

Sacramento Spectator

Beyond "Big Green"

NOT ONE to sit around and mope, Tom Hayden has apparently recovered from the beatings administered to his beloved "Big Green" by the voters and to his ego by Jane Fonda's lawyers. He was recently given the chairmanship of a special "education" committee by his pal, Speaker Willie Brown. With what ultimate goal? Racial quotas — yes quotas, for each class graduating from the UC and Cal State systems.



Sound too radical, you say? Could never happen, you say? The idea was floated in Sacramento last year by the usual assortment of ultra-lefties. The response, negative but not vehemently so, convinced Tom and Willie that this idea's time may have come. Incidentally, it gives conservatives an ideal opening to the

Asian and Jewish communities, whose children would be directly affected in an adverse manner by such quotas. A conservative counter-attack is already being planned. The left is 'way out of touch with the average voter on this issue which could be a bonanza for conservatives. It will be interesting to watch.

ALTHOUGH *SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR* is entirely too modest to say "I told you so," attentive readers will recall that last column I said Gov. Wilson's senate appointee would be a surprise, and not someone on the "most likely" lists bandied about by the media. So be honest now, had any of you ever heard of John Seymour's name in this connection?

Gloating aside, the appointment of Seymour, who within the last year changed positions from pro-life to pro-death and from pro-off shore oil drilling to anti-drilling, shows not only Seymour's lack of con-

viction but also Wilson's stubbornness. He had made a deal with the pro-aborts during his campaign that in return for their toned-down support for Feinstein, he would appoint a fellow pro-abortion to his senate seat. He went to great lengths to keep his promise. *Sacramento Spectator* has it on *excellent* authority that Wilson offered the appointment to a moderately conservative, pro-life congressman from Southern California. The condition: that the congressman change his position on abortion. To this gentleman's everlasting credit, he told Wilson to take a hike. What Governor was left with is an unknown state senator, obviously willing to sell his soul for political advancement. The voters in last year's Republican primary saw through Seymour's venality and soundly defeated him for Lieutenant Governor. That this shallow, petty man is in the U.S. Senate is an insult to the institution.

ON THE good news front, a conservative challenge against Seymour *will* be mounted in the primary next year. Your *Sacramento Spectator* devoutly hopes that conservatives choose *one* candidate to carry our water, and that that candidate is the strongest one available. Running a weak candidate against Seymour and getting clobbered would be worse, in the long run, than supporting Seymour for reelection openly. One hot rumor on the Sacramento grapevine is that Pete Wilson, whose prestige will be on the line for Seymour next year, is actively considering endorsing a conservative in the primary for Alan Cranston's senate seat. The hope is that this would take the heat off "Senator For Sale" Seymour. This will be another interesting one to watch.

TO CLOSE on an up note, the *Sacramento Union*, voice of reason, sanity, and all good things American in town, is getting close to turning the financial corner — 'way ahead of schedule. Since new management bought the *Union* about a year ago, the paper has been struggling. If the *Union* survives, let alone prospers, it will serve as an example to investors all around the country that conservative newspapers are a venture worth looking at, especially in markets dominated by papers far to the left of their readers. Readers in the *Union's* subscription area who aren't subscribers need to remedy that — now. The *Union's* success will strike a blow that will be felt far outside of Sacramento.

— A.P.C.

enticing Wilson to move away from his position and toward theirs? With the sort of conciliatory words and offers of compromise the governor employed?

"I don't know why the Republicans always seem to want to tax the average person before the rich get hit," Roberti said, displaying his best "working with the governor" demeanor. "We are going to be as vigorous in protecting the average citizen as Republicans are in protecting the wealthiest citizens." And as if anyone needed to be told, Democrats let it be known that "they are unwilling to go forward with the governor's plan to cut welfare grants," according to the *Times*.

Republicans, especially those who get elected to chief executive positions, seem to think that politics ends with electoral campaigns, that after the winners are declared, all the office holders are going to get down solely to the business of governing. Democrats usually seem to know better. It would be terrific if people in government thought only, or even mainly (or, in some cases, at all), about making the institutions, resources, and responsibilities with which they are entrusted come together and work as well as they can be made to work for the general good of the population. But they don't. That, for a variety of reasons, is the main thing wrong with trusting government to do much of anything. The incentives in government are almost all *political*, not economic — that is, they push people to concern themselves with increasing their power bases and not to worry about whether or not the programs work.

DEMOCRATS LIKE Brown and Roberti aren't stupid enough really to believe that Pete Wilson cares only about rich people or that he wants to soak the poor, but they also know that accusing him of these things is the most promising way for them to increase their power at his expense, so they do it. That's politics, at least the way the left plays it. If your opponent offers an inch, demand a foot; if he'll give you a sales tax increase, tell him he's making progress, but 'way too little and not in quite the right direction. The idea is to make the poor chump look like a follower, never a leader, one who deserves a paternal pat on the head when he does well, and a kick in the shins when he goes wrong. Politics is about being in charge, and Roberti and Brown are experts at manipulating the images and setting the terms of debate to show that *they* are at the controls.

Occasionally, reality breaks in on this parlor game, as when, for instance, Standard & Poor's recently warned that California's AAA bond rating is in jeopardy. And a recently released California Business

Roundtable survey reportedly revealed that one California company in seven plans to leave the state because housing, labor, and health care cost too much.

IT IS the normal business of Republicans to pursue policies that avoid this sort of bad news, just as it is the normal business of liberals to try, through bloated tax rates and stultifying regulation, to produce failure in the private sector, the better to justify their calls for less freedom and more government. *They* are the party of big government; their whole program, therefore, is political. But while Republicans, as the party of freedom, must give primary emphasis to promoting policies that help insure that our free society continues to function, they must also be political. Otherwise, they will lose both the political and the policy battles.

How do Republicans win politically? By following the example of the Republican who won more often and more convincingly than any other this century, Ronald Reagan. Lesson One is to forget about being "pragmatic," a euphemism for letting the left call the tune. Lesson Two is to set forth clearly and forcefully the arguments for less government and more freedom. Because he did so, Reagan left office having fostered policies that reduced inflation from double digits to 1.9 percent by 1986, helped gross investment as a share of GNP reach a postwar high in the 1980s, and created 20 million new jobs without increasing inflation, something critics said could never be done. Of course, Democrat leaders don't now talk about how well they were able to "work with" the old actor — but that is probably the surest sign that what he did was right.

End Notes

Trivia time. Who said it? "I wish I'd done this before I'd run for president. It would've given me insight into the anxiety any independent businessman or farmer must have . . . Now I've had to meet a payroll every week. I've got to pay the bank every month . . . I've got to pay the state of Connecticut taxes . . . It gives you a whole new perspective on what other people worry about." Answer: George McGovern, former senator and 1972 Democrat nominee for president, musing in the *Washington Post* last March about his first-ever business venture as owner of a Connecticut hotel. Of course, if George actually *had* owned a business and had talked this way about it back in '72, he'd never have been nominated.

CPR

Flies in Amber

*How Aging Radicals Use Race On Campus To Revive
The Confrontational Fire of the '60s.*

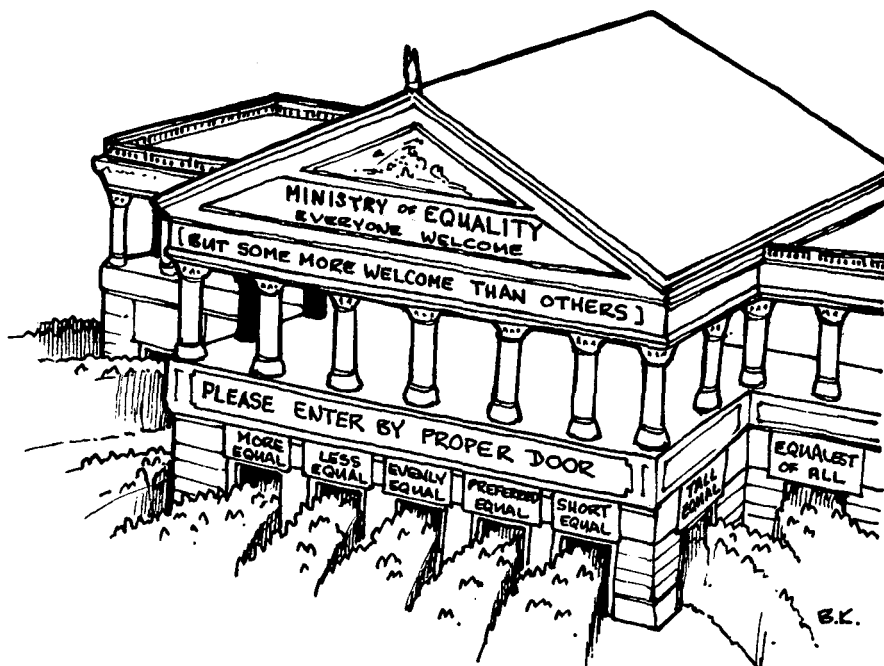
by
Glynn Custred

ON NOV. 7, 1990, a group of students burst into the classroom of Professor Vincent Sarich at the University of California, Berkeley, disrupting the class and accusing the professor of racism. The reason given was that Sarich, in his introductory anthropology course, had discussed the uneven distribution of abilities among different groups in society. The real reason, however, was an article recently published in the Cal Berkeley alumni magazine, *California Monthly*. In that article Sarich had criticized the university's affirmative action policy for student admission, procedures that operate on a two-track system of selection — one based on merit, and the other on race and ethnicity. Most of the minority students admitted under this program are only marginally qualified by UC standards, and thus stand out sharply against all the others. In fact, the gap between the two groups is generally four years, by no means a trivial difference at this level, especially in a fast-paced academic environment like that of Berkeley.

The result, wrote Sarich, is that two distinct student bodies are now developing on the Berkeley campus. These groups are distinguished not only by preferential treatment and by different levels of preparation and performance, but are also clearly differentiated from one another by race and ethnicity. No policy, said Sarich, could be better designed to create and intensify divisiveness in an already competitive atmosphere than this one. It was the publication of such views, especially in a maga-

zine that reaches so many influential readers, that brought disruption to Sarich's classroom and subsequent campus-wide vilification.

THIS CONFRONTATION in the classroom was not, however, an isolated incident. At the beginning of the 1990 fall semester student protesters at San Francisco State University disrupted the class of political scientist Robert Smith demanding that his course, which dealt with black activism in American politics, be canceled. Neither the subject of the course nor the professor's perspective on the material covered were at issue. And race was not a consideration since both student demonstrators and the professor are black. What was at issue was whether topics dealing with blacks could be taught outside the black studies department. In other words, it was, simply, a battle over turf. What brings these



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