

## **Schwarzenegger Is Pressed for His Views on Social Issues**

The New York Times

August 28, 2003 Thursday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 3; National Desk; Pg. 24

**Length:** 924 words

**Byline:** By CHARLIE LeDUFF

**Dateline:** LOS ANGELES, Aug. 27

### **Body**

---

Facing aggressive questioning, Arnold **Schwarzenegger**, the actor-turned-candidate-for-governor, found himself having to lay out his positions today on a range of contentious **social issues** that he had so far avoided in the hectic California recall election.

Mr. **Schwarzenegger**, a Republican who is trying to rally all factions of his party around him, was pushed by conservative radio interviewers to define himself on matters he had so far sidestepped in his nascent campaign to take the place of Gov. Gray Davis.

Hit with a barrage of tough questions by Sean Hannity, the radio and television commentator, Mr. **Schwarzenegger** spelled out his support for abortion rights and said he favored the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

But he voiced more conservative positions on other **issues**, opposing gay marriages and the granting of drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants.

Mr. **Schwarzenegger** was a call-in guest on Mr. Hannity's syndicated radio show, which was also broadcast live on the Fox network.

Later on another call-in show, Mr. **Schwarzenegger**, who starred in a number of blood-drenched action films, said he supported a ban on assault weapons and endorsed the 1994 Brady bill, one of the toughest gun-control measures ever passed by Congress.

He told Larry Elder, a syndicated talk radio host, "I support the Second Amendment that people have the right to have arms." But he also said that he supported the Brady bill, which required a five-day waiting period for buying handguns, and that he wanted to close loopholes about purchases at gun shows. He added, "Sometimes under certain circumstances we should have trigger locks on our guns."

Mr. **Schwarzenegger** has been running a carefully controlled campaign, dribbling out appearances and doing much of his campaigning on talk radio.

Mr. **Schwarzenegger**'s camp said today that the tenor of the interviews was unexpected, but that the interviews showed that the actor, who has never run for public office, was candid and could handle unscripted events.

"He did a great job," said George Gorton, Mr. **Schwarzenegger**'s chief strategist, who said of Mr. Hannity: "He didn't tell us he was going to hit Arnold with a barrage. But Hannity kept throwing hardballs, and Arnold hit them out of the park."

## Schwarzenegger Is Pressed for His Views on Social Issues

California voters go to the polls on Oct. 7 to decide whether to recall Governor Davis, a Democrat, and to pick a replacement if the recall succeeds. Mr. Schwarzenegger is the best known of 135 candidates on the replacement ballot.

Some of Mr. Schwarzenegger's responses to the questioning today, like his support for prayer in school, denying illegal aliens driving privileges and his opposition to gay marriage, are sure to solidify his standing in conservative circles.

Many social conservatives in California have expressed misgivings about Mr. Schwarzenegger's more moderate views, particularly on abortion and gay rights. Many are supporting State Senator Tom McClintock, who has portrayed himself as the only true conservative in the race.

In Sacramento today, 20 of the 32 Republican members of the State Assembly announced their support for Mr. Schwarzenegger. The group includes a number of outspoken conservatives, but also a handful of moderates.

Assemblyman Keith Richman, the assistant minority leader who describes himself as moderate, said that many of the Republican officials who voiced their support for Mr. Schwarzenegger today disagree with him on a number of social issues.

"Clearly Arnold has support across the political spectrum in the Republican Party," Mr. Richman said. "It's not that we agree on 100 percent of the issues, but we agree that philosophically Arnold is a Republican and that he can help turn California around."

In today's radio broadcasts, Mr. Schwarzenegger staked out some middle ground on social issues, taking positions that might alienate conservatives in his party but that match the views of a majority of Californians.

He said he supports a state law that legalizes the medical use of marijuana, popular among Californians but rendered illegal by the United States Supreme Court.

He did not take a position on Proposition 54, an initiative that would bar the state from collecting racial data. The initiative measure will appear on the same special election ballot as the recall.

Mr. Schwarzenegger said today that while he opposed granting legal recognition to gay marriages, "I do support domestic partnerships" that provide some legal and financial protections to gay men and lesbians.

Mr. Schwarzenegger said he was in favor of parental notification when a minor seeks an abortion, with exceptions. "In some cases," he said, "when there is abuse in the family or problems in the family, then the courts should decide."

John Stoos, the deputy campaign director for Mr. McClintock, said Mr. Schwarzenegger was trying to appeal to moderates and liberals while maintaining support on the right. He predicted the strategy would fail.

"The Arnold camp looks like it doesn't know which direction to go," Mr. Stoos said. "If he says he's a fiscal conservative and a social liberal and thinks it's going to appeal to the right, then he doesn't know California politics."

In San Francisco, Governor Davis took his campaign to the floor of the Pacific Stock Exchange, where he was asked by a reporter whether Mr. Schwarzenegger would make a good governor. Mr. Davis said, "He meets the minimal qualifications." He added: "He exceeds the voting age, and he is a resident of California. Sometimes people want a little more. Like a little experience."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Classification

---

## Schwarzenegger Is Pressed for His Views on Social Issues

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS (90%); CONSERVATISM (90%); SOCIETAL **ISSUES** (90%); FIREARMS (90%); GOVERNORS (90%); GUN CONTROL (90%); INTERVIEWS (89%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (89%); GAYS & LESBIANS (88%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (77%); VOTERS & VOTING (77%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (77%); US STATE IMMIGRATION LAW (74%); LGBT RIGHTS (74%); ABORTION (74%); ABORTION LAWS (74%); SAME SEX MARRIAGE & UNIONS (73%); ILLEGAL WEAPONS (73%); ACTION & ADVENTURE FILMS (73%); CANNABIS (69%); MARIJUANA REGULATION & POLICY (69%); RELIGION IN SCHOOLS (69%); MARRIAGE (68%); IMMIGRATION (68%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (68%); DRIVERS LICENSES (68%); MEDICAL MARIJUANA (54%); MARIJUANA (54%); RELIGION (50%)

**Industry:** RADIO BROADCAST INDUSTRY (90%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (90%); MEDIA SYNDICATION (90%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (77%); ABORTION LAWS (74%); CANNABIS (69%); MARIJUANA REGULATION & POLICY (69%); DRIVERS LICENSES (68%); NETWORK TELEVISION (67%); MEDICAL MARIJUANA (54%); MARIJUANA (54%)

**Person:** SEAN HANNITY (79%); ARNOLD **SCHWARZENEGGER** (79%); LEDUFF, CHARLIE; **SCHWARZENEGGER**, ARNOLD; DAVIS, GRAY (GOV)

**Geographic:** CALIFORNIA, USA (93%); CALIFORNIA

**Load-Date:** August 28, 2003