

Tempers Flare, Courthouse Dispute Again Delays Bids

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Another week's delay was measured out to county judges and attorneys yesterday for a final look at design changes in the proposed new courthouse.

But a short-tempered board of supervisors warned they are ready to haul the line up Monday and take action on a final call for bids.

Superior Court Judge Charles Franich and attorney Donald May said the County Bar association will meet Thursday to vote on the changes. Judges and attorneys rejected courthouse plans three weeks ago.

May denied the bar has given "either approval or disapproval of the plans."

Another set of new plans was shown to the board by architect Burton Rockwell.

Franich and May immediately suggested minor changes for a stairway from the basement of the single-story courts building to the law library, to make room for 50,000 volumes. They had no major criticisms however.

Supervisor Vincent Locatelli made it plain he was displeased at allowing another week to go by on the bidding time. "I just want you to know we have lost the best bidding time and it's going to cost a lot of money. It's to bad you boys couldn't get together earlier."

March 1 has been set for opening bids on the \$5.25-million complex. Rockwell said that design changes probably will move the actual opening date to late April or early May.

Supervisors Tom Black and Robert Burton backed the request for a week's delay. Black moved to hold the matter over, commenting that "a lot of cooler heads are coming to light, and it is the reign of reason, not emotion now."

Judge Franich agreed that "if you go ahead today you would

be putting a chip on the shoulders of some attorneys. And there has been too much emotion already."

Chairman Russ McCallie suggested that the bids on the courts building and the five-story office building might be split if agreement was not reached by Monday. Other board members met this idea with stony silence.

Burton, who said he was appointed the liaison man between judges and supervisors, in 1963, told the board the judges had brought the mat-

ter up over a year ago, "and never got an answer."

He charged the bench "is not to blame for the delay. They had a plan, but it was never listened to."

Supervisor Francis Silliman took sharp issue with Burton's statement. "There's a great deal of damage done as far as the public is concerned. We have been trying to raise the stature of government in the public's eyes, but this has been mishandled by someone."

McCallie then asked Silliman to explain what he meant by

the "mishandled" charge.

Reluctantly, Silliman said "I can't agree with Mr. Burton. One principal person acted as if the courthouse was not going to be built, ever. He didn't live up to his obligations."

"We've always had faith. We all worked together on this," objected Burton.

Silliman answered that he meant "someone outside of the board," and added that "I would rather not be any more specific."

Board Trims School Site Actions

By Alan Pugh
Sentinel Staff Writer

Condemnation proceedings against six pieces of property in the La Fonda site for the third Santa Cruz high school were dropped last night by action of the board of trustees. But only after considerable debate.

On recommendation of Superintendent D. M. Morrissey, the board advised County Counsel William Card to withhold eminent domain actions against properties held by Thomas Spencer, Cleo Bunker, Iva Karst, Robert Cole, H. Karl Kvanvig and a parcel held jointly by Marguerite Hanna, Maud Altick and Dorothy Berg.

The six parcels all are in the immediate area of the La Fonda overpass extension and are improved.

Trustee John Melendy objected to withholding condemnation on two parcels that fronted on the La Fonda extension and were adjacent to land on which the school had started action. He said he believed the district should include them in the condemnation action "because they may be needed later, and future action would cost more."

Assistant Superintendent Dave Gray said he, the architect and engineers had decided to work around the parcels that were to be eliminated from action. Melendy said the plots were needed "for future planning," and Gray replied that "we can't afford to pick up these parcels and still buy the rest of the needed land."

Gray said the district was on a tight budget for land acquisition. He declared that a recently constructed \$28,000-plus home was on one of the disputed par-

cels. "We couldn't buy that," he said.

Architect Kal Porter said the plots were not needed — "although they would be nice to have for future expansion" — and that the new high school could be built around them.

In another report, Porter also told the board that additions on the Santa Cruz high school

would cost more than the estimates. Original cost plans called for \$429,000. He said new estimates were for \$475,000 "and I would like to add \$25,000 for contingencies," he said.

The board also authorized issuance of a warrant for purchase of the Margaret O. Weichert property adjacent to Santa Cruz high school on Weeks street for \$7000.

Defenses Against Retaliatory Attacks Braced In Viet Nam

Saigon, South Viet Nam (AP) — Vietnamese defenses against possible Communist retaliatory attacks bristled today. A battery of Hawk anti-aircraft missiles was set up at Da Nang air base and Vietnamese armed forces tightened the alert along the North Viet Nam border.

U.S. Air Force F105 fighter bombers roared aloft from Da Nang today, but headed into neighboring Laos for a bombing

raid on Communist supply lines there.

Qualified sources at Da Nang, 80 miles south of the border, said the F105s, among the best in the U.S. Air Force arsenal, also carried out heavy raids in Laos Monday shortly after Vietnamese and American aircraft struck at North Viet Nam.

The sources said raids against North Viet Nam have halted, at least temporarily. The raids against Communist supply lines in Laos are expected to continue as they have for more than a month.

There were no immediate reports on results of the raids into Laos.

Heavy fighting continued in South Viet Nam today and a U.S. helicopter crew member was killed in action in Phuoc Tuy Province, not far from Binh Gia. Eight other helicopter crewmen were wounded.

The American was killed in the helicopter assault on Communist guerrillas in two positions near Binh Gia.

Three helicopters were shot down, one burning after crashing. The other two were hauled from the area by salvage helicopters.

SC Symphony Youth Concert Set Tonight

The Santa Cruz Symphony, under the direction of Norman Masonson, will present a youth concert tonight, beginning at 7:30 in civic auditorium.

The program consists of Strauss' "Overture to Die Frau ohne Schatten," Schubert's

SC Youth Wounded By Robber

Michael Eugene Call, 18, was shot in the left shoulder last night by a man attempting to steal the youth's wallet.

The .22 caliber bullet was fired at close range and embedded itself in Call's shoulder. The bullet was removed at Sisters hospital and he was released this morning.

Call, who lives at 324 Main street, told officers he was on the way to see his girl friend at