



The San Francisco Chronicle/Stephanie Maze

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. at an interview in his office

## Gov. Brown, as Predicted, Is Taking Political Risks

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, May 14— After five months as Governor of California, Edmund G. Brown Jr. has begun to focus the power of his office to take political risks in directions that he forecast in campaign speeches last year.

He has waded into the tricky waters of labor legislation with proposals for changing farm labor laws and for permitting collective bargaining with state employe unions. He has signed a sexual freedom law over the objections of a large number of opponents. He stood off the State Senate in a dispute over confirmation of a controversial appointment.

The 37-year-old Governor has turned aside suggestions that he may be hurting his political future. He has responded that he is Governor now and not running for anything else.

He draws strength, in the view of many political observers at Sacramento, from contrast with his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, a Republican, who, critics say, seemed to have his eye on the White House almost before his furniture was arranged in Sacramento.

### Farms Labor Accord

Governor Brown seems to be most proud of his success in winning agreement last year on a farm labor relations proposal that is designed to end the dispute between the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the United Farm Workers over organization of field workers.

Cesar Chavez, leader of the Farm Workers, and representatives of the California Farm Bureau Federation, representing the growers, supported Governor Brown's proposal, but the teamsters have refused to support it. Before he went into politics, Mr. Brown marched with supporters of Mr. Chavez's attempts to organize farm workers.

Over the last several years, the teamsters have supplanted the Farm Workers' through negotiations directly with growers, and would risk loss of at least some of their contracts in certification elections provided in the proposed legislation. Under Governor Brown's proposal, workers will be able to express their union preferences in secret-ballot elections.

The teamsters and other unions with whom they have alliances have attacked the Governor's proposal, which has a major legislative weakness in that support is pledged on the condition that the bill not be amended.

### Passage Predicted

The powerful opposition is expected to try to create pressures for an amendment to wreck this agreement. Qualified observers believe that the Legislature will pass the bill without amendment.

When he was campaigning last year, Mr. Brown spoke in favor of legislation that would provide collective bargaining rights for state employes, and was unshaken when his opponents predicted that this would end his political career when inevitably the legislation led to a strike of state employes.

He is pushing for legislation that would give the Governor authority to negotiate with state employe unions.

Governor Brown had a confrontation recently with a conservative-liberal coalition in the State Senate when his appointment of Raymond K. Procnier came up for confirmation.

After working his way up from Prison guard, Mr. Procnier was Director of Corrections in the Reagan administration, and won Mr. Brown's admiration.

Mr. Procnier asked to be relieved of his job as head of

the prison system, and Mr. Brown appointed him chairman of the California Adult Authority, which sets prison terms under this state's indeterminate sentence law.

### Joint Opposition

A Senate committee voted to oppose confirmation, with liberals voting against Mr. Procnier's support of the indeterminate sentence while conservatives voted against him in the belief that he was "a convict coddler" whose laxity was responsible for unrest among convicts and many prison murders.

The Governor said he intended to fight it out on the Senate floor. The Senate Democrats drew back from this, and sent the nomination back to committee where it will not be acted on. This permits Mr. Procnier to remain on his job until Dec. 31, and then Governor Brown may reappoint him if he wishes.

The sexual freedom bill posed problems for Governor Brown. His signature made California the first state to repeal by legislative action its controls on private consensual adult sexual behavior.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which has tens of thousands of members in California, made opposition to the bill a major cause. This resulted in much pressure on the Governor for a veto.

The Governor could have made a case for veto. But during the campaign he had said he thought it was no one's business what consenting adults did sexually in private. He signed the bill.

When the impact on his political future is brought up as his actions are discussed, the Governor brushes these considerations aside. He told one person recently "I am not running for re-election," by which he meant that his term had three and a half years to go.

"I'm having enough trouble with what I'm trying to do now," he said.