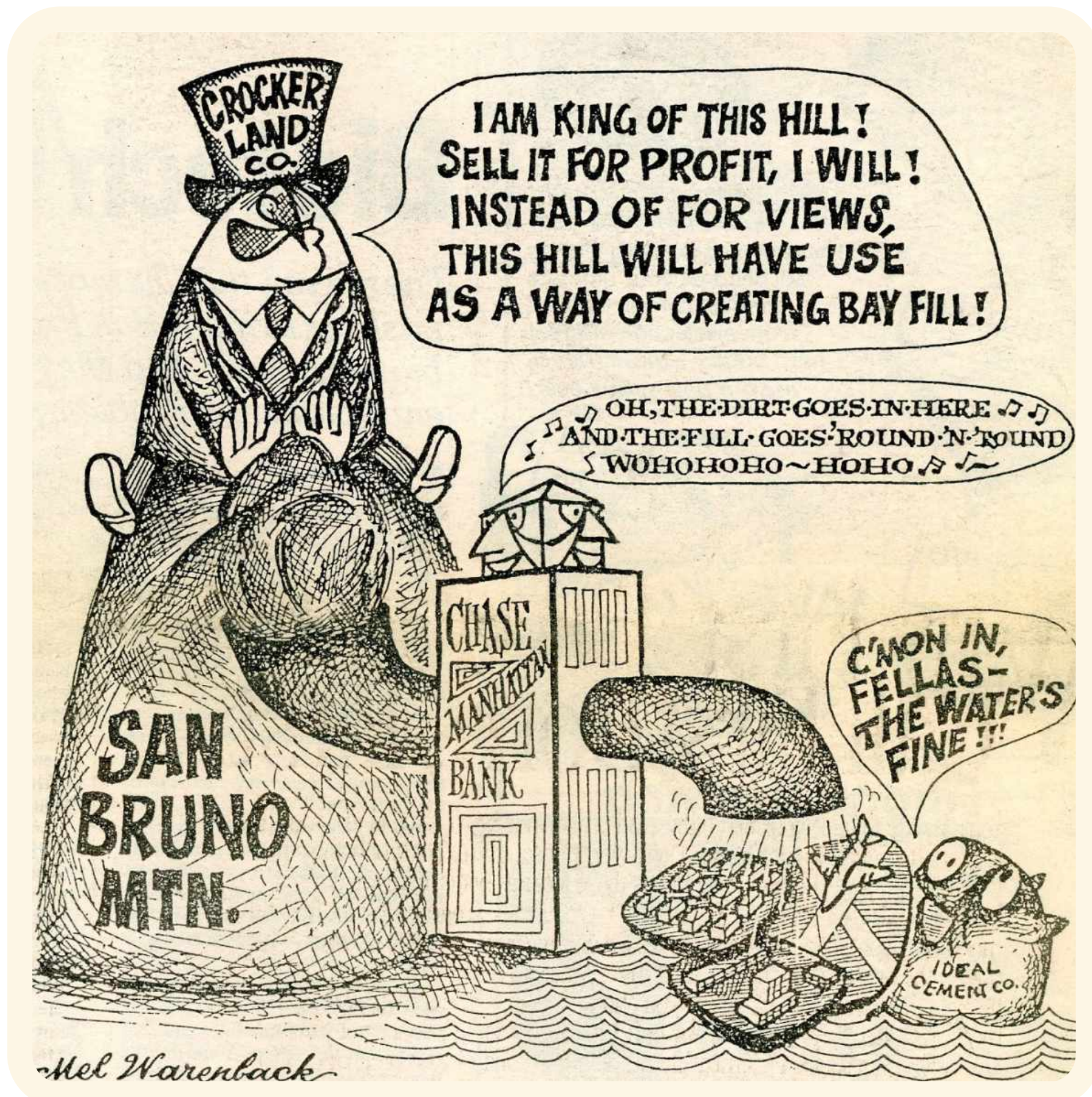


Saving the Bay Saved the Mountain

In the 1960s, a proposal to transform 10,000 acres of the San Francisco Bay into 27 miles of real estate along the San Mateo County shore caused an uproar.

This threat to the estuary was also troubling for San Bruno Mountain. Under this plan, 600 acres of rock and soil would be harvested from its eastern ridge to be used as bay fill. 200 feet would be torn from its elevation, leaving a flattened summit suitable for building on top of the mountain.



"The world's most massive earth moving operation since the Great Wall of China is poised to begin south of San Francisco. It will move much of San Bruno Mountain into much of San Francisco Bay...the gargantuan project would decapitate San Bruno Mountain...to provide 350,000,000 cubic yards of earth fill for bayside projects."
-Bruce Brugmann, *Bay Guardian*, November 1966



"This Mel Warenback cartoon, published in the *Bay Guardian's* third issue, Dec. 1, 1966, poked fun at the outrageous scheme by Crocker Land Company, Leslie Salt, Ideal Cement and Chase Manhattan Bank to hack 350 million cubic yards of earth off the top of San Bruno Mountain and dump it into the Bay."

"The Bay should no longer be treated as ordinary real estate, available to be filled with sand or dirt to create new land."
-*San Francisco Bay Plan*
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Efforts by the Save San Francisco Bay Association led to legislation that formed the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission in 1965.

When the Commission released the *San Francisco Bay Plan* in 1969, it became clear that the proposal to use San Bruno Mountain as bay fill was not aligned with the agency's vision of the bay's future.

The City of Brisbane feared removal of the mountain's eastern ridge would allow the fog to spill in and forever alter the generally sunny character of town. Their city council passed an ordinance prohibiting the construction of a tunnel below or a conveyor belt above the Bayshore freeway—thereby restricting the potential methods of transporting fill from San Bruno Mountain to the Bay.

