

300 Jam Torrance Council Session Demanding Cause for Judge's Abrupt Discharge Tuesday

(Continued from Page 7-A)

dances (which was addressed to Rev. H. Wesley Roloff, secretary of the Ministerial Union who protested about the affairs in the Civic Auditorium) was "merely a carbon copy, not addressed to the city council or signed." He reasoned, therefore, it was inadmissible for reading as requested April 1 by Michael Straszor of the Herald.

Lessing Letter Revived — This description of the Lessing letter (published in full in last week's Herald) was admitted true by the newsmen who pointed out that the official record of the April 1 council session was "ambiguous" regarding identification of the letter by Rev. Roloff, who said

he had the original and it was signed. This letter was never read by the council.

Publisher Whyte, who pointed this out to the council, then declared:

"If there was any indication of broadmindedness in some members of this council, they should have welcomed the suggestion made April 1 by a representative of The Herald for a fair and open hearing on the dance problem... Just to keep the record straight and to quote from the record, I offer this contribution to the discussion—taken from the official minutes of the council session on that date:

"Councilman Hitchcock said he felt Mr. Straszor's suggestion was a reasonable and fair one. He remarked that Judge Lessing is chairman of the Coordinating Council, to which Councilman Murray replied: "That is another thing I have against the Coordinating Council."

Herald Men Termed Hoodlums — Murray, obviously taken aback by this public reading of the approved council minutes, sputtered unintelligibly and then said:

"I'll repeat what I said before: I'll not have the Torrance Herald held as a club over my head... it's run by a bunch of hoodlums anyway!"

An unidentified spectator in the audience shouted: "What's the matter with you, Jack? You read it regularly, don't you?"

J. E. "Jack" Miller, one of the original officers of the Coordinating Council, introduced this thought, which after prolonged discussion was finally adopted:

"Now, before you gentlemen go off half-cocked again on something you don't know anything about, I suggest that the council meet with the Coordinators to learn how the money coming from the student dances is spent. At the same time, I think the Coordinators would be glad to receive any bills the council may have incurred for any of this alleged damage that has been done by the kids in the Auditorium. Let's see what this amounts to, anyway."

Babcock's motion to allow such a conference failed to receive a second. Later, however, a similar motion by Hitchcock, who fixed the time and date of the conference as this afternoon (Thursday) at 5 o'clock, was adopted. His motion also rescinded the previous action of putting the Recreation department in charge of the dances.

More Responsibilities — Pointing out that refusal to allow the Coordinators to continue the dances means a halt to all of that organization's revenue, Mrs. Wright informed the council:

"You may as well have the full responsibility that the Coordinating Council has borne if you take away our source of income that has been spent for much good work here. You may as well take over the Toy Loan Library and find it a headquarters. The Coordinators cannot keep that going now with funds being taken away from us."

Tells Where Blame Lies — "Don't give the dance to the Recreation department until after you have given the Coordinators an opportunity to present their side of the case," Jack Miller urged. After the conference was agreed to, Mayor McGuire asked Mrs. Wright the best time for such a meeting.

"Just name the day—we'll be there," was her laconic reply.

Another statement which drew prolonged applause was this by Publisher Whyte:

"May I point out in regard to the complaints made by some members of the Ministerial Union and some members of this city council that all the irregularities charged against the student dances have occurred outside the Civic Auditorium. None have occurred inside where the dance is held. All disturbances have been outside. Therefore, it is up to the police department to control this and Councilman Powell is head of the Police Department for the city!"

O'Toole States Case — The Herald publisher reiterated the demands made for the reasons behind Lessing's ouster, stating: "The council has been asked time and time again to-night for this information and as yet has given no reply."

Perhaps the most blunt statement made at a meeting which was full of overflowing point-blank accusations was made by Vernon Coll, who has been in charge of the dance operations for the Coordinators.

"If anyone should know how those dances are conducted I should because they are my job for the Coordinating Council," he said. "I want to tell you right here that I've never seen any kid around the Civic Auditorium any drunker than a councilman in your own chambers right here!"

James J. O'Toole took the floor to make this statement: "I know of only one judge being removed in this fashion in the whole state of California. The most popular man in the United States today (obviously referring to President Roosevelt — Ed.) ran into trouble when he started to push the judiciary around. Gentlemen of the council, you have heard tonight the will of the people expressed in no uncertain manner.

"I believe with the people here that Judge Lessing is a fine judge. I personally believe he is the finest one Torrance has ever had... Your action is a rash injustice to a man after seven years' hard work for the city because you are removing him from office without specific charges. He is entitled to support. This is a representative body here tonight and it certainly does not favor your action," O'Toole

Takes Oath of Office



NAMED JUDGE... Attorney John Shidler was appointed to succeed City Judge Robert Lessing at Tuesday night's tumultuous session. He took the oath of office as city magistrate from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett late yesterday afternoon. Son of Mrs. Mina Shidler and the late Dr. George Shidler, Judge Shidler lives at 1448 Post ave. and was engaged in legal work for the state as an income tax counselor.

He was born in York, Neb. 30 years ago next May 7 and attended school in Torrance and Redondo Beach. In 1932 Shidler received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Stanford University and three years later won a Bachelor of Laws degree at Loyola University and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1938. He began his practice here shortly afterward.

Following graduation at Stanford he spent a year in post graduate work on social sciences and then broke his law career by teaching at Huntsville State Teachers' College in Texas for a year.

beet-reddening face thruout the entire session, roused himself to state: "For Mr. Hitchcock's benefit, I'd like to know just how come a bulldozer and a city street department employee spent all day working for Judge Rippy."

Rent to Anyone — At this a dozen or more in the audience, obviously tired at Powell's attempt to befuddle the issue, shouted:

"That's beside the point!"

"Stick to the facts before you, Mr. Powell!" "Cut out the mud-slinging and tell us why you want Judge Lessing fired!" and other similar comments.

Powell subsided until he seconded Murray's fourth motion to adjourn until the meeting this afternoon (Thursday) at 5 o'clock.

No vote was taken then and the discussion continued with Mayor McGuire stating: "I don't vote for the removal of Judge Lessing"; Murray's pronouncement: "I'm not going to be bullied into giving any statement" and Babcock's assertion that he answered the question—an answer which was garbled by the speaker.

To Jack Miller's question, "Can any individual rent the Auditorium to continue the student dance?" Mayor McGuire replied that anyone could, Vernon Coll then announced that there will be a dance there Friday night.

Hard Feelings Loom — The sober, calm reflection in the midst of the turmoil by Wallace H. Gilbert failed to bring any response from Powell or Murray, Gilbert said.

"I'm afraid that everyone here is going to leave with hard feelings against members of this council if the answer to their many demands why Lessing is being removed is not forthcoming. I appeal to you men: it is only wise to get up and state your reasons."

Murray's comment was: "The answer for it to the people."

A suggestion to table the motion dismissing Lessing was made by Walter Amyraud "if you want to go home tonight."

Two Supporters Speak — Mrs. Anna M. Loughridge of Walteria made one of the two public statements which favored the action taken by Powell and Murray. She said: "It is apparent that the majority here tonight are on one side. Probably next week the other side will be heard." (Mrs. Loughridge's husband was a running mate on the Powell ticket last election—Ed.)

The other Powell-Murray supporter was Mrs. Lela Gonner of North Torrance who offered this thought: "Maybe the one involved (Lessing—Ed.) would appreciate not having the charges read." (Mrs. Gonner's son-in-law was also a candidate on the Powell ticket last election—Ed.)

Worker Makes Point — A statement made by an unidentified man in the audience drew considerable applause from factory employees present. They understood him perfectly when he told the council:

"If one of the men in the steel mill was discharged without reason the company would have to answer to 1,200 men. But Judge Lessing does not have the protection of a union. He should not need it but he deserves the people's protection and he's going to get it!"

Reverting back to the student dance controversy, Vernon Coll told the council and audience that one of the city's special police officers danced at every Friday night dance was Oscar Butterfield, a minister to a church in Walteria, who also serves as city electrician. His contention was with such a man the dances could not get very much "out of line."

Hitchcock Draws Laughs — Mayor McGuire, stopping Butterfield from commenting in the audience said that he and Jim Brodie, the other special officer, "have done a very fine job there but we don't want to bring any city employees into this discussion."

"We all know a lot of dynamite can be generated in a building with 600 or 800 boys and girls in it," McGuire continued. "Youngsters get out and do some things we older ones can't do."

"I don't agree with that!" Councilman Hitchcock interjected with a laugh while the audience roared.

Bringing up the Lessing ouster once more, Carl Marsteller asked the council to rescind that action and appointing the judge's successor.

"If you are men as I think you are, you will see that the representation here are decidedly not favorable to that action. We are still free, white and 21 and capable of forming considered opinions. Let's come down to earth and have some feeling for each other. You councilmen are servants of the city of Torrance. Torrance is not now and never will be servants of the city council," Marsteller said.

Another request, this time by Vernon Coll, that Mayor McGuire and Hitchcock make a motion to table the matter until another meeting received no response.

"The man who made the original motion has nothing to say," Ray Burdick, Boy Scout commissioner for this district, declared. "He sits there with a 'glib' on his face—ashamed to speak. He has no charges against Lessing. He's a nice representative for this community," he said referring directly to Powell.

With Mayor McGuire's statement: "The man (referring to Powell) does not seem to wish to make a statement" the long and sometimes bitter session ended.

Many remained in the council chamber to discuss the matter further with Mayor McGuire and Hitchcock but Powell, Murray and Babcock made their exit quickly and did not remain for the aftermath.

One written communication regarding the Judge Lessing ouster was read to the city council by Clerk Bartlett. It was from



HINDU FAKIR WALKS ON FIRE!

Your feet, untrained to such tortures, demand protection. But if the soles of your shoes are worn thin, you, too, may be walking on fire.

Just because a sole is labeled "leather" doesn't mean it's good. There are many grades—and only quality soles, molded to your shoes by real experts, are economical.

"YOUR SATISFACTION IS MY GOAL"

M. L. "MIKE" FENWICK
OPPOSITE POSTOFFICE
1420 Marcelina Ave.
Torrance

Take Advantage Of Our Spring Hot Water Campaign

BIG SAVINGS EXTRA DISCOUNTS

For a limited time only you can save \$24.35 on this \$98.50 General Copper Eyr-Dur Water Heater—the Special Spring Water Heater Campaign includes all rust-proof heaters—Investigate Now and Save!

SAVE \$24.35

But hurry! Spring Offer for a Limited Time Only!

Torrance Plumbing Company
F. L. PARKS OPPOSITE POST OFFICE
Phone 60 1418 Marcelina Avenue



The Christian's Hope
"AN EMPTY TOMB"
SPECIAL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
Sunday Morning, 5:15
SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM
TORRANCE FOURSQUARE CHURCH
1207 El Prado

PONTIAC PRICES BEGIN AT \$820

ONLY SEE MORE FOR AN EXHIBIT IN ANY MODEL

FOR THE DELUXE "TORPEDO" SIX BUSINESS COUPE

... and you'll hardly notice the difference in your monthly payments!

A comparison of local delivered prices will show that a big, economical, trouble-free Pontiac "Torpedo" costs surprisingly little more than well-known smaller cars. In fact, the difference is so slight that, when figured into your monthly payments, it's hardly noticeable. Why not check into this at your Pontiac dealer's?

*Delivered at Pontiac, Mich. State tax, optional equipment and accessories extra. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. A General Motors Masterpiece.

THE FINE CAR WITH THE LOW PRICE

Pontiac
Torrance Motors
GRAMERCY and CABRILLO TORRANCE CALIF.

B. J. Scott of the Torrance Electric Shop, who said he most emphatically urged abandonment of your reported intention of dismissing City Judge Lessing." It drew no councilmanic comment.



PARADE OF EASTER VALUES!

Come see them in your neighborhood A&P! All kinds of delicious Easter treats, all priced low for cash! Many of these foods we make and sell, and cut out in between cases. Many are busy direct, and share the marketing economies with you! They're all just as good as good can be. Check out of flavor, sure to give your family the best Easter feast ever!

Surplus Commodities Designated with this symbol (*)

- HAMS** SKINNED WHOLE OR FULL SHANK HALF 27¢
- Wilson's **TENDER MORRELL'S** S-Z CUT HAMS 35¢
- Hen Turkeys 27¢
- Lamb Legs 25¢
- Prime Rib Roast 32¢
- Smoked Picnics 18¢
- Sunnyfield Bacon 25¢
- Pork Shoulder Roast 15¢
- Sliced Bacon 17¢
- Rabbits 32¢
- Link Sausage 12¢
- Colored Fryers 29¢
- Fresh Green Shrimp 29¢

- DELICATESSEN**
- Assorted Cold Cuts 25¢
- Salad Dressing 21¢
- Pickled Pig Feet 17¢
- Cottage Cheese 15¢
- Assorted Cold Cuts 25¢
- Salad Dressing 21¢
- Pickled Pig Feet 17¢
- Cottage Cheese 15¢
- Assorted Cold Cuts 25¢
- Salad Dressing 21¢
- Pickled Pig Feet 17¢
- Cottage Cheese 15¢

- FRESH EGGS** FOR GOOD LITTLE EGGS TO COLOR! OLSON COUNTRYSIDE Large Grade "A" 29¢ dozen
- Hostess Easter Cake** 69¢
- Silverbrook Butter** 39¢
- Paas Egg Dyes** 10¢
- Green-Ripe Olives** 19¢
- Tomato Sauce** 27¢
- dexo** 14¢
- Eight O'Clock Coffee** 39¢
- Red Circle Coffee** 33¢
- Bokar Coffee** 37¢
- Nutley Oleo** 10¢
- Evap. Milk** 24¢
- Niblets** 29¢
- Peaches** 19¢
- Dole Apples** 15¢
- Raisins** 20¢
- Snack** 23¢
- Hotz** 23¢
- Potatoes** 25¢
- NBC** 28¢
- Jollies** 40¢
- Cloves** 50¢
- Hot Cross Buns** 10¢
- Lux Flakes** 21¢
- Lux Soap** 17¢
- Camay Soap** 11¢
- Old Dutch** 20¢
- Beer** 25¢
- Yams** 29¢
- Brown Sugar** 7¢
- Tomatoes** 15¢
- Applesauce** 24¢
- Peas** 12¢
- Brown Bread** 13¢
- Baked Beans** 17¢
- Apricots** 27¢
- Tomatoes** 27¢
- Fruit** 10¢
- Beans** 11¢
- Nectar Tea** 27¢
- Glenwood Peas** 25¢
- Palmolive** 11¢
- Super Suds** 37¢
- Klek** 16¢
- Dash** 42¢
- Wines** 25¢

We Are Happy to Accept Orange and Blue Federal Food Stamps!

1319 Sartori Ave. Torrance
Prices effective thru Saturday. (taxable items subject to tax)