

RST Analyses from the RST web site (www.sfu.ca/rst)

The Common Cause Text

The Common Cause Text is an advocacy letter that appeared as a letter to the editors of a magazine for members of California Common Cause, a political organization. It was used in several publications on RST. One notable feature is the diversity of arguments and themes in the letter that do not follow the RST structure, themes such as emotional waste of money, the effects of spending by others and appeals to organizational tradition. These themes serve as arguments or evidence for the suitability of what the author advocates, but they are largely embodied in choice of words and phrases. They are barely propositional, and often presented without support.

The text:

1) I don't believe that endorsing the Nuclear Freeze Initiative is the right step for California Common Cause. 2) Tempting as it may be, 3) we shouldn't embrace every popular issue that comes along. 4) When we do so, 5) we use precious, limited resources 6) where other players with superior resources are already doing an adequate job. 7) Rather, I think we will be stronger and more effective 8) if we stick to those issues of governmental structure and process, broadly defined, that have formed the core of our agenda for years. 9) Open government, campaign finance reform, and fighting the influence of special interests and big money, these are our kinds of issues. 10) Let's be clear: 11) I personally favor the initiative and ardently support disarmament negotiations to reduce the risk of war. 12) But I don't think endorsing a specific nuclear freeze proposal is appropriate for CCC. 13) We should limit our involvement in defense and weaponry to matters of process, such as exposing the weapons industry's influence on the political process. 14) Therefore, I urge you to vote against a CCC endorsement of the nuclear freeze initiative. (Signed) Michael Asimow, California Common Cause Vice-Chair and UCLA Law Professor.

[Signed] Michael Armon, California

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14) Therefore, I urge you to vote against a COC endorsement of the nuclear waste initiative.

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10) Let's be clear

9) Open government campaign

8) The sick to those issues of governance and structure and process, broadly defined, that have formed the core of our agenda for years.

7) Rather, I think we will be more effective

6) where other players with superior resources are already doing an adequate job.

5) we use precious, limited resources

4) When we do so.

3) we shouldn't embrace every popular issue that comes along

2) Tempting as it may be,

1) I don't believe that endorsing the Nuclear Waste Initiative is the right step for California's Common Cause.

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Evidence

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