

Brown to Act on Gay Job Rights

Will Sign Order Prohibiting Discrimination by State

BY LARRY STAMMER
Times Staff Writer

FRESNO—Gov. Brown, under fire from liberal Democrats for what they charged was his turn toward the right, disclosed Sunday he will sign an executive order next week to prohibit job discrimination against homosexuals in state government.

Speaking at midnight before the 27th annual convention of the liberal California Democratic Council, Brown also suggested that government should consider stripping the nation's major corporations of tax breaks unless they hired and trained 500,000 unemployed persons, particularly black teen-agers, within six months.

Brown tossed out the idea as something to think about but there was no indication that he had any plans to offer a firm proposal.

But it was received with enthusiasm by 560 CDC delegates and was seen as an attempt by Brown to shore up lagging political support among liberal Democrats.

Throughout the three-day convention that ended Sunday, CDC delegates repeatedly assailed what they said was Brown's swing toward conservatism in his unannounced quest for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Delegates told reporters that they had intended to let Brown know about their displeasure with his policies.

But after a half-hour presentation, Brown was quickly ushered out of the convention hall for a 40-minute private meeting one floor below with U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.).

Delegates were not given an opportunity to personally challenge the governor during a question-and-answer period.

Brown's appearance before the convention had remained in doubt almost up until the time he walked into the convention hall at the Fresno Hilton at midnight.

CDC President Wallace Albertson, who was reelected to a third two-year term on a 338-124 vote, told The Times that Brown would have had to face "hard questions" if he had arrived earlier.

One CDC delegate, Robert Camen of Glendale, complained afterward, "He knew the right buzz words and they responded like a bunch of sheep."

Said Camen, "Brown picked out some good subjects which happened to be things that we like, but I think on balance he's not with us anymore and we're not with him."

In fact, Brown had been briefed before his appearance on developments during the CDC convention. In his remarks, the governor touched on at least seven issues dear to the convention delegates—the boycott of goods manufactured by the J. P. Stevens textile mills in the South, large corporate profits, environmental pollution, unemployment, job training, homosexual rights, and the loss of American jobs to foreign countries.

Brown left no doubt that he was aware of the CDC's opposition to his call for a constitutional convention to adopt a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget.

To scattered laughter and applause, Brown quipped, "I could get in a debate on a balanced budget, but I think I might not win. I think I'll at least relegate it to a footnote in this particular convention."

Earlier, Brown had come under attack by Senate Democratic majority leader David Roberts of Los Angeles

who sniped at what he said was Brown's "canoe theory" of politics.

"First, you paddle to the left, and then to the right, and then the left and the right again," Roberts chided.

Several hours later, Brown observed, "I have a relative degree of unhappiness on both sides of the political spectrum and I want to balance . . . what I would call not rising expectations, but rising animosities."

"I want to keep that just rising slow enough that I can get my point across," Brown told amused delegates.

Later, CDC delegates sidestepped an attempt to urge the CDC to back a draft of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The issue was referred to the CDC leadership, which was to appoint a search committee to report on possible Democratic presidential aspirants who would challenge President Carter.

During his second inaugural address last January, Brown called for legislation to end job discrimination against homosexuals. But the state Legislature so far has not passed such a bill.

Brown elicited the loudest applause from delegates when he announced he would sign an executive order "proscribing and prohibiting in state service any discrimination against men and women based on sexual preference."

Brown was overheard to tell one delegate afterward that he would consider applying the executive order to the University of California and state colleges and universities as well.

The CDC adopted a resolution urging Brown to issue such an executive order but Brown told The Times he had ordered his staff to draft it a week ago.

In October, 1977, Brown fired an avowed lesbian in the state Health Department. He said Dr. Josette Mondanaro was fired because she wrote an obscene letter on state stationery.

But many believed her sexual preference was the real reason she had been fired. She has since been reinstated by the state Personnel Board.

Roberti, in remarks Saturday night, said that Brown had made some good appointments.

"But they are token appointments which do not affect the governor's general swing to the right," Roberti declared.

"Instead of curbing the governor's tendencies, one might even say that these symbolic appointments have made it easier for him to swing right because they appease potential critics on the left—the faint-hearted left—while costing the governor nothing," Roberti said.

Roberti said the true test of Brown's political commitment was his willingness to take liberal stands which might cost him campaign contributions.

"You will be reminded," Roberti said, "of the governor's past involvement in liberal causes such as the antiwar marches, the farm-worker movement, and his veto of capital punishment. But remember, none of those involvements cost him any money."

CDC's president Albertson, a

Brown appointee to the State University and Colleges Board of Trustees, said the CDC in its prime had 45,000 members.

A CDC credentials chairman estimated Sunday that membership now stands at 7,000, although others placed the figure at 10,000.

In any case, Mrs. Albertson told delegates during her acceptance speech, "We must grow in numbers and continue to stand firm on principles in the face of dangerous right-wing thrusts."

Political activist Tom Hayden earlier had said the CDC was in danger

of becoming a "relic," an assessment which Mrs. Albertson said was "arrogant."

In other business, the CDC adopted resolutions which:

- Endorsed handgun control.
- Urged Brown to prevent operation of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.
- Supported a full 15.1% cost-of-living grant increase for the aged, blind and disabled and families on welfare.
- Called on Brown to restore immediately "critical and essential" mental health services.

—Opposed a proposed state constitutional amendment intended to prohibit court-ordered school busing in Los Angeles.

—Supported Vice President Mondale's attempts to limit domestic intelligence gathering by the CIA and FBI.

The CDC defeated an attempt to put it on record as supporting the creation of a Palestinian state and turned down a proposal to establish a CDC commission to draft a plan governing representation at a possible constitutional convention aimed at requiring a balanced federal budget.

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