

## Patton Says

# County Board *1/26/79* 'Bought, Sold'

By PAUL BEATTY  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The majority of the county Board of Supervisors "has been bought and sold by private interests," Supervisor Gary Patton told the People's Democratic Club of Santa Cruz County Thursday night.

While generally naming such large developments as "Galleon" in Boulder Creek and "Seascape" in Mid-County as favored developments of his colleagues, Patton was more specific in charges against Supervisors' Chairman Dan Forbus.

He said Forbus had given preferred treatment to two land division applications "contributed and supported" Forbus' candidacy in the summit area because those their applicants had "contributed to and supported" Forbus' campaign.

Patton said they were the two applications that had been appealed by The

Environmental Council.

They were separate applications of T. E. Schmidt and Jeanne Packard, which the board refused to hear on appeal, thereby supporting the planning commission's approval.

According to Forbus' campaign statement: William Packard (husband of Jeanne, according to land deeds) contributed \$100, and Marion Schmidt (wife of T. E. Schmidt, according to land deeds) contributed \$50 to the 1978 campaign of Forbus.

Forbus said this morning, "I knew that one had contributed \$100, but I don't even know which one that was.

"But, it had nothing to do with whether they got their division," he said.

Patton said the preferred treatment included the board's majority changing the open space reserve and seismic requirement in the summit area.

Forbus denied that, saying that the

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reserve was not changed, but clarified so that the county Planning Department could not mandate a 40-acre minimum, but allow a 2.5-acre minimum that had existed all along.

He said that under the board's second revamping of the seismic requirement, the two applicants still will have to pay for geological reports at from \$200 to \$300. He said Schmidt had already paid for a number of reports "and there was no reason to deny him the lot split."

Patton went on in describing threats to the environment by the new board, telling the Democrats Thursday night,

"If we want to make a stand against what happened in Santa Clara happening here, there is one chance, and that is 1980."

He noted that all four board seats, other than his own, will be up for election next year.

Patton said the present board would be controlled by Measure J, the county's growth management ordinance, and court suits that may control the board's circumventing it "for the next two years.

"But, I do not believe we can survive six years with this present board and keep Santa Cruz County as a humane

place where the county can flourish and the human element can flourish."

Of the condition of county government, Patton said it is "in a crisis situation and the Planning Department is on the edge of virtual collapse."

He cited the turnover rate of about 30 percent in personnel, the employees leaving for higher paying jobs, and the public's reaction against government as expressed in Proposition 13 as the major causes of government problems.

Patton urged the Democrats to "tithe" themselves for campaign money and "to mobilize the people for the 1980 campaign."