

Morning Report 9/28/05

From Todd Harris of the CA Recovery Team - Here's one: What do you call an organization that sponsors conferences with speakers like [former Speaker] Bob Hertzberg, [Asm.] Tom Torlakson and members of the Sacramento Bee editorial board, and has its work praised by none other than Bruce Cain [director, Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley]? This one's simple. Of course it would be Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy Member #1002, an entirely non-credible, partisan "whollyowned subsidiary for the Republican Party." Or at least that's according to former Gray Davis spokesman and current Fabian Flak Steve Maviglio. It seems Steve was spinning a bit out of control yesterday when the highly respected Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna released a new study showing that passage of Prop. 77 [redistricting] would result in a significant increase in competition in California's elections. But competition in California's elections is the last thing that the legislative leadership want, so of course they immediately attack the credibility of the study's authors. The problem, of course, is that something tells me Cain knows a little bit more about redistricting than Maviglio does, and Cain found the study quite credible. According to [Tuesday's] Sacramento Bee, Bruce Cain, a redistricting expert who was involved in Democratic remapping efforts in the 1980s, lent credence to the Rose Institute report by saying its conclusions appear to be reasonable based upon his own research. "Their numbers are an estimate, all our numbers are an estimate, but they're perfectly sensible," said Cain. So, if the Rose Institute is Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy Member #1002, would that would make noted right-wing reactionary Cain Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy Member #1003? Someone should ask Maviglio.