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## CALIFORNIA

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### GOP hands governorship to Mr. Austerity

Seasoned West Coast political observers believe that Republican Attorney General Evelle Younger would be governor-elect in California today had he not fallen victim to "Proposition 13" psychosis. Despite a flood of national news stories heralding the reelection of Gov. Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown, Jr. by a 60 percent majority as a sweeping triumph which will boost his chances for the Presidency in 1980, the evidence shows that Brown didn't win the election; Younger lost it.

Younger, who styled himself a "moderate," emerged the victor in a tough Republican primary last spring after campaigning strongly and accurately against Brown's "Zen government," zero-growth strategy for California. Particularly notable was Younger's indictment of Brown's continual efforts to sabotage nuclear power plant construction in the state. Pointing out that California voters had overwhelmingly rejected a ban on nuclear construction in a statewide referendum, Younger challenged the constitutionality of decisions by Brown's handpicked nuclear regulatory board and supported bipartisan efforts in the state legislature to reverse Brown's antinuclear policies.

Initially, Younger's campaign was so brilliantly successful that *New York Times* editor Tom Wicker, a devout environmentalist, wrote a series of columns forecasting that the nuclear issue might well send Brown down to defeat, and launch a national trend against environmentalism.

With the passage of Proposition 13 Brown, who had originally opposed the measure, became an enthusiastic "born-again" tax-cutter, presiding over state legislative sessions to determine which government services would be scrapped and which temporarily rescued with allocations from a state budget surplus. Younger went on vacation in Hawaii. And when he returned, he largely dropped the nuclear issue and rapidly fell into a pattern of "me-tooing" Brown's fiscal austerity war cries, while Proposition 13 "guru" Howard Jarvis endorsed Brown's performance in widely circulated television commercials. Younger turned in such a lackluster performance that in the end his campaign was reduced to near-nightly subject of ridicule for late night television comedian Johnny Carson. Brown coasted to an easy win.

Meanwhile, Zionist lobby forces had engineered a deal with Republicans, backing MGM records "rock-and-roll" executive Mike Curb for the lieutenant governorship against the incumbent Mervin Dymally, a traditional organization Democrat. In a campaign that even the state Republican chairman acknow-

ledged was so dirty that he doubted that Curb would ever again be nominated for statewide office, Curb "predicted" the indictment of Dymally on corruption charges at the conclusion of the campaign. Brown conspicuously refused to support his own Lieutenant Governor, and Curb won. Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic candidate for Attorney General, was also defeated by Republican state senator George Deukmejian, as Brown sat on his hands. Thus the forces in his own party which had bucked Brown on the nuclear issue were smashed, and the psychedelic hipsters who promoted Brown and Curb even won passage of a proposition banning enforcement of criminal laws against marijuana sales in the city of San Francisco. In the end, Jerry Brown appeared on national television on election night to proclaim his victory as a mandate for "austerity in government...the first new idea my party has had in over forty years."

— Donald Baier

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## ILLINOIS

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### Percy victory a setback for nation

To experienced election-watchers, the election of Senator Charles Percy of Illinois smells like an international dirty operation. Alex Seith, Percy's Democratic opponent, was the leading spokesman in the last election on behalf of international trade and, in particular, East-West trade. Percy has been the advocate of no-growth policies such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act and the decriminalization of marijuana.

Percy was opposed for renomination by two-thirds of the county chairmen of his own party, and as recently as this summer a quiet meeting was held in Chicago by representatives of Midwest industrial giants to "deal with the Percy problem." On the eve of the election, the outlook for Percy was so bleak that the candidate literally fainted from exhaustion and anxiety. (At that time, eight days before the election, he was 17 percentage points back in the polls.)

Then, miraculously, on election day, Percy carried conservative districts by wide margins, Seith carried Democratic Chicago by slim margins, and the result was a Percy victory by 10 percentage points.

The only explanation for this outcome lies outside the boundaries of Illinois. Percy benefited from "bipartisan" support provided by a crucial network around General Julius Klein, a founder of the wartime OSS and protégé of British agent Sir William Stephenson, and by the official Republican leader-