous mission by dusting his hands with fluorescent goop. After she had been duly arrested she was placed, undressed, in a darkened room at the police station and our hero's glowing handprints were all OVER her! And what does that prove?

ROYCE BRIER

## Ky Fills Doubtful Role As Symbol of Resistance

Last spring, when the Buddhist revolt in Vietnam was in progress, the prognosis for survival of Premier Ky's regime was very unpromising.

The Premier himself seemed to have no stature, he seemed to have no important support even in the army, and he had made several blunders.

Yet Ky now seems to be a substantial symbol of South Vietnam's resistance to rebellion, and he was so accepted by his Australian allies ten days ago. Naturally, such symbolism stirs angry opposition, but the disorderly crowds in Australia did not seem to bother Ky.

Ky is often brusque and tactless, and this seems to bother those who don't like the war. He has been blamed for some corruption and in-

efficiency in the government and army, but there is no impartial evidence that he could do much to change this in the Vietnamese society. Indeed, he is attacked when he dreams up penalties for official wrongdoing which do not accord with

Western ideas of retribution.

At the same time, Ky is no hero in America, even to those who hold the belief that the Vietnam war is a righteous one.

This makes him one of the least understood foreign figures having to do with the United States in recent times. Neither Ambassador Lodge nor General Westmoreland seems able to make him out, in fact, he

looks a little like a blank, which quite apparently he is not.

Opponents of the Vietnam war consider Ky a stumbling block to a negotiated peace, partly because he declines to deal with the National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong rebels.

Yet Ky suggested extending the brief February truce, and is reported to be following a far less "hard" line than hitherto, regarding a negotiated peace.

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Coming from Fulbright, you find this a little hard to credit. The Senator should take a little vacation in the Canadian woods and get a little unwound on Vietnam jungles. For, alas, Ky had the answer: "Only the Vietnamese have the right to decide the destiny of Vietnam."

That is, provided the Vietnamese have anything to say about it. Certainly they had nothing to say about Ky's accession to power. But they'd have nothing to say about it if we installed a "new government," either. If a leading American Senate liberal wants to install a puppet regime in Saigon, we're in a little trouble.

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

# True Night Owl a Dying Breed of Bird, He Says

I've got to be some kind of an idiot, all right. Here it was 4 a.m., and there I was, sitting alone at the counter of David's Delicatessen, eating a pastrami sandwich and expounding on Life to an inattentive audience of two—David and his brother, Harold, both of whom kept glancing at the clock and yawning. The lesser American Night Owl was out of his cage, and given the chance, he would go on till the purple hour.

The world is, of course, full of night people, but the true night owl—the bird who stays up till all hours when he doesn't HAVE to—is dying out faster than the whooping crane. All it takes is a strong constitution and weak mind. The serious night-bloomer begins to blossom as the sun sets out there beyond Seal Rocks, and clings to the childlike notion that true adventure walks the streets only after midnight.

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# World Affairs

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## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Ex-Screen Writer Strips Hollywood 'Love Goddess'

The psychiatrist sits in the lounging chair, tilts it back, his feet on the leather hassock, his clipboard and ball point pen in hand. What he hears during several sessions from his distraught, red-haired female patient, Wanda Oliver, reigning Love Goddess of the movie industry during the 1950s, is substantially the story which unfolds in "The Symbol," a grotesque, depressing novel of Hollywood by Alvah Bessie.

In a foreground note and disclaimer, Bessie states that his story is a fiction "not intended to represent any persons now living or dead." But Wanda Oliver's short, meteorlike and tragic career in the movies of the '40s and '50s, as well as her marriages, seems to parallel those of a Hollywood actress named Marilyn Monroe. I don't think anyone who reads "The Symbol" is going to believe otherwise.

Emmaline Smith, Los Angeles born, is orphaned at an early age and farmed out

to a series of foster homes (those of Mother Mabel, Mother Edna, Father Joe). Raped at an early age, she enters a loveless marriage with a wartime Navy enlisted man; drifts into modeling; divorces the Navy man; attracts notice by swinging her hips and im-

studio head; talent agents, gossip columnists.

But mostly we are concerned with Wanda's sexual deficiencies and excesses. We watch her sleeping in a prenatal position, depending more and more on alcohol and barbiturates for survival.

What should, in "The Symbol," be a moving and telling comment on a corrupting society, perhaps even a work of art, like Nathaniel West's "The Day of the Locust," is merely a book which carries a guarantee of commercial success, like "The Carpetbaggers."

One never feels sorry for Wanda Oliver, and that is the major flaw in "The Symbol." A reader wants to feel sorry for her, but an essential element of compassion is lacking in the characterization. At the point of Wanda's ultimate deterioration we wonder if she was not, as her studio head put it, "nothing but a piece of meat like we buy and sell every day." That, at least, is not the tragic Marilyn Monroe story.

provising a line as a bit player. She is shown to be a forlorn, frigid, exploited, promiscuous young lady who is never really satisfied and in most all her relationships is simply seeking a father figure.

The psychiatrist hears of her marriage to a famous football player, then to an intellectual leftist painter who eventually is subpoenaed before a Congressional committee to talk about his youthful Communist affiliations. As a former screen writer, Bessie knows his Hollywood of the big studio period. He lays much on the line here and expresses his contempt for many of its practices and its types — the powerful, contemptuous

studio head; talent agents, gossip columnists.

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## My Neighbors



Abe Mellinkoff