

## Teachers

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ary adjustments when additional training is completed. Representatives of the teachers' groups left the meeting in a dissatisfied mood because of the board's resistance to proposals made by the Negotiating Council.

Most outspoken was Darold Kusch, past president of the Torrance Education Association, who claimed the teachers had "struck out, 16-0."

TRUSTEES are studying a preliminary budget which calls for some \$24.6 million in expenditures and a 10-cent-plus increase in the tax rate to finance the program.

The preliminary budget does not, however, include a salary increase which may be granted teachers and other school district employees.

The board is scheduled to meet again next Monday.

## Jets

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cil had never entertained the idea of saving commuter jets land in Torrance.

MAYOR Albert Isen termed Egan's statement "unfortunate" but objected to the thought of "censorship" of every official statement. Isen said it would impede the flow of news if all officials were forced to tell newsmen, "I can't answer your question. I've got to clear it with management."

Councilman Donald E. Wilson abstained from voting, explaining that he had not made a thorough study of the issue.

Army Spec. 4 Tommy T. Nakachi, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kazuhisa M. Nakachi of 18435 Manhattan Place, has been assigned as an accounting specialist in the 43rd Signal Battalion near Kontum, Vietnam.

## Retirement

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tion of council subcommittees, the seven local lawmakers tangled over which committee should iron out financial difficulties.

MAYOR Albert Isen, who objects to the subcommittee system, wanted the whole council to look into the matter.

Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta moved for approval of the plan subject to a funding agreement by the council's Finance Committee and city financial staff.

Councilman Orin P. (Bud) Johnson finally won unanimous acceptance for his substitute motion, turning over the responsibility to the city manager's staff.

The subcommittee debate spurred Councilman Kenneth Miller to comment that police and firemen were "caught in the crossfire" of a council discussion of the committee system.

DEFENDING the 50-20 retirement plan, Police Sgt. Charles Oates said the proposed system would result in better protection for area residents.

Sergeant Oates told councilmen that a realistic retirement age would encourage young men to stay with the police force, instead of leaving for more desirable positions in industry.

"If we could have kept half the people who walked out last year," he said, "we would have saved enough to pay for the program."

Police work, Sergeant Oates explained, is emotionally taxing and "burns a man out." He quoted in El Monte police surgeon who has stated no man should be patrolling the streets past the age of 50.

FURTHERMORE, the city would actually save money on insurance because older policemen are more likely to have accidents, Sergeant Oates said.

In a later interview, Ser-

geant Oates told the Press-Herald that there is "tremendous turnover" in the Torrance Police Department partly due to the "highly disturbing" nature of the work.

"No patrolman has ever left here on a service retirement at age 55," Sergeant Oates underlined. Every man has either resigned or left on disability.

The police sergeant said 10 men had either resigned or been ruled disabled since Jan. 1. These included the department's polygraph expert and the data processing expert, who found better positions.

## Committee

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amine exceptional problems.

Revision of the committee system came after Mayor Isen complained that committee members received unfair advantage in hearing expert testimony on a subject. The rest of the councilmen, he said, must make up their minds on the basis of recommendations and digested information.

COUNCILMAN Ken Miller argued in favor of traditional committees, stating that a certain "continuity of think-

ing" developed through the system. He said it is advisable to have individual councilmen become experts on one phase of government.

Councilmen also voted to have all committee meetings open to the public and press, to make sure there is no violation of the antisecrecy Brown Act.

Councilman Jay Beasley cast the sole vote against the new committee system.

POLICE Science productions is currently working on the fourth in a series of police training films using Torrance policemen as actors.

Chief Walter Koenig told Councilmen last night that the private film company will be filming its "most ambitious project" all day Friday at 3500 Torrance Blvd.

Chief Koenig said that police science students at El Camino College will be serving as extras.

THE POLICE chief also announced that two Torrance police officers are slated to receive honorary Purple Heart medals from the local Military Order of the Purple Heart.

One of the awards will be presented to Mrs. David Sie-

bert, for her late husband, who was killed in the line of duty last year.

The other honorary medal will go to Officer Lee Graber, disabled in February, 1967, when a car deliberately ran him down.

The presentations will be made at a Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon May 17 during Police Week.

Marine Pfc. James M. Coons, son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Coons of 2105 Mathews Ave., Redondo Beach, is serving with the Third Amphibian Tractor Battalion, U. S. Marine Corps, in Vietnam.

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