



DIGEST

Around and About

IN A statement ending, "I've had it—thank you," Supervisor Burton Chace has announced he will not seek reelection next year. "I want to retire voluntarily when I am in good health, when I feel that I am reelectable in 1972, and when there are so many things ahead for my wife Polly and me to do," Chace told a news conference last Tuesday (Oct. 19). Chace has represented the fourth supervisorial district for 19 years and served four terms as Board chairman.

SHERIFF'S SERGEANT Raymond Osterhues has received a suggestion award of \$295 for his proposal to replace the old knoblike sirens and lights on all sheriff's cars with a "visibar"—a chromed steel and tough plastic bar extending across the top of the car and housing two sirens and a pair of rotating lights visible in all directions. The sirens are slightly angled to cover a wider area ahead of the speeding car. The rotating lights, surrounded by metal reflectors, give an impression of myriad flashing lights and can be seen for long distances. The Lexan plastic cover is reportedly strong enough to

(Continued on page 2)

OCTOBER 22

1971

Volume 4 Number 14

19,000 GET HEALTH REFUNDS

SOME 19,000 subscribers to Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plans will receive partial refunds on their premiums for the three months of President Nixon's Aug. 15-Nov. 12 wage and price freeze.

Director of personnel Gordon Nesvig announced the refunds following meetings with representatives of 11 employee organizations and the four County-sponsored health plans.

The refunds are a portion of the increases in premiums that went into effect Sept. 1—a portion that represents amounts Blue Cross and Blue Shield had included in their rate structure to allow for rising costs in the coming months. Under the Presidential order, such collections for future cost rises are not permitted.

Nesvig said enrollees in the Kaiser and Ross-Loos plans will receive no refunds—Ross Loos because it included no assessment for future inflation in its Sept. 1 rate, and Kaiser because it had set its community-wide premium rates last April and most Kaiser subscribers outside the County rolls have been paying the higher premiums. Kaiser had delayed applying the higher rates to County employees until Sept. 1 at County management's request. Nesvig said federal regulations grant Kaiser and Ross-Loos the increased premiums.

Blue Shield subscribers will receive refund checks of \$3.63 for employee-only coverage, \$6.51 for an employee and one dependent, and \$7.35 for family coverage.

Blue Cross high-option plan refunds will be \$2.10 for employee-

only subscribers, \$7.35 for employee and one dependent, and \$8.25 for family coverage.

Blue Cross low-option enrollees will receive \$6.21 for an employee and one dependent, and \$7.05 for family coverage. Employee-only subscribers will receive no refund

(Continued on page 4)

Waiting for Rules

LIKE OTHER American workers, County employees settled down this week to a period of waiting while the Nixon administration set about creating a national Pay Board, a Price Commission, and other bodies to combat inflation.

Treasury Secretary John B. Connally made clear at a news conference (Oct. 8) that:

—The present 90-day wage and price freeze, scheduled to end Nov. 13, will continue indefinitely beyond that date "subject to whatever standards and criteria the Pay Board and the Price Commission set"

—President Nixon wants to achieve a rate of inflation of 2 to 3 percent a year by the end of 1972

—The Cost of Living Council, headed by Connally, will remain in the background and exercise no veto power as long as the Pay Board and Price Commission keep moving toward the President's objective of a 2 to 3 percent inflation rate.

Excerpts from Connally's news conference follow:

(Continued on page 2)

Around and About

(Continued from page 1)

withstand the impact of hurled rocks and small caliber gunfire. The visibars have been installed on 94 sheriff's cars, soon will be on all 500.

A PERSONNEL department study shows County employees are a comparatively healthy lot. Among the 72,000 only 13 or 14 die each month. Male fatalities outnumber female deaths two to one—perhaps because the average male employee is older than the average woman worker. Most dangerous decade is the fifties, when 31 percent of the deaths occur among only 17.6 percent of the employee population. Leading cause of death is heart disease (37 percent) followed by cancer (15 percent), accidents (10 percent), homicide and suicide (8 percent), miscellaneous and unknown causes (30 percent).

LOS ANGELES County Employees association has voted to delete from its articles of incorporation a section providing that "under no circumstances shall this corporation engage in, foster or support strikes against the government." The vote was taken at a general membership meeting Oct. 14 at the City's new convention center. Approximately 500 persons attended. Their ballots, plus some 3,000 proxy votes, resulted in 3,397 votes to delete the no-strike pledge, 159 votes against deletion. The LACEA vote followed by two days a U. S. Supreme Court decision that left standing two lower court decisions—one that federal workers have a right to organize and bargain collectively but do not have a constitutional right to strike, and a Kentucky court's decision that public school teachers in Louisville had no right to strike.

Wire service reports indicated the Supreme Court decision applies to all federal and probably all state and municipal employees.

14 HOLIDAYS LISTED FOR 1972

THE DEPARTMENT of personnel has sent all County departments a list of holidays in 1972. It shows:

- Six three-day weekends, Saturday through Monday
- A total of ten holidays falling on regular workdays, as well as three hours off on Good Friday.
- Three legal holidays—New Year's Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and Admission day—that fall on Saturdays and so, under the law, mean

no extra time off for County employees.

The table below indicates the day of the week on which each holiday will fall in 1972 and, in the right hand column, the legal day or date each year for each holiday. The revised timing of Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans' Day was established by acts of Congress and the California legislature which went into effect this year.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date in 1972</u>	<u>Day of Week 1972</u>	<u>Day or Date Each Year</u>
New Year's Day	Jan. 1	Saturday	January 1
Lincoln's Birthday	Feb. 12	Saturday	February 12
Washington's Birthday	Feb. 21	Monday	Third Monday in February
Good Friday (3 hours)	Mar. 31	Friday	Friday before Easter Sunday
Memorial Day	May 29	Monday	Last Monday in May
Primary Election Day	June 6	Tuesday	First Tuesday after first Monday in June (even-numbered years)
Independence Day	July 4	Tuesday	July 4
Labor Day	Sept. 4	Monday	First Monday in September
Admission Day	Sept. 9	Saturday	September 9
Columbus Day	Oct. 9	Monday	Second Monday in October
Veterans' Day	Oct. 23	Monday	Fourth Monday in October
General Election Day	Nov. 7	Tuesday	First Tuesday after first Monday in November (even-numbered years)
Thanksgiving Day	Nov. 23	Thursday	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day	Dec. 25	Monday	December 25

CONNALLY

(Continued from page 1)

(PAY BOARD) "The Pay Board will have 15 members, five from labor, five from business, five public members, all appointed by the President. They will set standards and criteria relating to wages, salaries, fringe benefits. They will make the decisions. They will grant the exemptions, if any. They will determine what action is necessary to alleviate inequities that unques-

tionably existed and do exist during the freeze period. Their decisions will be final. They are not to be appealed to the Cost of Living Council. The Council does not anticipate or want or expect nor will we accept their passing the buck up to us."

(FRINGE BENEFITS) "The rulings of the Cost of Living Council will remain in effect until they are changed by the Pay Board."

(Continued on page 3)

CONNALLY

(Continued from page 2)

(GOVERNMENT PAY) "There will be an advisory group on state and local government actions, particularly in the wage field. They will advise the Pay Board as well as the Cost of Living Council."

(POWERS OF COLC) "The Cost of Living Council, as an arm of the President, will continue to function. It will have overall responsibility, an overall review of the actions of the Pay Board and the Price Commission . . . to be sure for the President that they are making progress toward achieving his goal. Although we certainly don't intend to veto their actions on specific case decisions, the government is going to continue to be in this picture, and if it becomes apparent that the actions being taken by any of these boards are not in consonance with the President's announced goal of holding inflation down, then, frankly, some action will have to be taken . . ."

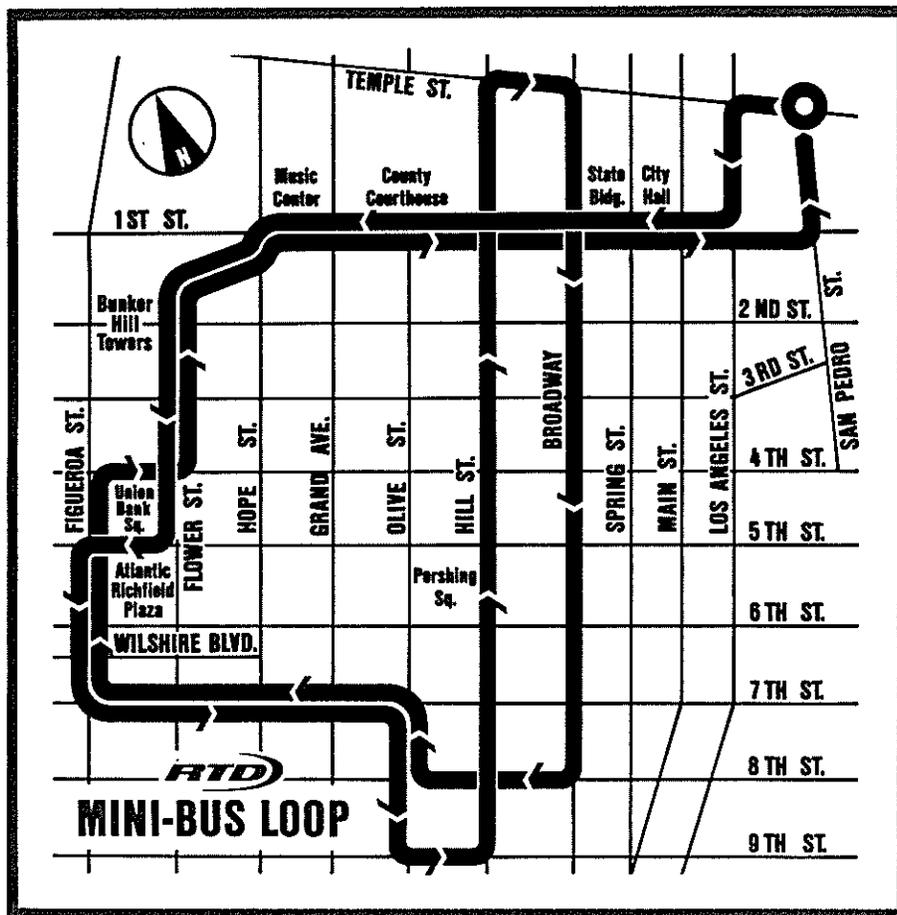
"Let's assume the Price Commission permitted prices that patently were exorbitant . . . or let's assume the Pay Board established standards and criteria and announced their own goals of a 6 percent rate of inflation instead of the President's 2 or 3 percent. Well, at that point, we'd lock horns. But I don't assume that's going to happen."

(DEFERRED INCREASES) "The decision as to whether deferred increases in wage negotiations and wage contracts [should be paid] is a matter for the Pay Board to determine in the light of their responsibility and the President's goal of a rate of inflation not to exceed 2 to 3 percent by the end of 1972. Now, if they grant the deferred increases—some of them are quite high—then this means that in the weeks and months ahead probably they will have less leeway in other cases."

A reporter asked Connally:

"What would you say would be the maximum permissible pay increase—around 5 or 5½ percent?"

(Continued on page 4)



Where the Minnies Go

NINETEEN COLORFUL minibuses began looping from Civic Center through the uptown shopping area this week—a joint project of the Rapid Transit District, the County, the City, and the Community Redevelopment Agency.

The brightly painted little vehicles, with room for 20 passengers on their molded fiberglass seats, run from Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with four-minute intervals between buses. They are powered with natural gas fuel.

Fare is ten cents (exact change, please). Monthly passes, tickets, and transfers honored on other RTD buses are not accepted on the minibuses.

The County contributed \$73,000 toward the project. Buses were scheduled to start operating last spring, but various problems, including earthquake damage to the plant making the minibus brakes, delayed the opening until last Monday (Oct. 18).

The buses will make pickups along First street at Los Angeles, Main, Broadway, Hill, Grand, and Hope streets before heading uptown. Later, as buses return up Hill street, they will stop in Civic Center at First street and at Court street, circle around the New Hall of Records and head back up Broadway, meanwhile stopping on Temple, on Broadway at the Mall, and at Broadway and First.

As each bus completes its loop by coming north on Figueroa and Flower streets and turning onto First street, it will stop at Hope, Grand, Olive, Broadway, Spring, Weller, and San Pedro streets.

The complete minibus loop is shown in the illustration above.

New Enrollees Alerted

NEW DEDUCTIONS will appear Nov. 10 on paychecks of the 9,000 employees who signed up for the first time in one of the four County-sponsored health plans—or switched from one plan to another—during the recent open enrollment period.

Gunther Dumalski, employee benefits manager, urged the 9,000 to check their Nov. 10 pay stubs to make sure the deductions are correct.

"Mistakes can happen," he said, "and if they are not corrected quickly, an employee may find he is losing money through an improper deduction, or he is not getting the coverage he thought he was getting."

Dumalski said a new enrollee who discovers an apparent error

should call the department of personnel insurance section at 625-3611 extension 65667.

The employee should check both the amount of deduction and the code number beside it, which shows the health plan in which he is enrolled according to County records.

If a person is enrolled for employee-only coverage in Kaiser, Ross-Loos, or Blue Cross low option plans, the code number will appear on the paycheck stub but the amount will be blank, because his premium is more than covered by the County's contribution to the health plan.

The deduction codes and the correct amounts of deductions that should show on the paycheck are as follows:

	<u>Employee Only</u>	<u>Employee and One Dependent</u>	<u>Family Coverage</u>
BLUE CROSS—Low Option (Deduction Code 08 on the paycheck)	—	\$13.51	\$17.53
BLUE CROSS—High Option (Deduction Code 09)	\$ 0.70	\$19.04	\$23.37
KAISER FOUNDATION (Deduction Code 10)	—	\$14.84	\$28.38
ROSS-LOOS MEDICAL (Deduction Code 19)	—	\$19.40	\$29.08
CALIFORNIA BLUE SHIELD (Deduction Code 44)	\$ 3.39	\$19.30	\$23.80

CONNALLY

(Continued from page 3)

Connally replied:

"I wouldn't attempt to assign any maximum to any particular wage increase or wage contract. It will be the business of the Pay Board to decide that. . . It will depend on how many people are affected, what the equity is, on whether a particular situation requires a small or large increase in order to bring them into an equitable position with their counterparts in the economy. Many factors have to be considered. . . The

Pay Board might well permit some fairly large increases, but to the extent they grant large ones they are going to have to hold down on somebody else. Others will have to be smaller. It's going to have to be an average."

Leaders of organized labor expressed displeasure at Connally's remarks that the Cost of Living Council might have to "lock horns" with the pay and price boards under certain circumstances. President Nixon later issued a statement that only he himself would take any actions to override the boards' decisions.

REFUNDS

(Continued from page 1)

because the County pays their entire premium.

Auditor-controller Mark Bloodgood's office will send the refund checks as soon as paper work on the 19,000 cases can be completed.

Nesvig said the refund policy was adopted only for the three months of the President's original freeze order. If the freeze on insurance premiums is not lifted during Phase II of the economic controls, the County will meet again with representatives of employee organizations and with health plan representatives to discuss refund policy.

Hospital Director Exam

THE CIVIL service commission, at the request of the Board of Supervisors, has begun arranging a departmental promotional examination to choose a new director of hospitals. He will replace longtime hospital head William Barr, who will retire Jan. 1.

Meanwhile, plans continue for the merger of the hospitals, the health, mental health, and County veterinarian departments into a health services agency. The merger is not expected to become formally effective until early next year after a new state law (AB 591) goes into force. The law permits the Supervisors to appoint either a doctor or a lay administrator (a non-doctor, that is) as director of the new agency.

County of Los Angeles

D I G E S T

EDITORIAL BOARD

ARTHUR G. WILL, Chief Administrative Officer

GORDON T. NESVIG, Director of Personnel

LISTON WITHERILL, President County Management Council

LORIN PETERSON, Editor

Editorial Office: Room 526 Hall of Administration, 222 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

Telephone 625-3611, ext. 65878

For extra copies, extension 65420