

## Letters to the Editor

### AIRPORT NUISANCE EDITOR

TORRANCE PRESS

Last week, in a South Torrance store, I was approached by a man who wanted to start a petition against this noisy practice flying at Torrance airport. While I am in complete sympathy with his aims, I want to point out that the people of Torrance have available a much more direct method of dealing with this dangerous nuisance. They can vote the city right out of the airport business, or they can retain the airport, for whatever doubtful value it may have in the future, but stop these private planes that have found themselves a playground in the skies over your homes. The vote on the recent bond issue shows that the majority of Torrance voters realize that the airport is definitely not an asset to the city.

It was protests from the residents of Compton, Lawndale, etc. that caused these cities to stop this "merry go round" flying. What these cities have done, Torrance can do — only more easily. This is a municipal airport. It belongs to the people. The men who direct its opera-

tion are working for the people. However reluctant they may be, they will eventually act in accordance with the wishes of the voters.

This summer has been a terrific increase in the number of planes at the field. Whenever some other city in the Los Angeles area can no longer stand their racket and gets a bit rough with the private planes, the whole noisy group takes to the air and heads for Torrance. Less than 10 per cent of the fliers at this field are residents of Torrance-Lomita area, the others live up to 40 miles away.

Why should we be forced to suffer this nuisance just because they are not permitted to fly in their own area? What possible good can this do the city of Torrance?

What harm does this do the residents of South Torrance-Lomita-Walteria? It is certainly hurting the value of your property. Would you pay as much for a house near the airport as you would for one in a safe, quiet location?

Real estate men will not even bother to show a piece of property on Saturday or Sunday in certain sections. Even if the

prospect has no objection to the planes flying over, it would be too noisy to talk business.

The airport is also a source of danger: the twelfth plane crash has finally damaged a home in Torrance. This will not be the last house to be damaged—but don't expect to collect for any losses. Who ever heard of one of these planes carrying liability insurance?

The time to act is now, before your city officials spend any more money in so-called improvements on this facility. At present, there are more take-offs on Saturday and Sunday than the Los Angeles Airport has on any day of the week. Mayor Isen stated that, under city management, he expected a big increase in the number of fliers at this field are residents of Torrance-Lomita area, the others live up to 40 miles away.

So we either stop it now or expect more planes next year and flying night and day. The people of Lomita will support this move as we suffer more than Torrance from these planes. I would like to hear from everyone in Torrance and Lomita who would enjoy an occasional day of peace and quiet. I think that it will be to our mutual advantage to work together in seeking and end to the airport nuisance.

VINCENT LECHNER  
2441 W. 254 st.



NEW OFFICERS of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Realty Board are, from left to right, front row: William A. Farmer, outgoing president; Robert C. Allen, newly elected president; and James L. Couch, treasurer; back row: Al Truchin, di-

rector; Elsie Neess, treasurer; Ray Burns and Jack D. Kahlo, directors. Absent when picture was taken were Don E. Williams, vice-president, and Frank Wright, director.

## City Doctors Fill Torrance Hospital Staff Positions

Torrance doctors made a clean sweep of the 1958 staff elections of the Torrance Memorial hospital at the monthly dinner meeting last Tuesday evening.

Elected were Dr. Rodney A. Stetson, chief of staff; Dr. Philip M. Halloran, assistant chief of staff; Dr. George O. Peeke, secretary-treasurer; and Dr. John F. Nursall, assistant secretary-treasurer; all of Torrance.

The meeting was attended by seventy staff doctors from South Bay area.

Doctor Stetson has practiced in Torrance since 1948, Doctor Halloran since 1949, and Doc-

tors Peeke and Nursall since 1954. All have families varying from three to six children.

Also elected to the Executive Committee were Drs. Kurt T. Shery and Gerald M. Eastham, both of Torrance, and Dr. John F. Grube of Manhattan Beach. Richard C. Schaeffer of Redondo Beach, chief of staff; Dr. Robert F. Nielsen of Hollywood Riviera, assistant chief of staff; Dr. William C. Casey of Torrance, secretary-treasurer; and Dr. George O. Peeke, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Installation will take place at the Annual Staff Dinner to be held at the Palos Verdes Country club the middle of January.

## Teachers Ask 'Richer' Study For Students

California's school teachers were on record today with an insistent demand for an adequate financial program of "enriched education" for gifted students.

The action was taken by the State Council of Education, policy-making body of California Teachers association, meeting at a two-day session of the 350-member body in Los Angeles.

A statement of policy calling for expansion of the program for the gifted in California declared:

"The community must hold academic achievement in high respect. Any society which in the dangerous world of today equates giftedness with queerness and sneers at those who strive for the high use of intellect as 'egg-heads,' does so at its own peril. The difference between catastrophic destruction and progressive survival may well depend upon the contribution of a few remarkable minds, discovered early in life and vigorously nourished."

The teacher group, elected representatives of the 93,000 CTA members, took cognizance of the challenge to American schools imposed by the Russian

success with its space missiles.

Jack D. Ree of Hayward, CTA president, said, "We of the public schools accept the challenge and will do our utmost to cope with it."

"We need not only more good scientists and engineers; we need more good teachers; we need more good doctors; we need more good philosophers; we need more good statesmen; we need more good citizens."

"The only person who can keep us ahead of Soviet tyranny in all fields by producing the necessary educated brains is the classroom teacher. You can't make missiles with muscles. You've got to have some marbles!"

### MAINTAIN FREEDOM

Rees warned that, "We must not jettison American freedom of choice for Russian compulsion. We must not, and will not, drag our American youth into careers that they do not choose for themselves. We will not transform American classrooms into forced labor camps nor lockstep young people into our scientific laboratories."

Declaring that the improvement of education is the responsibility not alone of the schools but one which "must be shared by the public, by industry, by the taxpayers, by school boards, by state legislatures, by the congress and by the president, Rees proposed a nine-point program:

State or federal scholarships that guarantee every high school graduate a college education regardless of his economic status;

Encourage capable young women as well as men to enter scientific professions;

Provide more adequate facilities and faculties in higher education;

Entice a sufficient number of properly trained and competent teachers for public schools;

Get more pay and prestige for all school teachers;

Expand greatly our programs

of enriching the educational opportunities for the gifted;

Reduce the number of pupils per teacher at all levels, aiming eventually to match the Russian class load of 17 per teacher;

More state and federal aid for school buildings and school operating expenses, and

Step up and improve counseling and guidance programs in our colleges and universities to the end that more qualified young people will choose careers in teaching, in mathematics, and in science.

Actions taken by the CTA body includes authorization of the appointment of a state-wide committee to make a comprehensive study of proposed merit rating as a basis for fixing teacher salaries, and a request of the legislature to propose a state school building aid bond issue of \$250 million for the November ballot next year.

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## M. L. Calonge, Farmer, Dies

Holy Rosary for Monico Lonio Calonge, 53, Torrance farmer, was recited last week in the Colonial Chapel of the Hardin and Flanagan Mortuary.

Calonge, who was born in the Philippine Islands and came to California in 1929, was a member of the California Farm Bureau and had resided at 4048 Hickman dr., Torrance.

Survivors are his wife, Jose fina, two daughters, Elizabeth and Glenda Ruth, his mother, Mrs. Agapita Calonge of the Philippines, a brother and a sister residing in the Philippines.

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