April 1998

California Round-up

from page four

found guilty of four misdemeanors for housing homeless people in his church [Street Spirit, August, 1997]. Drake refused to evict the homeless, though he directed them not to sleep in their vehicles in his parking lot but to use his church's indoor facility instead, under court order.

Drake says gains have come only because of pressure on the city through litigation and protest. Buena Park's laws bar residency in a motel for more than 28 days, and also ban sleeping outside or in vehicles. For more information: contact Rev. Drake at 714/522-7201.

SAN DIEGO

Since March 15th, homeless supporters have held a Vigil for Year Round Shelter outside San Diego City Hall seeking shelter for an estimated 2000 of San Diego's estimated 4500 homeless population. Due to activist pressure, "illegal lodging" arrests — under the arcane 1872 state misdemeanor law 647i — have dropped. Forrest and Anne Curo's Street Light paper has been publishing for over a year and covering local protests in vivid detail. Contact Street Light, 917 E. St., San Diego 92101; phone: 619/338-9081.

SACRAMENTO

The local homeless paper Homeward is in its fifth issue. Eddie Harris of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee may be planning protests at the California Homelessness and Housing Conference in early May against the Sacramento City Council's new law barring the holding of "Will Work for Food" signs on freeway entrance ramps. Call Harris at 916/442-7376 for information.