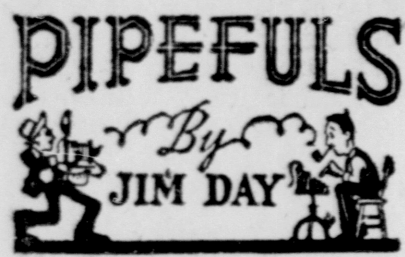


# Board Cuts County Tax Rate by Two Cents



## The Bakersfield Californian

LOCAL SECTION

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1957

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New Rate  
Now Set  
at \$2.16

### Council Finds Many Imperfections In Fair Employment Practices Ordinance

#### Legislative Body Begins Important FRP Investigation

An 11-man committee of the Legislature began one of the most important legislative investigations in recent years today in Sacramento, in an effort to find out once and for all if the Feather River Project is financially and economically feasible.

Assemblyman Carley V. Porter (D-Compton), chairman of the committee, said his group will hold hearings over the state before a final report is made to the Legislature in 1959, the United Press reported.

#### City's Tax Rate Drops by 3 Cents

Bakersfield's new tax rate of \$1.65 per \$100 valuation was announced last night by the City Council. The new rate is three cents below last year's levy and is in line with a continuing drop in tax rate that began four or five years ago.

Larry Bennett, director of the Kern County Economic Council congratulated the city fathers on their continuing efforts to reduce the tax burden. He pointed out that the tax cut has been made despite increasing services.

The Council received a letter from Ray Meagher, chairman of the Transit Authority Board of Commissioners revealing that Gus Dearman was submitting his resignation as a commission member. Councilman Mannel Carnakis nominated two men for the vacancy and one will be chosen at the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Joe Pambrugh and Atty. James Benjamin spoke in connection with pending adoption of the equal employment opportunities ordinance.

Councilman Henry Collins spoke briefly on the need for such an ordinance and urged against further delays.

Several low bids were awarded.

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However, Porter said the Legislature itself never has determined feasibility of the project and that such a determination should be made before more funds are voted for the project.

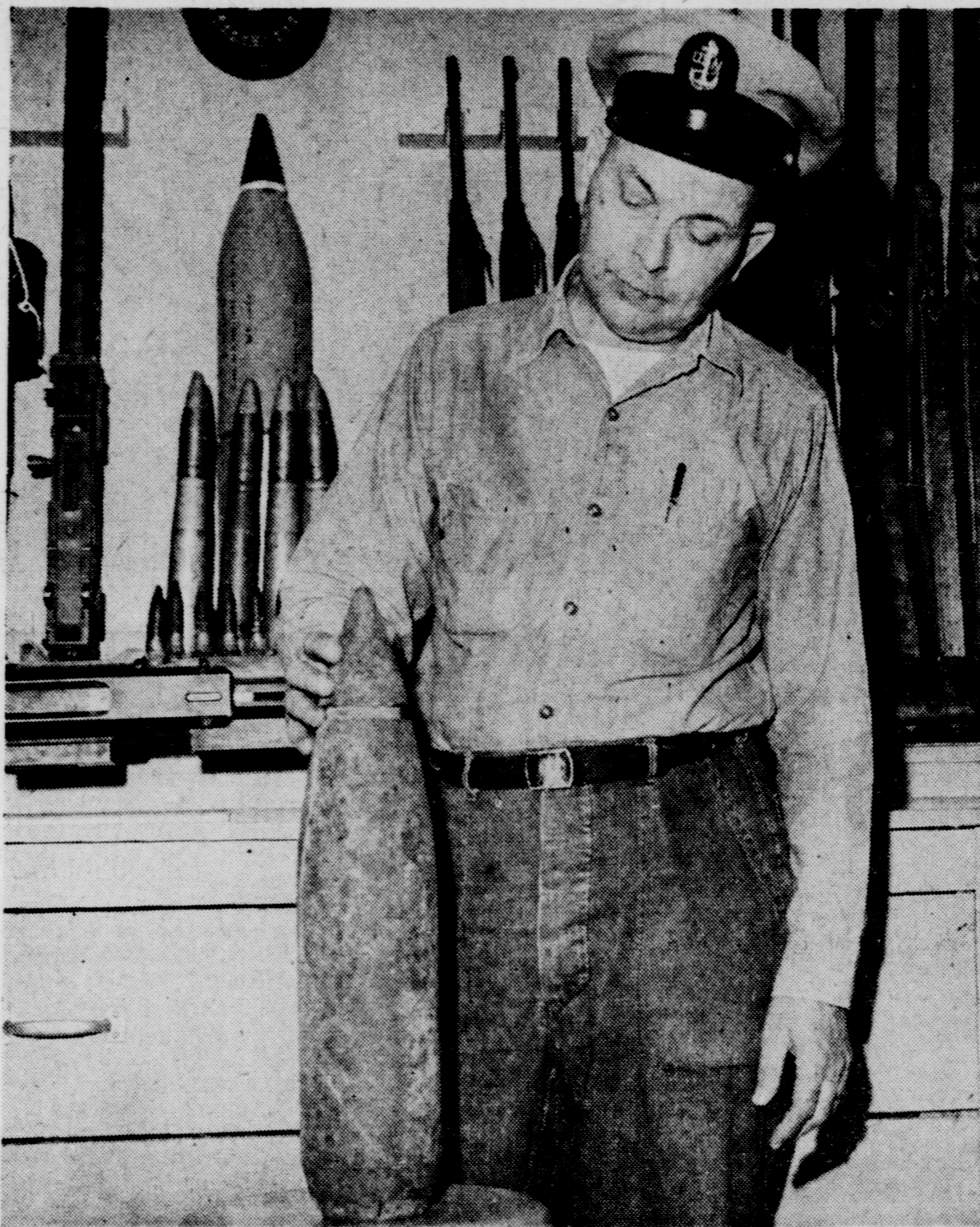
Highlight of the morning testimony at the committee hearing was a lengthy report from the office of the legislative auditor, A. Alan Post, outlining the problems and scope of the hearings.

In order for the FRP to be economically feasible, Post's report said, the benefits derived from its construction must exceed the cost. For it to be financially feasible, it must be reasonably assured that necessary funds for construction can be obtained and that project beneficiaries are willing and able to repay costs assigned to them.

"There is no evidence that the FRP is not economically and financially feasible, but such feasibility has not been demonstrated," the Post report said.

Members of the committee include Assemblyman Jack A. Beaver, Pauline L. Davis, William W.

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NOT A PLAY TOY—This 155 mm artillery shell found by three boys playing on a canal bank near Minter Village is being examined by Chief Gunners Mate C. L. Lintz of the local United States Naval Reserve Training Center at 4201 Chester Ave. He took it to officers of the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake. The shell may still be explosive, Lintz said.

#### Indiana Police Recover Local Mortuary's Auto

It may still be an expensive "funeral" for a suspect arrested in Charleston, Ind., by the Indiana State Police on suspicion of stealing a 1956 station wagon from the Armstrong-Flickinger Mortuary, 1227 Chester Ave., last May 8.

Bakersfield city police said today Indiana officers had advised them Robert Le Roy Stein, alias Arthur Moore and Robert Rhee, was found in possession of the stolen mortuary vehicle in Charleston.

Local officers said that Stein, using the name of Rhee, last May went to the mortuary and made arrangements for the funeral of his brother who supposedly had been killed in an automobile accident in Southern California. Rhee gave the mortuary a fictitious check for \$1,550 to pay for the funeral.

But, he told the mortuary manager, he was short of funds during his stay in Bakersfield; hereupon the funeral director gave Rhee a check for \$50 on the mortuary's bank account. He took Rhee to a local motel where he

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#### 3 Minter Boys Find Old Shell

A big 155 mm artillery shell was found on the Beardsley canal bank by three boys who were playing in the area near Minter Village, it was reported today to the Kern County Sheriff's Department yesterday.

The shell, about 14 inches long and six inches in diameter, was found by Troy Lawrence, 12; Joe Dale Lawrence, 10, of 656 B St., Minter Village, and Jimmie McDaniel, 553 A St., Minter Village.

The shell, which had been painted with pitted with rust, according to Chief Gunners Mate C. L. Lintz, at the United States Naval Reserve office, 4201 Chester Ave., to whom the artillery shell was delivered by firemen of the Minter Field Substation.

The ammunition was turned over to the firemen by Joe Lawrence, father of the two boys, who found it. Chief Lintz said that he has notified officers at the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake who

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#### 9 Persons Hurt When Two Cars Collide Headon

Nine persons were injured when Donald Edward Calloway, 30, 127 Douglas St., ran his eastbound late-model sedan into an oncoming car on Highway 466, three miles west of Tehachapi, the California Highway Patrol reports.

The mishap occurred at 11:10 a.m. yesterday as Calloway was attempting to pass a slower-moving eastbound vehicle on the two-lane mountain road, Officer Ross Monroy reported. Injured were Calloway, his wife, Verna, 50, and the seven occupants of the westbound car.

Operator of the latter vehicle was William Tarlton Cassels, 43, Portland Cement Co. employee living in Monolith. In the front seat with him was his wife, Roberta, 42. Their five children, Oma 8, Elizabeth 7, Mona 6, James 4, and Deloris 2, were in the rear seat of the 1951-model sedan.

Monroy said the side of the Cassels car was ripped open by

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#### Special Meeting Ordered

So many imperfections have been discovered in the proposed equal opportunities ordinance that the City Council has ordered a special agenda meeting for 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday in an effort to get them ironed out.

No fault has been found with the basic purpose of the ordinance—to provide equal employment opportunities for all, regardless of race, creed or color—but several of the details have drawn strong opposition since last week when they were pointed out in a news story in The Californian and an editorial.

The Council spent 50 minutes of its one-hour caucus yesterday evening discussing various points of disagreement. One member of the city's governing body muttered something about "distorted and slanted," in referring to the news story. It was the ancient cry of the wounded politician, and has not been heard in many months.

#### Unusual Power

The original draft of the proposed ordinance would give the mayor unusual powers, and would make the proposed 7-member equal employment opportunities commission a highly secret group whose members could be appointed and fired by the mayor. At least two members of the Council have indicated they are not in favor of giving the mayor that much power. They are also opposed to granting him the power to name the first chairman of the commission.

The Council members who are opposed to clothing the mayor with extraordinary powers want the commission to appoint its own chairman, and to be safeguarded against "firing" by the mayor.

With so many obvious "clinkers" in the ordinance, several members balked at taking precipitate action, and it was agreed

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#### BAKERSFIELD MAN UNHURT IN ACCIDENT

Highway 101 was cut for more than an hour last night when a tank truck struck a bridge 15 miles north of Paso Robles and skidded sideways, blocking both lanes and spewing diesel oil, the Associated Press reports.

Driver William Simpson Jr. of Bakersfield, was not injured. The truck tore out 30 feet of railing from each side of the bridge.

Traffic backed up for miles before the highway was opened completely at 9:20 p.m.

Fire crews from Camp Roberts and Bradley stood by but there was no fire.

In welcome contrast to the current vogue of living cost hikes and consumer price increases comes the announcement today that the county-wide basic tax rate is being reduced this year from \$2.18 to \$2.16 for each \$100 of assessed valuation.

The two-cent drop, announced today at the regular session of the Board of Supervisors, comes at the peak of the county's \$13 million building program financed on a "pay as you go" basis following the 1952 earthquakes which scattered county government agencies to temporary quarters throughout Greater Bakersfield.

The supervisors were able to stabilize the tax rate at \$2.18 the past three years despite the accelerated building program and the added load of new services for the fast-growing county.

In his report this morning to the board, Carley D. Millar, county executive officer, said the reduction this year is a culmination of several factors. For the first full year, the county-wide sales tax revenue under the Bradley-Burns Act will be in operation. With this revenue is coupled the increased total assessed valuation as the result of the county's natural growth.

#### Cash Balances

"With this, we have the unencumbered cash balances made up of such items as accumulated building funds and over-realization of revenues," commented Millar.

Continuing on a bright note, the board expressed a strong possibility that the tax rate could be reduced further in future years. "We certainly hold no claim to financial wizardry," commented Supervisor John Holt, "but we earnestly believe the pay-as-you-go plan in the county's post-

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#### Official Pledges San Luis Dam, FRP Integration

Assistant Secretary of Interior Fred G. Aandahl said in Washington today federal development of the proposed San Luis Project, if authorized, would be undertaken with full opportunity for state co-operation and for integration with California's proposed Feather River Project, the United Press reported.

Aandahl's assurance was contained in a letter to state Sen. Jess R. Dorsey of Bakersfield, who had objected to the department's endorsement of proposed authorizing legislation for the San Luis Project.

Dorsey said he understood the proposed federal project would serve only a limited area and would preclude full development of California's water resources by the Feather River Project.

The San Luis unit of the Central Valley Project would, if constructed by the federal government, provide a full water supply to 440,000 acres within the service area along the West Side of San Joaquin Valley.

The San Luis development also, under pending legislation, would be co-ordinated with the state plan for the Feather River Project. Aandahl said the San Luis development would be turned over to the state for operation and integration with the potential Feather River Project.

#### Seek Co-ordination

"The grave concern expressed in your letter of July 16, that the construction of the San Luis unit would bar further development to provide additional water supplies

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#### Burglar Was Hungry

It was a hungry burglar who entered Bobbie's Cafe at 714 Williams St., Bakersfield police concluded today after making an inventory of loss. Taken from the cafe refrigerator were six T-bone steaks, six rib steaks, three pounds of chicken fried steaks and three pounds of beef liver. Police said the burglar gained entry by forcing the rear door of the cafe and the burglary was discovered by an officer of the department.



WINS TROPHY—William H. Mellon, at right, Bakersfield man at the Jacksonville, Fla., Naval Air Station, stands with the Orton Trophy he won for individual .45 pistol shooting in the 1957 National Rifle and Pistol Matches.

#### KERN MAN WINS NAVY MARKSMANSHIP TROPHY

William H. Mellon, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Mellon, 800 Niles St., recently won a top trophy in the "World Series" of firearms marksmanship, it has been announced.

In the navy at Jacksonville, Fla., Mellon received the Orton Trophy for winning the .45 caliber individual pistol championship in the 1957 National Rifle and Pistol Matches. They started Aug. 9 and will end Sept. 10.

In the pistol shooting Mellon had a score of 871 out of a possible 900 and topped such stars as Army Sergeant Huetel "Joe" Ben-

ner of West Point and Marine Lieutenant William McMillan in winning the event.

Mellon is one of 45 navy men on the All-Navy Squad, who are pitting their skill against some 4,500 marksmen from other military services and outstanding civilian clubs. The Bakersfield man will also be shooting in big bore rifle competition.

He won the Atlantic Fleet championship in big bore rifle this year and won the sharpshooter regional championships in 1952, as well as the .22 pistol regional championship in 1954.

#### It's Cool, Dad, Cool

The cool summertime pleasures will continue today and Wednesday, with temperatures remaining in the low 90's.

The weatherman said today's predicted high is a drop of two degrees below yesterday with night time coolness expected to level at 63.

Continued fair today, some scattered clouds will develop tomorrow but will bring little change in temperatures. Afternoon breezes from 8 to 15 miles an hour are forecast.

Yesterday's high was 95, slightly below the seasonal normal, and 93 for today. The low last night was 62 with a one-degree rise tonight.

Southern California: Some high cloudiness but mostly sunny today and Wednesday. Chance of few isolated thunderstorms southeast portion this

afternoon. A little warmer most sections today.

Coastal and intermediate valleys: Some high cloudiness but mostly sunny today and Wednesday. Slightly warmer this afternoon.

Interior and desert regions: Variable high clouds but mostly sunny today and Wednesday. Chance of few isolated thunderstorms south portion this afternoon. Little temperature change. High today 96 to 104 upper valleys, 104 to 110 lower valleys.

Point Conception to Mexican border: West to southwest winds 12 to 20 miles per hour in afternoons today and Wednesday becoming light variable night and mornings. Variable high clouds but mostly sunny both days. Little temperature change.

#### RECORD CROWDS WAITED AS STATE FAIR OPENS

California's big 1957 State Fair in Sacramento, gets rolling at 10 a.m. tomorrow, starting a 12-day run that will wrap up Sept. 8.

Fair officials say they expect to beat last year's record 823,887 attendance, the Associated Press reported.

Gov. Knight will open the fair in ceremonies at the fairgrounds plaza tomorrow morning and will crown one of 11 finalists as the Maid of California to reign over the show.

The finalists also will release balloons with a mixture of earth from every county in the state. Everything from horse racing to puppet shows is on the bill. Some 5,000 head of cattle will be exhibited and more than a million

flowers will be in the floriculture show.

Much of the exposition is free, such as: The counties building, the art show, the hall of flowers, industrial building, various programs in the outdoor theatre ranging from dance reviews to a circus, organ concerts and style shows.

The big night fireworks and stage shows, at the track grandstands, will cost admission, however.

For those with empty stomachs and pockets, there will be the consumer reaction council, in which fairgoers will sample free bits of foods vying for gold medals. The fairgrounds is in the southeastern section of Sacramento at the intersection of Stockton and Broadway. It has large parking areas nearby.