

Inland Empire



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Thursday, May 5, 1983

B Section

Omnitrans to cut back service, lay off 21 employees

By BILL ROGERS
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO—The Omnitrans board, feeling the fiscal squeeze along with other public agencies, Wednesday approved a \$13.1 million 1983-84 budget calling for layoffs of 21 employees and nearly \$1 million of service reductions in the San Bernardino Valley bus system.

The budget action was based on assumptions that the service cuts and small fare increases will be approved after a June 8 hearing.

It also assumes that the county and 10

of the 12 valley cities will make extra contributions of transportation funds. The latter would be so that general fund substitution of transit operations by the city of San Bernardino, in the amount of \$207,000, and by the city of Montclair, in the amount of \$41,000, will not be required.

Delegates to the transit board agreed on a little over embracing that cost-sharing concept for the first time.

They agonized much more over the \$2.3 million cut in state and federal aid that is necessitating a \$1.5 million increase in contributions of sales tax-generated transportation funds by the cities

and the county—and over a shift of half of the \$1.1 million cost of the cross-valley Route 14 service to the cities after years in which the county has paid all costs of the route.

As part of a compromise attempt to ease the proposed cost-sharing and the shift of Route 14 financing, the board called for modification of its optional "weighted voting" system to reduce the power of county and San Bernardino city delegates who, if they choose, can combine to cast 67 percent of all votes and override the wishes of Omnitrans' 11 other member agencies.

County Supervisor David McKenna abstained and San Bernardino Councilman Robert Castaneda dissented in the separate vote on that issue, saying they cannot offer assurance that the Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino City Council will give their necessary approval of a "weighted voting" system based on population rather than the financial contributions of each member agency.

The need for concessions from the other cities to implement the new financing arrangements, however, could force such a compromise. Fontana City Councilman Bill Freeman said his city will find

it difficult to justify an increase in its contribution of transportation funds if the county and San Bernardino "have their cake and eat it, too."

Loma Linda City Councilman Elmer Dignoe dissented in the 121 vote on the budget after contending that the proposed change in the voting system should be made concurrently.

Omnitrans General Manager Robert Chaffin later said the new budget reflects the increasing fiscal pressures brought on the agency by continuing cutbacks in the



Lessons we can learn on 'El Cinco'

This didn't end up the way I thought it would. But what makes it interesting.

Quite a few Easterners make great fun of us Californians, surfing our lives away while eating "burry toes" and "take out" out here in Lotus Land. But every once in a while they get their comparative.

Today holds a specially treasured memory. A few years ago, a newly arrived hotshot was participating in the daily planning session for news department section chiefs. The topic was coverage for Cinco de Mayo.

"When's this Cinco de Mayo?" the hotshot finally asked.

Dead silence. Rows of laughter. And finally, after about two minutes that must have seemed like 20, an explanation of the Battle of Puebla and its commemoration.

The Battle of Puebla repeated a lesson for anyone in the world who missed it at Bunker Hill: A smaller group of patriots on their own turf who are dedicated to freedom and have inspired leadership can overcome the handicaps of numbers and inferior equipment to defeat a larger professional military force.

Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico and widely celebrated in the U.S., mainly by citizens and residents of Mexican descent. But not exclusively.

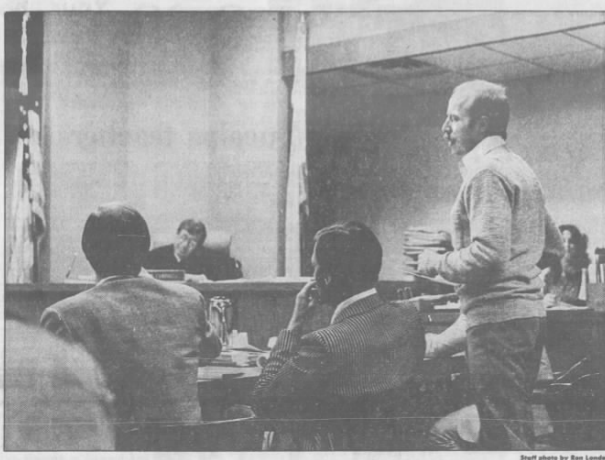
And a case can be made for making the celebration in Southern California even more general.

It will recognize the increasingly plural nature of our society, the largest and fastest growing segment of which is Latino, mostly but not exclusively of Mexican origin.

In a story looking to the year 2001, the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner last Sunday published research data, comments and predictions from five futurists, among them Jon Perica. He is head of Los Angeles' long-range planning staff.

Perica said to survive in Los Angeles in the new century begins: "You'd better know Spanish and you'd better know a computer language. That will determine the educated person here."

The bilingualism won't be just



Terry Caylor, acting as his own attorney in his Patton-escape trial, addresses the court during testimony Wednesday.

Patton escapee claims life threatened

By ART WONG
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO—Criminally insane repeat Terry Caylor, acting as his own attorney Wednesday, defended his escape last summer from Patton State Hospital by raising charges of administrative chicanery he claims threatened his life.

Opening his defense, Caylor attempted to

show a Superior Court jury here that because he alleged administrative malfeasance, he was transferred to a ward with an inmate who had once stabbed him.

"I threatened someone in power," said Caylor in an opening statement to jurors. "I pushed too hard. So I was put into sleeping quarters next to an old enemy."

The prosecution, which ended its case Tuesday following two days of testimony, contends Caylor escaped with the aid of co-defendant Elena Busch, a former Patton psychiatric technician, after administrators broke up his custody incarceration among sympathetic staff members.

The 36-year-old Caylor was serving a maxi

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Safety agencies may salvage budgets

By FLOYD RINEHART
Sun Staff Writer

RIALTO—The police and fire chiefs may have salvaged much of their 1983-84 municipal budget requests, portions which earlier fell to an administration chopping block.

They strongly defended their budget requests before the City Council at its Tuesday session.

Department leaders including Police Chief Ray Farmer and Fire Chief Roger Purdie asked \$10.1 million to operate next fiscal year. But in the face of only \$8.18

million in estimated city revenue, City Administrator Walter Padinski slashed budget requests to \$8.13 million, permitting only a \$88,000 surplus.

Padinski said the recommended 1983-84 city budget represents an increase of only 1.5 percent over the current budget.

It includes expected increased property taxes to offset city contributions to the municipal workers pension program and \$300,000 in assessments to pay street lighting power costs.

Padinski said although there are no worker promotions includ-

ed in the projected city bill it provides a 5.23 percent employee salary increase, 2.4 percent for capital improvements, a community general plan study and a workers safety and job classification survey.

Padinski said although he submitted a balanced preliminary budget, "I did so by decimating departmental funding requests and holding down capital costs."

The police and fire departments were the hardest hit in reductions because they account for

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