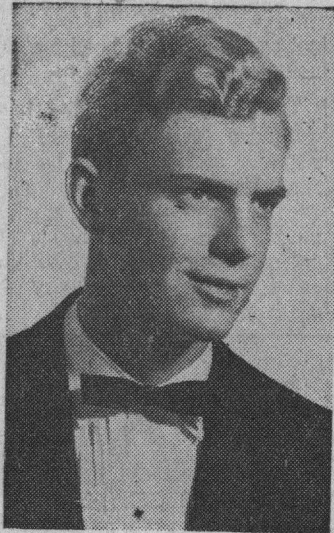


youth



Tom Noble

County Youth-In-Government Experiment Ends

By WALLACE WOOD
Sentinel Staff Writer

What began as a nationally ballyhooed experiment in youth participation in government ended quietly this week when Tom Noble's resignation from the county planning commission was accepted.

Noble, at 17, shot to national prominence when Supervisor Henry Mello appointed him to the commission, setting off a hot controversy.

Now Noble is 21 years old at a time when 18-year-olds are gaining legal adulthood.

The controversy over his appointment died almost as quickly as it began.

His fellow planning commissioners agree that almost no one could have been more invisible than Noble. "He at least had the good sense to keep his mouth shut when he didn't know what was going on," said Harvey Edmund, the senior commissioner.

Edmund sat next to Noble, and became somewhat of a friendly adviser to him.

"He never did anything," ad-

ded Commissioner Irving Atkinson. "Even at the times when he could have added something, he didn't. But," Atkinson continued, "they could have made a much worse choice."

"It was a great thing, politically, for Henry Mello. But not so great otherwise," Atkinson concluded.

In the last year or so, Noble has been physically absent from the commission as well.

The commission asked months ago that he be replaced for not

attending meetings, but no action was taken. "He was always having problems with his car, his girl friends, or his scholastic work," said Commissioner Chairman Don Bussey.

If there was no unanimous admiration for Noble, the feeling seemed to be mutual. In his letter of resignation, Noble said his resignation was "regrettable" because "it has been my good fortune to meet and work with some of the greatest and most sincere people I'll ever have the opportunity to meet."

"At the same time," Noble added, "I've had occasion to meet and exchange ideas with some of the stubbornest, most unyielding and backward-thinking individuals I believe I'll ever come across."

"For the contrast, I am thankful," he declared.

Noble explained his absences by saying he now works and attends college in the Santa Clara Valley.

"In the valley, I've been able to see the things that poor or late planning can accomplish... I

have become ever more aware of the serene and scenic life afforded us in Santa Cruz County, a life style which must be saved at all costs.

"It isn't necessary to stop progress altogether. It is only necessary to control it enough that it doesn't impede on the quality of life within our county."

I feel the other members of the commission, as well as the people on the county staff, and the sincere people in the community that I've had the opportunity to work with, realize this task and

are quite capable of attaining the necessary goals."

Noble concluded his statement by saying, "I feel that the voice of youth in county government should not now be lost. There are youth within our county who deserve a chance to make their county a better place to raise their families tomorrow."

County supervisors accepted Noble's resignation Tuesday as a routine item on their consent agenda, without comment. Mello indicated he will make another appointment later.

Tax Cut Bill Compromise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate House conferees approved Thursday a \$15.8 billion tax cut bill after agreeing to defer the start of a controversial pro-

deficit-ridden Democratic party, Ziegler said, "I don't think it is a coincidence that one of the major parties that controls Congress is in very serious fi-

Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Showery tonight then clearing Friday. Cooler Friday. Highs Friday in the 50s. Lows tonight in the 40s.

Temperature for 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today, maximum 61, minimum 46. Rainfall .52 inches.

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