

**Pay-As-You-Go'**

# **Courthouse Financing Approved**

A new county courthouse and juvenile hall will be constructed in the next three years on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, the board of supervisors decided yesterday on a 3-2 vote.

But the decision does not completely rule out the possibility of a bond election later.

Supervisors Francis Silliman, Lewis Nelson and Hulda McLean voted to place all the available sales tax revenue into the building fund this year as the first step toward getting the projects under way.

This procedure follows the first year phase of two separate financing methods suggested by County Administrator Ed Hane. If the board decides to change its mind later on the "pay-as-you-go" plan, it can still be done without affecting the first year financing of the projects.

No decision has been made as to when the projects will get under way, but Hane's "pay-as-you-go" plan states contracts could be let by January for the juvenile hall and the first phase of the courthouse.

Hane will make a review of the situation again before definite action is taken. July 1, 1964 is the deadline for submission of courthouse plans to the Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency.

Hane's plan "A" proposes the board put all the available sales tax revenue into the building fund for the next three years. Added to the \$669,000 now in the building fund and \$127,000 from the general fund, the money would provide both buildings by 1966.

The administrator's "B" plan calls for a \$1,000,000 bond issue in November with amortization of the bonds through sales tax revenue. The project would be started with the existing building fund money and the 1962-63 sales tax revenue. The buildings would be ready by 1965.

Supervisors Vincent Locatelli and Robert Burton voted against the "pay-as-you-go" plan because the juvenile hall was included in the package. Both demanded top priority for the courthouse.

The decision to use "pay-as-you-go" followed two unsuccessful motions by Locatelli.

The first asked top priority for the courthouse, leaving the juvenile hall project until the courthouse is finished. Burton joined Locatelli, but the motion died 2-

Then Locatelli asked that \$950,000 of the approximate \$1,150,000 that would be raised by "pay-as-you-go" this year be set aside for courthouse purposes. The motion died on the same margin.

Many persons in the audience urged the board to place the issue on the ballot so the public could decide how to finance the projects. The majority of them indicated opposition to the juvenile hall part of the construction package.

Another consideration was the question of sites. Mrs. LaSalle Bachelder urged the board to let the public vote on where to build a new courthouse. She favors a multi-story structure on the present Pacific avenue-Cooper street location instead of the proposed building on the 11-acre parcel near the corner of Ocean and Water streets in the redevelopment area.

"Any discussion of the courthouse should recognize there will be opposition to either site," Burton said.

When the issue was brought to a vote, the board re-iterated its former stand to build the courthouse on the Ocean-Water parcel. The vote was 4-1 with only Burton dissenting.

Burton proposed his own courthouse plan with the court facilities to be retained on the present site and the other county offices to be constructed on the Ocean-Water site. He also proposed a five-year "pay-as-you-go" plan and suggested offering cash prizes to architects for the best courthouse designs.

"That might be a fine compromise," Nelson commented, "but it sure wouldn't reduce our operating costs having the offices split up like that."

## **INDEX**

Page

Amusements ----- 13