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Business Lobby to Get Behind Judicial Bids

An industry group's plan to spend millions promoting conservative nominees brings a new dimension to the divisive confirmation battles.

By TOM HAMBURGER
AND PETER WALLSTEN
Times Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — A powerful business lobby is preparing a multimillion-dollar campaign to aid the White House in its quest to win approval for conservative judges, a move that could transform the ideological battles over the federal judiciary and the Supreme Court.

The new effort on behalf of some of the nation's biggest manufacturers will increase the cost, visibility and intensity of an already divisive confirmation process, one that has been dominated by social issues.

The shift puts the business lobby on the same side as social conservatives. The corporate world has long shied away from such controversial issues as abortion, but enthusiastically supports the Bush administration's campaign to rein in what it considers frivolous lawsuits against businesses and physicians.

The strategy's engineer is former Michigan Gov. John Engler, a longtime friend of President Bush who recently took the helm of the National Assn. of Manufacturers.

Engler said in an interview Wednesday that his organization would make confirmation of judicial nominees a top priority for the first time — providing money and a recently honed ability to stir grass-roots action nationwide. The group plans to spend millions of dollars on the campaign, but the exact amount has not been decided.

He said federal judicial confir-
[See Judges, Page A19]

Governor Lays Out Ambitious Agenda Certain to Draw Fire



ADDRESS: Assembly GOP leader Kevin McCarthy applauds as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger enters the Assembly chamber to call for changes that would reverberate in California and beyond.

ROBERT DURELL Los Angeles Times

In a combative speech, Schwarzenegger seeks spending caps, a revised state worker pension plan, teacher merit pay and cuts in bureaucracy.

By PETER NICHOLAS
Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — In a broad challenge to California's entrenched special interests, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger implored the Legislature on Wednesday to restrain spending, revise "out of control" pensions, reward the best schoolteachers and "expel" the worst.

Schwarzenegger said in his annual State of the State speech in the Assembly chamber that he would devote his second year in power to ambitious changes that would reverberate in California and beyond, from classrooms to Congress; drug companies to prisons.

If Schwarzenegger prevails, the most influential members of California's congressional delegation might find themselves running in reshaped districts with thousands of unfamiliar constituents. The poorest Californians could be paying less for prescription medication. And teachers deemed inept might be deprived of raises, no matter how long they'd been on the job.

Using the speech to roll out a 2005 agenda certain to antagonize powerful public employees unions, liberal Democrats and even Republican allies, Schwarzenegger said politicians risked a rebellion if they rejected his sweeping proposals. His theme was more combative, a departure from the inclusive approach he favored early in his term.

The governor described Sac-

COLUMN ONE



CHARLIE RIEDEL Associated Press

BY HIS SIDE: "I'm a father and a Marine," said Kendall Phelps, left, with son Chris. "I need to be there with Chris."

Duty, Honor

Studies See New Way to Reduce Heart Risk

Halting inflammation may be as crucial as lowering cholesterol. In each case, statins are key.

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II
Times Staff Writer

Researchers have found the first direct evidence that reducing inflammation is a key

Education Budget on Hit List

Governor will propose cutting \$2.2 billion.

Angry educators blast

STATE OF THE STATE

Pensions: Big changes are

The governor's proposal would implement across-the-board budget cuts when the state overspends. Schools, like

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LETTERS Resolved to get organized

RE "Seize Control of Your Closet" [Dec. 30]; Getting organized is my annual numero uno New Year's resolution.

Organizational books are not worth the effort to buy or read — they fail to start at the beginning, and they leave out a lot of steps and information necessary to the challenges. An organizer, on the other hand, devotes herself and is trained and specialized in spatial design. She spends her work time focused on what you do not.

Another choice is a talented housekeeper who seems to work effortlessly and knows how to install and maintain your living space systems and strategies for storage, use and access.

J. LAVINE
Los Angeles

NOT all professional organizers are created alike. Some do more harm than good when they come to a client's home or office.

Anytime a consumer is considering bringing in a professional organizer, he or she should check to see if the person is a certified professional organizer. The industry standard CPO certification designation is administered by the Organizing and Management Institute (www.omionline.com) under the umbrella of the International Assn. of Professional Organizers (IAPO). IAPO (www.organizingtheworld.org) is the only membership association in the organizing industry that requires members to meet standards of education and experience.

PAULA RYAN
New York

Paula Ryan is the director of public relations for the International Assn. of Professional Organizers.

A fan of the 'Man of the House'

I'M compelled to tell you how much I appreciate Chris Erskine's columns. Great, great style. He reminds me a lot of Max Shulman, who many readers may be too young to know. (Among other accomplishments, he created the TV show



AMIR ZAKI

DIGITAL MAGIC: In an Amir Zaki photograph, a cantilevered Valley house's supports have disappeared.

DATEBOOK Seeing the suburbs through a different lens

USING Southern California's suburban landscape and architecture as inspiration, Los Angeles-based photographer Amir Zaki investigates architecture's wild dynamics in a suite of photographs capturing exterior cantilevered architecture, aerial-perspective swimming pools and interior fireplaces. Through Zaki's photographs, originally Modernist homes that have been refaced and restructured as a result of earthquakes, renovations and redecoration become sculpturally dynamic. The new billboard project and exhibition will be presented by the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in conjunction with the West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission's Art on the Outside program.

In addition, in the first in a new series of outdoor projects, artist Jesse Webber creates site-specific sculptures for the Schindler House courtyards. Webber uses prefabricated midcentury trailer homes from his native Tennessee as sculpture to examine similarities between these forms and California Case Study houses.

The opening reception for "Amir Zaki: Spring Through Winter" and "Jesse Webber: Hitch" will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Road, West Hollywood. The billboard will be at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Olive Drive, one block east of La Cienega Boulevard, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Ends Feb. 20. (323) 651-1510.

TODAY

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