

# Press-Herald

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## A Busy, Busy Summer

It may be the summer hiatus for the vacation minded among us, but the City Council is finding that summer offers no let-up for its members.

The budget is no sooner squared away than a "windfall" of assessment values puts more money in the till. The councilmen, however, did as the Press-Herald urged last Sunday — they ordered a 10-cent cut in the city's tax rate, letting the Taxpayer get a break in the matter.

Now six of the seven councilmen are faced with the very serious task of selecting a seventh member to replace H. Ted Olson who has announced that he is leaving the city to accept an important assignment in Chicago for his company.

We don't know which direction the councilmen are apt to go, but when Mr. Olson's official resignation comes, the councilmen will be in a countdown to find a successor. If they fail to agree on a nominee, the voters will be asked to decide in a special election.

Before anything like a costly special election is called to select a councilman to serve until next April's municipal balloting, the Press-Herald suggests strongly that individual differences on the Council be forgotten long enough to select a competent, able, and interested appointee.

Mr. Olson admits he would like to stay and serve out his term, but the Chicago assignment is too good to pass, and it's too far to commute.

The next best step for us is to have the councilmen select someone worthy of being a successor to Mr. Olson. We pray they don't stumble in the process.

## An Exception Is in Order

An Assembly bill which would require motorcyclists to employ certain safety equipment, including helmets, has stirred up a loud protest among some of the state's more rugged cycle groups.

The bill sounds like a good one to us. It would establish a licensing examination for motorcyclists, require that applicants first qualify for automobile license privileges, require that bikes be equipped with crash bars, and lower the legal height of handlebars.

In testimony taken by the Senate Transportation Committee, members of the Hell's Angels and Gypsy Jokers voiced opposition to the proposal. One member of the bearded cycle group accused the Legislators of "taking the whole enjoyment out of motorcycle riding" by requiring helmets.

A girl told the Senators that her boy friend "has the right to decide whether he wants to have his head smashed on a California freeway or not."

Senator Ralph C. Dills who represents the Torrance-Gardena-Harbor area, reports that responsible organizations and cycle associations support the safety laws, saying it is a protection, not an invasion, of life. And there are 10,000 registered cyclists for each out-law, or cyclist who is not a member of the American Motorcycle Association, Senator Dills reports.

In the case of the helmets, the Senators might consider making an exception for the Hell's Angels, the Gypsy Jokers, and others of their stripe.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

# Assessor Philip Watson Likes Editorial, But...

Editor, Press-Herald  
I heartily agree with the sentiments expressed in your front page editorial Sunday, July 16, "Taxpayers Need a Break."

However, at one point the editorial writer stated, "Assessor Philip E. Watson has hiked city property assessments to levels higher than anticipated," leaving the impression with your readers that I have arbitrarily set higher assessments. As you know, my office doesn't set market value — the price which people are paying for property in the market place is what sets market value. It is our responsibility to find out the going market prices for property and assess it at 25 per cent of that value.

I don't mean to quibble with what is otherwise a good editorial, but this point is one which is so frequently misunderstood that I felt it was worth correcting.

PHILIP E. WATSON  
Assessor

ice program, will leave the United States and return to our home countries.

Together with 38 other students from the Los Angeles area we left three weeks ago from the Torrance Recreation Center. Tomorrow we will reach New York, after a 3,000-mile bus trip which took us to communities in 10 different states.

It has been like a course in geography, with us traveling on a giant map. We got a quick glance at aspects of "the American way of life," quite different from what we saw in California.

We met a cross-section of the American society; in each community we came into a family differing in religion, social status, outlook on life, and sometimes in race, from the former one.

We had many interesting conversations. Among other things, we had a hard time convincing the people that not all of California has turned on and dropped out.

We thank the people all over the United States, and especially in Torrance, who made this AFS year possible for us. Torrance has not just been "a nice place to visit," and our host families, the Belzers, Docks, Elliotts, Ervings, and Janebas have been as close to us as our own families.

## I've Just Discovered A New Home Run Hitter



HERB CAEN SAYS:

# Your Best Reducing Bet? Merely Eat Like a Horse

Barrel's Bottom: In a year, we discovered, a human eats 16 times his own weight while a horse eats only eight times its weight — whereas, chimes in Dr. Robert Orr, a hummingbird eats 24 times its own weight daily. The conclusion is obvious, therefore. If you want to reduce, eat like a horse, not like a bird. . . . Republican Bertram Rudolph Jr. of Monterey went to tonga for the coronation, and found himself breakfasting at the International Date Line Hotel (Nukulofa's Finest) alongside Pat Brown, who kept chewing him out for voting for Reagan. "Look, Pat," Bert finally protested, "I know every vote counts, but I didn't come 6,000 miles to argue about MINE!"

Barnaby Conrad dropped in at Roland's Bar in the Marina district the other night and gazed longingly at a magnificent photo of the late matador, Carlos Arruza. "I'd like to use that in a

new book I'm doing," he said to Owner Frank Perez, who shook his head, explaining, "That picture has great sentimental value for me." Barnaby: "Well, could I borrow it and have a copy made?" Frank: "Nope, I'm afraid I might not get it back." Barnaby: "Why does it mean so much to you? Did you know Arruza?" Frank: "No, but 13 years ago I stole it from the wall of YOUR bar, the Matador, and I wouldn't want it to happen again."

## San Francisco

Trips on a Tripewriter: Those of you who vote for withholding will have to answer sometime why you voted for a tax collection system that is discriminatory to the working people — it only applies to salaries. — Sen. Robert S. Stevens, R-Los Angeles, arguing against a vote for withholding tax.

## Quote

A candidate running in a reapportioned district at the 1968 general election would do so in a district created from population figures nearly nine years old. — Assemblyman Charles J. Conrad, R-Sherman Oaks, opposing redistricting for congressional seats this year.

## Morning Report:

Our various headquarters in Saigon are now being infiltrated — no not from North Vietnam but from the United States. The record speaks for itself: 20 American visitors in 1962 and a current rate of 2,800 a year. Of course we are stepping up our forces — military and civilian — in South Vietnam. But not nearly as fast as the tide of VIP's from the states. The Very Important VIP's of course can demand conferences with General Westmoreland. And the big issue before the Pentagon is: will he break under the pressure of luncheons? Maybe even more important is the number of war experts that are loose on our own country. Can we stand another speaker or writer who starts out, "Now when I was in Vietnam?"

Abe Mellinkoff

## AFFAIRS OF STATE

# Biggest Share of State Fund Goes to Schools

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — California's legislators are confronted with some discouraging figures as they move into final consideration of Governor Ronald Reagan's billion dollar tax program. The figures concerned the condition of the state's general fund, and were issued by State Controller Houston I. Flournoy, who said the state closed its fiscal year with \$194 million of temporary borrowing from special funds unrepaid.

In an annual preliminary report, Flournoy said that during the 1966-67 fiscal year, disbursements totaled \$2,979,055,198, exceeding receipts of \$2,628,506,883 by \$350,548,315. He said:

"The deficiency in receipts was financed by the cash balance of \$192,053,757 carried over from the previous fiscal year and by temporary borrowing from other funds. Borrowing totaled \$550 million from August through May, of which \$356 million was repaid by June 30, 1967, leaving the unrepaid balance of \$194 million."

Education at all levels, he said, including the University of California, was the

largest expenditure category: \$1,607,206,821, or 55 per cent of all general fund expenditures.

"The critical nature of the state's cash condition," said the state controller, "is

## Sacramento

emphasized by the gap between receipts and disbursements during the year.

"For the first time since 1941, the general fund cash receipts, with the cash balance from the preceding year, have been insufficient to meet expenditures and repay temporary borrowing by the end of the fiscal year."

"While this year-end cash deficit does not reflect the financial condition of the state as accurately as the unappropriated surplus, it has serious implications for the maintenance of the state's cash position to meet disbursement requirements in the 1967-68 fiscal year."

"The general fund is in a borrowing position again this month, and \$6 million has been borrowed from the pooled money investment account so far and additional cash, upwards of \$130 million, will be necessary to

meet claims against the general fund during the balance of July."

On top of the cash debt, the controller's report showed that the state at the end of the fiscal year had an outstanding bonded indebtedness of \$4,285,915,444 some of which is self-liquidating.

It also showed there are \$1,873,197,000 worth of state bonds authorized, but as yet unissued.

The state is issuing bonds about five times faster than it is redeeming them, the report indicated. During the last fiscal year, \$585 million in bonds were issued, but only \$138 million redeemed. It was the third consecutive year in which more than a half billion in bonds were issued.

For the next three years, bond interest and redemptions will be more than \$300 million a year, and for the 15 years after that, redemptions will be between \$200 and \$300 million. This is on the assumption that no further bond issues will be voted by the people.

It is suggested that the controller's report will make good reading for those who are opposed to curtailment in government expenditures.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Israel Wins War, Finds Peace a Difficult Prize

Our historical experience is that what to do with a war when you've won it, is quite as complex and stubborn a problem as how to win it.

When you're fighting a war peace looks easy, even simple, all problems solved by victory. But this is delusory. Only a few central problems can be solved by warfare, which generates still more problems, and these are seldom solved satisfactorily, even by the victors.

A striking example of this is the Civil War, fought primarily against the right to secede, secondly for abolishment of the chattel slave system. So the war solved both secession and slavery, but it did not solve the status of four million freed black men. That is still a violent goal in our society 102 years later.

So the Israelis are now discovering that the problems of peace are more complex and stubborn than the problems of warfare once they were engaged. In a military sense these problems were quickly solved.

By air and tank maneuver they overran and now hold large expanses of enemy territory. This land, much of it desert, is of little or no use to them, except as it can be bargained off as a guaranty of their future security.

There are strategic exceptions to this generality

## World Affairs

in their view. The Gulf of Aqaba must be declared an open seaway, and the Suez Canal must be opened to Israeli ships. They believe they must annex (they use a less exacting legal term) that part of Jerusalem seized from Jordan, and there is the fertile Nablus plain west of Jordan between Jerusalem and Galilee.

There yet seems to be no sense in a partitioned Jerusalem, provided the Israelis will guarantee untrammelled non-Hebrew visitors to the non-Hebrew holy places.

Most of the Sinai Peninsula should be returned to Egypt, but this is hardly to

be expected until the Canal is opened and Aqaba waters guaranteed.

The Israelis say they want to sit down and arrange a peace with their enemies. There is nothing immoral in this. It has long historical precedent, but this precedent has often been voided, particularly by outside meddlers. The best information available is that no Arab government can presently stand if inclined to negotiate with Israel. This appears to be hard fact the Israelis should take into practical account.

The alternative is outside intervention, and the indicated intervenors are the United States and the Soviet Union, which are adamantly and diametrically committed on the issues in the region. In any case, intervention of any kind gives no promise of establishing peace in the Mideast, but does give promise of re-establishing the very evils which provoked the June war.

Here is an impasse, and nobody on earth can break it at this moment. The only issue settle by the June war is that Israel as a state cannot be exterminated by the neighboring Arab states. The rest is fate.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Plantation to Ghettos: The Pathways of History

Background: The other day, almost by accident, I ran across a book titled "From Plantation to Ghetto" by August Meier and Elliott M. Rudwick, respectively professors of history and sociology. This is an "interpretive history of American Negroes from the era of slavery, through emancipation, sharecropping and — as a consequence of the migration to the cities of both North and South — the 20th Century urban ghetto."

This was published some months ago as a unit in Hill & Wang's series of topical histories of the United States. I looked into it after reading the powerful and upsetting Bantam paperback original, "Rivers of Blood, Years of Darkness," which I reported on the other day, the document in which the young journalist Robert Conot presents an analysis in narrative form of the Watts riots of August, 1965.

The Conot book is an important piece of reportorial

enterprise; it is also depressing in that it leaves in a reader a sense of almost total hopelessness after coming face to face with the passion, resentment, and continuing threat of violence in "the two Americas" that make up our urban areas. Watts was an explosive ex-

## Books

pression of a serious national problem, to say nothing of a potential national catastrophe. Anything which might contribute to the average citizen's understanding of the situation seems to be especially valuable today.

"From Plantation to Ghetto" throws some light on the making of the ghetto. It is a scholarly, lucid and informative work which answers no questions, but does trace the attitudes Americans have lived with too long and have done very little about. It is background for an understanding of Conot's book, and of Waits (or Cincinnati, Buffalo, Boston, Brooklyn, Oakland or wherever).

Among other things, the Meier-Rudwick book is a discussion of race riots and Negro retaliatory action. It observes the Negro culture which developed within the context of a subordinate status, whose leading institutional manifestations, as the authors emphasize, have been "the plantation and the ghetto." The book analyzes the Negro experience from the 18th Century; it observes Negro ideologies and movements through our history right down to the Black Muslims, CORE, and Martin Luther King.

Like Conot's dramatic and explosive "Rivers of Blood, Years of Darkness," the scholarship in "From Plantation to Ghetto," offers no panaceas, no cure-alls. But Meier and Rudwick bear down, and hard, on an essential area of American history that has been largely ignored. Any serious contribution to the beginnings of racial understanding is a plus these days. The Meier-Rudwick history is a glimmer, and can be a beginning.

## Quote

I think I can say that, as of this point, the governor has no votes for his tax bill among the Democratic members of the Assembly in the form that bill is at this point. I think he might have one. One fellow wasn't there. — Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Inglewood, on discussion of Gov. Ronald Reagan's tax bill at a meeting of the Democratic assemblymen.

I seriously question whether or not the federal judiciary has the constitutional right to inject itself into a matter that is properly a state matter. — Sen. H. L. Richardson, R-Arcadia, on federal court stay of all executions in California.

At first it disturbed me that this bill set up a double standard of pornography, one for adults and the other for persons under 18. But I realized we practice the same double standard in our home by screening material our children may read. — Assemblyman W. Craig Bidle, R-Riverside, on bill prohibiting sale of indecent literature to minors.