Established 1914 Torrance Herald KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL Co-Publishers REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1960

The School Picture

Despite long faces on school administrators during the past few days, we doubt seriously that the city's school system is about to collapse. Voter rejection of the proposed 50-cent override tax-the first defeat for a school-sponsored proposal-does not mean that Torrance schools cannot operated on their present basis, at least for the balance of the current school year.

It does mean, however, that school and other public officials may be entering an era in which taxpayers will have to be convinced that they are getting full value for the taxes they are paying to support various public agencies.

Torrance schools are not extravagently operated when compared to other schools of the county. Based on the expenditure per pupil, Torrance's operating costs are \$62 less than the average. But the plain facts are that the skyrocketing enrollments here call for the expenditures of more and more money for schools.

As School Superintendent J. H. Hull remarked after the election, the money will have to come from some

Three possible alternatives lie before the school board: 1. Economize the operation. This would include cutting any fat from the current program, increasing the classroom size, and eliminating all expenses which are not consistent with sound educational progress.

2. Finding additional sources of revenue. Unlike other public agencies, the school district is limited entirely to property taxes and to state and federal subventions for its province of the local district, and is not especially desirable because Torrance has the ability to provide more school funds than it could expect to get by letting either govern-ment enter the picture as a broker. Sales taxes, fines and forfeitures, and other fees which contribute heavily to a

city's general funds are not available to schools. 3. Offer a new proposal to the voters. The most likely solution is a new proposal for an override tax, this time with a definite time limit.

Such a proposal should not be made without a serious look at the schools operations by its administrators and trustees to make certain that all fat has been trimmed. We believe it was evident Tuesday that Torrance taxpayers (as well as those throughout California)—are not writing any blank checks. A Glendale school official checked California tax elections for 1961 after the district lost a similar proposal recently, and reports that only 3 of 71 proposals have been approved by California voters this year.

Trim the fat, determine that the district is utilizing all potential sources of revenue, and then ask the voters to approve a program to provide the difference with a definite limit on the time—that is the apparent program which the schools must follow.

It's Your Week, Too

National Newspaper Week is 21 years old in the United States this year. But individual freedom in the United States is 169

years old this year.

National Newspaper Week was initiated and is sponsored annually by Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., an organization of executive heads of national, regional and state newspaper publishers and press associations.

Our three great freedoms set forth in the Bill of Rights "Freedom of the Press," "Freedom of Speech" and "Freedom of Religion." The free press of Colonial America paved the way for these basic freedoms which became fact with the coming into force of the Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791.

These freedoms belong to the people.

"Freedom of the Press" is not the property of news-papers, but of all the people . . . it is the guarantee of the right to know; their insurance against demogogy.

'Freedom of Speech" is not the property of politicians and platform speakers, but of all the people . . . it is their own guarantee of free and unafraid expression of their convictions.

"Freedom of Religion" is not the property of minister, priest or rabbi, but of all the people . . . it is their guaran-tee of freedom of conscience and of divine worship in accord with that conscience.

National Newspaper Week is designed to focus attenon these free



Freedom of Information property taxes and to state and federal subventions for its **Battle Starts at Home**

against government secrecy. Newspaper throughout the

land are waging an unceasing struggle for one of America's most cherished goals—Free-dom of Information. The bat-There are two Congression-al subcommittees which are primarily concerned with Freedom of Information. One dom of Information. The bat-tle is waged in small towns and big cities, at the local le-vel and at the seat of our national governament. The reporter for a home-town weekly plays a vital role as he ferrets out the facts on a local situation which some petty offical would prefer be kept secret, as does the Wash-ington correspondent who in-sists on learning how and why public funds are being spent is the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, headed by Sentor Thomas C. Hen-nigs, Jr. (D., Mo.) and the other is the Subcommittee on Information of the House Gov-

Information of the House Gov-ernment Operations Commit-tee, Representative John E. Moss (D., Calif.), chairman. The, Hennings subcommit-tee has approved a bill, S. 2780, which would amend Federal law in five respects to remove provisions which have been used to justify sec-recy in government. NEA en-dorses the Hennings bill and urges public support for its public funds are being spent by elected and appointed of-fice-holders. The National Editoral Assn. The National Editoral Assn. has a Freedom of Information Committee which keeps tabs on gains and setbacks in the Freedom of Information struggle. It receives reports from all over the nation and renders an annual report to NEA Other press groups sup-

 $\dot{m} \dot{m} \dot{m}$ The Moss subcommittee re-cently reported on its five-year effort to make public records available for inspec-tion. Its particular target has been the Department of De-fence, which House investiga-tors found has withheld three times as much information in recent years as during the 40-year period which included both World Wars. Tederal officials, backed by an opinion by Attorney Genrenders an annual report to NEA. Other press groups sup-port similar activities. As the press turns its at-tention to the 1960 celebra-tion of National Newpaper Week, it can point to some progress toward the goal of complete Freedom of Infor-mation but many opportunit-ies for improvement remain.

an opinion by Attorney Gen-eral on the so-called "execu-tive privilege", have often found it convenient to stamp "scoret", or "confidential", on In this election year, when officials from Councilmen to officials from Councilmen to Congressmen are asking the voters for their endorsement both the press and the public are entitled to question can-didate for office as to how they stand on the public's right to know. NEA, as the only national personaper group to maintain "secret" or "confidential" on all kinds of documents which have nothing to do with national security.

* * *

One example in 1960 was a decision by the Internal Revenue Service to withhold comments received from the

The Dishonor Roll

public on a proposed change in the regulation affecting the t ax deductibility of certian types of business expenses. As the $M \circ ss$ subcommittee pointed out, there is no rea-sonable excuse for such actions.

The Moss report warned that increasing restrictions on government information could lead to the destruction of our democratic society, and added:

放放放

State of Area Roadway **Finances Under Scrutiny**

* * *

benefitted.

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL Assemblyman, 46th District

In a recent issue of the HERALD I reported that a young man who recently moved to Manhattan Beach from Gardena asked me why the State of California did not give money to Cities for for streets and highways not already in the State highway system.

I also explained that if the State attempted to give any more money to cities and counties for streets and highways not already in the State highway system we would have to increase the gasoline tax at least one cent per gal-lon. However, I did not em-phasize the fact that the State is already giving such money ot cities and counties.

* * *

Los Angeles County were apportioned \$14,619,154.02 by by taking % cent from the State tax on each gallon of gaseline In the last available Annual In the last available Annual Report of Financial Transac-tions Concerning Streets and Roads of Citles and Counties of California," issued by Alan Cranston, State Controller, for the fiscal year 1958-59, he reported that Inglewood re-c eived \$252,290.14; El Se-gundo got \$130,078.00; Man-hattan Beach received \$73,-093.68; Hermosa Beach receiv-ed \$55,665.16; Redondo Beach obtained \$133,033.84; Palos Verdes Estates was granted \$16,095.75. Rolling Hills is not listed as gasoline. Telford has repeatedly con-firmed the statement I have made before that if you want more State money for city and county roads and streets which are not more of the which are not part of the State highway system, then we must all pay at least one cent more per gallon of gasoline in State taxes. I do not believe you want this tax in-crease, but if you do, write to me at Post Office Box 777, Inglewood, California.

\$16,095.75. Rolling Hills is not listed as receiving money because its streets are private roads; Rolling Hills Estates obtained \$3,611.79; Torrance obtained \$208,954.81; and beautiful little Avalon, on Santa Cata-linaisland received \$4000. It is not possible to report It is not possible to report how much was given to West-

Editor, Torrance Herald

The defeat of the "50-cent

tax override proposal" I do

sion, which presently consists of the Director of Public Works and five Commission-ers, all appointed by the Gov-ernor. If the representation is to be by Assembly Districts, then the State Highway Com-mission would have 80 peop. chester (Los Angeles 45) because that is part of the City of Los Angeles, and the same applies to Playa del Rey. Edward T. Telford, Assistant State Highway Engineer, in a recent letter to me con-

mission would have 80 people on it because there are 80 Assembly District. This idea is too silly for further comfirmed by previous public statements that there are three general funds from which cities and counties are * * *

According to the final, of-ficial report of Benjamin S. Hite, Registrar of Voters, Los One is an allocation of 1% cents out of the State tax on Angeles County, there are 137,077 registered voters in the 46th Assembly District. This number includes 67,978 each gallon which goes direct to the counties. The second is the State Highway Fund itself for major construction. The third is an allocation of 5's cent from the tax on each Democrats, 63,698 Republi-cans, 65 Prohibitionists, 941 gallon of gasoline made direct to the citles. For example, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960, the citles in members of miscellaneous groups, and 4395 who "De-cline to State."

10

cline to State." Although the 46th Assembly District is only one of three Assembly Districts which make up the 17th Con-gressional District, it con tains more than 61 per cent of the 360,284 registered vot-ers of the entire 17th Con-gressional District.

* * * When I was first elected in 1950, the 46th District was about 65 per cent Democratic and it always has had more Democrats than Republicans, but I always get re-elected by overwhelming m a jorities, probably heasure I nay, at probably because I pay at-tention to what people in the District want.

Each week I get hundreds of letters and telephone calls. Each is important and each is remembered when I vote on bills in Sacramento. This is American government in

From the Mailbox **By Our Readers**

* * *

equately paid teachers in Tor-Today I sent the following rance. I subscribe to this most letter to Bert Lynn, president heartily as it is the foundation of the Torrance planning comof our future, for it is our

children who are really talk ing about. N. A. DUPREE JR. 16204 Spinning Ave



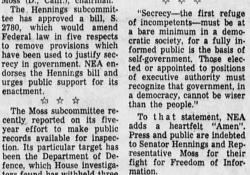
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS -Greek letter Fewest

and Quote

* * *

newspaper group to maintain its headquarters in the Na-tion's Capital, occupies a key vantage point in waging war



mation. The battle against official secrecy is not a press crusade in the self-interest of news-papers. It is a cause in which

Honest government has lit-tle cause to conceal vital facts from taxpayers. Officials are the servents of the people who elect them. Please make

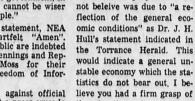
item as a major objection. Your statement in the Tor-rance Herald of Oct. 13, 1960, indicates you would endorse

sure that those you help put in office are worthy of their trust and willing to tell what they are doing.

ride would be reduced if the need ceaser." I, for one, would vote for

A young man who has been going to school all his life re-cently told me he thinks we should have someone from the 46th Assembly District on the State Highway Commis-

0

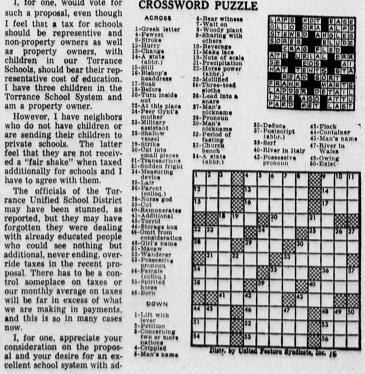


mission:

the situation when you originally pointed out the lack of a time limit in the proposal. Persons with whom I discussed the proposal had this

of education would issue a statement of policy saying the

currently used 75-cent overby Jerry Marcus



every citizen can and should join. NEA pledges its maxi-mum efforts in this fight and urges public support in the cause of Freedom of Informa-tion "an override tax with a 5year limitation, if the board

people in the efort to preserve these rights.

Newspapers promote National Newspaper Week, not from a selfish motive, but to emphasize these basic and vital freedoms, the partnership of press and people and the need for everyone exhibiting dedication and dilgence in the eternal effort to preserve these freedoms. National Newspaper Week this year is October 15-21.

It is of utmost importance we present a solid front for freedom in a world in which freedom is being attached so violently and so unscrupulously. Truth makes us free. Let us now resolve to continue the dissemination of truth as the indestructible bulwark against ignorance, enslavement, bigotry and political chicanery. Newspapers are, indeed, the guardians of freedom.

-Louis Spilman, Editor, Waynesboro, (Va.) News-Virginian

A Dire Prediction

Beware of those political enthusiasts who are making the rounds these days saying that if Nixon is elected, the banks will be closed and troops will be marching in the streets in three days.

It's all not as dire as it sounds-three days after election day is Veterans' Day.

