

Brown Complicates Democratic Race

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CHICAGO, March 13—A major new element of uncertainty has been introduced into the already confused contest for the Democratic Presidential nomination by the decision of Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California to enter his state's June 8 primary.

The Governor of the nation's largest state made his decision, which had been awaited by politicians across the country, in a characteristically unorthodox way, calling four newsmen into his office last evening for a rambling chat.

Mr. Brown, a 37-year-old former Jesuit seminarian, said he would run a "full and serious" favorite-son campaign because no "clear-cut" front-runner had emerged from the early primaries and because his "new ideas and fresh thoughts deserve a hearing."

'Reasonably Good Governor'

"I think I've made a reasonably good governor and I think the task of President is not all that much different," he declared. "California is a big state. It's diverse and it has all of the problems of this country in microcosm."

Politicians in Washington, in California and in Illinois, where the next primary is to be held on Tuesday, said Mr. Brown's candidacy could profoundly affect the race in a number of ways because of the size of the California delegation to the Democratic National Convention (280 votes) and because the California balloting ends the primary campaign.

Whatever influence he might have would depend, of course, on what kind of showing he makes in the primary.

California Democrats were inclined to rate the Governor's chances highly. Several cited his approval rating in the most recent statewide poll by Marvin Field, which reached 86.9 percent, the highest figure in the history of polling in California, as evidence of his potential.

"I think he will get at least a plurality of the votes, come what may," said Charles Mannatt, the state Democratic chairman, "and he might be able to take a majority."

Joseph Cerrell, a leading Democratic political consultant in Los Angeles, agreed, but he cited some past California favorite-son candidacies as a cautionary note.

In 1952, he recalled, Mr. Brown's father, then the State Attorney General, ran as a favorite son and was trounced by the late Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee. In 1968, Thomas Lynch, then the Attorney General, led the remnants of a Lyndon B. Johnson delegate slate and lost to the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York and former Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota in the primary.

Unless he rolls up a huge majority, Mr. Brown would be prevented by new party rules from leading a unified delega-



United Press International
Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. at news session in his office in Sacramento.

tion to the Democratic convention in New York.

This year, for the first time, California's delegates would be allotted proportionally. Any candidate who gets 10 percent of the vote or more will be awarded delegates, 210 of whom are elected in the 43 Congressional Districts, with the other 70 chosen statewide.

Nonetheless, in the opinion of many California Democrats, Mr. Brown can be expected to win between 100 and 200 delegates, which would still constitute a formidable block.

The political assets of the Governor, who is known as Jerry, are substantial. He draws support from widely divergent constituencies, including Republicans, labor unions, minorities, blue-collar workers and white suburban liberals.

Complex Philosophy

His political philosophy is a strange melange of liberalism and conservatism, with occasional overtones of Zen Buddhism. He is against busing, against big Federal expenditures, against permissive court decisions in criminal matters. Yet he has backed the farm-labor organizers, and he said yesterday that the two biggest issues facing the nation were "full employment and the husbanding of limited resources."

Mr. Brown's candidacy, together with possible favorite-son efforts by Senator John H. Glenn Jr. in Ohio and Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr. in New Jersey—both of which states hold primaries the same day as California's—could rob any of the active candidates of a chance to show the final burst of strength needed to win a first-ballot nomination. That, politicians were saying

today, could lead in any one of three directions.

It could open the way for the nomination of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, an inactive candidate, possibly with Mr. Brown contributing the key votes in return for the Vice Presidential nomination. Mr. Brown said that discussion of that possibility seemed "presumptuous" to him.

Mr. Cerrell, who has represented Mr. Humphrey in California for some time, said he expected a large number of Humphrey supporters to be on the Brown delegate slates.

It could lead to a deal between Mr. Brown and one of the active candidates, possibly former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia, who agrees with Mr. Brown on a number of issues and shares some of his new-face, anti-Washington appeal.

Or it could conceivably lead to a nomination of Mr. Brown himself, after a prolonged period of negotiation either in the weeks between the California primary and the convention or at the convention itself after a deadlock.

Mr. Brown, a rather Spartan intellectual who likes to immerse himself in the writings of Aquinas and Hesse and Kafka, has been the subject of intense attention on news channels ever since he won the governorship in 1974. The Wall Street Journal, Playboy magazine and the "60 Minutes" program on CBS have all focused on him within the last month or so.

In his discussion with the California reporters last evening, Mr. Brown said he did not intend to "barnstorm" across California in search of votes. He will remain in Sacramento most of the time, he said, "doing what I have been doing, working hard, raising questions and discussing issues."

Needs Campaign Chief

He said he would enter no other primary, but his declaration means that he will be listed on the ballot in some other states, where lists of candidates are made up by state officials, including the one in Oregon, which does not give candidates the privilege of withdrawing their names.

The Governor's decision came only three days before the deadline for filing the names of a seven-member steering committee. He must also find a campaign manager; he was reported to have offered the job to former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein of New York, a close friend, who declined.

Now the four principal active contenders among the Democrats must decide whether to challenge Mr. Brown in California. Mr. Carter said that he would do so, and it seemed likely that Mr. Wallace, who seldom shrinks from a fight, would do likewise. Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona and Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington were reportedly studying their California options this weekend.