

Resolution on CO/2 Reduction, Climate Stabilization and Employment

Whereas the major environmental challenge now surrounding us is the increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide, brought on by depletion of soil minerals, dying off and cutting down of forests and the burning of fossil fuels, and

Whereas the climate change is carrying us into the final transition to the next glacial period, in which we are already dangerously close to the point of no return, and leading into weather extremes of cold fronts, snow, storms, flooding, droughts, and destruction of agriculture, homes, utilities, transportation, and above all, human life; and the solution is therefore an earth regeneration program, which means a massive world-wide employment of resources (under peaceful conditions) in soil remineralization, forest recovery and new planting, conservation and alternative energy technology development (not nuclear), reduction in use of fossil fuel, and

Whereas the California Democratic Party Platform in 1984 and 1986 has an appropriate statement on CO/2 and climate: Section on Water and Air Quality.

The rapid acceleration in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere —"the greenhouse effect"— poses a grave threat to the environment. The United States should take the lead in research on weather changes, deforestation, and glaciation and work toward a global solution to these issues.

Therefore be it resolved that the California Democratic Party, encourage and support legislation and employment programs on the state, county and city level which are directed to soil, forest and energy work resulting in CO/2 reduction, and

Be it further resolved that the California Democratic Party encourage and support federal legislation to expedite (a) protection from the destructive force of climate change, (b) international cooperation directed to food and forest improvements and climate stabilization through soil remineralizing, (c) employment in soil, forest and energy work with the use of regional CO/2 budgets and the goal of worldwide CO/2 reduction, and (d) necessary crisis management.

* This resolution was put on the floor by signature process at the Convention, carried over to the Executive Committee for action and approved April 11. It is now part of the California Democratic Party work program.

The California Democratic Council, at its annual Convention, April 24-26, 1987, San Jose, adopted the following action: (a) endorse the "Earth Regeneration/Climate Stabilization Act of 1987" in principle to support employment in soil remineralization, reforestation with emphasis on hardwood trees, renewable alternative energy and energy conservation; (b) distribute to interested individuals, labor, environment, peace and other groups; and (c) send to California members of Congress and state legislators to start reviewing the Bill and help develop it, as the movement shapes up for physical work on carbon dioxide reduction and climate stabilization.

There are only a few years remaining in which to effectively contend with the climate cycle, as natural forces shatter and redirect all social conflicts. "Our job is to get on with climate stabilization now, with all the strength, resources, and human spirit that we can put forth."