



SMITH PRECISION

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NEWBURY PARK

"SERVING THE WORLD"

January 29, 1970

Mrs. Jane M. Tolmach
Oxnard, California
93030

Dear Jane:

Your decision to run in the Oxnard Council Race hit me like a bombshell last night. It was difficult for me to give you my thoughts with Joe present, and it is usually easier for me to put my thoughts in writing than to verbalize, anyway. So here is a letter that I sincerely hope you may consider.

1. Being very large, a person who gets elected as a trustee for the Oxnard Union High School District has accomplished something that few elected county or city officials have done. The District is much larger than any supervisoral district, or incorporated city.
2. A person like you, re-elected by a landslide, obviously must have the trust and confidence of a great many voters throughout this large area.
3. You are just completing the seventh month of a 48-month term. You will, if you run for the council, in effect disenfranchise all those who voted for you last April, both within and without the City of Oxnard.
4. In my opinion, the guidance and improvement of education during the sensitive high school period is of the utmost importance; far greater than what can be accomplished by a councilman.
5. Unfortunately, it is only recently that we have started to be on the winning side on our board. A new high school board member will have to be elected, and he could sway things back to the conservatives.

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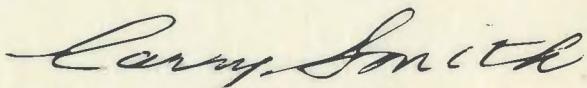
6. This is going to make Jeanne and I look real silly. We have spoken highly of you to a very great many people in the Conejo and Camarillo. We feel that it would have been more honorable, if you had advised us that you were thinking of running for the Oxnard Council, several months before last April.
7. Opposing candidates can be expected to use item (3) above against you, and you may lose many votes for this reason.
8. By leaving the High School District Board you will, because of the new state law, force an off-year board election that will cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars for no good reason. This may not set too well with the voters, either.

To put this in proper perspective, Jane, it is frequently true that when politicians are through with about half of a small office to which they have been elected, they run for a higher office. This is not so bad, as the voting area for the new office is usually much larger than that of the old one. A good example was Bob Kennedy, a senator, campaigning for president. Another example would be a councilman running for a seat in the California State Legislature. However, you are evidently doing just the opposite. That is, you are leaving a large area for a position in a smaller area, and you are beginning it with barely over one-eighth of your term completed.

The above are thoughts from someone who can neither hurt nor help you, because he lives at least twenty miles from the City of Oxnard. They are thoughts from someone who has tried to be a sincere friend, and surprisingly, has felt, up until last night, that he thought on things in a very similar way that you did. I respect the fact that you have a free will and must make up your own mind; I shall say nothing more about this, and just conclude with a sincere hope for the best of luck, happiness, and positive accomplishment in anything you ever do.

Again with kindest regards, I remain

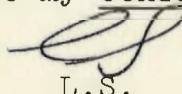
Sincerely yours,



LAWRENCE W. SMITH

LS/wm

P.S. No copies of this letter, blind or otherwise, are going to anyone. My file copy is going to my confidential file.



L.S.