

## column left

### Bush/Schwarzenegger: What's the Difference?

By Alon Barlevy, PhD.,  
President, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club.

**D**uring the recall campaign two years ago, Arnold Schwarzenegger sold himself as fiscally conservative but socially moderate. In fact, he had serious opposition from within his own party, as

hardcore Republicans called him a RINO (Republican In Name Only).

Well, it looks like he's not a RINO after all. In order to appease the Republican base, and discourage any possible challenge in the Republican primaries for governor next year, Schwarzenegger announced he will veto the historic bill passed by the Legislature to give homosexuals the same rights as heterosexuals: the right to marry the person of their choice. Last year, when it appeared that such a bill could not pass

the Legislature, he claimed that he did not "care one way or the other" about same-sex marriage.

In rationalizing why he will veto the same-sex marriage bill, he used the same technique President Bush used to rationalize the war in Iraq: *Lies*. Schwarzenegger claimed that it was wrong for the Legislature to circumvent the voters who passed Proposition 22 five years ago. The truth is that the language of Proposition 22 only dealt with the state's recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states or other countries. It did not specifically address same-sex marriages performed in California.

Invoking Prop. 22 is not the first time Schwarzenegger has lied. Last year, while cutting the budget for the public schools in order to balance his budget, Schwarzenegger promised to pay back the money he took in the following year. That promise proved to be as good as Bush's promise that we would find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

In the same manner that Bush is trying to privatize Social Security, Schwarzenegger has tried to privatize the retirement system for state employees. Earlier this year, he worked to place on the November 8 ballot a proposition to privatize the state's retirement fund. When opponents in the unions argued that his proposition would deny benefits to widows and orphans of police and fire fighters who died in the line of duty, Schwarzenegger resorted to the same old technique: he lied. The unions then ran television ads showing the text of his proposition in bold letters that, indeed, his plan did cut death benefits. Under such pressure, he withdrew the proposition.

Although Schwarzenegger did withdraw the proposition privatizing the retirement system for state employees, he still has other propositions he is trying to push this November: Propositions 74 thru 77. While 74 thru 76 are just bad ideas (to be discussed in future columns), Proposition 77 is an outright lie.

The lie started when Schwarzenegger gave the attorney general a version of the proposition (as required by law) that was different from the version he circulated to the public. But that's only half the lie. In Prop. 77, Schwarzenegger claims to put redistricting in the hands of "impartial retired judges." What he is not saying is that he will be the one to select the "impartial retired judges," who will owe their allegiances to him. Do we really want retired Judge Kenneth W. Starr to do the redistricting?

## Text of Article

Bush/Schwarzenegger: What's the Difference

Alon Barlevy, PhD.

President, Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club

During the recall campaign two years ago, Arnold Schwarzenegger sold himself as a fiscally conservative but socially moderate. In fact, he had serious opposition from within his own party, as hard core Republicans called him a RINO (Republican In Name Only).

Well, it looks like he's not a RINO after all. In order to appease the Republican base, and discourage any possible challenge in the Republican primaries for governor next year, Schwarzenegger announced he will veto the historic bill passed by the legislature to give homosexuals the same rights as heterosexuals: the right to marry the person of their choice. Last year, when it appeared that such a bill could not pass the legislature, he claimed that he did not "care one way or the other" about same sex marriage.

In rationalizing why he will veto the same sex marriage bill, he used the same technique Bush used to rationalize the war in Iraq: *Lies*. Schwarzenegger claimed that it was wrong for the legislature to circumvent the voters who passed Proposition 22 five years ago. The truth is that the language of Proposition 22 only dealt with the state's recognition of same sex marriages performed in other states or other countries. It did not specifically address same sex marriages performed in California.

Invoking Prop 22 is not the first time Schwarzenegger has lied. Last year, while cutting the budget for the public schools in order to balance his budget, Schwarzenegger promised to pay back the money he took in the following year. That promise proved to be as good as Bush's promise that we would find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

In the same manner that Bush is trying to privatize Social Security, Schwarzenegger has tried to privatize the retirement system for state employees. Earlier this year, he worked to place on the November 8 ballot a proposition to privatize the state's retirement fund. When opponents in the unions argued that his proposition would deny benefits to widows and orphans of police and fire fighters who died in the line of duty, Schwarzenegger resorted to the same old technique: he lied. The unions then ran television ads showing the text of his proposition in bold letters that, indeed, his plan did cut death benefits. Under such pressure, he withdrew the proposition.

Although Schwarzenegger did withdraw the proposition privatizing the retirement system for state employees, he still has other propositions he is trying to push this November: Propositions 74, thru 77. While Props 74 thru 76 are just bad ideas (to be discussed in future columns), Proposition 77 is an outright lie.

The lie started when Schwarzenegger gave the attorney general a version of the proposition (as required by law) that was different from the version he circulated to the public. But that's only half the lie. In Prop 77, Schwarzenegger claims to put redistricting in the hands of "impartial retired judges". What he is not saying, is that he will be the one to select the "impartial retired judges", who will owe their allegiances to him. Do we really want retired Judge Kenneth W. Starr to do the redistricting?