

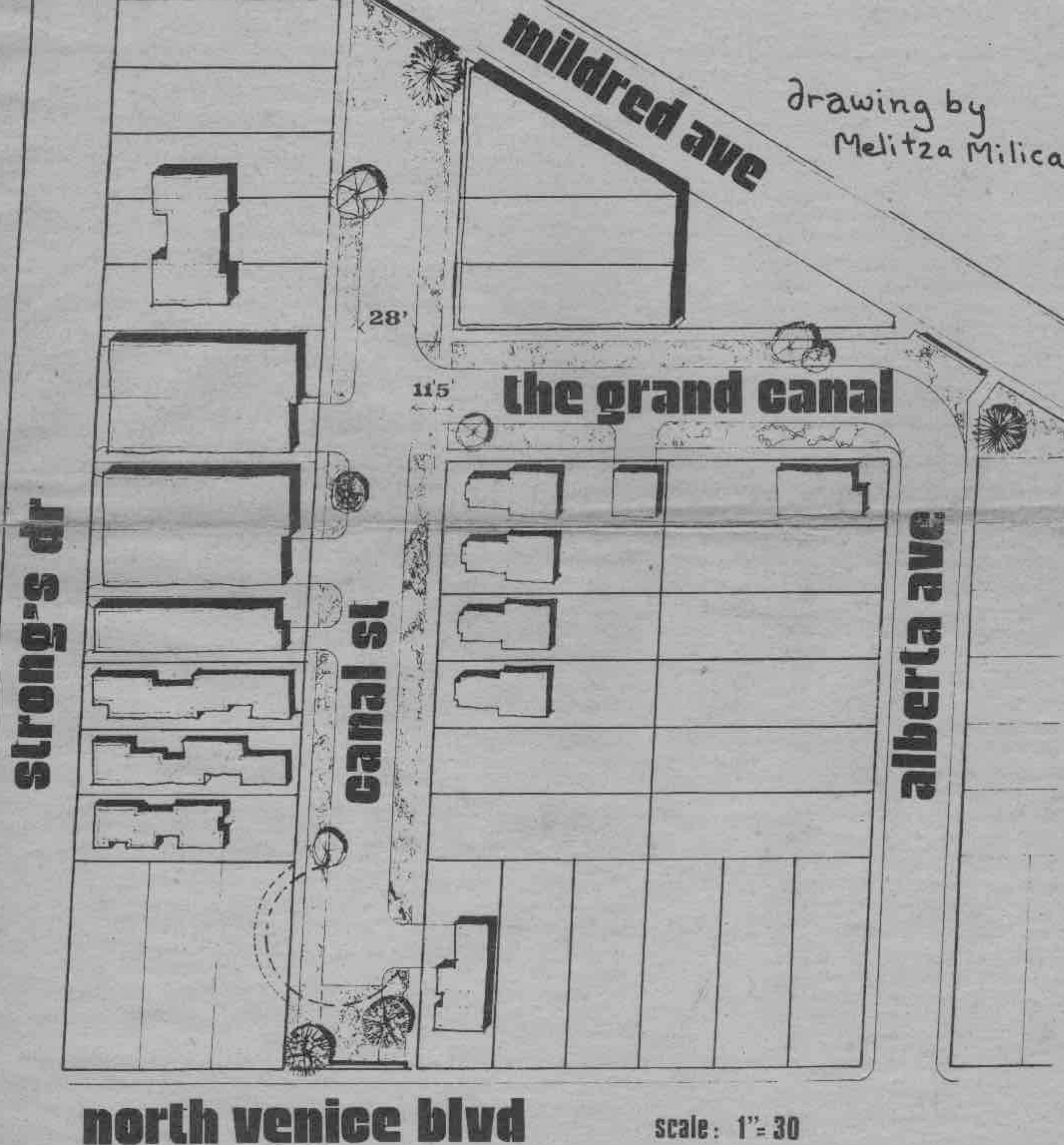
# FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

NOVEMBER 1973 NO. 47

P.O. BOX 504, FREE VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90291

PHONES: TANK-YUK, 392-8969, 396-9325

## A PEOPLE'S PARK ON CANAL STREET



Much has happened on Canal Street since the Beachhead article of September which brought news of speculators' plans for this part of our community and our lives. The people of the Venice community were successful in delaying plans for converting Canal Street into a mini-freeway running through hideously illuminated concrete, high-rise canyons. The tide has begun to turn against our beloved City's built-in mania for automobiles supreme—chop down the palm tree—destroy the flowers and grass—smear on the concrete—darkness is bad—light it up—mercury vapor—high-rise—more money.

Community park planners, architects, spokespeople, and many interested people, working against the combined power of our own City agencies, have joyously pressed ahead with a community plan for a neighborhood park centered around the old palm tree—a bit of quiet, dedicated, living green space in the midst of the concrete, automobile, noise jungle that is so much a part of our daily lives, and which the Neanderthals in our City government constantly plan to give us more of.

We are carrying the fight beyond City government directly to the people's Coastal Commission itself. We need help in planning, landscaping, and in preparing testimony for presentation before the commission. Anyone wishing to help should call Ron or Kathy at 821-5931. You can help by calling Pat Russell at 393-9931, Ext. 3357, and informing your Councilwoman that you wish a community park on Canal Street around the old palm tree, lots of green space, and soft sidewalk lighting for those who might wish to enjoy the beauty of the night while taking a walk in their park and along Canal Street. Political power originates at the community level. You can help by attending your area Town Council meeting and making your voice heard there.

by Ron Guenther

## MARINA BYPASS

By DeDe Audet, Chairperson  
Venice Town Council Traffic Task Force

From statements made by public officials and from rumors brought to me by friends and neighbors, I was confident last summer that routes were being considered for a highway through my neighborhood. I live on Thatcher Street, in the triangle of Venice on the south side of Washington Street just east of the Marina Bird Sanctuary. On August 15, I followed the suggestion of another member of the East Venice Area Council and went to the Westchester District Engineering

Office to see if I could get a copy of the drawing of the "Marina Bypass."

But I was disappointed to hear there was no such drawing. In order to be sure there was no confusion or misunderstanding about what it was that I wanted to see, I was rather persistent. And the Westchester District Engineering Office reiterated that there was no such drawing.

So I was somewhat embarrassed later in the same day when I attended a public hearing of the Small Crafts and Harbors Commission to see a drawing titled **Alternate Alignments for Marina Del Rey Bypass** displayed on the wall of the meeting room.

You can be sure I hotfooted it back to the Westchester District Office just as soon as I could. And when I told the people there that I had seen the drawing with my own eyes, they said, "Well, it shouldn't have been displayed publicly."

To be respectful and fair, I can't blame the civil service employees at Westchester for following orders. For all I know they may dislike that kind of secrecy just as much as I do. But I can and do blame public officials who are responsible for the climate in which such orders are possible.

As for the exact route of the bypass, there still is none—this time, for once, we really got in on the ground floor of plans being made for Venice. Basically, though, the intention is to run a major highway diagonally across all of Venice. It is proposed to start it at Lincoln Blvd and Maxella, which is directly across Lincoln from the end of Route 90, the major feeder road to the Marina Freeway (the so-called Richard M. Nixon Freeway). From Maxella and Lincoln the idea is to angle a major road through my neighborhood (there are presently seven alter-

nate possible routes), coming out on Washington Street somewhere around the intersection with West Washington Blvd or the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. From there the Marina Bypass highway would find its way by one route or another to the intersection of West Washington Blvd, Brooks Ave, and Main Street, near Westminster School. From there it would go over Main Street through Santa Monica to link up somehow with the Santa Monica Freeway and the Pacific Coast Highway.

This sort of highway would be a disaster for Venice. It would put a high-speed surface road alongside not just one, but three, elementary schools (Coeur d'Alene, St. Marks Parochial and Westminster); it would completely destroy the character of West Washington Blvd; it would seal up the Black and Chicano.

(continued on page 3)

# UDDER DISASTER RAW DEAL

## CONSUMER GROUP CHARGES DANGEROUS LEVELS OF LEAD FOUND IN EVAPORATED MILK; FDA REJECTS EVIDENCE

(from LNS) As if there wasn't enough lead present in the polluted air and on walls caked with old paint, it turns out that dangerous levels of the poisonous metal can also be found in seemingly harmless evaporated milk.

Canned evaporated milk is often the basis of infant feeding formulas, especially in low budget families, because it's cheaper and less perishable than fresh milk. And often, it is those same families, living in slum tenements in smog-choked urban areas, whose children are most likely to be getting lead from other sources as well. Lead poisoning has been proven to be a cause of brain damage.

According to the October issue of Consumer Reports, this news should be no revelation. In fact, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had announced in the summer of 1972 that a temporary, voluntary guideline would go into effect on January 1, 1973, limiting the lead content of a 13 oz. can of evaporated milk to 200 micrograms.

But the guideline, which the FDA worked out through studies with the industry-based Evaporated Milk Association, has yet to be instituted. And although the industry had agreed to change its old canning methods, tests of a cross section of brands made by Consumer Reports in March, showed an average lead content of 280 micrograms per can, with none falling below the proposed guideline.

In 1971, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare established 300 micrograms to be the daily permissible intake (DPI) of lead from all sources for children between one and three years old. That is the age when kids are most likely to eat paint chips and other non-foods containing lead.

While the DPI for children under one

year has not been established, babies (newborns through their fourth month are the most likely consumers of evaporated milk) may now be getting more lead than is permissible for older children, most of it coming through their food.

Most evaporated milk is still canned in the same way it has been for the past century. A tin-plated steel rectangle is rolled into a cylinder and soldered along the seam. The circular tinplate tops and bottoms are then flanged and soldered to the cylinder.

After the milk is pumped in through a small hole punched in one end, the hole is sealed with a drop of solder. The solder, unfortunately, contains lead, and the flux which makes it adhere better also makes the lead soluble, releasing it into the milk.

Most other food cans use more expensive technology to reduce or eliminate lead contact with the food. Overlapping seams are soldered on the outside or welded to eliminate solder altogether. And aluminum cans are molded, almost eliminating seams.

But apparently the evaporated milk market is so stable and non-competitive that the corporations which produce evaporated milk have not felt compelled to improve on the canning method. Most of the companies can hardly plead poverty in the face of the increased costs. At least three of the six brands tested, Borden, Carnation, and Pet, are produced by companies which rank among Fortune's top 200 corporations. Borden, with a net income of almost \$66 million in 1972, ranks 48 on the list.

Although the FDA already admitted that voluntary standards are needed, the Consumer's Union's investigation, which calls for more stringent measures, has apparently caused them to reconsider their own findings. The FDA challenged CI's findings, asserting that "no brand of evaporated milk now on the market is in any way unfit for consumer use." The offered the cooperative industry-government studies as proof.

## Food Co-op

The Free Venice Food Co-op (or Food Conspiracy) is a food buying club—members buy food collectively in bulk, and therefore pay near wholesale prices. But there ain't no such thing as cheap food. Members must pay in hassles, in work (four hours per month per adult), and in countless other ways.

A food co-op motto might be: "You take what you get"—you have to expect some rotten apples among the good. And you rarely get all the food you ordered. New members at their first produce distribution are confronted with a mob of people apparently milling about in no rhyme or reason; and order never fully emerges out of the initial confusion. Meetings are a big headache, but members do not have to stay for them so long as they do the work.

Aside from the vegetables purchased every Thursday at the Downtown Wholesale Produce Market, the Co-op gets staples (such as brown rice, raisins, whole wheat flour, brazil nuts, etc) on a once-a-month basis. The Co-op is also trying to build

co-operative beehives.

There is a five-dollar prepayment that serves to make up a pool of front money (the buying fund) which is used to purchase the produce. Each Thursday, members reimburse the buying fund for the cost of the food that was purchased for them that week. The prepayment is refundable upon request should a member leave the Co-op.

The Co-op has rented bigger quarters of its very own, so future expansion may come easier. It admits new members on the third Tuesday of the month only.

*Meets every Tues, 8 pm, the Venice Rec Center Card Room, on the beach between the weightlifting area and the children's playground.*

The Co-op believes in being involved in activities other than the buying of food. It sponsored two rummage sales, one raising \$468 for the Wounded Knee Defense/Offense Committee, and the other garnering \$509 for the United Farm Workers.

For further information call 821-1774.

## Local Bird Dies

The week following the canal festival I saw a kingfisher along Linnie Canal. These are large, vigorous birds, slate-blue like chunky jays, with a crest and a sharp, heavy beak. They sit above streams on branches and wires, and feed by plunging straight into the water after fish. In nine years this is the only kingfisher I have seen in Los Angeles (it's the only one I've seen in California, but

I never go into the woods). I stopped and watched him sitting on an aerial for a while, until with a burst of wings he flew off behind the trees. I saw him again before the end of the week in an empty lot along Grand Canal, lying in the dust with ants in his nostrils. There was no way to tell how he'd died.

... Bob Wells

(from the Ocean Beach People's Rag)

Raw Milk, a nutritious and safe source of food, may disappear from your local food store if a proposed Food and Drug Administration ordinance is adopted. According to information released by Certified Dairies sources, the FDA regulation would require that all milk be pasteurized and fortified with Vitamin D.

The new ordinance would deny the consumer the choice of buying either Raw Certified milk or pasteurized milk. Many health enthusiasts maintain that outlawing raw milk would be an archaic step in the struggle for good nutrition. And the ordinance has been described as "solely in the interests of big business concerns."

A relatively small number of Certified Dairies have had to fight for the right to produce and bottle Raw Certified Milk in California.

It was back in 1893 that doctors in the Medical Society of Essex County, N.J. first began production of Certified Milk as a dependable supply of a natural unadulterated food for babies. Many years later Pasteur's germ theory was accepted and pasteurization was used to kill bacteria-protein in milk by heat. However, in 1945 a ten year study showed that heat destroyed many of the nutritional values in milk.

Raw milk producers persisted in developing rigid standards and controls to

certify raw milk's superiority. A report in the National Health Federation Bulletin concluded that the herd tests, health exams, and cleanliness regulation used in the production of certified raw milk are more stringent and far superior to those involved in the production of pasteurized milk. The report also found that the nutritional values in enzymes, protein, fats, vitamins, carbohydrates, and minerals remained 100% available and that the keeping qualities were longer lasting in certified raw milk (—not so in pasteurized milk!!!)

So Why the new FDA ordinance? A national organization, Citizens for Truth in Nutrition, has recently challenged FDA regulations that CTN claims are instituted "to protect us from ourselves." Ms. Nona Neumont, a local spokeswoman for CTN, told the RAG that raw milk is only the latest FDA victim. "...the FDA insists on defending the food processing and chemical industries while lying to citizens about the the truth in nutrition," Ms Neumont explained.

The RAG contacted the FDA who refused to confirm or deny plans for new regulations governing raw milk. "We haven't heard anything about it," an FDA official told the RAG, "We don't know anything about it."

Meanwhile, the Certified Dairies are preparing to fight the FDA on a new battlefield in Washington, D.C. . .

WELL, FIRST LET ME EMPHASIZE MY COMPLETE FAITH IN JUDGE SIRICA (PAUSE) A GREAT JURIST (CLICK).... WHY, GOOD MORNING, BEBE (PAUSE) I WAS JUST SITTING HERE THINKING WHAT A (CLICK) GREAT GUY (CLICK) THAT OLD (CLICK) JUDGE SIRICA IS (CLICK) (PAUSE).... ER, WHY YES, RICHARD, A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING, I ALWAYS SAID (PAUSE)....



## WATERGATE

The following letter was found among papers left for recycling at the Westside Environmental Center.

Dear Conservative:

**I have not yet recieved your ballot in the National Watergate Poll.**

In just 12 days, on Monday, October 1, we plan to close the first phase of our balloting and count up all the votes.

I'm sure you want your opinion to be counted so I've enclosed another ballot for you. Please mark this new ballot and rush it back to me right away in the enclosed Air Mail envelope so I will get it before we start counting the votes on October 1.

Although I did not hear from you the last time I wrote to you just a few weeks ago, I'm sure you will want to give your opinion on the key questions such as:

1. Should President Nixon be impeached?
2. Do you think the newspapers and TV stations are trying to use Watergate to defeat conservative policies in government?
3. Should President Nixon resign?

As I mentioned to you in my last letter we will send the results of this poll to the key news media and all the college newspapers and radio stations.

We hope that the results of this poll and the publicity this poll will recieve, will help combat the effects of the Watergate affair—especially its effect on young

people and college students.

As you know, the whole Watergate affair—including the trials, the Senate hearings, and the whole mess—has had a disastrous effect on the morale of students.

Many students are disillusioned with our American government. And the liberals on campus have already started to use Watergate as a recruiting device for liberalism.

The liberals and leftists say that Watergate represents America, and we should forget our patriotism, forget free enterprise, forget our Americanism, and forget conservatism.

I say never!

You and I know that Watergate is just the unfortunate result of some misguided individuals. Just because they were wrong is no reason to condemn all of America.

In fact, many people—including myself—believe that the liberals and leftists are actually happy that Watergate occurred because now they can use it to defeat the conservative ideas and programs we believe in.

Well, I don't want this to happen, and I hope you can help me stop it—especially among young people . . .

Thomas Phillips,  
National Watergate Poll  
c/o Prospect House, Inc.  
7777 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Chrch, Virginia 22043

# CARPENTER'S COLLECTIVE

Interested strangers, lots of folks in the Venice community, and special friends of the Venice Building and Carpentry Collective are all invited to come together Saturday evening, November 3, from 8:00pm on, at the Women's Center (218 S. Venice Blvd.) for the "First Great Songfest and Wine Benefit Party" to raise money for a community accessible loft/meeting area to be constructed at the Collective's Workshop on W. Washington Blvd. Ruthie Gorton, folksinger, and John Heller, classical guitarist, will be among the good people playing and singing for this mellow evening of music and sharing. Donations of \$1.00 per person are requested.

The Venice Building and Carpentry Collective is a group of community women and men who have been together for almost two years. Our collective operates out of a workshop at 1102-1104 W. Washington Blvd. in Venice and is a potential community resource for individuals and groups who would like to share our building skills, need our services as carpenters, or would like to explore alternatives with us, whether in the building trades or in other areas of community involvement.

At this time in our collective development, we have the assets of availability to the community, political interests, focus and conscience, and some skills to share, and The group is available for hire, trade, barter or whatever for all kinds of building projects-houses, fences, cabinets, shelves, furniture, patios, playgrounds, etc. We are, and will only work with, friendly people, and will only take on jobs we can do well. We are scrupulously honest, innovative, resourceful and sharing. We are also, to be very up front, still over extended, impatient, somewhat disorganized and may forever have to be putting energy into work ing on basic problems of skill disparity, communicating, trying to extinguish sexism on both sides, and solidifying our collective consciousness and responsibility. We've come a long way, but we've a long way to go.

We are trying to gradually create not only a useful building space and community center, carpentry workshop, but also an area which other community groups can use for meetings, design and drafting space, and maybe some desks and telephones. Please help us. Contact Karen (397-7142), Steve (821-0216), or Eleanor and Bob (392-8136) and come November 3.

## MARINA BYPASS

(continued from front page)

neighborhoods of Oakwood, blocking them from the oceanfront (presumably making Miami Beach type development more attractive there); it would cut Ocean Park in half. And it isn't necessary.

On October 18 the Free Venice group arranged a meeting between some members of our Town Council Traffic Task Force and the City Attorney of Hawthorne, Mr. Ken Nelson. Two years ago the City of Hawthorne successfully killed the 17-mile-long 500 million dollar Century Freeway. Mr. Nelson spent more than an hour with us, and gave us a lot of good advice on the legal and political weapons we have in fighting the bypass. He told us how to get it touch with legal resource groups and with other citizen's groups with experience fighting freeways.

We have caught them early, and I think we can stop this bypass. But this is a battle for all of Venice. And we need your help. Interested persons should call the Town Council Traffic Task Force (821-5645) or Free Venice (396-6876, or VC 1-9596).

"Venice Si, Freeway No" bumperstickers can be obtained at the Venice Bookstore and Cultural Palace, 1510 Pacific Ave, 399-9910.

## BEACHHEAD STAFF

Milton Takei  
Gail Williamson  
Jim Zane  
Carol Fondiller  
Joanne Curtis



The following are remarks of Morrie Rosen, supervisor of Isreal Levin Senior Adult Center, presented at a meeting of the Venice Town Council on September 5, 1973.

A lot of water has passed through the gate since the late F.D.R.'s reference to one third of our nation in dire poverty resulted in the creation of our social security program.

Today, for the elderly poor in Venice as in other parts of our nation, social security is no longer social, and even less secure. Today, social security is a myth overdue for exposure and revelation.

Millions of elderly in America, tens or thousands in California and thousands of senior citizens in Los Angeles and in Venice, no longer are able to cope with the stark realities of existence. Food, clothing, medical care and other basic necessities of human survival have climbed beyond the financial capability of the elderly poor. Their plight is now exacerbated with current outrageous rent raises, from \$75 and \$85 and \$90 per month to \$175, \$200 and \$215.

How high is up? And how cheap is the life of a senior citizen? Have we extended the ills of our society from sexism and racism to what can be termed 'ageism'? Are we making, indeed, have we already made our elderly poor invisible?

They really don't exist. Therefore, let us ignore the anguish of their cries. They really are senile, frail, toothless, bent...

so why do they need anything? Why can't they just disappear, quietly, silently.

But the voices of the American elderly—white, brown, black and other colors of the human spectrum, of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, will not, and surely not in Venice, be led like the Eskimo elderly to their death-freeze.

They will not permit themselves to be bombed economically from their homes, and refuse to be uprooted from their Venice.

If indifferent and callous political representatives show no inclination to alleviate their plight, their attempted displacement will lead to the replacement of their obtuse legislators.

The elderly poor may not have their teeth, but they still have their marbles. They can think and plan and organize and utilize the ballot box. Their message is loud and clear.

To the Federal legislators in the House of Representatives and Senate and the Executive Branch... one fourth of our nation's elderly, the poor elderly, say to you: We demand housing care, through the same method that you, despite its shortcomings, created medicare. We demand non-profit housing NOW for senior citizens. Release the impounded funds for low cost housing and leased housing rental programs. We demand, for the elderly poor, the doubling of social security payment.

To our State Legislators, our Assembly and Senate and executive branch: Pass

## Letter

### AN ENIGMATIC VIEWPOINT

A friend and I have been tenants on the Venice Canals for three and one-half years in a one bedroom cottage. I have no desire to move although the building may someday disintegrate due to old age. The rent is reasonable (ten per cent increase during my tenancy) and the landlord is considerate, visits to collect the rent, allows no children or pets but permits a vegetable garden and barbeque. I don't agree with his personal restrictions on "type" of acceptable tenant (he has three other rentals) but after all it's his choice. I sympathize with his tax problems since I have been a landlord three times and taxes were only one of several problems. Under present conditions he really does not have a negotiable product relative to selling his property. I think he would sell if only to get out of the current dilemma without losing on his investment.

The ecological conditions are certainly subject to personal opinion. The canals are pretty, peaceful, quaint, etc. which I selfishly enjoy and I would be distressed if they were covered over or made into a miniscule extension of the Marina. (The latter idea is inherently silly.) Conversely, the canal water is polluted beyond safe health standards and traversing the sidewalks does present a challenge. These two conditions should be improved upon and could be without multi-million dollar costs.

I again selfishly, see no need for increased resident density. Once this is established the problems of access and parking demand major changes in the community. This will no doubt eventually occur throughout

Venice but I shall certainly not welcome nor support it. Some people consider the area to be a "slum". This is relative; I don't feel I live in a slum but perhaps I am insensitive. Admittedly many buildings are run down but so are farms and many new developments are equally ugly and have built-in uniformity and planned obsolescence.

Some things do dismay me. The existing laws on alley parking and loose animals should be enforced. Some residents are not considerate of others although this condition exists anywhere. I personally have had zero neighbor problems. I let them alone and in turn am not bothered. They think I'm funny since I work and have short hair. Theft and vandalism are said to be rampant but I have experienced very little of either (less, in fact, than when living in "nicer" areas).

People are people, hair is hair, racial and moral issues are inane, and so on. I drink but don't use drugs—they scare me—but not as much as cars do. What other people do to bugger their minds is simply none of my business although I won't stand still for anyone deliberately hurting someone else or property of others. The canal area may be heavy in drug abuse but I just don't care. I hire local people for part-time work occasionally and have few complaints. Welfare abuse exists but to say that this is the fault of low-rent districts is patently dumb.

I feel there are certain realities which should be acknowledged by all factions involved; tenants, developers, law-makers, etc.:

—Changes, improvements, whatever, are necessary if only for health reasons let

# "senior citizens ARE ALL OUR PARENTS"

an emergency moratorium bill now to stop any rent raises in Venice. A feasibility study of Venice tax assessments is a mandatory prelude to curtail the impact of the chaotic tax assessments on the property-owner and the tenant. Further, enact rent control legislation. It is the sole manner to control rabid landlords, who in their own blissful way, are aiding the destruction of our economy.

To our County Supervisors: we demand upgrading of old age assistance to the elderly poor... and continued upgrading to reflect the spiralling inflation, cost of living and current rent raises.

To our City Councilwoman and men and Mayor: Leadership, sensitivity and courage to transform the growing nightmare of the elderly poor with the immediate implementation of a housing program that secures and dignifies the remaining years of the City's senior citizens. Subjected to strong counter-presures, we must help our esteemed Councilwoman Pat Russell to help us achieve our goals.

In a letter to a State Legislator, one of our Venice elderly recently stated, "... you get out of your mind, our people are half hungry, medication takes the bread out of your mouth, where could poor people go for a place to live... unless pills to sleep forever."

A thought occurs to me, perhaps to some of you, it is this, simply stated... Senior citizens are all our parents.

alone esthetics. This sometimes is called maintenance and is required to curtail deterioration in any community.

—Radical changes such as multi-story apartments and expensive homes are not necessary. The canal area is historic pleasant, unique and with cooperation need not be an eyesore (if it really is).

—People having a fixed income have a problem which is not new or isolated in Venice. Rent is an element of living cost which continues to increase.

—Property ownership is not guaranteed to be a no-loss deal.

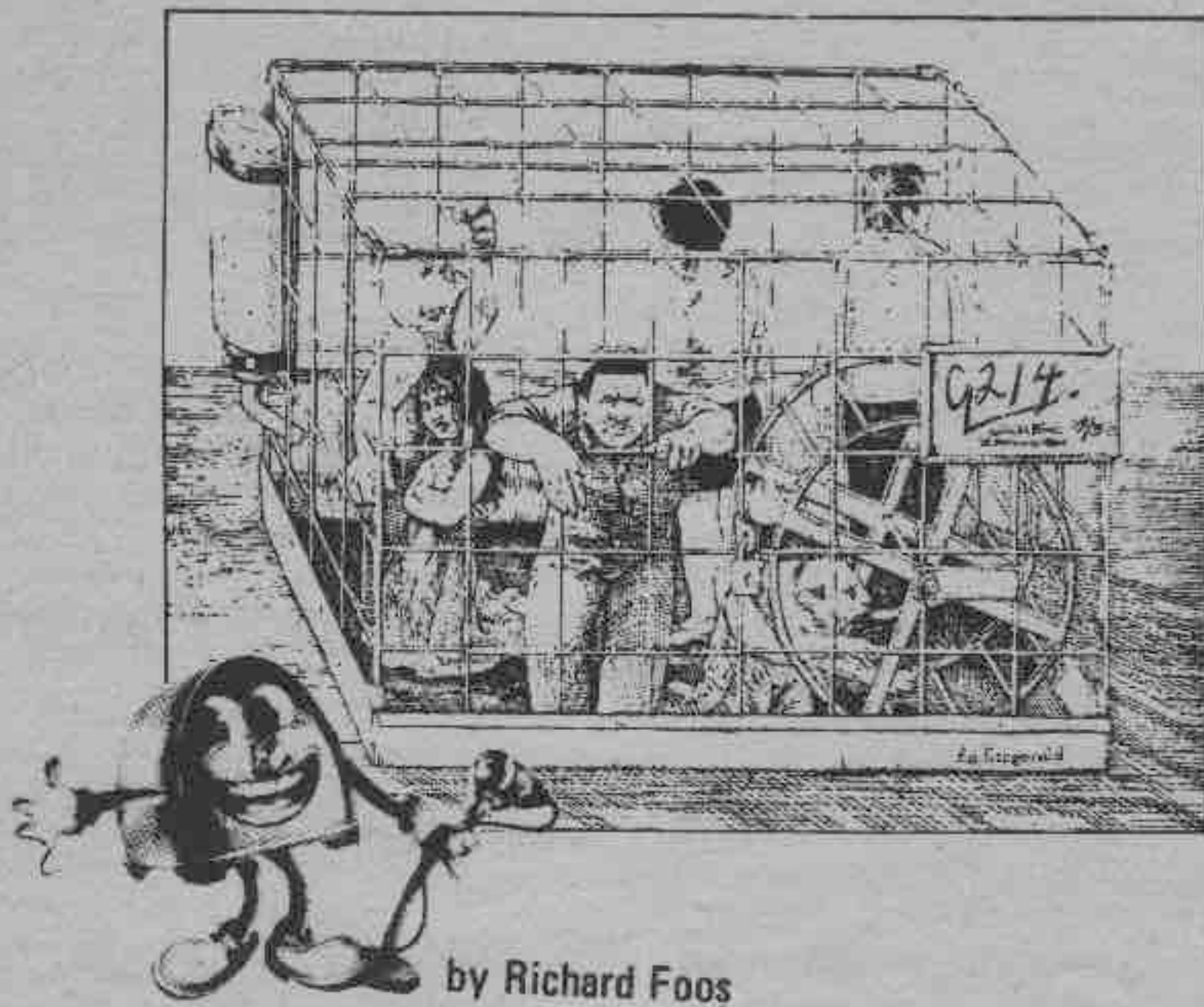
—Laws should reflect the interests of the of the most people affected by them.

I am satisfied where I live as is but I don't consider it (or anything else) permanent. "Keep Venice Funky" is fine but reactionary thinking and actions are pointless, unreal and unhealthy. Perhaps communes are the answer for those so inclined. I feel property owners should be free to charge whatever rent the market will bear and to realize a profit from sale of property if the opportunity arises. I personally don't feel developers are a boon to any community but it is voting people who support them so there it is. Since much of the property involved is government controlled, improvements can only be supported by some form of taxation. (Put a toll on the bridges?)

Do your damndest, those who feel involved I'll support by petition and/or ballot any proposition which I feel reflects reason and my point of view.

Sincerely,  
Don Pettit

## POLITIDISCS



by Richard Foos

A RECORD REVIEW COLUMN WITH AN EMPHASIS ON RECORDS THAT HAVE AN ENLIGHTENING SOCIAL OR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

### Original Motion Picture Soundtrack to "Billy Jack"

Although corporate America has been extremely effective and successful in exploiting the youth culture of America, I believe that they recently have been outdone by a previously small-time independent company that goes by the name of Student Independent Film Corp, or something close to that name. It is headed by Tom Laughlin, who also starred in its first venture, the movie "Billy Jack." Somehow, as if he had used an IBM computer to figure out the elements needed to make the most commercially successful movie possible, Laughlin was able to take all of the superficial ideals of the hip culture (i.e. peace, love) and combine them with all of the fantasies of the middle America youth (i.e. rape, karate expertise, super-hero image, etc). Together with a multi-million dollar advertising campaign that made one think he was squarer than a Nixon aide if he didn't see the flick, it was no wonder that the movie was one of the neatest financial successes of all time.

Anyway, it seems to me that the financial success of the movie is directly contrary to the theme of the movie itself and even more contrary to the simple, idealistic theme song "One Tin Soldier" that was played approximately 18 times during the picture. Therefore, I have taken the liberty to rewrite the theme song more accurately, according to what I believe Tom Laughlin

actually did in producing this movie:

Listen children to a story that  
Was written long ago  
'Bout a huge corporate pig pen  
And an actor very broke.  
In this pig pen was a treasure  
Buried deep beneath the stone.  
So this actor swore he'd have it  
For his very, very own.

(CHORUS)  
Go ahead hate your neighbor  
Go ahead cheat a friend  
Do it in the name of justice  
Cuz the means justifies the end  
No there won't be any trumpets blowing  
On the Judgement Day  
Cuz on that wealthy morning after  
Billy Jack will get his pay.  
(Flute plays while cash register rings in the background.)

So the actor sent a message to the  
Pig pen on the hill  
Asking for their buried treasure  
Or he'd surely have to kill  
Came an answer from this pig pen  
With our brother we won't fuss  
Join our pen and within a decade  
You will be a pig like us.

Now this actor cried with anger  
"Fuck off, I'll make it on my own."  
"Alright," said the corporate pig pen,  
"For 20% we'll tell you the secret of our stone."  
Accepting he stood beside the treasure  
On the mountain dark and red  
Turned the stone and looked beneath it  
"Exploit the youth," was all it said.

## coping with cops

Some policeman, for reasons which are incomprehensible to normal people, indulge in indiscriminate, unwarranted, meddling searches. Later when the whole act has been played out, the victims will go to a lawyer for help, but by that time, it is often too late. Some busts can be avoided if you know a little bit about what the law allows cops to do.

According to the law, you cannot be stopped by a cop unless he has a "rational suspicion" that you're involved in criminal activity. That means that the cop must give the judge some facts upon which to base a suspicion. If you're stopped by a cop for no other reason than being black or having long hair or for political reasons, then anything found or planted on you during a search cannot be used to convict you. That sounds wonderful, but in practice the police rarely get caught in that trap. By the time a case gets to court, the officers have concocted a story for the judge which persuades him that they had a "rational suspicion."

The chances of police perjury can be reduced by pinning the officer down as to why you were stopped before he has a chance to make up a story. Ask him why he stopped you. And do your best to have a witness to his answer because when it's your word against his, you can guess whose version will be believed in court. If you're stopped by the cops and there are other people nearby, ask them to stop and witness what goes on.

What is an officer allowed to do once he has stopped you? He is allowed to ask you some questions. It's a good practice to never answer any police questions without a lawyer being present, but you shouldn't be belligerent about it. Above all, avoid giving any answers which might arouse suspicions in the officer's mind. You might be providing him with a legal justification to further harass you. An officer who detains you on the street also is allowed to pat down your clothing in a cursory search for weapons if he has a "reasonable belief" that you are armed and dangerous. Of course, his "reasonable belief" that you are armed and dangerous is almost always sustained by judges, but it still might be a good idea to ask the cop if he thinks you are armed and dangerous. You might get lucky and get him to admit that he didn't fear for his safety. Again, try to have witnesses to the cop's statements.

If during the pat down search the officer feels something that might be a weapon, he is entitled by law to pull

the suspicious object from your pocket. This is extremely important, for countless busts have resulted from police abuse of this rule. One person was successfully busted when the cops felt a hard object in his pocket, removed a Zippo lighter case and opened it on the theory that it could contain razor blades. Instead, it contained marijuana. The lesson should be clear: if you don't want the cops in your pocket, don't carry hard objects. It would be especially foolish to carry a joint in the same pocket as something hard like a comb or a harmonica or a pocketknife. The cops are not allowed to search your pockets if they feel something soft (like a cellophane wrapped lid). Keep your dope in a separate pocket from any hard objects, if you have to carry hard objects at all.

The law does not allow the cops to detain suspects for inordinant amounts of time. When you're stopped, keep asking the cop "Am I free to go now?" And if he answers no, ask him why not. Once again, do your best to have witnesses to the whole incident.

Finally, if you are arrested as a result of a temporary stop on the street, ask the cops why at that stage too.

If ever you are charged with a crime as a result of a temporary detention, your lawyer will want to know among other things: where and when you were stopped; what you said to the cops; what, if anything, was taken from you as contraband or evidence; where it was taken from; what the cops said in response to your questions; the names and addresses of any witnesses; and how long you were detained before arrest or release.

Good general rules to follow if you are carrying anything illegal or expect something to be planted upon you: avoid carrying hard objects which may be confused with weapons on a pat down search; when you must carry hard objects, don't carry anything illegal in the same pocket; ask at every escalation of the intrusion why the cop is doing what he is doing; somehow or other, get some witnesses to the incident and get their names if possible or arrange to contact them later.

If after reading this you realize the importance of witnessing police action, make yourself available as a witness for a brother or sister who is being busted. When the masses of people don't want to get "involved," the men with guns and uniforms can go wild. Without witnesses to restrain police perjury, the dubious protection of the law is worthless.

unnecessary ads in their mail.

Another woman, who represented the Westside Women's Center and Sister newspaper, protested the charge of 15 cents a month for an unlisted phone number. "We are being penalized for protecting ourselves from obscene phone calls." She had the look of a woman who was used to being attacked for being "A Woman Libber." She drew herself up sharply and no one could have been more surprised than she when the audience broke into wild applause. Other people spoke of the hardship on the elderly and disable who, because of their infirmities, look upon the phone as their lifeline to the Outside world, and because of their so-called fixed incomes, having a phone would be prohibitively expensive. The phone company, by the way, said they have economized by laying off 1000 people-how wonderful!

A small Businessman's association advocate blasted the phone company for overselling small businesses on too much equipment. Women complained of obscene phone calls that they reported to the Phone company and about which the Phone

company did nothing. One woman complained of getting a political pamphlet in her mail that supported the Vietnam War, which she stated that she was against. They were all there-from a little old man in a coat covered with buttons who said that he thought the phone company was bugging him to a Malibu Matron complaining of a loss of \$1000 per year because she was not told of the extended service dialing (a savings if you have to dial outside your area.)

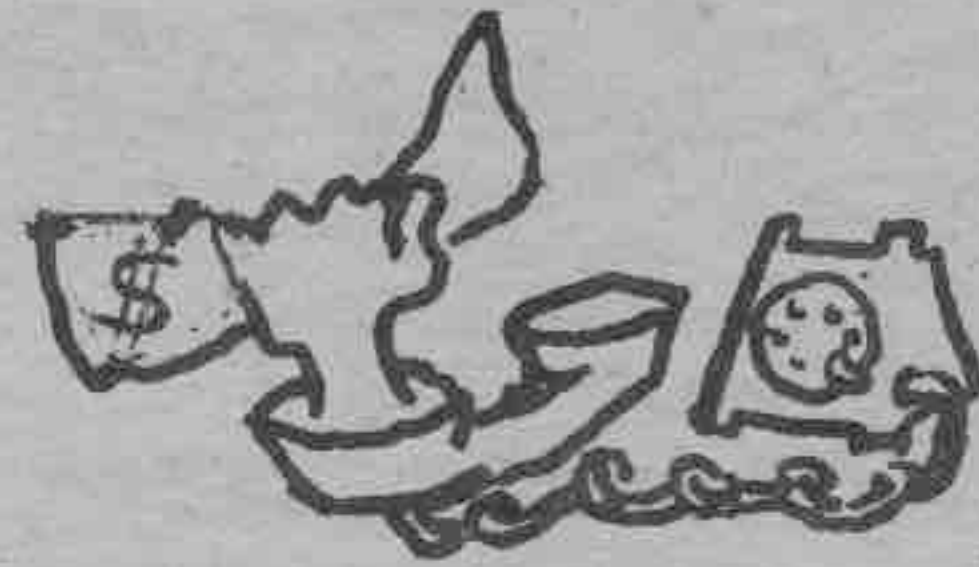
In all, it was kind of wonderful to see all kinds and sorts of people cheering whenever anyone made a point against the company. Of course, no one brought up the fact that perhaps the service would be better and less costly if General Telephone's parent company of IT&T kept their noses out of other country's governments (case in point: Chile). Well since General Telephone seems to think of itself as a para-government, answerable only to its own foreign policy (what's good for IT&T is good for the whole world), maybe we should oblige them and nationalize the phone company.

## Phoney Business

by Carol Fondiller

If there's one thing that all the groups, cliques, and strata of the American people have, it's, to put it mildly, an intense dissatisfaction with General Telephone Company.

Like every other telephone subscriber, I received along with my bill, and a beautiful color phot of the new phones, a notice of a public hearing to contest the upcoming rise in the phone rates. It was October 15, 10:00 am. About 100 indignant subscribers gathered in Santa Monica City Hall. (I just love Santa Monica Hall. It's Art Deco which is rather IN now darlings.)



The building resembles a gigantic 1930's refrigerator electric model. In front of this rather frivolous building sits gorgeous, flamboyant roses flaunting their fleshy whorish petals, but primly rooted in neat little plots like retired Cockettes.

The Telephone Company, represented by public relations people and lawyers, came on first-and then the People. Interestingly enough there were more women than men who complained.

One woman, who looked like everyone's favorite grade school teacher, professed a fondness for trees and wondered if they would please stop enclosing little



# new canal project

## HERE WE GO AGAIN

By Rick Davidson for Free Venice

Due to the defeat of the City's overblown Venice Canal Project, the City Council, on June 25 of this year, instructed the Board of Public Works to restudy the area. Their study, titled **Alternative Projects in the Venice Canals Area**, offers seven concepts.

Sunday, October 1, at the Venice High School, City Hall staged their Canal Special starring Pat Russell and her seven alternatives for the Venice Canals. Absentee landlords and canal residents yelled at each other across the auditorium. City engineer Lloyd Paulsen stood sheepishly behind Pat Russell while she displayed her pretty plans for the Canals.

Ms. DuFay expressed the dreams of the large and small speculators when she said that they favoured Concept III and that, "The most important part of Concept III is the opening to the channel. Why shouldn't the City of L.A. have a waterfront community that would be in competition with the Marina?"

Pat Russell had only a few copies of the 146 page report to hand out. Fortunately, **Free Venice** passed out its Canal Festival folder which included a short review of the seven plans. **Free Venice** also noted that the concept of a Renewal Area Agency which it had presented to City Hall in 1970 was not one of the alternatives.

Numerous people pointed out that without first consulting the community (not just the speculators) that a few millions dollars of taxpayer's monies would be spent on plans that would end up sitting in some judge's court room. (\$1.5 million went into the first project).

The following is **Free Venice's** summary of Pat Russell's alternatives:

Concept I. This proposal consists of rehabilitating the existing canals north of Hurricane St. and maintaining existing conditions south to the Marina del Rey channel: sidewalks would be reconstructed (no handrails); canals would be cleaned and sides regraded with natural material; alleys would be resur-

faced; Washington Street would remain as it is (no bridge). All work would be within the existing dedication, requiring no relocation due to construction (tax and rent raises are another matter). Construction estimate is \$456,000.

Concept II. This concept consists of filling in all the water areas of the existing canal system, including Ballona Lagoon. No need to go into any more details on this one, right? Construction estimate is \$5,042,000.

Concept III. This concept is a cut-down version of the original Canal Project. The canals are dredged for deep-draft boats, but reduced in width so as to eliminate the right-of-way problem; sidewalks would be within the 70-foot dedication, with a chain-link fence replacing the aluminum handrails in the plan; overhead utility lines would remain; a high bridge at Washington Street would still be required to allow deep-draft boats to pass; Dell Street would be eliminated, with access at the east end of each island instead. Construction estimate is \$20,830,000.

Concept IV. This is a variation of Concept III. A beach is added on the easterly side of Ballona Lagoon, and parking on the west side. Construction estimate is \$21,965,000.

Concept V. This proposal is for the entire project to be done under the control and design of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). It requires the acquisition of all property by CRA, who would construct the necessary improvements and sell the property for development of buildings and other improvements. All residents would face relocation. Construction estimate for shallow draft is \$32,575,000. Construction estimate for deep draft is \$42,775,000. (Note: In 1970 we informed the L.A. officials of a new California law known as the Renewal Area Agency program, which would allow the tenants and resident property owners of a neighborhood to design and rebuild their own area, and retain control—a much better way to go than via CRA. Guess they didn't hear us.)

Concept VI. This project provides for the restoration of the canals north of Washington Street (shallow draft); no bridge at Washington St.; sidewalks within the right-of-way—no relocation; overhead utilities; traffic as-is. The primary improvement would be south of Washington with a deep-draft canal open-

ing into the Marina del Rey channel. Construction estimate is \$13,559,000.

Concept VII. This approach is again but a variation of the theme in Concept III—a boat harbor is conceived for the area south of Washington Street, with a bridge, and deep-draft canals throughout. Construction estimate is \$29,959,000.

**Conclusions and recommendations of Free Venice:** The City appears to be favoring Concepts III and V (actually, out of seven proposals, Concept III is in there three times—III, IV, and VII—with only a few variations). In light of the community's negative reactions to CRA-type operations (both liberal and conservative elements of the community), it is obvious that the City is pushing two alternatives with the expectation that their favorite—a watered-down version of the original Venice Canal Project—will have the greatest chance at City Hall.

After studying the City's alternative proposals, **Free Venice** finds that its conclusions are little different that the criticisms and suggestions sent to the City Council in 1968. There is no thought given in the present proposals to what the community wants, needs, or feels. There is no analysis of the canals' relationship to the whole of Venice; not a word about unemployment or underemployment. We point this out because unless these very real problems are part of the Design Solutions we must ask, Who are we designing for: today's residents, or tomorrow's sailing set? At the very minimum, three steps should be taken:

- 1) Establish a democratic design process within the community. Making use of the newly-elected Venice Town Council would be a natural;
- 2) Include as Design Criteria the above mentioned human problems;
- 3) Seek a Total Community Design

## Solution.

Given that America's urban areas are in unresolved crisis, and given the size and human makeup of Venice, the conditions of time, place, and people here are ideal for a pilot program to deal with Urban Problems USA. The best place to look for solutions is within the community itself. Starting with the Venice Town Council, we should create an educational-training program from which all Venice projects would flow, including design and construction. "You can't do it. You don't have the know-how—you don't have the credentials." We maintain that the learning process is life itself, and that is the process we want to be about.

## LIBRARY NOTES

The Venice Library offers many programs, ideas and useful information to everyone in our community. Thinking about changing jobs? You can get job descriptions and requirements from the **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OCCUPATIONS, OCCUPATION OUTLOOK, WORK FORCE**, and the Help Wanted ads in the local newspapers.

Some of the usual (and unusual) subscriptions you can find at the library include *The Santa Monica Evening Outlook*, *The Los Angeles Sentinel*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *La Opinion*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vertex (Science Fiction)*, *Big Bike*, *Model Airplane News*, *Consumer Reports*, *Sesame Street Magazine*, *Westways*, and *U.S. State Department Background Notes on foreign countries*.

If you want to borrow a jigsaw puzzle or recycle a game no longer in use, the library can help you. You can check in on the Modern Dance and Citizenship classes or check out some records; see children and parents enjoying free films every Saturday morning or request the clubroom for a community meeting. The Venice Library has these and other goodies to share with the people of Venice—that means you!



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## BEACHHEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

GAIL WILLIAMSON (PHONE: TANK-YUK)

# Chile: U.S. involved in coup

by Joanne Curtis

The aftermath of the coup in Chile is a very cold reminder of the depressing and brutal horror of any right wing military takeover. The people of Chile who supported President Allende, the Marxist elected leader, are being massacred at 200 per day in Santiago as reported in Newsweek and those who have not been rounded up live in fear of the terrorism that exists.

What part did the U.S. play? The U.S. economic aid to Chile in the four years before Allende:

Development Assistance  
\$25 million a year to more than \$82 million

Military Aid  
only \$800,000 a year

Credit available  
over \$220 million a year

The U.S. economic aid to Chile in the first year after Allende took office:

Development Assistance  
\$8.6 million which dropped to \$7.4 million the following year

Military Aid  
\$5.7 million in 1971 which zoomed to \$12.3 million in 1972

Credit available  
only \$35 million

The facts show that U.S. military and economic policies were instrumental in strangling Allende and most of the military equipment that bombed the Presidential palace and killed Allende bore the label: "Made in the USA."

Why was it so important for the U.S. to remove Allende. (The reports that Allende committed suicide by

putting a machine gun given to him by Fidel Castro in his mouth added to the U.S. newspapers evaluation of the coup - that socialism devours itself. A west German reporter saw Allende's body which had numerous bullet holes in the head, back and shoulders indicating that Allende had been shot in the back). What personal interest did the U.S. have in Chile. The results of the right-wing military takeover are self-evident. The military junta has now declared that the copper mines owned by the Chilean people are once again up for bid to foreign investors. President Allende had nationalized the copper mines to the complete indignation of big U.S. business. The U.S. big money namely ITT (they have their slimy fingers into everything even those Twinkies full of synthetic nutrition), Kennecott Copper Company, and the Ford Motor Company, is now able to come back into Chile to turn a large profit from the cheap labor of Chile's workers and Chile's valuable resources.

The overthrow of the American government by "communists" is the predominant bugaboo of every loyal American patriot. What a contradiction to find that the U.S. people did not bat a tiny eyelash with the U.S.'s direct involvement of the overthrow of a democratically elected government.

The sound of fascism marching is just around the corner and the tempo increases with the apathy of the American people. We all hear the sound particularly in Venice where the land is valuable and the power structure is moving in-with freeways, bulldozers and master plans. Only a unified resistance will effectively bring the power back to the people.

IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST POLIO, DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, WHOOPING COUGH, RUBELLA AND MEASLES are available without an appointment at:  
—West District Health Center  
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Fri. 1:30-3:00 pm.

—Venice Health Center  
905 Venice Bl., Venice, 821-3484.  
Mon, Wed, & Fri 8:00-10:00am

—Mar Vista, 4901 Marionwood Dr., Culver City, 837-1251 on Thursdays  
8:15-9:15am.

OCEAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER  
245 Hill St. SM. 399-1248. Bob Medeiros, director. It has counseling, referral services, food/clothes close, pre-school and after school programs for kids.

## Work for the POLITICAL REFORM INITIATIVE

Volunteers are needed RIGHT NOW to gather signatures and do office work. If you are interested, please contact People's Lobby

3456 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 731-8321.

Fill out at least one petition—IT CAN ONLY HELP YOU!



## •WOUNDED KNEE

—LEGAL DEFENSE OFFENSE COMMITTEE  
P. O. BOX 147 RAPID CITY, SD 57701

The smallest committee ever in the history of the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee is moving simultaneously on the defensive and the offensive, standing up to an increasingly obvious conspiracy to sabotage the Committee and undermine the strength of the Indian movement.

Legal defense actions in Custer, South Dakota were a numerical nightmare, involving at one point a seemingly unending list of indictments and indictments handed down by a grand jury called twice over, astronomical bails reduced over a series of hearings; a month-long jail term for six defendants, four of whom were finally released after their bonds were whittled down from as much as \$11,000 to \$100. Of the two still held in Custer County jail, one awaits sentencing on a separate state charge. The other is John Carlson, who faces seven life sentences upon conviction. Carlson's bail was reduced from \$85,000 to \$50,000 to \$13,000, and money is now being gathered to free the last of the "Dirty Half-Dozen"—Carlson's name for them during their grueling month of waiting. Three indictments, picked from a film taken during the February 6 demonstration, are yet to be named.

Judge Bottum's courtroom has been a battleground from the start. At the first scheduled arraignment, September 28, we arrived to find sheriffs armed with electronic devices to search everyone entering the courtroom; William Janklow, the special prosecutor, "packing" a pistol; and the most unexpected: fourteen local attorneys from numerous counties across the state appointed by the court for the defendants—without the defendants' or the Committee's prior knowledge and all in the name of "protecting" against an alleged conflict of interest that could arise with our continuing re-

presentation. In the words of Russell Means, also a Custer defendant, at a subsequent press conference: "We've had 40 years of this kind of protection, or genocide."

Forty-eight hours before the arraignment in Custer, some of the defendants and other residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation arranged a religious ceremony to support the defendants' demand that Mark Lane be permitted to serve as counsel in the cases. At the close of the ceremony it was said that the matter had been resolved; Mark Lane would be "appointed" counsel when the decision next came up in court. At the arraignment, on October 5, Mark Lane, whom Judge Bottum had refused to recognize as "authorized" to practice in his courtroom (though Mark had been the attorney in every previous proceeding for these cases) was finally appointed with the approval of the defendants; the bails were reduced; and trial was tentatively set for November 26. The deadline for pretrial motions is the end of October.

To help us thwart the government strategy against the Indian movement and against the Committee's mass defense efforts, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers has developed a list of 30-40 lawyers who have volunteered to collaborate in the actual trials. Robery Heeney, chairman of the Wounded Knee Committee of NACDL recently spent four days in Rapid City coordinating how the volunteer attorneys can work with the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee to assure continuity of representation and the best possible defense for each case and for each individual. Through a specific game plan is yet to be devised, it is expected that the trial attorneys will work as a team with a Committee member, combining political perspective and trial expertise. Mr. Heeney's visit admittedly proved to be a radicalizing experience. He not only witnessed the travesty at Custer on September 28 and interviewed terrorized residents on the reservation, but was himself a victim of harassment. His hotel room was searched one evening, and his luggage was lost for days, only to be returned with obvious signs of having been rifled through. This is not the first time people leaving the Committee have been followed and had their belongings searched en route.

## HELP!

The Women's Center of Los Angeles, no longer the Westside Women's Center, desperately needs staffers. Staffing times are 10-2 pm, 2 pm-6, and 6-9 pm every day of the week. A staffing collective has been formed to facilitate this very crucial function of the center, and we need your energy, sisters! If you can spare three or four hours a week to staff or want to become involved in the staffing collective, please call Karen at 397-7142 or Elizabeth at 821-0216, or come by the center at 218 S. Venice Blvd. (in the evening preferably.)

## IMPEACH NIXON



### AREA TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Peninsula—4th Monday of the month  
Anchorage St. School, 7:30 pm (not Oct)  
North Beach—1st Monday of the month  
Israel Levin Center, 7:30 pm  
Canals—3rd Tuesday of the month, Anchorage St. School, 7:30 pm  
Oakwood—2nd Wednesday of the month, Broadway Elementary School, 7:30 pm  
East Venice—4th Wednesday of the month, Coeur D'Alene School, 8 pm.  
Central Venice—3rd Thursday of the month, Westminster School Library, 7:30 pm.  
For more information, call Sharon Kaplan at 485-3357.  
The Venice-wide Council meets the first Wednesday of the month at Broadway School, 7:30 pm.

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# Nov 6: VOTE *no on* PROPOSITION ONE

Lin Hartwell

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I have an hypothesis for you to consider: the election laws of California have been changed; the governor's term of office is for life, and Ronald Reagan is running again. He has the support of the oil, real estate and banking interests, and he's winning. His ideas, his values, his particular—and peculiar—form of democracy are frighteningly close to being with us for the rest of our lives.

How would you feel? What would you do? Would you be concerned enough about your future and your children's future to get out and vote against such a possibility?

Well, the situation is not all hypothetical. If Proposition One on the November ballot passes, Ronald Reagan will be with us long after he is dead and buried, because through Proposition One, he is attempting to write himself into our State Constitution. And he will win if we don't get off our asses on November 6th and vote *No* on Proposition One.

This is not simply partisan politics rhetoric. Republican and Democratic governors of other states have publicly stated that Reagan's proposal is grossly unsound, and it has been condemned by the nation's best known economists. It is extraordinarily important, as it involves short-run and long range policies, state and local governments, and it will affect every citizen of California.

## AKA RIPOFF

Proposition One proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the State of California, by adding Article XXIX (29) "Revenue Controls and Tax Reduction," to the existing Constitution. It has many aliases. It is interchangeably called "Reagan's Tax Initiative," "The Governor's State Expenditure Limitation Program," "The State Expenditure Limitation Initiative," "Article 29." By whatever name, (forgive me Gertrude Stein), a ripoff is a ripoff is a ripoff. What Proposition One *really* is, is a plan to reduce the services provided by the state to its citizens, by writing into the state Constitution a ceiling on the amount of money the state can spend on such services for the years to come. And as with the pit and the pendulum, the plan is that the ceiling will get progressively lower each year, and the services will get fewer, until...

If Proposition One passes, next year's (1974) state budget will be 620 million dollars less than this year's. In three years the budget will be 1.37 billion dollars less. And when there is less money to spend, guess what services get cut? The services to the poor, the old, and the children—the citizens who control the least money, make the least noise, and are the least threat—the citizens who lack the power, or perhaps the will to fight back.

The oil, real estate, banking and big business boys are most necessary to Reagan's life-style, and they will be served. We are traditionally the least threat. There are more of us, but we don't vote, and let's face it friends, that's why we get ripped off.

## WHO AND HOW

If we are to understand this proposed amendment to our Constitution, let's first consider who is behind it, and how it got on the ballot of a special election. In the first place, Reagan has totally ignored the legislature and the legislative process in getting his initiative on the ballot. An initiative is in-

tended as a means by which citizens can initiate legislation by circulating petitions. It is a way the voters can say "We the people want thus and so considered for a vote." It is generally agreed that a governor does not initiate a petition. Instead, he submits his proposals to the legislature where our elected representatives vote on them for us. Reagan knew he would get a negative response from our duly elected representatives, so in order to bypass them, he initiated a petition to place his proposal out for a vote.

Next, consider these two items. In an attempt to get more signatures on the petitions, telegrams were sent to the presidents of companies that do business with the state, asking them to help in gathering signatures from their employees. If not plain blackmail, that is at best unethical.

But most damning, about \$161,000 of state funds were spent to put this "citizens" initiative on the ballot, and about two-thirds of that money came out of the Social Welfare and Human Resources Development budgets. It seems to me that is a definite misappropriation of funds, and it must seem that way to others also, because a lawsuit has been filed to that effect, naming Reagan as a defendant. Also, the Federal Department of Labor is investigating the misuse of federal funds in this case.

Then there are the investors to consider. The sponsors of the proposition—the oil, real estate and banking boys—have invested nearly a half-million dollars to promote and help pay the costs of getting this "initiative" on the ballot. Professional petition passers were paid thirty cents each for every registered voter whose signature they got.

So Reagan has a good chance of getting his tax law voted into the Constitution (which is a ridiculous place for it), because he has bypassed the legislature, has big financial backing, and because this being a non-election year, there will be a low voter turnout. And *that* is what the investors are counting on in the first place.

## REDUCED OR ELIMINATED

A. Alan Post is the state's legislative analyst. He is a *non-partisan* employee of the legislature, charged with determining what effect legislative proposals will have on the state's budget. He has issued a report on the possible budget reductions the Expenditure Limitation Initiative will cause. The report indicates the victims of the cuts will most likely be public education, social services and consumer protection. His report says there are three ways the necessary reductions can be handled. Some functions can be transferred to the private sector, some can be assumed by the local and federal governments, and some functions can be reduced or eliminated.

Let's apply those suppositions, and because of my interest in the child care problems of working mothers, let's look at how those alternatives fit the child care and pre-school programs.

1. *The Functions Can Be Transferred to The Private Sector.* If the private sector (i.e. private nursery schools) would charge on the ability to pay, that might work. But they don't, and unless you can afford the twenty-five or thirty dollars it does cost, every week, you may be out of luck, out of day care, out of a job, and inside welfare.

2. *The Functions Can Be Assumed by the Local and Federal Governments.*



REAGAN AND ROCKEFELLER

The local governments depend on state and federal funds to augment their budgets. If they don't get state funds, they will have to raise local taxes. I doubt that local politicians will ask for a tax increase in these days of inflation, with Nixon on the verge of raising the income tax. Not if they want to move on to the big time they won't.

As far as the federal funding goes, we are still feeling the sting of the federal government's attempt (via Casper Weinberger's HEW proposal) to cut back funds for Head Start, pre-school programs, and subsidized day care. And Nixon is notorious for his chauvinistic attitude toward child care centers, so I don't believe the federal government will want to contribute anymore than it does now.

3. *The Functions Can Be Reduced or Eliminated.* This is probably what will happen. There are not enough subsidized child care centers now, and they need to be expanded, not reduced, and certainly not eliminated. But it could happen.

I don't want to be one-minded on this, so let's look at some of the other state services which the report says will probably be effected.

One of the examples of potential transfers to the private sector would be the Department of Consumer Affairs. It is proposed that the Department of Consumer Affairs be converted into a private corporation, and funded from private fees. The DCA exists primarily to license and regulate particular commercial and occupational groups. How long would it take before the DCA was controlled (more so than now) by the corporations against whom it is supposed to be protecting us?

The private sector could also take over the California State Universities and Colleges and the Community Colleges by establishing tuition charges and reducing scholarships. And of course, raising the existing user fees and establishing new fees to state parks and beaches would be a must, to help offset the costs of services which keep the parks and beaches functioning. And those fees would probably price us right out of the parks. (Remember that the people behind this proposal don't need consumer protection: they attend private schools and they have private beaches.)

Examples of services that might be eliminated or reduced are, in general, the newly established programs... the reasoning being that people will miss them the least.

The Senior Citizens Property Tax Assistance Program, which provides partial property tax reimbursement

to homeowners over the age of 62 according to their income (and which by giving them a tax break allows the old people to keep the homes they have worked all their lives to pay for); much needed correctional programs; in public education, the public library assistance programs, the special school funds, the new reading programs, compensatory education programs, and back to my special interest, the early childhood educational programs; all would suffer from this proposal.

The legislative analyst also stressed the great impact the proposed reductions would have on all phases of California's agriculture, business and industry, as well as government.

## WHY?

Why do Reagan and his wealthy backers want this tax limitation written into our state's constitution?

Well, first of all, rich people dislike taxes based on the ability to pay, like the income tax. With the new tax law, hundreds of wealthy people could avoid paying any state income tax at all, because of complex language in the initiative which eliminates state income taxes for a couple who's "adjusted gross income" is \$8,000 or less. A couple with an income of \$500,000 in long term capital gains could escape paying any taxes at all, because the capital gains could be manipulated down to \$8,000 by business losses, interest payments, and oil depletion allowances. So the millionaires who now pay the minimum income tax on their oil depletion and capital gains earnings would have new loopholes by which to avoid paying taxes, and the existing loopholes would be frozen into the state's constitution.

Secondly, it is almost a certainty that our next governor will be a Democrat. Whoever he is, if this proposition passes, his administration will not be able to instigate new programs—or even maintain the level of the present ones—because Proposition One will then be Article 29 of the state Constitution and every year his administration will have less and less money to work with. So the Democrats come out looking like poor administrators.

Reagan is cutting the sales tax by a penny this year. If his initiative passes, next year the sales and property taxes will undoubtedly go up, and the new governor will be blamed for the rise in local sales tax rates. Future administrations will be controlled by Ronald Reagan's ideas and we will wonder what has happened to the legislative process.