

IS NUCLEAR POWER SAFE?

Q&A

TEST YOUR
NUCLEAR KNOWLEDGE

Q. WHAT does Proposition 15 (the Nuclear Safeguards Act) do?

A. Proposition 15 sets up a panel of "experts" who are mandated to carry the nuclear debate to the people through a series of public hearings throughout the state.

The experts then make recommendations to the California state Legislature who is required by a 2/3 margin, to certify the effectiveness of reactor safety systems and waste disposal methods.

It further requires utilities using nuclear power to assume full financial responsibility for damages resulting from any nuclear accidents at their plants.

Q. Is the Initiative process the way to solve the nuclear safety issue?

A. Certainly. The people of California have the right to demand the utmost in safety precautions and protection from financial liability from an industry that affects not only our immediate peace and security but the security of future generations.

Since the initiative qualified for the ballot, the Legislature has held in-depth hearings on the nuclear issue and an Assembly committee has introduced four strong bills (although not as far-reaching as Prop. 15) on nuclear wastes, insurance and safety issues. As is often the case, the initiative process has helped make the Legislature more responsive to the people. Passage of one or more of the bills would serve to back up the initiative.

Besides, this particular initiative is not a "yes" or "no" vote on nuclear power. It will merely leave the crucial safety issues in the hands of the panel of experts, and ultimately in the hands of the California Legislature to decide after full public hearings.

Q. But, isn't Proposition 15 going to extremes?

A. No. Proposition 15 only asks the legislature to confirm, by 2/3 vote, what the nuclear industry has been telling us for years: that nuclear power plants are safe.

Q. Aren't the nuclear issues too technical and complex to be decided by the legislators?

A. Legislators need technical experts to tell them what their choices are and what the consequences of each choice might be. The initiative does that.

But the public policy question—how to deal with a situation characterized by uncertainties of these kinds and in these degrees—is not a technical issue. It is a social one: Is it proper for this generation to foist upon future generations a problem that will last for several hundred thousand years?

**VOTE YES
ON PROPOSITION 15
JUNE 8, 1976**

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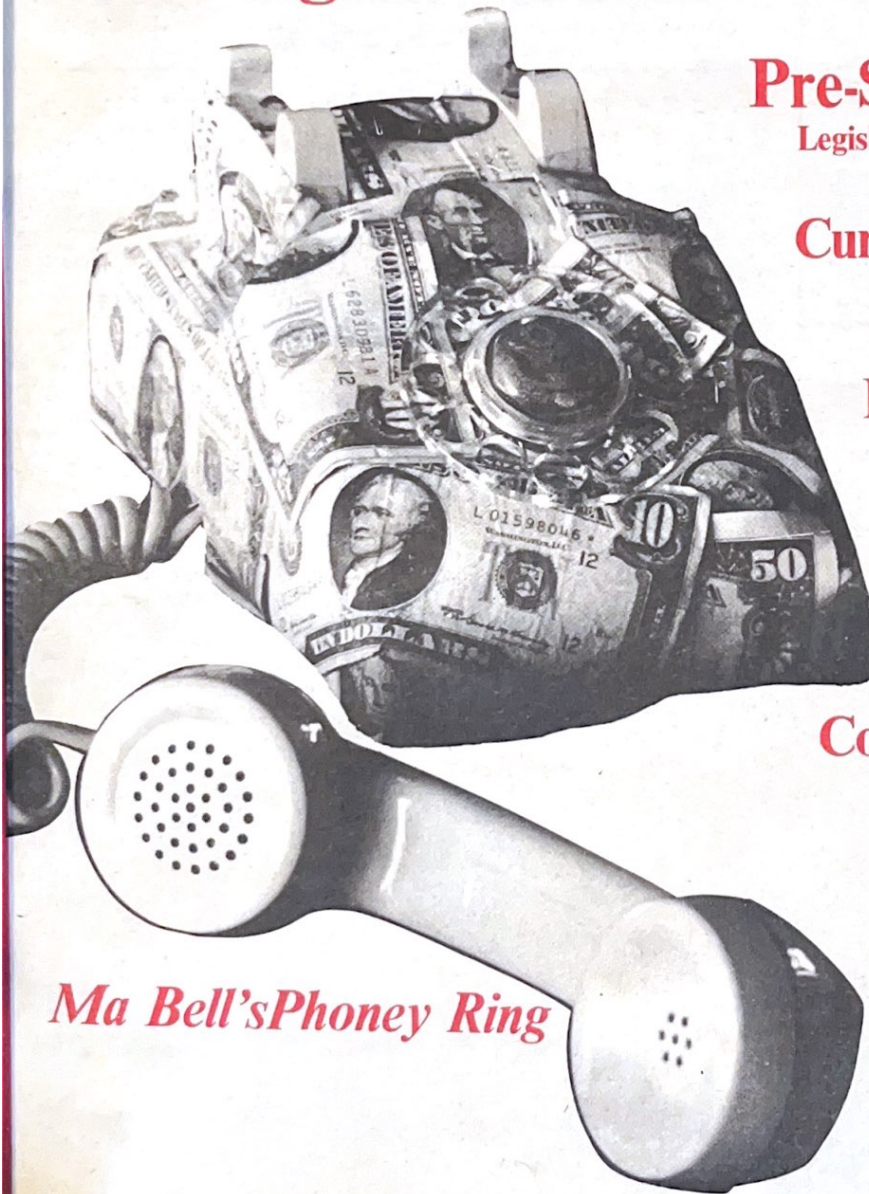
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