

# A FA Meets With City Councilman

by Jerry Jennings

A.F.A. President Jerry Jennings and Dean Thie, Vice-President of RURAL — a Los Angeles animal owning homeowners association, recently had lunch with Los Angeles City Councilman Donald Lorenzen to discuss his position on the animal keeping ordinance recently backed by the City Planning Commission. The ordinance is the recommendation of the Department of Animal Regulations and is strongly supported by A.F.A. and RURAL.

The original ordinance, backed by Lorenzen, would have severely limited the numbers of birds allowed on a 1/2-acre or larger lot, while prohibiting them entirely on smaller lots. The latest version does

not affect birds at all.

The first hearing of the animal keeping proposal in the City Council in June 1974 created intense opposition by A.F.A., RURAL, and other groups, resulting in more than eighteen months of further studies and meetings between pro and anti-animal forces. The outcome was the Planning Commission's nullification of the original proposal. In its place was substituted an ordinance limiting only cattle to one per 4,000 sq. ft. on RA lots.

The latest proposal supported by bird breeders will be heard by the Council Planning Committee, before being sent on to the full council.

The protracted debate over citizen

rights to keep animals arose from one city resident's maintenance of sixty head of cattle on a 3/4 acre residential lot, which created a noise and odor problem. The latest proposal would adequately deal with future "cattle ranches" and is similar to current horse keeping regulations.

Jennings and Thie sought Lorenzen's support for the reasonable ordinance and discussed other issues affecting city residents.

The nearly two years of time invested in the current situation is an outstanding example of the effect irresponsible animal owners have over those who would properly care for their stock ■

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