

### Morning Report:

The government's long-awaited Civil Defense pamphlet is off the press. It's titled "Fallout Protection: What to Know and What to Do About Nuclear Attack." Each illustrated copy only cost the government three cents. But it is still too early to know if the thing is a bargain even at that price.

Personally, I'm worried. President Kennedy was slated to write the foreword, but he backed out before publication time in favor of Defense Secretary McNamara.

It could be the president has no faith in this book of advice and doesn't want to take the rap if any of us are around to complain that it didn't work.

Abe Mellinkoff

## Founders' Day Fete Set for Hospital

The annual Founders' Day banquet of the Little Company of Mary Hospital, honoring the second anniversary of the hospital's opening, will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the Plush Horse restaurant.

Principal speaker will be William R. Burke of Palos Verdes Estates, national commander of the American Legion on 1961.

As Legion commander, Burke visited Legion posts not only throughout the United States but also inspected posts and American military installations in Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, Korea; Taipei, Formosa; Hong Kong, Manila and Honolulu. He made a tour of the European area early last year.

BURKE, a Navy veteran of World War II, is a public relations executive.

The dinner is designed as a money-raising event for the non-profit hospital. Tickets, at \$10 a person or \$20 a couple, may be obtained at Harbor Savings, 1617 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach; the Bank of America, in downtown Torrance; the Torrance Branch of United California Bank; the Plush Horse Inn; Cabrillo Savings, Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard; and at the hospital.

THE 135-BED hospital admitted 8,764 patients during its second year of operation, an increase of 18 per cent over the first year. It maintained a 74 per cent rate of occupancy.

THE SECOND year saw 1,773 births, an increase of 15 per cent. There were 7,000 emergency room cases.

There are now 290 doctors on the medical staff, 73 in general practice and 217 in the specialty fields.

In 1961, the pediatric department operated at 84 per cent of capacity. High point was reached in February, with a daily average of 24 patients. There are 336 full and part-time employees on the payroll.

HIGH PRAISE has been bestowed on the volunteer groups. Senior Volunteers have contributed more than 25,000 hours to the hospital in the last two years, and Junior Volunteers gave 6,100 hours in 1961, an increase of 500 per cent over 1960.

The hospital pathology de-

## Law in Action

Taxpayers want responsible vigorous public officials. To encourage them the law gives them some special protections from some lawsuits, for example, from what would be slander if uttered privately.

Prosecutors, public officials, and others may have to

accuse or challenge others. They must do this without fear of lawsuits, even though they may sometimes make mistakes in what they say or do in carrying out their duties.

Still, few public officials have blanket license to make wild charges. Thus recently several school board members told the public they were investigating a certain school employe for taking "kick-backs" on school contracts, and using school equipment and school employes for "shady dealings."

The employe sued board members for defamation. The court found that if the board members had said these things, they would be responsible and would have gone "beyond the scope of their authority" with these "wild statements."

A board official might report what was in their investigation reports. Or he might tell what the board was doing and what it had found out. But no board member could make defamatory accusations as if they were official reports when in fact they were not.

On the other hand, one school board charged that a teacher was a Communist and fired him. It turned out that the board was mistaken, and the court ordered the teacher back to work. But when the teacher later sued for damages, the court ruled he had no cause against the board. Though wrong, the board was acting wholly within its authority.

The immunity given to officials who must exercise judgment does not go to those who just do ministerial work. No employe who files papers, prepares voting lists, etc., has similar protection. Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

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## North Trio To Compete In Contest

Three members of North High's Speech Squad have qualified to participate in the statewide tournament to be held in Santa Barbara April 28 and 29, according to Lehr Mushrush, head speech coach at North High School.

Mike Jones, a junior, placed in Boys' Impromptu; senior Karen Jackson took second in Girls' Impromptu; and junior Bud Baumgarten placed second in Boys' Extemporaneous at the USC tournament.

Ten members of the North Speech Squad were among the 620 entries from the 71 schools that participated. Four of the 57 speakers in finals came from North High and three of 20 qualifying for state competition are from North.

Sandy Rayes, a senior, placed third in Girls' Extemporaneous but did not qualify for the state contest. Other squad members who attended the tournament were Maureen Bereskin, Claudia Wilkens, Bronwen Crowell, Jerry Lemberger, Judy Morgan, and Peter Gregory.

Sixty per cent of the squad made semifinals and 40 per cent made finals with 30 per cent qualifying for the state tournament.

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