

Prop. 9 and governor race

By Carl Irving

Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. claims that Proposition 9, which would curb campaign and lobbyist spending, now is the major issue in the Democratic primary race for governor.

Brown, who recently lost the endorsement of the state AFL-CIO over the issue, says that his major opponents either are against the political reform initiative, or refuse to speak out for it.

The union continues to support Mayor Alioto, who opposes the proposition, and Speaker Bob Moretti. Brown has labeled Moretti an "invisible supporter" of Proposition 9 because he won't speak for it.

Brown contends that union leaders misunderstand the proposition.

During a recent two-day trip through the Mother Lode, Brown announced that 43 individual California la-

bor leaders continue to support him.

Brown, well ahead of other candidates in the polls, acted like a front-runner during his relaxed tour of such small settlements as Columbia, Sutter Creek and Jackson.

He took time out to be borne swiftly down the Stanislaus River near Columbia on a raft. The 9 mile trip, through raging waters, served to:

- Display a touch of Kennedy-like vigor.
- Dramatize the battle between conservationists and the U.S. Corps of Engineers over stopping up the river with a gigantic dam.

He hedged later about absolutely opposing the proposed 625-foot-high dam. pending assurance it was not essential for the economy.

But Brown remained adamant about Proposition 9.

"I helped write it, helped qualify it for the ballot, and I believe the measure is urgently needed to end political payola in Sacramento," Brown told students at Columbia River Junior College.

The AFL-CIO leaders who oppose it claim it would give unfair advantage to corporation lobbyists. The proposition would limit gifts by lobbyists to \$10 a month for each official.

"It doesn't limit union contributions to candidates, but curbs lobbying activities and large contributors," says Brown. "The unions don't spend much in lobbying anyway. Proposition 9 is pro labor and anticorruption." At a press conference in Placerville, Herman Leavitt of Los Angeles, vice president of the Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Union, endorsed Brown but called Proposition 9 cumbersome. He said a survey of his union showed 70 percent favored Brown.