

# THE SUPERVISORS' REVOLVING DOOR

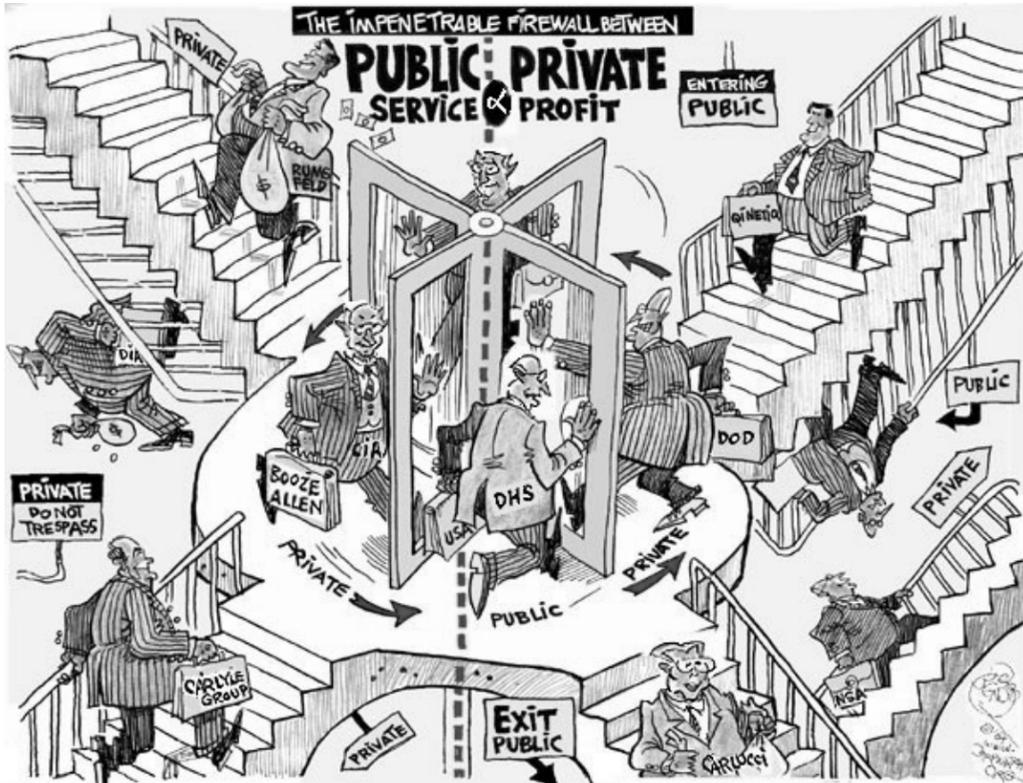
I have been worried about the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Estelle Fennell. Her reckless abandonment of small growers and her contented acceptance of an aggressive and revengeful Abatement kangaroo court makes her re-election almost impossible. Worse, a recall campaign is in motion and will focus attention on her faults during the Fall and Winter months.

So Fennell is busy putting herself out of work. Doesn't she care for herself if not for her constituents? (As us victims are called.) 'Why doesn't she care?' is a better question. Can't you feel the breeze of the famous revolving door? After she quit KMUD in a dispute over her biased news coverage of the Reggae Wars, Fennell spent a couple of years as Executive Director of the developers dream corporation, Humboldt CPR. We can look at her two terms as Supervisor as mere staging for the move that seems like her plausible next step... right into the Billion dollar Cannabis Industry. There is a tendency to view our politicians as stupid. Don't fall into that with Fennell. Her moves – seen from the perspective of The Cannabis Industry that she is helping create - are sure-footed.

Here's what's going on. In April a new agency surfaced with Fennell as President – the California Cannabis Authority. Her CCA didn't waste any time before it hooked up with an interesting agency – NCS Analytics. The initials stand for Nationwide Compliance Specialists. The "reg tech" times have come to Humboldt. Get used to the language: "Cannabis regtech tools" are just the tip of the tongue. Get hip to NCS Data platforms, Advanced Analytics, MRBs and CRBs, Transactional Data, Hyper Commerce, Supercomputers, Compliance Technology, Artificial Intelligence Modules, PayQwick.

PayQwick that's the trick. Lack the wherewithal? Next. Bigger. Corporate. All around us, the multiplying bureaucrats are honing up the "analytic" tools to mine that new gold mine of money called legal marijuana. Our Humboldt and Mendocino Supervisors have a straight forward message to deliver to growers: Want to Survive in this Industry In The Making: Metrics are the system. Finance not Agriculture is center-piece. Forget the fact that a multitude of small farmers are the Value Added ingredient that has made Humboldt a brand. It won't take Phillip Morris 5 years to trash the brand. In the meantime: Get Big and PayQwick.

Watch your feet, organic, sustainable farmer, this is the cutting edge of the Industry you're standing at – watch as it winnows out everyone but the richest. And Fennell is one of the blades. Virginia Bass, Carre Brown of Mendocino, they too are getting locked into this burgeoning industry whose complexities and surveillance of cash flow and banking spell Money Mining. It is corrupt of course because it is



money driven, and only money driven. It's like what our conservative old-timers shack their heads at when they tell us the county is a parasite.

The Supervisors as political animals are a strange twist on our otherwise fraudulent democracy. They are Legislators, Executives and Judges, too, apparently. You must be a Judge when your power can direct a death sentence on hundreds of country residents with open ended abatements. You are quite the Legislators as well when you can turn the power to abate into an ultraconstitutional Star Chamber to destroy. Estelle calls it "getting our attention." Some might call it tyranny...but as for me I think it's much more like cupidity. With Estelle it's a rule of thumb. The first thing out of her official mouth: What does it cost? Will her rich constituents be billed?

Measure K is her classic political performance. Here we can see that the actual cost to provide a Sanctuary County is hardly relevant. Money is the excuse. It's what us leftists call an ideology. The real issue is that her Hater friends are gut-powered richers of the Humbaybeltway don't like activities on behalf of people who have proven by their bank accounts that they are ...inferior.

These are The People that supervisors Fennell, Bohn and Bass call The People and form their agendas with. I mean, Estelle may be a special case, an extreme right winger. It's crazy to say that but look - her visible base consists of hard-line haters and the heart of our self-satisfied privatized middle class. The latter share the Haters disgust with the ... inferior. A narcissist hater! Sounds familiar. It's what the Republican base is and that is what Estelle is. As a "human rights activists" she has been my relentless enemy if you think I am exaggerating.

What's funny about all this is that I'm preparing to trust a whole new kind of representative at the county level. The Progressive has appeared in the wake of Bernie's overwhelming vote in Humboldt and Mendocino among Democrats. This was the kind of instagram that inspired people. What makes the appearance of Progressives so auspicious at the County level is the emphasis on small donations and a refusal of corporate money. Mercer-Fraser, Kramer Investment Corp., C & K Johnson Industries, Barnum Timber Co., Eureka Readymix and a little host of others would be denied at the get-go a seat under the table.

Already our almost serving Progressive Supervisor, Dave Madrone is proposing an abatement process based in our watersheds, roads and neighborhoods, policing ourselves first and foremost with an uncompromising firm environmental ethic, but with a community reliance on educated consent. The bad actors will stand out, as they stand out now, some clutching their permits. Their mishaps can then be fairly and openly dealt with.

In this important short run, representatives who are elected as environmentalists instead of as business people could form a majority on the Board real soon. It will never be Estelle. Smart money says Virginia Bass will cross over. She is already making nice with power Democrats – Huffman, McQuire and Wood – much to the chagrin of Progressives. Seems like a logical move "to the center" but we don't need that kind of Democrat right now. Thanks, Virginia, for your fourth vote. But Allan McCloskey, a progressive is breathing down Rex' neck. A unanimous vote, how boring for one whose career still shows some dynamism. Such energy in fact could really set those revolving door spinning. After all, Virginia is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Estelle's uber-organization – California State Association of Counties. Mendocino's Carre Brown is tucked away as well.

Certainly Estelle does not fit into the future of Humboldt. (Her Humboldt doesn't have a future.) If my speculations are right she is already firmly set upon her career somewhere in Governor Newsom's Marijuana Empire. Don't let's get too personal with her betrayals. It has been a principle with me since I refused to campaign on behalf of my good friend Alan Katz. (He won anyhow, but they stole it). Principle: Every elected official has one duty each must accomplish to rise in the profession – they must sell-out the people they came into office to serve. She's accomplished that. But if she is actually moving on, what matters is that we are on the move.

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