

# Prop. 14 backers deny meddling in signups

By LAURA THOMAS

Volunteers in the Prop. 14 campaign denied today they use aggressive tactics to solicit votes for the measure during their current voter registration drive.

Meanwhile, volunteers working to register voters at UC Davis yesterday demonstrated a softer approach to registering persons than earlier reports of their activities indicated.

Assistant County Clerk Woodrow Morris has reported receiving over 60 complaints in the last two weeks about groups soliciting votes and campaign literature to prospective voters

along with a mail-in registration affidavit.

At least one-half of the complaints involved volunteers for Prop. 14, the state farm labor initiative.

However, a reporter yesterday approached a voter

registration table manned by Yes on 14 volunteer Don Villarejo. He asked her if she had registered to vote and explained how to fill out the affidavit.

Villarejo did not mention (Please turn to Page 10)

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Prop. 14 until the reporter asked about it.

Morris said, although only one formal complaint was filed against a volunteer in the Prop. 14 campaign, he has received many complaints by telephone that the Prop. 14's volunteers are too aggressive.

"The biggest complaint is that the people feel that when they register to vote, it is strictly non-partisan. They do not feel they should be flooded or questioned on how they will vote. They also resent being

handed literature," Morris said.

Sacramento Yes on 14 organizer Bob Purcell said his campaign workers are trying "to make sure that everybody is registered to vote. We are trying to approach everyone. Some people feel it is being aggressive."

Morris has received a formal complaint from Yolo County sheriff's deputy Harold Wulff who said he asked for and received an affidavit from a Yes on 14 volunteer at Albertsons Market in Davis Sept. 18,

but when the volunteer heard Wulff intended to vote no on the proposition, he grabbed it back.

Purcell said the volunteer made a "foolish, foolish mistake."

He said the Prop. 14 voter registration drive had registered over 12,000 people to vote and this was the first bad incident that had occurred.

He said no volunteers had been asked to change their approach as a result of the incident.

Purcell also denied a frequent allegation that Prop. 14 volunteers were asking citizens how they planned to vote on the issue.

"We ask people if they are registered to vote. We ask them if they know what Prop. 14 is about and that we hope they will vote yes on it."

Morris, Purcell, and the Secretary of State's office all agreed that most people are unused to the new postcard registration system.

Under the 1975 Voter Registration Act, anyone can pass out voter registration affidavits. The law does not require the non-deputized private citizen to give one to anybody that requests one and it does not preclude a person from passing out campaign literature at the same time.

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Enterprise Photo

Yes on 14 volunteer Don Villarejo asked a female Enterprise reporter if she wanted to register to vote. Contrary to reports that Prop. 14 supporters aggressively

solicited votes for the measure while helping people register, Villarejo did not mention Prop. 14.