



CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**1990 PLATFORM
SECOND DRAFT**

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PREAMBLE

The California Democratic Party believes, particularly after 10 years of Republicans occupying the White House, that a reaffirmation of principles -- principles fundamental to a democracy -- is important if America is to rediscover itself.

Our Constitution was not created to be ignored by presidential advisors or elected representatives. Public service should be a vocation of the highest calling -- not a license to loot the national treasury or use one's position for personal gain.

Indeed, the Democratic party wishes to reaffirm that the principles that form the foundation of our system of government require mutual obligations. How well this arrangement works is the basis on which democracy rests. When elected officials no longer fulfill the trust given them by citizens, they can be turned out of office in favor of someone who promises to do a better job.

Democracy in America is a social contract between each citizen and those elected to speak for them. Citizens pay taxes to support the things they cannot provide for individually -- highways, public education, national defense and government is responsible for using those dollars sensibly and honestly.

But government is not just a collector of tax dollars for public purpose; it is also a protector -- a protector against those who would impinge on our freedoms, such as speech and religion -- a protector against discrimination and prejudice, be it race, gender, disability or sexual orientation, a protector for those in need of a strong advocate be they poor, downtrodden or unemployed.

This should not be a partisan Democratic vision of America; this is the America which has been reflected in our Constitution and major events which have formed us as a people over the past 200 years. This vision of America becomes political when people disagree about it and how to achieve it and political parties and candidates vie to convince the citizens that their vision is best. Unfortunately, the Reagan-Bush policies have espoused a vision of America that is rosy for the wealthy and bleak for the low-income and middle-income citizens.

In today's world, partisan political contests take place on television -- in the form of commercial advertisements, and at the mailbox -- usually in the form of unsolicited correspondence. Both the Democratic and Republican Parties, out of necessity, play the political game. But here the similarity ends, for the Democratic Party welcomes participation by all in the establishment of the Democratic agenda. The Democratic Party believes in a continual re-affirmation of the belief that democracy and representative government works if everyone shares in both the costs and benefits. Is that different from the Republicans? Absolutely, and the difference is best expressed in simple statistics, statistics all Americans can understand.

During the last 10 years under a Republican Administration in Washington:

- * The richest American families paid 15% less of their income in federal taxes while the poorest families paid 19% more.
- * In New York City, the number of food kitchens has increased from 30 to over 600 today.
- * Panamanian dictator and alleged drug king pin, Manuel Noriega, was paid \$1.2 million dollars.
- * The number of Americans without health insurance has increased by 6.5 million to 37.5 million.
- * Governmental neglect and indifference has exacerbated the AIDS crisis.
- * Republican budgets have sacrificed pressing domestic needs for the most costly ever military build-up. For example, in 1980 the government spent one housing dollar for low income housing programs for every five dollars spent on defense; by 1985 that ratio had fallen to one housing dollar for every 31 defense dollars. The direct result of these housing cut backs has been a dramatic rise in homelessness throughout the country.
- * First time home buyers have seen the dream of home ownership become ever more elusive. The median income for Americans in constant dollars has increased \$64; the median cost of a new home, in constant dollars, has increased \$16,170.
- * In 1980 the chances that a Black American was in state or federal prison was 1 in 56; in 1989 it was one in 36.
- * The budget deficit has tripled from 700 million to 2.2 trillion.
- * In 1981, the net foreign debt owed to the government, businesses and citizens, per American family, was \$2,500.
- * In 1989, each American family owed to foreign debt holders \$11,000.

THE ECONOMY

Since 1980, California's population increased dramatically -- from 23 million to nearly 30 million people today. Californians are people of different cultures and color. Because of the opportunities presented here in California, people from throughout the world have chosen to make this their home. It is a testimony of vibrancy of California's economy that these new Californians have quickly become working Californians. This diversity has added an energy and vitality to the economy that otherwise would not have been present.

But California cannot continue to rely on unfettered economic growth to absorb a population that is estimated to be 37 million people by the year 2000. An economy that is competing on a world basis must rely on an adequate infrastructure in order to survive, and the definition of infrastructure is no longer just "cheap land, labor, bricks and mortar." In today's world infrastructure means a trained and educated work force, well-managed local government agencies with common rules, adequate transportation systems, a clean environment, and affordable housing. California must rebuild its infrastructure to avoid economic strangulation which will slow the state's ability to employ both its domestic and foreign immigrants, thus burdening the taxpayer with huge social services costs for the unemployed and the underemployed. The Democratic Party pledges to work toward that end, for without infrastructure, the economy breaks down.

Republican theories of economics -- whether Adam Smith's "invisible hand" or the Reagan/Stockman notion of "trickle down" -- are irrelevant to the world changes taking place. Communist countries and former dictatorships are becoming democracies. Some of the most effective world competitors are those economies where business and government have forged strategic alliances. In these countries tax revenues which support education, transportation, research and development are usually enacted with the support of the business community -- not its opposition.

In a very real sense, the State of California should be viewed as a single economic enterprise, indeed the world's sixth largest economy. But, unless the Democratic Party is successful in electing a Governor, our economy faces serious problems because the Republican leadership will continue to pit "the needs of the taxpayers against the greed of government" when in fact they are the same needs, part of the same social contract.

After 10 years of Republicans in the White House and eight years in the Statehouse, our economy has fallen into stagnation. Junk bond "buyouts" have taken the place of new ideas and the creation of real economic growth. In 1989, American companies expended 71 percent of earnings on interest payments. Our international competitors spent the same amount on research and development.

As our foreign debt has grown, we have allowed American business to engage in mergers, buy-outs, and sell-offs, for quick profit, but long-term loss. The number of rich Americans has grown at the expense of the middle class -- this new wealth financed by "voo-doo" economics and special tax breaks.

The Democratic Party believes that a healthy economy should be based on principles of sound economics.

- * Strong, new legislation should be enacted to protect America's businesses from predatory "takeovers" and "sell-offs" financed by junk bonds.
- * Americans should be encouraged to increase personal savings in order to create greater investment capital for business.
- * True tax reform must be enacted. The Republican tax reforms of the 1980's simply benefitted the rich without assisting the American economy.
- * The Democratic Party urges Congress to establish an independent commission

to evaluate and determine which military bases will be closed.

- * As we scale down defense expenditures in light of recent international events, special efforts should be taken to transfer our defense technology and workers to civilian enterprises. We support the creation of California Economic Conversion Commission to implement this adjustment process.
- * We must aggressively pursue foreign markets and fully enter the international marketplace, not just with marketing techniques, but with quality products.
- * The Democratic Party encourages economic opportunity for small businesses.
- * We support collective bargaining and legislation which is fair to both employers and workers.
- * We support full implementation and funding of Cal-OSHA and all other worker safety proposals which the Republican party constantly seeks to eliminate.

LABOR AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The California Democratic Party recognizes the valued contribution organized labor has made to economic justice for working men and women. The historic partnership between the Democratic Party and Labor has brought improved standards of living and fair and safe working conditions as well as progress in civil rights, health, education and many other fields.

- * We support efforts to increase the minimum wage to a level that will lift and keep workers out of poverty with an indexing feature which protects workers against inflation.
- * With wave after wave of corporate raids, leveraged buy-outs and mergers, worker rights and Union contracts should be protected from callous job loss, firings and downgrades.
- * When public monies are used to finance bridge, highway and other public works construction, preference should be given to firms employing California workers followed by strong enforcement of prevailing wage and apprenticeship provisions of existing State laws.
- * The California Democratic Party supports collective bargaining in both public and private sectors, free from anti-union tactics which undermine the process of fair and free negotiations. The rights of all employees to secure agency shop protection should not be abridged.

For too long the Deukmejian/Bush/Reagan administrations have given lip service to the rights of workers while at the same time systematically weakening or abolishing the very agencies created to protect and serve workers.

- * The Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which held such promise for often exploited farm workers, has suffered from appointees and policies hostile to the interest of farm workers. Similarly, the Public Employee Relations Board, which provides framework for public sector collective bargaining has suffered from neglect. We support legislation to ensure these important laws are implemented as intended and not changed at the whim of incoming administrations.
- * Benefits for workers suffering on the job injuries should be pegged at levels which provide wage replacement. Benefits for unemployed workers should be at livable levels and indexed to protect against inflation.
- * The fact that 5 1/2 million Californians are without health insurance is a disgrace. It is time to enact coverage which will protect these Californians and enable them to live healthy lives with some measure of dignity.
- * California should be a leader in developing strategies to assure workers are trained and re-trained to meet challenges brought on by technological changes. Pacific Rim competition and falling productivity.
- * Future reductions in defense expenditures will have an extraordinary impact on many California communities and on tens of thousands of workers employed in defense jobs. We support an economic conversion strategy to assist communities, companies and workers in cushioning these losses of jobs and economic activity.

For more than 50 years, California's Labor Department has, consistent with existing State laws, acted as an advocate for workers. Now the Industrial Welfare Commission has destroyed the standard eight hour day. Enforcement of labor standards and child labor laws has been weakened. CAL-OSHA, the agency charged with enforcement of worker safety laws, was eliminated by the Governor and restored through a labor-initiated initiative. It is imperative that these essential agencies regain their former strength and become even more effective in protecting the working environment.

ENVIRONMENT

California's attraction to people and businesses has always been its resources. Our coastline, mountains, deserts and Redwood forests are unique and irreplaceable.

The air we breathe, the water we drink, the rivers, lakes and the seas that adjoin our coasts, the forest lands, national and state parks are public resources and therefore cannot be traded on the open market.

The environmental policy goals of the Democratic Party are the protection of the public against environmental health hazards, heightened environmental and energy awareness through public education, population and climate stabilization, management of our natural resources for sustained productivity, and absolute preservation of special environmental features such as wildlife habitat and scenic areas.

Significant environmental degradation has occurred and continues to worsen. We believe that government must do more than maintain the status quo. We must leave for our children a better heritage than is offered by our polluted air and waters, our misused and damaged land, and our threatened coasts. Environmental restoration and enhancement must be an integral component of our environmental policy. Actions that compromise the environment jeopardize not only the beauty of our landscape and health of our people, but also the health and prosperity of future generations. In fact, environmental degradation is a threat to our national security and economy as significant as any in the world today. California must regain its leadership role and stand as an example of effective environmental protection.

The "greenhouse effect" -- a rapid acceleration of atmospheric carbon dioxide -- is bringing dramatic planetary climate changes; heat and drought in lower latitudes, then snow, ice and freezing in higher latitudes. These weather extremes pose a grave threat to the environment upon which all life depends.

- * The United States must take the lead in an international mobilization to reverse "greenhouse effect" and stabilize the climate through soil, forest and energy work.

For marginal short-term gains, the Republican administrations in Washington and Sacramento are determined to drill for oil off of our coastline as well as the entire coastline of the United States. The results of such a policy have been painfully obvious: a small increase in low viscosity crude oil and the destruction of valuable wetlands, marine habitats, fishing grounds and the befouling of beaches.

Those who believe in unrestricted development are "penny-wise and pound foolish." The primary reason that California has been attractive to millions of people -- from both near and far -- is its beauty. Our economy and our people are inextricably tied to the environment -- an environment which must be preserved.

- * In collaboration with other coastal states, the California Congressional delegation should pursue legislation to grant state jurisdiction over coastal water up to 12 miles (the territorial limit).
- * We support the strengthening consolidation and/or coordination of agencies charged with coastline protection in order to eliminate overlapping jurisdictions and prevent further diminishing of the natural beauty and public access of the coast.
- * There should be an immediate halt to offshore oil development and a California Ocean Sanctuary should be permanently designated where no drilling would ever occur and where underwater mining and the dumping of toxic wastes and hazardous substances is forbidden.
- * National Ocean Protection legislation should be enacted in order to permanently protect the coasts of California and the nation from the adverse consequences of offshore oil and gas development.

- * We support the establishment of an Oil Spill Prevention and Clean-up Fund which will be paid for by companies transporting oil through California waters. This will be used to finance the immediate clean-up of any spill, offer loans to the victims of a major spill and to restore lands that have been contaminated. We support the creation of an office of oil spill response in the state with clear authority to direct all clean-up efforts in the event of an oil spill.
- * We support implementing upgraded energy efficiency standards for new appliances and fuel efficiency standards for new automobiles, establishing comparable fuel efficiency standards for new light trucks and vans, and re-instituting mandatory energy efficiency standards for new construction.
- * A national energy policy must be developed which creates incentives for renewable and non-polluting energy sources.
- * We support public and private efforts to develop clean burning fuels so that we may begin phasing out fuels that pollute our air. Automobile manufacturers should be given incentives for the serious development of vehicles which do not run on gasoline.
- * We call for a halt to the production, use and development of nuclear power until safe methods of mining, transport, and waste disposal are available. We call on the administration to act to remove the toxic and radioactive threats to the environment at nuclear weapons facilities and restore the health and safety of the surrounding communities.
- * We support comprehensive regional planning and action to more effectively manage the pressing issues of air quality, water quality, solid waste, transportation and land use.
- * The fragile desert environment must be protected from exploitation.
- * California should stop the cutting of ancient redwood trees and allow only select cutting on commercial forest land. We must maintain a sustained yield in our forests to ensure future employment while guaranteeing environmental protection. Only finished lumber should be exported to ensure a stable forest and wood products industry and to protect jobs.
- * We support the creation of a comprehensive and mandatory recycling program to reduce pollution, reuse our existing natural resources, save and preserve our future ones and to reduce the demand for landfills which can cause the destruction of our air, water, soil and communities.
- * We must eliminate the use of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals found to be harmful to humans, the environment or food production, and we support the development of non-toxic alternatives.
- * We encourage industry to develop life enhancing products which do not deplete and pollute our resources.

- * In addition to strong new legislation and enforcement of existing laws for business and industry, each of us must take personal responsibility to do what we can as individuals to protect our environment. Real solutions will require sacrificing short term indulgences for the long term benefit of society. We as citizens and consumers must make healthy choices in every facet of our lives. Our purchases, transportation habits, use of water, energy and chemicals, and disposal of waste must reflect our concern for the future of our planet.

California fisheries provide wholesome food and a valuable economic contribution. Streams, rivers and wetlands must be preserved and rehabilitated so that they can again produce an abundance of healthy fish. Adequate water supplies must be released from dams at appropriate times to provide the necessary temperatures for salmon and other aquatic life propagation. Fishermen need to survive economically through adequate fishing seasons and while long term environmental rehabilitation is underway they should be employed in restoration of habitat. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council under the Department of Commerce must manage the salmon fisheries with a strategy that provides an economically viable ocean troll fishery as well.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

After 10 years of Republican "trickle down" economics, we have a pretty good idea of what "trickle" means, and it isn't very pretty. Since 1979, the number of families living below the poverty level has jumped more than 25 percent. The number of Californians without public or private health care coverage has increased from 3.5 million in 1980 to almost 6 million today. Homeless families, particularly in California's urban centers, cannot find any available housing even though family income averages nearly \$9,000. The number of children entering school with health and developmental problems has increased 40 percent since 1980. In California, where more than one out of four, nearly 750,000, of the state's preschool children live in poverty and another 200,000 live close to the poverty line, private sector programs are clearly overwhelmed. We must insure the availability of childcare and preschool services to all 3- and 4-year-old children.

Clearly, a society which fails to sustain large parts of its population with life's basic needs -- food, shelter, clothing, healthcare -- can expect an unproductive and inhumane result: crime, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and academic failure.

Democrats have always believed that society's problems are best addressed by attacking the root causes of crime, poverty, hopelessness. Unfortunately, Republican cynicism has become a cliché of the "Me! Now!" generation and is coming home to roost.

You may not solve problems "by throwing money at them;" but the Republican's absolute lack of commitment to addressing our critical social ills has resulted in societal crises of epidemic proportions. American business is beginning to realize that you cannot "write off" millions of Americans and still have a workforce capable of competing in a

crises of epidemic proportions. American business is beginning to realize that you cannot "write off" millions of Americans and still have a workforce capable of competing in a modern world. Drug-addicted youngsters, teen parents and high school dropouts cannot fill the jobs demanded by a new world economy.

One would like to believe that the less fortunate are cared for by society because it's a principle we all share and, indeed, is intrinsic to the social contract that binds us together as a people. But, if principle alone is not sufficient reason -- the negative economic impact of neglect should impel us to ensure the following:

- * Basic quality health insurance coverage for all Californians, including those unable to afford it and regardless of medical condition.
- * Access to affordable long term health care which particularly affects seniors and the disabled, with an emphasis on independent living and alternatives to institutionalization.
- * A minimum income for all Californians which is sufficient to provide for basic food, shelter and clothing.
- * Intensified efforts to provide prevention health education services to all Californians.
- * Expansion of treatment services to persons suffering from mental disorder and alcohol and drug abuse.
- * Legislation which provides for consolidation of existing funding to better focus on services provided to persons in need.
- * Any legislation passed should have adequate funding attached so that counties can properly administer laws without going bankrupt.

AIDS

As of January 31, 1990, 23,585 Californians had been diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, making us the second ranking state after New York for total cases. Having struck the urban centers first, AIDS increasingly is becoming a major public health issue in suburban and rural California, making Marin and Sonoma the second and third per capita incidence counties. Moreover, AIDS is being seen in disproportionate numbers among Latinos and African Americans, clearly moving beyond its original victims in the Gay community.

Republican Administrations in both Sacramento and Washington continue to respond in a duplicitous manner. Decrying AIDS as a public health emergency, they continue to cut or veto legislation which would enable health officials to create a serious infrastructure in prevention, patient care and research. Just last year, Governor Deukmejian vetoed money which would establish prevention and treatment centers around the state. Moreover, his cuts in other basic health programs, family planning and drug prevention/treatment further compromise our ability to stop the spread of HIV, the cause of AIDS. The California Democratic Party calls on the Bush Administration to step up the research effort with an

increase of funds for new biomedical research grants and to allocate sufficient funds to the National Institute of Health to support a real increase in the number of new and competing grants for basic and clinical research.

In recognition of the impact that the AIDS epidemic continues to have in our state, the California Democratic Party calls on the federal government to:

- * Establish early intervention centers in all counties reporting more than 100 AIDS cases to treat HIV positive individuals to prevent further disease progression to an AIDS diagnosis.
- * Provide disaster relief to those counties which have borne a disproportionate share of cost of medical and social services through local or city tax revenues. Cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego have received little assistance from the federal or state government, jeopardizing health programs for everyone.
- * Expand the federal portion of the Medicaid program to extend eligibility to all HIV symptomatic persons who meet the resource guidelines.
- * Stop price gouging by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Require that new, approved drugs be priced at reasonable cost to avoid repeating the outrageous pricing arrangement agreed to by the Federal Government when it approved AZT.
- * Recognize that the war on drugs and the war against AIDS are related fights and provide sufficient funding to eliminate all waiting lists for publicly financed drug treatment programs.

With new infections still increasing at an alarming rate in many areas of the state in difficult to reach populations, the Democratic Party calls on state legislators to:

- * Support pilot needle exchange programs to slow the spread of HIV among IVDU's.
- * Expand education/prevention programs to sexually active youth, people of color, gay/bisexual youth and crack users.
- * Increase Medical reimbursements for home and community based care, counseling and treatment.

Finally, we call on state and federal legislators to support access to comprehensive health care for all Californians. AIDS is straining an already overwhelmed public health care system in California. AIDS activists will continue to work with labor unions, seniors, long term care advocates and other health activists within the Democratic Party to provide universal access to health care for all Californians.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health services are a necessity, not a luxury, and sufficient funding including necessary annual increases must be made available to treat those in need.

The California Democratic Party urges the state legislature to restore full funding for community based mental health services mandated by law but callously cut from the budget by Governor Deukmejian.

Additional funding for programs which assure alternatives to institutionalization must be provided because often these least expensive services are the most effective.

There must be a uniform high quality standard of care commensurate with the varying needs of individuals whether they are in a state hospital, psychiatric skilled nursing facility, local acute inpatient setting, half-way house, board and care facility, under supervised independent living or an outpatient.

Coordinated entitlement programs (SSI, vocational services, housing, supported employment, self-help groups) should be made available to every mental health client. Adequate socialization services must be available for the chronically mentally ill.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Over time, one of the truest measures of how a society nurtures both sides of the brain is reflected in the arts and culture handed down from one generation to the next.

Today, the traditional measures of culture -- the performing and visual arts -- must compete with a "throwaway culture" of television and video games. When values compete in this context, the culture most often reflects that which is most immediate and available. When artistic talent reflects the ersatz and immediately tangible, it does so at the expense of enduring, enriching, and enabling works of art.

The cultural diversity of California gives us the opportunity for creating pluralistic art forms which express the multiple ethnic aspects of our population. However, if our children are not exposed to this diversity at an early age they will not carry the value into adulthood.

- * All California schools should be exposed to more courses in the visual and performing arts. This is particularly true for children K-6 who average only about 7 percent of the school day in these activities.
- * In recognition of the media as a powerful and pervasive cultural force in our society, a media education program of instruction needs to be developed and implemented to prepare young people to participate in our increasingly media dominated world.
- * Successful programs, such as the California Arts Council -- Artists in Schools -- should be expanded statewide. Not only are children introduced to working artists, the program also provides financial support to artists who, otherwise,

might not survive as artists.

- * Children entering school should be taught a language other than their native tongue. We are a multi-cultural state; we should be able to express ourselves by speaking more than one language.

EDUCATION

The California Democratic Party, in order to fulfill the social contract as embodied in the California State Constitution, believes that every individual is entitled to a free public education that enables each to achieve his or her full potential.

In keeping with this belief, the Democratic Party issues a call to arms for a battle to restore the ability of our public schools to educate all of the children in California and this nation regardless of family income, disabilities, race, ethnicity or language background. It is a war that must be fought on two fronts. First, every child must arrive at school healthy, nourished, alert, and free of drugs and alcohol. And second, once the child enters the classroom, he or she must be offered an education that prepares them to interact in a rapidly changing and increasingly multicultural world. Mastery of basic literary and computing skills is not enough. Students must also learn conflict resolution, problem-solving skills decision making techniques, and the value of democratic principles, as well as the ability to think both critically and creatively. Students with limited English proficiency must have every opportunity to learn English through strong bi-lingual education and English as a Second Language program.

To achieve the first goal of ensuring that every student arrives at school in a condition to learn, we need to break down the artificial legal barriers that prevent social service agencies and public school systems from working together closely to help students who are malnourished, abused, disturbed, addicted, pregnant and at risk of becoming dropouts. Counselors, nurses and a variety of social service professionals should provide services on school sites to aid at-risk students.

Democrats also believe in and support private sector social programs that provide assistance to students. But because achievement of this task exceeds the capability of private sector programs, public sector involvement is clearly necessary. The Democratic Party:

- * Believes that every student should have direct and confidential access to health, social and psychological services provided by appropriately trained professionals.
- * Demands that the Bush administration look with favor on efforts by state and local governments to coordinate social services so acutely needed by children.
- * Calls on the Bush administration to reprioritize the federal budget, as the need for defense spending diminishes, to provide more support for state and local efforts to ensure that our children arrive at school in a condition to

learn.

Only by achieving this goal is it possible to achieve the second one -- a public education that meets an appropriate standard of excellence for every student. The task of achieving the second goal is, indeed, as daunting as the first. California educators face unique challenges. In the Los Angeles Unified School District alone, students speak nearly 100 languages and are products of as many cultures. There are many new immigrants eager to accept their rights and responsibilities of productive Americans while at the same time honoring their heritage. School district and state boards need to ensure that the historical contributions of women, minorities, Native Americans, and people with disabilities assume their appropriate place in the curriculum.

California's public school enrollment is increasing at the rate of 175,000 students per year. During the next five years, California needs to hire 80,000 new teachers to keep pace with enrollment growth and to replace teachers retiring from and quitting their jobs. Greater efforts must be exerted to increase the recruitment, enrollment and retention rate of minorities in colleges and universities, particularly into programs of teacher preparation to provide appropriate role models for students.

Teachers also need to feel that they are valuable members of a society which regards knowledge as more precious than entertainment, which values the culture of every ethnicity and race, and which supports their efforts in the classroom with adequate portions of volunteer time and energy.

Beyond that, teachers need to be compensated at professional rates of pay and benefits, and that funding should be stabilized. Teachers also should be given greater authority over and responsibility for their profession. Teachers, principals, and parents need to be given more authority to make educational decisions at the school site. Such a change, however, requires parents and all citizens interested in the education of our youth to take a far more active role in the activities of the schools in each neighborhood.

Simultaneously with these changes, class sizes need to be reduced to give teachers time to give each student more attention. Achievement of this goal requires the recruitment of more teachers, more efficient use of classrooms, and in some cases, the construction of new schools. Consider the following:

- * In national ranking, California is dead last in student-to-teacher ratio.
- * Although California ranks near the top of the nation in personal income, under eight years of the Deukmejian administration, the state has slipped to 45th in the funding of public education as a percentage of personal income.
- * During the past nine years of the Reagan-Bush administrations, dropout rates have escalated to 50 percent in our inner city schools, and to an overall average of 50 percent or more.

To help achieve a quality education for all California students, the Democratic Party:

- * Promotes and ensures the right of every adult/child to appropriate

mainstream educational opportunities within our public school system.

- * Reaffirms its commitment to the collective bargaining rights of California school employees and other public employees.
- * Observes that the opportunity to pursue a higher education must not be denied to any Californian who is desirous and qualified. California's Community College, State University, and UC systems must also be adequately funded to ensure that all eligible students have access to higher education.
- * Suggests that the University of California (UC) system establish a mentoring program that would work toward improvement of the self-esteem and academic achievement of educationally at-risk junior high and high school students. The program should target blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and those of Hispanic background, and other first and second-generation immigrants of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds who attend public schools in California.
- * Believes that all schools should be of the highest quality to provide educational excellence with equal access for all.
- * Opposes quotas based solely on race, which have been interpreted by university administrators to restrict the number of students that can be admitted, instead of being used as minimum goals which the universities should achieve through their admission and retention policies.
- * Calls on President Bush, the self-proclaimed "education President," to back his rhetoric with actions to help all the children of California and America who attend public schools to achieve an education of excellence.

We note that because federal spending now accounts for only about 4 percent of the more than \$350 billion this country spends annually on public education, most of the funding comes from state and local governments. As part of the so-called "peace dividend," the Democratic Party challenges the President to reprioritize the federal budget to assist our schools in developing the nation's best weapons -- the skills, creativity, and intellect of our youth.

Finally, The Democratic Party believes that the achievement of an educated citizenry requires the participation of not only the educational community, but also every segment of society. The continued success of the United States as a participatory democracy and as a world leader is dependent upon a shared national, community and individual commitment to excellence in education.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The California Democratic Party believes that crime and violence can be reduced

or eradicated only by a vigorous, multifaceted effort that combines tough law enforcement with assaults on some of crime's root causes -- unemployment, poverty, racism and social intolerance.

The reactive and expensive anti-crime policies of the Reagan-Bush-Deukmejian administrations focus on the arrest of lawbreakers after they have committed a crime, and on the multibillion-dollar construction of prisons and jails to house them after they have been sentenced. And although drug and alcohol-related convictions grew from a few more than 4,000 in 1984 to more than 21,000 in 1989 in California, those problems are barely being addressed in jails and prisons. The Republican approaches to society's criminal problems are such a clear failure that the GOP could be labeled the party that is soft-headed on crime. Strengthening law enforcement capability is clearly a laudable goal, and the Democratic Party supports it. But it believes that in a society where nearly one of every four young blacks and more than one of every 10 Hispanic men are either behind bars or on probation or parole, the Reagan-Bush anti-crime policies are not only a failure, but a disaster. The white male population is not immune from crime, either, with more than 1 million whites, more than 6 percent, in the criminal justice system.

The Democratic Party proposes a new approach. First, some facts.

California's present massive prison, youth facility and jail construction programs are expected to cost more than \$6 billion by 1994. And although the construction will add almost 80,000 beds to the system, the prison system in 1994 will be more overcrowded than it is today. In 1994, another \$5 billion will need to be spent in the next round of prison and jail-building just to keep pace. There is one obvious conclusion: the state can't build itself out of its problem and criminality cannot be solved by concrete and steel. Beyond these enormous capital commitments, the costs of operating the system are even greater. By fiscal year 1981-82, the state spent about \$595 million. It is expected to climb to about \$4 billion by fiscal year 1994-95.

If the statistics are not compelling, a walk through most inner city neighborhoods illustrates the failure of the present policies. Despite an effort to strengthen law enforcement, drug trafficking and abuse runs rampant. Hundreds of thousands of young men and women face a descending spiral of arrests, jail, bail, re-arrest, court appearances, prison, release and another arrest. Why? It does not take a sociologist or a psychologist or someone with a superior intellect to understand that those without an education, those without job skills, those without social skills, lose hope. Their pursuit of happiness, instead of taking a wholesome route, too often comes from a bottle, a sack of "crack," or a pill. In America today, an entire generation of black men are at risk of ever being able to lead productive lives. In the barrios and harvest fields of California and other states, people of color do backbreaking labor while their children receive inadequate nutrition, shelter, health care and schooling. And in many suburbs where white parents work long hours to pay the mortgage, lonely latchkey children turn to alcohol and drugs and drop out of school mentally, if not physically.

Given the troubling reality of crime in California and America after 10 years of the Reagan-Bush-Deukmejian administrations, the Democratic Party believes that the assault on crime must consist of:

- * A real effort to keep youth from ever entering the criminal justice system by

implementing actions outlined in the education plank of this document.

- * A reprioritization of the federal budget in light of recent world events. A high priority must be assigned to community-based programs that address family violence, social alienation, alcohol and drug abuse. Where appropriate, job training also should become a component of the war on crime.

Budgeting priorities, both federal and state, should assist the criminal justice system in the administration of even-handed justice, with a focus on crime prevention. The courts must have the staff and resources to enable them to redress both civil and criminal wrongs without extraordinary delay or cursory review. To achieve fairness in civil cases, affordable legal assistance and open access to the courts must be available to every individual. To achieve fairness in criminal cases, the rights of the victims, of the accused, and of society in general must be balanced.

- * Agencies that provide health care social services, education and law enforcement must develop a coordinated strategy to assist youth and adults who are at risk of a variety of social ills, such a substance abuse, domestic violence and dropping out of school. The development of such a strategy is underway in many local communities in California. The appropriate state and federal agencies should assist those efforts.

- * We support programs which utilize prisoner's time constructively, especially those programs which lead to rehabilitation and preparation for return to mainstream life after release. However, we oppose any use of prison labor which adversely effects the pay or employment opportunities for law-abiding citizens.

- * We support Court supervised use of electronic monitoring techniques for juvenile offenders

- * To slow the rate of recidivism and relieve pressure on the prison system, state and local corrections agencies should:

- 1) Develop more punishment options as alternatives to the prison system. These options might include house arrest, work furlough, community service, or alcohol and drug abuse programs for parole violators, juvenile offenders for whom law enforcement officials deemed appropriate.
- 2) Develop a statewide strategy to coordinate anti-drug abuse efforts of state and local enforcement agencies to deal vigorously with substance abuse by accused and convicted individuals while they are incarcerated
- 3) Create a committee of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement professionals appointed by the Legislature and the Governor to review the state's sentencing practices and statues to address the confusing hodgepodge of state sentencing laws.

- * Given the huge challenges faced by law enforcement agencies to investigate drug trafficking, violent crime, and white collar crime, Congress should enact legislation prohibiting law enforcement agencies from engaging in political surveillance and other conduct that interferes with the expression of lawful dissent.
- * Legislation should be approved that requires the federal government to show, when it refuses to release presently or previously classified information to a requesting citizen or organization, that the harm to the nation's security would outweigh the public's need to know.
- * The Party deplores the rise of "hate crimes" motivated by race, religion, or sexual orientation. It urges legislation to mandate the collection of statistics on so-called "hate crimes" to determine if further laws are needed to serve as a deterrent to these repugnant acts.
- * Race has been found to influence the likelihood that a person charged with capital murder will receive the death sentence, with minorities more likely to face execution and longer sentences. Laws affecting sentencing, investigation and prosecution should be carefully reviewed with an eye toward eliminating the sections of law that contribute to discriminatory practices, intentional or unintentional.
- * The Party suggests that mandatory sentencing guidelines should be reformed so that judges can tailor each criminal's punishment to his or her particular situation. Under inflexible guidelines, some convicts who can be rehabilitated must be sentenced to years of publicly expensive and wasted time in prison, while others who clearly are hardened and incapable of rehabilitation receive shorter sentences.
- * Legal services and public defender programs should receive full federal and state funding to provide quality legal assistance to those who are unable to afford effective representation.
- * Mandatory drug testing as a condition of employment is warranted only when common sense dictates that the job affects the safety of the worker and others. The Party is opposed to the use of non-work-related conduct as a basis for employment and disciplinary decisions.
- * Most urban law enforcement agencies support measures which would require a short delay, but not prohibit, the purchase of firearms by private citizens. The United States Congress should approve legislation, modeled on California law, that would require a 15-day waiting period on the purchase of handguns and long guns to enable local law enforcement agencies to conduct a background check on the purchaser. We also urge Congress to approve legislation, modeled on California law, that would ban assault weapons.

The California Democratic Party believes that all citizens, regardless of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation must have equal access to government services, employment, housing, business enterprise and education.

The future of our state, perhaps more than any other in the Union, depends on the ability of our citizens of multiple backgrounds to work together and on the ability of each individual to find his or her niche in California society. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the citizens and leaders of this state to be fair, truly unbiased, toward all our fellow citizens. America was built on the sweat and blood of the immigrants and refugees who have settled here throughout our history. Whatever their reasons for emigration, whether it was to escape persecution or to search for freedom and prosperity, they have contributed to the economic, social and cultural richness of our society.

- * We oppose all attempts to eliminate government funding for multilingual services. Translated government documents are vital to the free exercise of voting rights and to convenient access to emergency services and information.
- * Our immigration policies should be reformed to promote fairness, nondiscrimination, and family reunification. Those policies should reflect our constitutional freedoms of speech, association, political affiliation or belief and travel.
- * We further believe that the voting rights of all minorities should be protected, that government at all levels should vigorously investigate and prosecute those engaged in a recent surge of hate violence and negative stereotyping, that English-only pressure groups should be resisted, and that our treaty commitments with Native Americans should be enforced. Additionally, we believe that the lingering effects of past discrimination against Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, African-Americans, Hispanics or any other groups should be eliminated by affirmative action that includes goals, timetables and procurement set-asides.
- * We believe in the importance of women and minorities being represented at all levels of government and support legislation to require that all appointments to government positions, boards and commissions be balanced with respect to gender, race and ethnicity.
- * In devising community economic development plans, priority must be given to the empowerment of minorities by devising ways to increase employment opportunities and encouraging the development of minority and women-owned businesses.

WOMEN