## Las Vegas SENTINEL June 27, 1980

Veterans Administration Chief Max Cleland said today "we have come a long way in a brief time" in putting VA's new and unique readjustment counseling program for Vietnam-era veterans into high gear.

Clelandtoldmembersof the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that VA's vet center program has exceeded its growth goal in the seven months since it was inaugurated.

Two Vet Centers, one at 1708-14 Waller Street in the Haight-Ashbury District, and the other at 2989 Mission Street in the Mission District, are now open.

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<u>Norman Hill Says:</u> Truth Derails The Tax Revolt

When Californians voted overwhelmingly for Proposition 23" two years ago, the mass media proclaimed the beginning of a "tax revolt," a mass revolution against big government and welfare. Some liberal columnist called Proposition 13 a manifestation of middleclass selfishness. Conservatives and business leaders, however, hailed the referendum result as a long-awaited return to common sense and as a vote in favor of "free market'' economics.

**But Prosposition 13 was** neither an orgy of selfinterest nor a popular mandate for laissez-faire capitalism. Rather, many of the people who voted for the huge cut in property taxes did so because they were misinformed and misled. Doubtless, many of them regret having voted for the measure, since they have now seen its effects on Califorrnia's school system and public employees. What is more,

voters understand that the principal beneficiaries of reduced property taxes were corporations and the wealthy, not middleincome workers.

Because people are becoming more sophisticated, they are also more wary of "quickfix'' tax cuts, such as the Kemp-Roth bill in Congress, and Proposition 9. in California, a proposal concocted by Howard Jarvis, the chief architect of Proposition 13. In fact, Californias voters defeated Proposition 9 by 61 percent to 39 percent in the June 3 primary.

Unfortunately, the defeat of Mr. Jarvis' latest gimmick has received little or no attention. Indeed, two days after the primary, the NEW YORK TIMES, which had headlined the victory of Proposition 13 two years ago, ran a brief Proposition 9 story in an inconspicous corner of Section B, buried amid other political news.

Despite the lack of press coverage, the vote against Prosposition 9 is significant for several reasons. First, no one can assert that the measure lost because of confusion or unattractiveness. The choice was clear and simple: people could reduce state income tax rates by 50 percent by casting a vote for Proposition 9. The wording of the measure was not complex, and the prospect of saving 50 percent on an average tax bill was certainly attractive. But the measure lost decisively.

Second, a CBS/New York Times poll found that voters who opposed Proposition 9 did so because they realized that its benefits, like those of Proposition 13, would flow primarily to the wealthy. With that in mind, a majority of votes saw the choice before them as one of aiding the rich or maintaining vital public services, like education, social services, and police protection. Whereas the proponents of Proposition 13 succeeded two years ago in concealing its decidedly pro-wealth, pro-corporation tilt, the backers of Proposition 9 failed dismally this year in selling the "Big Lie." 5

Third, lower-income groups, including blacks and many trade unionists, united in opposing Proposition 9. Among these voters, and tax-cut proposal lost by margins of up to 3 to 1. By contrast, thousands of poor people and workers had made the mistake of supporting Proposition 13 in 1978.

Finally, the collapse of the California "tax revolt" is important because it demonstrates once again that voters will reject crack-pot schemes, even attractive ones, if they are well-informed about their consequences. Proposition 13 succeeded because people were angry and confused.



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