

Youths Charge Harassment Of Hippies

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

County youth commissioners charged today that an unofficial county committee on "anti-social elements" is systematically harassing hippie-types.

The commission voted to send representatives to appear before the recently reorganized Committee to Control the Anti-Social Element in the County.

"There's no question they've been trying to harass so-called hippie-types that they don't like, particularly in the San Lorenzo Valley," declared Youth Commissioner Nicholas Hanks.

The harassment takes the form of selective law enforcement aimed at the undesirable group and not used against accepted members of the community, other commissioners said.

Art Alexander, assistant county administrative officer, was questioned after the meeting. He admitted the committee on anti-socials only has a "semi-official status."

Alexander denied the group is trying to harass anyone or promote selective law enforcement of one group against another.

"Of course, the only case where this might take place is

in housing or sanitation," Alexander added. "We only act against unfit housing on the basis of complaints. So if someone doesn't like his neighbors and calls us, we have no way of knowing what the reason was."

The county is so riddled with poor housing that strict enforcement of housing and building codes would put hundreds of persons out of their homes, ac-

cording to a report submitted to county supervisors this week.

Alexander said the committee "grew out of" an action by county supervisors last year, when a group — of San Lorenzo Valley residents headed by Ruth Wilson demanded county action against "undesirable elements."

While the county departments

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did file reports, they also formed an unofficial committee to talk about getting rid of undesirable.

That committee was reorganized with three subcommittees two weeks ago, when some valley residents appeared before the group to ask for stiffer law enforcement against hippie types. Ed Peterson and Robert Lansberry were made members of the committee then.

Scott Smith, Youth Commission chairman and a member of the committee since its beginning, outlined the situation to his commission this morning.

When other commissioners heard there was an effort to "get" a particular group, they said they were outraged. "Law enforcement should be an even-handed thing; it should be the same for everyone, and not just to get someone you don't like," Commissioner Charles Woods said later.

Smith suggested members of the commission appear before the committee on anti-socials and determine if this is the

there was any under-

case. He said the appearance might lead to better committee understanding of the difference between law breakers and persons who simply are non-conformists.

The committee on anti-socials was broken down into three sections at its recent meeting: housing, law enforcement and narcotics education.

On the housing subcommittee are Sanitarian Ray Talley, Building Inspector Len Adams, Planning Director Bert Muhly, Administrative Analyst William Derrick and Peterson.

On the law enforcement committee are District Attorney Peter Chang, Sheriff Doug James, Probation Officer James Solomon, Administrative Analyst Richard Braun, and Lansberry.

On the narcotics education subcommittee are Health Officer Dr. Richard Svihus, General Hospital Medical Administrator Dr. Louis Ruschin, James Eachus of the Office of Education, Social Welfare Director Ray Ansell, Alexander, Smith, and Mrs. Wilson.

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