

Elephants and Donkeys by Brian Lantz

California rejects early presidential primary

Efforts in California to set an early March 1992 presidential primary election have disintegrated. At first portrayed by Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown as a "done deal" (California joining the "Super Tuesday" states in the South), the March primary would have locked up the Democratic presidential nomination by mid-March. With Bush an expected shoo-in, the 1992 presidential primary campaign would have been over before it started.

Instead, the presidential primary bill was killed, the apparent victim of a turf war over the reapportionment of California's voting districts. The reapportionment fight is a bitter one, caused by the collapse of the California economy, the largest in the U.S. and the ninth largest in the world.

California Gov. Pete Wilson, fresh from papering over a hemorrhaging state budget with budget cuts and "nuisance tax" hikes in July, intends reapportionment to carve out a large number of "technocratic" Bush-league congressional and state legislative districts, shifting power to the suburbs. Wilson vetoed the apportionment plans of the Democratic Party-controlled legislature, and the veto was sustained despite a temporary alliance between Democrats and anti-Wilson conservative Republican legislators.

Bush in trouble

Does this mean that George Bush and his look-alike, Pete Wilson, can rest assured that California can be sewn up? At the state GOP convention during the third week of September, Bush showed up to back Wilson against agi-

tated conservative Republican opponents. Bush also held a fundraiser for Wilson's hand-picked replacement in the U.S. Senate, John Seymour. Bush got more than he bargained for; Seymour less.

Bush was told frankly by California businessmen that the "recession" was far worse than Bush was saying and something had to be done. Bush's fundraiser for Seymour was like the federal government's GNP statistics: first reported to have raised \$700,000, it turned out that the President's good name was worth a mere \$100,000 to Los Angeles Republicans. On Sept. 30, Wilson swallowed hard and vetoed a "gay rights" measure to protect his exposed flank.

Carpetbaggers

By the year 2000, California will be the nation's first "Third World" state—the majority citizens will be composed of minorities. To reapportion election district boundaries in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act, as well as reflect actual election rolls, reapportionment would mean that "safe," ultra-liberal Democratic urban districts are transformed. Seven new congressional districts will be added, three in the north and four in the south of the state. Hispanic and Asian voters in particular represent a growing portion of California voters, profiled as more traditional in their values. More and more Hispanic, Asian, and black voters have moved up and into the suburbs.

The Democratic Party, particularly in Los Angeles County—for decades controlled by "Kosher Nostra" mob-connected figures such as Paul Ziffren and Sidney Korshak—have denied minority voters effective leadership positions for years. Similarly, in the San Francisco Bay area, Willie

Brown may lose his Pacific Heights base—and probably his Assembly Speaker's post.

The Bush-Wilson Republican Party strategists now challenging the Los Angeles Democratic machine of U.S. Reps. Howard Berman and Henry Waxman, would offer to integrate minorities into their New Age, liberal Republican Party. Given the depression, however, Bush and Wilson have nothing to offer California's new majority either. It is therefore an insane ploy that Wilson and company's scheme is to use minority voters to slash the school budget and everything else in sight. This in a state that should be adding a new high school every day to keep up with student population growth.

Jerry Brown's chutzpah

Nothing makes the sophistry of the Democratic candidates more transparent than Jerry Brown, all but anointed the California Democratic Party's presidential favorite. Brown is the son of former California governor Pat Brown, Sr. Pat Brown served on the board of Investors' Overseas Services (IOS), the organized crime corporation run by Robert Vesco. With national Democratic Party officials talking about a brokered convention in New York, it is understood that "da boys" find the favorite son of Pat Brown, Paul Zifferin, and Sidney Korshak acceptable.

Jerry Brown's presidential campaign is not unhappy about the death of the California early primary legislation. They do not expect opposition to Bush—over domestic issues—to come to a head until June or July, timed thus to the California primary in June. But does Jerry have a solution to the full-blown crisis upon the nation? Of course not.