

11-29-55 Traffic Patterns

# Plea Points To Summer Traffic Congestion In Area

The city made its pitch yesterday for state financing of a \$1,565,000 "outer circulation loop" to speed beach traffic in and out of Santa Cruz.

A local delegation pleaded the city's case before the legislature's joint interim committee on transportation, headed by Senator Randolph Collier of Yreka, in the board of supervisors chamber at San Francisco's city hall.

The committee was told that Santa Cruz, which plays host each summer to swarms of visitors totalling 75 times its normal winter population, faces "a problem larger than the resources of the city of Santa Cruz can deal with."

Extension of the state highway system to provide the "outer circulation loop" is the only practicable solution, city representatives said.

Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge accompanied the delegation and introduced its members to his fellow-legislators. Those who went along to lend the support of their presence included:

City Manager Robert Klein, City Engineer Alec Russell, Ralph Ring, secretary-manager of the chamber of commerce, and Fred D. McPherson Jr., chairman of the chamber's highway committee. Harold P. Wise, head of the planning firm which drew up the city's master streets and highways plan, also was present.

Klein conceived the idea of seeking extension of the state highway system within the city limits, and it was Klein who acted as chief spokesman.

He gave a verbal explanation of the city's request to bolster information and charts in a six-page

illustrated brochure distributed to committeemen. The brochure was put together for the occasion.

Santa Cruz is visited by 1,500,000 persons during the 99-day summer season, a figure that will grow in time, Klein said. Yet the \$60,000 gas tax allocation the city receives from the state annually is based on its wintertime population of 22,794, he pointed out.

Klein said it will take five years of city gas tax funds to complete the first link of the proposed loop — the \$300,000 Chestnut street plan. The city has begun acquiring rights-of-way to widen Chestnut street and cut it through to the beach and to Mission street.

The entire loop will cost an estimated \$1,565,000, or 25 years of city gas tax money, Klein told the committee. A large chart was hung to show the city's goal to the legislators who can make or break state highway projects.

It showed these projected improvements: widening and extension of Chestnut street at both ends, widening of Beach street, a new bridge across the San Lorenzo river to link Beach and Ocean streets (a \$725,000 item), widening of Ocean street and a new bridge over Branciforte creek.

If these objectives are realized, the loop would form a giant north-south rectangle around the business district. The loop would tie into the Los Gatos highway and Mission street (Highway 1), i.e., at both ends of the business district by-pass now under construction.

Klein said most of the traffic which pours into Santa Cruz during the summer comes from the bay area and the agricultural valleys to the east. The city is not equipped financially to handle this problem posed by vehicles dumped in Santa Cruz by the state highway system, he said.

Unless aid is forthcoming, Klein said, bay area motorists "might find it takes longer to get in and out of Santa Cruz than it takes to get from Oakland to Santa Cruz."

Wise explained the projected traffic increase into Santa Cruz in the next 20 years. He pointed out that in addition to visitors who spend time in the city and its beach resort, there are multitudes who pass through Santa Cruz to reach nearby state beaches and parks.

Wise said the problem will be complicated in the near future by establishment of Twin Lakes beach state park. "Last week the papers went into escrow for Twin Lakes beach," he noted.

When the city had finished its presentation, committee members had only one question:

"How is Senator Judah?" They were informed that Judah, former state senator from Santa Cruz, is well.

The city delegation was shocked when County Road Commissioner Fred Pracht took the floor and swung a tentative uppercut at the structure they had just built.

"We are still standing by the recommendations we submitted to the highway commission and if anything is going to interfere with that program we are not in favor of it," said Pracht, declaring it to be the stand of the county board of supervisors.

Pracht said later he referred specifically to the freeway extension from Morrissey boulevard to the Los Gatos highway and the improvement of Highway 17 between Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz to freeway status.

Pracht said he was not objecting to the city-proposed "outer circulation loop" unless it is going to take state funds away from the other two projects.

"It wasn't an objection if it (the city loop plan) doesn't interfere with the program," Pracht said. "It is an objection if it does."

City representatives conferred in a corridor afterward and concluded Pracht hadn't damaged their cause. First, they said, the city isn't trying to rob other projects to pay for its own. Second, they agreed, Pracht didn't make his point clear and his argument went over the heads of the committee.

Just before the Santa Cruz hearing ended, Coolidge told the committee that the Watsonville area and the San Lorenzo Valley have highway problems too.

Instead of taking up session time, however, Coolidge invited Collier to Santa Cruz today for a Pasatiempo luncheon and a tour of critical road areas.

Collier accepted, and SLV spokesmen were to present their problems to him at a 12:30 p. m. luncheon today. Supervisor Frank Clement, who was present at yesterday's hearing in case SLV

## Younger way.

12—Forrest Miller, Watsonville.

13—James Britt, Felton.

14—James (Big Jim) DeNoon.

15—Charles Mutchler, 5350 Soquel drive.

16—Anthony Robinson, Watsonville.

17—Roy McKinney, Salinas.

18—Harry Vincent, Love Creek road, Ben Lomond.

19—Maurice Englehard, 119 Lighthouse avenue.

20—Paul McDuffee, 526 High street.

21—William Woolsey, Aptos.

DeNoon, No. 14 on the list, is a television and western entertainer. Robinson said DeNoon got his card through Mutchler, No. 15, the ex-convict from whom Moore borrowed \$1000 shortly after last year's election.

Anthony Robinson, No. 16, is the Watsonville school teacher who was fired from his job after he testified to witnessing a pinball payoff in a Watsonville bar. The bartender was acquitted by a jury.

William Woolsey, No. 21, says he is the DA's narcotics expert. Woolsey, who has a police record, claims to be on the verge of cracking a narcotics ring in Santa Cruz.

Until today the names of Moore's unpaid investigators had been unpublished, except for Mutchler and Woolsey. Moore dropped the entire 21 from investigative status a week ago after a spate of unfavorable publicity concerning the records of Mutchler and Woolsey.

To raise money for Moore's defense, Mrs. Rush today prepared an ad for insertion in county papers tomorrow. "In response to widespread demand we must organize a crusade for the protection of your county and district attorney," the ad begins.

It continues that the money will be used for investigation, publicity and defense — things "established agencies have refused to provide."

Contributors are asked to make their donations at any bank in Santa Cruz county to Mrs. Rush's account. Mrs. Rush, as trustee of defense funds, has set up accounts.

The ad also takes note of Mrs. Rush's impending departure from her county job to the staff of Belli. She noted that civil service rules would not have permitted her to keep working in her present position anyway (Mrs. Rush lacks certain qualifications established by civil service), adding she will be able to do more for Moore in San Francisco.

Mrs. Rush told reporters she will start work for Belli next week but will return to Santa Cruz from time to time to administer the fund and take care of other defense matters.

Part of the money raised might "possibly" be spent to promote nationwide publicity for Moore, she said.

When she mentioned that a third lawyer might be added to the defense forces, a reporter asked where the defense expert

asked where the defense expected to find money to pay a battery of expensive lawyers, private investigators and finance a publicity campaign as well.

"The only thing we can do is try, isn't it?" she replied.

Boccardo, reached at his San Jose office, said it was the first he had heard of a third lawyer. He said he talked to Belli this morning but the latter didn't mention it.

terday's hearing in case SLV needs came up, found it unnecessary to speak in view of Collier's visit here today.

Other committee members at the hearing were:

Senators Luther Gibson ((Vallejo), Swift Berry (Placerville), and Harry Parkman (Woodside), and Assemblymen Richard Dolwig (Atherton) and Richard McCollister (San Anselmo).