

THIS  
is the  
American  
Way! . . .

By Michael Strasser

Almost to the minute when Hitler was completing his grab of Czechoslovakia and placing a million more people under the bondage of dictatorship, stifling their rights of speech and assembly, American citizens were gathered in the Civic Auditorium here last Thursday night, giving full vent to their opinions about a matter of taxation.

They spoke loud and long, with no fear of reprisal by constituted authorities. They determined to wage a tax strike to save their property. Such a meeting could not have been held in the German Reich . . . in Soviet Russia . . . in militaristic Japan . . . in Fascist Italy . . . in bloody Spain.

An aged war veteran arose to his feet several times to tell how he reduced a \$74 tax bill, including his Alondra Park assessment, to \$6 and urge the 700 men and women in the Auditorium to effect the same saving by refusing to pay the Park tax.

And in Prague, Nazi Storm Troopers suppressed all gatherings of any kind while Der Fuehrer was supervising the conquest of Czechoslovakia. A Redondo man strenuously treated the audience to join him in a general tax strike.

And in Moscow, additional new taxes were imposed on Russians to raise funds for more armament.

A North Torrance resident for 28 years, John Salm, declared he was not going to pay the assessment and urged every property owner to do the same.

And in Rome, Il Duce was suppressing all mention in the press of Britain's mounting indignation over Hitler's Czech coup.

Mayor William H. Tolson, faced with the hardest job of chairmanship in his career—everybody wanted to talk at once—managed by good humor to control the meeting time so that those who had something to contribute to make to the gathering heard their say and as long as they wanted to say it.

And in Tokyo, Japanese officials continued to exercise sharp censorship of all dispatches coming out of China where the Japanese army is, according to qualified observers, finding guerrilla warfare not to their liking.

But the tax strike discussion was held in America. It was held in a community building. It was open to anyone. It was a striking example of what the right of free speech, free assembly and a free press means to Americans.

Here were men and women aroused to strike with all their might at an insidious form of taxation and they were speaking their minds without flinching over their shoulders, fearful of secret police, storm troopers, or OGPU operatives. This was and is—the American way!

### No Funds Available for Temporary Work on Slough Channels

Although the county flood control district is preparing a general plan for improvement of the entire watershed of Laguna Dominguez, there are no district funds available even for temporary work on these channels and the item cannot be included in the new preliminary budget without an increase in district taxes, Chief Engineer H. E. Hedger reported to the board of supervisors this week.

Hedger's report was in reply to a request from the Southwest Cities Flood Control Association, requesting "that the Nigger Slough channel and all other drains and channels affecting drainage into this area be cleaned and repaired at the earliest possible time to afford the maximum protection against floods."

### HAVE YOU EVER TRIED . . . Invisible Half Soling?

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# TORRANCE HERALD

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1939

SECTION B

## Alondrans Will Not Pay Any More Assessments

### 700 Throng Auditorium; Vote Strike

Taxation without representation was one of the causes of the American Revolution in '76 . . .

Taxation without benefits of anything outside of a few weeds on its 315 acres was the cause of the Alondra Park assessment strike of 39 . . .

With only eight dissenting votes, a gathering of nearly 700 indignant Alondra Park taxpayers voted last Thursday night in the Civic Auditorium to refuse payment of another cent toward the increasing Acquisition and Improvement assessments of the district that has already cost them \$1,000 more than the total bond principal of \$1,014,981.20.

**Reaffirm Strike Motion**  
Mayor William H. Tolson had a difficult two hours in presiding at the mass meeting. He was constantly interrupted, advised, reprimanded and reminded of what speakers termed "Parliamentary rules of order." But he managed, despite these intrusions, to keep the meeting on an even keel and allow those who really had something to contribute in the way of essential information or opinions to hold the floor.

When the motion was finally put regarding the Mattoon Act, support of about 25 or 30 in the audience.

Perhaps the best information contributed to the meeting was given by J. A. Bennell, tax research engineer, who last week submitted a statement on the history and current appraisal of Alondra Park to the board of supervisors. He termed the history of the district "a public debt tragedy eclipsing anything in Los Angeles county."

Bennell strongly recommended the assessment tax strike and especially urged the small property owners to cooperate with the move. He claimed he is representing some of the largest landowners in the district and his assessments "now or in the future."

He advised against a general tax strike, however, declaring such a move would "stifle the necessary work of government, sanitation, police and fire protection."

Others who took part in the discussion were Mrs. Leila Gomer and John Salm of North Torrance. Both asserted they intended to withhold the assessment levied by Judge Frank Carroll of Gardens spoke briefly, reporting that the Alondra bonds "have been depressed thru the action so far of this association that they have not been sold down far enough to make their sale to the county within reach."

Smithers was joined by a Mr. McNamara of Lawndale in demanding a general tax strike. They declared that only thru this violent action could enough "pressure be brought to bear on the supervisors so that we will be given the relief we urgently need."

All of the speakers were agreed that the Alondra Park district property owners are wholly justified in deducting the assessment levy from their tax bills. They declared the county should assume full responsibility for the debt, immediately inform the bondholders of the district's stand and proceed to acquire bonds. The district securities are now quoted and selling in Los Angeles at 88 and 90 cents and accrued, it was reported.

**General Strike Downed**  
All a taxpayer has to do to carry out this method of depressing the cost of the Alondra Park bonds and bring pressure to bear on the county board of supervisors to take over the park in the name of the county, is to let the Tax Collector to segregate the taxes itemized to his statement and then pay all the rest of the levy, withholding the A. & I. District No. 28 assessment.

Banks having ownership of Alondra Park property and some of the better known lending agencies selling property there on contract are said to be cooperating with this plan of lifting the huge (\$4,489 per acre at maturity in 1951) burden on the district.

During the meeting, at regular intervals a Mr. Smithers of Redondo Beach repeatedly urged a general tax strike—whereby the property owners would refuse to pay all taxes, city, county, school, sewer and others, until a solution of the assessment problem is found. Smithers finally obtained his wish for a vote on the proposition but he only had the

### NO MORE ASSESSMENTS

Here is the text of the resolution launching the A. & I. Dist. 28 tax strike in Alondra Park that was reaffirmed nearly unanimously at the mass meeting of irate taxpayers last Thursday night in the Civic Auditorium:

"WHEREAS, the balance paid upon the total purchase price of the said park site, approximately the sum of \$1,014,981.20, and

"WHEREAS, it is now possible to separate the A. & I. District No. 28 Alondra Park tax levy from other and general taxes,

"NOW, THEREFORE, it is determined by the taxpayers here assembled that they will not pay the assessment or assessments which have been or may be made against their property, to meet either principal or interest on Alondra Park bonds.

"It is directed that the clerk of this Association furnish to each taxpayer in the Alondra Park District a copy of this resolution, with the request that each individual property owner carry out the purpose and intent of this resolution."

"WHEREAS, the park site consists of approximately 317 acres, and is now a part of the general park program for the County of Los Angeles, and

"WHEREAS, there has been

### L. A. Blamed for Mounting Rabies Cases

A continuous fight against rabies in county territory and cities served by the county health department has been made necessary because of the failure of Los Angeles city to adequately enforce anti-rabies restrictions, County Health Officer J. L. Pomeroy declared today. Dr. Pomeroy charged that the county as a whole is being "fed" by rabies cases from Los Angeles.

There have been 48 cases of rabies reported outside the city of Los Angeles during the last six weeks—10 of them in the area served by the Torrance health center. Dr. H. C. Smiley, who is in charge of the center here, said yesterday that only one of those 10 cases occurred within Torrance city limits—all of the others being in the Lawndale area. The one human death from rabies reported in the six-week period, which brought the total to six deaths in the last 18 months, was in Lawndale.

To combat the present condition, Dr. Pomeroy will ask in the new budget to employ 10 permanent quarantine officers, to replace the present provision for 16 officers on an "as needed" basis.

**Business Review Shows Gains**  
California's business activity for the month of February according to Bank of America's business review, prepared by the institution's analysis and research department, discloses a six percent increase in volume of sales in 68 leading department and apparel stores over the same month last year.

California led the entire west in general building activity, 32 cities of this state reporting an average increase of 24 percent over the same month a year ago.

"Here She Comes!"—Adv.

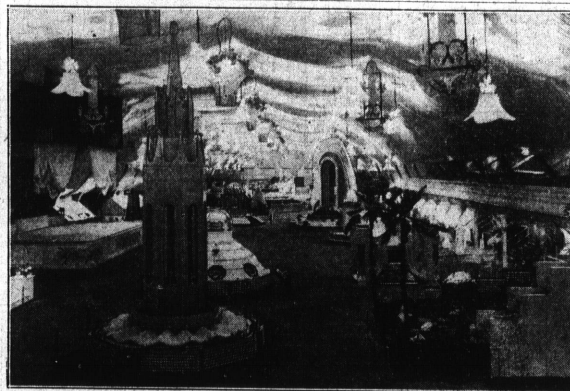
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WHERE CITRUS IS KING . . . This interior view of the main auditorium at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino reveals the magnitude of the exposition now being staged. The

great Los Angeles county feature display is shown left of center. This display is the largest in the show. The exposition is open daily and Sundays.

### NOTED RACE PILOT WILL GIVE SAFE DRIVING SHOW

Jan King, noted race and thrill driver, will stage a safe driving demonstration on Cravens, between El Prado and Marcelina at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The National Safety Council's endorsed program of hand signaling will be shown. King will demonstrate, by use of the proper hand signals, the right and wrong way to make turns, how to stop a car and how to drive backwards with safety.

In addition to the safe-driving demonstration, he will make a series of spectacular ramp jumps onto a wet street to show the proper method of handling a car under adverse conditions. The program is presented by Harvel's

Service Station and it is hoped that many will be able to attend and see this performance.

King drives a 3,500-pound car, standard equipment in his demonstration. Using a heavy car of this type makes it more difficult to bring the car to a stop and to handle it on the slippery street.

This demonstration has the endorsement of press and public in many cities, and it is through the cooperation of the local police and fire department that it is being given.

The West Indies are the summits of a submerged mountain chain.

### Baby Falls From Bed—Lands On Broken Bottle

When a baby falls from his bed his injuries are usually confined to shock and perhaps a bruise or two.

But when one-year-old Joe Moniz of 19108 Normandie tumbled from his crib Tuesday he suffered a severe cut about his eyes.

He fell directly on a broken bottle.

**INSTALLING CHAIRS**  
Workmen are now installing the 989 standard school opera chairs that will complete the new Torrance high school assembly hall. The seats are tinted to conform to the color scheme of the auditorium interior.

### 3 Parked Cars Involved In Crash

Four cars were involved in an accident early Sunday morning at Arlington and Sierra street but only one person was injured.

Three of the machines were parked at the curb and not occupied when they were struck by a car driven by Paul Sewer of 838 Arlington, Apartment C, who collided with the first one when he swerved his car sharply to avoid striking a pedestrian.

Edward Talbot, who lives with Sewer and who was a passenger in the latter's car, suffered a six-inch laceration on the left side of his face that necessitated treatment at Torrance Memorial hospital, according to police reports.

Sewer's machine plunged into the parked car registered to C. A. Ruppel of Inglewood. Ruppel's empty auto was shoved onto the sidewalk and into another parked car which was registered to Jess Crawford of Apartment B at 838 Arlington. Crawford's machine then was pushed back into a third car that police say was not damaged.

### Consumers' Class Will See Movies

Motion pictures pertaining to glass manufacture, linoleum production and "Hidden Values" in other merchandise will be shown tomorrow (Friday) morning at the Consumers' Education class being conducted at the Fern Avenue school. All interested in this subject are cordially invited to attend. The session will begin at 9:30 o'clock.

**Wooldridge**  
Herald Circulation Mgr. Writes  
Pity the unhappy. But be indulgent to the happy.

Don't Miss This, Folks! Greatest Thrill In Years!

**JAN KING**  
NOTED RACE AND THRILL DRIVER WILL STAGE A  
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**SAFETY DEMONSTRATION**  
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ON  
CRAVENS, BETWEEN EL PRADO and MARCELINA

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JUMP A 3500-  
LB. CAR OVER  
A RAMP AND  
LAND ON A  
SLIPPERY  
STREET!