



DIGEST

Around and About

TWENTY COUNTY departments had some new young faces this week—the 400 high school students who began summer jobs in the hospitals, DPSS, probation department, and elsewhere. Their paychecks are met through federal funds of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Personnel's Herb Kaplan reports that since this work training program for youngsters from low income families began four years ago, approximately 500 of the trainees have obtained fulltime County jobs—the girls mostly as clericals and nurses aides at County-USC Medical Center, the boys as clerks, store helpers, custodians, institutional helpers, and grounds maintenance men in a dozen County departments.

THE COUNTY'S Bell 206A jet helicopter, basically a fire fighter, also is doing weekend duty as a flying ambulance in 450 sparsely populated square miles of Antelope valley. It is part of a six-month experiment, with UCLA, on emergency medical systems. Since April the 'copter and its fire department crew have taken off from their base at fire station 81, Mint Canyon, picked up some two dozen patients (mostly victims of

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BOARD CUTS JOBS, OK'S BUDGET

A COUNTY budget, swollen to a record \$2.2 billion by ballooning welfare and law enforcement costs, went into effect last Wednesday (July 1). The Board of Supervisors had debated the 1970-71 spending program all day Monday, formally adopted it Tuesday morning.

The Board's most substantial cut took the form of a two percent across-the-board slash in the 74,700 budget positions CAO Lin Hollinger had recommended (April 28, June 9) for the coming year.

Hollinger had proposed adding 6,600 positions to the 1969-70 allotment, most of them in welfare, hospitals, health services, law enforcement and courts. The Board reduced this number by some 1,500 positions through the two percent cut, at an estimated budget saving of \$10 million in general fund departments.

"The net result," Hollinger said, "will be that those departments for which we had recommended substantially increased staffs will get smaller increases. Some departments for which no increased positions were recommended will have slight reductions in staff."

The Board instructed Hollinger that no present County employees are to be discharged. Instead the 2 percent reduction will be accomplished by failing to fill present jobs as they become vacant through resignations, death or retirement.

(Before enacting the 2 percent cut, the Supervisors voted to allow sheriff Peter Pitchess to enlarge his 6,100 staff by a long-promised 300 additional deputies. The subsequently voted 2 percent cut reduced

this addition to approximately 170 positions.)

In addition to the \$10 million manpower savings in the general fund departments, the Board laid similar sacrifices on the special districts' staffing by deleting \$421,000 from the road districts, \$408,000 from flood control funds, \$266,000 from the fire protection districts, \$202,000 from the library districts, and \$19,000 from sewer maintenance district funds.

The Supervisors cut funds for County employees' out-of-town travel by one-third for an estimated saving of \$133,000. The budget also does not include \$3.25 million which director of personnel Gordon Nesvig had requested as stand-by financing for any additional employee benefits that might result from negotiations now under way with employee organizations.

Reductions voted by the Board, however, were partially offset by late-hour additions to the budget including: \$2.3 million for the 300 new sheriff deputies; \$1.4 million for 21 additional superior and six municipal court judges plus additional court attaches, deputy D-As and public defenders; \$912,000 for revised hospital teaching contracts with USC and UCLA medical schools; \$661,000 to lease a North American-Rockwell building in Downey; and \$455,000 for another fire department helicopter.

The Board approved without change Hollinger's list of recommended capital projects costing the general fund a net \$60 million,

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Unit Elections About Finished

THE "GETTING organized" phase of the County's employee relations program, begun in early 1969, neared completion this week with the filing of official results in two representation elections involving units of supervising appraisers and public defender investigators.

This brought to 45 the total of unit elections held under the employee relations ordinance since April 1969. About 54,000 County employees (three-fourths of the total payroll) now are included in the 45 representation units. Each unit's representative organization

is empowered to negotiate on pay and working conditions with County management.

The supervising appraisers, in a 92 percent voter turnout, chose California Association of Professional Employees as their representative. CAPE, unopposed on the ballot, got 163 yes votes to 9 noes. Ballots were counted June 18.

In the other no-contest election, public defender investigators I and II gave Los Angeles County Employees association 35 yes votes to a single no (ballot count June 26). This unit, with only 41 members, is the smallest yet created by the employee relations commission.

small groups of employees to "secede" from their negotiating units.

A group of 47 senior clerks, most of them in the assessor's office, had petitioned to be removed from the County's biggest unit, containing nearly 13,000 clerical and office workers. The petitioners asserted they should not be grouped with lower-level clerical employees.

In another petition, 25 deputy public guardians sought transfer from a unit of 770 administrative and technical staff services employees, represented by Los Angeles County Employees association.

The commission had approved creation of both units last December following lengthy public hearings. LACEA won the right to represent both units in elections last April 1.

The deputy public guardians told the commission they wanted to transfer into a unit of deputy probation officers represented by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

As the commission unanimously rejected both petitions (June 19), chairman Melvin Lennard said:

"It is not proper for the commission to permit groups of employees to withdraw from a negotiating unit just because they are dissatisfied with the progress that their representative is making in negotiations or dissatisfied with any agreements he has arrived at. If we permitted that, we would have absolute chaos."

Budget

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about twice the amount budgeted for 1969-70. Among the major items will be \$5.5 million for the sheriff's computerized videofile system; \$13 million for plans, construction or land at County-USC Medical Center and at Harbor General, Martin Luther King, Rancho Los Amigos and John Wesley hospitals; \$6.3 million for plans, land or construction at court buildings in Compton, El Monte, Inglewood, Norwalk, Torrance and Van Nuys; \$1.5 million toward a sheriff's administration building; \$2 million toward South Bay Juvenile hall; \$9.9 million for parks; and \$1.6 million for beaches.

The amount the County spends to rent or leaseback space in 1970-71 will be \$26.6 million, a rise of \$6.2 million over the past year.

Tax Rate

Hollinger estimated the new budget will mean a rise in the County's general fund property tax rate of about 93 cents for each \$100 of assessed value—by far the sharpest increase in County history. The previous record rise was 49.6 cents in 1946-47. Hollinger said his estimate is based on the expectation that assessor Philip Watson will announce next month a 6 percent in-

THE EMPLOYEE relations commission has rejected attempts by two

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accidents involving cars, motorcycles, dune buggies, plus three heart attacks, a gunshot wound, and one overdose case), airlifted them to one of four hospitals in the area. Average time, pickup to hospital: ten minutes.

IN THE newly decentralized County-USC Medical Center, the Psychiatric hospital is in old Unit III, the Pediatrics Pavilion in former Unit IV. The June 19 DIGEST had its units reversed, a fact brought to our attention by a nice-voiced nurse who works there.

crease in the assessed value of taxable property in the county.

Hollinger pointed out the rate could be shoved either higher or lower before tax-setting time Sept. 1—lower if the California legislature provides new revenues to counties or if Watson finds taxable assessed value has risen more than 6 percent, a higher rate if Watson's figure falls below 6 percent or if Sacramento and Washington should dump additional welfare and Medi-Cal costs upon the County treasury.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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