



DIGEST

Around and About

JAMES HOLLER is acting director of data processing, following the Board of Supervisors' 30-day suspension of director Tom Kidwell (Sept. 16). The Board also dismissed civil service commissioner O. Richard Capen. Both actions occurred after the Board investigated alleged irregularities involving a civil service exam for the vacant treasurer-tax collector's job, for which Kidwell applied and finished first on the list. A new treasurer-tax collector examination has been scheduled. And remaining civil service commissioners Ernest Sanchez and Emmet Sullivan will consider changing the rules for department head examinations (Oct. 18).

THE SHUTTLE bus service for County employees that looped between Civic Center and Eastern Avenue complex has been shut down. Not enough customers.

A PICTURE history of the Old Hall of Records, which bit the dust last year at age 52, is on sale at the Museum of Natural History bookstore. Produced by the CAO's information services, the 40-page *End of an Era* costs \$1.40 plus 25 cents for mailing.

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C, D, E, F Face Ballot Decision

VOTERS OF Los Angeles county will render a yes or no verdict Nov. 5 on four proposed changes in the County charter—all concerned with pay or personnel policies.

The amendments will appear toward the end of the long general election ballot and will be listed in this order:

PROPOSITION 'C'—which would allow the Board of Supervisors to change salaries each year for three elected officials—the sheriff, district attorney, and assessor. At present the Board may not change the pay they receive during the four-year terms to which they are elected.

PROPOSITION 'D'—would authorize the Board of Supervisors to appoint the director of personnel. Presently he is named by the civil service commission.

PROPOSITION 'E'—would remove from civil service all heads and chief deputies of County departments and commissions. Starting next Jan. 1, the Board of Supervisors, by majority vote, would appoint or remove department heads. (Department heads would continue to appoint their chief deputies.)

A dismissed department head or chief deputy would be eligible for transfer to an available civil service position, provided he had not been fired for serious malfeasance or moral dereliction in office.

Any department head or chief deputy holding his job before next Jan. 1 would retain his civil service status until Jan. 1, 1978.

PROPOSITION 'F'—would permit the Board of Supervisors to hire

private contractors to perform County functions whenever the Board finds such work "can more economically or feasibly be performed by independent contractors."

A County counsel opinion (Sept. 16) said Proposition 'F' would not permit contracting for "services which are directed by law to be performed by County officers or employees, or of services which are sovereign in nature." Examples would be maintenance of County roads, which the County charter assigns to the road commissioner; duties of the County recorder established by state law; equalizing property assessments by the assessment appeals boards, as directed by the state constitution; and building inspections by the County engineer, which are an exercise of sovereign police power.

The opinion continued, however, that Proposition 'F' would allow contracting for such services as those of security guards, building and ground maintenance workers, lifeguards, and vehicle repairmen.

Friday's the Deadline

The 1974 open enrollment period for all County-administered health plans has one more week to run—until next Friday (Oct. 11).

Any permanent, fulltime employee may enroll through his department's personnel office for himself alone or for himself and his dependents.

First payroll deduction will be made Dec. 10. The new coverage begins Jan. 1.

Politicking—What's Permitted

COUNTY EMPLOYEES have considerable freedom for political activity, but they also are bound by certain thou-shalt-nots.

The County personnel manual states:

"In general, all County employees have the right to participate in or refrain from participating in political activities. No restriction shall be made on an employee's right to vote, to express his opinion in any political matter, or to participate in non-partisan political activities."

The manual cautions, however, that state laws prohibit certain activities.

For instance, a County employee may not solicit contributions, signatures, or other forms of support for political candidates, parties, ballot measures or other political purposes while on duty.

Nor may he solicit or receive political contributions from fellow employees, except to help pass or defeat a ballot measure affecting the pay, hours, retirement, civil service, or other working conditions of County employees.

The manual also says a County worker may not use his official influence or identify himself as a County employee when soliciting or receiving political contributions from the general public after working hours.

Similarly, a County employee may not use his official authority or influence to interfere with any election—for instance, by offering favors or threatening to withhold favors in return for votes or political influence.

An employee is barred from any kind of political activity while in uniform.

Further information about restrictions on political efforts may be found in sections 353.3 to 353.6 of the County employee manual.

Dispensaries Ready for Emergency Care

EMERGENCY MEDICAL care for any County employee who gets sick or hurt on the job is now available at two dispensaries operated by the personnel department's occupational health service.

OHS has notified all personnel

New Planning Head

REGIONAL PLANNING department will have a new director Oct. 21—Norman Murdoch, planning director of St. Louis, Mo., since late 1968.

Murdoch, 47, married, father of three children, holds civil engineering and master of planning degrees from U. Cal Berkeley. He was planning chief of the San Francisco redevelopment agency (1960-67) and Berkeley city planning director (1968).

The Board of Supervisors appointed Murdoch (Sept. 17) to replace Orville Christenson, who retired last month.

officers that dispensary No. 1, in room B-50, Hall of Administration, will care for employees in the Civic Center area. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dispensary No. 2, in room B-9, Mechanical Department Administration building, will serve employees working in or near the Eastern Avenue complex. Its hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OHS administrator Gary Fowler recommended telephoning ahead if a sick or injured employee is coming in, so that treatment can begin promptly. The Hall of Administration dispensary number is 974-2656, the Eastern Avenue dispensary number is 267-2320.

In addition to the two OHS dispensaries, employees also may receive emergency treatment for job-caused injuries at many approved hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices throughout the county. These

Long-timers Going

THE RETIREMENT board has approved the applications of 19 long-time employees leaving County service. They are:

With 40 years service: Harriet Burrows of the probation department.

35 to 40 years service: Annie Jackson of DPSS; Richard Williams, health services; and Cecil Johnston, probation.

30 to 35 years service: Raymond Harrel and Selmer Robertson, Jr., fire department; Walter Hotra, Evelyn DeVore, and Milton Crane, sheriff; Thelma Cobbs, DPSS; Charles Hegler, municipal court; Charles Kahan, facilities department; Vernon Robinson, Elisa Mendez, and Dr. Elizabeth Arvad, health services; John Harrison, district attorney; Ralph Sorkin and Jewell Yochum, probation; and Jerry Williams, County engineer department.

are listed in the *Directory of Physicians and Medical Facilities for Industrial Injury*, which has been distributed among many County offices.

Fowler said some employees who come to an OHS dispensary with an injury or illness that is not job-connected receive emergency care and then are referred to their private physicians.

County of Los Angeles

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