



NEW BROCHURE . . . Dr. J. Hull (second from left), superintendent of Torrance schools, and Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, vice president of Torrance Board of Education, examine a new brochure on educational opportunities in the city. The brochure is prepared by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce to provide information for persons desiring to locate in the city. Neill Casey (left), chairman of the Chamber's Education Committee, supervised preparation of the brochure. George M. Ebert, Chamber president, is shown at right. (Press-Herald Photo)

Fifth in State \$147.3 Million In Sales Noted

Torrance continues to hold fifth place position in the state in the category of general merchandise retail sales, according to information extracted from Sales Management magazine by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

This is the second consecutive year that the city has held the fifth position. The first four cities are Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Oakland.

For the year 1967, Torrance merchants recorded an estimated \$147,308,000 in sales. However, this figure does not include certain specialty stores dealing in apparel for which figures are not available.

The city placed eighth in

Annual state and federal highway use taxes for a typical heavy truck range from \$1,581 for a three-axle tractor-trailer (40,000 pounds gross vehicle weight) to \$3,200 paid by a five-axle tractor-trailer (72,000 lbs. GVW).

California in food sales with nearly \$8.2 million. Torrance is immediately behind Sacramento in this category. Drug sales were set at \$10,630,000 and place the city in 13th place in the state.

Sales in the furniture and household appliances sector were estimated at \$11,710,000 for a 14th place position.

Automotive sales were set at \$34,081,000 which puts Torrance in 42nd position in California.

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Hearing Slated on Tax Plan

Capital News Service
SACRAMENTO—The two chairmen of the Senate and Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committees have announced a joint meeting Oct. 15 and 16, to be held in Los Angeles to hear testimony on the so-called Watson initiative, the property tax measure which will be Proposition 9 on the November ballot.

Assemblyman John G. Veneman (R-Modesto) and Senator Walter W. Stiern (D-Bakersfield) said the legislature must study in detail the contents of the initiative because of its far-reaching implications.

The initiative, sponsored by Los Angeles County Assessor Philip E. Watson, would, among other things, eventually remove schools and social welfare from the local tax base and shift the cost to the state taxpayer.

THE PROPOSAL was qualified for inclusion on the Nov. 5 ballot after the signatures of 558,830 qualified voters were obtained. It proposes to set a property tax limit of 1 per cent of market value on levies for property-related services. In addition, it would phase out, at 20 per cent a year, the taxes for welfare and education. The latter would be accomplished by July 1, 1973.

The chairmen of the two legislative committees said the initiative, if successful, would vastly expand state control over the schools and would probably spell the end of all local control over welfare expenditures. They charged the initiative also would require enormous and unprecedented increases in state taxes.

DECLARING "It is absolutely essential that the legislature obtain as much information as possible for the benefit of the voters who will decide on the initiative in November," the chairman said. "There are many aspects of this initiative which must be explained. What, exactly, does it provide? Many lawyers are not sure. How much will it cost? What will it do to the state water project? What effect will it have on schools, colleges, county government and city government? Finally, what will it do to the state's credit?"

THOMAS JEFFERSON
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