

Help A Hippie Out Of Town

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

The hippie, that peripatetic successor to yesterday's hoboes, is causing some of the same problems his predecessors did.

Although he love everybody, nobody — with the possible exception of another hippie — apparently loves him. The squares of this workaday world avoid him when they can.

And when he plops himself down in front of your business, your customers stay away. Or so complained four owners of businesses in the vicinity of the Ocean Street-Highway 17 interchange.

In a letter read at last night's Santa Cruz City Council meeting, the four — Howard Schefel Jr., Delbert Allen, Trini Contreras and Mrs. Robert Oakes — complained of problems they say are caused by hippie hitchhikers waiting for rides south on Highway 1.

"They are generally dirty, unkempt juveniles with packs or bed rolls," the letter complains. "They sprawl on the sidewalks sometimes for hours waiting for rides. The condition exists both day and night the year around."

"They enter the businesses along Plymouth (Street) wanting directions, water, use of bathrooms, materials for signs, etc."

"They leave paper, garbage, bottles, etc., in their wake. Their constant appearance in this area discourages business, and is disconcerting to our guests, customers and tenants."

The letter asks that "No Hitchhiking or Loitering" signs be erected along Plymouth Street, and that hitchhiking be permitted only at the immediate entrance to Highway 1 south.

Police Chief Geno Pini, in a written report to the council, recommended against the signs because hitchhiking is not a law violation unless carried on from the traveled portion of a roadway, and loitering, as such, is not unlawful.

In fact, Pini's report notes, there just isn't much at all the

police can do about the foot-loose hippies.

Hitchhiking and littering violations are difficult to enforce among the hippies because members of the whiskery fraternity don't have permanent addresses and it's often hard even to determine their identity. Thus, Pini points out, the deterrent value of such arrests is virtually nil.

Even if the arrests could be made, Pini doesn't think it's a good idea. He feels it's better to let the hippies go on their way, rather than detain them in Santa Cruz for legal proceedings and expose the community to potential violations of other laws.

"Removal of the broad vagrancy laws starting about 1958 has 10 years later resulted in a type of mobile living style and mode of conduct which is open and highly visible," Pini's report notes. "Most persons comment on or object to this casual and irresponsible approach to life only when their persons or property are directly affected and tend to ignore similar problems occurring in other places in the city."

As the council took up the discussion, Councilman Eugene Fleming suggested that the hitchhikers might be less of a nuisance if the city erected a shelter for them.

Councilman Richard Werner agreed and thought the struc-

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Chicago's Daley Backs Kennedy For Second Spot

Chicago (P)—Mayor Richard J. Daley endorsed Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., today for running mate for whomever the Democrats nominate for president.

Daley, a power in the party, has expressed no choice for the presidential nomination.

At a news conference, Daley said that Kennedy would be a "great running mate" for the presidential nominee. "I hope the delegates will draft Ted Kennedy for the vice presidency."