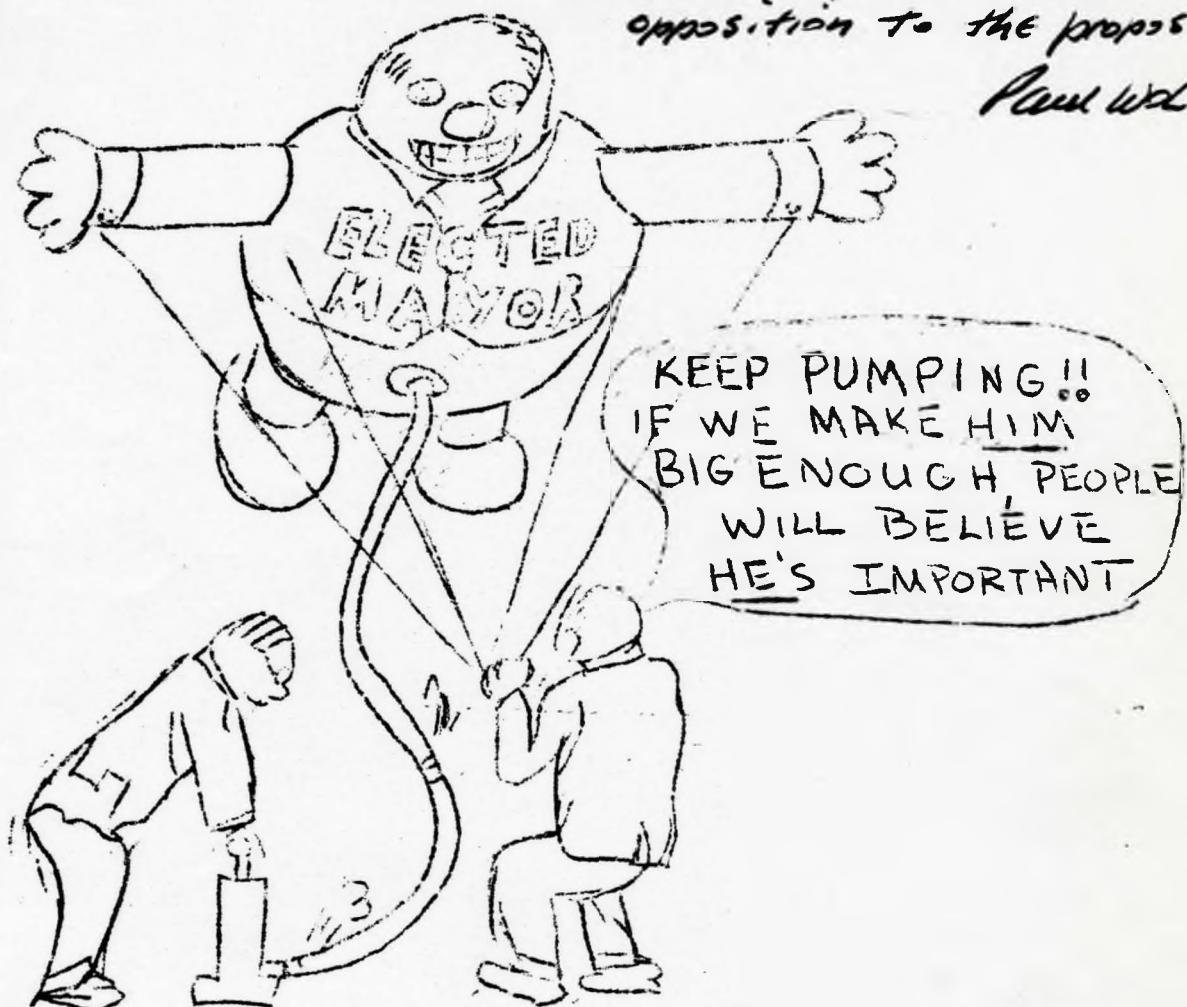


— Copies to Council
10-25-73

Approx. 40 people attended
the League of Women's Forum
on the elective mayor issue
— Attached is a handout of
the two gentlemen speaking in
opposition to the proposition

Paul Wulsen



COMMITTEE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE
OXNARD GOVERNMENT

ERICK NEPLER

GERALD KAPLAN

OPPOSITION TO ELECTED MAYOR INITIATIVE ISSUE SHEET

This initiative results in less harmony among the elected officials on the City Council, less representative democracy in the manner in which these elected officials are selected, and more costs to the taxpayers.

LESS HARMONY

1. Majority Viewpoint-The Council, as a working body representing the citizens of Oxnard, will be unable to select its own chairman, thereby denying representation of a majority viewpoint of Council members, on a body which makes all of its decisions on the basis of that majority viewpoint.
2. Personal-Political Conflicts-A midterm Councilman who runs for the Mayor's office unsuccessfully will be able to retain his seat, thereby carrying over campaign conflicts into the Council Chambers which subvert the decision-making process.
3. Increased Partisanship-Recent statistics reveal that greater partisanship is found in elected mayor cities because the office of mayor is viewed as the most important symbol of local partisan politics.

LESS DEMOCRACY

1. Limitation of Candidates-An elected mayor has greater demands on his time, therefore the office will attract realtors, developers, special interest groups, men who can count the time spent in ceremonial functions as part of their work.
2. Unjustified Interest in Mayor's Race-The increased voters' interest in the Mayor's election is unjustified because the Mayor is only a ceremonial figure-head, while the Council makes civic decisions on the basis of its majority viewpoint.
3. Special Interest-The office of elected mayor will make it simpler for special interest groups since they will be able to concentrate their attention on a single figure of government.
4. Plurality not Majority-An elected mayor would only represent a plurality of the citizens voting; while under the present system, the Mayor must have the support of the majority of Councilmen, who collectively represent the majority of voters.

DECEPTION

1. False Expectations-Because of the prestige and political symbolism that accompany the office of Mayor, the Mayor is a focal point for public expectations and unable to legally fulfill those expectations.
2. Misinterpretation-The Mayor's public statements will be interpreted by the media and public, as the policy of the city, even when the Mayor does not speak for the Council.
3. Censorship-Because of public exposure, most citizens would direct their complaints and ideas to the Mayor; consequently, from this position of censorship, the Mayor would bring to the Council's attention only that information with which the Mayor is most favorably disposed.

In Oxnard, the Mayor serves as the chairman or presiding officer of the City Council and attends ceremonial functions, however, the Mayor has no more legal power than the Councilmen and in fact, for all practical purposes, is a councilman.

The present system of selecting a mayor is a positive procedure for it allows the selection of a chairman who is in accord with the majority of Councilmen, and thereby in accord with the majority of the voters.

To preserve YOUR voice in city government, vote NO on PROPOSITION E.

Committee for a Representative Oxnard
Government