

Republicans of River City

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THIS IS A FREE MEETING; WE WILL NOT COLLECT ANY MONEY AT THE DOOR!

**CHUCK BELL COMES TO REPUBLICANS OF RIVER CITY
COME SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN FEBRUARY AT RIVER CITY
February 19, 2008 in the Ose Room located at: Channel 6, KVIE
2595 Capitol Oaks Drive
Sacramento**

The social hour starts at 6:30 PM and the general meeting starts at 7:15 PM.



CHUCK BELL, CRP GENERAL COUNSEL, TO SPEAK

By Fred Hildebrand

Charles H. Bell, General Counsel to the California Republican Party, will address Republicans of River City at its next General Meeting on February 19, 2008. Although it will be Mr. Bell's first appearance before the group, he is very familiar to many Republicans, especially to members of the CRP. For those of us who have attended CRP Conventions, we find him a very familiar face. In a very laid-back manner, he is ubiquitous, present at all significant events.

Although CRP conventions require Mr. Bell's presence, he is constantly working to benefit Republican causes on a day-to-day basis. He works on our behalf at all levels, ranging from election problems on a local level to representing us before the United State Supreme Court. He has actually represented us before the United States Supreme Court on two occasions.

Chuck Bell will answer your questions and welcomes interaction with his audience. He can address many subjects. This is an opportunity that is open to guests as well as members of River City. We will convene at KVIE, Channel 6 on February 19th. We will enjoy a social hour at 6:30 P.M. and begin our general meeting at 7:15 P.M. Do not miss this opportunity!

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1

LAST MONTH AT RIVER CITY

In January, Roger Niello spoke to the members of River City and his appearance was both enjoyable and enlightening. We all enjoy Roger's spry wit and self depreciating jokes.

In addition, Roger gave our members clear insight into the budget crisis now facing our state and how he thinks things will play out. Roger believes that the Governor will hold fast on Democrats raising taxes (thank God) and there will be lots of anguish and gnashing of teeth over the cuts to the programs most dear to the hearts of special interests statewide.

Come spring, the Governor will unveil his May Revise, and the legislature and the public will have a clearer picture of where state revenue stands and how much of a cut state programs must sustain.

CHUCK BELL

CHARLES H. BELL, JR.

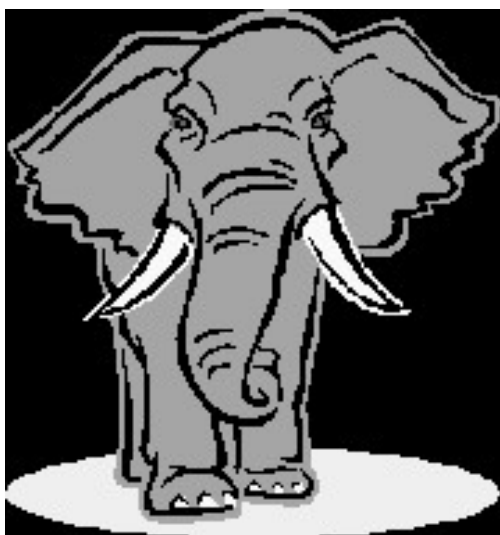
Chuck Bell is the senior partner in the campaign and election law firm of Bell, McAndrews, Hiltachk, LLP., of Sacramento and Santa Monica, California.

Mr. Bell is the General Counsel to the California Republican Party and the First Vice President of the RNLA. He was the founding chairman of the California Political Attorneys Association, and is a Vice President of the Federalist Society's Free Speech and Election Law Practice Group.

He has represented the California Republican Party before the U.S. Supreme Court in two cases, California Democratic Party v. Jones (2000) and McConnell v. FEC (2003).

He represented Governor Schwarzenegger during the 2003 recall election and in litigation matters after his election.

Mr. Bell is a graduate of Stanford University (A.B. 1968) and the Stanford Law School (J.D. 1974).



THE MORTGAGE REFORM and ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT of 2007

By Dan Lungren, Congressman, 3rd Congressional District

Clearly government has a role to play in providing a social safety net for those adversely affected by downturns in the business cycle. All Americans are sympathetic to the plight of those who have been

harmed by the sub-prime mortgage debacle. It was for this reason that I voted in favor of H.R. 3915, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2007, which included reforms to prevent the practices that led to our current situation.

The downturn in the housing sector has now spread to other sectors of the economy and, according to most analysts, economic growth has slowed to less than one percent. It was on this basis that the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader John Boehner, and the White House negotiated an economic stimulus package. I supported this agreement because it was targeted, timely, and temporary. Unfortunately, due to the demands of Senate Majority Leader Reid, the stimulus package agreement was breached and these criteria ignored.

The Senate bill sent back to the House was expanded in a manner that threatens to undermine its underlying purpose. For example, Peter Orszag of the Congressional Budget Office testified before the House Budget Committee, of which I am a member, on the need to implement the stimulus program in a timely fashion-sooner rather than later. Dr. Orszag expressed concern that including individuals in the program who paid no taxes could create administrative problems that would delay the issuance of rebate checks for all Americans. This is noteworthy in that if any stimulus package is to work, it is essential that money get to consumers as soon as possible. If funds are distributed too late, the money will have no impact on a potential recession. Thus, the Senate language expanding the stimulus package to non-taxpayers threatens to undermine the timeliness and effectiveness of the effort to stimulate the economy.

Furthermore, as someone who came to the Congress to fight for budgetary

restraint, it is my view that any stimulus proposal must be targeted to stimulate economic growth rather than attempt to score political points. Unlike the original agreement negotiated between the House Leadership and the White House, the Senate language added to this package is not narrowly targeted to stimulate growth. Furthermore, it would contribute to budgetary excess which will increase the Fiscal Year 2007 deficit from \$162 billion to \$410 billion in FY 09.

At a time when the Congress has so little credibility with respect to the budget, insufficiently targeted benefits based upon political rather than economic considerations would send precisely the wrong message to the financial markets. Those of us in the Congress have a responsibility to ensure that our actions do not open the door to further budgetary excess. It is not a good sign that as soon as the ink was dry on the House vote to accept the Senate language, the House leadership already began to discuss a second stimulus package. In light of the fact that language in the Senate stimulus package enacted by the Congress entails costs which run through fiscal year 2018, it is hard to see how this action was targeted and temporary. The federal budgetary imbalance presents problems which threaten permanent damage to the U.S. economy. Accordingly, the failure of the Congressional leadership to produce remedial action which was timely, targeted, and temporary led me to vote against the stimulus package.

Finally, it should be noted that the current discussions within the House and Senate Leadership about letting the 2001, 2002 and 2003 tax cuts expire, are tantamount to announcing that there will be a tax increase after 2010. This in my view will likely have the effect of working against the purpose of the stimulus package.

Continued on Page 3, Col. 3

IN MY OPINION:

STATE FISCAL CRISIS

by Christopher Angle

We are entering a new year, and it appears that the state is heading for yet another fiscal crisis. At this time, there appears to be at \$14 billion dollar shortfall between what the state will take in and what it will spend. Given the financial difficulty that the state always appears to be flirting with, one cannot escape the nagging feeling that something has gone fundamentally wrong.

Although it is tempting to blame the current occupants of the legislature for the predicament in which the state finds itself, the reality is that the problem is closer to where we (the voters) reside. Roughly 85% of the state budget is pre-allocated before the legislature ever starts arguing. The people of California through various initiatives, along with the federal government, have managed to tie up the state budget. The most egregious of these initiatives is Proposition 98, which mandated that 40% of each dollar of tax revenue be allocated to education whether it needs it or not. With the automatic spending formulas that are currently in place as a result of these initiatives, education takes up nearly 50% of the state budget. The process is largely on auto-pilot, and the legislators have limited flexibility to craft reasonable budgets. The automatic spending formulas have resulted in a structural deficit that defies a permanent solution.

Clearly this method of auto-pilot ballot box budgeting has not worked and desperately needs to be reformed. Schwarzenegger has proposed dealing with the structural deficit through a constitutional amendment requiring automatic spending cuts when revenues fall. Although this solution is better than

nothing, it does not go to the heart of the problem. It injects another level of automation into a process that desperately needs less.

The fundamental problem with budgeting through initiatives is that it is asking people (the voters) to make financial decisions with no overall context as to how this individual spending item that they are being asked to approve impacts the entire state budget. Furthermore, most voters do not have the time to obtain the context that would be necessary to make a wise spending decision. The theory behind representative democracy is that we elect people to make decisions for us that we do not have the time or the expertise to make for ourselves. We, the voters, then judge the representatives on the outcome. By creating spending mandates at the ballot-box, we have short-circuited this process and landed in our present predicament.

Repairing the damage will require an initiative repealing previous voter-approved spending mandates, as well as a constitutional amendment prohibiting the creation of new mandates through the initiative process. Such an effort will require a serious, well-funded, voter educational effort to precede it, since any such initiative will face massive resistance from entrenched special interests. Such a fight, although difficult, is absolutely necessary if California is to break out of the cycle of structural deficits and fiscal crisis' that have characterized the last few years.

DID YOU KNOW

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It's easy. Just set your computer browser to REPUBLICANS OF RIVER CITY, click on JOIN, and fill out the form. Then click on the SUBMIT button and fill in the credit card information.

MORTGAGE REFORM

Such speculation about this potential revenue source can stifle business planning and long term investment horizons. This will have a harmful impact on the economy at the present time because it creates doubt and ambiguity about future economic policy. Thus, if the real intention is to stimulate economic growth, the Congress should enact legislation making the 2001, 2002 and 2003 tax cuts permanent. This, coupled with an accommodative monetary policy by the Federal Reserve is most likely to avert a recession and promote long term economic growth.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

February 1, 1865 – Chief Justice Salmon Chase, swears in Republican John S. Rock, first African-American to be admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court.

February 3, 1870 – After passing the House with 98% support and 97% Democrat opposition, Republicans' 15th Amendment is ratified, granting the vote to all Americans regardless of race.

February 8, 1894 - Democrat Congress and Democrat President Grover Cleveland join to repeal Republicans' Enforcement Act, which had enabled African-Americans to vote.

February 12, 1909 - On 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, African-American Republicans and women's suffragists Ida Wells and Mary Terrell co-found the NAACP.

February 25, 1870 – A former slave, Mississippi Republican Hiram Revels, becomes the first African-American U. S. Senator.

February 27, 1860 – Abraham Lincoln launches his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination with speech at the Cooper Institute in New York.

Governor Announces \$6 Million in Grants to Help California's Veterans Find New Jobs

Continuing his commitment to California's brave servicemen and women, Governor Schwarzenegger today announced more than \$6 million in grants to help military veterans as they return to the civilian workforce. The Governor made the announcement in Los Angeles at Managed Career Solutions, Inc. which will receive \$500,000 in grant funds to assist 300 county residents obtain and retain well-paid jobs in high-growth industries. The \$6 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds will help more than 1,500 newly discharged veterans find jobs. Additionally, the 12 agencies and organizations across California receiving the grants have committed matching funds of almost \$4 million to further expand their job training programs, for a total investment of nearly \$10 million.

These funds will help our veterans get jobs in high-growth industries and ease their transition back to civilian life. A recent U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs study found that 18 percent of the veterans who sought jobs within one to three years of discharge were unemployed, while one out of four who did find jobs earned less than \$21,840 a year. The Governor believes this is unacceptable and that our veterans deserve better. So, California is taking action.

The \$6 million in grants will focus on identifying military transferable skills and determining career paths to industries that offer livable wages, benefits and career advancement opportunities.

Veterans can expect to receive a variety of training in high-growth fields such as health care, emergency medical technology, construction, security, law enforcement and computer services.

The grants will also be used to target those veterans with service-connected disabilities or other significant barriers to employment.

The projects funded will also provide supportive services, placement, and follow-up through a case management approach and these programs are expected to run through December 2009.

The 12 agencies and organizations across California receiving these grants include:

Awardees; County; Total Award:

- Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc. San Diego, \$500,000;
- Fresno County, Fresno, \$500,000;
- Imperial Valley Regional Occupation, Imperial, \$500,000;
- Lutheran Social Services, Los Angeles, \$500,000;
- Managed Career Solutions, Inc., Los Angeles, \$500,000;
- Northern Santa Clara Valley Job Training Consortium, Santa Clara,

- \$500,000;
- Orange County, Orange, \$500,000;
- San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council Training, San Diego, \$500,000;
- SELACO Workforce Investment Board, Los Angeles, \$500,000;
- State Center Community College District, Fresno, \$500,000;
- Swords to Plowshares, San Francisco, \$500,000;
- Vietnam Veterans of San Diego, San Diego, \$500,000.



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THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER

Governor Meets With Mexico President Felipe Calderón, Builds On Strong Partnership Between California And Mexico

Governor Schwarzenegger met with Mexico President Felipe Calderón at the State Capitol in Sacramento to further strengthen California's cross-border partnership and collaboration with Mexico. In this meeting, the Governor discussed the many shared challenges California and Mexico face, including ensuring the safety of our citizens, protecting the environment and keeping our economies strong. The two leaders also discussed ways to strengthen ties and formalize partnerships to exchange information, expertise and technology. As part of these efforts, officials from both California and Mexico will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to team up in the fight against climate change, protect the environment and conserve our precious natural resources.

Strengthening ties with Mexico is key to our current and future economic health.

Boosting trade, tourism and goods movement between California and Mexico creates jobs and helps our economies grow.

- Mexico is California's top trade partner. Mexico is California's number one export market, with \$19.6 billion in export trade flowing to Mexico from California. These exports sustain thousands of California businesses and support nearly 200,000 jobs.
- Since 2002, California's agricultural exports to Mexico

have nearly doubled in value, making it one of the state's fastest growing export markets. Mexico alone accounts for 15 percent of California's annual goods exports.

- California's agricultural exports to Mexico represent an estimated 5 percent of the total U.S. agricultural exports to this market.
- Mexico is California's top international tourism market. According to the California Travel and Tourism Commission, California had approximately 8.6 million Mexican visitors in 2005.
- While here, visitors from Mexico spent an estimated \$1.6 billion in California, ranking first among all international markets.
- The Governor shares President Calderón's commitment to investing in infrastructure. Since taking office, President Calderón has called for unprecedented investment in Mexico's infrastructure, including a public-private infrastructure plan to build railways, roads, seaports, airports, telecommunications, water supply systems, dams, electricity and oil installations.

Investing in infrastructure on both sides of the border and utilizing public-private partnerships is an investment in the future and will improve goods movement, trade and quality of life in California and Mexico for years to come.

Officials from the United Mexican States' Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources and California's Environmental Protection Agency, Resources Agency and Department of Food and Agriculture signed an MOU to improve cross-border collaboration on environmental protection.

This MOU is an agreement between Mexico and California to work

cooperatively on ways to enhance policies for environmental protection and sustainable natural resources. The agreement calls for a Joint Action Plan to be developed and implemented by the signing agencies.

ASSEMBLYMAN NIELLO ANNOUNCES NEW BUDGET WEBSITE

With a projected budget deficit of \$14.5 billion, the State Budget will be the biggest challenge for lawmakers during this year's legislative session. Assemblyman Niello and the Assembly Republican Caucus have developed a new website that will enable taxpayers to keep in touch with the daily grind of this year's budget process.

The site contains all of the latest news and facts and figures about the budget from the Legislative Analysts Office and the Department of Finance. In addition, news releases and editorials will be available that will inform the public of what Assembly Republicans are doing to find significant budget savings to reduce our state's budget deficit, reform the budget system and defend Californians from higher taxes.

"As lawmakers and the Governor consider many different options in the coming months to address our severe budget problems, it is important that California taxpayers stay informed and get involved to demand action from their government. We hope that you will find our new budget website to be a valuable tool as Assembly Republicans fight on your behalf to cut wasteful spending and resist attempts to punish taxpayers to pay for Sacramento's wasteful spending habits," said Assemblyman Niello.

Please go to Assemblyman Niello's webpage at www.assembly.ca.gov/niello and click on the "Protecting California taxpayers" module in the middle of the page.



Carl Burton, President

AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Carl Burton

Let's not forget why most Black Americans aligned themselves as Democrats; the social programs of the New Deal created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the failure of Richard Nixon to come to the aid of Dr. Martin Luther King when he asked both Nixon and John Kennedy to help him get out of jail. Kennedy came to his aid and Nixon demurred.

While Black America has been loyal to the Democrat Party, Black America has been taken for granted by the Democrat Party, using racial divisions and pandering from social dependence of government to maintain the base of Black America without providing any substance in return.

And let's remember the Republican Party is the party of Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president. Under President Lincoln, the Republican Party was formed as the anti-slavery party, which believed in a color-blind society, where "all people are created equal."

The Republican Party believes in standards of aspiration, provided by education, hard work, and a strong family to teach solid values to their children.

Martin Luther King, unknown to most, was a Republican. He believed Black America should strive to achieve the most of each opportunity through a dream of equality.

In 1983, Republican President Ronald Reagan signed into law "Martin Luther King Day" as a

national holiday.

The goal of the National Black Republican Association and Republicans of River City is to return black Americans to their Republican Party roots by enlightening them about how Republicans fought for their freedom and civil rights, and are now fighting for their educational and economic advancement. To read more about the NBRA visit their web site at <http://www.nbra.info>.

Keep in mind the Republican platform of 1864: "Resolved, That as slavery was the cause, and now constitutes the strength of this Rebellion, and as it must be, always and everywhere, hostile to the principles of Republican Government, justice and the National safety demand its utter and complete extirpation from the soil of the Republic."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your membership in Republicans of River City provides you a monthly newsletter, speakers, and an outstanding opportunity to meet your elected officials and California's finest political strategists. River City is also a great way to network and make new friends.

I am a registered Republican and would like to join Republicans of River City.

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_____ Couples Membership: enclosed is our check for \$40

Signature _____

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