

#98-42
10/19/98

THE GREENE SCENE

By Senator Leroy F. Greene

THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE KING

In my case, it's the old chairman is out, the new chairman is in. Politics is a tough business. The Legislature must always look to its own future. The only time politicians look back is to see if anyone is catching up to them.

The Senate Rules Committee has replaced me with Senator Dede Alpert as the new chairman of the Senate Education Committee. My tenure as a Senator ends on December 6, 1998. This will give Senator Alpert a running start to prepare herself for 1999. We will continue to work together as we have in the past to make the transition a smooth one.

So the old king is dead, long live the new king.

Reflection on my 36 years in the Legislature brings memories both good and bad. I have known many victories and defeats. My final victory or defeat will be determined on election day, November 3, 1998. Proposition 1A, my \$9.2 billion school bond measure, will fund the State's share of public school construction for the next four years, should it be enacted. It will make money available for new projects from kindergarten through the University of California and additionally contain some of the funds to fix up old school buildings. If this measure passes, I will have become the record holder for the value of school bonds passed over the years.

I have found it difficult to let go, to stop writing these

more...

columns. I do not know who reads my stuff or cares about the things I choose for subject matter. Still, for me, it is a connection with you that I have been reluctant to break. But my world and the events of my life are changing and it's time for me to move on.

My legislative tenure is expiring, my staff will be mine no longer. There will be no Sergeant at Arms to cart me off to a hospital with my nose squirting blood all over the place. There will be no car at my disposal, no one to type these columns and see that they are delivered, no people to help me move heavy stuff, arrange transportation, pick me up at airports and deliver me to various meetings, conferences, symposiums where I am to speak. In fact, no longer will anyone be interested in hearing me speak.

No longer will lobbyists, individuals or Joe and Jane visitors to the Capitol come to see me, ask my opinion, solicit my position on issues. No longer will colleagues seek me out to discuss their bills and seek my support.

It's time to move on, seek more mountains to climb, more dragons to slay. My next venture will be the formation of Leroy F. Greene Associates, where my wife Syma and I will continue her current efforts at consulting with various school districts that might seek our assistance with their school construction projects.

My time has passed. In about six more weeks I will be replaced as the representative of the 6th Senatorial district. It's been a good run with 36 years of effort and enough success that I can say I was of use to my constituents and the State. Now, farewell. This is the final of my 1800 columns.

The king is dead, long live the king.

end.