

# Torrance Herald

Established 1914

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## Pricing of Water

Hearings on the application of the Dominguez Water Corp. for an increase in rates charged to its water customers will open Wednesday morning before a Public Utilities Commission examiner in the city hall.

The need for a rate increase—which would give the company its fourth rate hike in less than four years—has been publicly questioned, and the Torrance City Council has voted to oppose formally the application. The City Council action was taken Tuesday because Dominguez serves about 4,000 homes in the city at rates already substantially higher than those charged by the Torrance Water Department.

If the requested increase is approved, the Dominguez water rate would average more than \$2 a month more than the Torrance rate for a typical residential customer, according to estimates made by the city.

Dominguez officials point out that their rates must include all the costs of a private water utility, including property taxes, cost of systems installed in new subdivisions, taxes on income, engineering costs, and all other operating costs incurred by the company.

Beyond this, the privately owned company is expected to show a profit, its executives plead, and it is on this point that the hearing this week will turn. Based on capital investment, public utilities are permitted rates which will bring a certain return. In the case of Dominguez Water Corp., its officials claim a return of \$198,000 after taxes on an investment of \$7 million is insufficient. The company reports that it pays more in taxes—\$265,000 in 1963—than it earns.

This low income jeopardizes the company standing in the bond market, it bears on the public acceptance of its shares, and it bears on the ability of the company to finance improvements with borrowed capital.

If the purpose of the Public Utilities Commission is to guarantee a comfortable return on invested capital by allowing certain rate structures, then Dominguez can probably make a good case before the examiner this week.

If, on the other hand, the PUC is obligated to assure customers of the company that they are receiving the service at the lowest reasonable rate, then the utility's showing before the examiner had better be a strong one. In fact, unless the ability of the company to serve its function would be jeopardized without the increase, there is good reason to question why some Torrance citizens must pay so much more for water than others.

## The Herald Recommends

In previous editions, The Herald has recommended the re-election of Victor E. Benstead and George Vico and the election of H. T. (Ted) Olson to the City Council at the municipal election on Tuesday.

The decision to support these three candidates from the field of eighteen was not lightly arrived at, but was made after considering all candidates and combinations of candidates.

The Herald believes the election of these three men Tuesday will be in the best interests of Torrance. Mr. Benstead, as a 12-year veteran of City Council service, and Mr. Vico, with a 4-year term to his credit, have shown that they are fully capable of following their own minds as councilmen. Mr. Olson, whose list of activities is impressive, would be a valuable addition to the City Council.

There are others in Tuesday's race who probably deserve more consideration that they appear to be getting, and conversely, there are some in the race who have attracted more consideration than deserved.

The Herald has recommended what it believes to be the best combination for the city.

The Herald also has recommended that the voters approve the proposed charter amendment which would raise the allowable salary of the city clerk from \$350 a month to \$750 a month. The responsibilities of the office are too much to expect capable men or women to be attracted to it at the present salary. The charter proposal also specifies the nature of the city clerk's duties in detail.

## Opinions of Others

We must have been sleeping, for we awaken all of a sudden and find that our own state, Colorado, is talking of going into business (including printing) and here all along we've been hollering about the Federal Boys . . . Now we never get any state printing; that is most generally done in the Metropolitan area, but we have long advocated that government should let free taxpaying enterprise do this work . . . This not only applies to the printing industry. Suppose the state started handling washing machines, television, men's clothing, ladies wear, hardware, automobiles, groceries and so on down the line. —Eaton (Col.) Herald.

## Quote

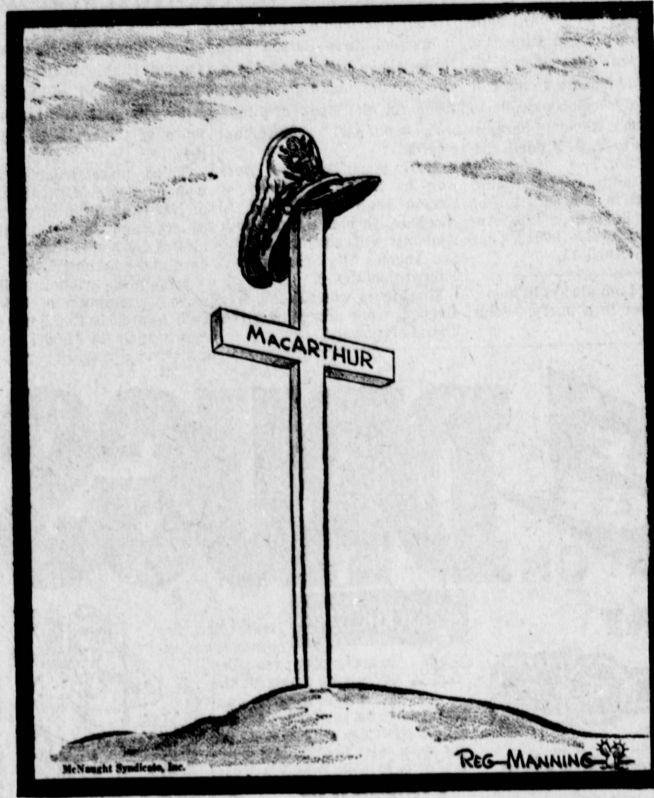
People will ultimately come to terms with the racial situation not through the advice of their politicians or psychiatrists, but by falling back on their instincts and intuitions of what is right—not between races, but between people.—Dr. M. Robert Coles, psychiatrist.

The public should be more thoughtful toward good drivers of all ages and not tear down the teenage driver just because he is a teenager.—Bruce Thompson.

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## He Died Fighting



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

## 'Reliable Sources' Have Different Policy Views

There was a curious by-play, or call it a mixup, in the State Department recently regarding the attitude of the United States toward arbitrary seizures of power in Latin America.

It still isn't cleared up, but it is a good example of the extreme sensitivity of foreign affairs to the use of words by those in authority.

Thomas C. Mann, assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, in addressing a gathering of American ambassadors to Latin American nations, suggested a change of American policy: In the future the United States would not undertake to punish military groups which overthrow democratic governments.

This was attributed in news stories to "reliable sources" from an apparently closed

meeting, and Mr. Mann was not directly quoted.

There was an immediate stir over it, and the State Department took measures to counteract it with what amounted to a denial.

R. I. Phillips, the Department's spokesman, announced that no change of policy was involved, that "the United States' devotion to the principle of democracy is a historical fact." He added that the United States will be "guided by the national interest and the circumstances peculiar to each situation as it arises."

Whether this was a repudiation of Mr. Mann's supposed pronouncement, no one, including Mr. Phillips, was prepared to say. "Reliable sour-

ces," again, said that Mann had actually said that while the United States would advocate democracy in Latin America, it should not attempt to impose it.

Some publicists insisted this was a policy change from that of the Kennedy Administration. Last October Mr. Kennedy, commenting on withdrawal of economic aid and diplomatic recognition in coups in the Dominican Republic and Honduras, said it was the policy of the United States to apply such sanctions, short of force, against dictators.

As between the Kennedy, Mann, and Phillips statements, it may appear to be slicing it thin to find a new policy of the Johnson Administration, but that is the penalty of State semantics.

Actually, it is difficult to assess the true nature of many revolutionary situations in Latin America. There have been cases where a military junta in reality represented a majority of the citizenry, which was under attack of a well-organized minority. If such a junta beats to the punch a clear Communist conspiracy, and takes power, what is our course? It is hardly more than folly for us to suffer another Communist Latin American regime, to form a quick axis with Castro's Cuba.

It would appear then that Mr. Phillips' position of judging each case on its merit would be prudent, and it is doubtful if Mr. Kennedy ever felt otherwise.

NEWS SPARKS by James Dorais

## Do Pacts on Employment Of Minorities Meet Law?

The goal of the recent series of racial demonstrations in San Francisco is to force the signing of agreements between employers and non-governmental "civil rights" organizations, the effect of which is to encourage hiring of certain quotas of members of minority races.

Congressman King, who has represented the 17th for over 20 years falls in the class that Burkhalter, his fellow Democrat, charges are hindering the legislative effort through the effect of seniority alone. While he has been able to hide some of the truth by campaign posters with pictures of 15-20 years ago, by not returning to his district to be seen or heard, and by other carefully maneuvered public relation programs, Congressman King and his record deserve careful scrutiny this year. Is he able to continue to serve his district effectively, or is he like so many others, "in his dotage."

In over 20 years in Washington, King has failed to introduce or have passed one significant piece of legislation. Even matters directly affecting the harbor area and its economy, and the shipping industry, have not received his energetic support. It is up to the Democratic party as well as the Republicans to insist that Congress-

demonstrations by leaders of the various civil rights groups has alienated public opinion, to such an extent that the Rumford repealers chance of passage has been greatly enhanced.

One question, however, that would seem more obviously pertinent to the controversy than any other, has been given little consideration: Are the agreements employers are being pressured to sign legal?

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In 1959, the State of California adopted the Fair Employment Practices Act. Its purpose is to prohibit discriminatory practices in employment and in union membership, when such practices are based upon race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry. The Act provides that no inquires or specifications, direct or indirect, may be made concerning a job applicant's race, religious creed,

TRAVEL by Stan Delaplaine

## The Lute Player Wears Long, Green Stockings

"Could you suggest some place unusual and interesting for two ladies (alone) to dine in London?"

In the very respectable Gore Hotel there is the Elizabethan Room, done in the style of the days of Sir Walter Raleigh. Rushes on the floor. A lute player in the long green stockings. Serving wenches with dresses cut down to way down yonder.

Along with this goes food like peacock, salmagundi, Good King William (which turns out to be spinach). Mead and mulled wine and clay pipes for all. I can't bear the food. But it certainly has atmosphere.

If you want to go home by way of Ireland, you can do something of the same in the historic halls of Bunratty Castle. (The O'Briens had their enemies pulled apart by wild horses in the courtyard.) This has even more color. Your airline has to route you through Shannon if you ask. And the total cost of dinner and night's lodging is only \$15.

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"Can you tell me where good road maps of Europe can be obtained? The free variety would be the nicest if that's possible."

Once in awhile I've run into free ESSO maps in those stations. But Europeans don't throw around free maps the way our people do. Also you don't find the super service stations—your gas often comes from a pump on the main street in front of a small garage.

The American Automobile Assn. has excellent free maps for members. And they have offices in the major cities. The Michelin tire people make fine maps. For sale (not expensive) in all European book stores.

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"We will be spending 10 days in Jamaica in April. How would you advise it spent—at one hotel, or break it up at Montego Bay and Ochos Rios and Kingston?"

With only 10 days, I'd stay one place. If you have a car, Ochos Rios—the former Arak Hotel that has been taken over by Hilton management. If not Montego Bay. I didn't think Kingston was too interesting. You get the same duty-free shopping at Montego Bay. And the beaches are better.

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"Can you suggest a shop where I can buy a watch in Copenhagen? We will only be in Switzerland on a weekend."

The airport at Copenhagen has a duty-free shop with a fair selection of Swiss watches. But you'll find Swiss watches at the Swiss airports, too. I think they'll be open on weekends.

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"Where can I buy an electrical converter for European current and outlets?"

There is no standard converter for all things. You can buy electric razors and irons that convert by flipping a switch on them. You can also buy converter plugs—the two-prong type that fit continental outlets. But I've never found the three-prong British Wilkinson blades.

I think these things are a nuisance. I steam my cloths out in hotel bathrooms. Or send them out for pressing if I have to. And I carry a Gillette razor and British Wilkinson blades.

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"What should I pay for a good, not expensive man's watch in Switzerland? And where?"

Mine cost me \$40. It is thin, automatic, has a date window and a steel case. I got it at the Bucherer who has shops in all Swiss cities and resorts.

Gold cases are what cost money.

"My husband and I have been doing a study (for a master's degree) on witchcraft and wonder if there is some place we could go to see actual practice . . ."

The Mexicans say the town of Dolores de Hidalgo (near Guanajuato) is bruja country. Also in the back country around Vera Cruz—where they are called hechizeros. I tried to find some witches myself. But all I got was a lady fortune teller with cards. (She said I would be rich and to beware of water.)

In England, I saw a story on a society of witches. The British Tourist Assn. in New York City ought to be able to dig this up. In fact, I think you could find them in the London telephone book. England is full of weird societies.

OUR MAN by Arthur Hoppe

## Penny-Pinchers Need a Symbol

WASHINGTON—Well, so much for President Johnson's vaunted economizing around the White House. A lot of talk, that's what it is. For I strolled by there the other evening and it turns out he leaves the porch light on. All night!

No, there's no question about it. There's the White House dimly perceivable through the trees, a vague, hulking, dark blob, a sight to stir the hearts of us taxpayers. Not a chink of light escapes to mar the gloom. (Except for a faint, fluttering glow from a basement window, which I assume is merely some disobedient menial trying to read in bed with a candle.)

But there, hanging over the front entrance for all the world to see, is the porch light. Shining away as though electricity grew on trees.

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Now it might be all right if Mr. Johnson had left the porch light on by accident. He could get up in the morning and switch it off with only that little twinge of guilt you feel when you discover you've accidentally forgotten the darned thing. But I have it on the excellent authority of an unimpeachable insomniac that the porch light burns all night. Every night.

So this is no oversight, fellow taxpayers. It is cool, calculated extravagance. And what I want to know is, how can Mr. Johnson possibly justify it?

We all know when leaving the porch light on is justified. It's perfectly proper, for instance, if you are expecting callers. Will Mr. Johnson contend, I wonder, that he is merely expecting callers? At 4 o'clock in the morning? I doubt it.

And it is also reasonable to leave the porch light on if you are waiting up for some member of the family. Perhaps he will say that Miss Lynda Bird or Miss Luci was out on a date. Or Mrs. Johnson was at the PTA and he . . . All night? Every night? I trust we need explore this explanation no further.

No, there is clearly only one plausible motive behind Mr. Johnson's appalling profligacy: misguided patriotism. He obviously feels he must leave the porch light on as a symbol—as a symbol to the thousands of tourists who pass by each night that somewhere in the darkness their national shrine still stands. Somewhere.

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A worthy motive. But fraught with danger for Mr. Johnson's whole economy program. If we can leave the porch light on at the White House, people will ask, why can't we go on lighting up the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and the Statue of Liberty at nights? And there goes another possible economy.

Worse, people will start talking about how the White House used to look—like a fairy wedding cake gleaming in the dark. And they may even demand Mr. Johnson turn the outdoor floodlights on! Well, you can imagine the pretty penny that would cost.

No, if he wishes to prove his sincerity, he must turn out that porch light. No halfway measures. Let's make our national shrine a perfect black blob, a shining example of penny-pinching to us all.

## Morning Report:

Time Magazine says Defense Secretary McNamara may be President Johnson's running mate, and Newsweek offers Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. I have it, however, that the St. Louis Sporting News will nominate Yogi Berra, if the New York Yankees are doing well in August when the Democrats convene in Atlantic City.

Of the three, I feel Berra will do the most for Mr. Johnson.

He's moving up from catcher to manager this year and is associated with a Northern State. Also he will be equally unacceptable to the Stevenson, Kennedy, Humphrey and McCarthy wings of the Democratic party. In fact, he may not even be registered in either party—which is just the kind of noncontroversial Vice President the President would love to find.

Abe Mellinkoff