

March 8, 1974

Mr. Edmund G. Brown  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Brown:


As can be seen by reading the enclosed letters, I have been questioning the legality of certain actions taken recently by a local political group, The Ninety-niner's. Our local officials have been reluctant to pursue the matter but, with prodding, have taken a stand on it.

The opinion given by C. Stanley Trom, District Attorney of Ventura County in his letter of 4 March 1974 is that the local political group was not an agent of the candidates merely because the candidates disclaimed any knowledge of the group. Considering the number of full page advertisements in the local paper sponsored by the group it is absurd to think that they were not agents of the candidate. Also, the registered Executive Director of the Group, Mr. Mike Giaordano, is the son-in-law of Mr. Trent Meredith, General Contractor. Mr. Meredith placed a one half page ad in the Oxnard Press Courier on March 4, in support of candidates Jewel, Gunn, and Maxwell, and his name was listed in several other ads placed by the candidates committee as a supporter. I don't see how Mr. Giaordano could have worked for the Ninety-Niner's without being known as a supporter and therefore agent of Jewel, Gunn and Maxwell.

Additionally, Mr. Trom's opinion removes the requirement that the candidate be responsible for those actions that the Elections Code was supposed to foster. I cannot believe that the local government officials are enforcing the Elections Code.

I spoke with Mr. David Helms of your office on February 27, 1974. He assured me that the matter would be discussed at a staff meeting and that your office would inform me of any further action. I have received no reply from Mr. Helms at this time. It is my hope that with this additional information your office will take some action.

Sincerely,

  
Linda W. Berge  
3531 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Oxnard, California, 93030  
Tel. 422-1100