

Junior College District Election To Be Tomorrow

By Wally Trabing

Polls in Santa Cruz county will be open tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for voting on the question of establishing a junior college district in the county.

If passed, the next step will be the organization of trustees to represent the county. This will be done through another election, as will a bond issue to construct a college.

Norman S. Lien, county superintendent of schools, said this morning. "It simply amounts to this: The people of the county have a choice of establishing their own junior college at a cost that will be less than the present system of paying for (out of county) junior college expense.

"Regardless of what has been said about tax rates here and tax rates there, the problem can be solved in this county well within the means of a reasonable tax rate — within a few pennies of what we are now paying," he said.

County taxpayers are now paying 36 cents per \$100 for the 600 students now attending some 23 California junior colleges.

Lien said that a junior college could be constructed in this county for 15 cents per \$100 and 27 cents per \$100 for operation. This is 42 cents which Lien figures would handle 800 students.

"If eventually 1000 Santa Cruz county students attended out of county junior colleges the 36-cent rate would jump up to over 60 cents. If a college were to be built here, however, we could handle them for around 42 or 45 cents," he said.

Mrs. LaSalle Bachelder, a teacher of some 40 years experience and former principal-teacher of Happy Valley school, said this morning that "people who vote against this will be failing to take a long range view. I feel that in less than 10 years we will be reaping the rewards, both culturally and financially.

"As a teacher I have seen many an honor student stop his schooling at high school because

he could not afford to go to a college or university and because they were too far away."

A simple majority is needed to pass the issue. In most of the discussions on the proposed district, it has been generally agreed that a proposed college would be placed in the area between Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

School observers feel that the issue will be passed if enough persons go to the polls. There have been a great many endorsements from civic and social organizations in favor of the district.

Present annual payments to out of county junior colleges include \$48,000 for bus transportation; a flat fee of \$300 per student (\$178,000 last year) for building and maintaining classrooms in out of county junior colleges, and \$282,000 in tuition to other colleges. The amount is set by law.

Financial Pinch Hits URA Program

Washington (AP).—The government's slum clearance program is in a financial pinch.

Rationing of federal funds is in effect and likely to continue indefinitely. Twelve pending applications from California and one from Arizona are being reviewed under a formula setting an annual maximum for each community.

The immediate crisis resulted when congress adjourned without final action on a housing bill authorizing additional capital grants to localities to help finance urban renewal projects.