

EOC Chairman Refuses To Read Petition Backing Fired Area Director

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Rev. Gregorio Andino
was neatly muzzled last night

Savings!

7.98 Theragran M, 100's
Vitamins . 4.77

65c Alka-Seltzer *
Tablets . . . 49c

1.95 Paper Mate
Pens 1.00

35c—100
Aspirin . . . 19c

1.49 Liquid
Maalox . . . 98c

1.49
Insulin . . . 99c

2.00 Desert Flower Hand
and Body
Lotion . . . 1.00

10-oz.—For Diarrhea
Kaopectate 1.19

when he showed up at the county Economic Opportunity Commission meeting to protest his firing as head of the Watsonville EOC service center.

Andino entered the meeting late with a group of supporters, complaining that he had first gone to Cabrillo College where he had been informed the commission meeting was to be held. The meeting actually took place at the Buena Vista migrant farm workers housing center near Watsonville.

The ousted director promptly handed the commission a petition, but Chairman Pauline Torrecillas refused to read it, noting the document will be read at Andino's hearing.

The petition questions the legality of Andino's firing, since Jim Heth had not yet formally assumed the position of acting executive director when he dismissed Andino.

The petition also questions the procedures involved in moving Heth rapidly through a number of positions to the post of executive director. The paper further notes that Heth's claim that the staff of the Watsonville center is functioning more efficiently in Andino's absence is false. The petition claims instead that the staff is functioning more poorly.

Signers of the petition are members of an organization called Group of United Independent Volunteers, whose president is Eligio Carrejo of Watsonville.

The organization purports to be a volunteer citizens' group formed to support Andino, but Carrejo told The Sentinel the organization was formed by Andino himself three days after his firing.

Charles Shean, adviser to the

commission's personnel committee, told the board he expected to confer shortly with Committee Chairman Richard Fickel to set a time and place for Andino's hearing. He said he thought the hearing could be scheduled before September 1.

Shean said Andino's letter requesting the hearing does not specify, whether Andino wants a closed or a public session.

Heth reported to commissioners that federal officials have informed him it appears there will be no cuts in EOC financing for the coming year and that the local commission should use last year's guidelines in its budget planning.

The commission will gather in an adjourned session next week to discuss budget matters.

Robert Cotant, hired as a consultant to draft outlines of EOC programs for next year, gave thumbnail descriptions of the planned projects. Most are continuations of existing programs.

Low Income Housing Unit To Meet

A crash program to try to solve housing problems of the poor is expected to begin tonight at a meeting of the County Low Income Housing Committee.

The committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 111 of the administration building at Cabrillo College.

Chairman Burton Willis and Planning Director Bert Muhly are proposing a once-a-week meeting schedule to look into housing problems in the county.