



TORRANCE PRESS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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EDITORIAL . . .

Candidates Should Campaign For Election on Real Issues

Most important topic of conversation in the city of Torrance these days is "What's new in the election?"

With the balloting for municipal offices and assorted other issues less than two weeks away, and with the campaign waxing hotter and hotter, the Torrance Press feels that it is time for a little discussion aimed at blowing away some of the smoke of battle.

Several candidates have been tagged with "Bircher" labels, some have been classified as "ultra-conservative" or "ultra-liberal," as "far right" or "far left," as "anti-this" and "anti-that."

GOSSIP

After a thorough investigation of the stands of the majority of candidates we have found that most of these labels can be traced to pure election time gossip.

In fact, the quality of most of the front running candidates for office is

extremely high compared with candidates in other elections.

The voters of Torrance should be very pleased to know that so many outstanding citizens are ready to devote time and energy to the sometimes demanding task of serving their community.

These ranks of public spirited men and women, willing to give up their own time to take these sometimes unpopular chores for the sake of the community in which they live, are one of the basic resources of any city.

All political office seekers should be encouraged to express their opinions on the real issues, such as recreational activities, development of the auditorium and civic center, street improvements, and the elimination of dumps and derricks, instead of basing their campaigns on personalities and gossip about their opponents.

Council Candidate Scores Lack of City Planning

"A bad plan could be worse than no plan at all," city council candidate Ken Miller said this week.

"The people of Torrance want a master plan for the orderly growth of this city, and I wholeheartedly agree. I disagree with some of the 'seven-day experts' heard recently who want a master plan—good or bad—simply for the sake of having one," Miller declared.

"My experience as a member of the Torrance Planning Commission has shown to me that patchwork proposals, ineptly drawn and not carefully thought out would hurt, not help, the people of this community," he said.

Miller said, "As a member of the council, I would propose and push for a survey of Torrance by recognized experts or a firm with background in planning. One the other hand," he said, "I would oppose a headlong rush into any incomplete, poorly-drawn so-called master plan."

"In order for any such plan to be of value today and in the future it must be the result of a study of all available data, an understanding of what the objectives of the people of this city, and a broad background in municipal planning."

"The persons who formulate the original proposal must be objective and unfettered by local bias. This should be modified by the city council after public hearings so that it will fit the city of Torrance as near perfectly as possible," Miller said.

"A master plan that can't stand the test of time is not a good one, and will not serve our needs. To adopt a poor plan, one which is rigid, inflexible and not in step with the goals of the citizens of this city would be ridiculous," Miller declared.

He said there are many firms which have broad background in municipal planning and might be retained as counsel by the city.

"Any of these have put together thousands of statis-



KEN MILLER
... Need for Planning

tics which are invaluable in predicting trends which will affect Torrance property 10 and 20 years from now. A master plan which doesn't look at least this far ahead is not a good one," the council candidate said.

"Balanced planning, a master plan, a balanced community—all of these make fine slogans. But, I have worked with planning and know by experience that Torrance needs more than a slogan. It's a little like a recipe for a new dish for the family. Even if it has an exotic name, it is not going to make them happy if the proper ingredients aren't put in," Miller concluded.

'Open Office' Is Advocated by Clerk Candidate

A pledge that, when elected, he will maintain an "open office" was made this week by Vernon Coil, candidate for the post of Torrance City Clerk in the April 10 election.

Coil said that his first official act would be to establish firmer relations with the community's press and establishing the practice of seeing that the public was informed of activities within the clerk's office.

Coil took issue with past practice of conducting the business of the office behind "closed doors."

Most of the business of the department, he said, has been handled by deputies and other city employees behind the veil of "city business."

"I feel that my basic responsibility is to the voters of Torrance. As an elected city official, not responsible to a higher authority other than the citizens of this city, I would cut away this 'veil of secrecy' and do my utmost to see that every resident of Torrance is informed on every issue brought before me."

"My stand on this issue has alarmed many candidates for the post," Coil said. "It is my belief that openly transacted business in an elected position is a 'must' if we are to preserve the American tradition of honesty and integrity in public office."

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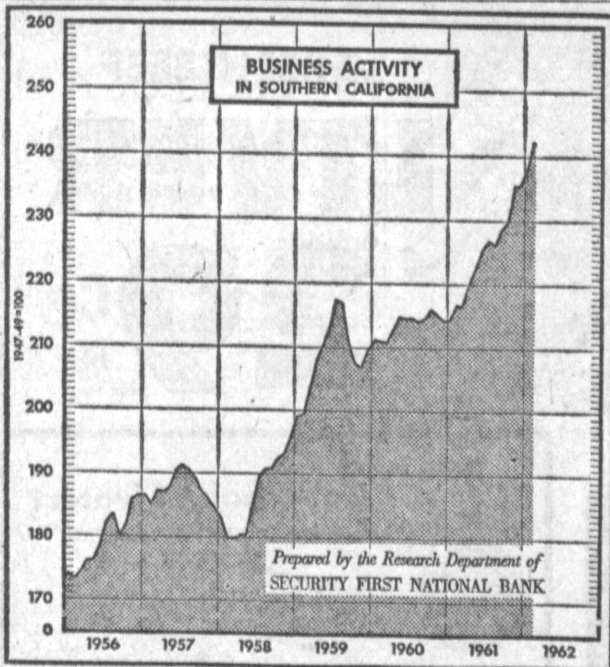
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Record-Breaking Increase In Business Trends Seen

Southern California's business activity experienced another record-breaking performance in February to register the largest year-to-year gain since August, 1959.

H. P. Atherton, Jr., manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported today.

The bank's business index for February stood at 242.3 (preliminary) to record an 11.8 per cent increase over the same year-ago period. January's index reading was 238.0.

According to Atherton, the economy's vigorous advance was in contrast to the lull in activity which frequently characterizes this time of year.

Twelve of the index's 14 seasonally adjusted components, led by department store sales, each of the bank's debit series, industrial power sales and motion picture employment, advanced from January to February, Security pointed out.

The two components failing to increase were petroleum production and real estate sales. The latter's decline may reflect February's unusually heavy rainfall.

The Southland's employment dropped during February, in contrast to a general increase throughout the nation. The Los Angeles-Long Beach area reported an increase in jobs of about 5,300, but the gain was not

as large as usually occurs in the month.

A year-to-year comparison is more favorable, Security said, showing an increase in Southern California employment of approximately 105,000.

The unemployment force in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area during February was down from the previous month but showed a 24,800 or 11.5 per cent decrease from the February, 1961 total.

Total construction activity in the 14 southernmost counties of the state was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate equal to \$3,427,000,000. This was 20 per cent below the exceptionally high January level and five per cent above February of last year.

The January to February decline was attributed to a falling-off in the fields of residential and engineering construction, Security Bank noted.

Warn Veterans to Note Beneficiary

Thousands of veterans are neglecting to keep up to date their listing of a beneficiary for their GI insurance policy proceeds, Mort Webster, manager of VA's Southern California Regional Office, said today.

Because of this failure to keep the VA informed of changes necessary to reflect the births, marriages, deaths or divorces that occur over the years, their insurance

Letters

(Ed note: Below are two excerpts from a letter written to Mr. and Mrs. Willys Blount by their daughter, Mary Margaret, 20, a student at the University of Redlands. Now in her European semester at the college, she writes one of her first letters home relating one young American's impression of life away from the U.S.)

"Prague is a tourist city, the showplace of the Communist cities, but it's not that great. The city has an unloved look. It is not well kept. Pieces of plaster fall and no one bothers to pick them up. Dr. Hone said the same piece of roofing was coming off the building next to us when he was there in December. It looks like no one cares."

"The trip was quite a sobering and emotional experience for all of us. I only wish every American could see how people live under a totalitarian government. After a few days I am in no position to make any expert opinions, but I do feel that if every American could see, he might realize what he has. We become so complacent, accepting the freedom we do have. I know I would never want to live like those people do. I say, 'better dead than red.'"

"I'm glad I went behind the iron curtain, but I never want to go back—never. I thank God I live in a free state. I don't want to sound corny or juvenile, but I mean that. We all received some very deep impressions on the worth and abilities of the individual and on values. What is it that obsesses men to make them act as they do sometimes—not only in the USSR, but free countries as well? Freedom is a precious gift. Give thanks, we have as much as we do."

Public Office Is Public Challenge, Says Candidate



FRED SPANGLER
... Challenge

Fred Spangler, candidate for City Treasurer of Torrance, stated yesterday that:

"The image of a politician is often misunderstood. Some people believe that he is a man concerned only with the next election, and not with the next generation. This is not the type of public official I want to be. My idea of a man who represents the people includes a deep interest in their welfare and in sound government."

"I am convinced that the only way a community can insure the election of this type of official, and safeguard its democracy, is by maintaining a spirited, devoted and experienced citizenry."

"One of the most important responsibilities of the next city treasurer of Torrance must be financing of new parks and playgrounds in every part of Torrance. No longer should our children have to play in the city's streets, and mothers be in constant fear for their safety. This program should include youth centers and an auditorium. In a community in which one third of the population is under eighteen years of age, one should not discount the long term effect such a program will have on the ever-present problem of juvenile delinquency."

"If elected I will certainly try to help Torrance achieve the type of program this fine city deserves."

tary forces protect citizens from external aggression."

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