

Feud Splits California Party

Democrats Cancel Mission to Washington as Unity Efforts Collapse Amidst Bickering

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

THE COLLAPSE of a routine rebuilding effort by the shattered California Democratic Party indicates that the destructive fires of party factionalism there still burn fiercely.

The continuing strife aborted a mission to Washington of California Democratic politicians to plan for the critical 1970 election. That, in itself, is no irrevocable failure. But it shows that California Democrats remember only their ancient enmities and conveniently forget their succession of disastrous defeats.

What makes the prospect of another defeat so critical is that California will gain at least four Congressional seats in the 1970 census. If the state legislature again goes Republican in 1970, it will remap the state's Congressional districts to Republican advantage and a possible 12-seat gain.

Consequently, worried Democrats in the rival wings of the Party, one associated with State Rep. Jesse Unruh and the other with former Gov. Edmund G. Brown began an unusual collaboration to prepare for 1970. Their program, called "Project '70," was to begin with a scouting mission to Washington.

Bernard Teitlebaum, a political pro associated with the Brown wing, assembled a ten-man delegation of legislative leaders and Party pros with a varied representation of factional and geographical interests. Unruh gave his blessing.

Appointments were arranged in Washington for Jan. 29 with Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma, the new Democratic Chairman; Sen. Alan Cranston of California and California's Democratic Congressmen.

BUT INEXPLICABLY, Teitlebaum failed to contact Carmen Warschaw, California's fiery Democratic National Committeewoman. When she got wind of the trip, Mrs. Warschaw telephoned State Rep. George Zenovich, a state legislative

on loan to Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson.

The disappearance of the Rosenfield landscape triggered an immediate high-level inquiry. Further compounding the mystery was the discovery by the General Services Administration (GSA) that \$2000 worth of Government-owned filing cabinets had also disappeared from the Postmaster General's office.

Watson aides scurried around in obvious embarrassment to solve the mystery. They discovered that the moving company hired by Watson to transfer his personal belongings from Washington to his home in Texas inadvertently picked up both the filing cabinets and the painting.

GSA agents immediately entered negotiations to recover the cabinets and finally agreed to accept a \$2000 check from Watson instead of waiting for the loaded filing cabinets to be emptied and returned.

As for the painting, the director of the office of head-

quarters services in the Post Office Department has now written the Smithsonian that as soon as Watson's belongings arrive in Texas, the painting will be returned.

Air Routes Conflict

W. DE VIER PIERSON, President Johnson's White House aide who handled the messy transpacific air routes case, has decided to avoid any possible conflict-of-interest by refusing to handle any aviation accounts in private life for the foreseeable future.

Pierson is barred by Federal law from ever working on the case as a private attorney. But he had planned to join a Washington law firm, at a high price, that is retained by Trans World Airlines, a contestant for transpacific routes. Now, however, he has opened his own office and will not join the firm at least until the transpacific case is settled—which has now been re-opened by President Nixon.

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leader and a sponsor of "Project '70."

While expressing support for "Project '70," Mrs. Warschaw was furious that neither she nor national committeeman Steve Reinhard had been informed. She specifically objected that one of her arch-enemies—Charles Winner, a political pro in the Brown wing of the Party—was making the Washington trip.

To appease Mrs. Warschaw, Teitlebaum on Jan. 25 cancelled the meeting with Harris so that she would not suspect an end run was being made around her to the national chairman. But Mrs. Warschaw was not appeasable. So on Jan. 27, Teitlebaum called off the whole

trip.

Marvin's Art

THE FIRST reaction at the august Smithsonian Institution when the loss of one of its prized paintings was discovered was both anguish and anger.

The painting, a pretty little bauble entitled "Landscape" by Eddie Rosenfield, was ou