City Aides Accused of 'Playing Politics'

By REID L. BUNDY

Were the city attorney and the city manager "playing politics" when they polled the councilmen confidentally last week in reference to consideration of the bus line sale?

They were in the eyes of Mayor Albert Isen who blew the whistle on the affair by reading out in public the full communication from City Manager Edward J. Ferraro and City Attorney Stanley E. Remelmeyer on the matter.

"It's no breach of confidence," Isen said during Tuesday's Council session. He added that members of administra-

tion have no right to even label such a document confidential and then demand its return.

The memorandum to Isen and other councilmen had been labeled "Confidential" with a note asking that it be returned to the city's legal

department. "As a mater of routine, the said transfer ordinance together with the final approval of the amended contract for the

sale of the bus system will come to you for decision next Tuesday night-March 19, 1968," the memorandum read.

"However, if it is your wish that we hold this matter until after the Election,

place your initial after your name below. (Separate letters have been prepared for each Councilman). If a majority of the Council initial this memorandum, Ed and I will consider it to be the will of the Council that the entire matter (both the ordinance and the contract) be held until after the Election." the note from Remelmeyer and Ferraro concluded.

"It looked to me like a move to get the incumbent council candi-dates off the hook," Isen said. He said after Tuesday's meeting that he had not planned to bring the matter up, but was moved to do so after the Council voted to put the bus sale

matter on the June 4 primary ballot. Whether the high ranking city officials are guilty of "playing politics" can be debated. Mayor Isen thought they were, and other councilmen apparently agreed because none of them returned the memo as requested.

It caused at least one observer in the audience last Tuesday to wonder in a whisper what else might be under wraps around the city hall pending the April 9 city election.

While a few have told us they think the mayor was overplaying the matter, most express amazement that top city administrators would get caught trying to set up a hushhush agreement on agenda items with political implications.

"Playing politics" is a perfectly honorable avocation, and it is the fuel that propels the politician. City administrators are generally expected, however, to confine their politicking to off-duty hours.

In the "Case of the Confidential Memo," as Perry Mason might label it, the city manager and city attorney stand accused of dabbling in politics during working hours.

Even Perry Mason might not be able to beat the case against them.

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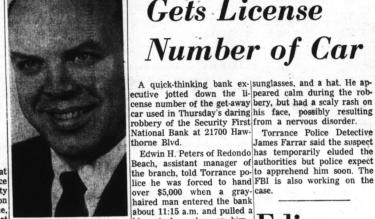
Police Trace Get-Away Auto in Bank Robbery

FROM WATSON **Council Wants** Statement on **Taxing Policy**

Claim Assessor Can Control Zoning by Assessment Rates

Fears that the county as may when they learned that sessor may be setting future the County Assessor's Office zoning on property within the had allegedly taxed property city through assessment of in the East Victor Tract on 'potential" value of land was the basis of its potential value

"potential" value of land was expressed by member of the City Council this week as they voted to ask for a formal statement of zoning practices if mom the county. The local lawmakers voted at Tuesday's meeting to send a letter to County Assessor tract complaining that their Philip Watson, asking wheth-property taxes had tripled in the last three years. Councilmen expressed dis-Councilmen expressed dis-tract complaining that the property taxes had tripled in the last three years. Councilmen expressed dis-tract complaining that the property taxes had tripled in the last three years. Councilmen expressed dis-tract complaining that the property taxes had tripled in the last three years. Councilmen expressed dis-tract complaining that the property taxes had tripled in the last three years. Councilmen expressed dis-tract complaining that the property taxes had tripled in the last three years. Councilmen expressed dis-tract complaining that the property for M-1 (light man-traction of M-1 (ligh



DR. GEORGE PORTER

about 11:15 a.m. and pulled a blue steel revolver on him. Few bank patrons were aware that a robbery was in progress as Peters calmly got up from his desk and walked across the bank floor to a vault in the southeast corner of the building As he ontared

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