

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 45, November 1, 1979

Present: Britton, Clark, Dixon, Hawkins, Jaquith, Jenness, Kramer,
Lyons, Mailhot, Morell, Ring, Rodríguez, Seigle, Stone

Guests: Prince, Rose

Chair: Clark

AGENDA: 1. Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign
2. Boston
3. Union Fraction Coordinating Committee Meetings
4. Ballot Propositions
5. Steve Bloom Letter
6. World Movement

1. NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

(Cole, Fatland, and Reaves invited for this point.)

Rodríguez reported on Nicaragua solidarity work, and perspectives for national Nicaragua solidarity conference in Detroit December 16-18.

Discussion

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

2. BOSTON

(Berman, Hart, and Obradović invited for this point.)

Dixon reported on racist violence in Boston and party's response to this challenge to court-ordered busing for desegregation.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. UNION FRACTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Lyons reported on proposal from Trade Union Coordinating Committee to convene meetings of national union coordinating committees on following dates:

1. Rail fraction coordinating committee meeting, November 25 in New York.

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2. Auto fraction coordinating committee meeting, December 2, in New York.
3. Steel fraction coordinating committee meeting, December 8, in New York.

Discussion

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

4. BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

(Berman invited for this point.)

Seigle reported on proposal from Phoenix branch to call for abstention on Proposition 200, dealing with city transportation. (See attached letter from Caroline Fowlkes.)

Seigle reported on proposal from Baltimore branch to call for a "No" vote on proposed tenant landlord relations amendment to city charter. (See attached report by Yvonne Hayes.)

Seigle reported on proposal from San Francisco branch and Bay Area District Committee to call for a "No" vote on Proposition 1, a statewide antibusing measure.

Seigle reported on proposal from San Francisco branch and Bay Area District Committee to call for a "No" vote on Proposition 4, a statewide measure to cut state government spending on social services.

Seigle reported on proposal from San Francisco branch and Bay Area District Committee to call for a "Yes" vote on Proposition P, a tax reform measure.

Seigle reported on proposal from San Francisco branch and Bay Area District Committee to call for a "Yes" vote on Proposition R, a housing/rent control measure.

(For all four recommendations from the San Francisco branch and the Bay Area District Committee, see the letter from Louise Armstrong and the attached literature.)

Discussion

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Phoenix branch on Proposition 200.

Carried.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Baltimore branch on proposed tenant landlord relations amendment.

Carried.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the San Francisco branch and the Bay Area District Committee on the two statewide referenda, Propositions 1 and 4.

Carried.

Motion on Propositions P and R:

1. To reject the recommendation of the San Francisco branch and the Bay Area District Committee to call for a "yes" vote on each of these two referenda.
2. In light of the fact that the recommendations to the Political Committee were received extremely late (six days prior to the election) and the fact that the branch has already presented in public a position urging a "yes" vote on these two measures, to delegate Seigle to go to the Bay Area as soon as possible to explain the decisions and the thinking of the Political Committee on these questions.
3. To refer back to the Bay Area District Committee and the San Francisco branch:
 - a) the decision on whether to urge an abstention or a vote against Proposition P and Proposition R;
 - b) the decision on how to go about presenting a public statement on our positions on these two referenda, with the understanding that this will be done prior to the elections next Tuesday.

Carried.

5. STEVE BLOOM LETTER

Jenness reported. (See attached.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve proposed reply.

Carried.

6. WORLD MOVEMENT

(Feldman invited for this point.)

Jenness reported.

Discussion

Meeting adjourned.

Phoenix SWP
October 24, 1970

Political Committee

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is material pertaining to Proposition 200 to appear on the Phoenix municipal ballot on Nov. 6 of this year. This Proposition is the most debated item in the elections. The local campaign we are running was not originally planning to pay much attention to this, or any other ballot issue as we had conceived of a rather low-key campaign speaking entirely to the labor party issue with whatever press time we might have gotten. However, as you know, the mayor's race has shaped up differently than expected with only the SWP challenging the incumbent.

Therefore, we are having to get more involved in the local issues. We should have sent this information to you earlier for your recommendation on our position on Prop. #200. Now we find ourselves in a very tight time crunch with the election only a couple of weeks away.

The proposition addresses itself to transportation. Already existing and scheduled for implementation is the Papago Freeway plan. Basically, it provides for completion of the national freeway system into and through the west side of the city. We, of course, are not opposed to this completion as it does two things. One, it makes interstate travel more convenient. Two, it provides for easier cross-town commuting for growing working-class residents in that part of town. This plan will go into effect if Prop. #200 loses.

Passage of the ballot item, called the Grid Plan, will accomplish basically the following. It will substitute widened major streets across town for the freeway system. Also, it will provide for the purchase of additional city buses. Presently, there are less than 250 buses on the road, making the bus system useless for the vast majority of people. For this latter reason, many working people support the Grid Plan. However, it does not provide for the personnel for maintaining an increased bus system. Therefore, we assume that a higher tax will ensue to implement an increase in the number of buses.

While we have tried to analyze the question of higher taxes as the bottom line on these two plans, we have not been able to determine which, if any, would actually include a tax hike. Both rely on federal funding. The Freeway people say federal funds have already been earmarked for the freeway completion and cannot be applied to the Grid Plan. The Grid Plan proponents say the same funds can be used for street improvements and mass transit. We haven't the facilities to determine which is correct.

Our position, which is asked on almost every campaign occasion, is that neither plan answers the needs of working people in Phoenix. Both leave it completely up to the individual to provide the transportation. We are focusing on the fact that inflation makes car-up-keep increasingly difficult, that the ruling class should provide and pay for an extensive mass transportation system, and that workers should abstain on this vote. We qualify this position by adding that

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we don't oppose highway completion nor wider streets, but prefer to speak instead to the real problem of transportation. In short, we feel that neither plan goes far enough.

It is unfortunate that we neglected to seek your concurrence sooner. Hopefully, the P.C. can give this question rapid consideration.

By the way, the official position of the Central Arizona Labor Council is in favor of the freeway plan with no reason being given. Both plans provide jobs.

Please advise us of your opinion.

Comradely,

/s/Caroline Fowlkes

Baltimore Executive Committee Majority Report on the Proposed
Tenant Landlord Relations Amendment by Yvonne Hayes

Since last week's discussion on the tenant landlord referendum, the executive committee has had several hours of discussion to consider further some of the issues raised in the branch meeting. The executive committee would like to propose to the political committee that the party call for a no vote on this referendum and counterpose to it our program for rent control and our strategy for winning it. A minority of comrades on the executive committee expressed the position that we should abstain from the vote while counterposing our program and strategy.

Through the course of our discussion we have grappled with a series of important questions. Comrades have formed opinions, reexamined the issues, and changed their minds. The most important outgrowth of this process is that we have achieved a degree of political clarity lacking in the initial phases of the discussion. We have learned a great deal about how to approach these issues. This will enable us to explain our position better and get the best possible hearing on our ideas.

Before going into the specific discussion on the bill itself, it is important to look at the broader context in which referenda of this type arise and the general approach we take to ballot issues. As we have noted in the past, this kind of referendum is becoming a more frequent feature of the electoral scene. In general, they reflect the attempt by the ruling class to deal with rising progressive sentiments among the working class. There are increasing demands on the ruling class to allow working people to have some input into the policies which govern their lives and placing such issues as rent control, taxation, etc. on the ballot is a response to that. More often than not these referenda don't resolve too much and are designed to create an illusion of democracy.

This doesn't mean, however, that we take a sectarian attitude towards ballot issues. That they are often geared toward the "lesser evil" brand of politics doesn't mean we have a principled stand against such bills.

Because they reflect progressive attitudes in the community, we want to participate fully in the discussion which develops around these issues and use the opportunity we have to advance our own program. We also recognize that sometime elements of these referenda represent real concessions to progressive sentiment or come as the result of some mass struggle. Where there are positive aspects to these bills which can help advance the class struggle we can take a position in favor of them while pointing out how to extend the provisions and strengthen the hand of our class in their implementation.

There are many examples of legislation that have a political content in line with our program. This does not mean that the passage of the ERA, for example, is a total solution to the problems of women's oppression. But it is something which will give women a handle to continue the fight for women's liberation.

Each referendum and piece of new legislation must be analyzed from this point of view. We need to determine first and foremost the

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political content of the legislation and take a position based on that analysis. From there we proceed to figure out how to explain our position.

In our discussion of the landlord tenant relations bill, the executive committee began by reviewing the background to this referendum, the very positive response by working people to the idea of rent control, and the way in which the various political forces in Baltimore were lining up on this question. Because we began from the point of view of how to best relate to this sentiment and not from an analysis of the political content of the bill, we tended toward calling for a yes vote, or at least an abstention, on the referendum.

Comrades raised questions about whether we would get a hearing if we took one position or another and about what side we would appear to be on if we called for a no vote. We all recognized that this bill didn't really solve the problems of skyrocketing rent in the city and that the many loopholes as well as the slanted board were problems inherent in the legislation. But initially comrades felt that there was a chance that some good might come of this and that calling for a yes vote was in order.

As the discussion progressed we began to see that the outcome economically for Baltimore workers would be a maintenance of the status quo as far as rental increases are concerned. And we began to grapple with how a position against the bill would make us look since the only other opposition to the bill was coming from the landlords and the right wing of the ruling class in the city.

All of these questions however tended to steer the discussion away from the central question: what is the political content of this bill, what will and won't it do. First we need to figure out what the correct position is. Once we do that we can concern ourselves with how to best get a hearing on whatever position we take, explain our ideas and differentiate ourselves from our bourgeois and left opponents.

In carefully reading this bill, the only conclusion we could draw is that there is no rent control in this bill. The only place rent control is found is as a catchword in pro-K literature.

The bill is exactly what its title implies: a bill governing tenant/landlord relations.

The specifics on the base rent ceiling as set forth will provide no relief for the working class of Baltimore. Each one of the guidelines set forth is subject to immediate revision by the tenant/landlord board once it meets and all of them are subject to change if the landlord can show that his costs have gone up enough to justify it. With double-digit inflation, this is not hard to prove.

Otherwise the bill only provides new procedures for raising rents, not a limit on the raising of rents.

The most significant change provided for in this referendum is the creation of a commission to mediate disputes between landlords and

tenants or their organizations. This board would not only be weighted on the side of the landlords due to its composition but also because it is to be appointed directly by the city council, the government of Baltimore's ruling class.

Essentially this commission would be one more capitalist-controlled body charged with keeping the peace in Baltimore and would tend, as all other capitalist mediators do, toward keeping the landlord's piece and the tenants peaceful. Not only does the bill not provide any relief for the working class but it actually establishes an authority designed to channel progressive working class sentiment into capitalist arbitration.

While comrades in the executive committee agree that this board would be weighted in the direction of the landlords, the question was raised whether or not the negative impact it might have on developing sentiment and future struggles for rent control was important enough to warrant a vote no since the economic impact of the bill would probably be nil.

While we sometimes put up with the establishment of a capitalist body to implement some legislation which we were in favor of, like the Civil Rights Act, we do not take an abstentionist position on capitalist bodies, particularly those designed to sidetrack struggles and channel sentiment for change into the back pocket of Democratic and Republican politicians.

Another question was raised as to whether this board couldn't be forced into taking progressive action by implementing aspects of the bill. But if we agree that there are not positive aspects of the bill to be implemented, then what would we demand that the board do?

And finally, comrades asked whether or not the public hearings of this board couldn't be turned into protest activities as hearings of other boards sometimes are such as the Public Utilities Commission. Even though this is something we hope will happen if the bill passes, we don't call for the creation of a bad board so that we can protest its actions. Nor do we abstain on this issue. The establishment of this board will not advance the interests of the working class of Baltimore. We are opposed to the creation of boards like this one.

It is for this reason that we recommend a no vote on this referendum. We should call for a vote against this board and we must explain the fraudulent labeling of this legislation as rent control and the real intent of this referendum. We have a responsibility to explain what real "rent control" is and what is needed to win it. We can point to the example of Cuba where rents are a maximum of 10 percent of one's income and we can explain the role of the unions and other organizations of the working class in education on rent control, fighting for rent control and winning real relief from skyrocketing rents.

And we can be confident that we will get a hearing for our ideas because the sentiment for rent control does exist and because we are the only people in the city who are telling the truth about this referendum.

Of course our opponents may try to throw us into the same "camp" as the landlords who also oppose the bill. This isn't the first time nor will it be the last time that tactic is used. But it has no bearing on what position we take. It simply increases the urgency of our need to get out a full explanation of our position, our program and our strategy.

Rent Control Campaign

204 E. 25th Street
Baltimore, Md. 21218

889-7801

AUTH.: J. E. TAYLOR, TRES.

RENT CONTROL IN BALTIMORE

WHAT WILL IT DO?

SOME QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. WHAT IS RENT CONTROL?

It is a system that prevents landlords from being able to raise the rent anytime they want, and for any amount they want.

2. HOW WILL THIS LAW LIMIT MY RENT INCREASES?

To get any increase at all your landlord will need to submit a request to the Tenant-Landlord Commission with a copy to you, and you will have the right to challenge the increase.

Generally, this law will limit increases to once a year. There are several important steps in setting up the process, as follows:

- A. All rents will be "rolled back" to November 1, 1978 levels.
- B. Add from 4 to 6% to your November 1, 1978 rent, depending on whether you or the landlord pays for heat and utilities, and you will know what rent the landlord is allowed to charge you until January 1, 1980.
- C. From January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1981, the landlord may only increase your rent from 4 to 7%, again depending on whether he or you pay for heat and utilities.
- D. Beginning January 1, 1981, the Tenant-Landlord Commission will set our yearly increases.

3. WHAT IF MY BUILDING IS IN TERRIBLE CONDITION?

Your landlord will have to sign a statement to you, with a copy to the Commission, saying that your apartment is in substantial compliance with Baltimore's housing code. If your unit is not safe or healthy or up to code, he cannot increase your rent.

4. CAN I GET MY RENT REDUCED?

Yes. If you are not getting services you are entitled to, if rental conditions are changed without you knowing, or if your apartment is not in compliance with housing, health or safety codes, you may apply to the Commission for a rent reduction. If they decide you are right, your rent will be reduced.

5. IF MY APARTMENT IS IN TERRIBLE SHAPE, BUT MY LANDLORD CAN'T RAISE MY RENT BEYOND THE REGULAR LIMIT, HOW WILL HE BE ABLE TO FIX IT UP?

If the landlord can show that he intends to use a rent increase for "capital improvements" to fix up the property, the Commission may grant him per-

mission for an "Extraordinary Rent Increase." He will have to notify you in writing at the same time he asks the Commission for the increase, and you or your tenant organization can file your comments with the Commission within 30 days.

6. WHAT IF MY LANDLORD WANTS TO SELL THE BUILDING I LIVE IN AND MAKE IT A CONDOMINIUM OR WHAT IF HE WANTS TO TEAR IT DOWN?

Because there is a severe shortage of rental housing in Baltimore, this law will give the Commission the right to limit the removal of buildings of 4 or more units from the rental market by conversion or demolition. The owner will have to get a permit from the Commission to do this, and the Commission will have certain guidelines to follow in making a decision.

7. WHAT IS THIS TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION, ANYWAY?

This will be a 5 member board, 2 tenants, 2 landlords, and one homeowner who owns no rental property. They will oversee a TENANT-LANDLORD OFFICE, which will administer the rent control law, publish and distribute a complete brochure telling tenants and landlords their rights and obligations, and answer questions generally.

8. WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR IT ALL?

All landlords will have to register with the Commission so that rent control can be enforced. Once a year they will pay a small registration fee for each rental unit they own. These fees will cover the cost of administering the whole law. (Example: If the fee is \$2.00 per unit, the Commission could have a budget of about \$320,000.)

9. HOW LONG WILL THIS LAW BE IN EFFECT?

This law is an addition to the City Charter, so it will be in effect until or unless the people of Baltimore or the City Council change it. Unlike a City Council ordinance, it will not simply expire.

10. WHY DO WE NEED A RENT CONTROL LAW? AREN'T VOLUNTARY CONTROLS ENOUGH?

In 1976, the Property Owners' Association convinced City Council that if they would not pass a rent control law, the POA would voluntarily see that rents in the City were not raised over 10% a year. Well, 10% was too high (our wages aren't going up that fast and we need to eat, too) and they haven't kept their promise. Rents all over Baltimore are up over 10% and in neighborhoods of heavy redevelopment and speculation people are reporting raises of 50 to 100%. We can't wait for "voluntary" controls any more!

11. WILL RENT CONTROL STOP NEW CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENTS IN BALTIMORE?

No. New apartments will not come under rent controls until after they are rented for the first time. Since they can charge whatever the market will bear initially, they have the incentive to build new apartments.

12. WILL RENT CONTROL MAKE BALTIMORE LOOK LIKE THE SOUTH BRONX?

No. A nationwide study of abandonment ranked New York fifth in rates of abandonment behind four non-rent controlled cities. Abandonment results instead from redlining, vandalism and failure of tenants to pay rent. In fact, without rent control, Baltimore will soon cost as much to live in as Central Park West.

LABOR DONATED

Rent Control Works for You

"We strongly support the Charter Amendment establishing rent control in order to put an end to excess profiteering in the home rental market."

**Tom Bradley, President,
Metropolitan Baltimore
Council, AFL-CIO Unions**

"I urge all seniors in Baltimore City to vote for rent control. Rising costs hurt us more than any other single group."

**Betty K. Hamburger, Honorary
President, Maryland Advocates
for the Aging**

"I absolutely support Rent Control."

**Parren J. Mitchell
Congressman, 7th District**

Work for Rent Control

**Yes, I want to work for Rent Control.
I'm interested in**

door-to-door canvassing office work
 voter registration publicity
 working at the polls other:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mail to:

**Baltimore Rent Control Campaign
204 East 25th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
889-7801**

Organizations Endorsing Rent Control

- Alpha House
- Amalgamated Transit Workers Local 1300
- American Friends Service Committee
- Baltimore City Tenants Association
- Coalition of Peninsula Organizations
- Communities Organized to Improve Life
- Concerned Citizens of Butchers Hill
- Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee
- East/West Advisory Committee of Urban Services
- Eighteen Montford Street Block Club
- Emanuel Christian Community Church
- Greater Homewood Community Corporation
- Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council
- Greenmount Communities Democratic Club
- Harwood Community Improvement Association
- Harwood Housing Program
- Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
- Lakewood Chase Community Association
- Lower Park Heights Community Association
- Madison Street Improvement Association
- Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Baltimore
- New American Movement - Baltimore
- Northwest Urban Community Coalition
- Park Heights Community Coalition
- Park Heights Community Corporation
- People's Free Medical Clinic
- Prinicko Village Committee
- Project P.L.A.S.E.
- Ray of Hope Baptist Church
- Sandtown-Winchester Community Association
- St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center
- South East Community Organization
- Urban Commission - Archdiocese of Baltimore
- West Remington Improvement Association
- Women: A Journal of Liberation
- Women's Growth Center
- Women's Union of Baltimore
- Woodberry Community Association

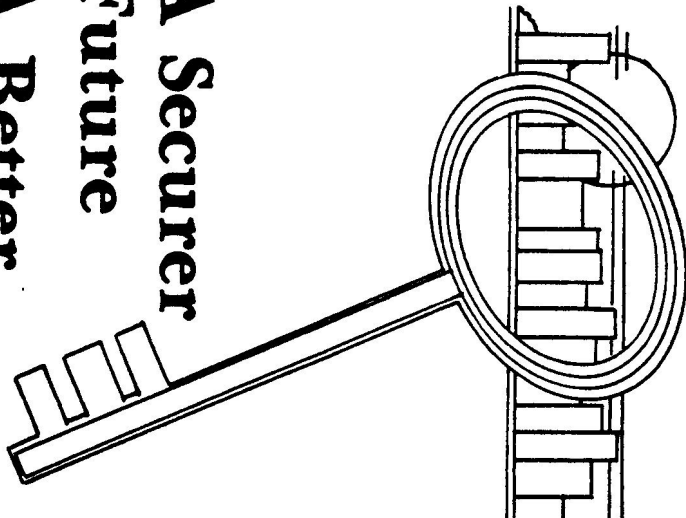
**Baltimore Rent Control Campaign
204 East 25th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
889-7801**

**Register
Sign Up
Vote**



Rent control

Your Key to



**A Securer
Future
A Better
Community**

**Vote Yes for
Rent Control
November 6**

Rent Control Means Decent, Affordable Housing for Us All Support It!

Rent control means fairer rents

Rents have gone up as much as 30% in some neighborhoods in the last year. Rent control sets a ceiling on annual rent increases.

Rent control means better housing

Irresponsible landlords may go for years without fixing up deteriorating housing. Baltimore's rent control law rewards landlords who keep up their properties and penalizes those who don't.

Rent control stops displacement

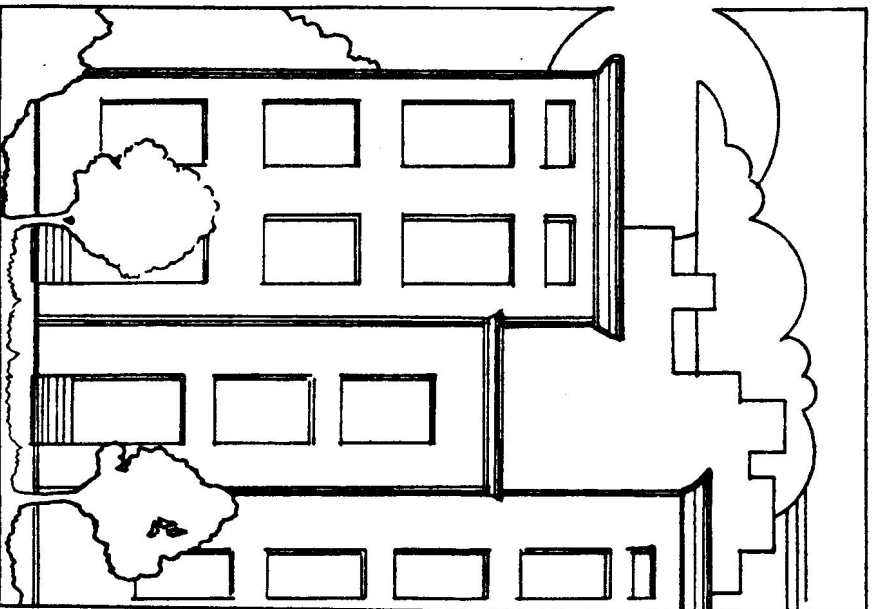
Sudden, rapid increases in rents force out long-term residents, particularly senior citizens and others on fixed incomes. Rent control gives greater protection through more gradual increases.

Rent control discourages speculation

Get-rich-quick speculators threaten our communities with inflated housing costs, tax assessments, and rents. Rent control makes it harder for speculators to make a fast buck at our expense.

Rent control means stronger communities

Responsible landlords find it easy to turn their backs on the problems they create in our neighborhoods. Rent control recognizes the importance of property owners with a stake in our communities—it exempts small resident landlords and those who build or renovate apartments.



How will Rent Control work?

Every year, a Tenant-Landlord Commission will set a ceiling on rent increases. To determine how much landlords may raise their rents, the commission will look at heating and other utility costs, maintenance costs, and property taxes.

The commission will be appointed by City Council. It will consist of two landlords, two tenants, and a homeowner.

Once the rent control law is passed this Nov., it will take time to choose the commission and begin operations. By law, the commission must be fully operating and must set annual rent ceilings by Jan. 1, 1981.

Until then, the rent control law limits rent increases to a fixed percentage.

To prevent a flurry of rent increases before rent control goes into effect, the law requires that increases be figured based on rents charged as of Nov. 1, 1978.

Other provisions:

Special rent increases

The commission may grant special rent increases to landlords who show that their rents aren't high enough to cover the costs of maintenance or needed improvements.

Penalties for code violations

Landlords may not take advantage of the yearly rent increases on apartments that do not substantially meet city housing or health standards. The commission may even grant rent reductions to tenants living in apartments that aren't up to code.

Exceptions for resident landlords

Rent control will not apply to owner-occupied rental properties with one or two apartments.

Incentives for new housing

Since the law will not affect the first rent charge for newly built or renovated apartments, it will encourage housing improvements and new construction.

Advance notice of rent increases

Both the tenant and the commission must be notified in writing at least 60 days before a proposed rent increase.

Enforcement

The Tenant-Landlord Commission will appoint an executive director to head a tenant-landlord office. The cost of running the office will be covered by nominal fee charged to landlords. Violators of the law will be fined.

Easier forum for housing disputes

The rent-control commission gives both tenants and landlords an opportunity to settle disputes without the expense, headaches, and complexities of going to court.

OCT 31 1979

3284-23rd Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94110
October 29, 1979

Political Committee
SWP National Office

Dear Comrades,

The San Francisco branch and the Bay Area district committee recommend to the Political Committee that we take the following positions on four ballot issues for the November 6, 1979 elections.

For the state-wide special election:

Prop. 1 - School Assignment and Transportation of Pupils -
a "no" vote.

This is an anti-busing measure initiated by So. California state senator Alan Robbins, leader of the Los Angeles and San Fernando fights against busing. This proposition is opposed by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Prop. 4 - Limitation of Government Appropriations - Init.
Constitutional Amendment - a "no" vote.

This proposition was led by Paul Gann (of Prop. 13 fame) and is another move to cut state government spending on social services. Like Prop. 1, this is opposed by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

For the San Francisco city ballot:

Prop. P - Business Tax Increase - a "yes" vote.

This proposition was placed on the ballot through a petition drive led by the Rebel Workers Organization/Grass Roots Alliance. They claim to have 2000 volunteers working on the campaign; they spoke at a Militant Forum on the proposition and was our first success in working with them. RWO/GRA has been active only on local issues, starting around efforts to save city services and jobs. They have participated actively in local elections for the last two years, endorsing liberal politicians and various reforms.

Prop. P would require that at least 60% of city taxes be paid by Big Business and at least 80% of these revenues be spent on social services. If implemented, it would return the % of tax burden carried by Big Business to level of 1969 (when the tax burden began to be dramatically shifted to working people through liberal Democratic "tax reforms.") Under Prop. P, runaway businesses would be financially penalized, and small shop-keepers would be protected from skyrocketing taxes.

San Francisco
October 29, 1979
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We favor this reform ~~XX~~ not only because it would benefit working people and small business owners, but also because it makes it possible to explain concretely 1) how the tax burden has been shifted more and more to working people (comparing 1967 to present), 2) the erosion of social services through cutbacks, 3) our programmatic response, including the demand to open the books of runaway shops.

Prop. R - Housing/Rent Control - a "yes" vote.

This ballot initiative was placed on the ballot by a petition drive led by the San Franciscans for Affordable Housing, a coalition of San Francisco labor unions and community groups. Its purpose is to institute a system of rent control in San Francisco as a protection against exorbitant rents, and it is counterposed to a new ordinance on "rent stabilization" established by the Board of Supervisors.

This is a complex initiative covering rent freezes (while allowing some increases where increased costs for the landlord can be documented); providing broader protection for tenants, especially around evictions; establishing a publicly elected board to oversee rents; and controlling real estate speculation around condominium conversions.

We are enclosing the following supplementary materials:

- 1) ballot arguments from the voter pamphlets
- 2) San Francisco Chronicle editorials on Prop. P and Prop. R
- 3) Local campaign materials on Prop. P and Prop. R

Comradely,

Louise
Louise Armstrong for the
San Francisco branch

Enc. as noted
cc: Lew Jones

BUSINESS TAX INCREASE



PROPOSITION P

Initiative Ordinance: Shall the Board of Supervisors set taxes paid exclusively by larger businesses at rates sufficient to generate at least 60% of all local revenues to be allocated for city, school and college district and housing authority services; requiring an employment reduction tax; prohibiting increases in taxes and fees paid by residents?

Analysis

By Ballot Simplification Committee

THE WAY IT IS NOW: The City and County of San Francisco provides many services to its residents. To cover the cost of providing these services, several sources are taxed for money and special fees are required. The tax rates are set by the Board of Supervisors with no minimum percentage requirements. The Board determines the amount of tax money needed and the uses to which it is to be put.

THE PROPOSAL: Proposition P would require that the Board of Supervisors increase the taxes on larger businesses to a rate whereby they would produce at least 60% of all the tax money raised in the city that year. Small businesses would be exempt from this law. Increases in taxes and fees

paid by residents would be prohibited. Proposition P would also require that at least 80% of the annual budget must be used to pay for services to residents and the budgets must increase with inflation. It would also impose a new tax on businesses which reduce their payrolls more than a set amount in one year.

A YES VOTE MEANS: If you vote Yes, you want 60% of revenues from all city taxes and fees to be paid by large businesses. You also want 80% of total revenues to be used to pay for city services.

A NO VOTE MEANS: If you vote No, you want tax monies to be raised and spent as they are now.

Controller's Statement on "P"

City Controller John C. Farrell has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition P:

"If the proposed initiative measure is adopted, in my opinion, the cost of government would be increased by an amount in direct proportion to the rise in inflation each year measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. For the past five years (1974-1979) this increase has averaged 9.5%. Assuming this trend will continue for the next fiscal year, an increase to the current cost of government of approximately \$135,000,000 would result.

"In addition, this initiative petition provides that certain taxes paid by corporations and other business be high enough so that the revenue produced thereby shall be not less than 60% of all revenues from city taxes and user fees. This feature would not, in and of itself, increase or decrease the cost of government. It would have the effect of increasing the taxes on business by approximately \$126,000,000."

The City Charter requires the Controller to prepare a financial analysis of each proposition as an aid to voters in deciding the issues.

How Proposition P Got On The Ballot

On July 10 City Registrar of Voters Thomas Kearney certified that the initiative petition calling for Proposition P to be placed on the ballot had qualified and would be placed before the voters on November 6.

Grass Roots Alliance, the proponents of the initiative had filed 21,512 signatures with Kearney on June

25. After examining the signatures, Kearney determined that there were 16,844 valid signatures. This is more than the 10,562 signatures needed to put an initiative ordinance on the ballot.

10,562 represents 5% of the number of people who voted for mayor in 1975.



BUSINESS TAX INCREASE

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION P

We know the share of taxes paid by Big Business has declined each year. This has meant that the quality of our public services has gone down greatly. We need and deserve decent human services — like good health care, education, childcare, public housing, transportation, safe homes, streets and parks. It is the duty of the government to provide these and many other services to our community.

At the same time, the tax burden working people carry grows heavier every year. Jarvis-Gann has meant that working people have lost services and jobs. Big Business has not paid their fair share of taxes. Big Business can afford to pay, and they **should** pay. So, we want to change the laws to say:

1) That Big Business pay 60% of the money raised locally to run our city. Now they pay only 30%, and that's not fair. Let the giant corporations pay their fair share.

2) That city services be at least at the level they were before the double-digit inflation of 1974. Since then, the amount of money spent on city services did not keep up with inflation. The city must be able to buy supplies and equipment at today's prices — to give us the services we all need and deserve.

3) That Big Business be charged even higher taxes if they lay people off here in San Francisco and try to move their business elsewhere. We know they will threaten to run away and want to make it very hard for them to do. **TAX THE CORPORATIONS! VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION P!**

Submitted by:
Committee to Tax the Corporations,
Nancy Kelly, Treasurer
Endorsed by:
Grass Roots Alliance to Save Our Services and Jobs

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION P

Big Business has always opposed any effort to increase its taxes. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, controlled by the biggest downtown corporations, congratulates itself in its own literature about how it has saved business over \$100 million by defeating 6 different business tax increases. To accomplish this, the Chamber of Commerce pressured the Board of Supervisors and other city officials. Between 1972 and 1975 it succeeded in preventing business tax increase measures from even coming before the full Board of Supervisors for debate.

That \$100 million could have gone a long way to improving our schools, our health care, and other public services, but instead it stayed in the hands of wealthy corporations.

That's why we should Vote Yes on Proposition P, the Initiative to Tax the Corporations. We have to vote in our own interests, against the Chamber of Commerce and the Corporations. Big Business put us in the crisis we're in, with inflation and cutbacks in services. Proposition P is a way to fight back. A vote for Proposition P is a vote for services and jobs for a better San Francisco. **VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION P!**

Submitted by:
Committee to Tax the Corporations,
Nancy Kelly, Treasurer

Endorsed by:
Jennifer Diehn, Teacher
Andrew Coren, M.D.
Elizabeth Harding, Registered Nurse
Pat Rea, Librarian

Polls are open from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

BUSINESS TAX INCREASE



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION P

Vote "YES" on Proposition "P"

Help pass Proposition "P." Tax corporations and large business in a fair way. Proposition 13 which passed in June 1978 shifted the tax burden from large downtown property owners and corporate interests to small homeowners and renters in our neighborhoods.

Proposition P will return business taxes to their fair level and eliminate inequities caused by the Jarvis-Gann Initiative. Business now pays 30% of the tax and the rest of the community pays 70% of that tax burden. This must be reversed.

As a No on Proposition 13 Steering Committee member, I know the committee anticipated the tragic consequences of Jarvis-Gann. The city is now on the brink of financial crisis, with 7,000 employees jobs

threatened, a cut back in services threatened and a potential deficit of \$117,000,000.

As a former banker, I know how misleading are the claims constantly repeated by the supporters of Proposition 13. Now is the time to close the loopholes of Jarvis-Gann on the local level, and vote for Proposition "P."

San Francisco's entrenched political leaders had a chance to correct this great tax inequity in June of 1978. They refused to take the leadership and pass the various taxation measures necessary. Now individuals from all of San Francisco's neighborhoods must unite and fight back by passing Proposition "P."

David Scott

Mayoral Candidate

(Former President of San Francisco Board of Permit Appeals)

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION P

Proposition P is no laughing matter, but it's just about the silliest measure to appear on the San Francisco ballot!

Although it's only an initiative, Proposition P attempts to repeal parts of the United States Constitution, to amend the California Constitution, to revise several state laws, and to wipe out parts of the City Charter. And while it's ripping apart our legal system, Proposition P will also raise taxes.

In short, Proposition P is a great big disaster in a small package. Please read it yourself and you'll see that it would:

1) require the City, the school district, the community college district, and the housing authority to spend more money every year — whether they need it or not;

2) prevent the City from saving money or providing

better service — or both! — even if it is possible to do so by having private businesses instead of permanent, full-time City employees perform certain jobs:

3) raise taxes on business, which of course will simply pass the costs on to you by raising prices;

4) drive business and jobs out of San Francisco.

So, please vote NO on Proposition P. It may be funny... but it's no laughing matter!

Submitted By:

San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Gregory P. Hurst, Vice President
Downtown Association of San Francisco
Milton M. Gilmore, President
Residential Hotel Owners of San Francisco
Louise George, Secretary
San Francisco Rental Merchants Association
George Kay, President
Golden Gate Business Association
John Schmidt, Director



PROPOSITION R

Initiative Ordinance: Shall residential rents be stabilized; establishing elected rental housing board; requiring registration of rental units; fixing base rents and allowable adjustments; discouraging speculation and removal of rental housing through conversions or demolition; designating causes for evictions; providing tenants with civil remedies and moving expenses; creating a program for expansion of housing stock, providing for funding; directing Board of Supervisors to amend various codes?

Analysis

By Ballot Simplification Committee

THE WAY IT IS NOW: The City has a rent stabilization and arbitration law. It established rental increase guidelines and created a five member appointed board to administer the law. Renters may appeal certain rent increases to that board. The law also explains the conditions for eviction and calls for a citizens task force to examine the City's housing situation. The law does not apply to owner-occupied buildings of four units or less. It can be changed by the Board of Supervisors and is scheduled to end in September 1980.

The City also has a law which regulates and limits the conversion of apartments to condominiums. Among other provisions, 40% of the renters must agree to buy their units or be offered a life-time lease.

THE PROPOSAL: Proposition R would replace the present rent law. The new law would require the registration of all controlled rental units in the City except those in owner-occupied buildings with three

or fewer units. An eleven member Board elected by district would administer the law. A formula would be set for the maximum rent allowed on rental units and all requests for increases above the limit would have to be approved by the Board. The law explains the conditions for eviction and creates a housing fund and loan program. The law controls the demolition of rental units and limits the conversion of apartments to condominiums. Among other provisions, 80% of the renters must agree to buy their units and the remaining renters cannot be evicted. The new law would take effect on February 1, 1980 and could only be changed by the voters.

A YES VOTE MEANS: If you vote yes you want new rent, condominium and housing laws.

A NO VOTE MEANS: If you vote no you want the present rent, condominium and housing laws to remain in effect.

Controller's Statement on "R"

City Controller John C. Farrell has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition R:

"If the proposed initiative measure is adopted, in my opinion, there would be an increase in the cost of government. However, this increase in cost would be

offset by fees to be established by the elected housing board."

The City Charter requires the Controller to prepare a financial analysis of each proposition as an aid to voters in deciding the issues.

How Proposition R Got On The Ballot

On August 24 City Registrar of Voters Thomas Kearney certified that the initiative petition calling for Proposition R to be placed on the ballot had qualified and would be placed before the voters on November 6.

San Franciscans for Affordable Housing, the proponents of the initiative had filed 21,860 signatures

with Kearney on August 7. After examining the signatures, Kearney determined that there were 17,927 valid signatures. This is more than the 10,562 signatures needed to put an initiative ordinance on the ballot.

10,562 represents 5% of the number of people who voted for mayor in 1975.



HOUSING

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

Housing is more than just a commodity or service. It is our shelter and our homes. It is a necessity, like food and clothing. Affordable Housing? It hardly seems to exist here for renters or homeowners.

Most of us know firsthand the symptoms of the housing crisis — skyrocketing rents, rampant speculation, more evictions, condominium conversions, and little new construction. The Supervisors' temporary ordinance has done nothing to remedy these problems. Their ordinance has actually encouraged evictions by allowing rents to be raised by any amount whenever a tenant leaves. Many rental units are in danger of being converted into luxury condominiums. The present law does nothing to encourage new housing or home ownership.

PROPOSITION R DOES WHAT'S NEEDED. It gives tenants the rights they need. It stops arbitrary, excessive rent increases, and encourages landlords to maintain and improve their properties. It exempts resident landlords of small buildings. It curtails conversion of rental units into condominiums. It discourages

speculation. It addresses homeowners' problems, such as renovation costs, the lengthy permit process, code inspections, and "in-law apartments." It creates funds for housing construction and rehabilitation.

PROPOSITION R MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL OF US TO CONTINUE LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION R.

*Yori Wada, Exec. Dir., Buchanan Y.M.C.A.
Aripino Cerbatos, Commissioner, Board of Permit Appeals
Nancy McKay, Senior Advisory Council of S.F.
Rev. Cecil Williams, Glide Memorial United Methodist Church
Monsignor James B. Flynn
Jennie Lew, Chief Planner, Chinatown Neighborhood Improvement Resource Center
Hon. Jule C. Johnson, Board of Education
Hon. Rodney Johnson
Peter Mendelsohn, Commissioner on Aging
Gwenn Craig, Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club
Hon. Jack Morrison
Prof. L. Ling-Chi Wang
Sheriff Eugene Brown
Hon. Eulalio Frausto
Hon. Frank Fitch
Jeryl McCray, Gay Rights Advocates
Hon. Bill Maher, Board of Education
Mary Vail, Chair, S.F. Commission on the Status of Women
Ann Kronenberg, Commissioner, Rent Arbitration Board*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

Homeowners need affordable housing, just like renters. Although Proposition 13 gave us some relief, most homeowners still face a tight squeeze.

We support Proposition R because it provides help for everyone, homeowners as well as renters. It relieves the housing squeeze by making more housing available.

Proposition R will help us make needed repairs and improvements by making low-interest loans available.

Proposition R will provide for reasonable building code inspections, so we're not discouraged from making repairs and improvements. If Proposition R passes, we can be assured that building inspectors would inspect only those things for which we've taken out a permit, rather than wandering through our entire home and requiring us to make all kinds of costly and unnecessary repairs.

Proposition R will stop rampant housing speculation, which helps only the speculators, banks, and realtors. Homeowners like us gain nothing, since when we sell our homes we have to buy or rent another home at those same speculative prices.

Proposition R will permit the construction of "in-law apartments," if approved by the surrounding neighborhood. This would give us added income.

Proposition R will make it possible for people who are presently renting to buy their own homes by using low-interest City loans that won't cost a penny of tax money.

So, vote Yes on Proposition R. It's good for homeowners. It's good for renters. It's good for San Francisco.

*Jeanne Hamer, Bernal Heights
Sharon Long, Haight
Jo Ann Clayton, Richmond
Warren Dougherty, Haight
Margaret Baran, Mission
Nancy Luberoff, Crocker-Amazon
Andrea Jepson, 1334 Ashbury Heights
Mollie and Sam Gold, Sunset*



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

We are tenant advocates who work on a daily basis with renters. Every day we see people who have been forced out of their homes by rent increases and evictions. Many of these people are Latino, Black, or Asian. Many are families with children. Many are elderly on fixed incomes. All are feeling the effects of skyrocketing rents. These people are victims of San Francisco's soaring housing costs. Our city is becoming a place in which only the very rich can afford to live.

Because we work daily with tenant problems we know that the temporary rent control law enacted by the Board of Supervisors provides very little protection for tenants. Since its inception, evictions have increased by more than 25%, and landlords have been encouraged to raise rents 7%, 13%, 19% or more. Clearly, the Supervisors' "Rent Control," written by the big real estate lobby, does not deal effectively with San Francisco's severe housing crisis, but only makes things worse.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

One thing San Francisco certainly needs is more housing. Everyone agrees on that. The problem is that no one is doing anything about it. The best the Supervisors could do was to create another "study commission," which is supposed to make "recommendations" sometime before the end of 1980! Meanwhile, the incredible burden of sky-high housing costs falls more heavily on San Franciscans, particularly on seniors and others on fixed incomes.

Proposition R **DOES** something to increase the supply of affordable housing in San Francisco. It shifts some of the existing Hotel Tax and Community Development funds to housing construction and rehabilitation, without increasing City taxes or expenditures one cent. It will make surplus City-owned land and buildings available for new housing at reasonable cost. It will speed up the permit process so builders can build more quickly. It will establish a City reven-

ue bond program — again, without costing the City a cent — to make low-interest loans for housing construction and rehabilitation, and to permit renters to buy their own homes. It will encourage the addition of "in-law apartments," with neighborhood approval, which will provide fast, low-cost additions to the housing stock, as well as extra income for homeowners.

Steven M. Birnbaum, Staff Attorney, Legal Assistance to the Elderly
George N. Woo, Chinatown Coalition for Better Housing
David Brigode, S.F. Tenants union
Alison Brennan, Women's Housing Action Committee
Mike Davis, S.F. Renters Alliance
Scott Weaver, People's Law School
Patricia D. Lee, S.F. Neighborhood Legal Assistance
Foundation (Chinatown-North Beach)
Kate Lambert, S.F. for Affordable Housing

So, vote yes on Proposition R. Vote for affordable housing, for construction jobs, and for a future San Francisco that includes YOU.

Vince Courtney, Exec. Sec., Local 400 S.E.I.U.
Wray Jacobs, Sec.-Treas., Bay District Council #2, S.E.I.U.
LeRoy King, Sec.-Treas., Local 6, I.L.W.U.
Charles Lamb, Pres., Hotel and Restaurant Employees
and Bartenders, Local 2
Stan Smith, Sec.-Treas., S.F. Building and Construction
Trades Council
Tim Twomey, Pres., S.F. Labor Council



HOUSING

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

Over 24,000 San Franciscans signed petitions to put Proposition R on the ballot. They were renters, homeowners, neighborhood residents, working people, and senior citizens.

The housing crisis must be resolved immediately. Proposition R does just that. It will insure that long-time residents will not continue to be forced from our city by skyrocketing rents and condominium conversions. It will make low-interest loans available for people to buy homes. It will increase new construction of rental and ownership housing which would be affordable by working people. **Proposition R is a comprehensive housing package.**

The City has failed to deal effectively with the housing crisis. San Francisco now has a feeble, short-term stopgap measure that encourages evictions because rents can be raised without limit for new tenants. The present measure encourages landlords to raise rents to the maximum guideline levels and allows landlords to impose whatever rents they wish, with the burden on the tenant to test the appeals process. Unlike Proposition R, the present ordinance does nothing to create new housing. **VOTE YES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION R.**

Supervisor Harry Britt

Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

Elderly and disabled people suffer the most when there's a housing crisis. Most of us are on meager fixed incomes. When the landlord tells us we have to pay an extra \$10 or \$20 a month, that means we eat less. When the rent goes up \$30, \$40, or \$50 a month, it's a disaster. Lately those kinds of rent increases have become routine.

Often we're told, "If you can't afford the new rent, move someplace else." But there's nowhere to move to. And even if you're lucky enough to find a place, it's unlikely to be any cheaper. It costs a lot to move and it's very upsetting to have to move away from your friends, neighbors, and the local stores.

We've lived here a long time. We deserve some protection. Our homes are most important to us. **HELP US STAY IN SAN FRANCISCO. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION R.**

Clarissa Ward, S.F. Gray Panthers
Graciela Cushion, Pres., Latin Amer. Nat. Senior Citizens Assoc.
Dolly Watson, Board of Dir., Senior Resources of Grace Cathedral
W. Earl Cranshaw, Citizens Advisory Council, Commission on Aging
Jack Kaufman, Calif. Legislative Council for Older Americans
Rev. Edward L. Peer, Minister for Seniors, Glide Church
Esther Coleman, S.F. Legislative Forum for Older Americans
Robert Rohaich, I.L.W.U. Pensioners
Marion Webb, 76 years old
George Lee, Ping Yuen Tenants Association
Frances Brown, Calif. Legislative Council for Older Americans
Carrie L. Carroll, S.F. Senior Center
Thomas H. Manley, Disabled Democratic Club
Kathi P. Smith, Bay Area Coalition for the Disabled & Elderly

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

Proposition 13 saved landlords a bundle. But the Jarvis-Gann promises to renters were empty. There were virtually no rebates. Instead, many landlords raised rents immediately after banking their windfall tax savings.

Renters' Alliance sponsored Proposition U — Renters' Rebate — on the November 1978 ballot. We lost by a slim margin against a half-million dollar barrage by the big real estate industry and downtown interests whose only concern in housing is quick profits — not people. These same special interests are eager to continue the immensely profitable destruction of our working class, multi-racial City.

This year, we have worked with other groups to develop a comprehensive housing program that deals with all aspects of San Francisco's severe housing crisis. **City Hall has failed again.** Renters must organize to win in November and stay organized to make rent control really work.

Vote YES on R! YES on Rent Control. The HOME you save may be your own!

San Francisco RENTERS' ALLIANCE

Jacques Bertrand
Alison Brennan
Mike Davis
Ron Green
Michael Harney
John Kwasnik
Catherine Murray

Michael Noon
Charlotte Krause Prozan
Jeff Roby
Dan Roland
Sister Susan Serena
Glover Tellfair Jr.
J. Scott Weaver



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION R

San Francisco has become a city in which only the wealthy can afford to purchase homes. Renters are finding it impossible to locate affordable apartments. San Francisco's Mayor and Board of Supervisors have repeatedly refused to accept the challenge of solving the City's greatest crisis today — affordable housing for apartment dwellers and new home-owners.

Proposition "R" is a giant step toward correcting this problem. It is a tough measure that puts the lid on soaring apartment rents and prevents unjust and retaliatory evictions. It also provides for election by district of a rent control board, thereby eliminating manipulation by future Mayors.

Experienced real estate owners and bankers know that the problem is not going to go away by itself. One year ago many renters and homeowners joined with apartment owners to defeat Proposition U, based on the belief that rents would be stabilized, and that Proposition 13 tax savings would be shared fairly with all tenants. I was one of those people.

Times have changed dramatically in just one short year. Rents have NOT stabilized and tax savings have not been shared with tenants. It is necessary that housing costs be controlled immediately by the passage of Proposition "R," before all moderate and low income people are driven from San Francisco.

The enactment of Proposition "R" must be only the first step in solving San Francisco's housing crisis. Following its enactment San Franciscans must pass a dynamic Municipal Bond issue in excess of 100 million dollars to help finance moderate and low income homes and apartments, using low-cost loans.

Affordable Housing for all San Franciscans will be possible only with the passage of Proposition "R."

David Scott
Mayoral Candidate
(Former President of San Francisco Board of Permit Appeals)

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION R

SAN FRANCISCO IS THREATENED BY A PROPOSAL THAT CLAIMS TO SOLVE OUR HOUSING PROBLEMS BUT ACTUALLY WOULD MAKE THEM WORSE. THE THREAT IS PROPOSITION R, THE HOUSING LIMITATION/RENT CONTROL LAW.

The chief problem affecting San Francisco renters is the shortage of affordable housing. The reason is simple: demand is greater than supply. We need more rental housing in San Francisco, not laws that will put an end to new construction and encourage rental property owners to pull their units off the market. Although proponents would like you to believe otherwise, Proposition R is a formula for neighborhood deterioration, rental property decay and a worsened housing shortage. It does nothing to increase the housing supply.

THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF OVERLY RESTRICTIVE RENT CONTROL MEASURES can be seen in community after community with housing laws like Proposition R. Whether it's Berkeley, California or Washington, D.C., Dade County, Florida or New York City, renters along with homeowners suffer. Taxes go up, building maintenance goes down. It becomes harder and harder to find a decent place

to live. Students in Berkeley this fall have discovered their new rent control law has backfired. The housing shortage is greater than it ever was before.

PROPOSITION R WILL MEAN GOVERNMENT AND BUREAUCRACY GROW WHILE WE LOSE OUR PERSONAL FREEDOM TO CHOOSE HOW AND WHERE WE LIVE.

The Housing Limitation/Rent Control Law will centralize all housing decisions in an 11-member government board and outlaw mutual agreements between renters and owners that may not conform to this new regulation. In a city that prides itself on individualism, decentralization and community control, Proposition R would be a step backwards. Do we really need a new bureaucracy that will exercise power over our lives that even the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors do not have?

The answer is no. VOTE NO ON HOUSING SHORTAGES. NO ON PROPOSITION R.

Toby Rosenblatt, President, City Planning Commission
John F. Henning, Jr., San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
John Jacobs, Member, SFSHP
Claire C. Pilcher, Vice-President, Public Utilities Commission



HOUSING

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION R

Proposition R is wrong for San Francisco. Whether you rent, own, or ever intend to purchase property in the city, the proposed Housing Limitation/Rent Control Law will interfere with your personal housing decisions.

Proposition R creates a Government Housing Board empowered to dictate public policy for every conceivable aspect of housing in San Francisco. This Board will impose stringent, unrealistic rent controls that will aggravate rather than help solve our current housing crisis. Our goal must be to increase the supply of affordable housing by reducing red tape regulations and other government controls which discourage new construction. We need positive programs — not negative approaches like Proposition R — which will shrink San Francisco's housing supply further. Another rent control program is unnecessary — we already have one. Proposition R is part of San Francisco's housing problem — not a solution.

Proposition R is an ill-conceived housing experiment with cumbersome provisions and red tape requirements that will create unlimited costs to taxpayers.

Because the Rental Housing Board gets its revenues from fees which it establishes, it never has to ask the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors for an appropriation and, accordingly, is not subject to the budgetary controls applicable to other city departments. Proposition R calls for unlimited hiring of hearing examiners, accountants, legal counsel, clerical staff, housing inspectors, transcribers and others. San Francisco renters and owners will be forced to pay for this new government body through required petition filing and annual rental unit registration fees.

Proposition R's 8,500-plus words of complicated rules, regulations and "legalese" would become a permanent part of the City Charter. As such, it could not be repealed or even amended without a costly election. The fact is, Proposition R will permanently end any opportunity for meaningful and positive solutions to San Francisco's housing problems.

I urge you to vote no on Proposition R.

Quentin Kopp

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION R

Vote No on Proposition R. Rigid, restrictive rent control will not solve San Francisco's housing problems. It's been tried elsewhere. It doesn't work. It will expand the city's bureaucracy, increase the cost of government and actually reduce the supply of housing. We need MORE HOUSING, NOT LESS.

Rent control in New York meant 300,000 units of abandoned housing and new slums. In Washington, D.C. 3,000 units of housing are lost annually, victims of rent control. Proposition R ignores the fact that San Francisco is setting a model for the nation by effective action against rent gouge.

The Rental Stabilization and Arbitration Board is doing the job. With 60 hearing officers, all serving free of charge, actually settling tenant complaints, landlords increasingly are dropping threatened rent increases. The board, which I proposed and which the Board of Supervisors approved in June, already has proven it can force landlords to comply with the strict standards of the stabilization ordinance. From the outset, the board made it clear it would be tough but fair, and of the first batch of decisions it handed

down, 12 favored tenants and one, a landlord. The hearing officers, speaking a variety of languages, can hear 20 or more cases a day, and their collective impact will be to hold rents down.

Rental arbitration assures guidelines with which tenant and property owners can live. Unlike the drastic extreme of controls, it will prevent profiteering but won't discourage the construction of rental units the City so desperately needs. We need MORE HOUSING, NOT LESS.

Proposition R would have the same tragic impact on our community that rent control had elsewhere in the United States — wherever it was tried. Proposition R means less housing, not more. It doesn't solve the housing problem. It means more government bureaucracies, more government cost, more government interference with your life.

Vote NO on Proposition R. Give our Rental Arbitration Board a chance.

Dianne Feinstein
Mayor of San Francisco

Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION R

On November 7, 1978, the voters of this city, including many tenants, voted against rent control by defeating Proposition U. Considering the history and economics of rent control, they showed good judgement. We urge them to do so again, by voting against proposition R.

This country is in the midst of an economic crisis: a crisis brought on by the reckless and self-serving monetary policies of the Federal government. That crisis is inflation, which results in constantly rising prices, wages, and rents. It is a vicious and destructive policy and one which can only be stopped at its source: Washington, D.C. Local action, such as rent control, which is designed to attack only the symptoms of inflation, will simply compound the problem. We do not serve the cause of justice by scapegoating a certain portion of the community for the inevitable results of inflation, be it working people, consumers or landlords.

Make no mistake about it: as tenants, we are sick and tired of rents that keep rising. However, we do not believe that imposing another layer of meddling

bureaucracy will do anything whatsoever about the fundamental problem we face. The economic consequences of rent control elsewhere have been all too clear, and to assert that somehow it will be different here is ludicrous.

The long-term effects of rent control are ruinous. Maintenance and upkeep of buildings declines, not to mention construction of new buildings. Berkeley, for example, is already facing a severe housing shortage due to the strict rent control measure passed last year. Housing is already scarce in San Francisco and Proposition R will only make it worse.

We urge all our fellow tenants to vote against Proposition R.

Tenants Against Rent Control

*David Lampo
Eric Garris
Bart Lee
Michael Miyakis
Justin Raimondo
Christine Dorffi
Bob Costello
Jim Skalican*

*Michael Lipson
Jonnie Gilman
Roy Childs
Joan Kennedy Taylor
Sue Costello
Victoria Varga
Robin Fightmaster
Al Heitzman*

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TEXT OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE ORDINANCE PROPOSITION R

Be It ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

TITLE I: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to remedy serious housing problems which endanger the public health and welfare of the people of San Francisco, especially senior citizens, people on fixed incomes, and people with low and moderate incomes who are forced to spend an excessive percentage of their income for housing.

This ordinance will address these housing problems in a unified and comprehensive manner, ease the hardship caused by these serious housing problems, protect and provide housing for low- and moderate-income persons, increase new housing construction, preserve the character of the existing housing stock and assure that housing costs are at fair and reasonable levels which, in the case of rental housing, allow landlords a fair and reasonable return on investment.

TITLE II: DEFINITIONS

In this ordinance:

A. The **Base Rent** for any controlled unit is the lowest rent charged for that unit between November 1, 1978 and October 31, 1979, plus that percentage of the rent charged on November 1, 1978 equal to the percentage increase in the Rental Component of the Consumer Price Index from November 1, 1978 to October 31, 1979. If no rent was in effect on November 1, 1978, the base rent shall be the rent first charged for that unit after November 1, 1978, plus that percentage of the rent first charged after November 1, 1978 equal to the percentage increase in the Rental Component of the Consumer Price Index from the date the rent was first charged to October 31, 1979. In no case, however, shall the base rent be greater than the rent in effect for the controlled unit on November 1, 1979.

(Continued on Page 119)

THE BASIC FACTS ABOUT PROPOSITION P

We know that the share of taxes paid by Big Business has declined each year. This has meant that the quality of our public services has gone down greatly. We need and deserve decent human services — like good health care, education, childcare, public housing, transportation, safe homes, streets and parks. It is the duty of the government to provide these and many other services to our community.

How would Proposition P work?

The Initiative would make it a law in San Francisco that Big Business has to pay at least 60% of all revenue generated in the city. Then the Board of Supervisors would have to set up the specific tax structure so that this happens. Any new tax on individuals or any increase in existing taxes on individuals would be prohibited.

At the same time, the Board of Supervisors would have to set up the city's budget so that a minimum of 80% is allocated for services like health care, housing, transportation and schools. This minimum would have

to be increased every year to take inflation into account. This way, the tax burden would be shifted off our backs, and a high level of services would be guaranteed at the same time.

Prop P would change the laws to say:

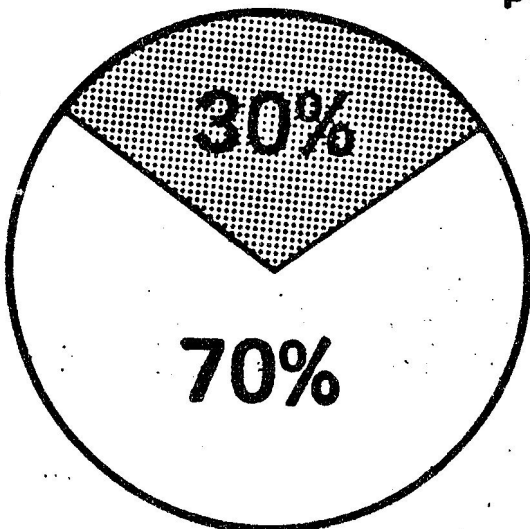
1) That Big Business pay 60% of the money raised locally to run our city. Now they pay only 30%. We want the law to shift the burden off our backs and onto theirs.

2) That city services be at least at the level they were before the double-digit inflation of 1974. Since then, the amount of money spent on city services did not keep up with inflation. The city must be able to buy supplies and equipment at today's prices — and give city workers their cost-of-living increases.

3) That Big Business be charged even higher taxes if they lay people off here in San Francisco and try to move their business elsewhere. We know that they will threaten to run away and we want to make it very hard for them to do.

This is what is:

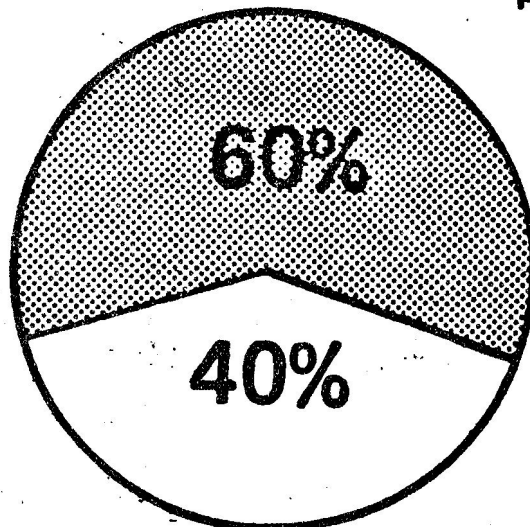
Big Business
pays 30%



We now pay 70%

This is what we want:

Big Business should
pay 60%



GRA/RWO

Why We Believe the People Need Prop P

Some individuals, especially at the Chamber of Commerce, are saying that the Grass Roots Alliance is a front for the Rebel Workers who are a front for the City Workers who are really a plot against decency and economy in government. While the Chamber's charges are absurd to the thousands of GRA volunteers and tiresome to the Rebel Workers, both organizations felt that we should jointly make a statement about the reasons and feelings that are responsible for our support for Prop P.

We, as volunteers working for Prop P, agree with the statement of belief found in the text of the proposition:

"It is the duty of the government to provide to the population fundamental community services—for example, health care for our sick and elderly, education for our children and ourselves, public childcare, quality public housing, income assistance for the unemployed, safe public transportation, safe homes and streets, good parks and recreation centers, a safe and non-polluted environment, and a rich cultural and artistic life . . ."

What does it mean, "it is the duty of the government to provide fundamental community services"? It means that the authors of Prop P and the 16,844 registered voters who signed the petition to put it on the ballot believe that a democratic government should be "of, for and by the people," a popular government whose duty it is to serve the whole community and promote the general welfare of all the people. It means that the supporters of Prop P do NOT believe that government should be run for, by and of Big Business, or selfish special interests, serving only the privileged, the advantaged, the ruthless or uncaring people.

ALL the people, employed and unemployed, white, black, Asian or Latin: all have needs and ALL have fundamental human rights. The real human rights are not just "free speech." The human rights that really count are: the right to a decent life, a decent job, a right for children to grow up with dignity, a right to education, housing and health, and a right to beauty, to green parks and clean streets and open spaces. But who is to guarantee these rights? Is not a democratically elected government, responsible for the welfare of the community, the proper agency to assure these rights and fulfill basic human needs?

We know that there are those persons, mostly rich, but not all rich, who have a very different view of government. These people believe that "government should stay out of things . . ." These people believe that it is fine for government to make strikes illegal, pay city workers starvation wages, let black children go to racist and inferior schools, let the elderly live

in poverty, dining on dog food . . . In short, they believe that the duty of government is to help the rich get richer. Then there are those people who believe the "Big Lies": big lies like "the workers cause inflation" or "the unions cause big government"; or who simply are so selfish and short-sighted that they don't care about anyone or anything other than themselves . . . and then howl and scream for blood and punishment when the jobless rob, or the children without hope mug them on the streets, or when the dispossessed pull down City Hall around their ears.

We also know that there are many more people in this country who are decent people, who want to live in a decent community and want everyone to have a fair chance in life, who want peace and security for themselves and others, who realize that the hungry and desperate will steal, that the bitter and angry will destroy property and lives in an inarticulate expression of protest and rage, who know, really know, that "no man is an island, no man stands alone . . ." and that what befalls my neighbor befalls me. Prop P was written and put onto the ballot by such people, to bring about a decent community, to begin to fight back against the Big Business interests who stand behind Jarvis and Prop 13, who stand behind Gann and Prop 4, who stand behind Feinstein and the sellout, impoverishment and ruin of our city.

Prop P does stand for the people—for all the people, for the community, and for a government which does not strangle the people to make the big corporations and monopolies ever bigger, more powerful, richer, at the expense of our labor and our quality and style of life. Prop P does stand for justice, saying that the wealthiest, the beneficiaries of our labor, the privileged, have an obligation to those who are not wealthy, powerful, privileged—that is, an obligation to contribute to the general welfare of all the people of the community. In this country, where brutality, poverty and class injustice daily grows more oppressive, it is no surprise that the Chamber of Commerce finds Prop P "silly"—what is more silly than to think that Chamber businessmen care about anything except their profits? But we do not find it silly to refuse to sacrifice everything to guard profits which are no profit to us, a selfish profit which creates a world of violence, selfishness, dirt and anger.

Proposition P is a popular, grassroots move to make the future of San Francisco safe for the people who live in it; to assure the general welfare; to protect the interests of the people; to meet our needs as a community and as citizens, workers and individuals. Vote for the people, vote for the community, vote yes for Prop P.

An Open Letter to the Boys Downtown

Is Proposition P "just about the silliest measure to appear on the San Francisco ballot"? Now, we don't think so, and neither do thousands of people in this city, but that's what the Chamber of Commerce says. About the only thing we can say to the Chamber is: you seem pretty agitated about something that's so silly, and it's leading you to make some pretty wild threats. So what's it all about, boys?

You say that the Grass Roots Alliance is nothing but a "front group" for some disgruntled city workers. Don't you wish that were true? Sorry, it isn't. The GRA (and it does include some pretty angry city workers) is a "front group" all right, but a front group for the majority of people in this city, who are fed up with filthy streets, a broken down MUNI, dirty parks and closed schools, and all the taxes you boys NEVER pay!

And if there's anything that tires us more than the abuses which your crony Dianne Feinstein subjects us to, it's the enormous windfall profits that corporations are making these days, like the millions of dollars you saved from Prop 13.

PROP P BLUES



I'm terribly sorry sir, but in the process of cutting out programs for the poor we inadvertently cut out a program for the rich.

Old Tricks From Old Dogs

You say that Proposition P means a tax increase for everyone. That's the same old phony baloney scare tactics you used with Mayor Moscone's attempt to raise business taxes, Prop K. The same old threats and scare tactics you drag out year after year. Sorry again—Proposition P means a decrease in the people's taxes and an increase in yours. You tried that illogic once already by telling us that Prop 13 would be good for us—and look who came out on top: Big Business. Well, this time we know who's to benefit and who's to lose. This time it's our ball game.

Having failed with every other lie, you're left with the Big Ones: that it's really the small business people

who will suffer under Proposition P, that Proposition P means prices will go up, and that it means businesses will pick up and leave town. Well, three strikes and you're out.

You might like to believe that a small business is a thing of the past—and you might even be doing everything you can to make it true. But why do you see so many "Yes on P" signs in small stores around town? Because 78% of all businesses in the city would be exempt from Proposition P, because they're small. That's 90% of the auto repair shops, 88% of the hardware stores, 90% of the grocery stores, 80% of the drug stores, 94% of the dry cleaners, and 92% of the beauty shops. And we can document it.

Higher Prices?

And you might like to believe you can blame higher prices on our struggle for better services. But you'll have a tough time with it, because we see prices going up and up and up every day no matter how you pay (or don't pay) your taxes. You might think we're too dumb to read the price on the gas pump. You might also think we're too stupid to notice that our prices don't go down when your taxes do. Your taxes have been falling for 13 years, while prices have gone sky high. So you really can't threaten to punish us with what you do every day, taxes or no taxes. Well, you should think twice, is what you should think!

Drive Businesses Out?

You should also realize that we have too much at stake here to be pushed around by your arrogant scare tactics. The same goes for your threat that businesses will leave town. We've done our homework on that one too, and we know that taxes are not the major reason why you choose to locate or relocate. Does looking for cheaper labor sound like a more familiar reason? It does to us. Do you really think we believe you're going to dig up the Transamerica building and ship it to Brazil?

Being as how we are not fools, however, we did feel it important to add a little incentive to Proposition P to encourage you to stick around town: namely that it will cost you 20% of any payroll reduction over \$100,000 as an extra tax to the city.

Phoocy On You

Big lies may work once, like they worked in your deceitful campaign last year against Prop K. But they don't work twice. So we look forward to debating you again, Mr. Chamber of Commerce. Any time, any place. The "people's front" group against the "corporations' front" group. Because ultimately it's the people who have the last word.



78% Are Exempt

An Encouraging Word to Small Business People

We who support Proposition P know the position small business people find yourselves in these days. You're squeezed hard by the giant monopoly corporations, and by the banks with their rising interest rates. The tax laws are written to favor the big corporations at your expense.

We know these things, and that's why Proposition P, the Initiative to Tax the Corporations, is aimed at Big Business, at the downtown corporations who run this town and who don't pay their fair share of taxes. They're the ones we're after.

Proposition P specifically exempts from any increased taxes any business with fewer than 6 employees and less than \$500,000 in gross receipts. Using data from the Tax Collector's office and business sources, we've calculated that 78% of all San Francisco businesses would be exempt: 90% of the auto repair shops, 88% of the hardware stores, 90% of the grocery stores, 80% of the drug stores, 94% of the dry cleaners, and 92% of the beauty shops.

These are the facts of Proposition P. If the Chamber of Commerce tries to tell you otherwise, don't believe them; they have to be distorting or falsifying information. All they want is to

defeat us, so they can keep laughing all the way to the bank at your and our expense.

To the middle-sized businesses, we want you to know that we are completely in support of a graduated tax structure for businesses that are covered by Proposition P, if it passes. You should pay less than the giant monopolies. If Proposition P passes, we will work hard to see that the Board of Supervisors provides that such a graduated tax structure is set up.

We urge you as well, however, to watch out for the Chamber of Commerce who will work to shift the tax burden off of the big corporations and onto you. This we will work to prevent.

Documentation for the Small Business Exemption

We figured out how many businesses would be exempt under Proposition P by using a directory called *Contact's Influential* and the Tax Collector's records.

First, we used *Contact's Influential* to tell us the number of businesses in San Francisco with one to five employees (23,175 businesses). From that we subtracted the businesses that are exempt from taxes—banks, insurance companies, etc.—a total of 399 businesses. Since we knew that small hotels and apartments were not included in this calculation, we used the Tax Collector's data to estimate that there were 8,451 small hotel and apartment businesses in the city. This came to a total of 24,065 businesses with less than 6 employees out of a total number of 30,670 businesses. That means 78% of all San Francisco businesses would be exempt under Proposition P. According to Tax Collector data, over 80% of all San Francisco businesses have gross receipts under \$500,000, and thereby are exempt.

**Prop P Will
Wipe Out U.S.
Sez Downtown Boys**

Prop P is no laughing matter. On the other hand, the "argument" against Prop P, in the Voter's Handbook, is a real knee-slapper. According to the Chamber of Commerce: "Proposition P attempts to repeal parts of the United States Constitution, to amend the California Constitution, to revise several state laws, and to wipe out parts of the City Charter. And while it's ripping apart our legal system, Proposition P will also raise taxes."

This so-called "argument" raises a number of questions: 1) Does the U.S. Constitution guarantee minuscule taxes on huge corporations? 2) Does the California Constitution prohibit decent human services for working people? 3) Does the City Charter require unemployment and shut-down schools? Indeed they do, claims the Chamber of Commerce.

Now, the real question that's raised, the question behind these questions, is: Has the Chamber of Commerce flipped its collective cork?

Not only do the Menacing Merchants of Montgomery Street threaten to pack their bags and charge us \$10 for a slice of grapefruit, they want us to believe that a vote for Prop P is a vote to secede from the United States, California and San Francisco.

Whereas some may think that's not a bad idea, we have to admit, Prop P won't make it happen. What will happen? You guessed it. Big Business will have to pay its fair share of taxes.

Now clearly no one is about to believe the Chamber's paranoid drivél. We think the real message the Chamber wants to get across is: "You can't win. Even if you pass P, we'll tie it up for years with harraldone of th...

Chamber Cries Wolf

Runaways - An Empty Threat

Fed Up With Feinstein? Can't Stand Kopp?

RWO/GRA: VOTE FOR DAVID SCOTT

Since the assassination, we have been committed to finding a real alternative to the reign of Feinstein/Kopp. We searched for months, interviewing candidates at length. Finally, we think, and we are happy to say, that yes, there is a choice for Mayor in 1979. That choice is David Scott.

The people of San Francisco have a long, rich, progressive tradition. Four years ago we voted for George Moscone, as an expression of our progressive hopes. Can it be that now we are stuck with Feinstein or Kopp?

We want to say that neither of those two green-backed frauds are acceptable. We won't take either one of them lying down. As far as we're concerned, a contest between Kopp and Feinstein is no contest at all. It's a bitter defeat for the majority of working class people in San Francisco.

David Scott is a good man. He's not just a nice guy, or the best of a bad bunch. We think he's for real. We think the stands he is taking are for real. We think he should be elected Mayor.

On the key propositions of this year, Scott has come out for taxing the corporations (Yes on Prop P), rent control (Yes on Prop R) and a limitation on highrises (Yes on Prop O). Although we disagree with his position on Prop O, we think these stands, plus his proposals to make the police more responsive to the neighborhoods, do establish his credentials and his concern for the majority of people in this city, not just the corporate interests.



Scott has made the issue of full city services central to his campaign. Feinstein talks about maintaining essential services while draining the money necessary to provide those services. Kopp doesn't even pretend. On the other hand, Scott supports Prop P. If you're going to stand behind full city services, then the money has to come from somewhere. And that somewhere has to be the big undertaxed corporations who have been getting a free ride in this city for too long. We think Scott's support for P is real, not rhetoric. He understands the problem and what must be done to solve it. In addition, he opposes the contracting out of city services to private corporations. This scheme, supported by Feinstein/Kopp, leads to the further enrichment of the big corporations while ruining the

services that do exist and causing higher unemployment.

Scott has made clear his concern for women and his commitment to stand up for women's rights. He pledges to redress the total imbalance that exists in city management where "\$5 of 56 department heads are men." He will also establish a needed office in the District Attorney's office to respond to victims of rape and sexual abuse. He has announced his support for the ERA boycott, a measure Kopp opposes and Feinstein could only get behind for 45 days.

His record on the Board of Permit Appeals supports his statements. He consistently fought for and took positions in favor of the elderly and disadvantaged who are being steamrollered out of the city. He also fought to maintain neighborhood health centers, too many of which are being slashed by Proposition 13.

Finally, Scott has not succumbed to the demagogic appeal of Proposition 4 on this year's ballot. Like its predecessor, Prop 13, Prop 4 will hurt those of us who can least afford to lose anything.

As we said, David Scott is a good man. We want to get votes for the guy because we think he's our best candidate for Mayor. A vote for Scott is a vote for humane government in San Francisco. For every vote is, as Scott says, a message to City Hall. It's a message to the Dianne Feinsteins and Quentin Koppes that we do not want Big Business running our affairs.

At this point, David Scott is a long shot. But the election is far from over. He's a long shot, but he's our best shot. Vote for David Scott!

Everyone knows that the big corporations try to do anything they can to increase their profits, to get richer at our expense. Sometimes that means laying people off, sometimes it means trying to stop us from unionizing, sometimes it means raising prices, sometimes it means picking up and going somewhere else to operate.

And sometimes it means doing all of these things. That's the way corporations operate. But will Proposition P make the corporations leave San Francisco? We don't think so, and here's why.

First of all, the corporations have deliberately made San Francisco into a regional and world corporate headquarters. Are the Bank of America, Southern Pacific and Standard Oil going to pick up and move their giant buildings, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build in the first place? Are they going to dig them out of the ground, put them on a truck, and move them somewhere else? No.

Secondly, the corporations' customers are here. PG&E, Pacific Telephone and the banks provide their services to the other corporations here and to everyone who lives in San Francisco. They can't go somewhere else and still do business here.

Thirdly, in past years when business taxes have increased, the corporations didn't leave. In

fact, the number of businesses paying over \$500 in business taxes actually increased in San Francisco between 1974 and 1976, while the payroll expense tax was increased in 1975.

Finally, studies show that factors such as finding cheaper labor are the more important reasons why businesses move, not higher taxes. A 1976 study by the Association of Bay Area Governments found no evidence to support the idea that businesses leave because of local taxes. A January 1979 Congressional study of 1,300 corporations in 10 cities showed that taxes are a minor factor in businesses deciding whether to relocate.

Even so, corporations will threaten us with moving if we try to tax them more. Never mind that what's at stake is the quality of services and the quality of life in our community, Big Business will hold that threat over our heads. That's why there's a clause in Proposition P which states that when a business reduces its payroll by more than \$100,000 in any year, it must pay 20% of that reduction as a tax to the city to compensate for the disruption of the community and our lives and jobs. This money has to be used to help the unemployed and their families.

Crying about "moving out of town" is like crying "wolf" on the part of the corporations—a scare tactic to try to keep us from fighting for better services, more jobs and a fair tax system.

Endorsements for Prop P

Inner Sunset Community Store • Haight Community Food Store • Black Leadership Forum • Stone-wall Democratic Club • Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club • Council of Democratic Clubs • Northwest Bernal Block Club • People Against Nuclear Power • District One Political Action • Democratic League of San Francisco • Renters' Alliance • Greater Mission Democratic Club • San Francisco Central Labor Council • Hospital and Institutional Workers No. 250, SEIU • Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Local 2 • Civil Service Association Local 400, SEIU • International Association of Machinists No. 68 • Retail Clerks No. 1100 • Transport Workers Local 250A • Candidates for Mayor: Cesar Ascarunz, Joe Hughes, David Scott • Candidates for Supervisor, District 5: Harry Britt, Kay Pachner, Steve Perkins, Dennis Peron, Joel Ventresca, Howard Wallace • Candidates for Supervisor, District 7: Enola Maxwell, Victor Medaris • Candidate for Supervisor, District 9: Earl Gilman • Candidate for Supervisor, District 11: Eric Moncur • Rev. William W. Young, Associate, Most Holy Redeemer Church • Gene Coleman • Sam Jordan • Dr. Hope Corey • Kristen Lucid, Public Health Educator • Patricia Helton, President, Bernal Heights Association • Rev. Jim Heintzemeier, Pastor, Bayview Lutheran Church • Rev. José Luis Lina, Pastor, La Iglesia del Buen Samaritano • Chinese American Democratic Club

"You can't win. Even if you pass P, we'll tie it up for years with battalions of three-piece lawyers."

What the Chamber also knows, but doesn't want anybody else to know, is that Proposition P is based on Home Rule.

Home Rule is found in Article XI, Section 5 of the California Constitution. According to one California official, it provides cities the authority to serve the interests of local residents. More specifically, it provides that a chartered city (San Francisco) can impose taxes to raise needed revenue. The "special tax" provision of Proposition 13 does not apply to chartered cities. A 2/3 majority is not necessary to pass Prop P. The limitations as to the type of tax cities can impose will not hamper the Board of Supes in implementing Prop P. All they have to do is increase the rates of already existing business taxes.

The little men in the white coats will soon be coming to get the Chamber of Commerce as the election draws near. More and more people are hearing of Prop P and liking what they hear.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce will be scurrying hither and thither, screaming wildly to anyone in earshot that Disaster is about to befall us! Apocalypse is right around the corner! San Francisco will turn into a Pillar of Salt!

Now, tell us fellow voters, ain't it nice. Just one time, ain't it nice to see them sweat.

Volunteer To Help Pass Prop P!

If you can post a Prop P sign at home,
call 821-3055
or drop by our office:

Grass Roots Alliance
3229 Mission St.
San Francisco

Proposition 4 is the most dangerous item on the state ballot this year—and if passed, it will be an utter disaster for San Francisco. This measure would place a limit on state and local government spending and would actually prohibit state and local governments from providing an adequate level of public services. Even if the funds to maintain such a level were raised by a city or county that wanted to improve services, Prop 4 would prohibit funds in excess of its arbitrary limit from being spent!

Who's behind Prop 4 and what do they want? Let's be clear. Even if it is being peddled to the public by supposed "liberals" like Leo McCarthy, Prop 4 is really a creature of right-winger Reagan and like-minded neanderthals. The idea of a spending limit was first proposed to Californians by Reagan while he was Governor in 1973 (and decisively defeated by voters). So it's no surprise that Prop 4's main author was one of Reagan's advisers, and that he was assisted by a host of other reactionary "experts." Paul Gann, the chief sponsor (whom we already know from Prop 13), is a salesman and public relations type—which explains how he can try to use the political process to sell us the Big Lie.

And if anyone thinks Prop 4 is a "grassroots" proposition, check out the list of campaign contributors—which includes the California

Chamber of Commerce, Southern Pacific, Standard Oil of California, Wells Fargo, and the Bank of America. No way any campaign raising hundreds of thousands of dollars from that collection of corporate interests is going to be "grassroots."

And now they're trying to raise over a million dollars to con the people of California into believing that Prop 4 would benefit the majority by reducing taxes. The right-wing hucksters never mention that this amounts to slashing—in some cases eliminating—the services most people need and have come to depend on.

It's the same number they pulled with Prop 13. Remember Howard Jarvis up there holding out visions of tax savings to small homeowners and John Q. Citizen? And what did we really get? We got huge savings for the big downtown corporations—and no savings for most of us.

And we got disastrous service cutbacks from Prop 13. This fall we have all our public schools closed or staffed by scabs, because the Board of Education is going along with the Prop 13 budget cuts and layoffs. Thanks to Prop 13, even without Prop 4, there is a projected budget deficit of up to \$170 million for San Francisco for next year. We have serious threats of a four-day week for city employees, including police, fire, and hospital workers. We have

massive cutbacks in mental health programs and possibly thousands of layoffs of city employees.

Prop 4 is particularly disastrous for San Francisco. It provides that budget increases be limited to the rate of inflation and the rate of population growth; since San Francisco's population is declining, it would suffer the most. In addition, Prop 4 attacks our rights to home rule as a chartered city; it takes decisions about the budget out of our hands and puts them into the hands of fat-cat politicians in Sacramento.

But—surprise—while Prop 4 is bad news for the working people of San Francisco, it's just more goodies for the biggest corporations. One provision exempts the proceeds of bond sales from the spending limit, and another guarantees repayment to banks and bondholders. This not only helps the banks, but also keeps the door open for more ripoffs like Yerba Buena which are financed by bonds.

Prop 4 is an all-out attack on our services and standard of living. We cannot afford to ignore it. That's why we have to show the right wing and corporate backers of Prop 4 that we're not the suckers or fools they think we are. That's why—especially in San Francisco—we have to get out on November 6 and VOTE NO ON PROP 4, at the same time that we VOTE YES ON PROP P.

**NO MORE TAXES!
CUT
OFF
WELFARE!**



**NO RIGHTS FOR GAYS!
NO RIGHTS
FOR
BLACKS.
EITHER!**



**WE NEED MORE
POLICE POWER!
MORE
DEATH
PENALTIES!**



**WE NEED TO GO BACK
TO THE
WAY IT
WAS!**



* **CHEER UP AND SEE INSIDE!!** *



Burmed Out About the Whole Truth?

DO YOU HAVE THE BUDGET BLAHS?



Gave up on Mickey Mouse for Mayor?

Don't know what to do about Feinstein?



FEELING DEPRESSED ABOUT ELECTIONS?

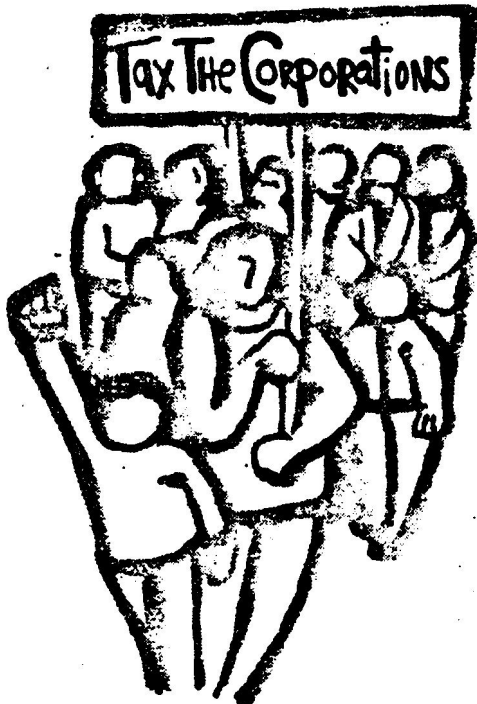
WE'VE GOT A PROPOSITION

YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

Proposition P

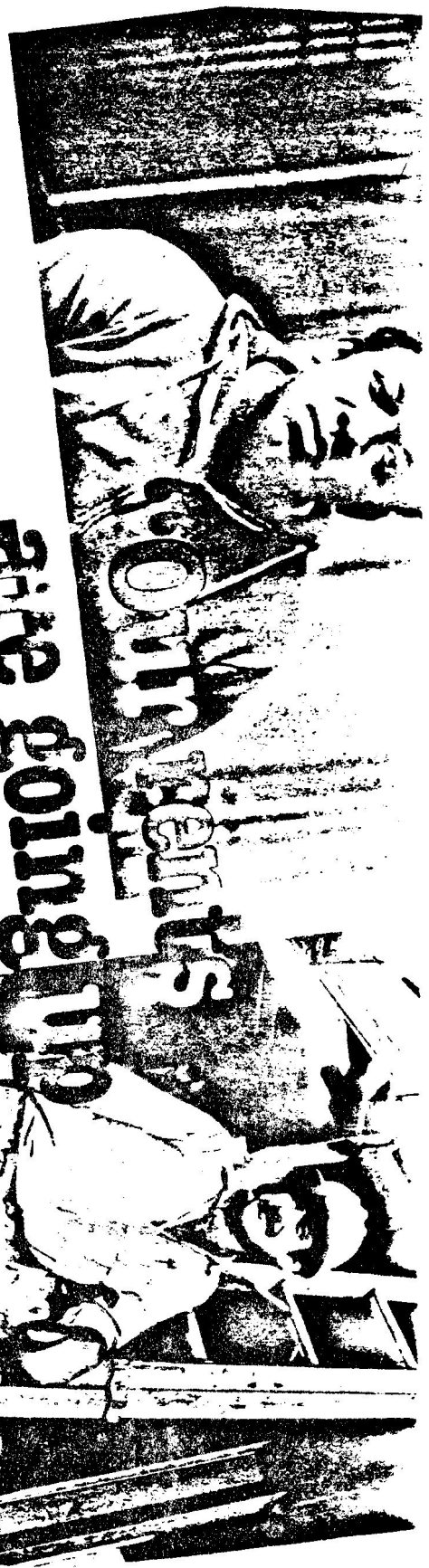
**All you ever wanted
to know about P**

and possibly a little more!



Paid for by the Committee to Tax the Corporations
3229 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 821-3569





Our parents

are going to

live as fast

as inflation



We're doing something about it!!



Yes: BRORR!

For Affordable Housing



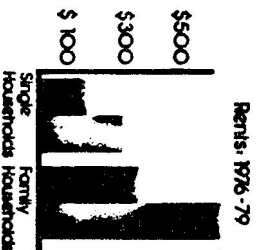
"The present law is inadequate. Its weaknesses have resulted in increased evictions and artificially inflated rents. It does nothing to increase the supply of housing. All this makes it nearly impossible to find affordable housing in San Francisco. We need Proposition R.

— Commissioner Anne Kronenberg
Rent Arbitration Board

Yes. Prop R is fair, effective Rent Control.

Prop R means renters will no longer have to fear uncontrolled rent hikes. Proposition R allows rent increases only to cover actual increases in landlords' costs, while assuring property owners a fair profit.

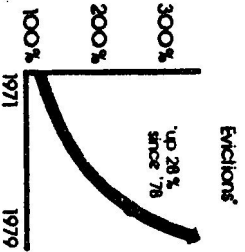
If a landlord wants a larger increase, he or she must first apply to a Rental Housing Board elected by and responsible to the people of their District. Both landlords and tenants may appeal decisions. These controls apply to the apartment, not just a tenant's stay in the apartment. Unlike the deceptive current law, Prop. R means rents can't be raised on an apartment just because a tenant moves out.



Yes. Prop R gives renters Housing Security.

Proposition R will eliminate arbitrary evictions. At last, tenants will have an effective Bill of Rights that limits evictions to "just causes," such as non-payment of rent, disorderly conduct, damage to property, or the landlord's wish to live permanently in the apartment.

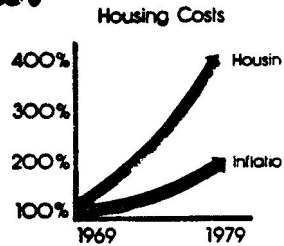
Under present law, evictions are actually encouraged because landlords can then raise the rent as high as they want. Proposition R closes this legal loophole and protects tenants from landlord abuse. Prop R will require landlords to pay the moving costs for tenants when the reason for eviction is not the tenant's fault.



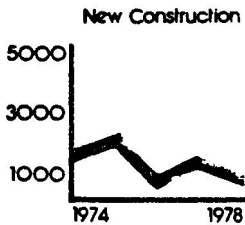
Yes. Prop R stops Housing Speculators.

Proposition R will not allow speculators to pass on inflated sales prices and financing costs to tenants in the form of higher rents. Prop R calls for further measures against speculators who buy and resell rental housing solely to drive up prices and make windfall profits.

Proposition R also limits the conversion of rental housing into condominiums to buildings where 80% or more of the tenants agree to buy their apartment, and limits "condo conversion" to 700 units a year. No one can be evicted just because a landlord wants to sell their apartment as a condominium.



Yes. Prop R means more and better Neighborhood Housing.



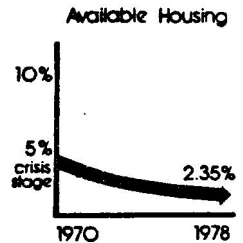
Proposition R will shift existing funds into the building of homes and apartments at prices people can afford. Prop R will give people decisions over what housing is to be built in their own neighborhoods, rather than leaving it up to real estate interests or to large developers.

Proposition R directs the City to provide homeowners with low interest loans for home purchase or improvement, and protects homeowners from unreasonable permit inspection procedures. It allows homeowners to build "in-law" apartments, with neighborhood approval, and insures the accessibility needs of the elderly and disabled.

Yes. Prop R is an Affordable Housing plan that works.

Proposition R is a clear answer to San Francisco's housing crunch. It will replace the confusing, temporary current law that was written by downtown interests and the big real estate lobby — the very people who created the housing mess in the first place.

Proposition R is a comprehensive plan put together by over 50 community groups, including those hurt most by the housing crisis: seniors, families, minorities and the disabled. It will stabilize rents, build new housing and assure San Francisco's neighborhoods control over their housing future.



YES. PROP R
For Affordable Housing

We're voting Yes on R.

Thomas P. Adler
 Hon. Art Agnos
 Jack Ahern
 Priscilla Alexander
 Hon. Rosario Anaya
 Edmundo Anchondo
 Rev. Tom Anderson
 Philip De Andrade
 Joyce Appelbaum
 Comm. Laura Jane Asselin
 Eddie Baca
 Barbara M. Bagot
 Buck Bagot
 Helen Bean
 Nancy Belden
 Sarah Bernstein
 Dr. Embree Blackard
 Comm. Dian Blomquist
 Kathy Borgenicht
 Roger Borgenicht
 Alison Laura Brennan
 Archie A. Briggs
 Dave Brigade
 Hon. Harry Britt
 Barbara Brown
 Frances Brown
 Hon. Gene Brown
 Hon. Jeff Brown
 Lee Brown
 Gordon Brownell
 Rev. Robert Bulkley
 Hon. Phillip Burton
 Helen Caganpang
 Steven Castleman
 Sr. Helen Carroll
 Carl W. Carsten
 Janet Carsten
 Rev. Clark Cary
 Linda Centore
 Comm. Agripino R. Cerbatos
 Arthur E. Chase
 Steve Chapple
 Rev. Harry Chuck
 Esther Coleman
 Gene Coleman
 Kathleen Connolly
 Vince Courtney
 Gwenn Craig
 Eric Craven
 Ed Crockner
 Sister Elizabeth Cronin
 Joan Cruz
 Denise D'Anna
 Mark Anthony Davalos
 Rev. Betty Davis
 Mike Davis
 Lorraine Martinez Dawes
 Tim Dayanof
 Sister Cathryn de Back

Rev. Kurt Degner
 Comm. Libby Denebeim
 Henry Der
 Robert DeVries
 Roger Dillon
 Gayle Doub
 John Driscoll
 Robert Dwight
 Bill Eisen
 Comm. Luisa Esquerro
 Jose Estrada
 Tony Fazio
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 Duboce Triangle Housing Alliance
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 Gray Panthers - SF Chapter
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 Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club
 Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Local 2
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 Japanese American Democratic Club
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 Options for Women Over 40
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- I will walk a precinct.
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San Franciscans for Affordable Housing
 12 Valencia Street • San Francisco, CA 94103 • 864-6413

Barbara Brown, treasurer Printed by Central Press of California, 465 Sixth St., San Francisco



YES

On

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R

Take the initiative.

This ordinance will:

Control rents at affordable levels while still guaranteeing landlords a fair and reasonable return on their investment. Owner occupied buildings with less than four units will be exempt from rent controls.

Protect tenants in controlled units from arbitrary evictions.

Limit condominium conversion by requiring that approval for such conversions not be given unless at least 80% of the present tenants intend to purchase their units.

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AID HOMEOWNERS by speeding up the building permit process, allowing construction of 'in-law' apartments if approved by the surrounding neighborhood, protect homeowners against unreasonable code inspections on repairs and improvements.

It will also

CREATE A RENTAL HOUSING BOARD, elected by Supervisorial District, to administer the ordinance. The Board will pay for itself through registration and adjudication fees.

MAKE AVAILABLE LOW INTEREST CITY LOANS to permit low- and moderate-income people to buy their own homes.

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Allows rent increases only to cover documented increases in landlord's costs or to allow a landlord a fair rate of return. For increases above the rental component of the Consumer Price Index (currently 5.3%) the landlord must first get permission from the Rental Housing Board. Tenant may appeal the Board's decision. Exempts owner-occupied buildings with three or less units.

At-large Rent Board appointed by the mayor.

Rental Housing Board is elected by the people with one representative from each supervisorial district.

Will cost taxpayers at least \$85,000 to \$180,000 a year, according to Board of Supervisors estimate.

Will not cost the City additional tax dollars. Will be completely financed by small (maximum \$5) registration fee on controlled units, plus small fee for appeals.

Provides vacancy decontrol. Landlords may raise rents as high as they want for a new tenant. This increased rent becomes the new base rent for automatic yearly increases.

No vacancy decontrol. Controls apply to the apartment, not to a specific tenant. The landlord cannot raise the rent solely because the tenant moves out

Provides 'just cause' evictions, but vacancy de-control actually encourages evictions. No penalties for landlords' abuse of 'just cause'. No compensation to tenants evicted for reasons not their fault. Condominium conversion is a 'just cause' for eviction.

Landlord can evict only for 'just cause'. Penalties for landlords who intentionally abuse 'just cause'. Compensates tenants moving expenses when a 'just cause' eviction is not their fault. Conversion of rentals to condominiums is not 'just cause'.

Speculative costs and inflated selling prices may be passed on to new tenants.

Curbs housing speculation with protections from rent raises based on unreasonable financing costs on any building sold at inflated prices.

Automatically expires in October, 1980

Expires when housing crisis abates, by popular vote.

KON SPICER
867 Fall St.
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SEP 15 1979

September 15, 1979

To the Political Committee

Dear Comrades:

I want to call your attention to a question that arose at the meeting of the Brooklyn branch on Sunday, August 26. It concerns a violation of our security policy on illegal drugs. I will not go into details about the facts of the case, which are straightforward and about which there is no dispute. A comrade was involved in a serious indiscretion, which might have led to a frame-up on major drug-related charges, though nothing of the sort occurred in this specific case. At the meeting a motion was passed, with one dissenting vote, to accept the resignation of this comrade.

Mine was the dissenting vote. It was based on the fact that the information presented at the meeting did not warrant the action proposed. I remain convinced that a serious error has been made. There can, of course, be no question that the action of the branch and local leadership in requesting this comrade's resignation, and that of the branch membership in accepting it, are within the legitimate bounds of sanctions which can be applied in such a case. A question can and should arise, however, concerning the appropriateness and prudence of this action. I would request that an investigation by the control commission be initiated which could culminate in a recommendation on this point.

In motivating the proposal to accept this comrade's resignation, Mary Sears, the branch organizer, stated the following: (1) that the action by the comrade took place as the result of a simple lack of thought as to the meaning of our security policy, or the possible consequences of her actions; (2) that when confronted with an explanation of the dangers inherent in the situation the comrade readily acknowledged that she had committed a serious violation, and had had a narrow escape; (3) that in accepting her resignation the branch was not severing relations with her but would, on the contrary, attempt to work with her as a sympathizer; and that we should not preclude her rejoining the party in the future. These points have been reconfirmed in informal discussions I have had with the local and district organizers on this matter. They seem to me in contradiction to the notion that this comrade's membership is forfeited by her actions.

In arguing in favor of the motion to accept the resignation, many branch members, including leading members, argued that if we took our security policy seriously we had no choice but to apply it identically in all cases, except perhaps in those cases of the newest and most inexperienced provisional members. To do anything less than ask for this comrade's resignation would mean that we would, in effect, nullify that policy. This reasoning seems to be the primary basis of the decision. The events were described several times in the branch discussion as an unfortunate incident that gave the party no choice.

This is an extremely and unnecessarily rigid attitude. It is precisely the task of a political leadership and of the individual branch to decide the appropriate action in each specific case of misconduct by a member of the party. This is true whether the violation of our norms has to do with our security policy on illegal drugs, relations with other political groups, factional activity, or anything else. Short of expulsion, asking for a resignation is the most extreme penalty we can impose on a member.

As the 1977 report by the control commission states: "There are no mandatory penalties for drug use by party members, but the membership and leadership have an obligation to take whatever steps the constitution provides, including expulsion if necessary, to see that the party is not endangered by violations of the policy." This clearly implies that it is in order to make distinctions between different cases based on the total circumstances. In at least some situations lesser sanctions, from simple warnings to formal censure, can and should be invoked.

The most compelling argument for the action taken by the branch is the seriousness of the incident itself. It was a potentially disastrous situation. But here, it seems to me, we can make a distinction between a potential and an actual disaster. Had a frame-up actually occurred we would, of course, have no choice but to ask for the comrade's resignation. Such a measure would be essential to protect the party. Given that the incident concluded without any actual damage, however, it does not seem to me that her separation from the party is compelled by the nature of the violation per se. The subjective factors involved must be taken into consideration.

The other main argument is that this violation represented an extremely light-minded action by the comrade in question. This is also certainly true. But isn't it relevant to ask: Was this light-mindedness a reflection of an unserious attitude toward the party and our drug policy? Or was it a result of a lack of thought about that policy and what it means in practical application? If the latter is true, and I think there is general agreement that it is, doesn't this reflect the kind of problem which can best be solved by giving this comrade a thorough education on our security policy and using the incident to further the understanding of every party member? Does it really require a resignation?

If we take an analogously serious violation of our norms, not concerning illegal drugs, I think this point will be clear. Suppose a comrade, through lack of experience and forethought, spoke at a public forum of the Workers' League, without consulting the party. This would probably result in more actual damage than the drug-related incident we are discussing. Wouldn't it make a difference to us whether this individual, when confronted with her or his action, saw that it was mistaken or tried to justify it? If we concluded that this action had been a simple mistake--although a serious one--from which the comrade would probably learn, would we require that individual's removal from the party?

To say that any and all violations of our security policy require the expulsion or resignation of the comrade regardless of other factors is to elevate this particular policy above all other questions of party discipline and will, in my opinion, establish a dangerous precedent, alien to the concepts and requirements of our movement.

If this violation of our drug policy had been the culmination of a series of light-minded actions by this comrade, which would reveal an unserious attitude toward the party or toward politics, in general, then her resignation or expulsion would indeed be called for. But this argument was not presented to the branch. It is, in fact, inconsistent with the idea put forward that we should attempt to work with her as a sympathizer, and that her eventual reintegration is a possibility. If she were so irremediably light-minded that her separation from the party were required, then her functioning even as a sympathizer could seriously jeopardize our organization.

All of these factors argue against taking the most extreme possible measures in this case. The incident did not result in any serious consequences; the individual involved was extremely thoughtless but not, by all accounts, consciously flaunting the party or our security policy; and this person, who was relatively new to the party, will certainly learn from the experience. Under the circumstances, giving the comrade a good talking to, with perhaps some formal reprimand if that were deemed necessary, and making an educational point of the incident in her fraction and in the local would serve all of the necessary functions of reinforcing the seriousness of our policy, educating the membership, and maintaining the integrity of our party.

There is another argument which has been raised with me informally, though it was not part of the formal motivation in the branch. I will discuss it briefly because it may be playing a role in some comrades' thinking.

It has been stated that we should make an example in this case because we have a general problem in the party of people not taking our security policy seriously, or, alternatively, because we have just reaffirmed and developed our stance on this question and we must show that we mean business. This idea is wrong, it seems to me, on several counts. Fundamentally, it is incorrect to make an example of an individual unless it is actually called for by the specific circumstances. If there is, in fact, the problem of a general lack of seriousness toward our drug policy, then we should not be lacking in genuine examples, in which the sternest measures would be appropriate. If there is no such problem, then such an "example" is not called for.

A related idea is that we are putting a new emphasis on this policy, and increasing our vigilance. This fact means that we must treat the case in question accordingly. But if we are

actually increasing our emphasis, we must see that first and foremost as a political process, and not as an administrative one. It was begun during the preconvention discussion, and continued at Oberlin through discussions in the industrial fractions and a report to the closed session. The comrade in question did not attend the convention, and could not benefit from the discussion in her fraction (the actual violation occurred while the convention was taking place). No one in the party, except the delegates, has as yet been able to benefit from the discussion around the report to the closed session at the convention. Under the circumstances, wouldn't this incident be better handled as a part of this general process of political clarification, rather than trying to solve it via a harsh administrative measure.

I think that a significant number of branch members voted as they did in this case because they explicitly believed that they must enforce our security policy uniformly in all cases, and that they could not make distinctions. As I have pointed out, this idea is inconsistent with the 1977 report of the control commission, and with our general norms. It is possible that a majority of the branch would not have voted for this comrade's separation from the party if they had realized that lesser actions were also consistent with our organizational functioning. In any case, it is the responsibility of those who support the branch's action to prove that this comrade either showed such an extreme degree of light-mindedness and irresponsibility, or else caused such damage to the party, that no other step than her separation from the organization would be sufficient.

Questions of membership in the revolutionary party are among the most important that any branch is faced with. If this action by the branch is not corrected, it will result in miseducation about our norms in enforcing discipline. It is for that reason, as well as because of the merits of the specific case, that I feel compelled to bring this matter to your attention.

Comradely,
Steve Bloom
Steve Bloom

cc: New York Local
Brooklyn Branch

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
November 1, 1979

Steve Bloom
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Steve:

This is in response to your letter of September 15 requesting that the Political Committee convene the Control Commission in order to investigate the actions of the Brooklyn branch in regard to Susan Yañez.

The Political Committee asked for the opinion of the New York City Local Executive Committee on this matter. In response, we received a letter from Sam Manuel, for the Local Executive Committee, stating in part, "It is our opinion that the control commission should not be convened to investigate this case. The facts in this case are clearly established and no one disputes them, including Susan Yañez."

We note that in your letter you also state that the facts of the case "are straightforward and about which there is no dispute. A comrade was involved in a serious indiscretion, which might have led to a frame-up on major drug-related charges...."

Thus, there seems to be agreement on the essential facts.

Second, we note that you do not charge that there has been a violation of either the party Constitution or of the norms of our movement on disciplinary matters.

Therefore, neither on the basis of a dispute over the facts nor on the basis of an accusation of undemocratic procedures is there any basis for asking the Control Commission to look into this matter.

A third reason for convening the Control Commission would be if there were ambiguity about the party security policy on illegal drugs. This is what you seem to be arguing in your letter.

We do not agree that there is any ambiguity about our security policy on illegal drugs. This policy has been clearly established by several conventions. In 1977 the Control Commission was convened to review our policy on illegal drugs and prepared a report that was approved by the 1977 convention. Most recently the policy was reaffirmed by the 1979 convention. (See Party Organizer, Vol. 3, No. 5, September 1979.) A written discussion on this policy took place in the discussion bulletin before the convention. It was discussed in all the major union fraction meetings held at the convention. And the delegates heard, discussed, and adopted unanimously a report on this policy. There is no ambiguity about it.

Steve Bloom
November 1, 1979
Page 2

It is the opinion of the Political Committee that the Brooklyn branch acted in accordance with party policy and procedures and that our security policy on illegal drugs is clear and straightforward.

Therefore we see no reason to convene the Control Commission.

Comradely,



Doug Jenness
for the Political Committee

cc: Sam Manuel, NYC organizer
Mary Sears, Brooklyn branch organizer

New York Local
Socialist Workers Party
108 E. 16th st 2nd fl
New York, N.Y. 10003

September 29, 1979

SWP National Office
14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y.
10014

To the Political Committee,

We received a copy of the letter from Steve Bloom requesting that the control commission be convened to investigate the action of the New York Local Executive Committee and the Brooklyn branch in requesting and accepting the resignation of Susan Yanez for violation of our security policy on illegal drugs.

It is our opinion that the control commission should not be convened to investigate this case. The facts in this case are clearly established and no one disputes them including Susan Yanez.

Steve objects to a part of the explanation brought into the Brooklyn branch that stated "in accepting Susan's resignation the branch would not sever all relations with Susan but would on the contrary, attempt to work with her as a sympathizer...."

For the facts, it should be added that Karen Melville, the local secretary, who sits in on local executive committee meetings pointed out in the branch discussion that the question of the Party's future relations with Susan were not before the branch for a vote, but that it would be discussed and a proposal brought to the branch at a later date. She made it clear that the branch was only voting on accepting Susan's resignation.

In our meeting with Susan we made it clear to her that if she agreed to resigned there was no guarantee that she would be a sympathizer of the Party, but that we would discuss what future relations to have with her. The local executive committee has met and decided to propose to the branches that based on Susan's act of disloyalty in violating our security policy on the use of illegal drugs that we should sever all formal relations with her and not consider her a sympathizer of the Party. I met with Susan and she agrees with this perspective.

Comradely,



Sam Manuel NYC local organizer
for the NYC LEC