

# CALIFORNIA★POLITICAL REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

JOHN KURZWEIL  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

JAN EDWARDS  
MANAGING EDITOR

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS  
DAN BRENNAN, LEON S. MCKINNEY  
ANJANETTE MILHAM

WILLIAM R. ALLEN • ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT  
TIM W. FERGUSON • THE WORKING PRESS  
LORELEI KINDER • THE FRONT LINE  
RICHARD MORGAN • POET LAUREATE  
STEVE BALDWIN • EDUCATION  
MARK S. PULLIAM • LEGAL ISSUES CORRESPONDENT

GENE FOLEY • BUSINESS MANAGER  
PAUL MCCAULEY • BUSINESS SERVICES  
ANJANETTE MILHAM • CIRCULATION MANAGER  
SHAWN STEEL • LEGAL ADVISOR

## EDITORIAL BOARD

JOSEPH FARAH, PETER HANNAFORD,  
DAVID HOROWITZ,  
HAROLD JOHNSON, MANUEL S. KLAUSNER,  
WILLIAM RUSHER, WILLIAM SARACINO,  
G. B. TENNYSON

*California Political Review* (ISSN 1075-3079) is published bimonthly by the California Public Policy Foundation. Send address changes, manuscripts, and Correspondence to: Editor, *California Political Review*, Post Office Box 931, Camarillo, CA 93011-0931. Unsolicited manuscripts should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Signed articles express their authors' opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the California Public Policy Foundation which does not endorse or oppose candidates or intervene in any candidate election campaign. Unsigned editorials express the editors' opinions and not necessarily the views of the California Public Policy Foundation. Rates: \$27 yearly (six issues). Outside U.S. add \$4 per year surface, \$20 for airmail. *California Political Review* is copyright © 1997 by the California Public Policy Foundation.

*California Political Review* (ISSN 1075-3079) is published bimonthly for \$27 per year by the California Public Policy Foundation, 15456 Ventura Blvd., Suite 300, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Second-Class Postage Paid at Van Nuys, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *California Political Review*, P.O. Box 931 Camarillo, CA 93011-0931.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Dashed Hope

1994 rekindled my hope for our great nation and state, but the intervening years have made me painfully aware that at both levels we remain on an unwise, liberal course. Republicans wasted a lot of good will wandering around on minor issues while seeming to lack the courage or skill to implement conservative ideas. It only adds to my disappointment to read (*CPR*, September/October 1997) that California Republicans screwed up in 1997, that the Democrats are tearing apart Steve Baldwin's educational reforms, that the California Teachers Association is still driving our schools to a third world level, and that the Supreme Court continues its activism.

Sadly, I think the chance to return to a better course has passed for my lifetime. To read about the continuing decline is only depressing. So I am not renewing my subscription. My decision in no way reflects on your publication.

Paul Propp  
Hawthorne

*A response to Mr. Propp's letter appears in this issue's "The Front Line," page 5.*

### A Tad Off

Your *Sacramento Spectator* blurb about *California Journal* in the September/October issue is just a tad off the mark. Yes, our founding editor — Thomas Hoeber — did leave the magazine not long ago, but he did not go to work as press secretary for Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante. He left to become national executive director for the Coro Foundation. At the time of his departure, Mr. Hoeber was publisher of the *Journal*. Another *Journal* editor, Richard Zeiger, left the magazine in 1996 after 10 years at the helm. But he didn't go to work for Bustamante either. He left to join a public-relations firm in Sacramento. After a year at that firm, he went to work for the Legislature, as press secretary/consultant to Assembly Majority Leader Antonio Villaraigosa.

As to whether any staffer here has ever worked for a Republican, you may want to note that *California Journal* is owned and published by Information for Public Affairs. Our former vice president is William Hauck, who still serves as a member of IPA's board of directors. Earlier this year, Mr. Hauck was named president of the California Business Roundtable. In the past, he served as a close advisor to Governor Pete Wilson. He also is Wilson appointee to the California State University Board of Trustees. Wilson also tapped him as chairman of the Constitutional Revision Commission in 1995.

A.G. Block, editor  
*California Journal*

*Sacramento Spectator responds:*

*My, my, such thin skin on a publication that regularly butchers facts in a way to make Jack the Ripper envious! I said a Journal "founding editor" had left to work for the Assembly's number one Democrat. In fact, it was their managing editor of 10 years duration. He went to work for the Assembly's number two Democrat, the Majority Floor Leader — the guy in charge of pushing the current ultra-liberal Democrat agenda through the Assembly. I see no substantial difference here, but just 'cuz the Journal is cavalier with facts is no reason we should be.*

*On whether any Cal Journal "staffer" ever worked for a Republican, the answer still seems to be no, even if a token Republican once served as vice president. Do Cal Journal vice presidents determine or even significantly influence the publication's day-to-day output? I said "staff" — that Mr. Block evidently had to conduct a search through the peripheral officers, past and present, of the parent organization to find a Republican I suppose tells whether someone closer to the product could have fit the bill.*

*That a 10-year Cal Journal editor feels comfortable working for an ultra-liberal office holder surprises no one. But these somersault attempts to deny their bias are amusing now and then. APC will keep an eye out!*

# SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR

Sometimes it seems your *Spectator* has been in Sacramento since Pio Pico was governor. Yet seldom have I seen the political situation as unsettled as it is looking to 1998. The unresolved law suits over open primaries, term limits, and campaign finance have frozen the best laid plans of politicians across the board.

Dynamics of the governor's race could change drastically if long-time liberal Democrat activist (currently masquerading as a federal judge) Lawrence Karlton throws out Prop. 208's campaign "reforms." It is widely assumed this ruling is one of the things holding up Dianne Feinstein's final decision. Without 208, it will be much easier to raise the big bucks she'll need to be competitive next year. And if I seem unduly suspicious of Komrad Karlton, recall that this same black-robed tyrant overthrew the *last* campaign finance reform — in 1990, just in time to help then-gubernatorial nominee Dianne Feinstein.

Then we have the other long-time Democrat Party hack (currently masquerading as a Ninth Circuit appellate judge) Stephen Reinhardt. Reinhardt currently holds the distinction of hav-

ing 100 percent of his opinions that have been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court overturned. His tortured reasoning on the matter of term limits so appalled his Ninth circuit colleagues they "invited" term limit supporters to ask *them* to overturn Reinhardt before the Supremes could do it.

But in the meantime, politicians of all stripes wait and wonder. Frankly, one of the sorriest spectacles I've spectated



has been the mainly conservative pols, formerly vociferous term limits defenders, lining up to run again if the limits they insist are good for the state are over-turned. Apparently it was the "other" professional politicians who were the problem, not them. Imagine if liberal term limits opponents had known all you need do *not* to be a "problem" professional politician was *support* limits, then pray for a helpful judge. As your *Spectator* ages (much like a fine wine, actually, so no need to worry), his stomach for hypocrisy

from ideologically-friendly politicians diminishes. The conservatives here who ran on term limits platforms who now plan to extend *their* political lives far beyond the limits they championed make me gag.

But that I won't do, since then I could not report a most notable hypocrite within liberal ranks: Don Perata, Assembly Democrat from the east San Francisco Soviet, er, suburbs. Honorable Perata is a leading foe of citizens' right to own firearms. But it turns out the said Honorable, whose voting record is zero percent with most pro-Second Amendment groups, *holds a permit to carry a concealed weapon*. Your right to firearms in your home, let alone on your person or in your car, is expendable, but not *his*: he's important.

Perata says unspecified "gun nuts" and "militia types" are after him, so he must defend himself, implying that others who'd like to defend themselves are threatened only by delusions. So, your *Spectator* issues the Perata Challenge: Please inform us, sir, 1) when you were threatened, 2) by whom, 3) which law enforcement agency received your threat report, and 4) how long do they justify your concealed weapons permit? (Don't hold your breath.)

I leave you with this amusing puzzle: Bill and Hillary Clinton are on a sinking ship. Who gets saved? Answer: *lytuoC dT*

— A. P. C.