

instead of 2005, he'd have had nowhere to go except the editorial boards of the liberal papers and television stations. They would have been inclined to say, "Well, the teachers don't like this, so how can you like it?" The unions would simply wrap him up and spit him out like they did previous governors.

But in 2005 he has an absolutely new weapon to say in public what people have been saying privately: "How come my kid doesn't know how to read and write in the fifth grade? Why can't he do simple mathematics? What is this business about it hurts his self-esteem to memorize the times tables?" At the dinner table, my father said what's 8 times 8?, and I better come up with the right answer — 64 — or I immediately had to do some more work on it. In other words, people remember when education worked and wonder why it doesn't now. They want answers. If Schwarzenegger says good teachers ought to get a lot of pay, bad teachers ought to be fired, curriculum ought to be toughened up, tests ought to be passed, and our kids ought to be the best, he'll have solid, overwhelming support.

SPENDING CONTROL

Spending control is number three. Average people — a lot of whom I talk to every day on the radio — aren't much interested in artificial equations to restrain spending. They want to know how efficiently the state is spending their money — in education, in road repair, at the DMV, in health care, in a whole host of things. Everywhere they look, it seems the money is wasted. They want Schwarzenegger to blow up the boxes, fire all the intermediate bureaucrats, so we can start talking about the quality of state service.

With that kind of vocabulary, the liberals will be blown away because they're defending the indefensible. They're defending bureaucracies and Stalinist directives and low quality service and long lines and all the rest. You have Gray Davis standing up at the Foothill Freeway ribbon cutting saying this is the last freeway we're going to build. Everybody said: "What? It is? Wait a minute." Schwarzenegger has pushed a button at the common sense level beyond politics and the usual insiders' debate. He says to the people: Yes, I came here as an outsider. Here's what's wrong. Here's what we need to do to correct it. Here's what it's going to get you.

PENSION REFORM

I don't think legislators realize what's happening. They're like those people on vacation at Phuket, playing on the beach, saying, "Wow, the water's receding.

The model of the recall, using the Internet, bloggers, talk radio, and the interactivity among them, is the political basis on which Schwarzenegger could get this done.

— Roger Hedgecock

Look at these fun shells we can pick up." They don't realize a tsunami is coming. But it is. The topics come up on the air. Take the fourth issue the governor discussed: pension reform. Locally, in San Diego, we have a huge city blow-up over pensions. They've over-promised and under-funded for 10 years. They went from 92 percent funded to 67 percent and the whole city council and Mayor Dick Murphy are now in a political crunch trying to figure out what to do before the federal government comes in and indicts everybody. It is now something that people know — at the local *and* state level — has to be reformed. People say, "Wait a minute. You mean a guy walks out after 20 years in state government with 90 percent of his highest year's salary? That's impossible." These topics are discussed every day on talk radio. My total listening audience in the county is just under 2 million people. I reach 275,000 to 300,000 in a given week. Every one of them is a voter. You don't have to move too many to the conclusion something's wrong before it creates a huge groundswell saying let's do something.

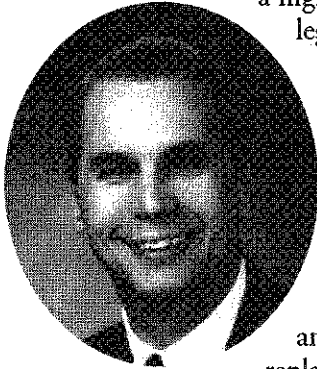
Schwarzenegger's people are smart and know politics, but I remember too that the political *cognoscenti* at first wanted nothing to do with the recall. It was not business as usual. Well, business as usual has Republicans stuck in a permanent minority position in a state where they shouldn't be. They should be competitive. There are ideas that will swing a vast majority of middle of the road Californians to conservative positions on redistricting, teacher pay, spending, and pensions. A strong majority of voters this year can create a new majority around these issues and a better California for many years to come.

RAY HAYNES

WHY UNIONS OWN THE DEMOCRATS

In popular mythology, California votes Democrat in presidential elections and elects a state Legislature dominated by left-wing Democrats because California is a "liberal state," *i.e.*, one with a solid majority supporting the anti-market, anti-family, pro-welfare state, pro-high taxes, pro-bur-

eaucracy politics that guide the leadership of the state Democrat Party. But if this were even remotely so, Cruz Bustamante, who ran for governor in the recall as a high-tax, drivers licenses for il-



Ray Haynes

legals liberal, would not have lost decisively everywhere except in the admittedly left-wing Bay Area, the one spot in California where the myth is true.

Of course, were it true of the state as a whole, we'd have seen no recall at all, and Republican candidates to replace Davis — running emphatically on a get-Sacramento-spending-under-control platform

— would not have received 62 percent of the vote.

California going Democrat for president is matter for another article. Here, I want to answer the ques-

tion: why, if the state is not "liberal," is the Legislature almost always run by the far left? One answer is that Democrats have worked harder than Republicans to set the terms of the state's political debate, building an infrastructure in the old media of newspapers and broadcasting that promotes the liberal view of the world while suppressing competing views. Roger Hedgecock, in a nearby article, discusses this aspect of the question. Another answer is that Democrats have proven adept at insulating their political funding from democratic processes, using, as their main vehicle in this regard, public employee unions. Through these unions, they fund their political machine *without regard to whether those supplying the funds actually support the Party's political program*. Nearly as important, they also serve to hobble effective political action by their natural competition: business. Understanding the extent to which the Democrat power structure depends on these anti-democratic activities of public employee unions is es-

The taxpayer-assisted, left-wing Democrat union shakedown blues

Lou Uhler

Among the proposed reforms that may appear as an initiative on a special election ballot later this year is one to free public employees from coerced financial support of their unions' political activities. It is supported by Lou Uhler, president of the National Tax Limitation Committee. The following excerpts are from a recent discussion CPR held with Mr. Uhler.

Currently, the state collects whatever money the union has negotiated for. Some of it is used for normal union purposes. Some goes into a fund for politics. The individual member has no choice and the union uses the money at its discretion — for campaigns for candidates or ballot measures, for or against. This initiative would require that they talk directly to the member and the member has to write his own check or give them cash. It adds constraints on the representations made by the union leadership if they make any physical threats, or threats as to jobs, it's a felony.

This measure is restricted to public employee unions because this is a taxpayer issue: to have our tax dollars, paid to public employees, withheld by the state or local government, makes taxpayers agents of

the union. This is as an old battle. In the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, Thomas Jefferson said that to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical, and that is what we are doing.

I expect this initiative to do better than previous, similar efforts because we've entered a whole different world today. After the revelations of the excesses of public employee unions, particularly during the Gray Davis era, the average citizen-taxpayer is much better educated as to union excesses.

Critics call this union bashing in the guise of an effort to achieve fairness. They say it's an anti-worker, Republican campaign to gain political advantage by attacking a Democrat constituency. To that I say: bunk. The political results of this will be whatever they will be, but the threshold questions are: one, should anyone be coerced to make political contributions to causes in which he does not believe? That's the most fundamental civil right that we have. The answer is obvious. Number two: should we as taxpayers through our government be agents for violation of civil rights? And the answer to that is equally no. CPR