

Needed: A Mayor Who Cares

With only a few days left in his campaign for re-election, Mayor Sam Yorty has finally gotten around to the central issue: his eight year record.

But his version is not the one we remember.

He talks of efficient garbage collection, and of the fire and police departments; of the growth of the airport and harbor, and the fact that the street lights go on at night. One expects to hear next of sunrises which occurred on schedule for the past eight years.

The trouble is, we're not voting to elect a garbage collector.

We're voting for a mayor, and we want one who will not be posturing endlessly with advice on foreign policy while his first application for Model City money is rejected in Washington as being poorly prepared and inadequate—and vitally needed federal money goes elsewhere, as it did in 1967.

We want a mayor whose main interests lie here at home, and who will stay here to tend to them, instead of a globe-trotter whose junkets—and excuses for them—have made Los Angeles a target of worldwide derision.

We want a mayor who views corruption with concern, instead of a man whose reaction to repeated exposes of flagrant municipal wrongdoing is an anguished cry of "smear."

And finally, we want a mayor with a sense of responsibility and integrity which would never lead him into the use of inflammatory and undocumented charges

—many of them racially oriented—in a desperate search for political survival.

Sam Yorty says he is proud of his record. But when he cites it, some things are left out:

We remind him of his Harbor Commission, where a \$12 million deal was consummated under extremely questionable circumstances, and where at least \$300,000 of the taxpayers' money was thrown away when architectural plans were scrapped to clear the way.

Box Score: Three commissioners convicted for bribery or conflict of interest and a fourth awaiting trial.

Yorty's reaction: "Smear."

We remind him of his Recreation and Parks Commission, where contracts were awarded to friends of commissioners for costly plans which never were used.

Box Score: Two commissioners resigned under fire; one faces trial on charges of accepting kickbacks on contract awards.

Yorty's reaction: "Smear."

We remind him of his Planning Commission and his Board of Zoning Adjustment, where friends and business associates of commissioners got zone changes which the city's professional planners had rejected, and to whose actions the gas stations pockmarking residential areas mutely attest.

Box Score: Four of ten commissioners either resigned or were transferred under fire.

Yorty's reaction: "Smear."

This is the Sam Yorty record we remember. This is why we are supporting Tom Bradley for mayor.