

# Board Rescinds Its Sales Tax

## Stage Set for Battle With City



Maribeth Van Horn, Kern County dairy princess, stresses advantages of milk to Marion Precie, president of the Kern County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and Alan Pettit, Board of Trade dairy chairman. The Board of Trade will sponsor a Dairy Day tour of the county in an effort to persuade Southland dairies to locate in Kern.

The Board of Supervisors moved today to protect Kern County residents from the "irresponsible" actions of the city of Bakersfield in the matter of sales tax revenue.

The Supervisors yesterday rescinded the county's uniform sales tax ordinance adopted in 1956, effective Jan. 1, 1957, and unless there is a reversal by July 1 the action will cost county property taxpayers \$2¼ million, or more.

Battle lines were drawn between the cities and the county over the sharing of millions of dollars of sales tax revenues annually, the lines identical to those of 1956 when the same type of controversy was resolved by the cities' splitting their revenue with county government.

The only apparent recourse the Board has at this time if the fight is not resolved is to shift the loss to the county's property tax base to finance the same level of government services and the increase in their cost since a year ago.

Don Campbell, McFarland, president of the Kern County Association of Cities, asked the Board yesterday to defer its action . . . an action the Board said several weeks ago it intended to take. That was in the morning.

In the afternoon at 3:30 Robert Kibbey, Taft city manager, made the same request.

A few minutes later on the motion of Supervisor Vance Webb of Taft the sales tax ordinance was ordered rescinded. Supervisor Milton Miller of Bakersfield seconded Webb's motion with some comments. The ordinance does not take effect immediately and

the cities and county have time for their discussion . . . if they can get together.

Miller told Webb: "I'm going to second that with the understanding we'll have a confrontation here as soon as possible . . . also the understanding that we intend to follow through with this if we don't have any confrontation with all the cities . . . and they had better do it within the next 30 days."

Board Chairman John Holt said he hopes an understanding on the sharing of the sales tax revenues will be reached and be beneficial to everyone concerned. "This is our intent, but this is the action we must take," Holt said.

Later the Board chairman commented again: "I feel as far as my responsibility to the people in the unincorporated area is that I have a definite responsibility to try and protect them from the city of Bakersfield."

Which brought a comment from Supervisor LeRoy Jackson:

"If we're making those kind of comments I'd like to add mine to the effect I believe each of us has the responsibility to protect all of the people within the County of Kern, and if the proceedings of the City of Bakersfield were followed it would serve to the detriment of the people in the incorporated areas as well as the unincorporated areas."

Last September the Bakersfield City Council adopted an ordinance effective July 1 and notified the State Board of Equalization it was going to take off the sales tax revenue from that

date. The city agreed in 1956 to share 10 per cent of its revenues with the county. However, the county soon after 1956 agreed to permit Bakersfield to keep \$150,000 a year of the 10 per cent until \$1.5 million of the Civic Auditorium was paid.

Bakersfield is not the only city to adopt an ordinance recapturing the sales tax revenue it has been sharing with the county. Taft and Delano have followed Bakersfield's course. In addition, some cities in the county have never shared their tax revenue . . . those incorporated since 1956.

Miller had a few more comments: "In the event we do not have this confrontation, or negotiation, I think the responsibility or irresponsibility lies upon the cities rather than the county because if there is an increased cost in the county it is going to be placed on the taxpayer that is, the city taxpayer."

If the cities do not talk with the Board "so we can arrive at an equitable solution" the irresponsibility will be upon them, Miller insisted.

Miller represents much of the city as a supervisor. As a hotel owner he has had many a battle with the Council and city officials. He defeated former Mayor R. V. Karlen for the supervisory post. Karlen supported the city's sales tax action last September.

The Board could reinstate the ordinance effective the first day of any quarter following July 1. The county cannot collect its own sales tax. The cities can by adopting ordinances.

Loss of the \$2 million, or more, will result in a property tax increase

of 23 to 25 cents, some officials estimate. This is the increase to the county's tax rate. How well the cities collect their own sales tax revenue, if it comes to that, will be reflected in their individual 1969-70 fiscal budgets next June and the tax rates needed to finance them.

Campbell and Kibbey were critical of the Board's action.

Campbell said when the Board decided a week ago to ask for a meeting with the cities it also decided to schedule consideration of rescinding the sales tax.

Local government faces serious budgetary problems this year, Campbell said. Existing revenues are not keeping pace with increasing costs and in addition "we all face a decrease in revenue from the implementation of the Williamson Act (agricultural preserves) and from the loss of unsecured property tax revenue," he said. He added:

"To announce without sufficient notice, the withdrawal from the uniform sales tax program, with the resulting loss in sales and cigarette tax, will have drastic and disastrous effect upon the ability to finance local government."

"To propose shifting the loss in revenue to the already overburdened property taxpayer is undesirable."

Campbell said the cities have sought discussions with the Board on elimination of tax inequities. He asked the Board to set another date for a meeting with the cities after April 2, a date the County Association of Cities plans to meet in Bakersfield.

The Board suggested the cities recommend a date.

## Kern Tries to Lure LA Area Dairies

Because of urban expansion in Southern California, 500 to 600 dairy farms will be forced to move within the next few years.

How to tell owners of these dairy operations about Kern County's advantages was the purpose of a meeting yesterday called by Alan Pettit, chairman of the Board of Trade's dairy committee.

Two courses of action were

adopted. The Kern County Board of Trade will publish several special issues of Kern County Business directed primarily at dairymen who are facing relocation and will sponsor a Dairy Day tour of Kern County tentatively set for June 6.

Preparing statistics on Kern's dairy industry and gathering information from dairymen who have moved to the area will be Winston Engvall, Kern County dairy farm advisor, James Radoumis, Board of Trade manager, and assistant manager Dan Bannage will be charged with preparing the publications.

Economic reasons were presented as most important factors in relocating in Kern by Marion Precie, president of the Kern County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, whose operation is located in McFarland. Precie said dairymen's investment per cow is \$500 to \$600 in Kern County as opposed to \$1,500 to \$2,000 each in the Los Angeles area.

Kern County is a major exporter of hay which means dairy operations locating here would have the advantage of a plentiful supply, and could eliminate trucking costs. Another important factor was the availability of land to raise replacement stock.

Plans for the Dairy Day Tour include a morning swing through residential, school, shopping and recreation areas. Following a luncheon tour, buses will visit dairy operations in Kern, specifically those which have relocated here, with briefings from dairymen. Climax of the day will be a barbecue hosted

in Arvin with an opportunity to meet Kern dairy families.

Also at the meeting were Ralph Carpenter, dairy committee vice chairman; Robert Bovee, Kern County Board of Trade president; Maribeth Van Horn, Kern County dairy princess; Walter Martin, manager, Kern County Hay Growers Association; William Murphy, manager, Kern County Land

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## Employees Air List of Goals

Howard Dallimore, general manager of the Kern County Employees Association, yesterday submitted to the Board of Supervisors a list of eight benefits his organization is seeking for all county employees. The Board accepted the list and will consider the requests during budget sessions in June.

Dallimore asked the county to assume full payment of the health plan for all employees and their dependents; a salary differential for employees working between 3 p.m. and 7 a.m.; upon retirement all employees be paid for accumulated sick leave (120 days maximum) and for employees terminating in good

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## McFarland Withdraws Job Offer

McFarland City Councilmen rescinded the offer of employment as city administrator to Herbert L. Priest in a special meeting last night. He was hired by the council March 11 to assume the post April 1.

The council took the action after a 60-minute closed session when Mayor Harold B. McNurlan introduced the motion. Councilman Van Vangel voted with the mayor, Councilman Don Campbell voted no, Councilman Isaac Hurst was absent and Councilman Wesley News abstained.

City attorney Dwain Smith said that an abstained vote see McFarland—page 14

## Golden Empire Joins Sunday Californian

Exciting is, perhaps, an inadequate adjective to describe The Golden Empire magazine which will accompany the first Sunday edition March 30 of The Bakersfield Californian.

Following the example of the county it covers, The Golden Empire will be evidence of growth and expansion. Realizing that agriculture is still a major income producer, the Sunday supplement will feature news about people and events which make up the farming industry. Potatoes will be saluted in the March 30 edition.

Pages also will be devoted to travel and recreation. Both world-wide and Kern County travel ideas will be found. In addition, places to go throughout the Golden State will be featured.

A picture-feature on the home of the week, information for the home and garden and do-it-yourself enthusiast, as well as real estate and news of literature will be included in The Empire.

Boys and girls will not be forgotten in The Tiny Californian, while the young adults (sometimes called teenagers) also will be featured.

From the other side of the generation gap will come opinions on subjects which concern high school and college students as written by Kern County young people. Opinions also will be invited.

News of music, fashions and entertainment, in Kern County and throughout the nation will be covered.

Still another addition will be the crossword puzzle.

How Kern County residents spend their time with the hundreds of hobbies available will be found in the Empire pages.

First Sunday issue of The Californian will be delivered as a bonus to regular subscribers. After that, subscription rates go to \$2.50 a month and \$1 for Sundays only. Newsstand copies will sell for 25 cents each.

## FOR KERN COUNTY

## Thompson Student Champion Speller

Ricky Hurt, 14-year-old Thompson Junior High School student, will compete in the state-wide spelling bee competition in Sacramento April 25 after winning the Kern County finals sponsored by the County Superintendent of Schools office.

Ricky was introduced to the Board of Supervisors yesterday by County Schools Supt. Harry E. Blair, along with Robert Morrissey, Thompson Junior High principal. Runner-up in the

contest was Margaret Aurelio, 13, of Haven Drive School in Arvin.

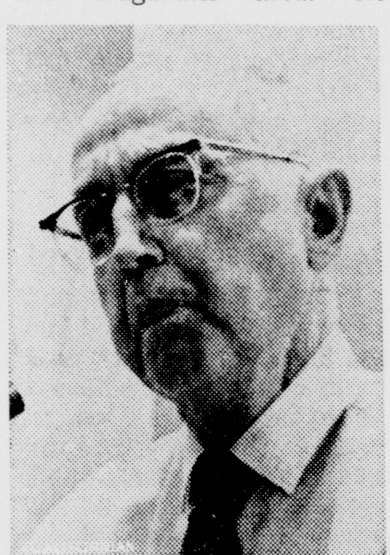
Blair told the supervisors that in the final contest, with Dr. Arthur Parrott of the county school office as spelling master, 104 words were given each girl before Ricky won on the word "endocrine."

Dr. Parrott said the youngsters "had spelled words that most adults would find difficult without the aid of a dictionary."

## Last Rites Slated for Native Son

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in Payne and Son's Chapel for Jesse W. Voorheis, 75, Bakersfield native who died Tuesday in a Bakersfield hospital.

Mr. Voorheis was born in the Magunden area. He



JESSE W. VOORHEIS

attended Kern County schools, graduating from Kern County Union High School in 1914.

Mr. Voorheis was employed by the Kern County Land Company following graduation, but took a leave of absence to enlist in the Army during World War I. He was wounded in Europe and given a disability discharge.

On his return to Bakersfield he worked at KCL ranches in Lakeside, Stockdale and Bellevue as a bookkeeper and then became water clerk in the Bakersfield office.

For many years prior to his retirement on May 1, 1959, he was cashier for the company.

Mr. Voorheis was a 40-year member of American Legion Post 26, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a past president of the Kern County Property Owners Association, a member of the Kern County Water Association, the Kern Farm Bureau and served on the Casa Loma Water board.

He is survived by his widow, Bertha, 505 Del Mar Drive; a brother, Henry, Wasco; two sisters, Mrs. Orrell Trow-

see Last Rites—page 14

## Film Tells of Health Problems

"The Forgotten Families," a new motion picture about the barriers to health care faced by migrant farm workers and their families, will have its premier presentation at an invitational showing tomorrow at Bakersfield College, Forum West at 8 p.m.

Produced by the U.S. Public Health Service, the 30-minute color film focuses first on a typical family representing migrants everywhere. Temporary residents of a strange, unwelcoming community, the family is faced with the crisis of a sick infant. The problems they encounter in getting medical help are sometimes obvious, often subtle, and, too often, typical.

The second half of the film visits four communities across the country where steps are being taken to solve these problems. In Lamont, it depicts how the Kern County Medical Society and Health Department have pitched in to meet the needs. An extensive health aide program

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## Dad Jailed in Beating of Daughter

A Lamont farm worker was booked into Kern County Jail yesterday on investigation of felony child beating after officials at Meridian School reported finding a series of bruises on the body of 5-year-old Cynthia Smith of Fredlo Farms.

Her father, Donald Melvin Smith, was arrested at the farms, south of Lamont, yesterday at 5 p.m. and booked into the jail.

Sheriff's deputies said they were told Smith beat the little girl with a belt after accusing her of using "bad language."

## Frick Will Head ASCS Operations

A 48-year-old Arvin farmer has been chosen to head the Agriculture Department's multi-billion dollar farm price support agency.

Kenneth Eugene Frick, a Bakersfield native, was named to the \$36,000-a-year post of



KENNETH FRICK

administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service by Agriculture Secretary Clifford M. Hardin yesterday.

It will be Frick's second round of service with the agency. From 1958 to 1961, Frick was a member of the California state ASC committee, handling state level administration of federal farm programs.

Hardin also announced Frick was being appointed a vice president of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Frick and his wife operate a 2,175-acre farm near Bakersfield. The couple have a 434-acre cotton allotment and also produce sugar beets, potatoes, cantaloupes, tomatoes and lettuce. Frick, a University of California graduate, has been farming since his discharge from the Air Force in 1945.

He is chairman of the research committee of the National Cotton Council, a trustee of the Cotton Producers Institute, and a director of Calcot Ltd.

He has also served as a see Frick—page 14



—Californian Photo

Flanked by Board of Supervisor Chairman John Holt, left, and County Schools Supt. Harry Blair, Supervisor Vance Webb offers congratulatory handshake to Ricky Hurt, 14, of Thompson Junior High, who won county-wide spelling bee for junior high competition. The winning word was "endocrine." Ricky goes to state finals April 25 in Sacramento.