



DIGEST

Around and About

STARTING LAST spring, some 500 of the 1,500 County engineer department employees began working a four-day, 40-hour week. Now all except 100 sewer maintenance field personnel are back on the five-day week. Major reasons: (1) early darkness starting in November made the long shifts impractical for survey parties; (2) administrative problems arose from having key office personnel gone on Fridays or Mondays. County engineer Harvey Brandt said he may revive the 4/40 experiment next spring for survey field crews.

APPROXIMATELY 1,000 County workers in Civic Center have received "matching lists" from Commuter Computer, Inc. so they can form car pools, if so minded. Questionnaires went last September to 12,000 County employees in the downtown area; 3,000 returned them, only a third said they were interested in car-pooling. The CAO is prodding Civic Center departments to make sure no potential car-poolers were overlooked.

NOVEMBER 22
1974

Volume 7 Number 11

KAISER BROADENS BENEFITS

THE KAISER health plan, to which 28,000 County employees subscribe, has announced it will offer unlimited hospitalization and other improvements in its benefits, starting Jan. 1.

Director of personnel Gordon Nesvig said the added benefits will bring no change in Kaiser premium rates, at least until next August, which is the annual date for adjusting all County health plan rates.

In addition to longer hospitalization, Kaiser will provide more coverage for victims of pulmonary tuberculosis, alcoholism, self-inflicted injuries, and illness or injuries occurring outside the Kaiser service area.

HOSPITALIZATION. The present limit of 125 days hospital care a year will be increased to 365 days. A Kaiser spokesman said few patients require more than 125 days care but for those few the longer stay is "a heavy, if not catastrophic, burden. All members can be protected against this at a minimal cost

per member by spreading the risk over the entire membership."

OUT-OF-AREA CARE. At present, if a member requires emergency hospitalization for sickness or injury while outside a Kaiser service area (for example, while on a vacation trip), Kaiser provides up to \$3,000 coverage. After Jan. 1, Kaiser also will pay 80 percent of expenses from \$3,000 to \$50,000 and will not require that the subscriber be treated in a hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS. Kaiser has excluded hospital treatment of tuberculosis patients while in the acute, contagious stage. After Jan. 1, this exclusion will be dropped.

"Most tuberculosis patients no longer are hospitalized except briefly," a Kaiser spokesman said. "The days of sanitarium care are disappearing." Instead, victims are treated as out-patients, receiving chemotherapy, which soon eliminates the contagious nature of the disease.

(Continued on page 2)

Orr, Nesvig, Hufford on CAO List

THE CIVIL service commission handed the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday (Nov. 19) a list of the three top scorers in Monday's oral interview examination for chief administrative officer. The three:

Verne Orr, state finance director under Governor Reagan for the past five years.

Gordon Nesvig, County director of personnel since 1967.

Harry Hufford, acting CAO since Arthur Will's resignation last Sept. 2.

A nationwide search for candidates led to 21 formal applications. From these a three-member citizens panel (George Shellenberger, retired executive of the Merchants and Manufacturers association, Los Angeles; Cal-State Los Angeles political science professor Robert Callahan; and John Phillips, retired Pasadena city manager) reduced the candidates' list to seven finalists.

The finalists, one by one, last Monday faced a six-man interview

(Continued on page 2)

CAO LIST

(Continued from page 1)

board—Mahlon Arnett, retired president of Bullock's stores; Robert Thomas, Orange County CAO; Dr. Aaron Wildowsky, U-Cal Berkeley dean of public policy; Lawrence Cooper of the National Alliance of Businessmen; and civil service commissioners Emmet Sullivan and Ernest Sanchez.

The Board of Supervisors will appoint the CAO from the three names submitted to them.

Orr, 57, was a Pasadena investments manager and savings and loan executive until Governor Reagan named him state director of motor vehicles in 1967. He became state finance director in 1970.

Nesvig, 53, joined the County in 1954 as a CAO budget aid. He was clerk of the Board of Supervisors from 1956 to 1966 and became the

Park Named for Debs

THE BOARD of Supervisors voted last Tuesday (Nov. 19) to rename Montecito Hills park as "Ernest E. Debs County Regional Park" in honor of the retiring supervisor.

The 306-acre park lies in the El Sereno area.

Debs, who did not seek reelection, has been third district Supervisor since 1958. He will be replaced Dec. 2 by Edmund Edelman, Los Angeles city councilman, who won election to the Board Nov. 5 over fellow councilman John Ferraro.

Departures:

HAL HUNT of health services will retire Dec. 1 with more than 38 years County service. Applications from eight others with more than 30 years service have been approved by the board of retirement. They are:

William Alexander and Raymond Scott, County engineer's department; Jeane Dole, municipal court; John Beeson, probation; Harry Black, flood control; Julius Klein, human relations commission; Irene King, schools; and Baldo Kristovich, former public administrator-public guardian, whom the Board of Supervisors dismissed in 1971.

County's first director of personnel in 1967.

Hufford, 43, started with the County as a CAO administrative trainee in 1953. He headed the CAO budget division from 1967 to 1970, was assistant administrative officer 1971 through 1973, served as assistant CAO from last January until he was named acting CAO after Arthur Will's resignation last Sept. 2.

Voters Reject All But Proposition D

VOTERS TURNED thumbs down on three of the four proposed County charter amendments on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Only survivor was proposition D, providing that the Board of Supervisors, instead of the civil service commission, shall appoint the director of personnel. Its margin was 53 to 47 percent.

By a 3-to-2 edge the voters rejected proposition C (annual pay changes for the sheriff, D-A, and assessor), proposition E (removing department heads and chief deputies from civil service), and proposition F (permitting contracting for County work).

Probation Change

COUNTY CLERK Clarence Cabell took over as acting chief probation officer last Wednesday (Nov. 20) after the Board of Supervisors discharged Kenneth Kirkpatrick from the position he had held since May 1968.

The three-page dismissal letter to Kirkpatrick said, "You have failed to plan, organize and control your department with sufficient skill to provide basic probationary services necessary for the protection of the community."

Kirkpatrick later said he would appeal his dismissal to the civil service commission.

Cabell was a veteran in the probation department and held the post of administrative deputy when he left in May 1970 to become chief deputy County clerk. He was named County clerk in March 1973.

He will temporarily head both the probation and County clerk departments.

KAISER

(Continued from page 1)

ALCOHOLISM. Kaiser will provide out-patient care of alcoholics, including some psychiatric evaluation, counselling, and group therapy. The plan, however, will exclude in-patient care (detoxification in a hospital), house calls, and continued care of unresponsive patients.

SELF-INFLICTED. When members with self-inflicted illnesses or injuries have come to its emergency room, Kaiser has treated the patients but has charged for the service. After Jan. 1, such treatment will be included among regular coverage. A Kaiser spokesman said self-inflicted cases are rare.

EXTENDED CARE. After Jan. 1, if a Kaiser doctor decides a patient no longer needs acute hospital care, he may recommend the patient go to an "extended care" facility or convalescent hospital. This kind of institution provides more skilled nursing care than a so-called nursing home but operates at lower cost than an acute hospital. Kaiser will provide up to 100 days of extended care a year.

A Kaiser executive said one reason for improving benefits is to prepare for what are expected to be high standards the federal government will set for "health maintenance organizations" or HMOs. A recent federal law requires that every employer of 25 or more persons offer his workers a health insurance program with a qualified HMO.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

EDITORIAL BOARD

HARRY HUFFORD, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

GORDON T. NESVIG, Director of Personnel

VICTOR ADORIAN, President, County Management Council

LORIN PETERSON, Editor

Editorial Office: Room 526, Hall of Administration, 222 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012
Telephone 974-2490