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***"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."***

*A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker*

October 4, 2002



# Commentary

## Depleted Political Gene Pool

**T**hink of the City of San Diego and its politicians. Would an Diego have the political talent to be a state? Provide a competent Governor, Lt. Governor, two Senators, several Congress people, a two-house legislature requiring several hundred people, plus City Council people...?

Not a chance. The quality of people in the San Diego City Council is insufficient for a responsible City Council, so you can imagine what would happen if a population the size of San Diego was spread over eight islands...and asked to find political talent for all of those local, state and federal offices.

Now imagine that even though there is a limited population, you could only select the talent from 60% of those people, because one political party (Democrat) has won almost every office available for the past 50 years!

That is the problem in Hawaii. They have only 1,200,000 people, spread over eight populated islands, and only Democrats have won the great majority of offices. The talent pool has been limited...far too limited for all of those offices, and many of the politicians have been ignorant at best and corrupt at worse. (O.K., the state usually elects Democrats, so "corrupt" is redundant.)

Assuming that you could fill all of those offices once, could you do it again every two years, and again, and again. Soon you would be running the owner of the local pizza parlor for U. S. Senator...and that is what happens in Hawaii.

Hawaii just finished their primary, and it has been instructive to view Hawaiian politics “up close and personal” – because that is the way it is done in the “Islands.”

Political activity in Hawaii is old-fashioned, retail politics. Every politician stands on busy street corners and waves their sign to attract the drivers...day, after day, after day. At other corners around all of the islands, their supporters are doing the same. The primary headquarters featured pot luck on election night.

Hawaii will have two females running against each other for Governor, the first time that has happened in American history. I suspect that Republican Linda Lingle will defeat Democrat Maize Hirano, simply because the Democrats have had so many scandals for so many decades that there is now a reform vote gathering. Linda Lingle, the former successful Mayor of the Island of Maui, is a Republican of the New York or Massachusetts type, because the entire state is slightly to the left of Moscow.

The state is dominated by union votes, so the economy is in the dumper. Year after year, the Democrats have decried the fact that their children must leave the state for the mainland because the economy is so bad, and then they vote for pro-union positions that continue to make the business climate poor so that their children must leave the islands.

They just can't connect the dots, probably the result of that depleted and terminally incestuous political gene pool.



## **Dolphin Realty**

**Allen P. Hemphill**

Real Estate Broker

15817 Bernardo Center Dr,  
# 111, San Diego, Ca 92127  
RB Office (858) 487-4750

27739 Mountain Meadow Road  
Suite #5  
Hidden Meadows CA 92026  
Meadows Office (760)-749-5005

Home Office (760) 749-2654

[www.allenhemphill.com](http://www.allenhemphill.com)  
[allen@allenhemphill.com](mailto:allen@allenhemphill.com)