

Proposal to fire service center director defeated

12-31-70 Community Action Bd

A proposal to fire the director and dissolve the board of the Santa Cruz Area Service Center was defeated last week at a special meeting of the Community Action Board (CAB).

The proposal was made by Cassius Ellis, CAB chairman.

Dennis Albaugh, assistant CAB director, said Ellis had indicated that the firing of the center director and dissolution of the center's board would satisfy all those with complaints about operations at the center.

Albaugh also said the CAB yesterday accepted a report from a committee which investigated the charges against the center and its programs. The report absolves the center's staff of any allegations of misconduct but calls for tighter procedures in the future.

Gov. Reagan has vetoed funding for authorization for most of the local War on Poverty here because of his displeasure with the Santa Cruz Area Service Center.

Albaugh said Ellis had indicated to him personally that the firing of Bob Shapiro, center director, and dissolution of the center board would be mutually satisfactory to most of those concerned. Albaugh said he personally was bitterly opposed to the suggestion.

Albaugh also said Ellis has indicated to him that the proposal had been worked out at a meeting in Burlingame among federal, state and local representatives.

Dan Forbus, chairman of the

board of supervisors, and a leading critic of the Santa Cruz Center, denied that any deals had been worked out in the Burlingame meeting. He said he, Supervisor Ralph Sanson, H. Rodger Betts, director of the western regional office of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and two of Gov. Reagan's representatives, Robert Hawkins and Anthony Gurule, had attended the meeting.

"But no deals were worked out and no deals were attempted," Forbus said. "Betts and Hawkins seemed to me to be too far apart in their thinking to even consider talking about any deals."

Commenting on Ellis, proposal to the CAB, Forbus said:

"I think Cassius made that proposal to try to save the program. He probably knew it would be turned down and is hoping that someone would come up with a better alternative. I personally could have supported that proposal and I am hoping for some alternative to ending the whole poverty program."

Forbus said the whole matter will probably come to a head Jan. 5 when supervisors receive the report of the investigating committee.

Supervisor Sanson said he resented any implication that he had participated in any deals.

"No names were discussed at the Burlingame meeting," Sanson said, "and I personally resent the way this is being

handled. We did not discuss the firing of the center director and the dissolving of the center board. If someone's trying to make it seem we did discuss those matters I am very unhappy. If that proposal was not Ellis' own idea then I am unhappy with whoever might have suggested it to Ellis."

Ellis was unavailable for comment.



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