

Community Service

Dr. Lowell L. Bennion, director of the Salt Lake Community Services Council, has announced the March organization of a new Service Exchange Center designed to match capable volunteers with the needs of the elderly, handicapped and low income persons. (See Dr. Bennion's "The Weightier Matters," *Sunstone*, January-February 1978). The new volunteer agency will be funded by the United Way and private donations. A manager for the program is being sought, and persons willing to devote time to volunteer work are encouraged to contact Dr. Bennion at the new Community Services Council offices, 1864 S. State, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dissident

The Utah Supreme Court rejected an

LDS seminary located on state property (see Update, Jan.-Feb. 1978). The facility is offered for use by any religious group that wishes to use it.

Devereaux House

The Utah State Legislature approved \$750,000 on January 28 for the purchase of the Devereaux House (see "House on the Block," Nov.-Dec. 1977). No funds were allocated for restoration of the mansion.

Pornography

The "Child Pornography" legislation, making it a federal crime to use males or females under 16 years old to produce pornography, was unanimously approved January 25 (see "The Law of the Land," July-Aug. and Nov.-Dec. 1977).

a sentence for good behavior (rather than the present 1/3 off). The bill would allow federal fines to be used to compensate victims of federal crimes. Rape statutes would be changed to include rape committed by a spouse, and to disallow the victim's prior sexual conduct as evidence in most cases. Pornography transactions by adults of a non-commercial nature would not be prosecuted, and allowances are made in the enforcement of pornography for local standards. Possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana would result in a fine of \$100.

Abortion

The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled January 13 that an Illinois law banning the use of public funds for abortions was unconstitutional. The ruling applied to therapeutic abortions—those considered medically necessary by a physician.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare interpreted the rape provision of federal funding for abortion passed last year (see Update, Jan.-Feb. 1978) to mean that a woman is eligible for a federally funded abortion if she, a doctor or a member of her family signs a statement within 60 days saying she was a victim of rape or incest. The statement must be submitted to a law enforcement agency or a public health agency.

Update

appeal by Mormon dissident Douglas A. Wallace in early January. Wallace had sued the Church, claiming that an injunction barring him from Temple Square during October General Conference had damaged his rights of free speech, assembly and religion. He had asked \$100,000 general damages and \$100,000 punitive damages. The court ruled that the restraining order had been properly issued, and that no damages could result from an order since any error would be the court's and not the responsibility of the party seeking the injunction.

Seminary Case

Backed by Catholic, Methodist and other religious and community leaders in Utah County, the Timpanogos Board of Mental Health challenged on January 13 the Utah State Board of Mental Health decision to close an

KSL

KSL-FM was officially transferred from Bonneville International Corp. to Simmons Family, Inc. on January 25 (see "The Mormon Media Image," July-Aug. 1977). According to Roy W. Simmons, president of Simmons Family, Inc. and of Zions Utah Bancorporation, the family corporation was formed to acquire the station, which will now be operated as KSFI(FM).

Criminal Code

The bill to reform the U.S. Criminal Code passed the Senate January 30 by a vote of 72-15 (see "The Law of the Land," Nov.-Dec. 1977). It now goes to the House, which should have begun hearings in the Judiciary committee by mid-February. The Senate version abolishes indeterminate sentences and allows parole only in "exceptional" situations. It also allows only 10% off

IRS

Rep. George Hansen (R-ID) accused the IRS in a letter written December 13, 1977 to the *Idaho Statesman* of discriminating against Mormon taxpayers and IRS employees. "I have uncovered strong evidence of outrageous IRS policies in Eastern Idaho and a gigantic rip-off planned by the federal tax collectors of millions of dollars through a massive capital gains tax recovery on Teton flood damage reimbursements," said the letter. He charged the IRS with bringing in an auditor from another state to do "target audits" of Mormon officials, with planning an armed search (without warrants) by 30 to 40 agents to force individuals in Idaho Falls to prove they paid taxes, and with trying to purge Mormon agents from their positions as auditors with the IRS. The IRS denied the charges.