

Press-Herald

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School Bonds Opposed

Torrance voters will be called on to approve or disapprove a \$12.5 million bond issue at the polls Tuesday, a decision which many of the issue's backers are passing off as "routine."

Unfortunately, it does seem to be routine in a growing community for bond issues such as this to come before the voters every three or four years. Renewal of the bond authorization is necessary so the schools may continue to finance the construction needed to provide classrooms for the ever increasing number of students in the district.

This newspaper has expressed concern in the past about some of the proposed bond issues, but has felt—like most Torrance people concerned with the community and its educational program—that the "take-it-or-leave-it" terms of the proposals really left no choice but to take it. The alternative was double sessions and a less-than-adequate education for our children.

Voters are being told that the same choice faces them next Tuesday. School administrators pushing for approval of the bond proposal at the polls Tuesday say rejection would bring back the threat of double sessions. We think it is a scare tactic.

Point of contention in the \$12.5 million proposal is the inclusion of about \$3 million to construct a vocational education center. The Board of Education was not unanimous in setting the \$12.5 figure and some factionalism is evident. However, the Press-Herald believes the voters should concern themselves only with the principal question raised by the proposal: Does the bond proposal represent the actual needs of the district, or is it higher than it needs to be?

The Board of Education is to be commended for taking a serious look at the need to beef up the vocational training offered to the youth of the community. Such a training program could be a great benefit to the community's development.

We do believe, however, that the district is not ready to go into a major program, set up a major vocational center apart from the existing high schools, and hand a \$3 million tab to Torrance taxpayers as a starting point for it all.

Creation of a multidistrict vocational center has been discussed in recent weeks, and just three weeks ago the board approved the sending of formal inquiries to adjacent districts, seeking their reaction to a multidistrict program. We believe Torrance is the proper location for a regional center, but we question whether Torrance voters and taxpayers should be asked to foot the bill.

Other items in the proposed bond program would add only to questionable extras, not to classrooms. The Board of Education has been aggressive in squeezing fat out of the operating budgets of the district and we are convinced they have done a better-than-average job of keeping much of the fat out of the building program.

The Press-Herald recommends a "No" vote on the issue Tuesday.

We do not subscribe to the claim that the district's building program would collapse unless the bonds are approved in February. We have more confidence in the planning abilities of district officials.

We recommend that the district revise the proposal, concentrating on the community's basic classroom needs. Such a proposal, perhaps as much as 25 per cent less than the currently offered \$12.5 million, should receive community wide endorsement. It could be approved this summer without a hitch in the classroom building schedules.

Opinions of Others

In the old days when someone was in need, no one would think of going over and saying, "Here, I want to give you this." Instead they would say, "I don't need this right now, bring it back when you get through." If this same idea was used today in giving millions to other countries, I am sure the image of the "Great America" would be uplifted greatly in our foreign country transactions. The art of giving is the ability to help a man and not hurt his pride, not just giving to give because we have so much.—Parshall (N.D.) Record

I think LBJ drove a poor bargain with Castro. In other words, he goofed. I don't know just how many refugees we are supposed to absorb, but I think we should have insisted in reciprocity. If we were allowed to export to Cuba one home grown communist for every refugee coming over here, it would have helped a lot.—Harmony (Minn.) News.

Somewhere along the line we have trouble distinguishing between the inherent American right to protest the action of our government and outright treason.—Corvalls (Ore.) Gazette-Times.

If you're wondering what to send to your lad in Viet Nam, remember razor blades, soap, shaving cream, and underwear are in short supply. It's great our men want razor blades. When a man wants to stay clean-shaven, his morale must be pretty high. If you send underwear, don't send thermal stuff. It's hot in South Viet Nam.—Thompsonville (Conn.) Press.

The commonly held idea that the subject of birth control is loaded with controversy in the United States may be a myth. At least that's the opinion of Representative James Scheuer, a New York Democrat, who contends that there is very little opposition in this country to the distribution of birth control information.—Cleveland (Miss.) Bolivar Commercial.



STAN DELAPLANE

Iberia Great Place for This Couple's Honeymoon

HONOLULU—There's a lot of high-rise hiding Waikiki beach now. But the new buildings on the drawing boards will more than double the hotel rooms now here. Hawaii had some 650,000 tourists last year, plans for a million in the next few years.

Best feature is the cheap air fare: \$100 from the West Coast. Worst feature: The high-rise crowding. Hardy room for a coco palm these days.

"I plan to be married in May. We would like to spend our three-weeks honeymoon in Spain and Portugal. Can you make some suggestions?"

Weather is excellent all over at this time of year. (With some rain.) I'd say a week in Estoril, the seaside resort 20 minutes from Lisbon. Or 10 minutes more up the coast at Cascais. Rent a car for a day and drive up to Obidos. The walled Moorish city that a Portuguese King gave to his Queen. The castle is now a posada—a Government-owned hotel. Rates are mild. About \$5 a day for two with meals last time I was there.

For the second week, fly to Madrid. Spend about five days. Bull fights should still be on. Take in the little outdoor restaurants in the old square called Plaza Mayor. And walk the dim lit little streets in back. That's old Madrid, and this is a well-policed, safe city.

Rent a car and drive south. A day and night in Toledo. It's rich in Roman-Moorish-Visigoth history. A day and night in Aranjuez—it's strawberry time. Tiny strawberries with orange juice poured over them. A day or two in Seville to drink manzanilla and see the best flamenco dancing. Then you have a choice of Malaga on the coast or Granada and the Alhambra. (I'd

take Granada. Fine Government-owned parador, once a very ancient and important convent.)

Check your airline for this. You can probably fly home through Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands at no extra ticket cost. Or very little additional.

"What about electricity? Will be need a converter?"

There are no overall converters for all equipment. It's not worthwhile to carry anything anywhere except a razor that switches for any voltage or a travel iron that does the same. That means electric toothbrushes, coffee pots, electric blankets are out. Nearly all razor companies have an electric razor that works on 110 or 220 volts. Plenty of travel irons on the market that will do the same. (GE has a good one.) Be sure these come with adapted plugs to fit various European outlets.

"What should we wear traveling by train in the U.S.? Three days.

I'd wear city clothing for evening and dinner. And something very casual for daytime. Sweaters, slacks.

"You have mentioned Michelin Guides for Europe as good for driving. How do we get them? Are they in English?"

I think Michelin Guides are a necessity for driving. For France you have the red, hard cover guide that gives hotels, restaurants, prices. Then there are the green, soft cover Michelins that give historic and guide book background. They have them in English on any big tourist hotel newsstand or book store.

Same is available for Italy. Get them in English on the big newsstand across the street from the Hotel Excelsior in Rome.

In Spain, the Michelin is

red and soft-covered. Covers both hotels and historic points in the same book. It's only in French. However, the hotel and restaurant information is covered by symbols easy to read. Get it on big newsstands. Like the Castellana Hilton in Madrid.

In Switzerland, all I could find were the green-covered guides. And I'm not sure whether they've covered other countries. I think they have a Benelux edition.

"Do you know a good place in Japan to buy cultured pearls?"

What I've bought there, I bought through Mikimoto, the biggest and best known dealers. People who live there say there's quite a spread of price in pearls. That you can do better with private salesmen who come to your hotel. But I wouldn't know pearls well enough to chance it. If you do, ask the hotel clerk. And I'd imagine you'd have a few salesmen around in a hurry.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Best Seller Suggests New Version of Batman

We have the cool, practical assurance of a paperback book distributor that one of the surprise best-sellers of the past few months has not been one, but a series of paperback titles. This is the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, a massive work of the imagination written some 15 years ago by J.R.R. Tolkien, a retired professor at Oxford, plus an introductory story to that trilogy titled "The Hobbit."

The four books are published by Ballantine (95 cents each, and Houghton Mifflin still has them in hardback): "The Fellowship of the Ring," "The Two Towers," "The Return of the King," and the aforementioned "The Hobbit." These particularly well in move particularly well in college areas, our informant reported. They suggest they have been taken up by the young scholars as the Glass family saga of J. D. Salinger, or "Lord of the Flies" were in the pre-Bob Dylan era.

Professor Tolkien's fantasy is not restricted to undergraduate enthusiasm of course, although now and then it does suggest a version of Batman staged by the Brothers Grimm. The Professor wrote it originally as a children's story, and children do read it. But ded-

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Prince Charlie Drops In On Route to New School

BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE, the 16-yr-old heir to the British throne, passed through S.F. en route to a year as an exchange student at the Geelong Grammar School near Melbourne, Australia . . . Frank Sinatra flew in 200 guests, on the cuff, for his opening at the Sands in Vegas . . . My, how it smarts: Artist Bernard Casey is foregoing S.F. to give his only show of the season at the Ankrum Gallery on La Cienega in Los Angeles—"because the market is much better down there." Artist Casey is perhaps better known to you as Bernie Casey, one of the 49ers' star ends . . . The wear and tear on airline stewardess must be something awful. Pan American needs 1500 new ones this year . . . Golfer Floren di Phelia, who got the Full Treatment (the hard way) in a Nov. issue of Sports Illustrated, is now doing what comes naturally: suing the mag for \$4 million via Mel Bell.

SENTIMENTAL NOTE: This year marks the 50th anniversary of the death, at 40, of Jack London, and Tony Bubka thinks it's time someone said a few words about London's Japanese manservant, Tokinosuke Sekine.

On the night of London's death in 1916, the faithful Sekine prepared the "eternal bed," in the custom of his country. The bedroom was restored to order: the bed laid and turned, the pillows piled, the night table tidied up. Then Sekine

placed a single red flower on the pillow—and thrust into the breast pocket of the burial suit this note: "Your speech was silver, your silence is now golden." As long as Sekine was at the ranch, there was a fresh red flower on London's pillow.

Among the exhibits in "The House of Happy Walls" at the Jack London State Park in Glen Ellen is London's brass bed. Visitors will note a single red flower propped on the pillows. James Green, Superintendent of the Park, is perpetuating the tribute begun 50 years ago by Tokinosuke Sekine.

GYPSY ROSE LEE upon being asked what kind of man she likes: "Well, I'm 52. Just so long as he's breathing!" . . . Eighty-year-old girl to her mother, a Planned Parenthood exec: "But Mommy, I thought sex was something you did, not something you were." Joe Armin keeps The Game going with "A cello on the sofa is a Clean—A fiddle on the floor is a Dirty" . . . And Jim Heltsey thereby has reason enough for his: "Reading Caen is a Clean, raising Cain is a Dirty, although sometimes it's the other way around."

THE WONDERFUL MUSE: Why is it that people who insist they're "apolitical" generally turn out to be ultra-conservative? . . . Non-skiers who put ski racks on their cars (for status) are in the same class as the knights of old who flaunted

the keys to chastity belts when everybody knew they were queer . . . May I inquire why it is so hard to acquire a taste for foods that require an acquired taste? . . . When somebody says, "It's something you'll either love or hate, there's no in-between," chances are you'll feel pretty lukewarm about it, whatever it is . . . When you wave another driver or a pedestrian across an intersection, and he doesn't return your courtesy with a wave or a nod, do you, too, feel a little let down?

DR. RUSSELL Lee of Palo Alto, cracking up the Governor's Conference on Calif. Beauty: "For 50 years I've worried about overpopulation. The only consoling thought I've had is that by the year 2000, there'll be so many people around there won't be room to lie down." (But love will find a way) . . . Ecstatic fan to Violinist Isaac Stern: "It's so thrilling to meet a man of your genius." Isaac: "I'm not a genius. Geniuses are creative. I am merely re-creative" . . . Our man in Acapulco: Don de Mistral happened to be standing nearby when Ex-Mayor Bob Wagner was refused admission to Hotel El Presidente's private beach club. "But I am here," sputtered Wagner, "as the official guest of the President of Mexico!" "Sir," replied the guardian of the gates. "The President is not a member either, so you cannot be his guest," adios, amigo.

ROYCE BRIER

Cool Thinking Needed in National Treason Issue

The Constitutional provision defining treason, Art. III, Sec. 3-1, reads in part as follows: "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." This is a fairly tough definition, intentionally more limited than provisions in law or decree, prevailing for centuries in the monarchies of Europe.

Since 1789, there have been remarkably few prosecutions in the courts for treason, and fewer convictions. Aaron Burr undoubtedly schemed to set up a

separate empire in the West, and he was indicted for treason. But he never reached the point of "levying war," and he was acquitted.

The Civil War provided a different background for the issue, but the law was hardly invoked, excepting an indictment of Jefferson Davis, never tried.

Radical unionists considered all active Confederates traitors, and they were by definition. But President Lincoln specifically repudiated this view, and his tolerance and the war itself profoundly affected public

opinion regarding the crime.

Now we are caught in a "treason" mood, as we have been in varying degrees in all war situations, declared or undeclared.

Recently a Negro pacifist named Julian Bond, 25, was denied the seat to which he had been elected in the Georgia House of Representatives, by a House vote of 184-12. The right of the House to bar him is not denied, nor apparently is his race involved. Bond opposes the Viet Nam war and its related issue, the draft. He said he has not buried his draft card, but he urged those subject to the draft to seek "alternatives" to service.

A spokesman for the House majority called Bond's attitude "treasonous," and said he was giving "aid and comfort to the enemy."

There are several categories of those who oppose the current military policy. There are those who believe the Viet Nam war is unwise and unjustified, and far smaller segment takes the position that therefore the Viet Cong or North Viet Nam should be helped by Americans, or that the draft should be resisted or evaded.

Technically, opposing the Viet Nam war is not "treason," because there is no declared war and no "enemy." But if opposition is overt (trying to halt a troop movement), it can be unlawful. Technically, refusing to serve is not treason, though in general it is unlawful; and if overt, like interfering with a draft board, it can be a serious crime.

Julian Bond could hardly be indicted for treason, nor for law violation if he does not destroy his draft card or refuse to appear when called. But there may be doubt under Georgia law if he could take the standard constitutional oath for public office. This issue—the difference between free speech and overt resistance to the government—we have always had with us, and we need cool thinking in the matter.

Abe Mellinkoff