

Vain Promises Lead Voters to Seek Tax Reforms

By JAMES WOODWORTH
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—The recent invasions of the sanctity of the University of California administrative offices, a sit-in in the governor's office, and the possibility of such actions in the future in the legislative branch of the state government, may be a portent of the lack of action by all branches of the government on problems of the day.

The democratic form of government was founded on the idea that citizens would and could take action

against the government when that government either failed, or refused to take needed actions.

A parallel could be drawn between the actions of the students at the University of California, and other colleges, and the move by citizens on Proposition 9, the so-called Watson amendment, which seeks to give some form of property tax relief to California citizens.

Here again, the need for property tax relief has been talked about for years, and a few vague attempts have been made to gain passage

of such relief through the legislature, but all without success.

So the public gets fed up with the stalling of their elected representatives and takes the bull by the horns. With apparent ease, the proponents of the Watson amendment to constitution gain sufficient signatures on petitions seeking to place the matter of property tax relief on the ballot in November, thus taking it out of the hands of the legislators, who have stumbled, promised, rejected, promised, sworn and promised

again, but have never produced meaningful tax relief legislation.

Almost immediately, the first significant tax relief program gains approval of both the assembly and the senate, as the solons in Sacramento move to prevent the public from voting "tragedy" upon our state.

Cries of fear can be heard coming from all quarters of the state capitol as well as from all other property taxing agencies throughout the state. As one highly respected politician put, with tongue in cheek, "Everybody is

against it . . . except the people."

The lack of action in the state legislature, in the universities, in the cities and counties, and in the nation cannot but lead to other moves by the voters to take things into their own hands.

The refusal of these same legislators, college administrators, and others concerned, to take action to bring the educational concept up-to-date is resulting in the various sit-ins as the students of the future, voters all, demand action to right the wrongs they feel prevail

on the campuses.

The militant groups, the communist-backed students, and others are being used by the legislators to point out how wrong they are in their demands. But in the background, offering support to the ideals proposed by these students, are other, calm thinking citizens who say that where there is smoke, there must be some fire.

Those who believe that the actions of today, both in the universities and by the voters on Proposition 9, are a phase through which the

state must pass before it will return to "normal" tomorrow, should take a close look at what that future could bring.

The voters are fed up with promises and no action. This is true on many other things besides property tax relief.

The students are tired of promises made to them with no followup action.

It would seem logical that these students who become the voting citizens of tomorrow, may be ready to seek new voices in Sacramento to represent them and to demand action, not promises.

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1968

Nixon-Agnew Endorsed

This newspaper endorses the election of Richard M. Nixon as the 37th President of the United States, and Spiro T. Agnew as his vice-president.

At no other time in this century has the nation been so torn from within and without by riots, war, disrespect for law and order, deliberate destruction of property—public and private—and a growing tolerance among elected representatives toward abuse in an apparent "do-nothing-attitude" that only foments more of the same.

While shame is heaped on shame on college campuses and in the ghettos of our cities, the administration flounders in efforts to correct the condition; but worse, it is failing to rebuild confidence that it can and will show the way toward a new world of law and order, peace, and economic stability.

This is a time for new leadership. While the Democratic party makes sounds of revolt in Sacramento and in Washington, Richard Nixon stands with a united and dedicated Republic

can party with announced goals and purpose.

Richard Nixon served as vice president of the United States from 1953-61, United States Senator, 1951-52; and congressman from 1947 to 1951.

He arbitrated the major steel strike of 1959, debated Khrushchev at the American exhibit in Moscow—the highest ranking American ever to visit the Soviet Union; won re-election along with President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 in one of the greatest landslides in American history, he co-sponsored a bill to require the registration of all Communist-front organizations and Communist party members, helped write the Taft-Hartley law, and was endorsed in 1948 by both the Democratic and Republican parties for re-election.

Richard Nixon is well schooled in politics and statesmanship to give the American people the new kind of leadership that will restore to them dignity, security, pride, and love of country.

Rafferty-Blatchford

Nearly as important as choosing a new President is the selection of members of Congress who can be counted on to support legislation to carry out the chief executive's programs.

With today's endorsement of the Nixon-Agnew team for the presidency, this newspaper reminds its readers that it has earlier urged the election of Dr. Max Rafferty to the U.S. Senate and the election of Joe Blatchford to Congress from the 17th District.

We consider these two elections to be vital to the welfare of our part of

Southern California and to the well being of the nation.

Patriotism is not a dirty word, and in Dr. Rafferty and in Joe Blatchford we find two men who are proud patriots; men who have been proud enough to be Americans that they spread their convictions with a missionary's zeal. We need more of this, not less.

In each case, California voters can select a man of stature, education, energy, and training to serve the office he seeks.

We reaffirm our endorsement of Dr. Max Rafferty for the U. S. Senate and Joe Blatchford as Congressman from the 17th District.

'No' to Rapid Transit

Voters Nov. 5 will decide whether Southern California Rapid Transit District can proceed with a \$2,515,000,000 bonding program, payable through a special sales and use tax, to construct an 89-mile, fixed rail and feeder bus transit system.

There is no question of the need for rapid transit, especially the link to Los Angeles International Airport and the South Bay area.

Proponents claim it will provide Los Angeles County with a smog-free, safe, high-speed, modern, rapid rail system—89 miles—and an expanded bus network that will make the system a county-wide function. The combined system, they claim, will carry 1,400,000 persons daily.

The bonds would be repaid through a sales tax levy of one-half of 1 per cent.

Opponents point out that interest only on the bonds will bring the county's rapid transit debt to \$5 million dollars—doubling the price tag put on by SCRPTD. They further claim that the \$5 billion would not unclog our freeways, unsmog our skies, would not take people rapidly where they need to go and would not be completely paid for by a half cent sales

tax increase over the next 47 years. These arguments have not been logically answered.

This newspaper has over the years followed with serious interest the county-wide problem of rapid transit. It has repeatedly reported the foolish expenditures of millions of dollars on equally foolish feasibility studies. Born of these numerous studies has been county Proposition A, a \$5 billion dollar project that essentially would freeze Los Angeles to a fixed rail system. The kind it has systematically eliminated over the past 20 years.

Experts on rapid transit are split over the claimed effectiveness of Proposition A is not the ultimate answer. There is a dark cloud of confusion and doubt hanging on the verdict of Proposition A, the hoped for "Pied Piper" for rapid transit.

There is no argument that a need exists for a thoroughly modern rapid transit system. But until transit experts can agree on a system that will suit the needs of all areas of the county, the expenditure of \$5 billion is an unwise undertaking.

With reserved reluctance, this newspaper recommends a No vote on Proposition A.

Stage Center

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Look Who Came To This Dinner

Howard Gossage's lovely old firehouse on Pacific, the one with an art gallery where the fire engines used to be, and offices upstairs, is a good place to get your bearings. Gossage may be in the advertising business, but he's usually giving a party up there. You never know what you're going to find, but it's always somebody interesting: Buckminster Fuller or Tom Wolfe or Marshall McLuhan. This time it was Dr. Benjamin Spock and his wife, Jane. They were seated at a big table in the middle of Gossage's office, gazing at seven acres of tongue, beef, lox, herring, cream cheese, and potato salad ordered from David's Delicatessen.

As is usual whenever I see Dr. Spock, I felt like sitting on his lap and telling him my troubles. He looks just the way you want him to look: tall, gaunt, kind and fatherly—and yet youthful. He exudes joy of living; you know you are looking at a happy man.

He was wearing a well-cut conservative suit, pale blue shirt, high white collar fastened with a pin—a diaper pin?—and dark tie. "You look as conservative as a Wall Street banker," I said. "Oh, I am," grinned the man who had recently been convicted of "conspiring" to flout the draft laws. "That's what the young people don't seem to realize about me. I'm extremely conservative about obscenity, for one thing. I really feel strongly about that. I'm also conservative about sex. Oh, I don't approve at all of what some of the young people are doing."

There were no surprises in his views on Vietnam. "It's an issue I simply escalated into while working for a nuclear bomb treaty"—but I was surprised to find him such a clotheshorse. "I'm on a lecture tour," he said, "and all the publicity I've received has done wonders for me. I used to get \$500 a lecture and now I'm up to \$2,250—fantastic! And the crowds have been most friendly everywhere. But all this living in motels plays havoc with your clothes. I just can't stand wearing a suit with wrinkled sleeves and those awful wrinkles behind the knees."

He then launched into a long description of a trick taught to him by his father. "You take a washrag," he said, "and wet it, taking care to wring it out well. Then you place it on the sleeves and pants for a while, and the wrinkles come right out. Of course, you must get a rag of good quality—not one of those skimpy washrags you find in motels." Okay.

Ronnie Schell, big on that "Gomer Pyle" TV show, marries Schoolteacher Jan Roderberg in L. A. Dec. 6, with Jim Nabors hosting the following festivities . . . Herbert Hoover and that Marin Deputy Sheriff who has been fired for it, aren't the only celebrated people who showed off their bodies for art students. Ronald Reagan, then acclaimed as "The Modern Adonis," turned the same trick at USC years ago. "A near perfect figure," reads the captions at the time, and where was the fatal flaw?

Art Petri knows it's just a joke but he wishes stewardesses would stop smirking "Coffee, tea or Castro?" . . . The American Psychological Assoc., which voted here not to hold its '69 convention in Chicago (greetings, Mayor Daley), has selected Washington, which may or may not be an improvement. . . . The Viet Cong agree that things go better with Coke, a returning officer tells me; they buy empty soft drink cans from friendly natives and turn them into grenades. . . . It's getting harder and harder to remember when Harry Bridges was the town's No. 1 villain-Red-alien-etc. On Oct. 24 at Pier 50, he was the co-featured speaker at a "The Port Comes Home" ceremony. The other speaker: Ralph Davies, board chairman of American President Lines, and how's that for innocence by association?

Although United Airlines is the only major line that rules out married stewardesses, a United Exec. concedes that "Probably about 40 per cent of the girls are secretly married, but who counts?" . . . It's getting harder and harder to keep up with the jargon. Here's Gale Garnett, that excellent Sausalito singer, explaining while one of her recent recordings failed to click: "It was a grass-acid song in a speed-smack year." Okay? . . . Little Old Lady to Muni bus driver: "Are you voting for Wallace?" Driver: "No. Absolutely not." Turning to Earl Selby, an editor of Reader's Digest, she repeated: "You voting for Wallace?" Earl: "No, ma'am." LOL, settling into her seat with a sigh: "Some days you meet the damndest people!"



FROM THE MAILBOX

School Board President Opposing Proposition 9

To the Editor:

As a parent and as President of the Torrance School Board, I am flabbergasted at your stand in urging a "Yes" on Proposition 9. You state that "the property owner in this state deserves a break."

The members of your school board, who serve without pay and without expense account heartily agree. Our school system stands out as one which provides an outstanding program for each child and does so at a cost consistently below the average cost per child in Los Angeles County. In fact, after our public budget meetings this year, we lowered the school tax rate \$.05.

Voting "Yes" on Proposition 9 is not the only way for a Torrance citizen to protest if he feels, as you do, that there is "wasteful spending" and if he wants to close the gap made by the "lack of legislative imagination." On the local level, citizens are encouraged to attend and be heard at all School Board and City Council meetings. Budget hearings are well publicized. Letters and phone calls are welcomed. Elections for School Board members and City Councilmen are held regularly.

The result of this November election is crucial to each Torrance family. Our local school system is an excellent system because of local control and local support. Further, I sincerely and urgently suggest you re-examine your stand on Proposition 9 and urge your readers to vote "No" on it.

DR. OWEN H. GRIFFITH
President
Torrance School Board

President Tells Auxiliary Role

To the Editor:

It has come to our attention that an article in the Press-Herald of Friday, Oct. 18, has led to wide misunderstanding of the function of the Torrance Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. In order to clarify this matter and to reassure our many friends, we would like to restate our purpose.

Founded in 1951 the Torrance Memorial Hospital Auxiliary has given 17 years of service with patient-related activities and projects which gave financial support to the Hospital. Activities and projects will be vastly augmented in the next two years. Many new volunteers are being sought in order to serve the new hospital.

Just a year ago the Auxiliary pledged \$100,000 to the Torrance Memorial Hospital Building Fund to which they have already paid \$8,500. Funds from the current Fashion Show will be applied towards this pledge. In the formative stage is a philanthropic group composed of interested South Bay and Peninsula women who have not previously been involved with Torrance Memorial Hospital. This

group will also lend its financial support in the future.

It is our earnest desire to involve the entire community in a greater participation in the provision of a fine Hospital to serve not only our present population; but generations yet to come.

PHYLLIS WELLS,
President
Torrance Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Successful Art Show Reported

To the Editor:

Our sixth annual Art for Fund's Cake, held at Nortronics Research Park on Oct. 12 and 13 was artistically and financially a great success. More than 20,000 people attended, and much credit is due you for bringing it to the attention of the public through your newspaper.

We deeply appreciate your support. Thank you.

MRS. L. H. BAYER,
President
Community Arts Association.

Quote

"The instance of the ill-conceived attempt to recall Governor Reagan was a clear example of the law being abused." — Assemblyman Paul Priolo, on the recall issue.

"We cannot condone or justify any individual or group taking the law into his own hands, no matter what the motivation or professed reason might be." — Gov. Ronald Reagan.

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