

Bonds Are Still Needed

Rejection of the \$9 million school bond proposal by Torrance voters Tuesday poses some serious problems for the district.

New school facilities to provide classroom space for the new children coming into the district cannot be made available without money, and the only reasonable source of money available to the Board of Education is that raised through the sale of bonds.

Rejection of the bond proposal means that the board must now consider seriously what steps can be taken to make the school facilities available. (There is no question of doing without.)

One solution open to them is to collect the 20-cent override tax now authorized and not being used. This would mean a 20-cent boost in all property tax rates, but it would provide more than \$500,000 a year at current assessments to provide cash for the building program.

The better solution, however, appears to be the bond program which has been used to finance construction here since the district was formed. That means going back to the voters with a bond issue. What it boils down to is a choice: do the voters want to keep the tax level the same and extend the period of payments over the years or do they want an immediate 20-cent hike in taxes and build on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The Press-Herald believes that the bond method is the soundest and the fairest method to all, and we earnestly suggest that the Board of Education set out immediately to put the measure before the voters again.

At the same time, we suggest that the issue be given a hard look and that the amount proposed be the irreducible sum which will provide those facilities which will be needed to provide an adequate school plant for our students.

Because of other election schedules and the state laws against conflicting dates, we suggest that a September date be selected, preferably the Sept. 20, 1966, date which is the last available to the district before the November general election. It's a busy time, just six days after the opening of school, but the community can't afford the luxury of waiting for an ideal moment. It may never come.

Others Say:

Tips to Graduates

Want to keep from getting a job when you graduate from school?

Here are some simple things to do that will practically insure a summer—maybe even a lifetime—of leisure:

Show your individuality by affecting a Beetle haircut and other touches of distinction which make it clear you have a personality of your own.

Show up late and keep your interviewer waiting.

Pull up a chair real close to the interviewer, rearrange the stuff on his desk so his ashtray is near you, and light up. This shows you are at ease and at home anywhere.

Tell him frankly what you think is wrong with his business. So he burns a little. So what? If he can't take a little honest criticism, he's too narrow-minded to fool around with.

Make sure the company is broad-minded about coffee breaks, long lunch hours, tardiness, absenteeism and time out for personal business. Bear down on this. It will indicate you have your career carefully planned.

If a starting salary is mentioned, react with pain and hurt surprise. Explain that your professor thought you would be worth a lot more.

Follow this routine and it's dollars to doughnuts you end up with time to catch up on your sleep in the morning and to polish up your golf game—assuming, of course, that you can get hold of the dough to play. —Santa Maria Times

Morning Report:

All those who have been complaining that there are no new voices or ideas on Viet Nam should now be well satisfied. Senator Fulbright fixed that. He had some distinguished head-shrinkers up before the Foreign Relations Committee.

I'm not saying they got us any closer to peace but it was a change in dialogue. Psychiatrists, who get paid 50 cents an hour, 8-hours-a-day for listening to other people's problems, are understandably great talkers themselves if given half a chance — at a cocktail party or even a Senate committee.

In fact, I'm sure they might even get an armistice if they could get the soldiers on both sides flat on the old couch. Nobody can fire a rifle with any accuracy from that position.

Abe Mellinkoff

Opinions of Others

This week's pet peeve: the American woman who can complain 'there's just nothing to cook' while she pushes a grocery cart through a supermarket loaded with a variety of foodstuffs a great part of the world has never even heard of much less had the opportunity to eat. —Oneonta (Ala.) Democrat.

With reference to the threat of inflation, President Johnson said he was more worried about the economists than the economy. No doubt the feeling is mutual with the economist being far more worried than the President is. —Cambridge, (Nebr.) Clarion.

Shut That Off!



FROM THE MAILBOX

Court Does Not Have the Right to Overrule Voter

Editor, Press-Herald:

It would be of great interest to learn from what source the California State Supreme Court derives the authority to overrule the will of the people.

Although it is understood that the Supreme Court has the authority to determine the Constitutionality of any measure as enacted by the legislature, it does not possess either the moral or legal right to negate the will of the electorate.

It might do Justice Peek little harm if he were to read the United States Constitution (as written) and realize that it is not the courts that rule this nation.

but rather, the people. I realize, of course, that he is doing his utmost to change all that nonsense as conceived by the fathers of our Republic.

If nothing else, we in California have learned that the people in this state no longer have the right to go to the polls in order to determine the manner in which our state is to be governed.

This whole concept of control by the courts leaves some doubts as to the necessity of voting in future elections. The people may decide to retain Governor Brown for a third term in November, but the Supreme

Court may decide that Reagan is a better choice, and I guess since State Atty. Gen. Thomas Lynch would support their contention, we would be stuck with such a decision.

Is this, then, a prelude to the end of the Republic? Truly it is farewell to "government of the people, by the people, for the people," and welcome to government of the courts, by the courts, for the courts.

I sincerely hope that responsible authority will return the government of this state to its rightful position—in the hands of the people.

G. M. LEDWIDGE

JAMES DORAIS

Cut in Federal Impact Funds Hurts California

It is ironic that after Congressional approval last year of various Administration proposals for federal aid to education of a highly controversial nature, the Administration this year has asked Congress to drastically curtail an established program of federal aid that has never been surrounded by controversy.

The impacted areas program was initiated in 1950 during the Korean War, under Public Law 874. Since that time it has been the declared policy of the United States to provide financial assistance for "local education agencies" upon which the United States has placed financial burdens by reason of the fact that such agencies provide education for children residing on federal property or such agencies provide education for children whose parents are employed on federal property.

Traditionally, throughout the nation, public education has been financed chiefly from taxes levied on land values. The purpose of the impacted areas program has been to make it possible for school districts located in areas with heavy concentrations of non-tax paying federal land and facilities to provide educational opportunities equal to that provided by other school districts without heavier tax burden to local taxpayers.

Yet at a time when there is renewed increase in Federal activity and Federal employment because of the war in Viet Nam, President Johnson has asked for a reduction of \$217 million in

payments to school districts under Public Law 74, reducing the number of districts eligible to participate from 4,077 to 2,846.

California is particularly affected by the proposed cuts. Senator Thomas Kuchel, who is vigorously opposing the proposed phasing out of the program, points out that the reduction in California would amount to more than \$35 million, and the number of districts participating would decline from 515 to 374.

The state's normal tax base, Senator Kuchel has advised Congress, is greatly reduced by large scale federal land ownership. Forty-five percent of the lands of the State of California are federally owned, and there are more than 250,000 federal employees in the state.

What the federal government has given in financial aid for special services under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act it proposes to take away for general educational purposes through reduction in the impacted areas program.

Quote

One cannot help but love retarded children; they have so much love to give. — M. Hansen, San Francisco.

The death toll of pedestrians is high and we all urge "defensive walking" as well as "defensive driving." — Police Chief W. S. Sharp, San Diego.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Brave New World Has No Tinkle of Broken Glass

Onward & Downward. I'm not sure I like our brave new world. It was saddening to read the other day about a new school (for small children) in our city that embodies "many progressive innovations." For instance, plastic windows and a complete absence of trees and shrubs. Explained a spokesman: "No fallen dirty leaves to taste, no need to teach that shrubs are only to be seen, not touched."

He might have added but didn't: "No spring magic of green buds bursting on swaying limbs. In the autumn, no dried leaves to step on, producing the delicious crunch of potato chips. No memories to be stored for future reference — 'Why, I remember when that tree was only 50 high.' No highly polished leaves to run a finger over as you ponder on the wonders of nature."

As for those plastic windows — what will happen to the natural instinct of children who know that a hole is to dig, a dog is to pet, a tree is to climb, a window is to — oops! — break? But perhaps these innovating educators know what they're about. Perhaps this is the way to train our young to exist in their future plastic, treeless world of Concrete Neo-Inevitable, where no leaves fall, no distant tinkle of broken glass is heard.

That'll be the day: When you walk along downtown without dodging open sidewalk elevators, when you

can drive along without dodging double-parked cars, when you can walk through the park pigeon-coops without holding your breath, when "Information" answers your call as quickly as "Long Distance" does... Whatever happened to: pheasant feather hat bands for men; samples in candy stores; detachable strips of white piping (starched) for vests; gold but-

San Francisco

tonhooks for fastening wing collars to collar buttons... Three little words I like best after "I love you" and "Peace on earth": "Going right in." "Parking space available" and "Enclosed find check."

Ah, happy the day when you "First Pull UP — Then DOWN" without tearing the paper seat in twain... Phoniest phony in town: the guy who sprinkles salt on his toupee in the hope that you'll think it's dandruff (whaddya mean, I made that up?)... Add phrases I'm sick of: "I'll check it out." What the matter with just plain "check it"? On second thought, don't bother to check it at all. It may turn out to be wrong and then you can't print it.

I figure they're lying in their teeth when they say: "I wouldn't live in New York if they paid me a million dollars a year"... "I never get more than five hours sleep a night — that's all I need"

"He's in a meeting, can I have him call you back?"... "I could absolutely live on caviar"... "No, I didn't go to their party, and I wouldn't have gone even if they'd invited me"... "I just wish I were young enough to go to Viet Nam"... "I gave it the office"... "You mean to say this is a California zinfandel? Why, I could have sworn it was a Mouton Rothschild"... "I have nothing against unions personally, but—"

A liberal is a guy who tells one of those Polish jokes, joins heartily in the laughter — and then adds in a hollow voice: "Isn't that just AWFUL"... I have yet to read a funny Batman joke, especially the ones in this column... Nominated for the "Oh, come off it" dept.: The old-time night club owners who complain about competition from the topless joints, especially when their own shows are loaded with bathroom humor.

Sudden thought: People whose conversation consists mainly of one joke after another have no sense of humor... Having digested a few thousand more words about "escalation," and the need for it in Viet Nam, I walked over to Macy's the other day to see for myself — and was relieved to find that escalators do work as I had remembered. I mean they go down as well as up.

ROYCE BRIER

Rusk Talks Up European 'Good Neighbor Policy'

When two nations or coalitions confront each other in differing systems of interests, they strike attitudes of self-defense. When through prudence or outright fear neither side wants war (though each insists the other may want war), there comes a time when the logic of their attitudes is less evident.

There comes a time when a detente between the opposing forces looks more sensible than a chip on the shoulder.

This is the case of NATO facing east, Warsaw facing west. NATO was devised to deter or resist aggression from the east. The Warsaw Pact was devised by the Soviet Union as a counter to NATO.

Last year President de Gaulle began a defection from NATO. As France was the geographical and strategic key to NATO's full strength, this was the time for Warsaw to step up its menace. But it didn't happen and many factors were

involved, such as Soviet trouble with Red China, and the continuing overwhelming nuclear strength of the United States.

Every week in this year has added color to the realism of M. de Gaulle's position.

Yet we have continued to fume about de Gaulle, refusing to retreat an inch from the original NATO

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purpose, a hard-shell insistence that it is there solely to deter or resist aggression from the east.

But now there is a retreat in the works and it could be the most momentous news story of the year dwarfing the antics of Premier, Ky.

Dean Acheson, one of our great Secretaries of State, has been employed as a White House consultant in the NATO crisis. Recently he told the House Foreign

Affairs Committee the time has come for an "imaginative and conciliatory" series of discussions with eastern Europe. He said his proposal, already advanced by West Germany, could conceivably result in a "good neighbor policy" in Europe. Secretary of State Rusk in a news conference took the same general position.

This pending shift of major policy which, it is believed, will attract other NATO members, even including France, has set Washington experts to speculating.

It is said to reflect the coming retirement of Undersecretary of State George W. Ball, who has maintained the "punitive" position on NATO in western capitals. Mr. Ball has had some what a free hand in Europe due to Washington's preoccupation with the Indo-China crisis.

Another element coming into the speculation is an apparent weakening of the eastern alliance in a defection of Romania from the Warsaw Pact presumptions, comparable to that of France in the West. Romania, long questioning Soviet domination, is currently reported to be demanding the Soviet Union relinquish control over the eastern armed forces. Recently this was openly denounced as an "anachronism" by Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian party leader.

Neither of these speculative factors, of course, entered into Mr. Acheson's testimony. But those Americans who have been increasingly disturbed by President Johnson's foreign policy discomfitures, may well welcome one of Mr. Acheson's experience and temper in the national councils affecting Europe.

"Persons hardest to convince they are of retirement age are children at bedtime."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Pollution Report Called 'Catalogue of Disaster'

In a previous work, "The Breath of Life," the Southern California chemist Donald E. Carr took a long, sad look at the pollution of the American air. Now, in "Death of the Sweet Waters," he is equally upset (and equally lucid as he reports on the water pollution around us and what this means for the American people. His book is a tough, uncompromising survey that bristles with ugly statistics.

Items: The Merrimack river (see Thoreau) is now probably the dirtiest stretch of water in the history of the world due to the "terrifying stubbornness" of New England, which would rather face decay than spend money. Some 18,444 citizens of Riverside were affected last year by an epidemic of gastroenteritis, almost certainly caused by water pollution. It may take 25 years

to clean up Lake Erie, which Carr describes as "one vast cesspool."

This catalogue of disaster runs on and on, with pictures — such as the Department of Agriculture photo of a woodland stream in Pennsylvania surging like a monster washing machine with detergent foam. Industries, pulp paper mills and other industries slosh indiscriminately into the Nation's sweet waters. For pollution is often good business, as one of the chapters here emphasizes.

Can anything be done? There is some plodding effort at State and national levels. Dirty water is frequently being purified at great expense. But the fouling of sweet water continues, and fresh water is already in short supply (witness the drought in the upper East last year). Carr's appraisal of a national disgrace might help to wake up the public agencies and/or private industries involved. This is a disturbing document by an expert who is also a first-rate reporter.

Whether anyone is listening is another matter.

Books

trial wastes boiling in fish-slaughtering fashion into the Ohio river; again, the James in Virginia, and the lower reaches of the Hudson, where the only forms of life that now can subsist are sewage-eating eels and worms. And in rich Westchester County, New York, a woodland pool that has been transformed into a festering junk dump. "Gunk" is the expressive word Carr has coined for

