

# Bishops Condemn Anti-Fair Housing Measure

LOS ANGELES--A proposed amendment to the California Constitution that would repeal the state's fair housing law has been condemned as "morally wrong" by the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church and all four of the other Episcopal bishops in California.

The joint statement by the church leaders was in sharp contrast to the stand taken by the California Republican Assembly one day earlier, when the volunteer political action group voted to back repeal of the controversial Rumford Act by about a 5-2 majority of the 500 delegates present at a state-wide meeting in Millbrae.

The five bishops said the amendment, on which Californians will vote Nov. 3, is contrary to Christian teaching because it would "give property rights precedence over human rights."

The statement was issued by the Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, presiding bishop; James A. Pike, San Francisco; Bishop Eric F. Bloy, Los Angeles; Bishop Clarence R. Haden Jr., Sacramento, and Bishop Sumner Walters, San Joaquin.

The Episcopal leaders said the proposed amendment would amount to legalized segregated housing in the nation's most populous state.

Bishop Lichtenberger's statement, in which the other four bishops joined said:

"Equal treatment before the law transcends state politics. It is more basic than a Federal civil rights law. For us as Christians, this matter is central to our faith. For when God in Jesus Christ reconciled all men to Himself, he gave us a pattern and a calling: to love one another as He loved us. Neighbor love is an essential of the Christian's loving response to God."

TRANSLATED INTO SOCIAL TERMS, the Bishop said, this "means at least that we must seek to treat our neighbors on their own merits, and not by the arbitrary standards of race, national origin or religion."

The California Republican Assembly's vote to repeal the Rumford Act conceivably could embarrass the GOP Presidential nominee, Sen. Barry Goldwater.

In other actions, the CRA, meeting at Millbrae, Calif., pasted the "extremist" label on the American Civil Liberties Union, CORE, and even the CRA's Democratic counterpart, Americans for Democratic Action (ADA). But the 18,000-member group did not put the John Birch Society in the category of the "extremist" groups it named as including the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi party, the Black Muslims, and the Communist party. It also included the Council on Foreign Relations.

When queried about the board's formal action, CRA president Dr. Nolan Frizelle responded: "I don't consider the John Birch Society to be extremist except maybe to be extremely American." He added that it is certainly "not extremist in anywhere near the degree of those other organizations" which he charged "are extremist top to bottom."

THE EXTREMIST RESOLUTION, along with other fiery barrages, came during a week-end special convention which some "moderates" in the group feel can do nothing but hurt the Republican cause in the state the Goldwater camp is making its No. 1 battleground.

The most bitter hassles came when moderates and others who described themselves as merely "practical Republicans" rose to address the full assembly. The conclave took a stand on all 17 of the propositions which will appear on the California ballot in November. This is the first time in memory that the CRA

has taken a stand on any proposition.

The mood of the convention and the votes it took amounted to the final step in the takeover of the GOP here by the conservative wing of the party. Even in areas where the Republican State Central Committee feared to tread, the big volunteer group took a vocal stand.

Typical were the votes of the CRA's board of directors. They acted on such matters as condemning the busing of children in school integration disputes, a call for U.S. boycott of the United Nations until other members had paid their bills, an attack on Medicare, a protest against the sale of subsidized wheat to Russia, and a strong stand against alleged American laxity in not providing our forces at the Panama Canal with enough ammunition to put down insurrections.

WHEN A DELEGATE WOULD RISE to suggest some more "moderate" counter-proposal, he would be greeted by a cry of "coward" or "keep it short." The latter cry went up when William Melligan rose.

Until March 15, when the conservatives took over at the Fresno convention, Melligan was president of the CRA. He is a labor leader with

the Communications Workers in San Francisco and leaned toward the Rockefeller wing during the bitter California primary.

Although GOP leaders in the state have made many statements about being in the forefront of civil rights movements, the Rumford resolution and the extremists stand seem to close that book. James Flournoy of Los Angeles, one of the few Negro delegates to the CRA, said in an interview: "I think the word 'extremist' has been overplayed. It's merely semantics. But unfortunately, the Republican party is now being labeled as being anti-civil rights, or you might call it, attempting to become a lily-white party. What we've done here (on the extremist vote) is to perpetuate this."

He objected specifically to "this funny combination" which puts CORE and the ACLU in the same nest with such violent groups as the Klan and the Communist party.

"Only those organizations specifically cited by the (U.S.) Attorney General should be cited," he felt. He was asked if California Republicans were having any success wooing the large Negro big-city vote. "I have seen no overtures," he said with a shake of the head.



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(OLYMPICS, from page 1) would wrest the broad-jumping title from Russia's grasp and that John Thomas would finally achieve his potential by surpassing the Soviet's superlative Valery Brumel in the high jump.

Miss Rudolph said she expected a good showing from young Debbie Thompson (see photo page 10) in the women's running events and several other of the American feminine entrants.

Shot-putter O'Brien, a team member for the fourth time in 16 years and twice an Olympic champion, said the Americans possibly could sweep the first three places in his specialty, but may run into trouble in the discus and hammer throw.

Mathias, the decathlon victor in 1948-52, (See OLYMPICS, page 11)