

# Confusing Incitement With Free Speech

The California Library Association says it "caved in" to outside pressure when it decided to revoke its decision to provide a forum at its state-wide convention for rightwing publisher David McCalden who claims the Holocaust a hoax. The CLA, however, should be honest with itself and those who protested the issue: the invitation to McCalden was a huge mistake.

McCalden is part of a group known around the world as "revisionist historians," a title which provides him and others with some degree of legitimacy as a historian, but little else. The revisionists purvey the insane contention that the Holocaust was a hoax, a "Zionist plot" per-

petrated or even staged by an international Jewish conspiracy.

A center for this lie is the Institute for Historical Review, a California based organization that puts itself on display as a sort of think tank group but which publishes revisionist history and attempts to whitewash Nazi war crimes. They are constantly getting in the news, trying to pass themselves off as legitimate historians.

And McCalden has long been associated with this anti-Semitic group. He was to address the CLA under the auspices of a co-called "truth mission." It was argued that he had a right to

present his versions to the 3,000 delegates in the interests of "intellectual freedom" -- the words of the CLA -- and free speech. But it wasn't the Jewish community that reacted with outrage to McCalden's opportunism, but the entire spectrum of the community in Los Angeles that vented their anger.

Said American Jewish Committee Regional Director Neil Sandberg: "The widespread expressions of outrage directed at those persons in the CLA who confused the issue of intellectual freedom and free speech with common sense is a testimony to the kind of community Los Angeles has become."

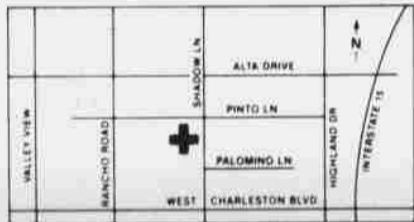
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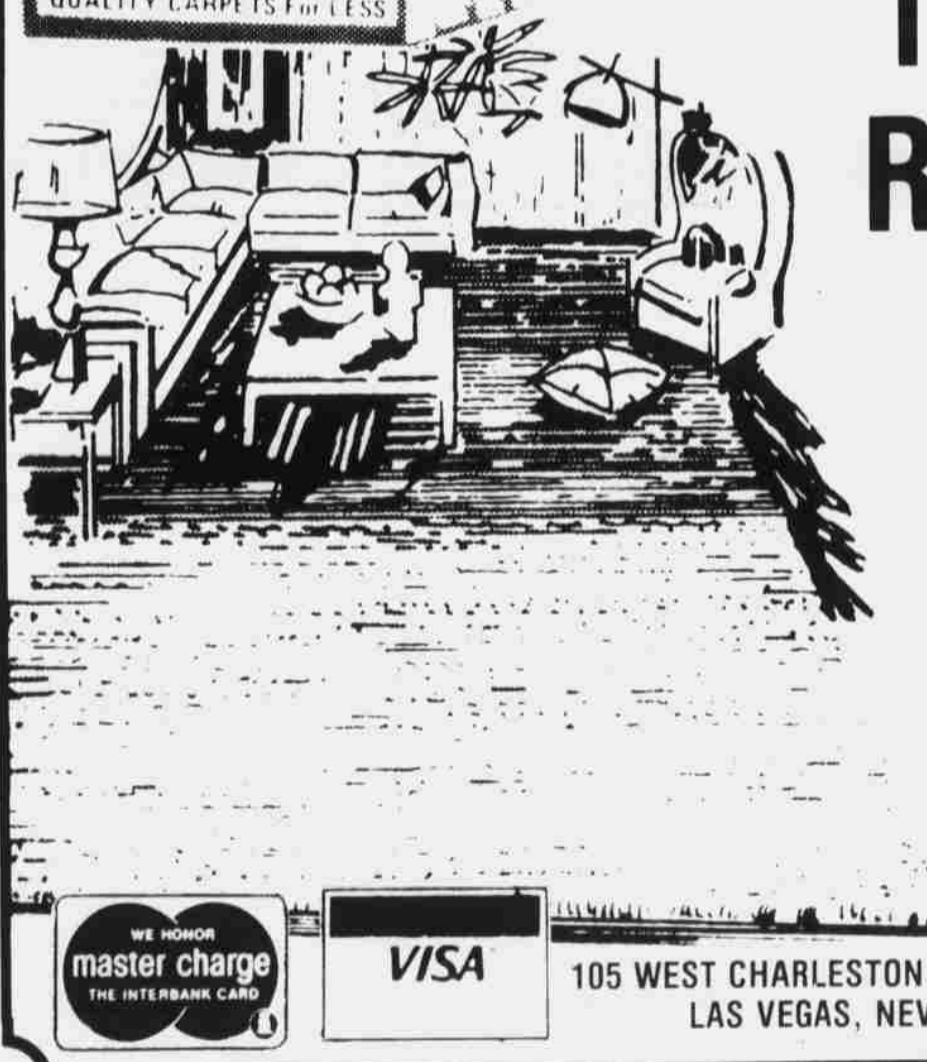
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