

timated as being between \$8-10 billion.

"Every day we wait, California slides further into debt. Every dollar we save now helps us eliminate the deficit. It's irresponsible to delay fixing the budget until next spring," said Ueberroth, who also committed to calling a concurrent special session on jobs creation legislation. "The sooner we get spending, in line with revenues ... the sooner we balance the state's budget."



Ueberroth also challenged legislators to agree to a voluntary ban on campaign fundraising for the duration of the special session, in order to allow them to avoid the distractions and pressures from donors with legislative interests.

"The men and women of the California Legislature are good, decent, and talented people," said Ueberroth.

"We want to give them the tools to do their jobs without pressure from special interests. They need to be able to cast difficult votes without worrying about who's coming to their fundraiser that night."

Ueberroth indicated that he would ask for legislation in January to extend the fundraising limitations through his three remaining years in office. The legislation would forbid any campaign fundraising during legislative sessions each year until a budget had been passed. After leaving office, he would leave it to the legislators to decide whether to extend or abandon the limitations.

The third and potentially most important element of Ueberroth's plan was a commitment to impose a cap on increases in state budget spending. Calling the proposal "The Taxpayer Bill of Rights," Ueberroth said he would ask legislators to place the constitutional amendment on the March 2004 Primary ballot. Although the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is developing a similar ballot measure for November of next year, Ueberroth made it clear that early action was of critical importance.

"If California had put a spending cap in place five years ago, the state would now have a multi-billion dollar surplus, rather than the current deficit," Ueberroth said. "Let's not make that mistake again."

CPR

BILL SIMON

DON'T FORGET WHAT THE RECALL IS ALL ABOUT

All recall — all the time! That slogan could sum up the national media frenzy surrounding California's October 7 date with destiny. No longer concerned with promoting my own

candidacy, I am now focused like a laser on reminding Californians and especially fellow Republicans what this recall election is really all about — removing from office the worst governor and most duplicitous politician I have ever seen.

With all the media attention given to the various replacement candidates, it can be easy to lose sight of the fundamental question facing voters — whether Governor Gray Davis should be removed. In fact, recall opponents are using what they call the "circus" atmosphere surrounding the election to discredit this constitutional process and scare voters into saving Davis.

We must not let this happen. This historic recall election is a true grassroots uprising against the corrupt politicians and bungling bureaucrats in Sacramento who have driven our state to the brink of a financial meltdown. It represents a powerful force for positive change — for leaders who are honest and accountable, and for a government that is limited and local in nature.

Nothing can stop this genuine grassroots movement — except our own complacency. Recall supporters must spare no effort to remind their friends, neighbors, coworkers — every Californian they meet — why it is so important to remove Gray Davis and put our state on a new, more hopeful path.

Davis and his cronies have spent California into bankruptcy, resulting in the biggest deficit and worst credit rating of any state in history.

His job-killing policies have thrown hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens out of work and forced thousands of small businesses to close their doors or flee the state.

He turned an electricity problem into a full-blown crisis — a crisis that remains with us to this day. And he has done nothing as California's quality of life continues to decline — our schools, roads, water, housing, and health care.

Gray Davis would never have been reelected last year if he had not lied about the budget, lied about the power crisis, lied about our declining quality of life, and spent a record \$80 million lying about me.

The truth has now come out. But instead of apologizing to the people for the mess he has made of California, Davis continues to dodge, duck, and deceive. We must not let him get away with it!

So as we continue to follow all the political machinations and colorful punditry surrounding the replacement candidates, let's not lose sight of what this recall is all about. Angry and concerned citizens across

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California have risen up because we are fed up. We want our government back. We want to set California on a new course that can only begin by removing Gray Davis from office on October 7.

OPR

SHAWN STEEL

UNITING TO WIN THE GOVERNERSHIP

This recall presents California Republicans with an historic shot to reclaim the helm of state government as it teeters on the brink of insolvency. Gray Davis's mendacity and incompetence combined have produced what the political and media *cognoscenti* a few weeks ago maintained could never happen: the all-but certain recall of a sitting governor. Golden State Republicans have been given that rare thing in politics: a second chance of ballot box victory.

But it wouldn't be a California election without the Republicans poised, once again, to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

The populists who created the recall would lose any chance of restructuring state government if Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante were to eke out a victory. Bustamante is supported by the same special interests as Davis, special interests that have terrorized our economy and obstructed reform movements.

Because Bustamante is on the ballot, the electability of one of the top three Republicans should be our foremost consideration. It may gall my fellow movement conservatives to admit as much, but it is the truth. After all, the point of this recall is replacing Davis with a reform governor who will push goals of

economic growth through lower taxes, less spending, business-friendly rules, and real workers' compensation reform.

The qualities the winning Republican candidate must possess are no mystery: He must have voter appeal that flows across party lines.

The winner this fall will need to adopt Ronald Reagan's skills in communication, voter empathy, and visionary leadership.

An attractive persona fused as a brilliant communicator is another key factor. The recall's compressed time frame gives voters much less time to get to know the candidates. The nature of this election favors the candidate best able to forge quickly a genuine connection with voters.

The voters who created the recall must believe the

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The recall is a grassroots uprising against the corrupt politicians and bungling bureaucrats who have driven our state to the brink of a financial meltdown.

— Bill Simon

candidate sincerely comprehends the reasons we see a massive outflow of fellow Californians fleeing our state for a better living environment. The candidate must understand what it will take to encourage the middle class to stay and help rebuild.

Even after Davis is recalled, the winner will actually have to govern. The heavily liberal Democrat Legislature will remain. Therefore, voters must consider which of the top candidates commands the necessary charisma, craftiness, clarity of purpose, and force of will to push the Legislature in a new direction.

Should the recall succeed, the new governor's most urgent task is restoration of the state's economy. If we elect a governor lacking the political and communication skills to leverage sufficient Democrat votes — or absent that, the ability to obtain reforms directly from the people *via* initiative — California's economic train wreck will continue, albeit with a new politician driving the train.

Visionary leadership will be crucial. Our next governor will have to assemble a cabinet of economic-growth specialists. Davis proved that simple-minded "experience" can be the most harmful formula for running the state. Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush have demonstrated the value of visionary leadership surrounded by able, supply-side economists committed to economic expansion.

Finally, we need a governor willing to invest significant effort and resources into rebuilding his Party and sweeping Sacramento clean by electing pro-business legislators.

I can't recall a time when the stakes have been so high for the California Republican Party. The recall movement itself has invigorated a demoralized citizenry, among whom political interest now runs at fever pitch. Recent polls show that 82 percent of Californians believe the state is headed in the wrong direction. A recall victory must mark the beginning of a political renaissance, or else our efforts will be mostly in vain.

In other words, we cannot afford to blow this — or else federal biologists will try to list us as an endangered species.

The top tier GOP candidates — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom McClintock, and Peter Ueberroth — pos-

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