

Santa Cruz' Cold Climate Reason For Resignation

By Ron Miller

County Administrator Edward W. Hane turned in his resignation to a dumbfounded board of supervisors late yesterday afternoon after being on the job only a little more than six months.

The 61-year-old administrator will leave October 1.

In his letter of resignation, Hane blamed the Santa Cruz weather for his decision to leave. He said he and his wife have been unable to adjust to the climate here. They will move to Palm Springs.

"I came to Santa Cruz with plans to eventually retire here," Hane said yesterday. "But I've been disappointed that the climate isn't warmer."

Politically, however, the climate has been more than warm for Hane since he came to work on January 1. Among the problems he has faced are:

1) A major shakedown of the county hospital that resulted in the appointment of Hane as temporary administrator.

2) The development of a county building program involving the always controversial county courthouse and juvenile hall issues.

3) Several tough budget battles involving the community mental health program and the probation department budget.

4) The problem of winning over two supervisors—Vincent Locatelli and Robert Burton—who attempted to abolish the administrative office just before the board hired Hane last October.

Hane's resignation stunned board members and county department heads who believed the personable, white-haired administrator was making great strides in organizing the various county departments into a smoothly functioning unit.

"I'm very, very disappointed," Board Chairman Francis Silliman commented this morning. "It will be extremely hard to find a replacement of Hane's quality."

Hane denied that there was any other reason for his decision to resign his post and retire from public service. He said the county supervisors and department heads have been extremely cooperative and had not provoked him into tossing in the towel.

It was no secret, however, that Hane was keenly disappointed when the supervisors turned down his recommendation to abolish the mental health department during preliminary budget hearings last month.

Hane was also jaded when the board refused to go along with his recommendation against adding three new employees to the county probation department. On his proposal for financing the courthouse and juvenile hall projects, the board decided to go along with Hane's second choice "pay-as-you-go" plan instead of his personal choice, a \$1,000,000 bond issue.

But in all these matters, Hane refused to argue with the board and told reporters his part of the job was completed when he submitted his recommendations.

"I've talked with Hane since he submitted his resignation," Silliman said today. "I'm con-

vinced he is sincere about his reasons for wishing to resign."

In naming Hane for the CAO job last October, the board made it clear they were picking a man with enough experience to put the administrative office on an operating basis in the shortest possible time. They all agree he has succeeded.

Shortly after Hane started here, the California Medical association filed a report on the county hospital that resulted in the resignation of Dr. Robert Radl, medical director, and the abolition of the assistant administrator post held by Robert Cohn.

"I don't think the hospital situation could have been handled without Hane," Silliman said. "It could have developed into a statewide hassle."

Hane told The Sentinel he felt he was not leaving the county in the lurch by leaving October 1. He has turned in a balanced budget, done the building program financing study and operated the hospital on an interim basis. A new hospital administrator will be hired within the next 30 days or so.

Hane said he has regretted that extra duties haven't allowed him to do more investigative work. He said he has had to rely on his experience in several instances where further investigation should have been made.

The administrator said the county will not have trouble finding a new administrator at this time of year, but advised that the salary be increased if the board wants to attract an experienced man. Hane has been receiving \$1000 a month.

"I think the county should look for a young man full of pep and ginger and with both feet on the ground," Hane said. "If the board will cooperate with such a man, he can get a lot done."

Although he advised against hiring an administrative assistant for his office earlier in the year, Hane now claims there is a need for such a post. He claims he didn't budget for it because he knew he was going to leave and didn't want to pick an assistant for the new CAO.

A veteran administrator with Stanislaus county before coming here, Hane is the second CAO in Santa Cruz county. He came into office nearly a year after the board fired Richard O'Reilly, the county's first CAO.

A friendly, genial personality, Hane has won the respect and admiration of most officials he has worked with here. Even Locatelli, who voted against hiring him, backed him on nearly every recommendation.

Waiting To See Old Frie