

EDITORIALS

The Story of Dope

The insidious spread of the narcotics evil in this area of California was never more sharply emphasized than during the past week which saw the arrest of more than half a hundred teenagers and young adults on various dope charges.

Young adults barely out of high school, and students as young as junior high age, were caught in the web as officers moved swiftly on information they received about "reefer" parties.

While most of the young persons rounded up in the area-wide raids probably have done nothing worse than get their kicks at a marijuana smoking session, that is recognized as Step One on the road to dope addiction.

Marijuana in itself has been described as virtually harmless, but it doesn't stop there. Something new is needed when the "reefer" kicks are no longer thrilling.

That's where the pro steps in. He just happens to have a little diluted heroin or other narcotic agent, plus a few of the assorted barbiturates which are floating around today and it's the same old story.

The story also points up the results of the fuzzy thinking on the part of highly placed officials who believe that the peddler can be slapped on the wrist and put out on the streets again with little danger to society.

Members of the Elks Clubs of the Torrance-Gardena area have proved to these officials that the citizens of California do not believe the dope peddler is entitled to any leniency.

More than a million Californians have signed petitions circulated by Elks asking the Legislature to enact laws calling for a minimum sentence of 30 years on conviction of selling dope.

The Elks are in for rough sledding on their campaign, because they will be fought by judges, do-gooders, and fuzzy thinkers who don't want such minimums set.

Even Attorney General Stanley Mosk, who endorsed the Elks program and commended them on their stand last year, has apparently changed his mind now that he is in Sacramento.

As long as the peddler can go about his business with the minimum risk, we will have our teenagers pulled into the ranks of addicts—in fact, it will get worse.

And, this week's arrests proved that it isn't always "the other fellow." Some of the arrests were right at our doorsteps.

The Big Tax Hunt

It is difficult to understand how, in times of the greatest prosperity this nation has ever known, that one of the most prosperous states, our own California, is being forced to look behind every bush for sources of revenue to bolster the finances of a state government that is headed for the red ink bottle.

Last year's economic recession lowered revenues to all government to some degree, even the Torrance government, but today's financial worries in Sacramento go far beyond that.

The state is set up to spend more money than it receives, and is dipping into reserves to meet the demands.

This is not a healthy situation, whether in your own personal bank account, or on the level of state government—especially during a period of prosperity.

A clue to some of the state's problems might be seen in the operations of the local Department of Motor Vehicle office, however, if it is typical of other state functions.

Checking complaints about auto registration facilities at the local DMV branch this week, HERALD reporters made several trips to the office. On the surface, at least, the complaints appear justified.

The number of employes standing behind the counters in the general office area—seemingly without assignment—seem a terrible waste of taxpayers' money to many persons who had stood in the long lines for the better part of an afternoon to get to one of the windows.

Maybe it takes this many "behind the scenes" employes to properly staff the office, but that will be hard to sell to the leg-wearer motorist.

If the same staffing situation exists in other state offices, a major target for economy seekers is right at hand.

Opinions of Others

While the big majority of American people and all of the businesses are heavily taxed by the federal government on their incomes, there is one type of organization that gets by without so much as a token payment. These organizations are the labor unions. While their incomes dwarf many so-called big businesses, they pay nothing to the federal government in taxes on that income.—Naples (Tex.) Monitor.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars.

To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

Aries 21-23 24-26 27-29-30 31	Taurus 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Gemini 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Cancer 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Leo 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Virgo 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Libra 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Scorpio 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Sagittarius 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Capricorn 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-15 16-18 19-21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Jan. 21 22-24 25-27 28-30 31	Feb. 19 20-21-22-23 24-25-26-27 28-29-30 31	March 17 18-19-20 21-22-23 24-25-26 27-28-29 30-31	April 15 16-17-18 19-20-21 22-23-24 25-26-27 28-29-30 31	May 13 14-15-16 17-18-19 20-21-22 23-24-25 26-27-28 29-30-31	June 11 12-13-14 15-16-17 18-19-20 21-22-23 24-25-26 27-28-29 30-31	July 9 10-11-12 13-14-15 16-17-18 19-20-21 22-23-24 25-26-27 28-29-30 31	Aug. 7 8-9-10 11-12-13 14-15-16 17-18-19 20-21-22 23-24-25 26-27-28 29-30-31	Sept. 5 6-7-8 9-10-11 12-13-14 15-16-17 18-19-20 21-22-23 24-25-26 27-28-29 30-31	Oct. 3 4-5-6 7-8-9 10-11-12 13-14-15 16-17-18 19-20-21 22-23-24 25-26-27 28-29-30 31	Nov. 1 2-3-4 5-6-7 8-9-10 11-12-13 14-15-16 17-18-19 20-21-22 23-24-25 26-27-28 29-30-31	Dec. 30 31
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Ready For A Change Of Partners



Think it Through

Senator Harry F. Byrd says that Congress has lost control of the nation's purse strings. Perhaps you have heard of the "one-eyed banker" who went to the doctor for a check-up. Finally, came the doctor's verdict, "You're a sound as a dollar!" "Holy Ike!" exclaimed the banker, "as bad as that!" And he fainted dead away!

The Big Government boys, who frame our laws and toss our \$'s away like confetti, remind me of a bunch of 1875 drunken cowboys in town to spend their pay checks. I'll bet my Sunday shirt that in five years the \$'s you now have will only be worth 15 cents, unless Congress recaptures control of the public purse. The Government must stop its fiscal follies. Let's hope for some sanity and a better tomorrow. Read article

My Neighbors



SQUIRREL CAGE

Sax Elliott, the nonconformist of the basketball world, may not be as extreme in some of his approaches to his favorite game as many of his critics have claimed. I, for one, think he may put basketball back into the prime attraction it once held for Americans.

Elliott, who coaches at Los Angeles State College, has gained national publicity for some of his unorthodox entries into the game: He has put his players on six-inch high sponge rubber shoes; shunted referees into a room away from the game and let them call the plays from a closed circuit television set-up; and suspended referees above the floor and let them look down on the play from their special aerie; and has advocated much more. He says maybe what the game needs is all-black balls with white dots, or candy-stripped game balls.



"Socialism is indeed the great leveler. But the fact that the leveling is always downward seems to escape most theoretical socialists." —Leonard E. Read.

"Inflation is a hidden tax, with no exemptions or deductions. It is the cruelest tax of all, because it falls on the poorest the hardest." —Samuel B. Pettengill.

LAW IN ACTION

Contract Rights

Everybody rightfully gets eloquent over our freedoms of speech and religion, but few do so over the right of contract.

"Contract" suggests a stuffy document full of "whereases." Yet every Californian has made hundreds of contracts; he buys groceries, hires a baby sitter, subscribes to a paper. All are contracts.

A contract is merely an enforceable agreement between two or more parties to do or not to do some thing. Most contracts are not in writing. When you tell the gasoline station attendant to "fill 'er up," you've made yourself a binding contract to pay for the gas.

But some contracts by state law must be in writing, for instance contracts to sell land, or a car. Even if the law does not call for a given contract to be written, it is prudent to write out the terms. Word of mouth contracts are hard to prove, easy to forget, and make for misunderstandings and hard feelings.

Remember in writing a contract to put in ALL in writing, every promise or provision. Don't be led astray by such remarks as "We do not have to put that in, it's

understood anyway." If you have to sue, the court will look only at written words, and only in rare cases will it allow you to prove that important provision by evidence outside the document.

Don't sign a blank contract. See that all its term and requirements are fully understood and that they are written in black and white. Never rely on the other person's say-so. Above all, don't let anybody rush you or say that you don't need to read what you are signing. Nobody can do much for you after you've signed. But your lawyer can help you avoid trouble. Consult him always before you sign an important paper.

NOTE: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

The Old Timer



Good Deed Returned in Kind

Editor, Torrance Herald: Nothing is more stranded than an inefficient woman who cannot change a tire or a wheel. And nothing is more frustrating than to watch people go by at 50 miles an hour and pay you no mind as you stand beside your car and look sadly at the flat tire. And being a Red Cross publicist and on one's way to get a picture to a newspaper for a headline does not improve the situation.

That was my picture last Friday, stranded out on Western, when after a wait of some 20 minutes, a big car went whizzing by, made a turn around about half-a-mile up the road and came back. A pleasant faced young man of about 20 got out and offered to help. There was a Torrance dealer's sign on the car and in my gratitude for the aid, and trying to make some conversation I asked if he lived in Torrance.

The answer was: "Yes, or, that is, I am home on leave. Actually, I am in the service."

This was too much for an old Red Crosser. I immediately told him that I was doing publicity for the upcoming R.C. fund campaign, and in expressing my appreciation for what he was doing for me I added that I hoped the Red Cross had been able to be of some help to him. Thinking to myself that they should surely have furnished at least a cup of coffee at some port.

Imagine my delight when he answered with a broad grin... "Sure, they did help me! I was on leave in Japan when my ship sailed without me. It was the Red Cross that helped me make arrangements for transportation and saw to it that I joined my ship at its next stop."

We smiled at each other, friends because we had a contact through Red Cross! Before he drove away I remembered to ask his name. He said it was Jim Reinert.

Probably he is the sort of boy who would have stopped to help at any time. But I like to think that the Red Cross ideal of "people helping people" had been passed on to him when he was so far away from home and needed a helping hand.

I think too, that Torrance people who will be asked for

contributions in the March appeal for funds, will like to be reminded that there are boys from here in service all around the world and always the American Red Cross is there also, to help in any crisis which can arise.

MAYBELLE DUBERG

Lomita Annexation

Editor, Torrance Herald: Due to a misunderstanding during a telephone conversation, a Lomita paper on Jan. 18, 1959, published a statement of Mr. Henry Mathews, president of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce to the effect that the Chamber would "not favor any annexation" by Torrance at any time.

As the new board of directors have not met this year, no definite statement can be made at this time. The policy of the board of directors, as set forth in a pre-installation meeting held Jan. 7th, 1959, such matters will be turned over to a committee for their report on all sides of the question and the board would take such action as necessary following the report of the committee.

Mr. Mathews has appointed Mr. John Traub of the Lomita Branch of the Bank of America as chairman of the legislative committee for all community, county, state and national activities along this line. It will be up to this committee to make its investigation and report on the subject before the board will act. This committee is now making a study of the problem. It will make its first report at the next board meeting, Feb. 3rd, 1959. Any information of interest to the committee or any one wanting to be heard on the subject should be in contact with Mr. Traub.

About two years ago, the Chamber was on record for incorporation of Lomita in a sixth class city. The community voted against incorporation even though they were warned that annexation was a threat to the way of life in Lomita at that time. Subsequent events have proven this warning to be true and this is only another of the same type. Again, whether you want to believe it or not, unless Lomita is incorporated into a town to itself, this threat will continue to be before us.

Now, the question is shall we go into another campaign for incorporation? Shall we vote ourselves as a community into Torrance or Los Angeles? Or, shall we let either, or all, of our adjoining cities take what portion of the area that appeals to them when it suits their fancy? It's legal and over a period of time, we can be absorbed by any of them, or all of them, whether we want it or not. Unless the laws are changed, we are faced with this threat from now on.

As manager of the Chamber of Commerce, I can be quoted as saying that the Lo-

mita Chamber of Commerce is for the best interests of the community. Whether or not the board favors or objects to a program, it will act only after all sides have been presented. This question is no different.

B. KENNETH GIBSON

Chest Grateful

Editor, Torrance Herald: May I extend to you my personal appreciation and the gratitude of the Community Chest for the cooperation you gave to the campaign just closed.

Even though we did not raise the goal I hoped we could achieve... we did raise \$10,125,400... the largest amount in Los Angeles Community Chest history. We could not have made this progress without the help you gave us.

The support of your newspaper encouraged and opened doors for volunteers. Both the volunteers and I are grateful.

STEVE BROIDY, Chairman 1959-59 Community Chest Campaign

Reviews Services

Editor, Torrance Herald: As each year draws to a close we pause to review the services rendered to us during that period.

The WALTERIA Business Women's Club wishes to acknowledge your service to the community in publishing a newspaper worthy of the continued readership it maintains.

We are grateful for the excellent coverage you have given our various activities during this past year and the gracious cooperation of your social editor, Edna Cloude. LOUISE BIGELOW, Publicity Chairman.

My Neighbors



"I know that taxes are outrageous, but can't we PLEASE eat something besides potatoes?"

Established Jan. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald

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Free Wheeler Ranks Thinned

The day of the fast-wheeling, fly-by-night car dealer, has ended in California. The State Legislature, in cooperation with the automobile industry, took care of him with the passage in 1957 of Sections 204 and 205 of the Vehicle Code—the dealer bonding law.

Under Section 204, all dealers, in order to secure a Department of Motor Vehicles license to do business in this state, must post a \$5000 surety bond, as a guaranty that no dealer shall "practice any fraud, make any fraudulent representation which will cause a monetary loss to a purchaser."

And Section 205 provides that "if any person shall suffer any loss or damage by reason of any fraud practiced on him by a licensed dealer or one of his salesmen... such person shall have a right of action against such dealer... in an amount not to exceed "the value of the vehicle purchased from or sold to the dealer."

Prior to enactment of these industry-endorsed legal provisions, almost any person with "an established place of business" could obtain a dealer's license, without demonstrating in the least any financial responsibility to the buying public. And hundreds of car buyers were gypped by sometimes unidentifiable

persons who set up shop for the sole purpose of making a quick kill in shady car deals, then moved on.

While the amount of the required bond—\$5000—may be considered small in relation to the volume of business a dealer may do, it still is a bond and gives substance and identity to the holder.

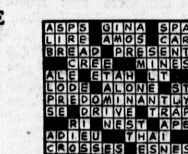
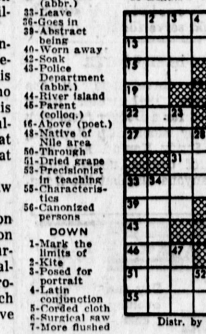
Industry spokesmen and government officials agree that this new law has benefited both the buyer, by protecting him from fraud, and the reputable dealer, who has been subject to criticism and embarrassment through unscrupulous practices of fly-by-nights.

But the car buyer, in order to enjoy the full protection of the law, has a responsibility, too. The right of action guaranteed in Section 205 of the Vehicle Code spells out this buyer's responsibility in no uncertain terms. And this should be noted very carefully by every buyer who at some time may believe that he has been damaged.

In the plainest of language, it is up to you, the buyer, to obtain in writing any guarantee or condition which the dealer may promise at the time you buy your car.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- 1-Sandy waste
 - 2-Donating
 - 3-Click beetle
 - 4-Beard
 - 5-Obese
 - 6-Awaits
 - 7-destination
 - 8-Capuchin monkey
 - 9-Preposition
 - 10-Cunilion
 - 11-Symbol for platinum
 - 12-Snake
 - 13-Spanwork fabric
 - 14-Topped neck hat (pl.)
 - 15-Exit
 - 16-Dragon
 - 17-Schoolbook
 - 18-Small rug
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DOWN

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