

Needed: Some Guidelines for Conventions

(An Editorial)

During the past two weeks the Press-Herald has detailed the costs to the city's taxpayers of convention trips and other travel logged by members of the City Council and by other city officials.

The response to this series of articles from scores of Torrance citizens, many of them highly regarded civic leaders, indicates that the items detailed by the Press-Herald have been a source of concern for many persons.

Some have gone so far as to express a belief that convention trips should be eliminated—a view this newspaper does not share. Those who expressed alarm at the cost of the trips, however, have a right to know that their tax money is being spent wisely. This newspaper would be remiss in

its duties to the citizens of the city if it failed to point out areas brought to its attention in which possible extravagance could exist.

In considering the costs of travel to the city, the Press-Herald considered only those specifically authorized trips, and did not inquire into matter of monthly expense accounts.

We have no intention of scolding the council or individual councilmen. We are aware of the time devoted to the city's interests by those who accept their positions conscientiously. The service far exceeds the compensation in many respects.

This service, however, does not give city officials *carte blanche*—a license to rationalize expenditures beyond those which are reasonable and necessary.

With the arrival of Torrance in the class of big

cities, the opportunities for convention trips increased. Increasing at the same time, we believe, was the obligation of the city officials to exercise some selectivity in the matter of sending delegates to those conventions.

Limits have been placed on the convention trips which department heads and other city employees may take. There have been no restrictions on members of the City Council, however, and it is apparent that some restrictions are needed. Only the councilmen can make and enforce such restrictions.

The conventioning, we believe, has gotten out of hand. Those who defend cross-country junkets as a fringe benefit for public service—for reasons best known to themselves—have assumed an

indefensible position, in our opinion. The wise and efficient use of public monies is a virtue not to be scorned, and extravagance should never be tolerated when public money is involved.

Conventions which cost the city more than \$4,000 to attend can be justified only if those who pay the bills derive a substantial benefit. Sending six Council members and an administrator to Miami is subject to challenge. Sending an appointed commission member to Chicago to attend a session on indecent literature could be challenged.

The Press-Herald believes there have been abuses in the matter of convention trips. The City Council has the ability to correct these abuses and set the guidelines for the future. The corrections are due.

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EXCHANGE SPEAKERS . . . American Field Service Students now attending school in Torrance addressed members of the Hollywood Riviera Rotary Club on their impressions of America. The students, from left, are Emel Oyman, Turkey; Nancy Mendonca, Brazil; Renate Jaier, Austria, and Luis Herdiza, Ecuador. Mrs. Joseph Dock, president of the local AFS chapter, is in the center.

Special Funds Sought To Open PVSC in Fall

7 Lost In Sea Tragedy

Identification of wreckage found off Pt. Fermin as part of a converted 42-foot landing craft, the Dixie Belle, late Tuesday dashed hopes that seven men aboard—two of them from Torrance—might be alive.

Searchers were alerted after the boat failed to return from a weekend cruise to Catalina. A Coast Guard cutter spotted wreckage floating off the Peninsula, found a door with the Dixie Belle nameplate, two life jackets, some decking, but no trace of the hull.

Identified as members of the weekend cruise:

James G. Lawrence, 46, 907 Manhattan St., Hermosa Beach, owner-skipper.

James A. Lawrence, 26, 1708 Flagler Lane, Redondo Beach, his son.

Vernon Ewing, 46, Rowland Hills, La Puente.

Jack Zittel, 21, Bellflower.

Johannie Ortiz, 37, Whittier.

Robert E. Chandler, 29, 23701 S. Western Ave.

Marvin L. Sanders, 39, 21413 Palos Verdes Blvd.

Ewing was identified as a brother-in-law to Lawrence senior. Zittel, Ortiz, Sanders, and Chandler were identified as employees at North American Aviation.

We're Moving

Effective today, the Press-Herald is closing its plant and offices at 1619 Gramercy Ave. in downtown Torrance and will consolidate all of its operations in recently expanded facilities at 3238 Sepulveda Blvd.

Printing and some mechanical functions have been carried on at the Sepulveda facility for several months. The move which got under way this week will bring all departments together again for more efficient operation, Publisher Glenn W. Pfeil said.

With the move new telephone numbers become effective:

Office and general news 325-6060
 Classified advertising 325-6060
 Circulation 325-1515
 Women's news 325-6380

Thomas, Unruh Seek New Funds

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas has introduced a bill which would make possible the opening of California State College at Palos Verdes in September of this year.

Thomas severely criticized the recent action of State Director of Finance Hale Champion, who has refused to include in the proposed budget for 1965-66 the funds necessary to accomplish the opening of the college to students this fall.

"Speaker Unruh and I are disturbed that Mr. Champion has taken upon himself the responsibility to disregard the legislature in a matter which is not within the province of his office. The legis-

lative branch of our state still controls financing of funds that may be needed for the state college at Palos Verdes, and it is not for the executive branch to determine what the policies of the state college system will be," Thomas said.

THE BILL calls for an appropriation from the general fund to the trustees of the California State Colleges to be expended by them in operating the new college on a temporary basis commencing in the fall of 1965.

"The money," Thomas said, "will enable the new college to enroll between 70 and 100 students, including 20 transfers from junior colleges. The college already is quartered in temporary facilities

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Bandit Goes Unnoticed in \$400 Holdup

A lone gunman got about 100 from a Torrance tavern about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday while some 20 persons in the tavern remained unaware of the holdup.

Bartender Frank Pedro, 32, told police the gunman walked into the Wilderness Inn at 17416 Prairie Ave. and ordered a drink. The gunman, described as blond and about 30, pointed a half-hidden gun at Pedro and demanded the contents of the cash register, police were told.

Pedro turned the receipts over to the man, who left the tavern and disappeared into the dark. Patrons still in the tavern were unaware of the robbery even as the gunman fled.

Plans for Road Work Draw Fire

Proposed widening of Crenshaw Boulevard by 20 feet for a distance of one mile in Rolling Hills had drawn a strong protest from the Rolling Hills city council.

The councilmen sent a letter to the Regional Planning Commission stating their "strong disapproval" of any plan to cut off part of the city's property for high way improvements.

The city fathers said the "slicing" to widen Crenshaw Boulevard between Palos Verdes Drive North and Crest Road would endanger the city's system of private roads. The system bars uninvited guests from the small city.

Three Es of Safety Topic for Meeting

"Living and Working with Es" will be the theme of an address before the Torrance Safety Council next Monday at noon.

Peter S. Ellis, manager of the Safety engineering department of Republic Indemnity Company of America, Los Angeles, will be the guest speaker.

Ellis, a safety expert, has supervised numerous safety programs for California companies. He is a past president of the Casualty Engineers Association of Los Angeles and of the Los Angeles Toastmasters Club.

The three Es of safety, according to Ellis, are Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. A fourth E, Example, also will be emphasized.

The Safety Council will meet at the Palms Restaurant.



PETER S. ELLIS Safety Speaker

Job Level in State Pegged on Defense

Serious unemployment in California can be expected if cutbacks in national defense spending are made, Lomita property owners were told Monday evening.

John Nagy, a tax authority, said the state now has 26 percent of the nation's defense contracts and unemployment problems resulting from cutbacks in spending could mean more new taxes.

Nagy, president of the Statewide Homeowners Association, Inc., told the Lomita residents that his group would oppose any new tax programs proposed for California. He urged members of the group to make sure Lomita is adequately represented in the State Legislature, rather than "special interest groups."

He blasted what he called "free money." He said state and municipal projects built with state funds are often built at premium prices and should be reduced.

Following the address by Nagy, the Lomita organization named Mrs. Don Myers to serve as its president. Other new officers include John Alberg, vice president; Mrs. George Glancy, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Winston Oleson, recording secretary.

Debate Teams Win Top Awards

Two debate teams from North High School have won eight debates in the Marshall High School Invitational Speech Tournament. Teams debated the subject, "Resolved: That Nuclear Weapons Should Be Controlled by an International Organization."

Patrick Reis and Marie Ruth and Timothy Beck and Dennis DeLeon each won four debates in the tournament, according to speech instructor Lehr Mushrush.

Family Escapes Death ---

Seven persons—all members of the same Carson area family—escaped death in an auto-train crash Sunday morning, although one person was seriously injured. Highway Patrol officers said a car driven by Melvin Burns, 49, of 419 W. 226th St., was hit by a freight train about 9:50 a.m. at Figueroa Street and Sepulveda Boulevard. Burns' wife, Earlene, 42, suffered a fractured left leg and three broken fingers. Burns and five children, ranging in age from 3 to 12, suffered minor injuries in the crash.

Wilmington Man Stabbed ---

Henry Espinosa, 26, of 607 W. F St., Wilmington, was stabbed three times early Tuesday morning. Espinosa, who was treated at Wilmington Receiving and Harbor General hospitals and released, told police three men jumped him and woman companion as they walked near his home. The woman was not injured. The assailants kicked him in the head and stabbed him three times in the chest, but did not speak, Espinosa told officers.

Lomita Resident Killed ---

Thomas F. Kelley, 24812 Oak St., Lomita, died late Monday evening after he was hit by a car which fled from the scene. Kelley, about 65, was struck while crossing Lomita Boulevard at Pennsylvania Avenue. Witnesses told Highway Patrol officers the car hit Kelley then sped from the area. Police agencies are now seeking the driver. Kelley was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

New Meeting Place Set ---

Lomita city councilmen have moved their regular meetings to the Lomita Park gymnasium. The council has met in the Fleming Junior High School auditorium since the city was incorporated, but regulations require vacation of the auditorium at 11 p.m. The gymnasium is located at 24428 Eschelman Ave. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

Wortham on Grand Jury ---

Charles H. Wortham, 79-year-old former Redondo Beach mayor, has been named as one of the 23 members of the 1965 Grand Jury panel selected by lottery Tuesday. Wortham, a retired businessman, lives at 112 Vista del Mar, Redondo Beach. He is one of 14 men named to the panel.

Storm Drain Transferred

Acceptance of a Rolling Hills Estates storm drain project for future jurisdiction has been approved by the County Flood Control District, according to chief engineer M. E. Salsbury.

Acceptance of the project, which was offered by Rolling Hills Estates through a resolution of the city council.

The drain is about 400 feet long and runs southeast from the Lariat Lane cul-de-sac. It meets county requirements.

HONOR STUDENTS . . . Dr. Carl Hill, chief of staff of San Pedro Community Hospital, presents scholarship checks to Roberta Ludberg, chairman of the Nursing Division of Harbor College, for four registered nursing students selected for outstanding work. Receiving the \$100 awards from doctors of the hospital staff are, from left, Nancy Thorsell, Judith Hollinger, Linda Celentano and Katherine Koepke.