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Introduction

The following "White Paper" fully exposes the duplicity of Governor Brown and his aides who deliberately engineered the resignation of Welfare Director Jack Wedemeyer in the hope of blunting legitimate attack on their misguided welfare policies.

Background

Jack Wedemeyer was appointed to the \$24,500 California State Welfare Directorship in 1959, after serving as Director of the Santa Clara County Welfare Department. Since that time, ^{state} welfare caseloads and expenditures have soared. Total welfare costs in California have tripled, climbing from \$479 million in 1959 to \$1.56 billion in the current budget, a startling seven times faster than population. At no time had Governor Brown criticized the growth of this burgeoning welfare dole system except for momentary fits and starts, reacting to public pressure against welfare fraud. Despite bold cover-up pronouncements of study commissions, little constructive action has been taken by the Administration to rehabilitate recipients and get them off the welfare rolls. Brown's campaigners were quick to realize that their efforts to blunt welfare as an issue in the 1966 campaign had failed. His hatchetmen then began looking for a scapegoat whom they could blame for their own numerous failures.

State-County Feud

Open warfare between the State and the counties over welfare programs is not new, but was brought to the surface with the issuance of the so-called CAL-FLEX report by the County Supervisors Association aimed at streamlining welfare administration and ending the paper blizzard which engulfs county administration. State Director Wedemeyer

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Office of Health and Welfare Agency Administrator Paul Ward - but Wedemeyer notes: "My personal feelings are less important than the doubts cast by your letter on much of the work currently in process within the Department and the State Board of Social Welfare and which was based on your previous commissions and upon understandings with Mr. Ward."

This is explicit confirmation of the fact that Wedemeyer previously had the Governor's support, had informed the Governor's Office about what he was doing, and was the victim of an insidious plot (in which the Governor himself was directly involved) to force his resignation, thus supposedly absolving the Governor of responsibility for the mess in California's welfare program. This point of view is confirmed by the statement of Percy Steele, a member of the State Social Welfare Board who according to the Los Angeles Times also accused Brown of "engineering" Wedemeyer's resignation. Steele said he felt Brown wanted Wedemeyer out because the Governor is "running scared" against Republican gubernatorial nominee Ronald Reagan, who has urged a cutback in state welfare spending.

Policy Conflict or "Scapegoatism"

When Wedemeyer resigned a release from the Governor's Office stated that the "resignation came as a surprise, (sic) but apparently stemmed from the Governor's continuing insistence on better working relationships with local officials charged with the administration of welfare by state law."

Curiously the Governor's Health and Welfare Agency Administrator Paul Ward stated the Brown Administration's policy in the field of state-county relations in a news release only ten months ago when he said it is time for California's 58 counties "to put their money where

in a blast against the counties called this report "contradictory and off target" and an attempt by the Supervisor's Association to "roll back to the good old pre-depression methods of local action and interpretation". After this controversy erupted, the Governor called upon Paul Ward, the Health and Welfare Agency Administrator to "mediate" the dispute between State and county officials.

Several days later, the Governor publicly attacked Wedemeyer for allowing contracts providing \$78,000 for welfare recipients groups to "spend their time working for more welfare benefits". Interestingly enough, these contracts were based on legislation the Governor himself signed in 1965 (AB 2869, Chapter 1949).

Wedemeyer's Resignation - Strange Sequence of Events

Wedemeyer, whose influence was undermined by the Governor's personal attack on him, then resigned issuing a public rebuke against the Governor, the full meaning of which has gone relatively unnoticed. Wedemeyer referred to his discussion with the Governor on August 7th at which time they apparently reached some understanding on this issue (that it was too hot politically in an election year to let the contracts). But this meeting was two days after the Governor's letter chastising Wedemeyer on the contracts had already been written (August 5th) showing that the Governor had already decided to blast Wedemeyer publicly two days before he met with him supposedly to iron out a policy dispute. The Governor's letter was released on August 9th and did not reach Wedemeyer's desk until August 12th. This sequence of events makes it quite clear that Wedemeyer's resignation was already engineered by the Governor when he met with him on August 7th to "discuss" and supposedly resolve the issue.

The Governor, in his public letter to Wedemeyer also said that the subject matter of the proposed contracts had not been cleared with the

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their mouth is" in the field of welfare administration, that "they should stop breeding myths which hamper public understanding of the job which the state and federal governments are trying to do" and that "we face foot-dragging from the minority partners in this enterprise (counties)..." This statement clearly pinpoints the fact that Wedemeyer's attack on the counties for which he was chastised by the Governor was a restatement of Administration policy and is further evidence of a basic election year policy shift by the Governor in which he sacrificed his welfare director in a blatant attempt to win political support. If attack on county administration of welfare was not okay as Administration policy ten months ago why didn't the Governor point out then that his aide was off base? He didn't then because he wasn't campaigning for votes.

In addition, the 1965 legislation, which the Governor himself signed authorizing recipient group self-help action, listed a series of relatively non-controversial activities as priorities for use of project funds. Moreover there is serious question as to whether the proposed contracts actually would have authorized recipient groups to undertake the pressure group activities alleged by the Governor. This is merely another item in an arsenal of facts which indicates that the issue built by the Governor from the beginning rested on factual quicksand and political desperation.

Conclusion

The facts developed in this "White Paper" clearly show that Governor Brown acted with duplicity when he recognized the need for a welfare political scapegoat and cashed in the job of his appointee in the hope to gain some votes.

Once they have the facts, the people of California will reject the tactics of an administration which crawls into the gutter in desperation to escape responsibility for policies which they have actively pursued for eight years.