

Supervisors Approve Pay Hikes For Employees But Not Their Money

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Fighting and Trouble were the middle names of county supervisors yesterday as they wrote out a \$200,000-plus increase in county employees' salaries but they wouldn't sign the check.

A shift in the balance of county power caused by Supervisor Henry Mello was never so apparent as Chairman Tom Black and Russ McCallie found themselves clearly alone for the first time in a major issue.

By a 3 to 2 vote, led by Mello, the board adopted the salary recommendations of the civil service commission for around \$210,000 in raises. And then it gave additional increases to four key department or section heads. Mello was joined by Vincent Locatelli and Robert Burton.

But Black and McCallie managed to keep some of their power by stopping any actual money appropriation to pay for the increases.

A four-fifths vote was needed to get money out of the contingency reserve, where the board has stashed \$250,000 for salaries.

"If this stands, we will pay the new salaries as long as the money lasts; then we will cease to pay all salaries," threatened Auditor George Kriz.

Kriz strongly suggested the board take action to put the money into the right fund before the increases take effect September 16.

No action was taken, however. It probably will mean plenty of political give-and-take between now and that deadline, board members admitted later.

Black and McCallie had held out for a down-the-line approval of the civil service commission recommendations.

"For all practical purposes, we should just dismiss the civil service commission," growled McCallie. "We never listen to them."

"Not at all," answered Mello. "The commission's batting average here is 99 per cent. We're only deviating four or five positions from their recommendations, and that's our job. It's our responsibility, since we answer to the taxpayers."

Mello reminded Black he had voted with the board last year for across-the-board increases, completely ignoring the selective increases asked by the commission.

"Yes, I did, so we could get some kind of increase. I felt it was necessary, but I'm not going to do it again," the chairman said.

Black added that the five

changes made "were all for the wrong reasons." The changes included increases for the welfare director, health officer, road superintendent, drainage district supervisor, surveyor, and a steno-bookkeeper class.

Mello pointed out all the positions were below the pay average of the counties Santa Cruz uses for a comparison.

But Burton and Locatelli would not go along with an increase for the personnel director, Charles Shean, who also is below.

"The reason for most of these changes are personal," Black charged. "The road superintendent may work hard, but I'll tell you a lot of people work hard in this county."

City Civil Service Group Asks More Study On Pay Hike

A bid for more stand-by duty pay for city street employees has been referred by the Santa Cruz Civil Service Commission back to the city staff for further study.

The move came at yesterday's commission meeting as a request was studied to raise from \$20 to \$30 the wages paid to employees who must remain near their home telephones on week-ends to await emergency calls.

In other business, the commission voted to recommend to the city council that the Steven Chelbay Company be named broker of record for city employees' life insurance program. Chelbay already carries the workers' accident and other insurance policies.

During a formal resolution to establish commission business procedures, the group's regular

meeting time and place were set at 8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the city council chambers.

D. Alice Gier Services Friday

D. Alice Gier, 44, a Santa Cruz resident for the past two years, died yesterday while visiting in San Francisco.

A native of Iowa, she resided at 1140 17th avenue and had been employed at Pacific Plantronics for about six months.

Surviving her are her husband, Raymond G. Gier; a daughter, Judy L. Smith; three sons, John E., Eugene E., and James R. Gier, all of Santa Cruz; two sisters, Ferne Spencer of Yukota, Japan; Mary Sterling of San Mateo; a brother, Glenn Davis of Loring, Maine; and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Davis of Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Funeral services will be held at the Ferguson Mortuary chapel, Friday, at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Fred A. Rinehart officiating.

Interment will be in Oakwood Memorial Park.

Two Children Hurt In Collision

Two children received apparent minor injuries in an accident last night at Soquel drive and Hillcrest avenue.

Highway patrolmen said Jo Ann Gilbertson, 24, of 1905 Soquel drive, was east-bound on Soquel drive when a pick-up truck entered from Hillcrest avenue. The vehicles collided and her children, James, 3, and Steve, 5, were hurt. They were taken to a physician for treatment.

The pick-up truck driver, Jack Hart, 16, of Colfax, may be cited for failure to yield the right-of-way, patrolmen said.

Woman Injured In Two-Car Crash

Adele Hansen, 26, of 323 Spring street, received facial injuries in a two-car accident yesterday afternoon at Highway 1 and River street.

Highway patrolmen said she

New York Stock Exchange Courtesy of Baikie & Alcantara

Industrials: 915.68—Dn 3.47
Rails: 259.87—Dn .57
Volume: 8,220,000

Allied Chemical	41 1/2
Amer. Airlines	40 1/2
Amer. Can	58 1/4
Amer. Motors	13 3/8
Amer. Radiator	28 1/2
Amer. Tel.	51 3/8
Amer. Tobacco	34 3/4
Anaconda	52
Armco Steel	56 1/4
Atchison	29 3/8
Avco	60
Bendix	50 3/8
Beth. Steel	36 1/2
Boeing	99 1/4
Caterpillar	48 3/8
Chase Manhattan Bank	66 1/8
Ches. & Ohio	70 1/2
Chrysler	48 3/4
Colgate	48
Cons. Edison	36 1/2
Contl. Can	36 1/2
Crown Zellerbach	36 1/2
Curtis Wright	36 1/2