

# Councilmen Asked For Resignation

By Jack Rannells

City Manager Peter Tedesco — the man who should know—today said Santa Cruz councilmen requested his resignation in March.

At the bidding of a council majority, he submitted an undated letter of resignation several months ago, he said in a statement to The Sentinel.

Five councilmen denied the firing or knowledge of the resignation Saturday and Monday.

Councilman John Daly this morning said he issued his denials on the hope that Tedesco would be retained.

Councilman Ted Foster refused to comment on his previous conflicting statements.

Other councilmen could not be reached. Mayor Bert Snyder is out of town.

Both councilmen contacted refused to explain the grounds on which the council had acted.

Tedesco, who was elevated from personnel director to manager in June 1958, made the following statement:

"I appreciate the fact that some members of the city council are trying to be helpful in trying to protect me. However, I must admit that I was asked to resign by a majority of the council and that I submitted an undated resignation to the council some time ago.

"Subsequently, I've received verbal confirmation for a rather attractive assignment and I intend to be leaving soon.

"I'm especially grateful to men such as Councilman John Daly, Bert Snyder, Harold Carriger (recently resigned), and, more recently, Norman Lezin, who have consistently supported me and have sincerely attempted to salvage what is a trying and confused situation.

"My real regret is that I leave so many things undone—that we could have accomplished so much working as a team."

Tedesco said he does not want to get involved in a public controversy over the firing.

What was originally rumored as 6-1 or 5-2 vote to seek the resignation more recently has been set at 4-3, or even 3-4.

Daly commended Tedesco for "taking the initiative to bring this matter to the public attention.

"This substantiates the strength of character and the clarity of judgment that I've admired in him."

Foster, told he had been implicated as opposition by omission in Tedesco's statement, pleaded: "The role I took was more investigative than anything else."

Saturday, he said he considers Tedesco "as close a friend as anybody."

Today, he said he will reserve comment on the resignation until he sees it. He said he had not seen the one previously turned in by Tedesco. (It was given to Daly).

Tedesco said he probably will submit another resignation to the council at its June 26 meeting. It would be effective in 30 days.

Tedesco's position apparently was discussed at several Brown act personnel meetings last fall. The decision to ask resignation reportedly was reached by telephone. At a subsequent Brown act meeting, the matter was discussed with Tedesco present and the letter was asked.

A "more experienced man" reportedly was desired to meet the problems expected with University of California growth.

Tedesco, a city employee since August, 1955, tangled with the council while trying to complete the university cooperation agreements last fall.

He received public criticism from the council after Dr. Foster alleged the manager had shown "favoritism" to Policeman Chuck Scherer on a planning matter. No action was ever taken on the allegation which was denied strongly by Tedesco.

One rumor before the ill-fated tax increase election last February had it that if it failed, Tedesco was "out."

Other council members are George Wilson, John McBain and Robert Warne.

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