

ALERT

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Chamber President Joins Governor on Trade Mission

Delegation Encourages Trade, Investment in State

California Chamber President Allan Zarembeg accompanied Governor Gray Davis and his 26-member delegation to London this week to encourage investment by the United Kingdom in California.

In addition to London, the delegation will visit Ireland, Scotland, Athens, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Cairo to heighten trade relations between California and those countries.

The group accompanying Governor Davis included representatives of all

sectors of California's economy, including private industry, labor, entertainment and high technology.

The Governor asked Zarembeg to join him on this trade mission because of the Chamber's venerable reputation worldwide and its long-standing commitment to boosting international trade.

Zarembeg noted that increasing trade opportunities with other countries is critical because it "stimulates California's economy and creates new

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IWC Sets Hearings on Implementing New Overtime Law

Faced with tight time constraints, the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) is moving into action to implement major changes in overtime laws.

Hearing Dates

The IWC has announced the dates of three important hearings designed to gather information on how best to implement major rule changes mandated by AB 60 (Knox), which reinstated the requirement for overtime pay after eight hours in a work day.

The hearings are as follows:

- November 8, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112, Sacramento;
- November 15, 10 a.m., State Office Building, B-100 Auditorium, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco;
- December 15, Los Angeles (location to be announced).

A fourth hearing is being considered for early January 2000.

AB 60 set out some very specific "due dates" by which the IWC needs to act. For the most part, the IWC must conclude its deliberations on AB 60 no later than July 1, 2000.

Opportunity to Comment

At the first meeting of the recently reactivated IWC, the staff noted that these hearings probably would be the

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Political World Focus of Chamber Gathering



Frank Del Olmo (left), associate editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, offers insights on Latino voter behavior and political parties at the fall retreat of the California Chamber's Public Affairs Council. At right is Cassandra Pye, Chamber vice president of public affairs. See Page 4.

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Perspectives on State, National Politics Aired Before Public Affairs Group

The California Chamber's Public Affairs Council held its annual fall retreat in early October.

A review of the state and national political landscape was provided by syndicated columnist Dan Walters; Gale Kaufman, senior advisor to Bill Bradley's presidential campaign; Republican campaign consultant Ray McNally; national pollster Chuck Rund; and others.

The agenda also highlighted issues

such as international trade and housing. Frank Del Olmo, associate editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, provided his insights on Latino voter behavior and the political parties.

David Bloom, chief White House Correspondent for NBC News, delighted the retreat audience with behind-the-scenes stories from the presidential campaign trail and the White House briefing room.

Staff Contact: Cassandra Pye



David Bloom

Overtime Implementation Hearing Dates Set by IWC

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only opportunities for the public to present information on what the new rules implementing the overtime law should or should not contain.

The IWC is interested in public input on issues such as:

- employer responsibilities;
- employee rights;
- how to create menus of alternate work schedules;
- make-up time notice requirements;
- secret ballot voting process;

- disclosure requirements;
- double-time obligations;
- accommodation rights and obligations;
- industry coverage/business exemptions;
- timeline for compliance;
- managerial exemption;
- impact of existing wage orders; and
- any other related issues.

Participation Encouraged

Interested employers are strongly

encouraged to participate in the hearings. Written comments (eight copies) should be sent to: Charles "Chuck" Center, Chair, Industrial Welfare Commission, 1121 L Street, Suite 307, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Chamber would appreciate receiving a copy of any testimony. Contact Julianne Broyles at (916) 444-6670 or via e-mail at julianne.broyles@calchamber.com if you would like to coordinate testimony and comments with the Chamber.

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jobs. In an increasingly competitive global economy, the state must work aggressively to open markets for California business and attract foreign investment to keep the Golden State at the cutting edge of global trends."

While in London, Governor Davis and the delegation met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and emphasized that California continues to be a good place to do business.

The California representatives also participated in the formal opening of the California House, the new location of the state's London trade office, which will share space with the University of California. Together the two entities will work to promote new and innovative partnerships between California and the United Kingdom in information technology and biotechnology.



California House

Delegation members and Governor Davis also met with national business leaders and representatives of the United Kingdom's financial community to stress the importance and mutual benefit of

increased investment in California.

At a meeting with BP Amoco representatives, Zarembert said the California group discussed BP Amoco's commitment to California after its proposed merger with ARCO is finalized. BP Amoco executives were encouraged to continue the strong economic and community investment for which ARCO is well-known.

Governor Davis and the delegation also were part of the opening ceremonies for the Fourth Annual California Information Technology Forum. The forum helps California companies increase sales, establish strategic partnerships and create investment ties with key UK and European investors and information technology firms.

Other London activities included ministerial meetings and meetings with entertainment industry officials.