

2223 Pierpont Blvd.  
Ventura, California  
May 30, 1962

Jane Tolmach and  
Jim Browning  
Oxnrad Democratic Club

Dear Jane and Jim:

During the meeting of the Ventura County Democratic Council on May 28th you questioned my interpretation of the "Constitution and By-Laws of The California Democratic Council". I stated that individual club members were bound to support 'only Democrats for public office.' You claimed that I was wrong, and that the requirement applies only to members, i.e. directors and officers of CDC. YOU ARE COMPLETELY WRONG!

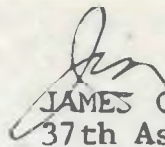
Article IV sets forth the rules for "MEMBERSHIP" in: 1. The California Democratic Council: 2. CDC Clubs; and 3. Assembly, County and Congressional District Councils.

Each member of a CDC club must, among (to)her things, "Support only Democrats for public office". (See Article IV, par. 2, a, subd. 3; par. 2, b. subd. 6; par. 2 c.) The constitution and by-laws of the CDC regulates the membership in the Ventura County Democratic Council as well as membership in the CDC clubs in the county. It is not limited to regulating membership in the California Democratic Council, as you contend.

Consequently, the action by the Ventura County Democratic Council to expel club members supporting Republicans running for partisan office was proper and necessary. I do not believe that any Democratic Party organization, whether it is CDC affiliated or another organized club, can tolerate or close its eyes to defectors. It may be that some of the Democrats are not enthusiastic about the Democrats running for Congress. However, that is no excuse for them to support a Republican. If all of the Democrats who were for Stevenson and Johnson voted for Nixon, then Kennedy would still be in the Senate. Aside from that bit of common sense, no Democrat can in good conscience send a Republican to Congress when they have a Democrat as President. If Democrats are going to follow their personal preferences in each election, out the window goes party responsibility and victory at the polls.

Well, I hope that I have convinced you that as a legal matter and also as a political fact, the Democratic clubs cannot permit political mavericks in the Party.

Very truly yours,

  
JAMES C. BASILE  
37th Assembly District Rep.  
California Democratic Council