

Landowners Fight in Assessment Case

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Residents of the area and McGee's office were caught by surprise on the matter. McGee originally had planned to request a two-week delay on the case yesterday in order to have the assessments lowered before the ordinance came up for consideration.

The residents had been assured by McGee's office at a public meeting Tuesday night that the case would be delayed at least two weeks and had canceled plans to turn out in force yesterday to protest.

McGee has been on a two-day leave of absence from the Council to determine his political future.

"It will be tough to try to overcome the action of the City Attorney," a spokesman in McGee's office told The News yesterday.

"All other sewer assessments in the city have been stalled by this interpretation of a state law which says that the Council are anxious to have the state law clarified. Center of the problem is a 1959 state law affecting the \$400 an acre sewer connection charge the city has been levying against newly developed acreage.

City Atty. Roger Arnebergh has ruled the new law makes it mandatory for the city to level this charge against all assessment proceedings as an incidental expense.

This would allow homeowners to spread the payment out over a 10-year period, whereas in the past it had to be paid in cash before the project got under way.

Attorneys for contractors have questioned the validity of the law and asked the city to take steps to have it interpreted by the State Supreme Court.

In an effort to do this the City Public Works refused to open bids on new sewer construction and the City Attorney chose the Valley sewer district to be the test case on the law.

"But we're not going to take this lying down," Mrs. Audrey Breed of 22743 Clarendon St., Woodland Hills, told The News.

The residents affected by the assessment plan to turn out in force at today's hearing, possibly 100 strong, after being able to muster only 20 persons yesterday after the short notice on the City Attorney's action.

The City Attorney's office told The News yesterday the figures now assessed "are not definite, but there must be some kind of estimate in the ordinance because of the law."

It was pointed out the estimate may not even be near the final cost, which will not be determined until after bids have been received from contractors.

The Board of Public Works reported the landowners can file protests to the cost of the project, even after the sewer installation has been completed.

Others are Sheriff Joe Rice of Riverside County; Los Angeles County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy; William Hunt, editor of the Gardena Valley News; and Charles Dederich, chairman of the Synanon Foundation, Santa Monica.

Chairman Weltzel said the committee is here because of the concern expressed by the California Congressional delegation over the narcotics problem in Southern California.

He said the committee, which does not have subpoena powers, will report its findings directly to the President.

Other members of the panel are Otis E. Mulliken, deputy director of the office of international economic and social affairs of the State Department; Col. Donald M. Alder, chief of the section of organized crime and racketeering in the Department of Justice.

With the group are Dan F. Page, executive secretary of the committee; Chester Emerick, deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Investigation; and Charles Stragel, chief of the bureau of medical services of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

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Urge Passports to Control Border Narcotics Traffic

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Announce Winners of Valley Pigeon Club Competition

Despite cloudy skies, 38 members of the Valley Racing Pigeon Club had entries in a 150-mile pigeon race from Tulare.

First place in the event went to Dick Sander of Van Nuys. Second and third places went to the birds of Jerry Arnold of Newhall and George Frohn of San Fernando, respectively.

This was the first race handled out of the club's new building.

Gordon English, club race secretary, said the next race will be Sunday from Fresno.

Entry lists for the competition will be closed at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Witnesses before the committee also called for a special White House conference on narcotics and a special session of the California Legislature to consider tougher laws.

Mayor Norris Poulsen, the first witness before the committee, urged that the special White House conference be called to launch a new international attack on the evil.

Governor Attacked

He said too many persons consider the drug traffic a local Los Angeles problem and stressed the "urgent need" of international cooperation.

Both Supervisor Bonelli and Supervisor Kenneth Hahn attacked Gov. Edmund G. Brown for his failure to call a special session of the Legislature to consider tougher narcotics laws.

"There are many areas in which our law enforcement people find their hands are tied," said Bonelli.

Mayor Poulsen invited the committee's attention to figures showing there are an estimated 10,000 narcotics users in Los Angeles, and that they spend approximately \$25 each per day for their habit.

Arrest Increase

"Thus it is obvious that Los Angeles victims of the drug traffic are spending more money to purchase contraband narcotics than we spend for the support of our entire Police Dept.," he stated.

He pointed out arrests have increased at an "alarming" rate, indicating that "we are fighting a losing battle" against drugs.

"We need this White House conference, and we need your help to fight this battle," he concluded.

Another city official, Councilman James C. Corman, also supported the call for a White House conference.

Corman said federal assistance in controlling border and seaport entry of narcotics is a "must" for such control. He said local enforcement is "severely crippled" and that only a coordinated system of border control can control the narcotics trade.

Proposals Noted

In his testimony, Supervisor Hahn outlined the two-point narcotics program drafted by county officials after conferences with Howard W. Chappell, federal narcotics bureau chief for Southern California.

The program proposes that evidence in narcotics cases be admissible regardless of how it is obtained, and that narcotics violation penalties for convicted peddlers and users be strengthened and toughened.

Concern Expressed

Among those slated to testify are president John S. Gibson, Jr. of the Los Angeles City Council and the other three County Supervisors

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