
California

Arnie Set To Implement Fascist Economics

by Harley Schlanger

Following his announcement in late September that he will run for re-election in 2006, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is concentrating on fulfilling the goal chosen for him by his controller, the old Chicago School fascist, George Shultz. Despite the dramatic decline in his popularity, which is confirmed by all the opinion polls, he has plunged ahead aggressively in a desperate, all-out campaign to destroy representative government in California.

The “Year of Reform” that he proclaimed, with much hype, in his January State of the State address, is a fraud. Arnold and those who bankrolled his foray into politics—Shultz and his allies in the banking, financial, real estate, insurance, pharmaceutical, energy, and privatized health-care interests—never intended to “reform” state government, so that it could better serve the General Welfare.

Instead, their goal, from the moment they backed the recall of Gov. Gray Davis, has been to loot the state, grabbing every last penny of income flow they can from the people of California. Remember Enron, and the schemes of their traders, with full corporate backing and cheerleading from Wall Street, to use the 1996 deregulation of electricity to “stick it to Grandma Millie”? If the ballot initiatives drawn up by these financial fixers on behalf of the corporate cartels, and pushed by their front man Schwarzenegger, are passed, then it will not be just the energy pirates looting the state.

‘Make Arnie Dictator’ Initiatives

These thieves and pirates are trying to use the dangerous populist tool of “ballot initiative” to dupe a confused and frustrated electorate to vote against their true interests as citizens. With the state’s debt skyrocketing since Arnie took office, with education and health care in a shambles, the state’s outdated and under-funded infrastructure crumbling, and the industrial base shrinking due to outsourcing and post-industrial policies, Schwarzenegger wants voters to believe the problem is unions, government workers, illegal immigrants, regulations, and members of the state legislature.

The key ballot initiatives he is supporting were drafted by skilled sophists, designed to manipulate the prejudices of largely hysterical suburbanites, who were the swing voters who put him in office. The four initiatives endorsed by the Governor are:

Proposition 74: This is an attack on teachers and public education, disguised as a teacher tenure bill. If it passes, it will not add one classroom, increase supplies, raise teachers’ pay, nor lower the teacher-pupil ratio. Nor will it restore the \$2 billion Arnold promised to educators when he cut funding during the 2005 budget discussion. Educators say this proposition will likely drive many qualified teachers out of the classroom.

Proposition 75: This is a blatant attack on unions, designed to make it difficult for them to contribute to political campaigns. While Schwarzenegger rants about funds contributed by unions, he has said nothing about the \$76 million he has raised—largely from corporate and business backers—to promote his anti-democratic agenda.

Proposition 76: This is becoming known as the “Make Arnie Dictator Act,” as it would give him unilateral, unchecked power to slash spending on education, health care, social services, and infrastructure, when his budget office concludes that revenues have fallen short of budgeted expenditures. The legislature would have no recourse to reverse his cuts. This is one of the most important goals of Shultz’s “Schwarzenegger Project,” and is being watched carefully by austerity mongers like Grover Norquist, who are preparing similar legislation for other states, if it passes in California.

Proposition 77: This is the redistricting initiative, inspired by the one imposed on Texas by the twice-indicted poster boy of corruption, Rep. Tom DeLay. Neither DeLay, who is at the center of a cesspool of corporate money laundering, nor Arnie, who is raking in huge amounts of funds from corporate and financial networks with a “special interest” in legislation, have any credibility in a discussion of “fair” election practices!

Arnie’s Con Game

During his nearly two years as Governor, Arnold has insisted repeatedly that he wants bipartisan cooperation in Sacramento. Yet, when Democrats engaged in a dialogue with the now-flabby former action hero, and believed they were making headway, he turned on them, denouncing them as “girlie men,” “spending addicts,” and the “captives of special interests”—smarmy tactics which, understandably, led to a breakdown in the discussion process. This made it necessary, he claimed, to place his “reform agenda” on the ballot of a special election.

In reality, the initiatives which will appear on the Nov. 8 ballot grew out of the failure of the “Schwarzenegger Project” to force the state legislature to bow down before the would-be dictator in his first year in office. Despite his preference for scripted, Nuremberg-style rallies, and macho routines with hand-picked, know-nothing right-wing radio talk jocks, legislators were not intimidated, though the government’s rant played well with the targetted suburbanite audiences. Boasting that the “people” put him in office to “reform” politics, he declared himself to be “above politics,” a man “who can’t be

bought,” who will be the “People’s Governor.”

This populist rhetoric resonated initially, at least according to the polls during his first year. He was aided by a star-struck, fawning media, which seemed to be seduced by his use of his two Hollywood box office-tested personas, that of the growling tough guy, and the self-deprecating clown. (As most film critics have noted, this is the best he can do, with his limited range as an actor!)

But behind these personas lurks a true monster. While assuring supporters that his goal was to “reform” the state, to make government more accountable, to create a “business-friendly climate,” and to attract industry and create jobs, the policies he pushed dismantled the protections provided by government for the people. Though he spoke of “reform,” his intention was one of radical transformation, aimed at destroying government as a defender of the General Welfare, by ripping up the social safety net in ways which would devastate the lives of millions of people.

This agenda was shaped by Shultz and the doddering Chicago School guru, Milton Friedman. It is the same as that pushed by the Cheney-Bush White House, which was also vetted favorably by Shultz—tear down government protections through deregulation and privatization; undermine public education in favor of “choice”; eliminate social programs and health care for the poor, disabled, the chronically ill and the elderly; cut investment in infrastructure in the name of “fiscal responsibility”; steal public pension funds, diverting the income stream to Wall Street cronies; destroy unions in the name of “labor flexibility” and “cost cutting”; and pass on the “savings” to the corporations and the wealthy, as tax cuts.

The Nietzschean Governor

Schwarzenegger was the perfect choice to push this agenda. In addition to his fawning admiration of Friedman and his willingness to take orders from Shultz, he is a devoted follower of one of Adolf Hitler’s favorite philosophers, Friedrich Nietzsche. He has adopted Nietzsche’s view of government, that it is a “beast” which must be “starved.” Government only serves “special interests,” he argues, and the legislature is captive to those interests.

Therefore, government must be “reformed,” he concludes, by which he means torn down, so the “Supermen,” i.e., those corporate elites who fund him, can steal with impunity.

This Friedman/Shultz agenda is clearly visible in the



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Having failed to force the California legislature to destroy government as a defender of the General Welfare, the increasingly unpopular Governor Schwarzenegger is attempting to use several ballot initiatives to impose the fascist policies of his backers.

subtext underlying the four major initiatives backed by Schwarzenegger. In one of his ads, he says he wants to “re-build California,” but has been stymied by a “broken system in Sacramento” which “stands in the way—a system rigged to benefit big-government labor unions who [sic] will do anything to preserve the status quo.”

And why do unions do that? “The reason why they are pushing us to spend more,” he told the Orange County Forum on Sept. 26, “is that the union bosses’ dream is to force tax increases so they can increase their benefits.”

This profoundly anti-American view of government, which has become popular in recent years due to the anti-FDR, anti-government paradigm shift pushed by fascists such as Friedman and Shultz, and promoted by corporate cartels and the academic fakers that Lyndon LaRouche has skewered as “quackademics,” was exposed as dangerous folly by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The failure to reinvest in upgrading infrastructure cost more than 1,000 lives. And the criminal negligence of Bush and Cheney, seen in their downgrading of FEMA, and their initial indifference to the damage caused by the powerful storms, increased the death toll.

If Schwarzenegger succeeds in duping enough voters to pass his initiatives, he will become the virtual dictator of the state. His controllers have unleashed an unprecedented advertising campaign to manipulate the voters, funded generously by the corporate cartels which stand to reap huge financial windfalls from his assault on our Constitutional system of representative government.

The fight to defeat the “Schwarzenegger Project” is one that no Californian—or American citizen—can afford to lose.