

Employment Job Offered Here

Opportunity for residents of Torrance and the South Bay area to establish careers in the administration of California employment security program through qualifying for state civil service jobs in the Department of Employment was announced today by Murray W. Love, manager of the Department's Torrance local office.

An examination for the position of Employment Security Trainee will be conducted by the State Personnel Board at convenient locations throughout California on April 11. Deadline for filing of applications is March 20. Applications for the examination and full particulars

about necessary qualifications and the nature of work done by Employment Security Trainees may be obtained from the local office of the Department of Employment at 2007 W. Carson Street.

Beginning salary of the position is \$358 a month, with an increase to \$376 after six months of satisfactory performance.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to answer the editorial you recently published about the so-called "moonlighting" of Torrance firemen and policemen. Much can be said from the employees viewpoint which you failed to cover. I am the mother of a Torrance employee and therefore much interested in this problem. For obvious reasons I would appreciate it if you withhold my name.

In Torrance an all-America City?

The ordinance which is to be used to keep Firemen and Policemen from taking part-time jobs or running part time businesses was adopted April 16, 1934 and the section in question should be obsolete as it is unfair and discriminating. Ordinance 249, section 23 reads as follows:

"Officers and members of the Fire or Police Department shall not follow any profession, trade, calling or business," but shall devote their entire time to the performance of their duties as members of the department. They shall not be absent for any period for which they shall absent themselves from duty, except as herein provided."

In section 24 of the same ordinance we learn that these men are always on duty and it is on this point that the city hopes to enforce a ban on their activities away from the station. Section 24 reads: "The officers and members of the Fire Department shall be divided into two nozzles or platoons. The hours of duty of each platoon shall be from eight (8:00) o'clock A.M. until eight (8:00) o'clock A.M. the following day, thereby each platoon having (24) twenty-four hours leave of absence on alternate days. This leave shall be construed as leave from the stations only, and officers and members on such leave shall be considered on duty and subject to orders in case of need."

Therefore, if section 23 of ordinance 249 is carried out to the letter, the fireman or policeman

must not take time for church, sports, boy-scout or little league activities with his children, or in fact any activity that would take him away from his phone.

It might be interesting to note that there is a minimum wage law of \$1. an hour in effect in our country and as this employee would be on duty 8,760 hours per year Torrance would be employing some pretty high priced help, even at minimum wages.

Is it fair for men who have several talents to be denied the right to earn extra money for their families on their off duty hours (if they have any.) If they don't have any they certainly should be compensated accordingly. Remember, firemen and policemen do not get wages in the five figure bracket such as the city manager and his assistant. The average wage of a city employee is in the \$4000 bracket. The city manager and his assistant are indeed fortunate that their talents earn them so much on one job.

Even though a councilman has a full time job or a business to support his family he is receiving a hundred dollars a month as a councilman as well as expense money. Wouldn't Torrance be in a pathetic situation if these men who are capable of handling a \$6,000,000 annual Torrance budget could not hold two jobs?

Most part time jobs do not affect a man's efficiency or his ability to perform his full-time job. This is shown by the fact that the city employees of Torrance are able to supply good services using about half the number of employees that other cities of like size and condition use. This has been accomplished despite the fact that section 23 of ordinance 249 has not been enforced heretofore.

If, as you say, city employees are falling asleep on their jobs, why not punish those who are guilty and not deprive the families of other men who are using part time jobs and hobbies to help their families to better living conditions. There are many causes of sleepiness other than part time jobs, a few causes are illness, worry, poor eating habits, too much TV and etc.

It also might be interesting to find out in court if it is legal to supervise an employees activities for hours he is not paid, or if ordinance 249, section 23 is unconstitutional.

Our dear ones died in the wars to protect the constitutional rights that this long neglected section of a Torrance ordinance would take from our firemen and policemen.

I hope that you will be able to publish this for your readers as I think both sides of the controversy should be heard.

Thank you very much.—Name withheld by request.)

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