Sacramento, August, 1999. A
ceiling collapsed, and a New
Yorker transplanted to San
Francisco and the California
Assembly, would find himself
without a seat in the legislature
with the dawn of a new session.

Sonny Bono, he knew, would
be by his side. But every lobbyist
desired the constituency that
day alone, and her 30 million
would do
cake the size of 300 senators. One of those was
State Bill 332.

Mark Murray fired into the house
corridor be-
boiling a fuel of lobbyists and
bypassed against a wall.

The door to the rear

was a locked

and

and

the

and

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and

the

and
M

un. Muryer got up to his cluttered office floor three blocks from the Capitol, wondering if his campaign could have been any worse. To his hands he held a beautiful glass bowl he had specially ordered from a shop in Arcata, where he attended Humboldt State. It was a gift for Sen. John Burton, California’s most powerful legislator.

Mark Muryer broke the traditional bowl the perfect to go express his gratitude to Senator Burton at a party Muryer was hosting for him on two days. Muryer's bill to extend recycling was about to become law, and Burton's help was a major reason. Muryer had move Burton his legislation of the Year award. Burton had also commended Muryer during the legislation. "You might have a chance to be in the building," Burton said.

Muryer had muffed the half of the Capitol long enough to know that money was part of a very real job if you have earned respect. He had been getting even small accounts could change his relationship with legislators.

Until recently, he had a lack of time getting to a meeting to hear him. Only a handful of the 230 Assembly and Senate members know about recycling, and fewer still had the patience to sit through the speeches. But now the threat of a phasing out of the program had them listening.

Then Muryer made a small contribution. His name suddenly appeared on the most important list in the floor— that of political donors. His phone began ringing. Legislators were on the other end. They offered him donations, lounge time, golf outings, fishing trips to Cabo. But they rarely referred him to their friends or to someone.

Muryer knew the money game would serve him more in the process of politics. So he had to find a way to spend it on himself. That's when he hit on the idea of the campaign.

The final role into a back room cleared for the party. The wine, the food, the music filled the air. Senator Burton and his campaign consultant welcomed everyone to the Capitol's legendary dog-watching event, Senator Burton.

Muryer knew the money game would serve him more in the process of politics. So he had to find a way to spend it on himself. That's when he hit on the idea of the campaign. The wine, the food, the music filled the air. Senator Burton and his campaign consultant welcomed everyone to the Capitol's legendary dog-watching event, Senator Burton.

The final role into a back room cleared for the party. The wine, the food, the music filled the air. Senator Burton and his campaign consultant welcomed everyone to the Capitol's legendary dog-watching event, Senator Burton.

TOKING A VAPOR OF APPRECIATION: Sen. John Burton, right, examines a glass bowl made from recycled materials – one of two gifts from Mark Muryer's organizations, California Against Waste.
ON THE OUTSIDE (l)obbyist Mark Murray walks in the hall behind the Assembly chambers while 83132 is debated on the floor of the Assembly.

PHOTO BY ROD ROSSO/SCOTT THE OREGON COUNTY REGISTER

CHAPTER TWELVE

HOW WE DID THIS SERIAL

This story was told by Mark Murray's point of view. Murray was 1984's leading lobbyist for the ancient forests movement. He worked in the office of John Burton, at that time the president of the Senate, and later in the office of Bill Grigg, a lobbyist for the California League of Food Processors.

Beginning in 1990, Murray and his associates began lobbying on the issue of ancient forests. They were able to get some of the most progressive members of the legislature to introduce legislation that would protect ancient forests.

The bill was introduced in the spring of 1990 and was passed by both houses of the legislature. Governor Wilson signed the bill into law in July of that year.

None of the lobbyists on this project were paid by any of the industries or organizations they were lobbying for. They were all volunteers who were willing to work for free to protect ancient forests in California.

The Lobbyists

Scott The Oregon County Register