

# Text of the Ferraro-Johnson Letters

(Following is the text of the city manager's letter informing his assistant, Orin P. Johnson, of his dismissal. A copy of the letter was made available to the Press-Herald by Mr. Johnson)



ORIN P. JOHNSON  
Protests Ouster

Dear Mr. Johnson:  
As a result of the information we exchanged on January 20, 1966, it is professionally necessary for me to immediately terminate your employment with the City of Torrance.

Your confirmations of considering yourself as a possible councilmanic candidate at the forthcoming April 1966 municipal election is a serious, professional, ethical breach of the administrative impartiality and loyalty which is required and expected of appointed public servants. Traditionally, our form of local government demands a complete and distinct separation of professional administrative public employees from legislative representatives elected by, and responsible to, the electorate. To seriously entertain, such as you have the possibility of changing your status from a non-partisan appointed administrative public employee to that of an elected political representative will cast grave doubts in the public's eye concerning the degree of political impartiality perspective which our system requires.

You are well aware that in the Mayor-Council-City Manager form of government the City Manager is completely responsible for the performance of all administrative functions. Accordingly, Asst. City Managers and Administrative Assistants are defined by the Civil Service ordinance not to be a part of the classified service. The reason for this is that the extreme sensitivity of our responsibilities require that we enforce ordinances and administer programs in a manner which does not reflect political influences.

While you have not made a final personal decision as to whether or not you will become a candidate in the forthcoming municipal election, conversely, to my knowledge, or based upon our conversation, you have done nothing in recent weeks to discourage those persons who have expressed interest in sponsoring you as a potential candidate. While I have deep respect for the frankness of your answers, I cannot, in all good conscience, allow you to continue employment as an Asst. City Manager in consideration of your admittance

## Subdivisions Approved

Two area subdivisions have been approved by the Regional Planning Commission.

Prairie Subdividers, Inc., 17422 S. Prairie Ave., will subdivide six acres into 59 single family lots. The acreage is located south of 213th Street and east of Dominguez Channel in the Carson zoned district.

Ninety-five acres, located north of Palos Verdes Drive South and west of Palos Verdes Drive East, in the Palos Verdes Peninsula zoned district will be subdivided into 240 single family lots by the Great Western Land Co. of Fullerton.

that an unidentified person(s) is investigating or seeking the feasibility of soliciting campaign funds for your potential City Council candidacy.

In your present, day to day capacity, you are a direct agent of the City Manager. The office of the City Manager is responsible for the processing of numerous items of municipal affairs requested by private individuals. Since the sponsors of your potential City Council candidacy are unidentified, it becomes, in my opinion, a serious breach of professional public service principles to solicit campaign funds to be allocated while you occupy the position of Asst. City Manager.

Even the mere suggestion that funds are being solicited for an Asst. City Manager to be a candidate for a City Council position would perhaps imply a loss of respect for our profession and jeopardize the current City Council's respect and confidence for the non-partisan nature of our job.

The nature of your position as Asst. City Manager provides numerous public access for various outside persons interested in the municipal programs. This, coupled along with those unidentified persons with whom you have discussed the possibility of a Council candidacy, materially raises questions regarding the propriety of my office. For example, if a City Manager would undertake a similar course of action there is no doubt in my mind that a Council, any City Council, would terminate his employment immediately.

Conversely, a professional City Manager who is politically inspired should terminate his employment with the governmental agency before he semi-publicly indicates his "political" availability as a councilmanic candidate. Therefore, an Asst. City Manager, who is solely responsible to the City Manager should conduct himself with the same degree of professionalism.

In summary, my most immediate concern is your frank admittance of outside activities that are in process regarding the soliciting of political campaign funds for your possible candidacy. Further, your failure to advise me of your interest as a possible political candidate has resulted in an unwarranted delay by this office in determining your political interest. It would have been my assumption, that you would have taken a leave of absence of your present employment if you had serious considerations of being a possible political candidate.

Therefore, in consideration of our discussion regarding your potential candidacy as a City Councilman, I exercise the only alternative that is available to me under the circumstances to terminate your employment with the City of Torrance effective January 20, 1966.

Very truly yours,  
EDWARD J. FERRARO  
City Manager

(The text of Orin P. Johnson's reply to the city manager following notice of his dismissal Thursday afternoon as assistant city manager. Mr. Johnson made a copy of his reply available to the Press-Herald)

Dear Mr. Ferraro:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated this date in which you discharged me without notice on the grounds that I might POSSIBLY be a candidate for the City Council at the next election in April. I believe we discussed very thoroughly the reasons why a group of unnamed citizens had asked whether or not I would consider the placing of my name on the ballot.

You will recall when, in October, you offered me the alternative of taking a downgrade in position or leaving the City's employment. The deadline for my downgrade or termination was January 1, 1966. The correspondence you processed to Council requesting the elimination of the Assistant City Manager's position which I held was not acceptable to the City Council. When they did not concur in your plan, you were overtly dissatisfied. After some delay, the request to eliminate my position was reprocessed to Council.

Council established March 1 as the date in which my downgrade or termination would become effective. At no time has anyone ever suggested that the quality, quantity, or professionalism of my work has been anything but the highest. I failed to see then, nor do I see now, any reason why I was being downgraded or requested to terminate. On the contrary, all of the people with whom I have worked during my past four years with the City of Torrance as Assistant City Manager have stated their overwhelming approval of my efforts.

People in professional management will agree with me that money invested in highly experienced and productive executives is substantial and when one terminates, that money and valuable experience has been lost to the employer. Over the years I have had the good fortune of saving Torrance many thousands of dollars of the people's tax money through the exercise of good judgment and professional conduct.

The negotiation for the existing library contract that the City of Torrance now enjoys with the County of Los Angeles has saved the taxpayers approximately \$300,000 a year over the course of this five year contract. The City Council, at that time, singularly credited me with the successful consummation of that contract. And this is only one of the many assignments I have performed in

the best interest of the City. It, therefore, appears to me that your plan to eliminate my position and force me into a decision of either downgrade or termination has been for reasons only you know.

In view of what I consider a very rash action on your part to discharge me without notice and prior to the March 1 date, which had already been established by City Council, I can only draw one conclusion. You have carried out a personal vendetta in making your decision to downgrade or terminate me in the first place. You have furthered this cause by accelerating my severance from the City prior to a time already determined. In my opinion, you have ignored the directive of Council and have used my "possible" candidacy as a means to accomplish your purpose. I intend to appeal your decision to the City Council and call for reinstatement of my position until such time as the City Council's March 1 deadline has been met. Again, I fail to see how the Chief Administrative Officer of the City can completely ignore Council's directive when the only excuse for doing this is the remote possibility that a citizen might run for public office thereby exercising his inalienable right under our democratic form of government.

I reiterate that the date for my termination has already been set by the true governing body of this City. I feel that I am entitled to plan for my future and the well-being of my family by trying to pick up the broken pieces of my life and professional career. We must face the facts. After March 1, a mere two months away, by your directive, I would have been terminated anyway. Should I have simply accepted this termination and passed into oblivion in so far as public service is concerned? I do not believe so. I like Torrance and the people in it and want to continue to serve it the best way I can.

ORIN P. JOHNSON  
Assistant City Manager

## New DC-8 To Appear Tomorrow

The world's largest commercial jetliner, the Super 81 DC-8, will make its first public appearance tomorrow when it rolls off an assembly line at Douglas Aircraft Co.'s Long Beach facility.

Measuring 187.4 feet from nose to tail, the new jetliner is 37 feet longer than DC-8 jets now flying. It will carry up to 251 passengers, 62 more than any previous model of the DC-8.

The Super 81, powered by four Pratt and Whitney Aircraft turbofan engines mounted on the wings, will make its maiden flight in March.

Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc., has received orders for 23 of the Super 81 jetliners to date.

## Youth Corps

## Schools Curtail Program

Curtailment of the Neighborhood Youth Corps Work Training Program was announced this week by the Torrance Unified School District.

Criteria for student participation set up by the United States Department of Labor has cut down the number of students who are eligible for the program, district officials said.

Under original government requirements, allowance was made for the higher cost of living in Los Angeles County which permitted 31 participating school districts in Los Angeles County to use standards which followed recommendations of the Welfare Department of the Office of the Governor of California.

According to the new criteria established by the Department of Labor, local school districts are required to use the same economic criteria which apply in all sections of the United States. The new criteria has been applied to new applicants as of Dec. 9 and will apply to persons already employed beginning Feb. 1.

## Students Cited As Outstanding

Two local residents, James D. Brecht and Melody Eisenbeis, were among 13 students at Los Angeles Technical College to receive academic achievement awards.

Brecht, an aircraft student, and Miss Eisenbeis, a cosmology student, received semi-annual awards of a plaque as being the most outstanding student of their departments.

## Ann Landers Says

# Bedside Pills Can Lead to Mistakes



Dear Ann Landers: The arguments and our sex life tell the women when I invite them to my house to please leave their husbands and kids at home? — OUTNUMBERED

Two years ago I went into a deep depression when we lost our only son. Our physician prescribed sleeping tablets along with tranquilizing pills. The night of the funeral I took two sleeping tablets and left the bottle on my bedside table. I was awakened at 4 p.m. the next afternoon by my panic-stricken husband and a concerned physician.

During the night I had taken four sleeping pills although I had no recollection of doing so. I could have taken the whole bottle and died.

The physician told us that medicine should never be placed on a bedside table. It should always be placed in the medicine cabinet so one must get out of bed and walk to get it. Please publish this letter. It could save a life. — LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

Dear Lucky: Thank you for the life-saver. And while we are on the subject, I'd like to add this: Partly-used bottles of medicine should be stored in a locked cabinet to eliminate the danger of getting the wrong medicine during the night.

Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I have been happily married for over 20 years. Craig is a fine person and he is kind and generous by nature. We have very few

arguments and our sex life is excellent. During the last several months Craig has shocked me with his remarks in mixed company about our intimate relations. His slyly-worded "jokes" suggest that I am an inadequate bed partner.

Can it be that when men reach their middle 40s they feel the need to appear more active sexually than their wives? Is this part of the male ego.

I know very well that Craig is totally satisfied at home and I cannot figure out why he tries to make it appear otherwise. Please enlighten me. — PUZZLEMENT

Dear Puzzled: The reason for Craig's behavior is anybody's guess, and your guess is probably right on target. But whatever the reason, he is guilty of gross bad taste. I can't imagine a topic less suitable for small talk than this one. Tell him to stay off the subject unless he wants to be thought of as a boorish clattertrap.

Dear Ann Landers: I married into a family that just loves to give showers for engaged girls, new brides, new babies, anniversaries, birthdays, and anything they can dream up.

Many of the women bring their husbands along, and even their children. They say, "I couldn't get a sitter," or "my husband decided to come and see if he could get up a pinocchio game."

I always end up feeding eight or ten more people than I had planned on and, of course, I run short of food. Would it be all right to

Dear Out: Most husbands couldn't be dragged to a woman's shower with a 20 mule team. Since you married into a family where the husbands enjoy going why not count on it and let the men have their pinocchio game?

To solve some of the frustrations, disappointments and disillusionments of married life, send for ANN LANDERS' "What To Expect From Marriage." Enclosing with your request 20c in coin and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

## Documentary On Viet Nam Set Tonight

"Viet Nam Profile," an 80-minute motion picture, will be presented at the Harbor Church, 1032 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., tonight at 7, according to the Rev. Robert Prueit.

The color film depicts the people of the war torn country and takes the viewer into scenes of actual combat. The missionaries and Vietnamese Christians are documented in their labors for Christ.

An invitation to see the film, which was produced by Dr. Bob Pierce for World Vision, Inc., has been extended to all area residents by Mr. Prueit.

# Press-Herald Sunday Crossword

(Answer on Page 7)

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## COUNT MARCO

# Love Is Not for the Birds

MÓN DIEU! I have upset someone. And a parakeet lover at that. She writes: "I wish to protest your column in which you ridiculed women for expending love on parakeets and suggested they expend it on a man."

"The cruelty and vituperation expressed in that column were monstrous, and the information erroneous, though I consider such expressed cruelty quite an indication of your psychological make-up."

My facts are never erroneous, and undoubtedly the writer is referring to the maximum number of words a parakeet may utter after years of encouragement, which are about 600. All I said was that if half that encouragement was applied to husbands, fewer women would be forced to end their days husbandless and trying to teach a bird to converse for company.

But on to the complaint: "It seems to me that when a man has gone so far that he must ridicule women because they dare to love one of God's creatures rather than pine for a man, then it is time to call a halt to such cruelty."

Look who's talking about cruelty. The majority of divorces are now granted to women who created the expression "mental cruelty."

"A number of well-motivated women were hurt deeply and held up to ridicule by their friends."

Let me say here and now it was not my intent to ridicule, but to extend my sympathy to such poor creatures as the one I saw climbing the lonely hill to her house carrying two quarts of beer and a box of parakeet seed under her arm.

She continues: "It has long been my belief that your

columns recommend too much immorality, such as justifying mistresses. The only reason that I have not protested before is that too many women assured me that they were simply amused at such frothing at the mouth and didn't want me to spoil the joke. If you wish to redeem yourself, apologize in print for your ridicule of women who love parakeets. —S.B."

My columns have never advocated immorality. I maintain that if more women followed my advice they would not be forced through loneliness, to indulge in immoral conduct.

Again I say I have nothing against parakeets. But ask any woman who owns one who gave up a man in exchange and she'll tell you: "I'd rather have his head on the pillow next to me than bird droppings at the bottom of a cage."

## United Bank Announces New Merger

Shareholders of United California Bank in a special meeting Monday approved the merger into United California Bank of the Feather River National Bank of Oroville, Calif.

All necessary approvals have been obtained from state and federal banking authorities, as well as from Feather River National Bank shareholders, and it is expected that the merger will be consummated following certain additional corporate steps.

The terms of the merger for an exchange of stock on the basis of .85 of a share of United California Bank stock for each share of Feather River Bank stock.

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