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FRANK DISCUSSION NOT LECTURE FOR CONSERVATIVES

MORE DEMOCRAT JUDGES/BACK ROOM DECISIONS TO SPEND \$300 BILLION

Posted February 11 2006

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Just yesterday, the California Political News and Views blog "**Frank Discussion, Not Lecture**" published an article by Steve Kaufold, the San Francisco Area Chairman of the California Republican Lawyers Association about the Governor appointing more Democrats and Decline to State folks to the Bench than Republicans.

To punctuate the situation, the Governor appointed another Democrat to the bench:

From the Mercury News of February 10, 2006:

"Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Paul Burdick, a personal injury attorney who lives in Aptos, to fill one of three vacancies on the Santa Cruz County Superior Court.

Burdick, 52, will take the seat of Judge Art Danner, who died of a heart attack on Jan. 28 while vacationing in Palm Springs.

Burdick, a Democrat, has practiced personal injury law for more than two decades. A Palo Alto native who has a bachelor's degree from the University of California-Santa Cruz and a law degree from Santa Clara University, he is currently at the Santa Cruz firm of Dunlap & Burdick."

Now the members of the California Republican Party, even those in Santa Cruz are reminded that the GOP needs to send a message to the Governor and his staff, we care about the quality of judges appointed.

As for the Infrastructure Bonds, they are going to conference committee next Thursday. Some are asking, "but they never passed an Assembly or Senate Committee". In normal circumstances, bills are introduced, hearings held, legislation debated on the floor of both bodies and then passed. At that point the competing bills go to Conference Committee for compromise and approval. Then back to the legislative floors for an up or down vote, without amendments. Be doing it in this way, only the Conference members will be able to make amendments, leaving over 100 Members, elected by the people of California to represent them, without the ability to amend a massive piece of legislation that could tie up all State bonds for the next twenty years.

In this case, why go through the normal procedure--just go to a small number of members and get them to come to an agreement. This allows the final bill (also the only one) to come to the floor of the Assembly and Senate for an up or down vote, without amendment. This is neither Democracy or a Representative government in action. This is power politics for the special interests, not the needs of the families or jobs of California. It has been my experience that every time the California Legislature uses short cuts, the outcome is something that is corrupt and again makes the legislature foolish.

What are the leaders of the Legislature afraid of by allowing full public debate on the subject? More than \$300 billion will be spent (that includes the interest on the bonds) and the up and down decision is being made in a back room, behind closed doors. I urge Senator Ackerman and Assemblyman McCarthy to open the doors to the public, let us know how the decision to spend \$300 billion is being made. It is actions like this that make the public suspicious of government decisions. Why trust any elected official is just one step away from "why should I vote, they all act alike, for themselves?"

This is .FRANK DISCUSSION NOT LECTURE FOR CONSERVATIVES.

This is your opportunity to be heard by the media, elected officials and activists. Do not email me with your comments. Post them directly on the web site at www.capoliticalnews.com Go to the topic, which is in blue, click on it, go to the bottom, read the other comments and write, then post your own. Join the debate.

Thanks.

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(Steve Frank is publisher of the California Political News and Views. He is also a consultant currently working on gambling issues and advising other consultants on policy and coalition building)

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Responses...

1364 - Posted by Richard on 2006-02-11 08:32:59

Let's be honest. The Republican Party in California is bankrupt. If it were a business it would have been closed a long time ago. As a party we continually seek personalities to rescue us from our second rate status. There is no vision and no recognizable agenda coming from this party. The average person sees Republicans in California exactly as the Dems portray them - hateful and close minded. Arnold hung with us as long as he thought it would benefit him. After the ill planned and poorly executed special election Arnold chose to side with the professionals - Democrats. Until we build a viable political infrastructure our ideas and party will continue to be marginalized. But that's only my opinion.

1365 - Posted by Rosemary on 2006-02-11 08:47:20

I warned about Arnold. No one listened. I voted for Tom. I was right. Okay, that was then, this now. What to do...
1. Call talk radio. Let them know there is a bond coming our way, and shut it down. 2. Get a petition to say, "Heck no, we won't pay!" We CAN rescind this bond if we care enough to do so. 3. Write to the editorial pages. It does not matter if they haven't printed anything you've sent in before. If you don't try, it surely will not be printed. 4. Call everyone you know and tell them about this. 5. Use your e-mail address list to ask everyone on it who has a blog or a website to cover this. Light is the best disinfectant. If we can bring down Dan Blather and Eason Jordan, we can take back California. Enough talk. Time for action.

1367 - Posted by Carl Linden on 2006-02-11 09:47:28

Why isn't this information hitting the newspapers and television? Or has it and the meaning is obscure to all but the well informed? Surely someone has connections with reporters that just might be able to put this in public light. The above, and obviously I have no solutions to offer.

