

Thank you. John Burton, you are a credit to your genetics. -- You are the living embodiment of the counter-productivity of term limits in the state of California. -- and it is an honor to receive this award named for such a formidable figure as Philip from such a formidable figure as his brother – who is legendary in his own time as a champion of the people. – and I want to point out I have said all this without the use of a single expletive.

Harvey, Jamie, Doug, ... your organization does fine work and I will accept this as an indication of your respect for my profession and for people who can attract some attention, who aren't running for office, who do their homework and speak out and try to help clarify public dialog whether they are to the left or the right.

Somehow most actors who run for public office seem to be right wingers. – I could give you my theory as to why that is – but I won't take your time. -- It has to do with the incompatibility of art and politics which frankly has always irritated the hell out of me.

The wonderful Sheila Kuehl has been able to navigate from acting to politics successfully and she's a liberal and to Sheila I remove my chapeau. We've known each other since we did a Dobie Gillis together in 1959. And Sheila I couldn't be prouder of what you're doing in Sacramento. -- and I know that together we can refute these tawdry tabloid rumors of our continuing affair.

Don't worry. Annette knows everything.

She's a liberal.

Her parents, I might add are good solid San Diego republicans. -- And don't think that subject doesn't come up.

But I have a weakness for actors.

Take Ed Begley – apart from being a brilliant comedian and a brilliant dramatic actor – when I want to know something about the environment I ask Ed first because he knows as much as anybody in America. He's a public spirited man and an actor and I'm proud of him. -- Or take George Murphy, or Ronald Reagan, or Sonny Bono or Arnold Schwarzenegger. Although I pretty much disagreed with them politically there was always a part of me that has wanted to see them acquit themselves well because they were fellow actors and I liked them personally.

Arnold was always flattering about me in his interviews when he first went in to the movies. He said he wanted to do what Clint Eastwood and what I did. – Make no mistake, I don't want to run for governor. I'm not nearly as generous with my time as Arnold is.

I'm just as vain ... I'm just as full of myself ... I can't bench-press what Arnold can ... I think I am as good an actor ... but I have been active in American politics one hell of a lot longer than he has and I'd like to help him. -- I don't see anything wrong with his wanting to be the President of the United States. -- Don't the parents of every Austrian boy or girl want their son or daughter to grow up and become the President of the United States?? – Fine if he wants to be president. – but to yield to the reactionary right wing agenda in order to get a political party to become president with ... that's not so fine with me. It makes me sad for Arnold.

It's become time now to define a Schwarzenegger Republican. -- A Schwarzenegger Republican is a Bush Republican who calls himself a Schwarzenegger Republican.

And with Arnold calling Democrats “stooges” and “girlie men” and “losers” and his general disrespect and bullying of honest legislators who've also been willing to make the sacrifices necessary to serve in public

office, with a lot less fan fare than the governor I might add, it should be pointed out that they've all been elected by the people in what is called a representative democracy -- with checks and balances. So let me say something else as a person who has never been generous enough to step up and put his name on the ballot but does have the freedom to say what he thinks and might be heard because he's an actor, or artist, or as the right wing would like to trivialize, -- a celebrity

It's this: I'd like to be rooting for Arnold. But he has to do something. California is a state whose debt has gone from 18 billion dollars under Gray Davis, to 31 billion dollars under Arnold. -- Arnold has to spend some of that popularity that he is so sure that he has and lead the people he is so sure will follow him by telling them a truth that may not be so pleasant to hear and that the Republican Party he seeks to seduce will not like: that truth is that in order to have the decent society that we have sought to construct and maintain and voted for in California -- it's going to cost more money particularly for rich people like me and Arnold. It's called paying higher taxes, and not waiting around hoping the economy will boom to pay our bills. It's called raising taxes, maybe temporarily, maybe only to the Reagan or Pete Wilson level. It's called the haves giving a little more to the have-nots. -- And yes I can say it more easily because I'm not running for office.

Warren Buffet can say it. and he did.

Alan Greenspan, of all people, can say it, and of all people, he did.

Have we come to a time when leading the rich to the right choices for their own and everyone else's benefit has been relegated to people who do not hold executive office?

Nobody likes taxes. But everybody likes a peaceful, compassionate, law abiding, productive, protective society.

Nobody likes to pay the money until they realize it will make their lives richer for it. -- Particularly rich people like me and Arnold and the elite that seem to surround us and the rich inside California and the rich outside California who in their honest, well meaning, entrepreneurial, free enterprising, gambling naiveté almost unknowingly move to dismantle the New Deal and the fair deal, and the New Frontier, and the Great Society and the entitlements and the rights and the guarantees that make all of us safe.

The right-wing outside California is willing to spend big money on what they feel would be a pro-business victory on initiatives inside California.

They hope it will reverberate from here back across the country to where they do business the same way that Proposition 13 did.

His advisor Warren Buffett who, let's face it, knows something about money advised Arnold that first of all Proposition 13 must be revised - and Arnold told him to do 500 sit ups and not to mention it again in public. Buffett didn't. Neither did Arnold. What has happened to conservatives? Are conservatives unable to lead a conservative president, a conservative congress, and a conservative governor to understand the importance of fiscal responsibility? -- And that fiscal responsibility has to be combined with social responsibility to be safe? With clarity in leadership the people aren't against taxes. They're against being chumps. They can see the value and the safety in a "we" society versus a "me" society. Particularly the rich.

The only taxes the governor has suggested raising are called fees and tuitions that had been provided by the state in programs for people who need help and can least afford to pay. Those programs the governor wants terminated.

At long last Mr. Terminator, do you want to terminate our decency?

**Arnold. Be the action hero I know you can be. Be strong. Stand up and confront the wealthiest one percent of Californians who have benefited 12 billion dollars a year from the Bush tax cuts. Business isn't going to leave California. There are too many benefits in being here.**

**If you're looking for something to terminate –**

**Terminate your dinners with the brokers of Wall Street.**

**Terminate your dinners with the lobbyists of K street.**

**Terminate collecting out of state right wing money.**

**Terminate the 70 million dollar special election you want to hold to divert the public's attention away from the budget.**

**Postpone your pursuit of the Republican nomination for the presidency. A constitutional amendment will take time. And some day, as the sun rises the Republican Party will return to the party of Lincoln, and Teddy Roosevelt and Eisenhower and Earl Warren and John McCain and you should start making yourself welcome in it. Lead. Confront the powerful. ...**

**Not the nurses, not the teachers, or the children, or the students, or the elderly, or the sick, or the cops, or the firemen, or the workers, or the disabled, or the blind, ... these are not, as you called them: the “special interests”.**

**These are people decency demands us to be “especially interested” in.**

**A few days ago you said something about all this fundraising -- which you've now done twice as much of as you ridiculed and attacked Gray Davis for. You said all this fund-raising was ok because you had plenty of money. You didn't need it for yourself. It was only for the promotion of these initiatives.**

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**Well—Arnold -- we know you weren't raising the money for yourself, we understand you're only raising it to become more popular in today's Republican Party.**

**I'd like to be rooting for you. So I'll say it again. Spend some of that popularity. Do the right thing. Do the right thing...**

**Because ... after dining out at all of those rich and powerful fund-raising dinners ... who knows? ... some ... “stooge” or “girlie man” or “loser” may just ... pop up out of nowhere and eat you for lunch.**

**Thank-you for this Harvey, Jamie, Doug.  
Keep up the good work.**

**Good night.**