

# COUNCIL OFFERS VOTERS RIGHT TO CHOOSE MAYOR

## Special Election Set October 29

Torrance city councilmen stepped forward with seven-league boots Tuesday night when they decided to let the voters elect their own mayor and increase the number of councilmen from five to seven members.

The progressive action—representing a streamlining of city politics—occurred under a minimum of heat and a maximum of light.

The council's action places the issue before the voters at a special election October 29, at which time the mayor and two bond issues are to be decided.

### Ready in Time

If the issue is approved at that time, there is a strong possibility that the State Legislature, meeting in extraordinary session in January, may ratify the action, according to City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier. This would cause the new law to be in effect at the next general election in April 1958, at which time the mayor would be elected at large and the additional councilmen would be chosen.

Councilmen discussed the possibility of retaining a five-man council; the advisability of having an even-numbered council or an odd-numbered council; and the desirability of having a mayor who would cast the deciding vote in case of a tie or one who would have no legislative functions and simply be a figure head.

Councilmen agreed shortly on a seven-man council, six to be councilmen and the seventh to be the mayor. At present there are five councilmen, one acting as mayor.

The mayor, at present, is chosen by the five councilmen from among themselves. Under the new law, the voters would elect their own mayor who would have the same legislative power as the present mayor, being able to make motions and

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## HR Libray Committee Announced

Formation of a committee to determine the location of the proposed \$20,000 Hollywood Riviera library was announced this week by Ben Russel, president of the Riviera Home Owners assn.

Members include Bill Hanson, Mrs. Kenneth Watts and Leonard Freeland.

The group will consider the most desirable location or the desirability of enlarging the Walteria library instead.

The committee has been asked to consider city-owned property in order to meet the county's building regulations and still work in terms of the proposed \$20,000 sum.



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

**TORRANCE PRESS**

1406 CRAVENS AVE. — FA. 8-2345

**10¢**  
Per Copy

Vol. VIII 1 ■ 2 ■ 119

1406 CRAVENS AVE. — Phone FA. 8-2345

Thursday, August 15, 1957

NO. 19

### EDITORIAL

## Our Councilmen Deserve A Pat on the Back

Torrance city councilmen, often the target of criticism, this week deserve to be subjects of praise.

Councilmen took a significant step forward Tuesday night when they decided to increase the council from five to seven members, one being the mayor, to be elected at large from now on. The matter must now be decided on by Torrance voters at a special election October 29.

The Torrance Press has long advocated such streamlining.

What is praiseworthy is the moderate and reasonable way in which the whole issue was discussed by the councilmen and the dispatch with which they acted.

If they had wanted to, they could have easily become bogged down in personalities, petty differences, and drawn-out bickering, with the result that they would have passed up a perfect opportunity to place the issue on the ballot at the coming special election.

The council acted wisely, too, in combining this issue with the two bond issues at the same election.

The popularity of the mayor-councilmen issue will enhance the importance of two bond issues, guaranteeing a better turn-out than is usually the case at special elections.

Finally, by presenting this issue to the voters at a special election, the matter has been removed from "politics."

At a general election, when councilmen and candidates run for office, there would have been the danger that the issue would have been confused and lost under the smokescreen of political campaigning.

By presenting a united, unanimous front on both the bond issues and the mayor-councilmen issue, the council has taken a clear, intelligible stand.

This should carry a great deal of weight with Torrance voters at election time. We feel certain that they will respond to the council's progressive action.

## City Council Okays Two Bond Issues

Airport expansion bonds were changed from a revenue issue to general obligation bonds through action of the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the \$1,000,000 airport bond issue and a \$3,000,000 recreation bond issue to be voted on by Torrance residents at a special election, October 29.

In addition, a charter amendment will be submitted to the voters calling for the use of airport revenues to retire the \$1,000,000 bond issue.

The change from the revenue issue to a general obligation bond makes the entire city liable for the bond issue. However, the charter amendment provides for payment of the bonds through airport revenues.

It is expected that there will be sufficient revenue coming in from the airport to pay for the bond issue over the allotted period of time.

The council agreed that the

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## Mrs. Carter Singing a Happy Tune

Do, re, mi—that's what Mrs. Dorothy Carter of 1623 W. 215th st. got when she advertised her piano for sale in the Torrance Press classified section.

She ran the following ad:

PIANO — Modern Kimball upright. Excellent mechanical condition. \$100.

"I had 35 calls so far and the telephone is still ringing," Mrs. Carter stated the day the ad ran. "I'm not even bothering to answer the phone any more. I sold the piano to the second person who called."

Mrs. Carter, extremely happy with the results in the Torrance Press, added,

"I wish I had had a dozen more pianos for sale!"

For quick, inexpensive results, place your ad in the Torrance Press classified section by calling FA 8-2345. Fifteen words cost only \$1.30 with a 30-cent discount if paid for at time the ad is placed.

## 'Motel' Issue Returned to City Council

By a 6 to 3 vote, the controversial Don-Ja-Ran hotel-motel issue was thrown back into the lap of the City Council by the Planning Commission last week.

No recommendation was made on the issue except that a hotel instead of a motel be placed on property along Torrance Beach, on the southern city boundary.

The whole matter had been returned to the Planning Commission when the council found out that a "motel-type" building, instead of a resort hotel as first announced, was being planned.

The council sent the matter to the Planning Commission (Turn To Page 5)



JAMES HARMON  
... assistant manager

## Jim Harmon Given CofC Appointment

James L. Harmon will become assistant manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce effective August 19, it was announced today by President A. E. Thompson.

Harmon has spent the last eight years in public relations work with the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Better Business Bureau, and the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce. Previously he owned and operated the Steel Motor Service of Hammond, Indiana.

As assistant to Manager Dick Fitzgerald, Harmon will be primarily concerned with membership and retail merchants promotions, Thompson stated, adding that the move was necessitated to render better service to business, industry, and citizens of the rapidly growing community.

## Incorporation Election for Lomita Slated

Incorporation headaches will be solved one way or the other October 29, the date set for holding the election on the Lomita issue.

Proposed boundaries were left intact by the Board of Supervisors following a hearing last Thursday.

## BUILDING ACTIVITY SLACKING

July building permits totaled \$1,819,471 as opposed to \$4,921,784 in July 1956. Total for the year so far is \$11,529,333 as compared with 1956's total of \$34,450,783.

Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the city engineer's office, stated that the biggest permit taken out was by the Torrance Unified School district for four maintenance buildings at the school offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo. Cost will be \$573,000.

## CHANNEL FENCING PRAISED

Quick fencing of the Dominguez Channel was praised this week by local civic leaders.

Tribute was paid to Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn who assumed leadership in the matter.

The Torrance Press, as well as the Torrance City Council and Chamber of Commerce, had urged the fencing of the channel in order to protect the children of area residents.

Hahn reported that these efforts resulted in a new Los Angeles County Safety Policy of fencing hazardous channels, the first such policy in 25 years.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**VACANCY:** Anyone interested in filling a vacancy on the County Democrat Central Committee may contact Jim McDonald of Wilmington or Thirvin Fleetwood, 3637 W. 182nd st., Torrance.

**CITY YARD:** Sam Levy's proposition to purchase the Torrance City Yard property for \$60,000 was turned down. The property, two years ago, was appraised for \$150,000, according to City Manager George Stevens.

**LONGREN AIRCRAFT:** The City Council closed its files on complaints against Longren Aircraft when it accepted a report by George Powell, director of the City Planning Commission, that violations have all been corrected.

**TRAILER LAW:** Lee Schless, superintendent of the Building Department, will study a proposed trailer ordinance and make his recommendation to the council.



TIME'S UP

Many a driver, used to parking overtime without penalty in downtown Torrance, now finds that he has to deal with one of three Meterettes such as Mary Ann Hayes (above). The gals have been given strict orders by Acting Police Chief Percy Bennett to carry out the letter of the law and not to play favorites. Meterettes so far averaged about 20 tickets each per day. Top score so far was 98 tickets in one day given by a Torrance police officer.—Press Photo.

## GARBAGE OPERATORS GIVEN ULTIMATUM

Francis Foley, long in trouble with the city over hogs, is now in hot water over a garbage transfer station which he set up on his property the moment the hogs had left.

In a compromise move, the council has given Foley and the CDA Feeding co., a

group of independent operators, until November 6, 1957 to pack up and get out, with a 30-day grace period in case a sincere effort is being made and a delay is unavoidable.

The council's action was based on recommendations of Robert Pannell, city prosecutor, and Boris Woolley, hired to handle the criminal complaint by the city.

The compromise was reached because the parties involved have given assurances that they would be willing to comply with the city's conditions and move their operations out as of the date stated.

Foley ranch is located north of the civic center. (Turn To Page 5)

## Exchange Students Threatened by Flu

Scheduled arrival of foreign exchange students might be delayed because of a reported mild flu epidemic aboard the transatlantic liner bringing them to this country.

The American Field Service youngsters were to arrive yesterday at Burbank Air Terminal. Two hundred students aboard the Arosa Sky, slated to dock Tuesday in New York, were said to be affected by the virus.

They include Nadia Basmadjian of Greece, who is to live with Mr. and Mrs. Meral W. Hinshaw, 2476 Carson st., Torrance, and Lucienne Elshout of Belgium, (Turn To Page 5)

## Parks and Recreation Commission Blow-up Sparked by City Council

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ  
Long-smouldering dissatisfaction over the relationship between the City Council and the Recreation Commission appeared to be coming to a head this week with open talk among recreation commissioners of mass-resignations.

One of them, J. H. Paget, declared Tuesday that he would submit his resignation last night. There was talk, too, of other resignations.

Paget's criticism, which was echoed in other quarters, was directed squarely at the City Council. He indicated that the commission's morale was at an all-time low because the council ignored the commission's recommendations, instead doing as it pleased.

There's no reason to have a commission if that's to be the case, Paget indicated.

"I don't think the council needs a Recreation Commission," he said. "They're all experts themselves."

One of Two Things  
He suggested that the council either abolish the commission completely or appoint individuals whose judgment and recommendations the councilmen will respect.

It was indicated that there have been frequent absences among commissioners and that on several oc-

casions lately there hasn't even been a quorum to transact business.

What apparently brought on this crisis is the council's reaction to the \$6000 Kroeger report on the area's recreation needs. Robert Gold, in charge of the local survey, proposed a minimum \$5,000,000 bond issue and the commission went along with this recommendation.

The council, however, pared down this sum to \$3,000,000.

While Paget indicated that he did not necessarily go along with everything in the Kroeger report, he agreed with most of the recommendations.

Council Ignores Experts

He criticized the council for "hiring experts" and then not "paying attention to them," just as with the parking problem.

Paget, and other sources, made clear that Recreation Director Harry VanBellehem's work was beyond reproach.

"He's a terrific director and we're lucky to have a man of his calibre here," Paget stated.

VanBellehem, when asked about the turmoil that had apparently been brewing, stated:

"If this is so, I hope it doesn't become a political football. I hope the individuals involved will sit down and reconcile their differences, if any."



HEAD INJURIES

Wayne Williams, 9 1/2, suffered cuts on his head, following a collision with a car backing out of a driveway at 3126 W. 180th pl. The car was driven by Mary Jo Patton, 24. Williams, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle H. Williams, 3817 Palos Verdes Drive North, Palos Verdes Estates, is being aided by Bob DeYoung, 3124 180th pl. and Officer Bill Winther of the Torrance Police department.—Press Photo.