

Paradise Lost?

Purpose: To review briefly the past and current site of California and make some extrapolative projections for the future.

I. Past to the Present

- A. Read Montalvo's Quotation again and the interpretation
- B. From a sleepy outpost of the Spanish Empire, to the largest (in population, agriculture and the trend setter) of the United States.
- C. If Cal. were a separate nation, it would be one of the most influential countries in the world.
- D. It is diverse, in many ways its boundaries are not defensible on any grounds. ie. no common culture, industry, political heritage, economic base.
- E. Who is a Californian ? Can anyone really find a reasonable stereotype? Have you been to L.A. lately? (Do you identify with that lifestyle? as compared to a lumberman in Klamath Mtns., or an aerospace designer in San Jose? Which one (if any) is the real Californian???)
- F. We are lucky that we never really were heavily hit with the Second Wave of Tessen. Heavy industry never took root in California.
- G. We are also the trendsetter of the third wave, for the Hi-Tech world is now being open to us. We do not have to retrain as large a percentage of our population for this new world we are now entering.
- H. Our strength as a political power is in our very diversity.
 1. When you are first or second in so many things you have more power as a unit than the power of the sum of the individual units would have if they were not of one place, one political entity, one state.
- I. Assuming no apocalyptic ending of our society as a whole, the future of the state seems positive.
 1. Population will continue to grow but more from natural increase than from in-migration.
 2. Real estate prices will continue to climb.
 3. Commuting will get worse until people finally move near to where they work due to cost of fuel and time in transit.
 4. Agriculture will remain the mainstay of the economy, but farmers will need to deal with water and waste water problems more rationally.
 5. Farms will be larger and held more by companies rather than families.
 6. Urban centers will continue to grow, but some industries will relocate if housing costs for their employees become to great. (note: Hi-Tech industries are more mobile than many)
 7. People will need extensive retraining, (education) to prepare for the new hi-tech jobs which will be the main labor market for the future.
 8. We hope that the politicians of California realize the need to accommodate to this need for retraining, or we risk the possibility of losing these industries to competition from other sun-belt states.
 9. We cannot simply expect to live off our nice climate, varied geography and urban base without providing the real need for the people of the third wave world, namely a positive environment for real thinking and the training to channel this knowledge in the proper direction for the employer.

II. California is as much a state of mind as it is a state of the nation.

- A. People in other places see us differently than we see ourselves.
- B. This is one of the few places in the world where you can go skiing in the morning, eat lunch of fruit and vegetables grown in the the very spot in which you eat them, with a locally produced fruit of the vine, and take a flying leap into the largest ocean in the world before the sun goes down, all while your leased robot makes 45,000 of the latest widgets you have invented last week which has made you a trend setting millionaire overnight.

Sweet (California) dreams!

(Play "California dreamn)
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