

# CALIFORNIA★POLITICAL REVIEW

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### Who Votes on What

It would be nice if you informed your readers on this state's legislation and how our legislators are voting on it. It would also be helpful to voters like me to know who is on what committees and subcommittees which could be done on the first issue of every new year.

Ron Gibson  
Ventura

*Great idea! We're incorporating your bill tracking suggestion in a new feature beginning with this issue — see page 7. —Editor*

### Pernicious Crippler

Your "Rewarded for Failure: California's Bilingual Education" by Harald G. Martin (*CPR*, March/April 1997) is an extremely important contribution to the bilingual education wars. The results of your Anaheim School District study are, I would predict, precisely the experience in most school districts in the state.

My two organizations have been attempting to reduce the influence of the native language lobbies for eight years. They are still listened to in the Legislature but our educational projects are steadily attracting attention and legislative support. The bilingual education bills in the current Legislature mask their real goals which would retain native language instruction, the pernicious crippler of immigrant children's futures. Thanks for Mr. Martin's article. I cite it every time I can.

Stanley Diamond, chairman  
California English Campaign  
National English Campaign  
San Francisco

### Grown Weary of the Tribe

I have for some time enjoyed reading law reviews at the local law library but I find most law reviews as liberal as Laurence Tribe, professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School, who believes the U.S. Constitution should change and be

interpreted to suit all the latest fads. Are there any good conservative law schools within the borders of our great nation that publish a good law review? The only one that I have heard of is Regent University Law School in Virginia.

In closing, I want to thank you for *CPR*, and for the work you are doing for our great (but liberal leaning) state.

David A. Knight  
Harbor City

*Mark S. Pulliam, CPR Legal Issues Correspondent, responds:*

Your disappointment about the contents of most law reviews is understandable. As Robert Bork and others have pointed out, most law schools (especially at the "elite" institutions) have been captured by the left. There are exceptions. Pepperdine, Notre Dame, Brigham Young University, George Mason, and Chicago have a traditional faculty or at least a strong representation of traditional scholars. That does not necessarily translate into a conservative law review, since law reviews are edited by the students, not the faculty. Your best bet for a conservative law review is the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, published in conjunction with the Federalist Society. This journal may already be in your local law library. If not, try a large, nearby university law school library such as at USC or UCLA. Or contact the Federalist Society directly at 202/822-8138. Subscriptions are reasonably priced.

### How About Bonier?

With all the hoopla in the media these days regarding how Newt is going to pay the \$300,000 fine imposed on him, I'd like to make the following suggestion.

In the interest of fairness, shouldn't David Bonier be held liable for all the expenses incurred by the Ethics committee in their investigations of the 70 some complaints filed by him which were shown to have no merit?

Nancy Morgan  
Manhattan Beach

# SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR

One of your *Spectator's* favorite put-down lines is from that old Marxist, Groucho, when he turns from some sap he has been talking to, looks full face into the camera and says "I thought my razor was dull 'til I met this guy." The same can be said about the current situation in Sacramento .... dull, duller, and dullest.

Almost nothing is going on under the dome — in fact as of their "Spring Break," the full Assembly had taken up and voted on only 60 bills in the first 3 months of the year. This has several causes, including disarray among both Assembly caucuses. Speaker Bustamante cut a Faustian deal with the hard line liberals in his caucus to become Speaker, and the left is beginning to chafe at his hesitation to bring up their agenda items.

The Speaker rightly sees that homosexual "marriages" and "reparations" to blacks for slavery are not winners with most Californians. (One in this vein that snuck by was Kevin Murray's motion, voted for by 33 Democrats, to honor slain "gangsta" rapper "Notorious B.I.G." whom Tom McClintock noted was best known for glorifying rape and murder and for a drug-dealing conviction.)

On the Republican side, the uncertainty about term limits and Curt Pringle's intentions has led to a bunker mentality among all the GOP's several factions. The staff and salary reductions made while going from a majority position last year to a minority status in this session has left ruffled feathers among staff and some members. You have the truly absurd situation of a political operative who worked for David Roberti and



still works for Bill Lockyer advising one GOP faction on how to overthrow Pringle as leader.

Republican political consultants, eager to avoid blame for the elections they lost last November, still play "duck and run," blaming everything from Bob Dole to the weather to the gun issue for their own shortcomings. And because of all the mistrust engendered by this and other infighting, you have hard feelings being solidified into grudges and this 37-member GOP minority well on its

way toward 32 or 33 members and total irrelevance after 1998.

The situation in the Senate is only a little better. GOP leader Rob Hurtt leads a disgruntled, largely disinterested caucus, most of them worried about term limits and finding other public offices to hold. Only Hurtt, Ray Haynes, and Jim Brulte are showing any initiative or interest in actually doing combat with the Democrats.

Democrat Senate President ProTem Bill Lockyer — arguably the most liberal member of that body — continues to be the real power in the Capitol. With Pete Wilson the lamest of lame ducks, Lockyer is aggressively advancing his agenda and planning for Democrat gains in 1998. He has the satisfaction of knowing that one of his employees has been planted inside the Assembly GOP leadership battles, that he has a highly disciplined majority in his own house, and that as of now he holds virtually all the trump cards looking toward this year's legislative agenda and next year's elections.

You would think, in the words of the old song, that "something's gotta give." There is abundant talent in the GOP ranks in the Legislature. Perhaps it won't be much longer before some of that talent eschews the infighting in favor of fighting the real enemy. Your *Spectator* promises to keep you posted.

— A.P.C.