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Stoorza Ziegaus & Metzger

November 4, 1991

RECEIVED
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Ans'd.....

Honorable Leon Williams
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Leon:

There is an interesting idea sweeping California right now and it involves dividing California into at least two separate states.

The primary sponsor of this concept is Assemblyman Stan Statham who represents what would become most of the "51st State."

Stan is a good friend of ours and so we are assisting him with some preliminary outreach. It is his desire to see the idea of a 51st state placed on the ballot in each of California's 58 counties in an advisory capacity and as part of regularly scheduled elections.

We have enclosed a newsletter which will answer a lot of questions you may have as well as copies of some of the hundreds of articles which are appearing around the state and country.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call me at 236-1332 or, Stan would be most interested in speaking with you about this issue personally. It has been done before, can be done again in California, and has great potential for all segments of our state.

Sincerely,

Alan Ziegaus
President

AZ:aa

Enclosures

51st ☆ State Update

Special Publication for Elected Officials State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814

"A little rebellion now and then is medicine necessary for the sound health of government".
- Thomas Jefferson

Let The People Speak

During the past few months I've travelled all over northern California and have had many, many meetings with city officials, county officials, small business owners, big business owners, loggers, people financially independent and people who are unemployed. There is one message I received loud and clear: **Everyone is tired of too much government!** They want more say in their lives. They feel frustrated and out of control. They feel that government has gotten so big that it's no longer "by the people and for the people".

While I represent 9 counties... 20% of California's land ... 28 people represent Los Angeles. Southern California doesn't understand our rural economy and unique problems. It's time to face the fact that we have completely different needs and wants.

I am proposing a "solution". It may not be a perfect solution - but it is worth trying. If you are trying to do a job that is too much for one person, doesn't it make sense to split the job ?

Examine this from all sides — except one. And that is "it will never happen, so we shouldn't attempt it". If the Wright Brothers had felt that way, we would never have gone to the moon.

It is inevitable that we divide. Our state government is too complex to simplify. With each new budget and budget crisis, I've found time and time again you can't rollback the huge bureaucracy, so perhaps its time to start over.

I will be introducing a bill to split California into two states.

To get input from the people, I am asking every county supervisor in each of the 58 counties to place on the June 1992 ballot the following advisory question to allow the people a voice in their government: **Should California be Divided into Two States?**

Because of overwhelming response from counties south of Sacramento, a second question may be added to their county ballots, **"If California Is Split In Two, Would You Want To Join The New Rural State?"**

Stan Statham

No Fault Divorce

Think of this as a marriage gone bad. Two California's have been married for many, many years...but in recent decades have developed their own way of doing things, their own friends, their own culture. They simply don't run in the same circles anymore. For more than 10 years they have been in counseling trying to put the pieces together - but their way of approaching problems and of doing absolutely everything is totally different from one another.

The only alternative is a 'No Fault Divorce'. Let's act like adults, split up the community property and go about living out the rest of our lives!

How Do We Rate?

Polls are showing overwhelming support:

KRCR TV, 96%
KHSL TV, 95%
Sacramento Union, 66%
Stockton Record, 80%
Feather River Bulletin, 95%
LA talk shows: 50-60%.

On October 11, 1991, 10 climbers hiked to the top of Mt. Shasta in support.

What Do Others Say?

"I think it's the most wonderful idea that any politician has come up with in a very long time. We're just the bastard child of the state right now. They take our land, they take our water, they take our work... They're sucking us dry and not giving anything in return."
✍ Pat Massie

"The north is so much different from the south. It sounds like a good plan to me because we're so different. I actually want to move out of California because it's such a rip-off here." ✍ Marie Nassbaum

"The 51st State would have no big cities, the air would be clear and the homes would be cheap. It would be a wonderful place to live and work." ✍ LA Daily News

"There is no disputing the fact that Northern California has been controlled politically by the votes of Southern California interests for many - too many - years."
✍ Chico Enterprise Record

"One heck of a good idea! Let's extend the lines to include the Delta and farming communities in Northern California because we have a lot of similarities."
✍ Neil Whorton

"The concerns are genuine and they have a legitimate complaint."
✍ Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

"I don't see anything ridiculous or absurd about a plan that has so much merit to separate the biggest liability of people and financial problems in a given area."
✍ T.R. McDonald

"What has transpired the past 40 years in Sacramento is the transfering of the power to... The *un-elected* bureaucracy. Instead of beginning the task of 'scaling' back services, the Legislature and Governor- driven by the *un-elected* bureaucracy- promised greater levels of service to a greater number of people."
✍ Supervisor Jim Chapman

"Rural residents are the poor relations of the city cousins...our needs are not recognized."
✍ Supervisor Patti Mattingly

"...has vision and courage unparalleled since the time of Jefferson...we have suffered abuse at the hands of politicians from the more populated southern portion of the state." ✍ Allen Daugherty

"The 51st state would be a paradise." ✍ SF Examiner

"California has always had a dual personality: North versus South, urban versus rural, rich versus poor...it seems to be happening again with the latest effort to split the most populous state in two." ✍ Christian Science Monitor

Water? No Problem!

The water that flows from north to south will remain as it is. Federal water law will remain intact. State water has been contracted. Those contracts are valid and legally enforceable. There will be no change in the existing water plan.

Ugly Stepsister

● Northern California usually gets the crumbs while the rest of the state gets the main course. Recently, Governor Pete Wilson VETOED a bill that would spend a mere $150,000 to study passenger rail service in Northern California while there are hundreds of million dollars spent annually in Southern California on mass transportation! This time we were denied even the crumbs.

● We are spending less on kids than we are on bureaucracy. The huge bureaucracy of the Department of Education had a 1990-1991 operating budget of $159 million. School children in the northern rural California counties had less than $20 million spent on them and there was $56 million spent on Los Angeles County children. We're too top heavy!

● Northern California gets the short end of the stick when it comes to road transportation. In 1990, over $73 million was spent in 10 Southern California counties - while $70 million was spent in 48 Northern California counties. The ten far Northern Counties received even less – only $11 million!

Two Steps For Mankind

By law, people of California do not have to vote to divide the state, but we want their input! I am asking all County Boards of Supervisors to place an "advisory measure" on their local ballots in June 1992.

The steps necessary to legally divide the state are:

1. Introduce an Assembly Bill to split the state at boundaries decided after the election.

2. Introduce an Assembly Joint Resolution to ask for Congressional approval according to the terms of our Assembly Bill.

(When Congress approves, a commission will be formed to split the community property and work out the details. Each new legislature will appoint their own representatives.)

Prop 140 deja vue

I did not support Prop 140. But it was passed. Why? It was the people's way of saying, "We've had enough government...we're tired...leave us alone". For these very same reasons, the people will overwelmingly support this advisory measure. It's a way - the only way - to roll back government - to start over. I've battled through 15 budgets and believe me, it never - never gets any better. Government is no longer "by the people or for the people".

Q & A

Q Would California lose power in Congress if the state split?

A NO. Southern and Northern California would each have 2 U.S. Senators. (on the eastern seaboard, the same geographical area has 20 U.S. Senators) The net result is that Northern California would be as powerful as any other state in the U.S. Senate. We would have the same number of Congressmen as we currently have based on population.

Q Why aren't the borders drawn further south?

A The idea is to create a "homogeneous" state. Presently, California is already split ... by geography, by life style and by philosophy. The proposed boundary is just a starting point for discussion.

Q Who would decide the details of running the new state?

A When Congress approves the division there will be a compact commission to coordinate the details of the division. The new states would convene a Constitutional Convention to develop the governmental framework for the new states. All the laws would be decided at that time.

Q Will the split ever occur?

A Yes! It will be no easy task to split such a complex state. Programs must be worked out to satisfy the needs of the people who live, work and invest in California. The split must be a win-win situation for Northerners AND Southerners alike.

Q What's the last date to put this advisory question on the June 1992 ballot?

A March 6, 1992

Northern Calif. Benefits

- We get to start over. Get rid of "government over-regulation". We decide what our welfare and school system would be like. There would be more involvement by people.
- We could structure a part-time legislature like other small states. We would elect all new officials: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Schools, State Senators, State Representatives ... or maybe some of these could be eliminated. After all, we would be starting over!

Southern Calif. Benefits

- Southern California would have more political power because two United States Senators would be covering a smaller area concentrating on just their urban problems.
- Southern California thinks rural counties are a financial burden to them and would like to get us off their backs.
- Southern California is tired of our whining (Butte's bankruptcy; Lassen wanting to join Nevada).
- ...and most importantly, they too, want to send a message to Sacramento saying they feel they are "over-governed". They feel government would be more responsive to their needs if it were smaller.

Paying For It

How do we pay for our new state? By getting rid of the "Unelected Government" that we don't want - and don't need. By reducing the size of ALL government ... including the Legislature, we will have a wonderful, soundly based, rural economy. The same taxes that we're paying now would go a much longer way if we didn't have so much bureaucracy.

Unelected Government

We just went thruough a $14 Billion dollar crisis in which your taxes were raised. Not one government board or commission was eliminated!

Funeral Directors Board
Home Furnishings Board
Home Furnishings Bureau
Advisory Board Home Furnishings
Track Leasing Commission
Permit Assistance Office
Private Security Board
Auctioneer Commission
Abrasive Blasting Advisory Committee
Heritage Preservation Commission
Humanities Council
Landscape Architects Board
Office of the State Architect
Electronic Appliance Board
Structural Pest Control Board
Super Speed Transport Commission
Century Freeway Housing Program
Polygraph Examiners Board
Recreational Trails Committee
Guide Dogs for Blind Board
Off Highway Commission
Debt Advisory Commission
California Horse Racing Board
Auctioneer Review Committee
Fire Marshall for State
New Motor Vehicle Board
Southern California Exposition
Cemetery Board
Industrial Development Committee

...a very partial list. Do we really need all of this government?

What's the Alternative?

Keeping things just the way they are - doesn't sound too good does it?

"A little rebellion now and then is medicine necessary for the sound health of government".
- Thomas Jefferson

Who Doesn't Like It?

Officials who think they will have less power and influence than if the state were kept as one large bureaucratic unit. But then, isn't that the reason the people feel it's a good idea?

Taxes Everywhere

When people talk about taxes, or tax base, they are generally referring to the big three: INCOME, SALES and PROPERTY, but think about everything you're paying for - directly and indirectly: annual auto registration, registration fees each time you purchase a vehicle, drivers license renewal fees, insurance premium tax, personal property tax, bed tax, estate, alcohol, payroll, bank and corporation taxes, not to mention, gasoline, gift, pesticide, inheritance and horseracing taxes. But let's not forget hunting and fishing license fees, toll bridges, utilities taxes including cable, electric, phone, and water. Then there's the timber yield tax, genetic disease testing fees ... fees to build or construct anything, anywhere - and the list goes on and on. There's **a zillion** taxes and fees going to support a bulging bureaucracy!

Win-Win

It's been said that California has always been on the cutting edge (when California sneezes, the rest of the country gets a cold). All of California is ready for a more manageable form of government. It is not an easy task to split such a complex organization into two. The split must include the development of a fair tax structure. It must ensure that each new state can create its own pattern of government. It must give us the opportunity for change. It must be a win-win for North and South.

Memory Lane

Since 1925, there have been many attempts at dividing California into two or more political territories or states. The campaigns for division were lead by northerners in 1925, 1941, 1965, and 1967 through 1978; by southerners in 1852 through 1859, and 1907.

The motivations for splitting the large territory were generally economical and political—representation in state and federal government, accessibility to the state capitol, distribution of federal funds for transportation and development, and distribution of natural resources (primarily water). Most of the attempts worked within the political framework of the time. A northern group went so far as to declare Secession Day in Siskiyou County on December 4, 1941, but the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7th completely eclipsed the internal event. The most recent attempt was in 1978.

California is now the most populous state in America. She is rich in natural and human resources—boasting more Ph.D's per capita than any other place on earth. Yet, California is overdeveloped and polluted. There are hundreds of miles of multi-laned highways. Half of yesterdays highly promoted suburbs are todays rotting slums.

California is already split—by geography, by politics, by life style and philosophy. A political division, a clearly defined boundary between territories, will give the California—North and South, a turning point: an opportunity to redefine the regions as areas of resource and consumption; to reduce the governmental system, making it more flexible to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

51st Hotline

If you have questions, want information, or want to leave us a message...call (916) 324-2227.

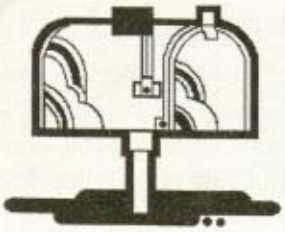
Millions Will Vote

On June 8, 1992, millions of Californians will be voting on a non-legally binding advisory measure. What a wonderful way to determine what the people of the State of California think and feel! We hope your Board of Supervisors has seen fit to ask for input from their constituents.

A Final Note

"...we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed: that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness".

(emphasis added)



Write or Call

Mark Powers, Chief of Staff, 445-7266
Ray Narbaitz, 51st Spokesman, 223-6300
Mardi Cornelius,Off. Manager, 223-6300
Geraldine Statham, Press, 445-9999

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Splitting California

Statham plan focuses on state's problems

Assemblyman Stan Statham, R-Chico, may have triggered one of the most important debates the residents of Caifornia will ever have with his proposal Monday to divide California into at least two states.

His proposal would put the state's 27 northern counties into a new state.

But Assemblyman Statham was quick to point out that if public opinion dictated it, his proposed two-state boundary could be redrawn, or three or more new states could be created.

We believe that if Californians were to be given a chance to vote on the issue, many of them would at least like to see some consideration given to the idea of splitting California — or taking other dramatic steps to alleviate the increasing burden of taxation and regulation that our often-out-of-touch Legislature has placed on us.

As was the case with Proposition 140, the term limits ballot measure approved by voters on Nov. 6, we believe the split-the-state proposal will generate serious and lively discussion about the need to make state government responsive to the voters, and not our master.

The Statham proposal could become a much-needed vehicle through which voters can express their anger — and anger is the right word — at the out-of-control, unresponsive, tax-and-spend government that Gov. Wilson and Assembly Speaker Willie Brown are giving us.

We must find a way to let our leaders know that we are sick and tired of the business-as-usual syndrome that has resulted in state government literally stealing our money and using it for purposes that most of us strongly disapprove of.

Assemblyman Statham, as a preliminary step toward getting his new state plan going, is asking the Board of Supervisors in each of the 27 Northern Counties that would be included in the proposal to place on their June 1992 ballot an advisory question.

Voters would be asked whether they felt the state should be divided.

The assemblyman said he would like to see the division question placed on the ballot of all 58 counties — a move we would strongly support.

While such advisory measures would not in and of themselves divide the state, we think the votes on them and the discussion that would result from those measures would focus attention on the major problems facing the state.

Some issues may divide Northern and Southern Californians, but we believe there are some issues that unite them. Such issues would include the obscene taxing and spending practices that characterize the Legislature.

While some people may want to laugh at Assemblyman Statham's split-the-state proposal, they should stop and think for a moment about our spendthrift lawmakers.

Several months ago, the Legislature and Gov. Wilson raised our taxes by $8 billion, the biggest increase in history. This was done to help offset a $14 billion gap between what the lawmakers wanted to spend and what revenues were expected to be. Now, with that horrible tax increase in place, the Capitol is abuzz with rumors that the spending-revenue gap for the fiscal year that begins next July 1 could be even bigger — maybe as much as $20 billion.

In other words the current tax increase has helped stall the economy and state revenues are falling faster than ever. And there is the chance that our lawmakers will soon be trying to raise taxes even faster and higher than they did this year.

Are you still laughing at Assemblyman Statham's proposal?

SACRAMENTO UNION

OCTOBER 9, 1991

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The Publisher's Column

Doug Hirsch

IT'S NOW BEEN a week since Assemblyman Stan Statham released his proposal to make Northern California the 51st state.

I would wager that the average person on the street in this neck of the woods supports Statham's proposal. So do many county supervisors, as they struggle to stay out of bankruptcy.

Statham correctly points out that California state government—if you can actually call it a "government"—does not work for rural and suburban counties. That is not unique to California. Country people nationwide gripe a lot about the weight of urban representation in their state legislature. They also feel on the short end of things.

But California is unique. It is a huge, diverse state geographically and so diverse in its population, that those of us north of Sacramento really feel lost. I don't know if we'd feel any better being attached to Nevada or Oregon.

Making matters worse is an out-of-control state initiative system that invites "big money government."

To those newspaper editorialists, TV commentators and city folk who laugh at Statham's idea ... let's ask the simple question, "What's the alternative?" Since nobody in Sacramento listens to the plight of counties such as Lassen, Butte, Shasta and many others, they will simply file bankruptcy or not pay for state mandated programs. Is that what the "politically correct" news media and urban legislators wish?

We are told by our "handlers" in Sacramento and in the big city news media that we should be quiet and "hang in there," "work within the system" and all that stuff. Unfortunately, in California, there is no "system." It's a free-for-all, with the squeaking wheels getting the grease.

I hope that Statham pursues his idea, and that county supervisors continue to support the idea. In California, it's the only way to be heard.

VALLEY TIMES.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1991

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