

RESOLUTION NO. 346

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING  
PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 333 (DILLS), 1971  
STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 333 (Dills) of the 1971 California Legislative Session provides for compulsory and binding arbitration of labor disputes involving policemen and firemen; and

WHEREAS, said Senate Bill would remove policemen and firemen from the "meet and confer in good faith" provisions of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act; and

WHEREAS, private labor and industry have always rejected compulsory and binding arbitration or disputes arising from negotiations because it tends to be used as a substitute for good faith negotiations; and

WHEREAS, compulsory and binding arbitration tends to encourage employee representatives to make knowingly unreasonable demands in hopes of greater benefits from the arbitration panel; and

WHEREAS, compulsory and binding arbitration tends to encourage management to withhold reasonable offers or its best offer in fear of greater concessions being awarded by the arbitration panel; and

WHEREAS, the effect of SB 333, if passed, would probably be the end of good faith negotiations for policemen and firemen and for all other local agency employees who will demand the same treatment as policemen and firemen receive; and

WHEREAS, SB 333 would provide that a non-elected, three-member arbitration panel would have the power to require a local agency to raise local taxes in order to comply with the award; and

WHEREAS, this concept sets aside the traditional concept that only locally elected representatives have the power to impose taxes on the people and that the people have a right to remove said representatives and to elect persons who would lower said taxes; and

WHEREAS, the local governing body, if it does not comply with the award by raising taxes, would be forced to reduce services, laying off the very employees who demanded binding arbitration in the first place; and

WHEREAS, SB 333 does not require the arbitration panel to consider fiscal ability of the local public agency to pay the award; and

WHEREAS, SB 333 deletes any reference to management rights such as is contained in Meyers-Milias-Brown Act Section 3504; and

WHEREAS, the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act contains adequate provisions for resolution of employer-employee negotiation impasses in its provisions for mediation; and

WHEREAS, employee strikes will continue despite the provisions of SB 333 outlawing strikes (replacing similar provisions in the Labor Code); and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this City Council that strikes of even public safety employees are to be preferred to compulsory and binding arbitration of employer-employee negotiation impasses;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST RESOLVES:

1. That it opposes passage of Senate Bill 333 (Dills), 1971 California Legislative Session and urges its Senate and Assembly representatives to work for its defeat.

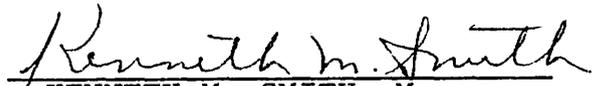
2. That the City Clerk is instructed to forward copies of this Resolution to Senators Walter W. Stiern and Assemblyman Kent H. Stacey.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of April, 1971, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Smith, Councilmen Edwards, Kessler, Shacklett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Councilman Fox

  
KENNETH M. SMITH, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
JAMES R. HECK, City Clerk