

families and crime-ridden areas who routinely outperform their public school counterparts by a large margin with one-third of the funds. The “poverty” argument just doesn’t fly. Reading methodology *does* matter.

Another argument is that our kids lack textbooks. Hogwash. The money is there, as per-pupil spending figures show. The problem is *how* the money is spent, a point most people miss. Assemblyman Tony Cardenas, for example, is the sponsor of Proposition 20, which requires school districts to dedicate a certain portion of their lottery funds on acquiring textbooks. He’s passionate about this because many schools in his home district (LA Unified) have no textbooks at all — but why force a spending formula on all California schools that may be appropriate for only Los Angeles Unified?

The very existence of Proposition 20 demonstrates not that our schools lack textbook funds, but rather how irresponsible they are in setting their funding priorities. LA Unified provides a classic case in point. It’s spending decisions are so politicized and skewed by social considerations that academics are no longer the primary spending consideration — but this is the direction that all California school districts are heading.

An example of these misplaced spending priorities is the aggressive effort by Los Angeles Unified to promote the homosexual agenda. A analysis of its budget reveals it is spending, at a minimum, \$7 million on pro-homosexual curriculum lessons, funding the Gay and Lesbian Education Commission, maintaining the “Eagle Center” (a school run

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## Panamanian Holiday

### Californians taking a closer look at China’s Canal machinations

by John Kurzweil

SOMEONE FORGOT to tell the communist Chinese about the end of history. A Pentagon book published in January concludes from writings by that country’s chief military and Party strategists that China is making plans for war. February 2’s *Washington Times* reported that *China Debates the Future Security Environment*, published by the Pentagon’s Office of Net Assessment (and edited by Michael Pillsbury, a Reagan Administration defense policy planner), contains “some 600 translations of internal Chinese writings by 200 authors [that] reveal China’s strategy to defeat a superior foe, using both military and nonmilitary means, such as propaganda, deception, and covert action.”

Californians have been taking particular interest in the increasingly belligerent talk from across the Pacific, with some justification. The immediate probable cause of any U.S./China military confrontation would be an American defense of Taiwan’s freedom against a communist invasion, and when a high-ranking Red Army officer wanted recently to warn against any such defense he mentioned the possibility of lobbing a nuclear missile not into Washington, D.C., but into Los Angeles.

Two California congressmen,

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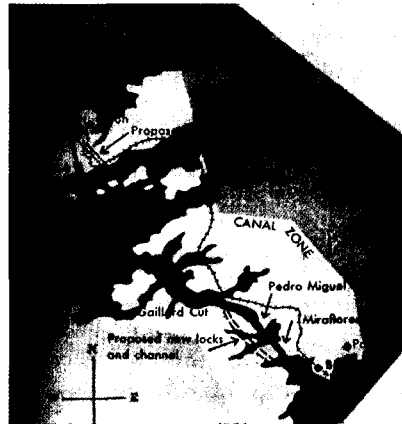
Chris Cox and Dana Rohrabacher, have taken the lead in the House on Chinese anti-American espionage (see Leon McKinney’s extensive coverage in *CPR*’s Jan./Feb., March/April, and May/June 1999 issues) and the communist power’s moves to gain a foothold at the Panama Canal. Also, a conference on the ramifications for the Golden State of the China/Panama Canal connection is being planned for this summer in Southern California. Security considerations aside, California holds a considerable economic stake in the free flow of ships through the Canal. The state would suffer grievously, for just one example, from any cut-off of Middle Eastern oil through Panama.

The myth spread around in the mid- and late-1970s when first President Gerald Ford and then Jimmy Carter (assisted by all the usual liberal suspects) worked successfully to ram through Congress laws providing for U.S. abandonment of the Canal and our retreat from Panama was that, as a matter of justice, we were restoring to the Panamanian people control of their country’s most valuable asset. Former California Senator S.I. Hayakawa, in an impressive flourish of political double-talk, seemed to agree with both sides, saying he would oppose the Canal give-away because “we stole it, fair and square.” Hayakawa never bothered to explain how we could have sto-

len a thing we ourselves built or how its ownership properly belonged to Panama, a “nation” created by the United States (at the request of the local population) out of part of northern Columbia at the end of a 52-year period (1850 to 1902) that featured no fewer than 53 *individual revolts*, all unsuccessful, seeking the area’s independence. After the United States purchased the interest of the failed French Panama Canal Company around the turn of the century (a transaction Columbia’s rulers refused to ratify) the U.S. Navy prevented the landing of Columbian troops to suppress Panamanian revolt number 54 and, on November 6, 1903, the republic of Panama was born. In gratitude, it quickly ratified a treaty giving the United States the right to turn worthless jungle into a boon to the world. Perhaps Hayakawa meant the Canal really belonged to Columbia. In any event, he went to Washington, broke his word like a good Republican, and voted for the Canal give-away on April 18, 1978.

**T**HE AMERICAN people never bought the notion that “justice” required abandoning the Canal. In 1976, Ronald Reagan, once he dropped the foolish “11th Commandment” and began hitting Ford on the Solzhenitsyn snub, Vice-President Rockefeller, and *the Canal give-away*, came within 100 delegate votes of toppling a sitting Republican president for the nomination of his own Party, an unheard-of feat in the GOP, with its heavy Tory tendency to support the top man no matter what. Richard A. Delgaudio, head of the National Security Center, a group

supporting continued U.S. presence at the Canal, has turned up the interesting datum that of the 68 senators voting to surrender the Canal in 1978, 35 — more than half — “were no longer in the Senate after next elections: many attributed their defeat to their votes on the Canal treaties.” Twenty-four were defeated in



their next general or primary elections, 10 retired (including Hayakawa), and one died.

My theory of the driving force behind the give-away, against the strong desire of the American people, was that it was lawmakers’ intense desire to avoid being seen opposing the Beltway-fashionable, anti-U.S.-in-world-affairs fanaticism of the time. A telling quote from Jimmy Carter certainly suggests that little thought or care underlay this momentous move. “Ambiguity haunted the entire Panama Canal treaties process, negotiations, ratification and implementation,” Carter wrote to Alaska Senator Ted Stevens in 1977. “It was not necessarily a failure to communicate — but a determination to transfer the Canal whatever the cost and with or without a meeting of minds.” Ah, leadership!

But surely Panamanians desperately want and demand that the

hated U.S. *Gringos* relinquish all control of the Canal! Actually, no, *they do not*. In 1998, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Thomas H. Moorer testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, making several informative points. “In a recent poll,” Moorer said, “70 percent of the Panamanian people expressed a desire to have some kind of continuing U.S. presence in the Canal Zone after the year 2000.” Those landslide numbers perhaps explain why, believe it or not, the give-away treaty, Moorer said, “*was never signed by Panama.*” (emphasis added) As the Admiral explained: “under Panamanian Law, a treaty cannot be simply entered into by its governing body; a plebiscite must be held so that the Panamanian people can voice their approval or disapproval with a vote. No such plebiscite has ever been held.”

**P**ANAMANIANs, EVIDENTLY more geo-politically astute than people named Ford, Carter, or Hayakawa, understand that you cannot “turn over” an internationally-vital strategic choke point to a small, corrupt, third-world government. It won’t happen. At the first opportunity, they will sell it to the highest bidder, which will, of course, be a great power not yet too paralyzed by self-doubt or Beltway fascination to see the item’s value. That is what has happened. Red China has bought the rights to control key ports at both ends of the Canal and is moving in. The Panamanians dislike seeing Chinese communists shoving their way into their country, and would like the *Gringos* to return.

Stay tuned.

CPA

# Who should be California Republicans' nominee to oppose Dianne Feinstein?



**I** AM PROUD to support Ray Haynes for the United States Senate and would like to review a few reasons why I have taken this step. I have known Ray for over a decade and have particularly admired his dedication to the original intent of the U.S. Constitution and his steadfast belief in liberty.

Senator Haynes is a proven conservative who has consistently refused to run away from the conservative values we share. Ray has told me that he became a Republican because of our Party's principled support of lower taxes, the family, the Constitution, and the sanctity of life. He supports a ballistic missile defense system and has shown belief in the *entire* Bill of Rights — not just selected ones. Throughout his campaign for U.S. Senate, he has emphasized these key issues because he believes them in his heart.

Ray Haynes does not just talk about these issues — he has successfully acted upon them. The car taxes you pay in California are lower today because of the battle Senator Haynes led in the Legislature. His support for the Constitution has been re-

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*Bruce Herschensohn was the Republican Party's 1992 U.S. Senate nominee and now serves as a Distinguished Fellow at the Claremont Institute.*

## Ray Haynes

— *Bruce Herschensohn*