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Only President Changes

CDC Continues Leftist Policy

From the actions taken at a recent convention in Bakersfield, it is apparent that the California Democratic Council has changed its president but not its philosophy or approach.

Under the leadership of Simon Casady the CDC was an irresponsible, far-left organization. Mr. Casady simply reflected the views of CDC in his speeches, although somewhat intemperately.

The new president, Gerald Hill, according to Gov. Edmund G. Brown "may be more liberal, but he will be more discreet." The CDC was hardly discreet at Bakersfield.

Resolutions passed by the group ask for de-escalation of the U.S. commitment in Viet Nam, seek U.S. recognition of the Communist Viet Cong and further appeasement, including cessation of U.S. search-and-kill operations and a retreat to coastal enclaves.

Other resolutions opposed use of braceros on California farms, asked for a reduction of foreign military aid, were against U.S. intervention in our hemisphere to protect our interests, and urged a congressional inquiry of the Central Intelligence Agency.

It will be recalled that the governor pressed for the resignation of Mr. Casady last year for advocating some of these same viewpoints about Viet Nam.

The views are admittedly irresponsible and leave a bad taste. The distaste was clearly shown by many of the state Democrat leaders who avoided the convention.

Among those who pointly refused to attend were Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, Los Angeles Mayor Samuel

Yorty, many Democrat legislators and constitutional officers.

Their absence was further evidence of the deep fragmentation and divisions among the Democrat Party in California. The polarization of Democrat philosophy is much more severe than differences among Republicans.

The governor's attendance and acceptance of CDC support is a strange twist of illogic.

The governor said in Bakersfield that he supports the President's policy in Viet Nam — and was booed as a result. The CDC does not support the President. Yet the governor will accept the CDC support although the group does not represent his philosophy or conclusions on Viet Nam.

Equally difficult to understand is the governor's failure to censure the CDC delegates who booed the President and vice president. He would have been among the first to criticize any Republicans who acted in a similar distasteful manner.

In the sense that victory is the goal of politics, the governor is playing according to rules of the game. From the standpoint of forthrightness, however, only he can determine if he can accept support at any price.