

Torrance Herald

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This Week's Motto:

Crime doesn't pay, and with taxes what they are, neither does anything else.

Candidates' Checklist

Because of the great number who have filed for positions on the board of the Torrance Unified School District, the voters will be called upon Tuesday, April 18, to exercise well informed judgement.

Three incumbents have offered themselves for reelection; 13 others want these three positions. The incumbents run on their records; all the others must be subject to scrutiny of background, general qualifications, and motives.

We think any candidate for the trusted position of board member should at least possess the following qualifications:

1. He must not be an "exposure" candidate; that is to say he must not be placing his name on the ballot merely for the purpose of gaining such publicity as may result from becoming a candidate.

2. He must have lived in the community long enough to have identified himself as an interested citizen with particular knowledge of the school system and its problems.

3. Above all else he must advance an intelligent program, soundly conceived, with the sincere intention of constructively serving the best interests of the school system.

We don't subscribe to a current school of thought that has any laymen seeking to qualify himself as expert on education. Neither do we go along with thinking that imposes the philosophy that, irrespective of their sincerity, educators and school members always are right.

The current campaign gives every indication that it will be lively and informative. For the interests of all, it is to be hoped, it will be free of bitterness and inclined to a course of conduct that will always consider the best interests of the 27,000 enrolled in the Torrance Unified School District.

Campaign Promises

The promised economies of the Torrance Unified School District's operation which led many people to support the second request for an additional tax override early this year have apparently gone the way of other campaign promises.

Careful study of the reaction by school administrators to the proposed economies contained in a report of the citizens' committee to the board indicate that the sum and substance of the resulting "economy wave" will be to reduce the district staff by a total of three to five clerks who can be replaced by machines.

In all other cases, reason was piled on reason to explain why reductions in the areas involved could not be made. It is probably folly in the first place to expect a department head to suggest ways he can reduce his own operations.

When the board of directors of an industrial or business corporation announces a policy to the effect that a reduction in operating costs will be expected from the various divisions of its organization, the smart department head immediately takes steps to assure that his staff is aware of the new policy and that it is implemented.

In the case of the school administrators, the reaction was to list the many reasons why the board was off on the wrong foot hoping to effect some economies.

The people of Torrance do not expect huge savings in the school's operating costs, because most are aware that the district is being run on a reasonably economical basis.

Neither do they expect to have serious recommendations for economies brushed aside as the dreams of the uninformed. The school officials promised last fall that steps to effect economies would be taken. Losing three clerks, eventually, doesn't fill the bill.

Out of the Past

From the Files of the HERALD

Twenty years ago, according to HERALD files, the community of Torrance was in the grip of controversy over the Friday night student dances which for several years had become a fixture in the life of more than 500 local young people. The dances, sponsored by the Torrance Coordinating Council, were the subject of an attack by the Ministerial Union as "extremely detrimental to the morals of our young and offensive to the good name of our city."

Various civic leaders defended the dances as furnishing a supervised activity for the young. The city council, however, sided with the ministers and the dances were stopped.

On recommendation of the County Planning Commission, the Torrance city council Tuesday afternoon approved an ordinance designed to give multinamed Highway 101 the title of Pacific Coast Hwy., from one end to the other. At the present time (1941) that thoroughfare is variously

known as 101, State Highway 60, Wilmington Rd., 258th St., Wilmington - Redondo Blvd. and other titles.

Bronson C. Buxton succeeded George Peckham as president of the Torrance Rotary club. Buxton had become a prominent realtor after coming to Torrance in 1926 from Kokoma, Ind., where he had been vice-president of the Apperson automobile company, one of the world's first automobile manufacturers.

March in 1941 was ushered out in one of the heaviest downpours of a record season of rainfall. Nearly one inch fell on the last day of the month contributing to flooding areas still inundated from seasonal rains that totaled 28.76 inches.

Torrance school playgrounds were to remain open for the Easter vacation period with John Powell, director, remaining in charge. It was pointed out by school

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

U. S. Setback in Saudi Arabia Under Scrutiny

DALLAS . . . As a boy we went to school in the French and British protectorates in the Middle East. Since 1931 it has become a focal point of our newsbeats around the world. From this personal experience we have often differed from some of our colleagues in regard to the U.S. position in the area since our recognition of the State of Israel in 1948.

We have reported in these columns, and from the public platforms of America each year upon our return from the Middle East, that our country's position has deteriorated dangerously, and that it was only a matter of time until we would be forced out of our military bases.

King Saud's decision not to renew our airbase rights at Dhahran when they expire next year was no surprise to us. Built by us some 15 years ago at the cost of millions, it had become a major base of our military transport and a constant threat to Russia's southern flank.

President Truman in 1948 was faced with a hard decision on the new State of Israel. There were humanitarian reasons . . . but also political ones. The haste and method of recognition during the 1948 presidential campaign offended millions of Arabs and Moslems.

But we took the plunge and it is hoped that our humanitarian instinct will be judged by history more than the political. U. S. foreign policy is often called upon to make hard decisions. We just made another one on Portuguese Angola by siding with the Soviet Union against some of our NATO allies. This can cost us our air base in the Azores, too.

In all probability, our support of Israel was at the root of King Saud's decision. Soviet threats, after the U-2 incident, to bomb air bases from which U.S. aircraft took off for intelligence flights had their effect, for King Saud is a realist and knows that one Russian bomb on his oil fields will drive him back to the desert lands.

It is possible that he was assured by the Communist bloc that they would buy his oil, even at a better price than that paid by U.S. companies . . . just in case. Some of our policy declarations on Algiers and the Congo rubbed Arab-Moslems the wrong way. Any of these reasons could have turned the trick against us at Dhahran.

Britain dominated the Middle East for more than 100 years and first discovered its oil, but her power and prestige have been sliding downhill, ironically for the same reason that brought her to the peak of power . . . politics. Britain infiltrated the Middle East successfully through political and economic advisors to Arab rulers, who obviously advised with British interests in mind,

only to lose their power to Americans who did just the opposite . . . refusing to have more than a small part of politics in areas of joint business participation, as in the case of Saudi Arabia.

U.S. controlled companies today produce more than twice as much oil as British controlled companies . . . and own more than 60 per cent of the Middle East's known reserves. The decision of the U.S. and its oil companies to keep out of Middle East politics as much as possible paid off.

Support of Israel was our only exception. We even went against our allies, Britain and France, when they attacked Egypt after the seizure of the Suez Canal, at least in part to pacify Arabs and Moslems.

In whole or in part, U.S. oil companies control most of Middle East oil. Aramco (Standard of California, Standard of New Jersey, Texas Company, Socony Mobil Oil) is an American syndicate concession which controls Saudi Arabian oil. Although Kuwait is under both British political rule and British oil interest, its British producing company is half owned by U. S. Gulf Oil. American oil companies also own the largest share among British, French and Dutch interests in Iraq oil.

Early in 1950 U.S. oil interests, recognizing the handwriting on the wall in Britain's troubles in Iran with Mohammed Mossadegh, broke precedent by increasing royalties to 50 per cent, the highest ever. Aramco led the pack with the first 50-50 split in Middle East oil with King Saud, forcing all foreign concessions to follow suit. Aramco's decision was possible because Arabian oil is the cheapest to produce and therefore the most profitable. At about 40 to 45 cents a barrel . . . as against the U.S. price of about \$1 a barrel . . . Arabian oil can be marketed at about the \$2 world barrel price with the highest rate of profit in the world. Only

Venezuela and Creole Petroleum come close to this margin production cost.

In Saudi Arabia U.S. oil company personnel endure hardships and impositions in quest of a slice of the oil gravy. Our personnel must abide by local customs strangely in variance with ours. Christian worship is discouraged. No Jews can be employed by the oil companies or serve in the U.S. diplomatic or military missions. The recipient of a letter postmarked "Israel" is deported.

To protect U.S. oil interests our government has moved with caution. Extraordinary concessions, without precedent anywhere else in the world, have been made to pacify oil rulers. The Dhahran airfield we are losing, for example, could only be built with the understanding that, upon its completion, it became the property of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis have cancelled agreements with both the U.S. government and oil companies without warning and reinstated them only after we gave in to demands involving U.S. political differences with Arab and Moslem countries. Oil has been used as a weapon to keep us in line. "They have us over the proverbial barrel," said an oil executive to us in Dhahran one day. "We are here for oil and everything else takes second place."

An extreme case of U.S. public relations was evident during King Saud's last visit to the U.S. We furnished him the U.S.S. Constitution to bring his entourage all the way from Cairo. We had never supplied a warship for any other head of state in our history. After we toured and dined him across the country, we flew him home in ex-President Eisenhower's Colombine, while also picking up the tab for two other chartered planes which carried his entourage of 70 subordinates and five-year-old Prince Ma-

A Fire Under Him?



shur, ailing with paralysis, back to Dhahran.

At a time of shifting political policies in the Middle East and Africa . . . with the ominous encroachments of Russia and Red China in these areas . . . it has been vital and still is vital to our security to maintain good will with the oil rulers. However, in all our newsbeats to the Middle East we saw evidence that we went overboard. We condoned autocracy and inhuman exploitation of millions of Arab-Moslems, who live in squalor, while their U.S. supported rulers surround themselves in luxurious palaces and drive gold-plated Cadillacs and Rolls Royces.

Although we have helped build hospitals, housing,

roads, etc., to a far greater degree than the British have ever done around their oil concessions . . . we have been a part in the exploitation of millions whose soil produces the black gold. It is such human impositions that provide communism with its most potent weapons.

It is ironic that, with all our compromises and generosity in Saudi Arabia, King Saud has given us notice that our presence is no longer wanted. The loss of the Dhahran airbase cannot be minimized . . . but the loss to our prestige is the worst we have ever suffered in the Middle East. The entire drama of 12 years of politics, oil, appeasement, greed . . . and omission . . . in the Middle East has come back to plague us on a strategic airstrip in Dhahran.

Gains and Brains

By ESTEY I. REED

"How are you?" This salutation has been inherited from generations past, along with many of our traits. The words indicate that, at one time, they carried a meaning which they have lost. Was there a sincere desire to be informed as to the physical condition of the person addressed? Were they more kind than we? Or was this hypocrisy?

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