

Realtors Oppose Change In Sales, Use Tax Laws

The California Real Estate Association officially went on record opposing the Proposition 17 on the November ballot, the state sales, use, and income tax rates initiative measure, at a meeting of the association's board of directors on Catalina Island on June 23, according to Harry B. Bowker, president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors.

Bowker said that this measure would reduce the state sales and use tax rates from the present 3 per cent to 2 per cent, effective Jan. 1, 1959. It also would increase high bracket and decrease bracket rates of the state personal income tax. The rates now range from one per cent on incomes under \$5000 to 6 per cent on incomes over \$25,000. This proposal would freeze the rates at a new range of 4 1/2 per cent on incomes under \$5000 to 40 per cent on incomes over \$50,000, retroactive to incomes earned after Dec. 31, 1957.

Taxes Forecast
The tax system would have been in effect last year

the state would have experienced a \$36,000,000 deficit, said Bowker. He said that Realtors were largely responsible in 1955 for initiating the sales tax as a means of providing funds for state educational needs and to avoid excessive taxes on property.

With the state treasury already clean of reserves, Realtors are concerned for the interests of property owners who would have to carry the burden of increased taxes if the sales and income tax rates are reduced, Bowker said.

More than 1200 Realtors from throughout the state attended the two-day meeting in Catalina including a good representation from the Torrance area. Attending the meeting from Torrance were Harry Bowker and Lee Dawson.

At the Catalina meeting Realtors were told by CREA president Clive Graham of Long Beach that the recession, which many people had been concerned about, is over.

Fastly Restored
Graham said, "Vacancy signs

on apartment houses are disappearing, home building is now moving in a safe ahead of last year, new and used car sales are up, unemployment is declining, and faith of the people is once again restored in our economy."

He said he based his statement on facts as revealed by published national reports from major industries and business surveys as well as reports on real estate activity he has received from the 153 real estate boards throughout the state.

Graham also noted that the value of all real estate in California continues to rise. "Many industries throughout the state are expanding and this has a very direct effect on the value of real estate," said Graham. Prices can go in no other direction than up.

'Little Red Schoolhouse' to Take in Additional Classes

Torrance's "Little Red Schoolhouse" is going to get bigger—about four times as large as it has been for the past three years.

The "Little Red Schoolhouse" is, of course, the program at Waleria School under which elementary youngsters from three different grades (1-2-3 and 4-5-6) are placed in the same classroom for teaching, instead of the traditional single grade classes.

Since studies of this program have indicated its value, the multi-grade classes will be added this fall at Seaside, Steele, and Wood Schools. Each school will have two classes of first, second, and third graders. Steele school will have two classes of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, but Seaside and Wood Schools will only have one. There also will be regular single-grade classrooms as usual, since the program is entirely voluntary.

Studies Made
Studies were made, comparing the academic and personal development of children in the multi-grade classrooms and those in traditional single-grade rooms. Findings indicated that in most cases, the multi-grade youngsters did better than their single-grade contemporaries in reading, arithmetic, language, and in emotional growth and behavior.

Some 300 of the 750 children at Waleria School were enrolled in the nine multi-grade classes last year.

Studies ordered by the Board of Education indicated that everybody seems to think the plan works well.

The children learn faster and develop better, both academically and socially. They indicated that they liked the multi-grade classes as well or better than the traditional arrangement.

Believed Beneficial
All of the teachers involved believed the plan was beneficial, both to learning and better teaching.

When queried, 95 per cent of the parents indicated that they were happy with the multi-grade classes.

Both older and younger children in the rooms seemed to learn better. Older children helped the younger children with their work and both groups seemed to benefit. Teachers reported that the setup was more interesting and challenging to teach.

Since the plan was started at Waleria School in 1955, many visiting educators from various parts of California and even states as far away as Texas have visited the classrooms. Several school districts have since adopted the plan.

Plans Approved For Two Schools

Plans were approved and bids were asked for two new schools by the Torrance Board of Education last week. The new buildings will be Lincoln Elementary School, 166th and Arlington and Columbia School for the Handicapped, to be built on the El Nido site.

Lincoln School, which will cost an estimated \$465,000 will contain 13 classrooms, two kindergarten units, music building, multipurpose unit, and administration building. When opened next spring, it will relieve the double session problem at Casimir School.

Columbia School will cost an estimated \$325,000 with eight classrooms, multipurpose unit, and administration building. This school will be used to teach exceptional children from Torrance and other districts cooperating in the Southwest Cooperative Special Education Program.

The Southwest Program provides schooling for children with various handicaps and each district provides facilities for one type of handicap.

The Columbia School students will be housed at Meadow Park School this summer and until the new building is finished early in 1959. Columbia School will be built on the El Nido site and El Nido students will attend Magruder School, now under construction at 4160 W. 185th St.

Local Entries Win First, Eighth Spots in Annual Youth Safety Run

The team of Paul Grutis and Jim Azzaro, driving a 1958 Ford Mustang 300 powered by Vel's Ford Sales, took top honors in the low price field in the fifth annual Youth Safety Run last week.

Announcement of the victory for the local entry was made Monday night in South Gate.

Grutis, a member of Senators Car Club, and Azzaro, a member of the Greek Gods of South Bay, were driver and co-driver of the winning entry which piled up a total of 44.161 and 18.68 miles per gallon. The vehicle was first in a field of 17 in that classification.

Torrance's second entry, a Chevrolet entered by Paul's Chevrolet, driven by Regale Hantemann with Mike McMillan as his copilot, finished eighth in the field of 17. The Chevrolet piled up a score of 18.50 miles per gallon, but received only 40.3230 ton miles per gallon in the corrected scoring.

No announcement on penalties was made except that drivers were handed demerits for traffic violations, improper conduct or negligence.

The two local entries each used 48.9 gallons of fuel on the 898 mile run.

Torrance Police Officers A. L. Jackson and Sam Piazza made the trip with the local entries.

Rivieran Gets Air Force Post
Col. Gerald P. "Jerry" Keeling, of 109 Paseo de la Playa, a veteran Air Force officer long experienced in research, development, and production of supersonic aircraft, has reported for duty as Air Force plant representative for all North American Aviation divisions.

Colonel Keeling succeeds Col. Daniel Cooper of Los Angeles, who has been named commander of the Los Angeles Air Procurement District.

During the past three years, Colonel Keeling has been serving in Washington, D.C., under Lt. Gen. C. S. Irvine, deputy chief of staff material.



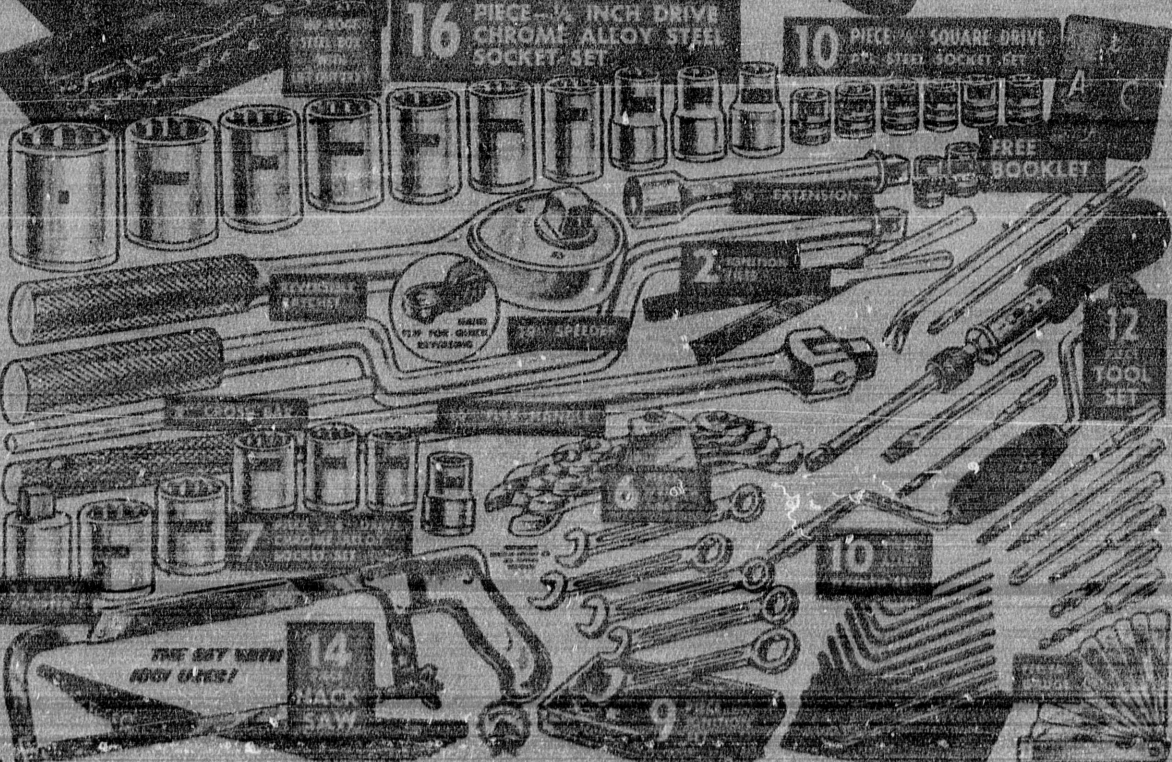
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