

Thurs., May 13, 1971

Conflict

To The Editor:

Since "conflict of interest" charges seem to fill the air, prior to stating my reasons for writing this letter, I should like to clear up some "conflicts" of my own.

I am a salaried employee of the Leisure World Foundation, working as Secretary to the Administrator at Laguna Hills. My sister is a salaried employee of the Lutheran Hospital Society, managing agent for Saddleback Community Hospital. In this letter I have no wish to state my opinions either pro or con with regard to the Saddleback Community Hospital itself. So much for conflict of interest!

The purpose of this letter is to point out to you and the residents of the Saddleback Valley a few simple truths. In the front page story carried in Wednesday's issue of the Laguna Hills News-Post suggestions of "conflict of interest" were leveled at Mr. Frank Schaeffer, Chairman of the Board of Saddleback Community Hospital.

Mr. Schaeffer's only INTEREST has been and is that the people of his immediate community (Leisure World) and the community as a whole (Saddleback Valley) receive the best possible hospital service. For the past several years, Mr. Schaeffer has worked hours and days WITH NO SALARY in the interests of this community service. He has given unstintingly of his TIME, MONEY, KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCE to further a cause in which he wholeheartedly believes, not for financial gain or personal glory, but for the present and future good of the community in which he lives.

Rather than print sneaky articles in which underhandedness is implied, it might better serve the people of this community if the Laguna Hills News Post were to inform us of the hard work and sincere dedication of men like Mr. Frank J. Schaeffer, regardless of whether or not his point of view is shared.

To my way of thinking this type of treatment of a very fine human being is completely unjust and the record should be set straight.

Upon re-reading the above from an objective point of view, I guess I am guilty of a "conflict of interest" - Mr. Schaeffer is my friend.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Joyce Fitzgerald
Laguna Hills