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Locatelli Protests, But Supervisors Okay Agreement On UC Commitments

By Len Klempnauer

The county's agreement on commitments to aid the University of California in locating its campus here was approved by the board of supervisors yesterday over the vehement protest of Supervisor Vince Locatelli.

Feeling between Locatelli and Chairman Lewis Nelson, who was the board's liaison officer in university-county negotiations, ran so strong at one point during the discussion that the two supervisors addressed each other as "Mr. Lewis" and "Mr. Locatelli" instead of the usual "Mr. Chairman" and "Vince."

The squabble came over county commitments to purchase land from UC on which to build roads inside the campus proper.

"I feel this is the best we can do, and if we can't approve this agreement, then I'm willing to drop out and let someone else negotiate," the red-faced Nelson commented during the heat of the argument.

It brought a statement from Supervisor Francis Silliman that the item be momentarily skirted while the remainder of the agreement was discussed.

The amount the county will pay is $99,000 for 90 acres of land at $1100 an acre.

"I don't feel we should buy land for roads we're going to build and they (UC officials) will control," said Locatelli.

"They're not going to control them. The roads will be open county roads," countered Nelson.

"You're supposed to be representing the people here; now you are representing UC," Locatelli said.

"Now you know that's not right," said Nelson. "You were with me at the meeting with UC."

Supervisor Hulda McLean interjected that the only honorable thing to do was to carry out commitments the supervisors made last year in trying to lure the UC campus to Santa Cruz.

In Part II of the discussion, Supervisor Robert Burton said he would like to see the $99,000 "in the bag" before being committed to the campus road building project.

Nelson said the money won't be needed just at one time but the construction program was projected over a long period of time. He added that Road Commissioner Elmer Swan assured him that the county could meet its commitments with no real hardship.

"Is this the best possible bargain?" asked Burton.

"No, but we're still committed to it," answered Nelson.

In moving that the agreement be approved, Silliman said it was the best possible compromise and he was certain the board did not wish to welch on its commitments when the supervisors had worked so hard to bring the campus to Santa Cruz (the entire board on various occasions had aided in the negotiations).

Supervisors McLean, Burton, Silliman and Nelson voted in favor. But Locatelli, despite prodding by Silliman to vote favorably, "Come on, Vince. Come on," cast the lone dissenting vote.

An ordinance "freezing" development in the immediate vicinity of the University of California campus site was passed to its second reading by the board of supervisors yesterday.

Only Locatelli raised any objections to adoption of the "freeze" legislation, promising a "no" vote when the matter comes up for its final reading two weeks from now.

Locatelli has maintained there in no need to include the Younger and Wilder ranch property in the "freeze" since both parcels are devoted to agricultural use and are reasonably distant from the Cowell site.

But other supervisors have argued agricultural uses are not affected by the "freeze" and maintain that Locatelli is complaining over nothing.

The "freeze" would hold up development in the campus area for a year or 18 months at most. Agricultural uses and additions to existing structures would not be affected by the "freeze." Anyone desiring to build a new structure would have to come before county planners.

SLV Trustees To Discuss Bond Issue

A special meeting November 27 to consider all aspects of calling for a bond issue for an elementary school and/or a junior high school was scheduled last night by the San Lorenzo Valley school district board.

Trustees, after months of discussing the needs and potential sites for new school plants, are expected to come to an exact decision at the coming session.

The board then should decide whether it will propose a junior high or an elementary or both, where the schools should be situated and how large a bond issue should be put before the voters.

Trustees, school officials and any interested persons will make a bus tour November 26 of the entire San Lorenzo Valley to