

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)  
This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

For the last three months, I have been on the road. From Washington D.C. to Southern California to Colorado to many states in between and I have seen a plethora of paid political advertisements. I am happy to see the November election approaching, and the end to all this political flim flam. Flim flam...you bet! Flim flam is defined as trick or deception, especially a swindle or confidence game involving skillful persuasion or manipulation. I like old movies. One of my favorites is the George C. Scott classic, the "Flim Flam Man." All the hype over election issues makes me recall the basics of the Scott movie, and as I listened to the electronic advertising and read the flyers about the local ballot issues, I see nothing more than some special interests trying to put their hand in my wallet, much like Scott's character Mordecai C. Jones.

Take for example, Eureka School's Measure S. If you buy the argument that this funding is for kids, then you have just been flim flammed. School bond funding is a prolonged and postponed repayment squarely levied on the backs of property owners and not the general public. To make matters worse, every voter has the opportunity to stick it to those folks who own property. Moreover, the funding is immediate, but the repayment is years and years and years in the future. Look at the current property tax assessments and you can see the results of other school bonds that passed the debt to the next generation. We haven't paid off the current bonds, and yet the vultures are circling the critically strapped taxpayer with yet another school bond snatch and grab. Mordecai would have been really pleased with the recent flyer sent out to Eureka homes concerning this measure.

Last week I took a telephone call concerning another scam, measure P, the "No GMO" initiative. The caller tried to tell me how limiting GMO products in Eureka would save the planet. Having someone tell me they want to protect me by limiting my choice, is truly insulting. Frankly, I can protect myself and I can make my own decisions on what I eat. When I asked the telephone flim flammer some questions about the provisions of the GMO initiative, especially about the numerous exemptions, it was clear that the proposal

was poorly written, and intended to push a political agenda not to make community living standards better.

Moreover, the initiative is being advocated around a series of assumptions about weed killers that can't be support in agricultural literature. Hard to limit something in Humboldt County and save the world. The ballot initiative sounds good to kool aide drinkers, but makes no practical sense to normal people.

A third deception is measure R the "fair wage" flim flam. This scheme stifles the purchasing power of every person within the city limits of Eureka. It makes absolutely no sense. Enough said!

As I said, I have been on the road for the last few weeks. All over the country, the flim flam artists are applying their trade for political candidates, tax initiatives, bond proposals, and so called public protection programs. The spirit of Mordecai C. Jones is alive and well----even here in Eureka.

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