



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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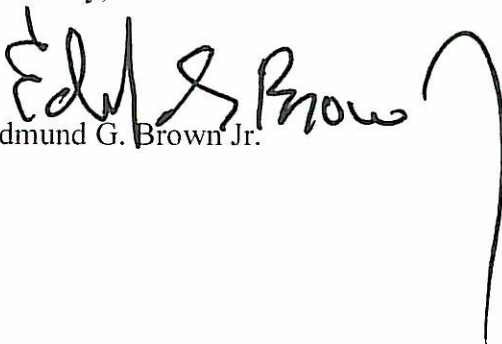
To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1443 without my signature.

The Political Reform Act, when enacted by the people in 1974, contained no limit on gifts to public officials, other than a \$10 limit for lobbyists. In 1990, the Legislature imposed a gift limit with an inflation adjustment. This bill would lower that limit and create a list of gifts prohibited altogether -- adding further complexity without commensurate benefit. Proper disclosure, as already provided by law, should be sufficient to guard against undue influence.

Politicians should be subject to various constraints. I would point out, however, that some balance and common sense is required. An article authored by a former law professor of mine makes this very point with insight and clarity. See *The Purity Potlatch: An Essay on Conflicts of Interest, American Government, and Moral Escalation*, by Bayless Manning, *Federal Bar Journal* (1964), pp. 239-256.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.