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CORRESPONDENCE

Arnold on to something?

Re: "Arnold and the 'yes, but' party" (William E. Saracino, *CPR Online*, Sept. 13, 2007), I should say first that I am a lifelong "progressive Republican" that watched in dismay as the Dixiecrats and the fundamentalist Christians hijacked our Party and turned it into something totally alien to longtime Republican principles. Governor Schwarzenegger has it right when he looks to change the GOP. Mr. Saracino and his crowd apparently enjoy a permanent minority status. If the two-third vote on money bills is ever modified or eliminated, Republicans will become totally irrelevant and they might as well stay home for all they can do at the Capitol. It is also obvious that a conservative Republican cannot get elected governor. The Republican platform is out of sync with the voters. If the state GOP entertains any hope of a return to power, they have to move significantly towards the center or even left center.

James G. Updegraff
Sacramento

Mr. Saracino responds:

Mr. Updegraff conveniently neglects addressing any of the points I raise in my column. The most important of which was that the "yes, but" GOP was a congressional minority for 40 years until the "extremists" under Newt Gingrich changed the Party's image and message. Newt's bold — and very conservative — Contract with America accomplished in one year what the "yes, but" had failed to do in 40: win a congressional majority.

There was indeed a permanent GOP minority in this country — it was made up of progressive, "yes, but" Republicans like Charles Halleck, Gerald Ford, and Bob Michel. Like the governor, these were all good men and would make fine neighbors, but were flops as GOP leaders, because they were afraid of confrontation with the Democrats.

The immigration roundtable

Joe California Farmer reports that his employees, all church-going, upright family men, are using other people's Social Security numbers. Does he realize that because of this, they

(please turn to page 11)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, 10/9/07

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D2. In County free distribution periodicals mail	57	57
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E. Free distribution, not mail	27	50
F. Total free distribution	371	411
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H. Copies not distributed	234	376
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J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	82.33%	84.34%

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. John Kurzweil, Editor

SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR

When the Circus — as in state Legislature — is out of town, Sacramento is actually a fine place to live and spend time. All the normal attractions and good weather are here, but the flies-in-the-ointment (or you-know-whats in the punch bowl) are gone.

The main political action of note has been the governor vetoing or signing last minute legislation. And per the “post-partisan” *persona* that he has adopted (at least for now), that process leaned substantially to the left.

On the good side of the balance he vetoed all of what the California Chamber of Commerce described as “job killer” bills. This can be said, of course, only because the Chamber neglected to include on that list the multitude of eco-freak “green” bills that the governor either sponsored or signed. The long-term harm these bills will do to business in California could well turn out to be greater than that of anything the governor vetoed on the Chamber’s list. But I’ll leave that point to pursue in another column.

Schwarzenegger also vetoed a bill that would have given state aid to illegal immigrants enrolled in state colleges or universities. Given his current mania nev-

er to offend anyone on the left, it’s no surprise that his expressed reason for vetoing the bill skipped right over its main flaw.

In his veto message, Ahnolt (quite correctly) says that California can’t *afford* to give college aid to illegals. What he *should* have said is that even when California *can* afford it we still won’t do it because people here illegally shouldn’t be rewarded for breaking our laws. But ... that would be oh,



so distressingly “pre-post-partisan.”

He signed a whole slew of nanny-state bills, ranging from regulating smoking in your private car to outlawing non-fluorescent light bulbs in four years. This last bill, mandating only compact fluorescent light bulbs in California, will soon present our green-green governor with a conundrum. Those bulbs contain mercury. State law forbids depositing either mercury, or anything containing mercury, in California landfills. So — other than using them to help us darn socks — just what are we supposed

to do with them once they burn out?

But what is reality compared to international fame as a green crusader? After all, Al Gore just copped a Nobel Prize by proving himself to be as blithering as a U.N. bureaucrat. And, anyway, the governor and his handlers plan for him to be long gone by the time these chickens come home to roost. They plan to have him in the U.S. senate, having defeated Barbara Boxer next time she’s up, by then. Your *Spectator*, however, picked up a juicy bit of gossip regarding that election the other evening at a saloon catering to politicians-in-the-know.

Seems that the state Libertarian Party is negotiating seriously with a well-known former Republican office holder on the subject of his switching parties to run as a Libertarian against Boxer and Schwarzenegger. The ultimate goal would be to repeat Jim Buckley’s 1970 election (as the Conservative Party nominee) to the U.S. Senate from New York. A secondary, but apparently acceptable, goal would be to defeat the governor, thereby, presumably, burying “post-partisanship” permanently.

Your *Spectator* takes no position on these matters ... he merely faithfully frequents the capital’s trendy spots in search of news, then reports such to his information-hungry public. To coin a phrase, your *Spectator* reports: *you* decide.

— A.P.C.