

STATEMENT FROM DAVID HIRSCHBERG, past President,  
SANTA BARBARA DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE

All California Democrats should be sobered by the 1964 election and its resultant Democratic losses in the State Senate, Assembly and Congressional races -- in the face of overwhelming victory by our President. Dissension within our ranks helped to bring about the inexcusable loss of a Senatorial seat to a reactionary Republican.

The Democratic Party and the California Democratic Council (CDC) of which the Santa Barbara Democratic League is a functioning unit, are still confronted with the formidable threat of a renegade force within the Party -- a force fed by greedy ambition and pressed with ruthless disregard for political or personal ethics. It could well bring about an irreparable split in the party which would result in the defeat of our Democratic administration in California -- and particularly the defeat of our next candidate for Governor.

That candidate, without a doubt, will be Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, who, for the past eight years, has given us the most productive and most constructive administration we have ever had in the state of California.

Governor Brown's campaign, already launched unofficially, will be backed by such fine, outstanding Democratic leaders as Roger Kent, northern chairman of the State Democratic Central Committee, who resigned this week in order to more fully concentrate his efforts on the 1966 re-election of the Governor.

The "renegade" candidate will most likely be Samuel Yorty, Los Angeles mayor, who, when asked what he thought were his chances of defeating the Governor next June, said: "I don't know any Democrat except myself who can challenge Brown. Either I do it or it won't be done."

Apparently Sam has decided to "do it". He spends most of his time talking like a candidate - but strangely enough, not like a Democratic candidate.

It cannot be said that he is a true Democrat -- not when he publicly supported Richard Milhous Nixon for President in 1960 against John Fitzgerald Kennedy; not when he broke with the CDC in 1956; not when he has alienated continuously virtually all Democratic Party leaders; not when he ran his delegation for the 1964 Democratic National Convention against that of Governor Brown; not when he attacks the President's Anti-Poverty Program; not when he attempts to discredit a great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King.

In 1965 at a meeting of the "Democratic Associates", an organization of party dissenters who have broken with CDC, the Mayor attacked President Johnson's foreign policy in Vietnam by saying that he hopes that the President "can do better"; accused CDC of falsely claiming party gains, and said it would impose candidates on the party who are not electable. Mayor Yorty is a registered Democrat, but usually talks like a Republican.

The Democratic League, a CDC club, committed to the cause of promoting good government on local, state and national level, would be remiss in its duty to the Democratic Party were it in any way to encourage the candidacy of a questionable Democrat such as Mayor Yorty.

While his presence here would not constitute endorsement, it would, nevertheless, indicate acceptance. Television, radio and newspaper media would have a field day publicizing the visit of such a "distinguished" personage to a CDC club.

CDC, on the state level, has pledged its loyalty and support to Governor Brown in the coming election. We would hope, and shall so propose, that the Santa Barbara Democratic League will do likewise. The Santa Barbara Democratic Central Committee has adopted a resolution urging the Governor to run for re-election. For that reason, as well as those previously stated and many more not mentioned, we strongly urge that League members go on record as being opposed to the issuance of an invitation to Mayor Yorty to appear before the League -- and offer Governor Brown our loyalty & support.



\*\*\*\*\* FRED BEREZNER SAYS!! \*\*\*\*\*

VOTE FOR FREE SPEECH AND FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS FOR YOUR CLUB

DEAR LEAGUE MEMBERS: The upcoming vote of the Santa Barbara Democratic League on September 21, 1965, in reference to the illegally voided invitation to Mayor Yorty to speak before our group, is not a vote on that alone. IT IS A VOTE FOR FREE SPEECH AND FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS fof your organization.

Vote Yes to reinvite Mayor Yorty of Los Angeles to come before your organization. Bear in mind that if you vote No you will do irreparable damage to your own image in the community by making the Democratic League a First Cousin to the John Birch Society, which we all hold in utter contempt. VOTE YES TO REPEAT THIS INVITATION AND MAKE YOUR CLUB A PART OF OUR GREAT, FREE, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

The California CDC Observer, July 1965...."it will endeavor to sustain and stimulate public political dialogue through presentation of a running commentary of opinion and conflicting viewpoints on controversial issues."

Santa Barbara News Press, July 1965...."Trust the people, trust their good sense, their decency, their fortitude, with the facts, trust them with the great decisions..." - ADLAI STEVENSON

"Genuine conservatives and genuine liberals believe in honest debate over the many sides of an issue." - ALAN CRANSTON (In an address in a recent Town Hall meeting in Los Angeles)

We also wish to call your attention to the fact that DICK ROBERTSON, Chairman of the County Central Committee, supported this issue when he stood up at the Martin Reder home at the June 16 meeting and stated that..."after all, we are a Democratic Club, and it seems to me that a man of the stature of the Mayor of Los Angeles should be allowed to speak before the League."

On July 12, at a regular meeting of the Executive Board of the Democratic League of Santa Barbara, FRED BEREZNER made the following appeal:

"I would like to call your attention to the fact that you, as a Board, took an illegal action at your last meeting on June 21. You rescinded a vote of the entire League membership present June 16, 1965, when the entire League was invited.

I can find no language in the By-Laws of the League giving you this power to override the vote of the membership. You acted in an arbitrary and illegal manner at this Board meeting. I have searched the By-Laws of the CDC and cannot find any language there that gives this Board the right to do this. I must conclude that you acted illegally and arbitrarily in overturning the vote of the League taken in lawful assembly at the Reder's home on June 16.

The fact that some of our most vociferous members are against Free Speech sets a bad precedent for the League and will come back to haunt you in the future, I assure you. Therefore, I urge this Board to reaffirm the previous vote of the League to invite Mayor Yorty to come to speak to all of us at the first opportunity we can get him to come here.

Now I don't know, and neither do you, if Pat Brown is going to be a candidate for Governor. Neither do we know if Yorty is going to be a candidate, but I feel very strongly that we should keep this League steadfast in support of Free Speech, and NOT act like a bunch of Birchers.

IF THIS IS NOT DONE BY THE BOARD, I WILL DO TWO THINGS: (1) I will go immediately to the News Press and report the illegal action of this Board, because, as of now, YOU ARE DENYING FREE SPEECH AND INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AMONG DEMOCRATS, thus acting like Birchers. (2) I will organize a well advertised drive to get Mayor Yorty here to speak publicly to all Democrats of Santa Barbara. I will raise funds to pay for political announcements telling the Democrats of Santa Barbara how this Board runs the Democratic League in an autocratic and Birch Society manner."

This meeting being called for Sept. 21 is the result of a compromise asked by the Executive Board to handle by means of Democratic pro-

cedures a highly controversial and emotional situation. It was accepted by FRED BEREZNER, who urges every member to attend this most important meeting, as the outcome will leave a permanent mark on the reputation of the local Democratic organization.

- Fred Berezner

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STATEMENT FROM GOLDIE KENNEDY, 13th District Representative,  
California Democratic Council, and  
past State Chairman, Women's Division,  
Democratic State Central Committee

I read with interest and some concern the notice that Santa Barbara Democratic League had under consideration an invitation to Mayor Sam Yorty to be a guest speaker before the group.

We all agree that if our party is to grow and maintain its beliefs in strong democratic concepts of free speech and free assembly we must continue to welcome dissent, and to always view our actions in the light of self criticism.

I do, however, doubt the value of giving a forum to a man who has long been critical of our party and our leaders. I do not think that Mr. Yorty's criticism has been objective or constructive, but rather the carping, nagging dissent that can cause irreparable harm to the Democratic Party.

We believe that Governor Brown has given this state the best government it has ever had. The election of the type of reactionary candidates that are now being considered by the opposition will set the state back years in terms of the type of valuable legislation that has been passed since 1958 under Governor Brown.

If the Democratic League thinks they want to hear Mr. Yorty discuss his dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party (and he is sure to do just this) then I suggest they allow a speaker conversant with the excellent record made in the state since 1958 to appear on the same program.

Goldie Kennedy