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# Courthouse Engineer Contract Hiked

It may cost a little more, but the county's new courthouse complex deserves some "rockless bottom" safety.

So county supervisors decided yesterday in a 3 to 2 vote to increase the \$5000 contract of a soils engineer to \$12,500.

Basically, it all grew out of the problem of drilling holes for a proper foundation for the five-story county office building at Ocean and Water streets.

Some 60 out of 290 holes for supporting cement columns have been drilled, and they have cost \$15,000 more than the estimate so far, the board was told by Public Works Director Warren Harrison.

The problem, Harrison said, is that there is no "rock bottom" foundation. So an engineer's opinion as to the safe depth for pilings is needed.

Soils engineers Lee & Praszker of San Francisco were asking for the additional money in order to inspect each hole as it is drilled.

Because the firm has balked at signing the lesser \$5000 contract, county supervisors were considering a replacement firm. Harrison said his own engineers could probably make on-the-spot inspections of the drillings.

Courthouse architect Burton ockwell strongly dissented, Rockwell strongly however, and begged the board of supervisors not to switch engineers in mid-well.

A switch would hold up the project until another engineering firm signed a contract, and responsibility for the project would be hopelessly split, he warned.

"The extra money would be modest compared with the cost charged by other engineers,'

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### Valencia Farm **Bureau Meets** Tomorrow

The Valencia Farm bureau will hold a special meeting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Valencia Hall to discuss "Land Use and Tentative Zoning." Director Harry Gunderson will preside and County Planning Director Louis B. Muhly will speak.

The meeting will be open to all interested residents of the area.

Rockwell declared. Since firm is also engineer for the redevelopment agency, Rockwell said they have a vast knowledge of the area. "They have done this work piecemeal as the project grew, yet the cost has been low. To change firms would be an imprudent and dangerous move that would de-lay the construction," he de-

Supervisor Francis Silliman agreed that "we can't afford to gamble" and moved to approve the more expensive contract.

Supervisor Robert Burton, however, objected that to approve such a contract would open the door for other firms to demand similar privileges. "If we start this racket now, we will be doing this for two years," he told the board.

Chairman Russ McCallie also held out for the smaller contract, and voted with Burton against the increase.

In other action, the board considered these matters:

FIRE EXIT-Only one bid was received for a fire exit to the county courthouse annex, and supervisors delayed award the bid until the public works department can negotiate with the bidder, Perrin & Brown ARD DATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.

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Perrin & Brown's bid for the exit stairway on the five-story structure was \$13,600. It was far and the above the estimate amount budgeted—\$8400.

HUMBLE OIL—The board de-

clined to take a stand on the Humble Oil company's request to build a huge refinery at Moss Landing in Monterey county.

Members of the county advertising committee had asked the board for some opinion on the matter, but Supervisor Francis Silliman warned that "we should take no action on this, because we do not have any testimony before us."

Supervisor Robert Burton had been appointed by the board to keep track of Humble's application, but has been sidelined with an injured foot.

advertising SIGNS - Vera agency was authorized to continue upkeep on three county advertising signs along Highway 99. One sign, in Monterey county, was removed at the request of county officials there.

LABOR-The board went on record as opposing a state welfare department directive that some farm workers be classified as part-time and thus still be welfare benefits eligible for while working.

The County Grand jury opposed the directive, passed during the bracero crisis, and had urged supervisors to do

CARS - Supervisors \_authorized the auction sale of 21 county automobiles August 28. The vehicles, many 1963 and 1964 models, are ex-patrol cars and other surplus trucks and autos. They are now on display at the county service center.

#### DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF LINLITHGOW DIES

Kingston, England. (AP). The Dowager Marchioness of Linlithgow, 78, widow of one of the last viceroys of India, died Tuesday of injuries suffered in Her an automobile accident. husband, who died in 1952, was viceroy from 1936 to 1943.

#### BREMEN'S CAPTAIN DIES

Aboard The German Liner Bremen (AP). - Capt. Guenther Roessing, 63, master of West flagship Bremen, Germany's died Tuesday, apparently of a heart attack, on the bridge of his vessel in mid-Atlantic. Roessing was a veteran of more than 40 years with the North German Lloyd Line and had sailed the North Atlantic for 35 years.

#### **GYPSIES**

It generally is thought that gypsies came, not from Egypt as their name indicates, but from India, since their langu-

## **FAMILY RECREATION**

Tired of TV - Nothing to do? Come spend an hour at Beige & Blue.

Hours: 11 a.m. 'til Midnight