

News

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side — not a condemnation of the Turkish nation."

When Councilman Lamb suggested that the words "Ottoman Turkish Government" be eliminated in the inscription, Mike Minasian answered:

"JUST because July 4th may offend the British, does that mean we should eliminate that American observance? No, we can't rewrite history."

In the end — three hours after the start of the stormy session — Goldsmith, the

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The Montebello News

44 PAGES

IN CITY COUNCIL A...

Furor Over Armenian Memorial

Council Approves Bicknell Park Site After 3-Hour Stormy Session

Before an emotionally-charged and standing-room-only crowd that applauded and booed intermittently, the Montebello City Council Monday night approved construction of an Armenian Memorial in Bicknell Park. But it withheld — at least temporarily — its approval of a controversial plaque that would have dedicated the soaring, night-lighted structure to the memory of 1.5 million Armenians who "were massacred in 1915 in a premeditated act of genocide by the Ottoman Turkish Government," an Armenian spokesman said.

Approval of the \$75,000 memorial, to be financed by the Armenian community of Southern California, came despite the protest of the honorary Consul General of the Turkish Republic and a threat by a battle-scarred Turk who fought in Korea that he would "blow it up if built."

The vote in favor of the monument was 4-1, with Councilman Bruce Odou casting the lone negative vote.

At the urging of Dr. Odou who asked "time for us to take a calm, reasonable approach in working over the wording of the plaque," councilmen postponed action on the inscription until a further meeting.

Councilman Joseph Spada said that, though, he "favored the monument, I would rather see the plaque express goodwill and love, perhaps an inscription dedicating the monument to all per-

Odou told the crowd at the end: "It was unfortunate we've had such ill will here, and, for awhile there, I thought we should throw everybody out."

ONE TURK, Ercument Askin, an Alhambra trucker, said: "Let's walk together in peace, but I will blow it up if built and the police will

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