

**LIBERTARIAN
PARTY
OF
CALIFORNIA**

5832 College Avenue
Suite 100
Oakland, California 94618
(415) 652-5223

Contact: Lisa Hosbein
For Immediate Release

LIBERTARIANS LABEL DEUKMEJIAN ENEMY OF PRIVACY

OAKLAND--Libertarian Party state chairman Bill Evers today condemned Attorney General George Deukmejian as "the greatest single threat to privacy in the state of California."

Citing Deukmejian's "deplorable record" on searches and seizures in criminal cases, Evers criticized the currently-leading candidate for the GOP gubernatorial nomination for violating the confidentiality which citizens should be able to have with their lawyers, physicians, and psychiatrists. In calling Deukmejian "an enemy of privacy," Evers pointed to a 1979 search which Deukmejian ordered his agents to conduct against a non-suspect person and other searches of suspects which, Evers said, have "seriously jeopardized" the rights of non-suspects.

The Libertarian chairman said that Deukmejian had caused "open season" to be declared on legal and medical offices within two months of becoming Attorney General in January 1979. In March 1979, Attorney General's agents raided a Beverly Hills law firm whose client was under investigation for Medi-Cal fraud. The attorneys were detained in their office lobby during the search, and Deukmejian's agents searched the premises for six hours until a court issued an injunction stopping them.

"The lawyers whose offices were searched were not suspected of any crime. Nor were any of their other thousands of clients suspects. Yet Deukmejian's agents looked through files on these other people," Evers said.

"Deukmejian thinks he can singlehandedly overturn long-established, rights statutorily recognized/such as the psychotherapist-patient privilege or the attorney-client privilege. These privileges offer citizens partial protection of their property and privacy from police abuses. Deukmejian is convinced that no one--including lawyers, whom he specifically excluded from protection

in an April 18, 1979 speech--should be protected against whatever visits he might ask the police to make."

Noting that one of Deukmejian's 1979 search warrants against a lawyer who was a suspect called for executing a night-time search, Evers accused Deukmejian of "learning police tactics from the history of the Gestapo and the KGB."

Following Deukmejian's 1979 raids, at least nine searches were conducted in 1980 in California against other non-suspect lawyers and physicians. These searches may or may not have been by law enforcement agents under Deukmejian's direction. The State Bar of California confirms that these searches took place, but refuses to disclose further details.

According to Evers, "Deukmejian certainly created the law enforcement climate in which all these searches have taken place. He's responsible for the example he sets. He's shown how contemptuous police could be of the right to privacy and get away with it."

Evers noted that in California's history as a state, 40% of the searches conducted against non-suspect professionals have occurred in the three years Deukmejian has been in office. More of these searches take place in California than in any other state. Three other 1979 searches conducted against non-suspect lawyers and a hospital occurred in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Bakersfield. The nine 1980 searches were conducted in Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Solano counties.

"The idea that a doctor or a lawyer has private papers in his office or that a person's home is his castle are jokes to Deukmejian," Evers said. "In his law enforcement efforts, Deukmejian has proven to be ready and willing to trample on the rights of privacy and private property."

11/11/81