

Community Congress Lists Recommendations

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Some 250 Santa Cruz area residents turned out yesterday to take a hand in guiding the affairs of their community at the second annual Congress for Community Progress.

Most of the participants appeared to leave the all-day conclave at Cabrillo College feeling they had accomplished something. That was the idea of the affair — to give individual citizens the opportunity to voice their views on matters of local concern.

"It was a definite success from all standpoints: attendance, the quality of the discussions and the excellence of the recommendations that grew from them," commented Congress Chairman Al Castagnola. (For a report on the congress' keynote address, see Page 17.)

The high point of the meeting came when members of the congress' five discussion groups assembled in general session to hear the formal recommendations of the various panels.

James Kennedy, county treasurer and moderator of the panel on local taxes, reported his group's recommendations were:

1. All local government agencies continue to utilize business-like methods of administration. This same approach should be used in solving service problems as well.
2. Local tax spending units should give attention to the need for additional representa-

tion to benefit the "average citizen." The possibility of night discussion meetings and formation of taxpayers groups should be explored by these agencies.

3. State legislators should be asked to study whether taxes paid by mobile home occupants cover their demands for local services.

4. State legislators should be asked to work for a revision in the state gas tax formula so visitors to Santa Cruz County would share in the cost of developing local streets and roads.

5. Appropriate bodies should again remind local citizens that financial problems of local schools must be solved in order to attract the desirable growth sought by most Santa Cruz area residents.

Dan Bias, moderator of the panel on a Santa Cruz convention center, reported his group had only one recommendation: that the city council take immediate action to begin a program for the construction of a center.

Bias pointed out the convention industry is potentially one of the largest available to this area, but it cannot be effectively expanded without a convention-community center.

Keith Shaffer said his panel had made two recommendations regarding retail sales and three under the general heading of economy.

The sales suggestions were:

1. A larger selection of merchandise should be made available in local stores.
2. Retail sales personnel should be trained to be customer oriented. Courses should be given at the adult education level in high schools or at Cabrillo College in proper public relations with customers.

In the general economy category, Shaffer's group recommended:

1. In the effort to attract industry, The Greater Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce should make the choice of a proper industry for this community, then tailor a prospectus to that individual industry and present the prospectus in person.
2. Consider improvement of facilities supporting seashore and aquatic recreation and its related industries.

3. Give more attention to existing local industry and its expansion problem, since three times as much money is spent by industry on expansion as on new installations.

Moderator James Hammond said his panel on education concerned itself mainly with the questions: Should we open Harbor High? and How can we finance education?

Those two problems, he said, led to the following recommendations:

1. Call an override tax election shortly after the first of the year to finance the opening of the new high school.
2. Support the provision of Assembly Bill 272 which would allow local school boards to set the tax rate for school purposes.
3. Support state legislation providing new state and local monies for education with corresponding property tax relief.

Jack Snyder, moderator of the panel on narcotics, drugs, LSD and youth, noted that his panel had largely ignored the questions of narcotics to concentrate on the single topic of youth.

The panel's recommendations were:

1. The county board of supervisors should work with the local medical association to see that health examinations and corrective service are made available to all children in the county.
2. The Santa Cruz chamber should assume the responsibility for organizing a youth congress as soon as practicable.
3. Local agencies and organizations should explore the following topics in depth to bring youth and adults closer in their thinking and planning:

- a. Make it possible for youth to have a greater say in matters affecting youth.
- b. Study the growing trend toward materialism on the part of adults and youth.
- c. Study the extent to which adults exploit youth commercially and in other ways.

4. The community congress panel on youth should meet more than once a year.

Chairman Castagnola reminded that a special task force will be appointed to push for action on the recommendations throughout the coming year.

Wife's Birthday Wish Granted

Boulder, Colo. (AP). — Dr. Thaddeum M. Grahame kept asking his wife what she wanted for her birthday.

"A fire engine," Mrs. Grahame always answered.

Her birthday party Wednesday evening was interrupted by sirens and blinking red lights when a 12-ton hook and ladder fire truck drove up the couple's driveway.

Grahame said he purchased the 1945 model truck for \$2700 from the Denver Fire Department.