

Council Stalls Opportunity to Obtain New Homes for Workers Being Lost by City's Lack of Action

By Grover C. Whyte

With utter lack of appreciation of the acute housing shortage in this area for workers employed in war production plants, the Torrance city council last evening again stalled an attempt to secure 300 to 400 new dwelling units for this community.

The opportunity came thru a suggestion of P. G. Eisen of the influential firm of Walker & Eisen, Los Angeles architects, who is alert to plans of the Federal government for constructing housing facilities for defense plant workers. Eisen even prepared a letter, all ready for council approval, which he advised sending to the Works Progress Administration office in Los Angeles which is now rushing plans for the erection of 10,000 dwellings for war production centers in Southern California.

But the constructive suggestion met with a cool reception and NO ACTION, following objections interposed by Councilmen Powell and Babcock, as more fully reported elsewhere in this issue.

WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

Don't they know that new employes of the aluminum plants are already desperately hunting homes in this community? And that when the aluminum plants get into production, several thousand workers will be demanding places in which to live? And that expansions at the National Supply and Columbia Steel will soon add hundreds of workers to their payrolls—with no places to live and few cars to drive?

The flimsy excuse of Councilman Babcock that "we wouldn't get any taxes from houses built in the Shoestring strip" was promptly met by Architect Eisen who stated that because the houses would be owned by the Federal government, "no city would receive any taxes"—Uncle Sam doesn't pay any local taxes on any of his property.

What the council members overlooked entirely is that Torrance is an important industrial center for war workers and homes MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THEM WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE of their work. Furthermore, that plans for locating 10,000 new dwellings are NOW being made by federal authorities. Already some 1,000 houses have been allocated for Compton; another group for San Pedro and other Southland communities that are "on their toes" to the opportunities offered by bringing additional families with war-production payrolls to their towns.

Construction of homes by private interests has been practically halted, and the only means by which the housing shortage can be met is thru Federal agencies. Are we going to wait until all the Federal money is allocated elsewhere?

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Sugar Rationing Details Set for May 4-7 Sign-up

Sugar rationing books will be issued every adult and child in this community at a four-day registration in the elementary schools from Monday, May 4, thru Thursday, May 7. Hours for registration will be 4 to 9 p. m., after school hours, according to a bulletin issued by the Information Division of the Office for Emergency Management.

Meanwhile, all sugar sales will be frozen from midnight, April 27, until Consumer's Ration Book No. 1 is issued.

Although local school authorities have received no specific information, it is understood that registration will be handled by volunteer teachers and P.T.A. members.

After the registration period is over, rationing books will be issued, on proper showing by the rationing boards (in Torrance from 3 to 5 p. m. daily at the mayor's office in the city hall; for Lomitas in the office of Harry Mann's garage at Crenshaw and Slauson aves., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons) whose jurisdiction is being extended from tires and tubes to bicycles, typewriters and sugar.

One Pound Per Week
 Each man, woman and child will be entitled to a sugar rationing book, which any representative of the household may obtain for all members, according to the OEM bulletin.

Each book will contain 28 stamps, good for 56 weeks. Each stamp is good for a two weeks' supply, which must be bought within a designated period. Stamps may not be saved up to purchase more than a two weeks quota at one time.

While a national inventory of the sugar supply is being made, a tentative ration has been considered of one pound of sugar every two weeks.

Allowed Two Pounds
 Stamps must be kept in the book for the grocer to remove at the time of purchase. If the sugar is delivered, the delivery man must remove the stamp. Individual stamps removed from the books will not be honored by grocers.

Housewives desiring additional sugar for canning or preserving must apply to their local rationing boards. A normal reserve has been set at two pounds per person. For each pound on hand up to 10 pounds per person, one stamp will be torn from the book at the registration place.

Those with 11 pounds or more will not receive a ration book but they must wait until their supply is 10 pounds or less and apply to the rationing board.

For Larger Consumers
 Stamps from consumers will be placed on cards by retailers, and presented to wholesalers as

Defense Housing Project Doesn't Interest Council

Revealing that the Los Angeles metropolitan area is due to get 10,000 units of defense housing within the next three or four months and that the Works Progress Administration would be most receptive to any suggestions for "at least 600 units" in or near Torrance, P. G. Eisen, member of the well-known firm of Walker and Eisen, architects, urged the city council last night to immediately present this city's claims for housing accommodations for its present and potential war workers.

He declared that Torrance, because of its highly centralized industrial district, was in urgent need of housing, and has had less housing construction than almost any other city in Southern California. Eisen read an informative letter to the Federal Works Agency's representative on the Los Angeles City Housing Authority setting forth this city's lack of accommodations for workers.

He suggested that the council send this letter or one like it to the FWA to seek "consideration of this industrial district" in allocation of defense housing units.

Council Not Interested
 Eisen was invited to confer with the council after the regular session. In that conference the city board members appeared unwilling to consider any project that would benefit any area outside of the city limits. The architect, who explained he was speaking only as one interested in the development of the city where he had the privilege of designing its municipal buildings, pointed out that defense housing units, built by the Federal government would not mean any increase on any city's tax roll. He was answering a comment made by Councilman Vern Babcock that "we are not interested in developing the Shoestring strip because taxes there don't come to the city of Torrance."

Councilman George V. Powell offered the opinion that "we already have a group of industrialists working on the matter of housing and should leave it up to them." He did not explain who the "industrialists" were but probably meant the combined C. I. O. and A. F. L. union leaders who met in Los Angeles Feb. 16 to map a concerted move to obtain more defense housing in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

In presenting his plea for immediate action by the city council to interest the Federal Works Agency in the Torrance area, Eisen explained that the present defense housing units were far more substantial structures than those built several months ago. He said the government plans to sell the units to private owners following the war and thus they must be substantial.

(Continued on Page 5-A)

Columbia Steel Advances Four Plant Officials

Several new appointments in management, including two at the Torrance plant, were announced this week by the Columbia Steel Company. J. D. McCall, former assistant general superintendent of the Torrance plant, has been named assistant general superintendent of the Pittsburg (Calif.) works and Harlow Dotson, former assistant general superintendent of Torrance, has been advanced to assistant general superintendent here.

Dotson's successor has not been decided as yet, General Superintendent Otto A. Kresse said. H. S. Worthington has been promoted assistant vice-president of operations with offices in San Francisco. He was formerly general superintendent of the Pittsburg works, Joseph A. White, former assistant general superintendent, is now general superintendent of the Pittsburg plant.

McCall is a native of Stockton, and graduated from Stanford University. He joined Columbia Steel Company in 1936 as statistician in the general superintendent's office of Pittsburg works. In 1937 he became assistant works industrial engineer and in 1940 was transferred to Torrance works as assistant to the general superintendent.

Harlow Dotson was born at Clear Lake, Washington and entered the steel business at the South San Francisco plant of the old Pacific Coast Steel Corporation in 1917. He worked for Western Pipe and Steel company in 1922 as an electrician and again transferred to the Pacific Coast Steel Corporation where he worked until 1927. In 1929 he joined Columbia Steel company as foreman electrician at the Torrance plant. In 1929 he was promoted to chief electrician and in 1938 was made assistant works engineer which position he has held until his present appointment.

Local Man's Body Found in Old Shed

The body of Albert Bernard Boyce, a resident here for several years, and former National Supply Company worker, was found Tuesday in a shed at the old Pioneer lumber yard off 213th st. by a transient, John Hanna, who reported it to police. Mr. Boyce had been dead two or three days. The body was identified by Officer Curt Tolson. He was believed to be about 58 years of age and his last known address was at the Brighton hotel. Funeral arrangements at Stone and Myers' Mortuary are awaiting word from a son in the east.

Hitchcock, Bartlett and Mrs. Leech Re-Elected; Cucci Wins Council Seat

Hitchcock Sees Big Job Ahead



JAMES E. HITCHCOCK

"I regard the vote I received Tuesday as one of confidence from all parts of the city," James E. Hitchcock, senior member of the city council who was re-elected for the third time, said yesterday. "I shall continue to work on the council for the whole city and I thank everyone who gave me this evidence of their friendship and confidence."

"There's a big job ahead of Torrance for the next four years. We must keep our finances in the best condition possible and do everything we can to keep the rising costs from burdening our taxpayers. While we must maintain as many services as we can without extra expense, I believe everyone will agree that we have got to subjugate municipal projects to the national war effort."

"Civilian defense and transportation are two of the most important problems before the city. Both demand close attention of the council and I shall be glad to serve in any way I can to help maintain our home security and facilities urgently needed by our war workers," Hitchcock said.

FIRST RETURN

Cecil Cox of 2304 243rd st., Lomita, was the first to return his filled out vocational questionnaire mailed this week by Selective Service Board No. 280 to all men who registered in the last registration period. All who receive these questionnaires must return them within 10 days.

Bartlett Says War Aims First



A. H. BARTLETT

"I was deeply gratified by the returns from Tuesday's election and I will continue to serve my home city for many years to the best of my ability," declared City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, re-elected for the sixth time Tuesday.

"My office will be conducted for the next four years with the same consideration for taxpayers and residents that I have tried to show for the past 20 years. I plan no changes in personnel but I expect every worker to do his or her best at the least cost to the community. All of us must contribute to our nation's safety and prosecution of the war and I believe my office can share in that service to a great extent."

"I was glad the campaign aroused no bitterness. It was one of the cleanest I have ever experienced in Torrance. Surely, that indicates that people are concerned with the deeper issues of war aims and victory which they are with petty politics. My services are at the command of all residents at any time and I am looking forward to unified attention to civic business by all concerned."

JOB TRAINING TALK

Arthur M. Farnham will outline the technique used in selecting candidates for national technical training classes to members of the Torrance Rotary club tonight.

CLERK'S RACE FEATURE OF ELECTION

Not until the North Torrance precinct returns were in Tuesday night was the winner of the feature race of the listless, issueless Torrance municipal election known—the neck-and-neck dash of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and James W. Loughridge, North Torrance voted 68 to 48 for Bartlett and the veteran city clerk was apparently re-elected for the sixth time by the narrow margin of 930 to Loughridge's 913.

There are 18 absentee ballots still to be counted when the city council canvasses the 12th municipal ballot next Tuesday night, April 21. Inasmuch as Bartlett commands a 17-vote lead, Loughridge would have to get all the absentee counts to replace the veteran clerk by one lone vote.

James E. Hitchcock carried 32 of the 17 city precincts to win his third re-election to the city council with 897 votes. Nicholas H. Cucci, Columbia Steel worker who lives at 1634 Crenshaw Blvd., was elected to a four-year term on the council, polling 610 votes. He carried but one precinct—his own home district—but received substantial support in all other districts. Cucci will take the place of Kenneth H. Kail, who was elected to the council last September by 1,145 votes but only polled 301 Tuesday.

41 Percent Vote
 Mrs. Harriet Leech, first woman to be elected to a public office in Torrance, was re-elected city treasurer at 666. She carried four precincts, while Mrs. Cecilia Young received the plurality in seven districts poll 628 and Mrs. Margaret Fordice had top support in six precincts and drew 550.

The total vote was, surprisingly, 1,898 of the registered strength of 4,689 electors or 41 percent. Up to noon election day the polls reported only a few X-ed ballots but the morning's rain was followed by warm sunshine and voters started flooding to the polls in larger numbers.

The complete but unofficial returns in the city council race were:

HITCHCOCK	897
CUCCI	610
Howard Raymond	578
E. C. Buxton	570
James Evans	326
Kenneth Kail	301
E. E. Newton	154
Frank Schmidt	79

Councilman James Hitchcock was first appointed to the city council August 9, 1932 to fill out the unexpired term of Councilman G. A. R. Steiner who died in July that year. He was re-elected in 1934 and 1938.

Cecil Youngest Councilman
 Councilman-elect Nicholas H. (Nick) Cucci has been a Torrance resident and property owner since 1933. He has taken an active interest in civic affairs although he has never before been active in politics. He is a native of Trinidad, Colo., a charter member of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee lodge No. 1414 and is now serving as steward in the 22-inch mill. His wife, Mrs. Julia Cucci, is a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. He is 34 years old and will be the youngest man on the city board.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett has held office for 20 years. He has been city clerk almost since Torrance was incorporated, being elected April 10, 1922 to succeed Robert H. Deinger who had served as appointed clerk since the city corporation was formed in May, 1921. This is his sixth successive term. The position pays \$250 a month, while city councilmen get \$50 a month and the city treasurer, \$60.

Mrs. Leech, re-elected city treasurer, owns and operates a flower shop here. She is the mother of three sons, active in club and civic affairs.

Crowd Cheers Bartlett
 While there are 18 absentee ballots still to be counted, it is regarded as highly improbable that Loughridge will win all of them and thus unseat Clerk Bartlett by a single vote. Despite the closeness of this

(Continued on Page 5-A)

How Torrance Precincts Voted in City Election

FOR CITY COUNCIL	No. 1 1827 Prairie Ave.	No. 2 211 El Dorado	No. 3 10 Borwick Ave.	No. 4 13 Marcellina Ave.	No. 5 1822 Estrada Ave.	No. 6 1103 Amesola Ave.	No. 7 1415 Amesola Ave.	No. 8 1724 Arlington Ave.	No. 9 2019 Arlington Ave.	No. 10 2201 Narbonne Ave.	No. 11 2717 W. Carson St.	No. 12 3701 Sepulveda Blvd.	No. 13 807 Portola Ave.	No. 14 1417 Cota Ave.	No. 15 1913 Cabrillo Ave.	No. 16 Whiters, Prec. Cont.	No. 17 1301 Portola Ave.	Total
HITCHCOCK	72	47	34	59	61	43	75	67	39	26	58	56	38	108	47	33	34	897
KAIL	7	24	19	23	10	16	17	37	19	16	15	4	26	11	17	22	18	301
BUXTON	56	30	24	31	60	35	59	29	20	9	39	32	13	76	17	16	24	570
CUCCI	35	35	19	26	28	38	68	47	30	25	47	36	17	47	43	27	42	610
EVANS	8	22	18	22	8	21	36	21	13	22	22	12	31	26	20	6	18	326
NEWTON	2	6	2	5	4	14	8	7	10	2	7	27	6	4	8	38	4	154
RAYMOND	41	34	16	23	14	20	34	66	68	33	34	38	12	18	50	37	35	573
SCHMIDT	1	3	4	8	0	6	8	6	5	3	6	2	5	4	11	2	5	79
FOR CITY CLERK																		
BARTLETT	68	54	41	51	55	57	84	78	46	26	63	45	40	99	53	34	36	930
LOUGHRIDGE	48	52	31	52	34	42	76	69	60	47	57	76	35	51	62	63	58	913
FOR CITY TREASURER																		
LEECH	63	31	16	41	41	35	49	44	22	38	36	49	20	85	36	29	31	666
FORDICE	7	39	54	44	20	26	42	49	51	16	38	6	34	40	44	10	30	550
YOUNG	48	36	2	20	36	42	69	53	31	19	45	54	22	30	30	53	38	628
TOTAL VOTE CAST	119	111	73	105	98	104	162	160	109	75	120	123	78	157	115	100	99	1898