EDITORIALS

A Week of Decisions

There are two important decisions to be made this week that will affect the future of Torrance. We refer to the offstreet parking problem, to be discussed at a special meeting of the parking committee and the City Council Monday, and the consumation of the lease for the development of the airport property at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast highway at the regular meeting Tuesday.

The parking problem has been kicked around for some time. An able committee from the Chamber of Commerce came up with a program a long time ago that would have been at least a partial solution. That plan proposed the creation of an assessment district whereby property owners in the downtown business section would have been assessed proportionately to help establish a fund with which to purchase 13 strategically located lots. A new tack was taken when several of the larger owners then suggested outright purchase of the lots by the city or through a special bond issue. Today's joint meeting between the parking committee and the City Council should bring some kind of a decision that will outline an immediate course of action.

The interests of all of the people of Torrance are seriously affected by the decision to be made regarding the use of the airport property. If present plans for its development are carried out, the city treasury will benefit to the tune of hundreds of thousands in the years to come. The council should act with the interests of all of the people in mind and should consider nothing other than the best possible deal for the future. The Council should not countenance any stalling on the part of anyone nor should it tolerate any delaying action by those with special or selfish interests.

We have faith in the character of the men on the Chamber's off-street parking committee and confidence in the City Council to act for the fest interests of all of the people of Torrance. These two decisions can be vital to the city in the years to come.

Actions, Not Words

"I wouldn't mess around with politics."

So maybe you worry about the high cost of government, but think it's just too big and complicated to do anything about.

One of the "advantages" of living in these United States is that you can do practically nothing about government unless you feel like it.

So, okay, nobody will compel you. But your inalienable rights don't exclude one BIG MUST. An American MUST pay for government.

Property taxes are higher in California this year. Other taxes keep climbing, too.

What can be done about it?

Three things. (1) Vote intelligently; (2) write to public officials, a writing voter is normally a thinking voter; and (3) participate in group action for more economical government.

Americans have the inalienable right to take their responsibilities of citizenship seriously. Sincere concern and action by many can reduce the high cost of government.

IT'S A FACT By JERRY CAHILL

Said The Turkey To The Eagle

PERRY FATHERS SAY:

Plans to Cope With School Crowding Fall Short of Goal

(The following statement was submitted to editors of the HERALD by S. A. Freedman, 4007 W. 176th St., as a statement of The Father's Club, a north Torrance organization seeking an end to double sessions at Perry Elementary School).

"Due note has been taken of the remarks of members of the Torrance Unified School District board, in answer to complaints that the Perry School is woefully inadequate for its enrollment of nearly a thousand pupils.

"Double sessions for the entire school are altogether too realistic a threat, in view of increasing enrollment, while builders increase housing in the school area with homes and apartment houses.

"The Board admits that this is the fastest growing area in the world. That the development is the greatest in history. This raises the absorbing question as to whether or not the planning that has been done is big enough.

"For five years or more this problem has been mounting in intensity. It is now evident that the measures taken to cope with this problem fall far short of producing the desired results Certainly, the situation calls for enterprise, vision, big planning, and the use of larger finances, which the School Board contends will not be available 'until the wealth catches up with the growth."

"Insufficient building has resulted from lack of funds. Other communities, however, have solved this problem, and it can be solved in Torrance. There is plenty of bond money available, and the Federal Government is now planning to make more such funds available by Congressional action.

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"Failure of school authorities to raise the necessary finances to build the schools up to ultimate requirements has produced a school system in this community that is patently unable to provide for the needs of the people.

"There are fast growing districts all over Los Angeles. Many of them have pridefully announced that all double sessions have been eliminated in their communities. They have solved the problem by application of bond issues and more building. In others double sessions are fast being eliminated by additional fund raising and building without undue delays.

"If it is being done in other areas, it is possible in North Torrance, one of the worst stricken districts in the County, and there is no relief in sight while the problem continues to mount in intensity. That is why parents of the Perry children are urging that adequate measures be taken by those responsible, without further delay.

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"We must not bury our heads in the sand like ostriches and refuse to face this issue squarely.

Vigorous, imaginative action is necessary, along lines which must be familiar to school authorities worthy of the name, to provide the means for improving the schools, especially where the pressure is greatest, such as in the Perry School.

"Has enough been done? Evidently not! Conditions at the school clearly show this.

"Indefinite continuance of the inadequacy is hardly necessary in the opinion of us fathers and mothers of the Perry School, who have joined together to see what can be done because there is no other organization at this time so dedicated.

"Emergency action is recommended, even to the use of temporary classrooms, in order to keep children in school full days.

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"The North Torrance Fathers Club seeks to obtain more classrooms for the Perry School and to clean up the school neighborhood. That is its sole purpose, and membership is open to all who desire to join in urging school improvement.

"Since home and industrial building in Torrance must ultimately reach its limit, it is practicable by surveys to establish the ultimate needs of each community as to schools.

"After the establishment of such ultimate needs, immediate plans should be launched by the Torrance Unified School District to provide the necessary school facilities to permanently take all children off half day sessions.

"Such building eventually will be necessary, and it is evidently entirely practicable, through the raising of funds by bond issues to meet this need.

"It has been stated by Mr. Waldrip of the board and by Mr. Hull, the school superintendent, that the district has been limited by law in the use of funds. According to the best information available, the laws limiting such use of funds were passed years ago and are now serving only as a deterrent to the building of adequate schools.

"Let the School Board answer the question as to why no effort has been made to obtain a change in the laws to permit more building in the face of the greatest need that ever has existed in this or any other community.

"Moreover, there is pending now in Congress a bi-partisan bill to provide billions in Federal aid for schools. Every effort should be made by school authorities to facilitate the passage of this important legislation, which in itself could permanently eliminate the crisis in education, especially where mass migrations of the kind now taking place in California occur."

Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

Walter Mendenhall, newspaper publisher, discusses a drinking fountain in his mechanical plant and says it needs a warning sign reading: "Old Faceful" . . . The pilot of a Coast Guard helicopter saw a man waving frantically from the water close to a beach. Trained in rescue missions he descended until he was just a few feet above the water. The "helpless" man focused his camera and took about a dozen pictures before the helicopter pilot could recover his senses, drop his blood pressure, and fly himself far enough away so he couldn't drop his machine on the grinning photographer.

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It is reported by Gene Sherman that a panhandler asked a solid citizen for a quarter but the citizen replied: "No, you'll only spend it on wine." The panhandler said: "I don't drink." "Then, you'll buy marijuana cigarettes with it," accused the citizen. "But I don't smoke," explained the panhandler. "Then you'll play the horses," the citizen claimed. "I don't gamble," the panhandler insisted. Grabbing the bum by the arm, the solid citizen said: "Come home with me, once and for all, I want my wife to see what happens to a man who dosn't drink, smoke, or gamble."

My Uncle Shloomp finished his hurricane cellar back east just in time! But after the show was over, was he mad! Dear old Shloomp just couldn't get the darned old hurricane to go into that cellar! . . . Galen Drake says that if you don't know why we chew 90 million dollars worth of gum every year, it's just due to the American craving for action.

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Jack Kofoed, Miami Herald columnist, reminds us: "Don't smoke in bed. The ashes you leave may be your own" . . . Bill Gold, columnist for the Washington Post and Times Herald, cunningly comments: "Just before Clark Griffith died, his latest medical report read: 'Two out in the ninth, but the Old Gentleman has a rally going'." . . . Then, Bill notes that the directional signals on many automobiles are not being used, inviting his comment that the same drivers who used to neglect giving proper hand signals have now been provided with the mechanical means of not giving the same signal.

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At a recent party, the host awarded a prize to the guest who had parked his car farthest away from the scene of festivities. Ten seconds later, another guest came running into the room and shouted: "Recall that first prize! It goes to me! My car just rolled down the hill!" . . .

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Dr. Hugh Tiner, president of Pepperdine College, illustrating the value of moral and ethical training in early life before members of Torrance's service clubs last week told of the storekeeper talking to his young son about an experience in his store that very day.

A lady came in, purchased several little items with a total value of about $2, the man told his son. Handing him a $20 bill with the obvious belief that it was a $2 bill, she started to walk out of the store.

"Now there is a situation calling for a decision based on ethical training," the storekeeper told the youngster. "She had obviously overpaid me about $18 and I had to decide right then and there whether to tell my partner about it."

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Who is the oldest Torrance resident . . . is it Grandpa Grant Ulysses McCutcheon, who will be 92 next Dec. 12? "Gramp" McCutcheon who lives with his son, Roy, and family at 16916 Cordary is as spry an old gent as you'll ever meet. He does the yard work, entertains the grandchildren, and generally enjoys life. If there is anyone in Torrance who is older, we'd like to hear about it.

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Charley Gotts quotes this one in the current Lions Club Bulletin:

Two dogs were walking down the street, one looking very sad.

1st dog: You should see a psychiatrist.

2nd dog: I can't. You know I'm not allowed on the couch.

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Charley also reports that money is a funny thing: men get their faces on it but women get their hands on it.

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Sat in the middle of the Bruin section at the biggie at the Coliseum Saturday. If you think that doesn't take nerve, you don't realize how many years I spent on the SC campus absorbing a disliking for anything connected with Bruinville athletics — clear down to water polo. An old die-hard, however, will do anything to see the crosstown clash on as nice a das as Saturday was.

I had SC and 10 points, too

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And now for today's spelling lesson: c-o-n-t-e-s-t . . . c-o-n-t-e-s-t . . . c-o-n-t-e-s-t . . . etc., 100 times.

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1955 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1955
CHRISTMAS SEALS
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The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHE, Herald Staff Writer

Are you a member of the Trash Throwers' League?

There may be no Watchbird watching you, but if there isn't, there should be. From the looks of some of the local streets, it looks as if the Watchbirds have flown south for the winter.

Whether afoot or in the air, any half-witted Watchbird might surmise that the members of the Trash Throwers' League outnumber those in the Trash Picker-Uppers' League.

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Just the other day, I saw a man at the corner of Madrona and Torrance Blvd. stop his truck to pick up a broken pop bottles which a Trash Thrower had put in the middle of the street. Motorists obligly held up traffic while the Trash Picker-Upper gathered the fragments of smashed glass.

This behavior is all too uncommon, however. Most of the time, a motorist will see Mama and Papa and all the little Trash Throwers busily doing their bit by tossing out kleenexes, newspapers, toys, bottles, cigaret butts, and anything else that is lying around.

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For those Trash Throwers who haven't studied the rules lately, here they are:

1. If you have a bunch of papers at home you don't know what to do with, don't give them to the Boy and Girl Scouts who collect them periodically. Save them for your neighbors. Throw them in your neighbor's yard, but don't tell him. This would be cheating.

2. You can also pile them in your car and share them with all of your neighbors by throwing them along the street, piece by piece. This is the "share-the-trash" plan, and is favored by many people. It offers good practice for weak pitching arms.

3. Whatever you do, don't take your trash to a dump. Dumps are dirty, nasty places, anyhow. Put your trash where it will be appreciated — in somebody else's clean yard, or by the side of the road, where everybody can admire it.

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4. If your car ashtray is full or your back seat has some old newspapers in it, throw them out. If something gets in your way while driving, throw it out the window. If it won't fit, open the door. This saves taking the trash home. (It also might save you the trouble of taking the door home too, so be careful.)

5. Bottles are especially good things to throw in the street. They make a nice sound as they break. Cans are second best, but they also make a nice loud clink.

6. Be an anonymous giver. Throw your trash at night or when nobody else is looking. Don't let anybody know what you are doing for them.

7. Follow the Golden Rule. If they got a chance, people would probably throw things in your yard, so just beat them to it.

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8. Street cleaners are loafers anyway, so make them earn their money. You help to pay their salaries, so be sure that you aren't being cheated.

9. Point values for trash thrown are as follows: Cigaret butts, one point; newspapers, two points; carboard boxes, three points; tin cans, four points; garbage, five points; nails, six points; bottles, seven points, and broken furniture or old auto parts, eight points.

10. Why hire a garbage man when you can throw your own trash? Do it yourself.

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On the other hand, there is only one simple rule for the Trash Picker-Uppers' League:

Don't throw trash, and when you see somebody else's, pick it up.

It's harder to remember the Trash Throwers' rules, but its members don't seem to have much trouble.

Drive Like a Professional

Driving a golf ball and driving a car have a lot in common. Both require skill, control and practice. Take the smooth swing and perfect timing necessary to make a professional golfer. They're the same for good driving.

The "pro" on the road drives his car smoothly. He blends with the flow of traffic without jerky stops and starts. Because of perfect timing he never has to dart from lane to lane. He glides his car, anticipating his next move long in advance. Through constant practice he improves his driving skill.

What Makes Good Golf . . . Makes Good Driving

Safe Drivers Make Safe Highways
Make every day S-D day

Did you know that
YOU MAY GET CASH TO PAY OLD BILLS!

√ Here's good news for you. If you are worried over unpaid bills, or installment payments that are too large for comfort, you may get cash here to clean them all up . . . you will then have a smaller payment, one place to pay each month, and you will HAVE EXTRA SPENDING MONEY.

√ This is all you have to do. List your obligations in the space below, then come in . . . phone . . . or write our office and our manager will quote you a small monthly payment with one of our "CONSOLIDATION" loans.

Figure how much you need!

√ MEDICAL or DENTAL ATTENTION ..... $.....
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