

## It's Adams vs. McCloskey with an entire city at stake

**E**AST PALO ALTO incorporation supporters, including all of its City Council members except Gertrude Wilks, are delighted that the California Supreme Court has decided to rule on an Appeals Court ruling that, if allowed to stand, could nullify the community's municipalization.

Tom Adams, attorney for the city in the landmark case over alleged absentee ballot irregularities, believes Chief Justice Rose E. Bird and the majority of her colleagues will overturn the lower court's decision.

In the opposite corner is former Rep. Pete McCloskey, who represents the anti-incorporationists and is hungry for a victory on this one.

Chief Justice Bird, it should be noted, resides in Palo Alto and thus is even more aware of East Palo Alto's long struggle for self-determination as well as the friction generated by the close incorporation vote last year.

Adams says he's particularly optimistic because he believes that in agreeing to hear the EPA case — "considering that Bird and her associates are backlogged with scores of death penalty appeals and other wide-ranging issues" — the state Supreme Court's majority is demonstrating a genuine concern about the detrimental impact of prolonged infighting over any dispute that involves a large group of people.

In East Palo Alto's state of suspended animation, both sides in the battle, of course, want the election challenge resolved as soon as possible. Adams now estimates the high court's decision will be made within two to four months.

**BOB NAYLOR'S** stark announcement that he might try a quantum leap from assemblyman to U.S. senator in 1986 was a surprise to many of his Democratic counterparts, including Assemblyman Byron Sher of Palo Alto.

But Naylor says he has thought about the Senate opportunity "for a long time" and, predictably, believes incumbent Alan Cranston's days are numbered.

The Senate candidacy would be a huge gamble for Naylor. But since he's a native of Nevada, gambling for higher stakes is in his veins. Naylor's parents are from Massachusetts, but he lived in Reno as an infant and grew up in Las Vegas.

**IT WON'T BE** difficult for Atherton neighbors Chris Cobey and Malcolm Dudley to get in gear if both decide to seek Naylor's Assembly seat two

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