

Chairman



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING
70 WEST HEDDING ST. / SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110 / 299-2323

DOMINIC L. CORTESE
SUPERVISOR SECOND DISTRICT

FOR PRESENTATION TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1979

DURING THESE PAST WEEKS SEVERAL INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MADE AS TO MY FEELINGS REGARDING CHAIRMANSHIP, THE NEW BOARD, AND THE NEW YEAR.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP IS A CEREMONIAL EVENT, AND WHILE I ACCEPT IT AS AN HONOR, I MUST BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THIS POSITION ON THE BOARD RESULTS FROM BEING THE PERSON HAVING FALLEN INTO THE PROPER ROTATIONAL PATTERN. IN NO WAY DOES IT SIGNIFY ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AUTHORITY OR INFRINGE UPON THE INDIVIDUAL INTEGRITIES^{OF}/ANY OF THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS.

THIS IS A NEW BOARD.

DUE TO WHATEVER DYNAMICS OR FATE INVOLVED, NONE OF MY PRESENT COLLEAGUES WERE ON THE BOARD WHEN I BEGAN MY FIRST TERM IN 1969. SO THIS BOARD IS NEW BUT NEW ONLY FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE AND THAT PERSPECTIVE ALONE. THIS BOARD HAS ALL THE EXPERTISE, TALENT,

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AND ABILITY TO CREATE THE NEEDED BALANCE AND TO RISE TO ANY OCCASION,
WHATEVER THE MAGNITUDE, AND IN THE SAME DEGREE AS ANY BOARD IN THE PAST.

WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF OUR OWN PAST EFFORTS, COMBINED WITH VOTER
RESPONSE TO GIVE US :

1. TREMENDOUS PARKS PROGRAM.
2. THE FORMATION OF WHAT IS NOW A VIABLE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.
3. A SUITABLE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.
4. THE BENEFITS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FROM VARIOUS BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS SUCH AS HUMAN RELATIONS, STATUS OF WOMEN, AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION, DRUG ABUSE, ALCOHOLISM, MENTAL HEALTH, AND THE
JUSTICE SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD.

WE HAVE ORGANIZED A SET OF GOALS EMPHASIZING HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS
AND IMPLEMENTED NEW TECHNICAL SYSTEMS.

IF I WERE TO PREDICT BENCH MARK DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE IN AREAS
OF CONCERN FACING THE BOARD NOW, AND IN THE YEAR TO COME---SORTED
OUT FROM THE OTHER 10,000 DECISIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PHONE CALLS
EACH OF US WILL BE DEALING WITH COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY, I WOULD
ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

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VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER, GENERALLY ; THE MASTER PLAN AND HAI SPECIFICALLY. THESE ARE AREAS WHICH HAVE SPLIT THE BOARD IN VOTING, AREAS WHICH HAVE CAUSED AN EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF SOUL-SEARCHING BY EACH BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF; AREAS WHERE YET STILL MORE SCRUTINY, MORE OBJECTIVITY, AND MORE RESEARCH MUST BE CARRIED ON.

THE SHERIFF'S RECEPTION ASSESSMENT CENTER IS ANOTHER SENSITIVE ISSUE. AND WHILE THE GOAL IS PROPER AND OUR INTENTIONS GOOD, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE BOARD COULD VERY WELL GET CAUGHT UP IN THE CONTROVERSY OF A NO-WIN SITUATION.

ON ONE SIDE COULD BE THE ANTI-BRICK AND MORTAR PEOPLE ASKING IF THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER JAIL, WHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE, THERE COULD BE THOSE WHO PERCEIVE THE RECEPTION CENTER MERELY AS ANOTHER SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAM. I SUPPOSE THE ADDITION OF NEW BEDS COULD BE LOOKED UPON IN A SKEPTICAL WAY WHILE THE MERE TERM "RECEPTION CENTER" COULD BE LOOKED UPON WITH AN EQUAL QUESTION.

THE RECEPTION CENTER IS A NEW CONCEPT BEING USED ON A PILOT BASIS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

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THE CHALLENGE THE BOARD MUST FACE IS MERGING THESE TWO OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS INTO ONE VIABLE SOLUTION TAKING A CONCEPT AND RESTRUCTURING IT TO COMPLY WITH OUR COUNTY'S NEEDS AND DEMANDS.

LAND USE, ZONING AND JOB/HOUSING IMBALANCE-----ARE AREAS WHICH THIS BOARD MUST COME TO GRIPS. THERE MUST BE EVEN GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE CITIES THAN THAT WHICH HAS EXISTED IN THE PAST.

LAST YEAR I PROPOSED TO RECONVENE THE JOINT CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEE, WHICH DAN AND I SERVE ON. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE, OF COURSE, IS TO DEAL WITH THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF PLANNING BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SAN JOSE CONCERNING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS.

WE ARE ALL DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE HOUSING SITUATION IN THIS COUNTY. THE NATIONAL AVERAGE COST OF A HOUSE IS APPROXIMATELY \$63,900 WHILE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY IT IS \$80,000. THE BOARD CAN COMMEND ITSELF ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOUSING ADVISOR AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF THE INDUSTRY AND HOUSING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE AND THE GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE. BUT FURTHER RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF THE HOUSING

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PROBLEM MUST TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A HANDLE ON THE RAPID INCREASE IN HOUSING COST, POSSIBLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN OUR ZONING POLICY AND THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HOUSING MUST SOMEHOW BE FURTHER DEFINED AND RECONCILED.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AS FAR BACK AS MAY OF 1974 COULD BE ONE OF OUR MOST/PROGRESSIVE ACTIONS OF THIS YEAR.

WITH RISING COSTS OF RENTS, AND MATERIALS, COUPLED WITH PROPOSITION 13, EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO CUT COSTS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICE PRESENTLY PROVIDED TO THE CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTY AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS COULD BE A PART OF THAT EFFORT.

I HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH ALCOHOLISM STAFF AND BECAUSE OF THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE PUBLIC INEBRIATE THERE IS A NEED TO CREATE A NEW SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE URBAN NEEDY. THE COMMITTEE WILL CARRY OUT AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PROBLEMS AND INCORPORATE THE

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FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN A REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD AND SAN JOSE CITY OFFICIALS.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES DESERVE A SPECIAL MENTION. PUBLIC SERVICE IS NO LONGER ATTRACTIVE AS IT WAS IN THE PAST WITH PAY FREEZES AND SHRINKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT. THE COUNTY EMPLOYEE SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED AS THE SOLE SOLUTION TO PROPOSITION 13.

THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE OUR NO-LAYOFF POLICY, AND I AM SURE WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE ATTRITION TO ACHIEVE WORK-FORCE REDUCTIONS. MANY OF THE PROGRAMS WE ADMINISTER SERVE PARTICULAR SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND WHILE WE MUST GUARD AGAINST ADVERSELY AFFECTING ANY PARTICULAR ONE TOO SEVERELY, NONE CAN BE REGARDED AS ABSOLUTELY SACRED. THIS BRINGS ME TO MY FINAL ISSUE.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUE FACING THE BOARD IN 1979 WILL BE THE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2 OF PROPOSITION 13.

UNDER PROPOSITION 13, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DETERMINES THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTY PROGRAMS. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF THIS SUPPORT NO LATER THAN MAY 1. WE MUST

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HAVE AT LEAST 2 MONTHS TIME BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT CHOICES OF ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THE PROGRAMS OPERATED BY COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE COUNTY HAS NO AUTHORITY TO LEVY NEW TAXES. OUR REVENUES COME FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

- o FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.
- o THE SHARE OF THE \$4 PROPERTY TAX RATE DETERMINED BY THE LEGISLATURE TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY.
- o STATE ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF SPECIAL PROGRAM SUPPORT OR BLOCK GRANTS.
- o THE COUNTY SHARE OF THE 1¢ SALES TAX.
- o FEES FOR SERVICES.
- o REVENUES FROM FINES LEVIED BY COURTS.

UNTIL WE KNOW HOW MUCH----THESE REVENUES WILL PRODUCE AND WHAT STRINGS ARE ATTACHED TO-----THESE REVENUES, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE DECISIONS NECESSARY TO TAILOR PROGRAMS TO REVENUES.

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IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT THE TOTAL REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL 79-80 WILL EXCEED THE REVENUES AVAILABLE THIS YEAR. IT IS MUCH MORE PROBABLE THAT THEY WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LESS. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE CURRENT BUDGET INCLUDES-----\$13 MILLION OF ONE TIME REVENUE THAT WAS APPROPRIATED THIS YEAR TO EASE THE TRANSITION TO PROPOSITION 13. THESE WERE LOCAL REVENUES THAT ARE NOT CAPABLE OF BEING REPLACED FOR YEAR 2.

PROPOSITION 13 IN CALIFORNIA AND THE PRESIDENT'S FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION ARE BOTH DESIGNED TO REDUCE TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES. WE ARE GOING TO BE MAKING DIFFICULT CHOICES OF PRIORITIES. SOME PROGRAMS MAY NEED TO BE EXPANDED AND THIS MAY HAVE TO BE DONE ONLY IF OTHER PROGRAMS ARE REDUCED. ALTHOUGH THESE ISSUES OF PRIORITY OF PROGRAMS ARE REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET THAT WILL BE ADOPTED BY THIS BOARD, THE BOARD MUST MAKE THESE JUDGMENTS OF PRIORITY WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS PLACED UPON THEM BY LEGISLATIVE MANDATE.

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SOME POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR A BOARD POSITION FOR SECOND PHASE FUNDING AFTER PROPOSITION 13 COULD BE:

- * PERMANENT STATE BUYOUT OF MEDI-CAL, AFDC, SSI AND SSP.
- * THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE STATE SHOULD ADMINISTER WELFARE COULD BE ADDRESSED SEPARATELY.

IF BLOCK GRANTS TO COUNTIES ARE TO CONTINUE, THE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA MUST BE REVISED SO AS NOT TO PENALIZE JURISDICTIONS SUCH AS SANTA CLARA COUNTY WITH HISTORICALLY LOWER PROPERTY TAX RATES. DESPITE A STATEWIDE POPULATION OF 5.5% AND STATEWIDE ASSESSED VALUE OF 6.2%, SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECEIVED ONLY 3.4% OF THE FUNDING DUE TO THE EXISTING FORMULA. LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO COUNTIES, WITH A COMBINED 35.9% OF STATEWIDE POPULATION, RECEIVED 71.6% OF THE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING. THE SHARES TO 47 COUNTIES WOULD INCREASE IF THE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA WERE BASED ON POPULATION.

THERE IS TALK IN SACRAMENTO THAT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO BLOCK GRANTS, THE STATE COULD BUYOUT THE COURT SYSTEM. THOUGH COMPLEX IN ITS ENTIRETY, SUCH A PLAN COULD INCLUDE FIRST YEAR REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS TO COUNTIES

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WITH COMPLETE TAKEOVER FOLLOWING IN LATER YEARS. THE POST COMMISSION FIGURES-----INDICATE THE STATE COULD BUYOUT COUNTY COURT COSTS PLUS COSTS OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE SAME MONEY AMOUNTS AS A CURRENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION.

I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE NEW YEAR WITH ANTICIPATION AND HOPE THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS FACING US. WE HAVE TAKEN MANY INNOVATIVE STEPS TO ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ALSO THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTY.

WE HAVE TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT WITH THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US. THE GENERAL FEELING OF THE PUBLIC, IS THAT GOVERNMENT IS BUREAUCRATIC AND OVER EXPENDS WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE TAXPAYER. I INTEND TO MAKE IT A PRIORITY---AND ASK THIS BOARD TO SUPPORT ME IN SEARCHING OUT AVENUES WHICH WILL ASSURE OUR CITIZENS THAT WE ARE RESPONSIVE, THAT WE WILL CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE EACH AND EVERY ISSUE IN AN EFFORT TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE RESTRAINTS ON SPENDING.

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ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIONS I WISH TO ASK THE BOARD TO TAKE IN
LIGHT OF MY PREVIOUS STATEMENTS IS THAT WE ACT QUICKLY IN
URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR
COUNTY PROGRAMS. THIS IS A CRUCIAL ACTION FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY.

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