

RR SC Pol + Gov

## Campaign Finance Ordinance

# Citizens For Clean Election Blast Supervisors' Non-Action

By PAUL BEATTY

Sentinel Staff Writer

Citizens for a Clean Election have blasted the decision of two county supervisors Tuesday to take no immediate action to reinstate the county's \$100 campaign finance ordinance.

CCE is an ad hoc citizens' group that states it has collected more than 3,000 signatures in support of a campaign finance law since the board majority repealed the ordinance two weeks ago.

The group said the repeal "will protect people who are currently under investigation by the county grand jury for having made illegal campaign contributions in recent elections."

It was apparently unknown at the time the board majority repealed the ordinance that in doing so it also provided amnesty for any violators during the three-year effective date of the campaign limitation.

But since it has been made known that the repeal ends the possibility for prosecution for violations of the campaign

---

## Sentinel

Wednesday, March 21, 1979

— Santa Cruz —37

---

ordinance, Supervisor Pat Liberty has stated she would change her vote, according to CCE and press accounts.

However, Tuesday, neither she nor Supervisors' Chairman Dan Forbus agreed to reconsider the appeal immediately.

Forbus said the issue would go before the board in a week or so.

A CCE spokesman said, "We had intended to commend Supervisor Liberty (but) it seems that once again the conservative majority of the board is subjugating the needs of the citizens in this county in order to garner the support of the rich minority who will no doubt contribute heavily to their future cam-

paigns if the repeal of this ordinance is believed to stand."

The grand jury's investigation is believed to include possible violations of the campaign finance limitation ordinance which allowed contributions of only \$100 from each supporter of a candidate and only \$500 in per supporter of ballot measures.

The grand jury is also looking into the county's processing of the June 1978 primary and recently sealed the ballot boxes from three precincts to have them recounted, The Sentinel has learned.

Immediately following the primary, challenges were made and a recount held.

Also, the state elections office conducted an investigation following complaints. That investigation found there was a number of "irregularities" that could have left the door open for fraud, but that no fraud was found.

While there were "irregularities," they were not sufficient to change the results of the election, according to the state report.