

NCM/Greenlining Institute California Gubernatorial Debate 2003

September 9, 10:30am to 12 noon
Los Angeles Bob Hope Patriotic Hall

Moderator Emil Guillermo is Urban Affairs writer for the Stockton Record, a columnist for Asian Week and Philippine News, and former host of NCM TV. Emil also moderated the NCM/Greenlining Gubernatorial Debate last November in Los Angeles.

Introducer Paul Turner is Senior Program Manager of the Greenlining Institute and National Director of Greenlining's Claiming Our Democracy Program, as well as Managing Director of the California Partnership for Economic Achievement.

Panelists:

- Chauncey Bailey, News Director of Soul Beat Television KSBT, also writes for the Oakland Tribune.
- Jay "Stone" Shih is host and founder of "China Crosstalk" a Mandarin-language TV talk show aired on KTSF and the International Channel.
- Rolando Nichols, is the 6 and 11PM News Anchor for Univision 34 KMEX in Los Angeles, and previously the main anchor for the Univision Affiliate KTVW-33 in Phoenix Arizona.
- Jamal Dajani is host and founder of Worldlink TV's "Mosaic—World News From The Middle East" and President of the Arab Cultural and Community Center of San Francisco.
- Odette Keeley is news anchor and executive producer of Balitang America, the news program on ABS-CBN International, an internationally broadcast Filipino TV channel.
- Gabriel Lerner is State and National News Editor of La Opinion, the country's largest Spanish-language daily newspaper.

Debaters:

- Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, Democrat
- Arianna Huffington, Independent
- Peter Camejo, Green

Also Invited:

- Governor Gray Davis
- Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Peter Ueberroth
- Senator Tom McClintock (cancelled)

Emil Guillermo: Hello and welcome to this special recall campaign debate Sponsored by the Greenlining Institute and NCM, New California Media, featuring the state's top candidates for California and members of California's ethnic media. My name is Emil Guillermo columnist for the Main Stream and Ethnic Press Urban Affairs, writer for the Stockton Record, and former host from NPR'S all things considered. I will be your host and moderator today. According to the 2000 census, communities of color represent 53% of the state's population. It's the reason the sponsor of today's debate is New California Media. A consortium of the state's ethnic media that has grown to become the statewide voice for outlets and communities they serve. For this debate NCM has partnered with the Greenlining Institute and now, Paul Turner of the Greenlining Institute will say a few words, Paul.

Paul Turner: Thank you Emil, very much and good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Paul Turner I'm the National Director of the Claiming Our Democracy Program at the Greenlining Institute. For those of you not familiar with Greenlining, we are a multi ethnic public policy center whose mission is to empower low income and minority communities towards economic, and leadership development, civil rights and other anti-redlining activities. I want to first of all thank the First American Title Insurance Company for underwriting the cost of this debate and for their commitment to insuring that the voices of California's new majority is heard. We are delighted to join New California Media in co-sponsoring this, our second gubernatorial debate together. This may be, this recall debate here, may be the most important in this election because it makes a profound statement that California new majority want their issues addressed openly. We believe this debate can change the dynamics of the recall in terms of how many people come to the poles, who comes to the poles and how they will vote. A minority turnout alone of 35% would be enough to give a candidate a winning percentage. We look forward to the candidates' explanation of their positions on issues pertaining to minority communities, especially Prop 54, and we look forward to them explaining their position on this initiative. But not only this initiative, but also other issues like affordable housing, immigration and the prison industrial complexes, education and healthcare, all issues very much of concern to minority communities. Now all of the major candidates, plus the Governor were invited to participate in this debate and we thank the

candidates who are here and we thank Bill Simon who agreed to appear before he dropped out of the race, Mr. Simon and Green Party candidate, Peter Camejo, appeared in our debate last year. We are disappointed that all the major candidates for governor are not here, especially a front runner who says he wants to participate, he doesn't want, excuse me, to participate in debates. Mr. Schwarzenegger has been given ample opportunity to demonstrate his ability to function without a script. His absence today only increases suspicions regarding his grasp of the issues and his capacity to govern effectively. It can only be taken as an insult when a candidate says he wants to be the peoples' governor, yet refuses to engage in dialog and genuine debate about the desires of Californians' communities of color. In the event that the Governor is recalled, it is clear that the candidates on stage today will have a distinct advantage in the election. This recall also calls into question a need to genuinely reform California's system of elections including reform of campaign finance and the initiative process itself. A system of public financing of campaigns would avoid the monopoly of wealth candidates and the dependence of non-wealthy candidates on special interest. If California had a system of full public funding of election campaigns, there might not be a recall. And with that, I just want to say we look forward to a compelling debate, a compelling debate that will increase turnout and hopefully strengthen our democracy.

Guill: Okay, and now for today's debate, scheduled for 90 minutes. All the top candidates, as Paul mentioned, based on previous pollings were invited. Governor Davis was invited you heard Paul's explanation there, Mr. McClintock cancelled at the last minute due to state business. Mr. Ueberroth and Mr. Schwarzenegger did not respond to our invitation. We have left a place for Mr. Schwarzenegger because we are in Los Angeles, I suppose. With us today to debate the issues of California's ethnic communities are: Lieutenant Governor, Cruz Bustamante; Green party Candidate, Peter Camejo; and Independent candidate Arianna Huffington. Candidates. (applause) Please let that be as long an applause for each all the candidate until the end. Our format will be tightly formatted, here it is. After an opening question from the moderator, there will be seven additional questions, one each from our ethnic media panelists and myself. The ethnic media panelists are: Chauncey Bailey, Soul Beat TV; Jay Shih Stone or Jay "Stone" Shih of China Crosstalk of KTSF San Francisco; Rolando Nichols of Univision; Jamal Dajani of Mosaic World Link TV; Odette Keeley of ABS-CBN the Filipino channel; and Gabriel Lerner of La Opinion. After each question, all candidates will have sixty seconds to answer. There will be two follow-up per questions directed at any candidate. There will be then two direct rounds where I will call on each candidate to question a candidate whose name I will draw at random. There will be a 30 second question and a sixty second answer. The panel will then have a chance for one follow-up of either of any candidate that candidate will have thirty seconds to respond. We will then have audience questions and additional questions from the panelists. Please fill-

out cards and submit your question Please include your name and affiliation. Candidates will have thirty seconds to respond. We will conclude with 60 seconds for each candidate in a final statement. We begin with our first question from the editors of New California Media to all our candidates. California's electoral process is increasingly divided between voters who represent the state's aging, white, and affluent residence and non-voters mostly young multi-ethnic, multi-racial and not affluent. Is this a form of electoral apartheid, how do you plan to reverse this electoral apartheid through your candidacy? And we begin with Mr. Bustamante.

Bustamante: Thank you

Guill: You have sixty seconds.

Busta: The only way to, to be able to deal with this gap that's taking place is through education. People have been disaffected and people feel as if somehow politics in California have become so cynical that they feel they don't have any impact. I think that it is going to be very important that whoever becomes the next Governor, whoever is in that position is able to reach out not just to the mainstream voter, but to all voters, and to all people. Peoples vote really is their voice, in this democracy and in this government and it is important for people to understand that that in fact is the only way to fully participate I California's government.

Guill: Mr. Camejo

Camejo: Part of the problem we face is how people are discouraged from voting by the closeness of the choices that are provided. We need to open up our electoral system so people are free to vote what they believe in. The rest of the world has confronted this. Every country in the world has solved this, except the United States. In the first debate I said if a party gets 20% of the vote, they should get 20% of the seat. How could anybody be opposed to that? That's representative democracy. The fact that we don't have that alienates people and they don't vote. We also have polls, like the polls published today, those should be called white and rich peoples polls. Because 45% of the people In California are Anglos. And In those polls, 80% of the people who are polled are white. And it discourages people. They don't know what our community thinks or wants. And of course there are some people that vote at every election and there's a lot of people alienated that don't and they don't show up in the polls...

Guill: Time, go ahead you can finish your sentence.

Camejo: So the answer is instant runoff voting. Give people the right to vote for who they want in proportion to representation. That will open up the electoral.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Camejo. Ms. Huffington.

Huffington: The greatest reason for disaffection is the fact that big money is dominating the process and there is nothing we can do about that with the greatest respect to the Lieutenant Governor as candidate. It's not just if we are elected governors because how we run our campaigns sends a message to the voters. If we behold them to big powerful interests while we are running, the voters know that we are going to be behold to the same interests while we are governing because our policy priorities are determined by those powerful special interest and we see that again and again and that's really why. As I've been going around colleges, trying to register new voters, to inspire this affect at once, that's the message I'm getting back form them. Our vote doesn't matter. Our votes don't determine the policy priorities in Sacramento. Look at it again and again. Look at the prison guards unions getting a pay raise in the middle of a budget crisis. Look at the polluting companies being able to pollute because of the contributions they've given.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington. Here's my follow-up address to Mr. Bustamante, you will have thirty seconds. Mr. Bustamante, among your record donations, you've taken millions from Indian casino interests, placed it in an old 2002 account, then used a loophole to transfer the money to this campaign. Even if it aids Native Americans, is your action ethical, is it legal, and does it make disenfranchised young people more alienated and cynical of the politics you may be apart of?

Busta: you know I remember going to the reservations when I was a younger man and seeing tribal members living in abandoned cars, shacks, having 95% poverty, having high drug abuse and substance abuse issues on those reservations. This has been economic development for those tribal Indians. It's an important way for them to reach and get their people out of poverty. And know I'm very proud of the support that I've been able to get with them, with the association that I've had with them for over twenty years.

Guill: But is your action ethical and legal?

Busta: It absolutely is. In fact, one of my legal members of the legal team we put together one of the attorneys had written Prop 34 to insure that we make sure that we not only followed the spirit, but the very letter of the law.

Guill: All right. A panel follow-up, Gabriel.

Lerner: My question is for Ms. Huffington. You criticize Lt. Gov. Bustamante on the first debate about loopholes in the election campaign, election law. Would

you favor public funding of election campaign that was mentioned here and how would you implement it?

Huff: Not only would I favor public funding of campaigns, but on Tuesday morning, in Sacramento, I am going to be filing and initiative for public financing campaigns in California. If I am elected Governor, this will be my first act as Governor proposing this to the legislature. I believe there are a lot of good people in the legislature who will come along if the leadership is there. But if they don't my initiative will be ready and filed and I will go across the state using the megaphone and the power of my office to make sure this becomes the law of the land. Because nothing else is going to matter as much in terms of bringing back this effective voters. The 13 million Californians who did not bother to vote in the last election.

Guill: Time. All right, we go to our panels' first question. Mr. Chauncey Bailey, soul Beat TV.

Bailey: Thank you Emil. From East Oakland to South Los Angeles, the burning issue is unemployment. It is chronic, it is (????), it is driven as you know by poor schools, crime rates, ex-felons that aren't hired, red lining by banks which discourages investment and well-bred dependency. What is your answer to reduce the high rate of unemployment in urban communities, particularly among the African American and other minorities?

Guill: Sixty seconds Mr. Bustamante. Go ahead Mr. Bustamante

Busta: First of all, I believe there is a social compact in America and that social compact stems from the time when I grew up with my father who was a barber and he provided for six kids in a very tiny little community called San Joaquin. And I believe it's the same issue in that tiny little town as it is in urban areas. We're isolated, there's no economic development, and there's a social compact that basically says if you work all week you ought to be able to take care of your family and make sure, not worry about whether you child is sick. And so the social compact I believe because of the service industry in California has grown substantially we need to make those good paying jobs that pay benefits.

Guill: Sixty seconds Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: The issue of unemployment, uh, government has to take a certain responsibility in trying to stimulate and create jobs. One thing we need to do and what I've been presenting is create a fair tax so we get rid of the deficit and rehire the teachers that we have laid off and the other people we have laid off. But I think we need much more affordable housing in California and that would be a major job creator. We need to have special programs to begin to lower the cost

of housing for people. And I propose starting a crash program on renewable energy which would generate job one billion in capital, one, and a half billion in lines of credit to loan guarantees. A tiny amount compared to what we are spending in California that could make an enormous difference in California and generate large numbers of jobs.

Guill: Sixty seconds Ms. Huffington.

Huff: First of all we need to recognize that we do not have a level playing field. So we do need to actually reach out with tax credits, encouraging banks, encouraging companies investing in urban areas in every way the government can. Encouraging public/private partnerships like Operation Hope and making sure this becomes a high priority. Right now we are proceeding under the illusion that we have a level playing field. That we don't need affirmative action, that we do need Prop. 54 as some people believe. Once we change that illusion, as governor I will actually go out of my way to encourage minority contracting and encourage employment in urban areas that are at the moment suffering.

Guill: panel follow-up.

Dajani: Well, I was going to bring this up later, but let me get it in now to make sure it gets answered. Mr. Bustamante, you said that every undocumented worker adds \$1,400 to the economy in California.

Busta: That's right.

Dajani: It's been questioned up in San Francisco, where I'm from, where indeed they take \$3,400 from the economy in terms of services. So are people who are against undocumented workers, are they economically shortsighted, are they racist or both?

Busta: Mr. Dajani, I think that you have to refer to, ahhh, I mean, I grew up in a town on the Westside of the Central Valley. I saw 70% of all the workers who came through there were immigrant workers. I saw what they did was the kind of work that nobody else would do. And so whether they are doing farm work, hotel work, or janitors, they are doing the work that no one else would do. And the independent Litter Hoover commission, a bipartisan commission, last ah, in fact this year, came out with a report that basically said they work harder and they pay \$1,400 more in taxes than they receive in any kind of benefits.

Guill: Time

Busta: So whoever said or questioned it is just plain wrong.

Guill: Panel, follow-up? Gabriel.

Lerner: To Mr. Camejo. Mr. Ueberroth, in the first debate, stressed the need for jobs, jobs, and talk about the danger of business leaving California and he is very very aware of that problem. How do you respond to that?

Camejo: We are 36 in the nation in property taxes, so if they want to leave for lower property tax they have hardly any place to go. If they go to a republican run state like Wyoming, Or Utah, or Arizona, they actually have higher taxes than we do in California. We are twentieth in the nation. This is a myth that corporations are leaving California because we are over taxing them. It's the exact opposite. Taxes for corporations have dropped from 9.6% of their income to 5.3% over the last sixteen years. This is a myth to try and get the people to accept higher taxes than what the wealthy are paying. And they want further and further rights for corporations to maximize their profits, which have been at record level over the past ten years.

Guill: That's it.

Camejo: We have a record (18.47???)?. This issue is a fake and a fraud.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Camejo. We go to our next questioner, Jay Shih of KTSF.

Shih: Thanks Emil. What do you think is the biggest problem California is facing under the leadership of Governor Davis? And how would you rectify it if you were elected governor?

Guill: Sixty seconds Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: Well. I'm not going to criticize any candidates. What I'm going to do is I'm gonna say what I think should take place and I'm going to rephrase your question in that way. I believe that one of he biggest problems we have in California today is this budget problem. It is a mess that has been created, I believe, as a result of the energy terrorists who basically stole \$10-15 billion from our budget. They interrupted our cash flow, they made sure that the rate payers, the tax payers, not only paid excessive rates, but they also now are requiring us to pay additional excessive rates and on top of that pay the bonds to make the payments. So they have basically taken so much money out of our economy that we've been unable to cover the budget hole, restore education funding, we have had to triple our car tax, we've had to do so many things in terms of cutting back on many programs that are absolutely necessary.

Guill: Ten seconds

Busta: The first thing we would do is to make sure that we resolve this issue of the budget gap.

Guill: Thank you. Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: There has been fiscal irresponsibility. Over the last five years California had the highest income it has ever had in its general fund. The growth rate was spectacular. Money poured into this state and yet we ended up with a deficit. We do have to be fiscally responsible. And that is if we are going to increase expenditures, we have to know where we are going to get it from. Part of the problem is we keep lowering the taxes on the wealthy and the corporations. The richest 5% who gained 113% in their income over the last 10 years, who got the bulk of all the gains in California, their taxes are the lowest in California. And theirs have been lowered. So we have on one hand, not been careful with the way money has been spent and on top of that, we have cut the sources that are necessary for the state of California.

Guill: Sixty seconds, Ms. Huffington.

Huff: The way my way of governing would be dramatically different from Governor Davis is first of all, I would not spend one waking hour and no sleeping hours, fundraising. So my absolutely total attention would be devoted to the problems of the state. Therefore, I would have seen the energy crisis coming before the iceberg hit the Titanic. And also I will take on the Bush Administration in a way that Gov. Davis has failed to do. Right now, for example, where is Gov. Davis and where are the other candidates arguing that it is absolutely irresponsible for President Bush to be asking for \$87 billion additional money to fight the quagmire that the war in Iraq has become. This is money that should be going to the states that are suffering. This is money that California desperately needs instead what we are getting is unfunded mandates for education, homeland security, for head start.

Guill: Time

Huff: I would fight that as Governor.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington, Follow-up, Jay.

Shih: Basically, from what I heard that the physical and finance problem that the State of California is facing, all three of you have described as the most serious problem California is having. Um, having said that, what makes you think, let me put it this way, what is Governor Davis doing, or is not doing, that you gonna be doing once you elected Governor, in other words, how you gonna do better than Governor Davis?

Guill: and this is direct to?

Shih: to Bustamante.

Guill: Mr. Bustamante

Busta: I'm the only candidate who has submitted a comprehensive plan to resolve the budget crisis. The comprehensive plan basically elevated the upper income tax brackets, it has closed corporate loopholes, it raised alcohol and tobacco taxes, it restored funding for education, restored funding for community colleges, it made sure that we provided a cut on the car tax, which I believe is an unfair burden on working families. And we've tried to make sure we've set priorities so that healthcare, as well as medical fraud, are addressed.

Guill: Time

Busta: Also, I supported SB2, which will provide 5 million workers in California healthcare.

Guill: Follow up, Odette Keeley.

Keeley: This question is for Ms. Huffington. I want to jump into a burning issue that touches and affects ethnic communities and that's prop 54. Since the proponents of Prop 54 stress that there are exceptions for healthcare services or concerns. Do you think that this ban of racial data collection still hurts all other aspects of life for ethnic communities? Education, housing, employment. Do you think it will ever be compromise where by California can be color blind and yet will respect the importance of research into different communities?

Guill: Thirty seconds. Ms. Huffington

Huff: Absolutely. I hope there will be a day when California will be colorblind. But that day has not arrived. And until it arrives, we have to be passionately opposed to Prop 54. It is nothing more, nothing less than racial discrimination without leaving a paper trail. It is bad for healthcare, bad for education, bad for public policy.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington. Our next round of questions comes from Rolando Nichols, Univision.

Nichols: My question is regarding the driving license issue. There is a referendum being introduced by republicans that is intention is to stop SB60 from becoming a law. If they get enough signatures between now and December 7th,

SB60 will go into a general election in March of next year. How would you fight this referendum, can you fight it, would you fight it if you became Governor?

Guill: Sixty seconds, Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: Yes, I would. Not only would I fight it, but I was very supportive of SB60. I was able to bring a tremendous number of folks, including the insurance industry, to come to bear and helping with this particular proposal. It was an important issue to bring also activists and businesses together to be able to provide credibility. I was in those communities where people who were doing the kind of work or paying taxes. I think overall that the people of the state of California believe one thing, for sure about this issue, is that people who work hard and people who pay taxes ought to be able to have a drivers license to be able to go to work and do the work that most of us are unwilling to do.

Guill: Sixty seconds, Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: I agree with Cruz on this, we would fight it all the way. But I would like to remind Cruz that it was the Democratic party that proposed to take away the drivers license from the undocumented and it was a representative from here, from Los Angeles who presented the motion in the assembly. We need to make a clear and unambiguous stand that the immigrants who are here, who have been brought here actually by the powers to be, by the democratic and republican party and the corporate world, they want them here. No one in their rational mind is proposing having them leave here, thrown out of the United States. We need to give total rights, equal rights to them. We need to legalize their status and we stop confusing the issue of people who are here, working, part of our family in California with the issue of immigration, though interrelated, they are not the same. And Arnold Schwarzenegger is clearly presenting a racist position when he opposes this group of immigrants

Guill: Time, you can clear yourself.

Camejo: Yes, and opposes this group of ignorance and shows the depth of the prejudice that he really has towards the Latino community with his support of 187 in the past.

Guill: Ms. Huffington, sixty seconds to you.

Huff: No issue shows more clearly where the Republican candidates really stand than where they are on the drivers license issue. And they are all unanimously against it. And that shows, together with their absence from this forum today, what they really think of minorities. You know, basically republican candidates, whether it be Schwarzenegger, McClintock, or George Bush really

really like minorities one week out of every four years, during their conventions. That's when, that's when they want them prominently displayed on the stage, not in the audience where they can ask embarrassing questions. But this is their definition of a big dent. And their absence from this debate today and their stance on the drivers license should leave you in no doubt as to whose side they are on.

Guill: Thank you. Follow-up question, Rolando Nichols.

Nichols: My follow-up question, Ms. Huffington, I know that as Governor federal immigration law is pretty much out of your hands, but all the residence of the State of California will be your responsibility and among them is about 2 million undocumented people. What would you do with those people to keep California from becoming a house divided between first class citizens and second-class citizens?

Huff: Well first of just let me say that I do not agree that federal law is not a part of the Governor's responsibility. I would actually fight for the people of California against unjust federal laws. Because they affect us, very often as much as our state laws. So I would fight for these. I would fight for amnesty for those immigrants who are already here. And I would fight against George Bush who had reneged his promise to (29.20???) for a proper authorized guest worker program.

Guill: Thank you. Follow-up from Gabriel Lerner, la Opinion.

Lerner: Yes, to Mr. Bustamante. On the (Caldera 29.31???) Bill that Mr. Camejo mentioned it was SB976, ten years ago, exactly today, you voted for, it to take away private licenses from undocumented immigrant. Could you please explain what changed it seems?

Busta: First of all, 187 was there, it was looming and it was an attempt by several members of the legislature to try and head off Prop 187. It was a failed attempt, it wasn't a very good attempt and it didn't work and I believe that most everybody who made that effort regretted that particular vote.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante. Next round of questioning Mr. Jamal Dajani of Mosaic Worldlink TV.

Dajani: In the wake of 9/11, the Bush Administration has been utilizing aggressive anti-terrorism tactics that some argue like in the Arab-American communities have eroded the civil liberties and rights of American and immigrants who seek asylum in the United States. The Administration has

undertaken the most fundamental reorganization of the American Government in decades. With the opening of the Department of Homeland Security, the closure of the INS and the opening of VCIS. The reconstruction of the board of immigration appeals, the passing of the Patriot Act and now their having a new proposal of the domestic Security Enhancement Act, otherwise known as the patriot Act II. What steps are you going to take to protect the rights of minorities in the Arab-American communities in California?

Guill: Sixty seconds, Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: First of all, I think this is one of the most fundamental questions that I think we have to address as America. The reason and principles of democracy are the same things that we all talked about in terms of who we are and why we are, here with this activity, the scare, the fear that takes place as a result of a terrorist attack. It's important that we make sure we maintain security, but as a state we also must represent and protect our citizens. It is going to be a fundamental issue for whoever is leading this government to make sure that the kind of activities taking place at the federal level are not going to be dramatically and negatively impacting the people here. Yes, we have to make sure we provide a security for our people and we will do everything to make sure that we do that. But we must make sure that when Federal law is interrupting basic and early discourse of how we present ourselves and how we treat our people here in California, the governor must stand up.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante. Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: The Patriot Act is unconstitutional. It is a violation of our constitution and of the Bill of Rights. We are today, today in America, imprisoning people without charges and without lawyers. This Act has increased racial profiling. It is leading to discrimination against Arab American and against people of Islamic religion. As Governor, I will fight against what the democrats and republicans together have brought upon us. And that is to begin to take (32.54???) of the precious civil liberties, which are the basis and foundation of this nation. We must fight against this. It is no way any help whatsoever to fight against terrorism. What is creating the danger of terrorism, the dangers of the American people are the policies like the support for Osama bin Laden that the democrats and republicans gave for years. The support of Sadam Hussein, the giving of weapons to Sadam Hussein, and applauding and supporting him. It is those policies that have lead to the contradictions and hate for America that exist throughout the world.

Guill: Okay Mr. Camejo. Sixty seconds Ms. Huffington.

Huff: On Sunday I spoke to a group of Muslim and Pakistani Americans and it is

amazing to see the fear that has gripped their community because of the Patriot Act. As governor, I will fight the implications of the Patriot Act when it comes to diminishing our civil liberties and treating particular groups in terms of their ethnicity and their religion instead of treating them as individuals in terms of their behavior. Oh, this is some interruption from the back, but will continue.

Guill: That's alright, if it's Mr. Schwarzenegger he had his chance, he pardoned it.

Huff: One more thing if I can compete the thought. The governor has an incredible power here that is not being used. And that power includes civil disobedience when an Act is passed that we believe goes against the fundamental contents of our Constitution and fundamental freedoms of our people here.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington. Follow-up, Jamal Dajani, Mosaic Worldlink TV.

Dajani: Again, this is a follow-up question, but the Arab and Muslim communities in California, they are very concerned. California holds the record of the largest number of Muslim and Arab detainees without legal representation. What is your stand on this?

Busta: Stand on what?

Guill: To Mr. Bustamante?

Dajani: Yes.

Busta: Say again. What is your stand on?

Dajani: On that California holds the record for the largest number of Muslim and Arab detainees without legal representation.

Busta: Well, I think, obviously, that it's outrageous and when 9/11 struck and the kind of backlash that took place not only in California, but across America and the kinds of people who were being identified and harassed, people dragged out of their cars, kids beaten, people were even shot and murdered as businesspeople. I was one of the few people who stood up at that time, called the Arab-American community together, called the (Sheik) community together, stood up with them at temples and at mosques. We arranged for veterans to protect many of those temples and mosques in order to be able to send a clear and decisive message that that was not going to be permissible here in California.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante. Follow-up question, Odette Keeley ABS-CBN

Filipino channel.

Keeley: This question is for Ms. Huffington. You mentioned a while ago in one of your answers that you want to be proactive as a governor in terms of federal law. Immediately after the 9/11 tragedy, thousands of immigrants, particularly non-U.S. citizen airport screeners, 800 of them alone were Filipino screeners in the San Francisco Bay Area, lost their jobs because of the federalization of the screeners post. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which requires them to be U.S. Citizens. Two years later, we are here, the research points to a still inadequate screening process in our airports. How do you propose to protect the flying public while protecting the jobs of immigrants?

Guill: Thirty seconds, Ms. Huffington.

Huff: We can protect the flying public by having reasonable measures taken, not measures by fear. Any public policy driven by fear ends up hurting particular communities, particular groups, everybody.

Guill: Thank you, our next round of questioning g from Odette Keeley from ABS-CBN, the Filipino Channel.

Keeley: Thank you Emil. The quality, the better quality of an easier access of medical care continues to be the leading concern among immigrants in California. A recent survey by the New California Media points to the fact that the level of satisfaction of ethnic communities, when it comes to health care, is significantly lower than the states' general population. Together with all of the CA residents and different ethnic communities here in the Golden State, Filipinos, especially the communities more than 130 thousand seniors are very keen on hearing your plans to improve preventive plan, prescription medication coverage and services like Medicare and Medical which are feared to suffer cuts because of the State's budget crisis.

Guill: Mr. Bustamante, sixty seconds.

Busta: When I was speaker of the assembly the healthy families program came and it was through the leadership of the legislature that we were able to include 600,000 children into healthcare, and that wasn't enough. Today there is a Bill SB2 by John Burton, I'm a sponsor of that Bill. One of the sponsors that basically believe that large employers in CA ought to make sure not abrogates their responsibility to provide healthcare. That we live in a country and a State where we paying people low wages, and such low wages that we then in many cases, send them to food stamps and unemployment lines, as well as other public health benefits. That's wrong, we need to fix it and the Burton Bill SB2 will

make sure that 5 million Californians, working Californians will receive healthcare in CA.

Guill: Sixty seconds Mr. Camejo

Camejo: We are the last industrialized nation that does not have universal healthcare. Doesn't have a national plan. WE need to go to single payer. We pay on the average \$6,000 per person in the U.S. Most other countries are paying about half that. Where is all the money going? It's going to insurance companies. We're not getting the services and then we have millions upon millions of people right here in CA without health insurance, and this is heavily among minority communities, people of color. I believe that the Shelia (39.22Cool??) Bill is the best, it goes the furthest is what the Green Party supports, but we will also support the position that Cruz Bustamante has presented here as an important step forward.

Guill: Sixty seconds Ms. Huffington

Huff: How many times have you heard politicians promise that when they are elected that they will bring about universal healthcare? How many times have you been let down? The special interests and the drug industry and nothing is going to change. You can have politicians present to you the best universal healthcare plan. It's not going to happen. It's not going to happen until you elect to Sacramento an independent Governor who is not beholden to any special interest. And whose going to go there determined to pass universal healthcare. In fact this is going to be my third initiative. My first is public funding of campaigns, my second is closing all corporate tax loopholes. And my third is universal healthcare. And it's going to happen because it's going to be my commitment and nothing is going to get in my way.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington. Follow-up Odette Keeley. Follow-up.

Keeley: My follow-up is for Lt Gov. Cruz Bustamante. In September of 2002, Gov. Gray Davis vetoed assembly Bill 2739 that would have legally required HMO's to provide language interpreters and translated documents to healthy families and medical managed care members. Now this policy is being applied in different healthcare facilities and in some hospitals, but there is no teeth to the law, there are no sanctions. This Bill would have benefited 1.8 million Californians from various ethnic communities, particularly those who do not speak English as a primary language. This year we hear of plans to reintroduce the Bill in the State Assembly and the Senate, if it hasn't been already. Would you sign this Bill if it reaches your desk. If you do become Governor?

Busta: I would sign the Bill. My grandparents who came here from Mexico

spoke Spanish almost exclusively their entire lives. And during that time the issues of being able to deal with Government and to be able to deal with the community around them was often times very difficult. I hope that we progress since that time. I hope we have progressed over the last 50 years to recognize that the people who are here, this grand mosaic, this wondrous experiment that we have here in CA is such that we need to be able to reach out to all the communities and make sure that we provide services to all those who are able to make sure and have access to Government.

Guill: Here is another follow-up for you Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: Sure.

Guill: The budget problem they say is not about the issues, it's about the process. Would you support a current move to change the 2/3 requirement for approval to 55% approval or simple majority?

Busta: Absolutely, and I'm going to need that in order to get my plan through the legislature. If I don't have the 55%, and I'm going to work very very hard for it, if I don't have the 55% it would be very difficult for me to be able to get the kinds of increases I need to be able to fix up that budget hole.

Guill: Okay, thank you.

(END DISC ONE)

Guill: Our next round of questions goes to Gabriel Lerner, La Opinion.

Lerner: Access to higher education for many Californians, especially for minorities, immigrants and the poor is becoming increasingly limited and (disparities:15???) between the have and the have-nots are expanding. The latest budget cut resulted in a 35% fee increase in the UC and Cal State systems, but in the community college along the main gateway to higher education there was a 68% fee increase, which just this year excluded another 20,000 black and Hispanic students. 1/3 of all ESL classes have been eliminated. In the short and long term, what are the candidates approach and specific plans to address this problem and provide a better education for all Californians?

Guill: 60 seconds to you, Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: Well, in the short term as both a member of the Trustees for State colleges as well as a regent for the U of CA, I opposed tuition increases. I believe it is an unfair burden on many working and middle class families in CA. I

think it is short sighted and lacks vision. What we are doing is making sure that 50-60 thousand student, this year, will not go to college. I think that's outrageous. I also, in my plan that I outlined, made sure that we restored all the tuition increases that took place in community colleges. We restored all the classes that would take place at community colleges. As far as I'm concerned, community colleges should be free just like it was 20 years ago.

Guill: All right, sixty seconds Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: This is another example where they are actually lowering the standard of living of the poorer people. In the last ten years, Latinos have lost 3% of their income. African Americans have stood still. And this is an example of how they tax the poor more than the rich. Because when you increase community college fees, they've almost doubled them, and you increase the U of CA and the other higher education. That does not affect the wealthy, the way it affects the average person, especially people of color. And I am the only candidate that is saying out and out, clear, unambiguous fair tax. The rich must pay at least what the average person pays. And that's what the law should be and I would like both of the other candidates here to say those words, because they don't. And that's why we are having those races. Because we are allowing the wealthy not to pay their fair share of taxes. Instead, in one form or another, fees, DMV fees, university costs, school costs, we are forcing it on poor people to lower their standard of living.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Camejo. Sixty seconds Ms. Huffington.

Huff: Well, first of all, I have no problem saying that, I have been saying it up and down the state, and if you go to my website vote.arianna.com, you can read it specifically word by word. In terms of the community colleges, I have been going around the state speaking at community colleges. I was in Orange County yesterday. I will be at Pasadena City College today. And the level of pain there, the level of concern about the future is palpable. And as Governor I would first of all roll back the fee increases but I would go much further. I would create the kind of climate where such increases would be off the table. Where it would not be on the negotiating table that in order to balance the budget you would be increasing community college fee, fees and tuitions. It would not be on the table either that you would be counting kindergarten. See that's the kind of CA I want to create. Where this things would not even be under discussion. Why are do you discussing corporate tax loopholes instead? That's really why, this at the heart of the problem.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington. Follow-up, Gabriel Lerner.

Lerner: Mr. Bustamante, the gap in the SAT scores between white

Busta: The gap between the what?

Lerner: The gap in the SAT scores between whites and blacks is increasing to 206 point, between blacks and Mexicans to 158 points. In just, in the L.A. unified school district they are going to fire 1,000 temporary emergency teachers because of the requirements of no child Left Behind federal law, so other than repeating the need for maintaining Prop 98, what are you plans for improving education for minorities, immigrants and the poor of CA?

Busta: First of all, every, every person in Sacramento has a great plan for fixing education. We've has so many great plans and we've put so many great plans on top of teachers that teachers have been asked to become counselors, police officers, they've even been asked to become immigration officers at one point. At some point we have to be able to allow teachers to teach. They know how to teach and the magic that takes place in education is inside that classroom with a teacher, a well-prepared teacher, a motivated student, and proper

Guill: Time

Busta: instruction materials. That's why when I was in the Legislature

Guill: Time

Busta: we put in over \$1 billion for textbooks for our schools.

Guill: Time. This is a follow-up for Mr. Bustamante. The Supreme Court has affirmed affirmative action CA has voted against it. Would you lead the fight to repeal Prop 209?

Busta: The voters of this state have overwhelmingly said that they believe 209 ought to take place. AS the Governor I would have to implement that. But at the same time, the same time I would speak out against it, I would tell people I think it is wrong and I would make sure that every time I had an opportunity we would try to make sure that the tenants, the basic tenants of making sure that inclusive politics was always going to be adhered to.

Guill: Thank you. The next is from myself, the moderator, here is a question to all: Arnold Schwarzenegger's accent became an issue this week . Schwarzenegger wants an apology. But the whole episode exposed a different kind of double standard. In CA an European accent from a millionaire is okay, but an Asian or Latino accent in a service field job is not tolerated and we all know that the Governor's job is the State's top service job. This is sort of a two-fold question. Mr. Schwarzenegger also served on the board of U.S. English

and English only activism group here in the U.S. Here in CA 40% speak another language other than English. And face discrimination at work, school and in healthcare. Here is the two-prong question: Do you back English only as a policy and what would you do to eliminate language discrimination to make CA more inclusive? Mr. Bustamante

Busta: First of all, I do not support English only. I think it's a great activity to be able to speak more than one language. I would hope that we would have the ability of being able to speak a variety of different languages in CA. We are at the center of a global economy and the more that we can understand not only other cultures, but speak other languages I believe gives us benefit. We have to get to a time in CA where we see diversity as a cause of celebration not consternation. And I would make sure we would do everything we could within our state schools to make sure that we provide other opportunities for other languages.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante, Mr. Camejo, sixty seconds.

Camejo: Gov. Davis's comment is peculiar. I have never heard him pronounce correctly Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, all the names of the cities of our state, but you know, we Latinos accept them, I believe in diversity. I don't care if a person pronounces something right or wrong. But I don't think we should dismiss what Gov. Davis did because implied in that is a racist comment. It is only we, the Europeans, who are here who have established the language. We are the only legitimate people here. That's what's the implication of that. Now Arnold is in total agreement with him on this. You know? And it's once again, it points out when people makes slips like that it gives away what they really deep down think. You notice that Gov. Davis has suddenly announced he is a progressive, he didn't remember it last year when he ran for Governor and opposed all those things. It's so peculiar what's happening in the recall election. The republicans have made the democrats all of a sudden for Green issues. You know, now he's for the right...

Guill: Time

Camejo: to drivers license, more gay rights, for more environmental, for the Privacy Act, all the things he opposed. I think this slip was very revealing and I think we have to fight for opening diversity for everyone in CA, respect the language differences. Absolutely opposed to English only. I'm for bilingual education. My brother was one of the ones who started bilingual education in CA. And the very first,

Guill: Time

Camejo: first programs that were established in Northern CA

Guill: Time, thanks, thanks Mr. Camejo for your answer and Freudian analysis. Mrs. Huffington, sixty seconds.

Huff: Well, I think it would be really great for the state of CA to have a governor with a Greek-American accent. And as I have been campaigning up and down the state, I must say I have had a lot of young people, especially young women with different accents, come up to me and saying they are finding it empowering to hear me on television, to hear me debate and know that it's not an impediment. You can do anything with an accent, trust me, I have. In terms of Arnold Schwarzenegger and his response, really I want to stay with something that is very troubling for me and this is window dressing politics. You know the fact that Schwarzenegger is going to retrofit his Hummer makes him an environmentalist. Or the fact that his campaign for Prop 49 After School Programs, when in fact not a single child has got an after school program because of that initiative. That's just nothing.

Guill: Time

Huff: That's just window dressing and we need to deal with the substance of people's lives.

Guill: Thank you Ms. Huffington. Here's a follow-up for Mr. Bustamante. Mr. Bustamante, you've been grilled in the mainstream media for your association with MECHA, and MECHA the Chicano Student movement association you belonged to in college has been under attack for some non-inclusive statements. Would you like to take this opportunity now to either renounce MECHA or to explain your membership in MECHA while a student at Fresno State?

Busta: I will not renounce MECHA. MECHA, when I was in the 70's, was a social group that was very involved with politics. It was a way of introducing kids. We worked for a variety of different activities like cultural diversity, with my also bringing in other students into the campus. We worked hard on issues of ethnic studies. We did mostly the kinds of activities that mainstream kids did,

Guill: Ten seconds

Busta: but we worked very hard together to make sure that we were included in the system and I think that if you look at the campus today, they are as viable today as they were when I was in school. And that's how I got my start.

Guill: Thank you very much Mr. Bustamante. Follow-up question, Chauncey Bailey, Soul Beat TV.

Bailey: Mr. Bustamante speaking of slips, African American have forgiven you for your inadvertent racial slur up in Emeryville. When we look across the state we see in L.A. Hispanics voted for one mayoral candidate, African Americans voted for another. How can we close this gap that exists between African American and Hispanics? And you are gonna need the black vote to win we give you, we contribute 12-14% of all the votes here in CA. And one out of every 5 votes that goes to your party comes from blacks. Even though your party continues to impregnate us with promises that then are aborted it once you are elected. Will you contribute to closing the gap, sir, by appointing an African American as Lt. Gov. since there are no blacks in the State Assembly north of L.A.?

Guill: Mr. Bustamante, thirty seconds.

Bust: Just to deal with the issue that you call the slip, I was doing a speech to 300 black trade unionists during black history month. I was there to lift peoples' spirits. I was there and I was reading a speech that talked about the long accomplishments that had taken place with black trade unionists over the many many years, over the last 150 years. As I was reading several of those accomplishments, I garbled a couple of words and some people felt that they heard something. There's a lot of people who were there that day

Guill: Time

Busta: that said I didn't. But in order to be able to make sure that I owned up to anything that anybody heard, I clearly said that I apologized. It was a very humiliating experience having to go before the press and people. I would have never ever guessed that I would have been in situation.

Bailey: Will you name a black as Lt. Gov.. sir?

Busta: You asked me about a half-a-dozen questions let me get to them. And I'll get to that last one.

Guill: Ten seconds

Busta: The second thing is whether or not I would be inclusive in my politics, and clearly, I believe I have been. Not only in terms in how I've arranged my staff, in terms of my politics, in terms of what I've done

Guill: Time

Busta: fighting Ward Connolly and all of his issues. Making sure it was

inclusive at the state, at the university level. I would consider

Guill: Time

Busta: Many people for the top job.

Guill: All right, thank you

Busta: I would look for the best person. I would consider an African American, but I would consider a member of the gay and lesbian community.

Guill: All right.

Busta: I would consider a Latino, I would consider an Arab

Guill: Enough

Busta: I would consider many people around the State. I would look for the best possible candidate.

Guill: Okay, I let you go to the end of the sentence, but that was rather run-on. We now conclude our panel questions and go to our first direct round. This is where candidates get to ask other candidates questions. There will be a thirty second question and a sixty seconds response. And then there will be a follow-up from the journalists. I get to choose who our candidates will direct their questions. This is sort of like three card monte here . And the first candidate, Mr. Bustamante you direct a thirty -second question to Mr. Camejo.

Busta: Mr. Camejo, pardon?

Guill: Go ahead.

Busta: okay, Mr. Camejo, as you know I am the only person in State government that has shut down an offshore polluting rig off our coast. I've received a Coastal Hero Award from Robert Kenney, Jr. in terms of the activities that I've done. I've also redesigned the coastal commission and I have a very strong feeling about our coast. Would you join me, if I become governor, would you join me and bring the Green party to bear on a major coastal initiative to make sure that our coast will always be protected.

Guill: Sixty seconds Mr. Camejo

Camejo, That's a very difficult question Cruz, Of course I would join you and I'm sure the Green party would join you. And I want be totally supportive to your

comments here. I want to say that in the last campaign, I argued to save the last precious 4% of our ancient forest.. And I was unable to get the democratic or republican party to say they were in favor of it. But I know Cruz is a more open person than the present Governor. And I look forward to working with him. On this issue and other issues because I think there is an opportunity in CA to make a change. We have a dysfunctional Governor today. WE need a change in Ca. WE need to open the doors so we can deal with the types of issues Cruz Bustamante has just presented. We need forces, we need the power of people like Arianna Huffington and the Green party to make these changes happen. Together we can make some very powerful changes in CA, like renewable energy and the things Cruz just asked about.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Camejo. We will see the time to Ms. Huffington for a thirty-second follow-up question to either of the candidates on the same issue.

Huff: My question would be to the Lt. Governor. Of course there are a lot of good things that you've done, but also a lot of things when it comes to the environment like rolling back the Clean Air Act, that were very damaging. Do you regret that vote?

Busta: when did I do that?

Huff: 1996

Busta: I don't recall making a vote to roll back the Clean Air Act, in fact, in fact, I have been very supportive of the (17.13 Flores?) Bill that requires in the Central Valley, requires agriculture be engaged in making sure that we clean up, that we replace a variety of different kinds of activities. I'm opposed to the Bush plan in terms of rolling back the air quality standards. If there was a Bill in which I voted that way, I would admit to the record, whatever the record is and I would regret that, but my position has been for the last many years to make sure we provide

Guill: Time

Busta: an opportunity to roll back

Guill: Time

Busta: to make sure that we never roll back the air quality standards.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: And if I did, I would tell you, I would regret it.

Huff: Let me present you with a full record of your non-progressive votes. Including you wanting to roll back the clean air act.

Busta: Thank you.

Guill: Thank you. Our next candidate is Peter Camejo. Mr. Camejo, your question goes to Ms. Huffington. Thirty-second question, sixty second answer.

Camejo: I would like to ask Arianna Huffington because she is one of the most articulate people I have ever met in my life. To articulate for us the issue of three strikes. This is an issue that is often buried. We are right now as part of our general breakdown in the rule of law, violating the 8th amendment of the Constitution by imprisoning people who maybe just stole a piece of meat as one example up there in (Mule 18:42?) Creek is doing life and others. And yesterday I held a press conference on this issue and tried to get the word out, but it's so difficult. I'd like you to explain your views and what you would do about three strikes.

Guill: Sixty seconds response.

Huff: I would definitely repeal the Three Strikes provision that applies to non-violent third offences. It is inhumane and directly against the principles of our state. I would instead, actually, introduce a three strikes and your our for corporate crimes. It is truly absurd that we are continuing to do business with corporations like (Tenat19:23??) that continue to defraud the public and defraud the state of millions of dollars and yet we continue to do business with them. It's only because of the power of the special interest that this governor and other democrats are not proceeding with the implementation of three Strikes You're Out for corporate felons.

Guill: All right, we will give Mr. Bustamante thirty seconds to ask a thirty second question with a thirty second response.

Busta: To whom?

Guill: To your choice.

Busta: There was a lot of and Arianna, you've indicated substantially, about my receiving large donations from tribal governments as well as from labor and you believe that those are special interest. And even though you know that the strength of the reason for accepting those has been in order to be able to advocate on behalf of working people and tribal governments. As a result of those different kinds of charges from both you and the republicans, I am now

moving \$3-4 million of those funds into the fight against Prop 54. Would you now join me in supporting this action, so we can both fight no on 54. So we can make sure that no on 54 is defeated.

Guill: Time

Busta: Make sure that 54 will be defeated and will never ever again come here before us.

Guill: Time, Thirst seconds Ms. Huffington.

Huff: Well, first of all, I will complain up and down the state against Prop. 54

Busta: Good

Huff: And I will ask you to do one more thing before I join you and this is to give the money back to the tribe so that they can give it directly to Prop 54, to the anti-Prop 54 because if you can, if really all you want is to help defeat Prop 54, let them have control of that money instead of insisting that you are going to be in every commercial that this money is used to produce.

Busta: We are going to make sure that we move to defeat Ward Connolly.

Huff: No, but I want you to give the money to Prop 54. For them to determine how they are going to spend it.

Busta: Yeah, well, those folks gave me the money to do what I thought was the best thing to do with it and I think that making sure that we move those resources to a no on 54 effort is a good reason for those resources.

Huff: Not good enough.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante. You can bring up this issue when it's your turn, like now, Ms. Huffington. You get to ask a question of Mr. Bustamante. Thirty-second question to a sixty-second response.

Huff: Cruz, you voted to deregulate energy, which lead directly to the energy crisis and you also voted in '93 to deregulate workers comp, which lead to the workers comp crisis and you are now the poster boy for corporate finance and campaign finance abuse, so why should progressive democrats vote for you?

Guill: Sixty seconds Mr. Bustamante

Busta: First of all, on the energy crisis, we clearly were looking to try to find a

way to lower the rates for everyone. We were lied to, that's true. I regret it. We need to go back to a system to reregulate and if I'm governor, I will support SB880 by Senator Dunn and we will reregulate utilities and energy in CA. It was a mistake and we've got to fix it and we've got to re-regulate.

Guill: Mr. Camejo, so you have a 30 second follow-up for a thirty second answer?

Camejo: Yeah, let me ask Cruz Bustamante a question. We have a terrible shortage in affordable housing and one of the things New Zealand did which I have been advocating is they had a special program to help people when they first buy a home to give them a loan for their down payment. Because for poor people, especially for many people in our community. They never get a chance to become homeowners and it completely alters their financial life and what happens to them. That made New Zealand 98% homeowners. Would you be willing to join me in supporting such a program in advocating

Guill: Time

Busta: Absolutely. In fact, I helped sponsor Prop 46 that was passed last year. \$2 billion went into a program to provide first time homebuyers down payment assistance, to provide (???)2347) for housing, to provide multi-family housing, to make sure we had student housing. WE have \$2 billion now in the system doing exactly that Mr. Camejo.

Guill: Thank you. We go to the second direct round candidate one Mr. Bustamante, you will direct your question to Mr. Camejo, thirty second question to a sixty second answer.

Busta: Mr. Camejo, you've indicated many times to me that the kinds of distinctions between the Green party and the Democratic Party are such that you felt compelled to run and to present the ideas of the Green party. However, at the same time you have indicated that one of the three of us would be a much better candidate to be Governor than the others on the ballot, in terms of the major candidates. I would ask you, do you still feel that way after we've had the debates? Do you still feel that way as a result of the time, I know we've talked about this several

Guill: Time

Busta: Months ago, but do you still feel that way today?

Guill: Sixty second answer please, Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: Well first, let me just say that I congratulate Cruz Bustamante for turning over that money over to prop 54. I thought it was a good way to resolve this issue. And I say that because we are in a trap. Cruz is raising a very important question. What do we do in a dysfunctional system that doesn't allow people a free choice? People may want to vote Green, but they prefer Bustamante over Arnold Schwarzenegger. Maybe they want to vote for Arianna Huffington so they can vote in the system used in Australia, the one we're advocating, it's used in Ireland, it's used all over the place. You vote your preference. You vote Green first, maybe Arianna Huffington second and maybe Bustamante third, but one thing for sure, that vote would not go to Arnold. Under the present system, people fear voting for the Greens. We've got to end that. Because I do believe, this is a personal view, this is not an official Green position, that there is a difference between Cruz Bustamante and Governor Davis. I think this man is much more open, it is possible to try to work with him.

Guill: Time. We have a question from the panel. Oh, We'll allow you sing the praises of Mr. Bustamante in a later segment, but we go to Ms. Keeley.

Keeley: I want to go back to Mr. Bustamante, even as you are denying now in this debate that you are not favoring special interest groups, and even as you keep on stressing the fact that you redirected your campaign contributions to the anti-Prop 54 efforts, recent reports have said otherwise. And that in fact stating that close ties in certain sectors have lead you to favor them in the past. For example, supporting legislation allowing farmers to use the pesticide (metholbromide^{26:37}??). In your five years at the State Assembly you took \$80,000 from tobacco companies and during that time you voted against the smoking ban in restaurants and bars. If you are elected as Governor, how are CA voters assured that you will not favor special interest groups?

Busta: ha ha ha, thirty seconds, okay. First of all, at the same time that I was supporting farmers on their economic questions, I was also making sure that I was supporting farm workers in terms of all the activities with respect to not only to their pay, and abilities to organize, but also in making sure they provided, the were given proper training and had sufficient times to go in and out of fields. And also providing major buffer zones for residential areas. In addition, when I became Lt. Gov. I stopped receiving tobacco money. I sued the oil, I sued the tobacco companies when I was the Speaker of the Assembly.

Guill: Time is up

Busta: I created the language to make sure that the Attorney General would sue tobacco companies and that's why we receive billions of dollars in healthcare in CA.

Guill: Thank you Mr. Bustamante. We go to candidate two, Mr. Camejo. A thirty-second question to a sixty-second response. Your question goes to Ms. Huffington.

Camejo: One of the issues that Californians, the polls still do not show a majority, but it is changing and becoming stronger, is to fight the death penalty. And here again is another issue in the debates like last year when I was excluded, someone who opposed the death penalty was not heard. It hasn't come up in this debate. No one has raised it. I think for people of color this is a major issue. It is applied in a racist manner. We had all these innocent people on death row in Illinois, it was discovered. Who knows where else it is happening. I would like to ask you what you would do about the death penalty. What your position is. And for you to explain why, what steps could be taken.

Guill: Sixty second response, please.

Huff: Well as I said in the first debate. I oppose the death penalty. Both in philosophical grounds and because the way it is applied in such a racist way. Name on rich man or rich woman who got the death penalty. It doesn't happen. The system at the moment is basically so unfair that only if you are a minority, if you are not properly represented do you end up on death row. And we need to change that in CA and we need to provide the leadership here on this issue as well as on so many for the rest of the country.

Guill: We have a follow-up question from Gabriel Lerner from La Opinion.

Lerner: Related to the previous question actually. There was talk that either Ms. Huffington or Mr. Camejo would step down when under some conditions were met and support each other. What is the situation right now in regard to that?

Guill: And this is for? Oh, we'll give you each 15 seconds to respond. Mr. Camejo first.

Camejo: I think it would be a wonderful victory in CA for the 21% of the people that are not registered as either democrat or republican to finally have representation. We have no one in the Assembly. No one in the Senate. We pay taxes. Taxation without representation. I believe Arianna Huffington is an excellent,

Guill: Time

Camejo: brilliant, intelligent representer and if there was a chance for her to win, I said we sit down and figure out whatever was necessary.

Guill: All right, ms. Huffington, your 15 seconds.,

Huff: And I have said I would do the same for Peter. The point is, that if either of us was elected as Governor, the first thing we would do in terms of changing the democratic process is introduce instant runoff voting which would dramatically change the landscape of CA politics. because it would mean that we would get rid of forever the fear of voting. Voting out of fear instead of voting for our hopes of this state.

Guill: Time. Thank you very much. Candidate three is Ms. Huffington for this next and last direct round and she gets to ask a thirty second question to a thirty second response from Mr. Camejo.

Huff: I'm asking the question. It's going to be really really hard. Peter. As we've both been saying, this recall election has given an unprecedented opportunity to you and an independent candidate as myself to be heard on issues that are not normally discussed. I was here at the Patriotic Hall in 2000 as one of the conveners of the shadow conventions. Trying to have these issues addressed because neither political parties were addressing them. Now I'm addressing them as a candidate. How can we use this moment to actually ignite the movement that we know it is going to take to fundamentally reform our politics?

Camejo: let me start by saying that I'm so happy that Arianna Huffington is in this race because there is a woman, 50% of our population and we have never had a woman Governor. And if you look at people of color that's over 50% and there's never been any person of color been elected governor there was once for a short period a Latino and look at us, two Latinos and a woman, it's about time.

Huff: It's a movie, Two Latinos and a woman.

Camejo: And you know there's a lot of people out there, scared. For the first time we opened things up. And I want to thank Cruz Bustamante for being here. Because let's not forget the last two times we had a Senatorial or gubernatorial debate here with the New California Media that the democrat didn't show-up. And Cruz has said he'd be at every debate and he'll take it from anybody who criticizes him.

Guill: Ten seconds

Camejo: I think that we're opening up the system. Let's never go back. Let's never go back to the way it was. In the last election.

Guill: Time. We have a follow-up question from Jay Shih, China Crosstalk.

Shih: Can I address this question to Mr. Bustamante. This is related to Prop 54, but is probably on the other side of the coin. Many Asian-American student and their parents feel like they are being discriminated when they try to get into the UC University system and some of the high schools. They feel like they are asked to meet a higher academic standard. Do you feel this is a form of discrimination? If not, can you explain to the students and their parents why this is not discriminatory?

Guill: Thirty seconds Mr. Bustamante

Busta: What we did after Prop 209 and Ward Connolly's initiative. We tried to deal with a merit based admissions standard. That admissions standards had been presented over at UC Berkeley and found that it had two very important factors. It raised the standard by implemented in a statewide system that we call Comprehensive Review. And it also allows for 4%, the top4% of every single high school in CA to have access to the U of CA.

Guill: Thank you, we now move onto a round of a combination of audience and panel questions and we have asked panelist, we have time for 30-second responses from all candidates and all three. Prop 13 is forcing city and county governments to become overly reliant on local sales tax to fund local services. This has served local development for big box retail instead of housing and manufacturing. As governor, what would you do to reverse this trend? Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: As a part of my plan called the Tough Love Plan for CA, it indicates that there is a growing disparity between commercial and residential properties. And my plan addresses that by making sure that commercial properties are reassessed regularly. What that basically means is that it will grow the side of commercial property taxes while leaving along the individual homeowner property taxes.

Guill: Time. Mr. Camejo, thirty seconds.

Camejo: I think people in CA are unaware of the danger that's being created to the budgets of counties and cities from policies that are being followed. Our present system is not working and it's very dangerous for pension funds that are placed in counties because the counties are driven to try to balance their budgets by lowering what they are committing to the pensions. I think we need to take a new look at this and I'm for putting more money into local government and as governor, I would want a full study done on this to figure a way around this problem that keeps reappearing,

Guill: time

Camejo: and is more dangerous than people realize in terms of the well being of our state.

Guill: Time. Ms. Huffington, thirty seconds.

Huff: As Governor, I would exercise independent leadership by touching the third rail of CA politics, Prop 13. We need to look at it both in terms of the commercial property taxes and assessing them fairly and in terms of homeowners at the higher end. Multi-millionaires and multi million homes, as Warren Buffet Said were never the less paying the minimal amount of taxes therefore depriving the general fund of billions of dollars that would go to education. Healthcare and all our social needs.

Guill: Thank you. Our next question from Sam Berges from South Pasadena. Please give one specific policy change you would make in your first thirty days in office and why. Thirty seconds, Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: As I said in my plan to deal with CA. One of the first things we would do is that we would cut the car tax. It is an unfair burden on the working families of CA and I would exempt the first \$20,000 of every automobile so that everyone who owned an automobile or multiple automobiles under \$20,000 would not pay the increase in the car tax.

Guill: Thank you, Mr. Camejo, thirty seconds.

Camejo: I would immediately work to establish a fair tax system, balance the budget and stop the cutbacks. That's the first thing we would do. I would start working for a crash program on renewable energy to transform CA as it was a leader in semi-conductors into the great leaders in the next wave of technology, which we need is to end the energy crisis in the world and switch to hydrogen.

Guill: Thank you very much. Ms. Huffington, thirty seconds.

Huff: I would roll back the tuition increases for colleges and universities. I would absolutely agree with Peter that implementing a renewable energy policy that's going to be really ambitious that will make CA the leader in a multi-trillion dollar worldwide industry would be another primary goal of my administration.

Guill: Thank you. Another question from the audience from San Anselmo CA. And Hayward. Lindsey and I and Tenile Gillerson ask what is your vision and plan for reforming K-12 education in CA? Mr. Bustamante, thirty seconds.

Busta: First thing I would do is put a breaks on the brilliant ideas that everyone

has seems to have about reforming education. I think that we have put so many regulations on our teachers that they are having a hard time doing their job, which is to teach. I would make sure they were treated like the professionals that they are and I would give them more ability to have a say in what takes place in the classroom. And I would make sure that every single classroom and every single student in CA has a textbook because that is not what's happening right now.

Guill: Mr. Camejo, thirty seconds.

Camejo: I oppose the testing mania that is going on. What we are doing is taking social problems that exist in our society and blaming them on the teachers. It's a way to justify moving towards privatization. We have to look at this threat and where it is coming. I would protect our free public education for all, lower the class size back, stop all the cutbacks that exist and I join Cruz Bustamante in his pro-teacher position of saying they are the front lines and we have to be there for them to support them. That is what they should be hearing from governor.

Guill: Thirty seconds Ms. Huffington.

Huff: I would first of all settle the Williams law suit against the state and I really urge Cruz Bustamante to do the same and say that he would do that if elected governor. Because it is truly insane that the Governor is fighting 1 million school children and spending \$18 million so far in legal fees trying to claim that yes you can study in classrooms with the roaches, rodents, no books, and toilets that don't work. It is really something that is a disgrace to our state and I would immediately end it.

_Guill: A question to all three from the moderator on Prop 54. What will you do, what would you stand on the issue of the repeal of Prop 209 this was asked earlier of Mr. Bustamante, and I want to ask it of all three of you. Would you work to repeal 209 in light of the Supreme Court's reaffirmation affirmative action this summer. Mr. Bustamante first.

Busta: yes and on top of that, I am opposed to Prop 54. And will be spending \$3-4 million to make sure that we defeat Prop 54.

Guill: Are you going to return some of that money to the unions at all as asked by Ms. Huffington?

Busta: Both the tribal governments and the unions gave that money for me to do with what I felt was best. And we are going to make sure to put \$3-4 million dollars into the campaign against Prop 54.

Guill: Thank you, Mr. Camejo, thirty seconds.

Camejo: I think we are all unified here against Prop 54. And I do think we must fight to reestablish Affirmative Action. Affirmative Action is only calling for respect of the law, the rule of law, equality. Which was denied for 90 years. Latinos and African Americans didn't have the right to vote and the two parties that did that to us have yet to apologize. In violation of the law, Affirmative Action is to overcome the past that has occurred in America and that still exists. We've got to fight to get rid of 209.

Guill: Time. Thirty seconds, Ms. Huffington.

Huff: I would fight to repeal 209 and basically my stance is as follows. We will land Affirmative Action at the bottom only when we end it at the top. Only when George Bush doesn't get into Yale, despite his C average. It doesn't make any sense to talk about ending Affirmative at the bottom. How did he get there? Because he was a legacy. Well, what's that? Affirmative Action.

Guill: Thank you. One last question from the audience. From Tide Berry of Santa Monica. Would you abolish Three Strikes in Thirty seconds, Mr.. Bustamante.

Busta: I believe that three strikes is an important piece of legislation when it has to do with violent criminals. I don't believe that is the case with non-violent criminals.

Guill: Thirty seconds, Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: Three Strikes is an unfortunate law because what it really does is it viciously penalizes people and creates an atmosphere of fear in the nation and in the state, which is wrong. I am totally and completely opposed and I believe that when corporations can have felonies every single year and no one goes to jail it is so obvious what this difference is in society when we give life sentences for minor crimes.

Guill: Thirty seconds, Ms. Huffington.

Huff: I have already said where I stand on Three Strikes, so why don't I say that I will fight to repeal Prop 21, another punitive measure which has been disastrous for young people, especially people of color in our state. When they are being treated as adults, when the opportunity has been taken away from judges to make these decisions and given to prosecutors.

Guill: thank you very much. We have time for our final statements, sixty

seconds each. We start with Mr. Bustamante.

Busta: Running for Governor I know is very serious activity. In order to be able to do this, you have to have, I believe, a certain set of principles. A certain set of principles that are inclusive. Is able to reach out to all the people of the state of CA. The practical matter is that you have to be able to be competitive to become governor and in order for me to be competitive, I had to reach out to those folks both in labor who represent working people and tribal governments in which I believe is economic development and they are providing hundreds of thousands of jobs for Californians. In order to do that, to be able to get the support of CA Indians, I've gotten a tremendous amount of heat. But I am in a position, I believe, to be a positive alternative to what's taking place on the recall. And I hope that as your governor you be able to see that I'll do a great job.

Guill: Thank you, sixty seconds Mr. Camejo.

Camejo: The recall exists because something has really gone wrong in CA. The deficit, the crisis we have, the cutbacks. But there's also a new danger that has appeared in CA, which is very peculiar. WE have a candidate, Arnold Schwarzenegger, who calls himself in essence the man on the white horse. It's a political phenomenon that has appeared through out history where someone appears and says I'm strong, just trust me. I don't have to tell you what my platform or what I'm going to do. That's a very anti-democratic posture. In Europe it's called Bonapartism, and it's the last thing that we need in CA. I want to congratulate Cruz Bustamante for saying immediately everything he stood for and put it on his website. Arianna Huffington has done the same. I have done the same. That's where you go and choose what platform you want to support. That's democracy. We're for a living wage. For affordable housing, universal healthcare, against the death penalty. You know where the Green party stands.
Guill: Five seconds.

Camejo: You now what we stand for. If you support us, vote Green vote Camejo.

Guill: Sixty seconds, Ms. Huffington.

Huff: Does anybody here really believe the reason we have 2 million children in substandard schools the reason we have over 6 million people without health insurance the reason we have 4 million people below the poverty line. Does any one here believe it's because we don't have enough money? I want to be your governor because I know it's not lack of money. It's basically having the wrong values, the wrong priorities, determined by the special interest that are funding Gray Davis, Cruz Bustamante, Arnold Schwarzenegger in control and nothing will change if we keep electing the same politicians who got us into this mess funded

by the same special interests. I want to be your governor to bring the priorities of a mother, good schools, healthcare, a clean safe world to live in to Sacramento. That's why I want to be your Governor and I want to bring the caring, compassion and
Commitment that have been missing and with caring, compassion, courage and commitment, we will be able on October 7th to dramatically change the state.
Thank you.

Guill: Thank you very much ms. Huffington. And thank you candidates for your time in this spirited debate. Thank you to our audience. This concludes a special gubernatorial recall debate sponsored by NCM, New California Media, the country's largest ethnic media consortium, and the Greenlining Institute. Thank you also to the ABS-CBN Filipino Channel for taping this debate. Remember there is still time to register. Vote on October 7th. From NCM Media and Greenlining, I'm Emil Guillermo.