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This was done for
Paul Slecht of his trip
to West Coast on ~~at~~ July 5-6

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Californians for Common Sense

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two of California's most prominent leaders of organized labor today joined the campaign to defeat the smoking prohibitions proposition that will appear on the November ballot.

William R. Robertson, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor and John F. Crowley, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, both denounced the proposal which would outlaw smoking in most places of employment and places to which the public is permitted.

Co-chairmen of Californians for Common Sense, the organization campaigning for defeat of the proposition, are Houston I. Flournoy, dean of the University of Southern California Center for Public Affairs, and John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO).

"All Californians," said Robertson, "are deeply concerned with taxes and crime. I am strongly opposed to the smoking prohibitions proposition because it would intensify both problems.

(MORE. . .QUOTE OPEN)



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"Along with other taxpayers of the state, our working people are carrying an outrageous burden of local and state taxes. This anti-smoking scheme would add a minimum of \$43 million to the taxpayers' costs merely because of the tremendous number of signs it would require at every entrance to every governmental facility, plus the costs of law enforcement and additional court operations to process the violations.

"The prospect of a mandatory fine of \$50 for each violation -- and of contending with citizen arrests -- makes this proposal ridiculous. It would require police officers to handle complaints about people lighting a cigarette in the wrong place when the police could and should be protecting us from real crime.

"California does not need such nonsense!"

Crowley mentioned he is "old enough to remember misguided people trying to prohibit drinking" in the 20's and early 30's.

"They got the law they wanted," Crowley said, "but it didn't prohibit drinking. Instead, it raised havoc and disrespect for the law simply because you cannot regulate personal behavior by government statute.

"Working men and women do not want a 'Big Brother' government making their individual decisions for them.

"The smoking prohibitions proposition on California's November ballot would do exactly that. It also would further erode California's ability to attract the new job-creating businesses we must have to keep unemployment from climbing.

"When we add \$260 million for the cost of first-year compliance with the act to business and industry, plus existing taxes and California's permit redtape, the desirability of locating new plants here is diminished."

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