**Text of Governor Jerry Brown’s remarks to Bay Area teachers on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012.**

Just in case, you don’t know why I’m here, I want to make it real clear. This is about the apple of your eye, Proposition 30, (holds up campaign sign). I’m really glad to be here with SF teachers and other people who represent ordinary Californians. I want to say at the outset, I got my start right here in San Francisco at West Portal grammar school, as we called it then. And so did all my sisters. And my mother not only went to Grattan, but she taught at Grattan, as well as my older sister.

Of course, I had to finish off my education by going to St. Brendan’s and then to St. Ignatius, but not to leave our public universities alone, I went over to the University of California and spent a couple of eventful years there as well. So I really appreciate the education that I’ve received in this city and want to make sure that it continues, that it does not become some relic of the past.

And we need in school, not just standardized tests that come out of some Washington bureaucracy, but we also need arts programs, science programs, field trips, librarians, counselors, and if we really *really* get lucky, maybe we might have a nurse or two that might be able to help us. That would really be good.

Anyway, this is a challenging campaign. California is going counter to the trend. Back there in Washington they have another way of seeing the world. They like to spend money they don’t have, they like to wrangle all the time, and they get paralyzed because the two parties can’t agree. Well, California is the great exception, we have another way; when the two parties can’t agree, we don’t sit there and suck our thumbs, we go out and get an initiative; we go out and ask the people to sign a petition, and a million of them did, and that’s how we got proposition 30.

And proposition 30 is key to building our future. I say proposition 30 is about jobs because it’s about kids and teachers and they produce the brains and the skills and make the jobs of the future possible.

So proposition 30 is about a lot of things; it’s about kids, it’s about teachers, it’s also about the credit rating in California, it’s about social harmony, it’s about hope, and it’s about those who have been most blessed to have an opportunity to give something back.

And I want to say something about those who will pay the tax, those who make $500,000 a year. By the way, if a couple makes $500,000 they pay no income tax; it’s only when they make money above $500,000. And if I asked any one of you, if I could guarantee you $500,000 would you pay one percent of all the extra money you earn that year.

We’re giving people a chance to give back. Those who have been blessed - I like to quote St. Luke, “Those who much has been given, much will be asked,” and that’s what we’re doing. And in California, we have, I think, a pretty balanced program. We have a close election, I believe we’re ahead, but we can’t be complacent, we don’t have too many days left and we need everyone to first, make sure everybody’s registered to vote. So before we can even talk about voting, we have millions of people out there who aren’t registered to vote. So if anybody is here who has a good email list, send out emails to all your friends and make sure they’re registered. In fact, I sent out a governor’s letter, it’s going out to millions of people and I hope everybody registers before midnight on Monday night. So that’s a big deal.

So on the schools, and proposition 30, I’m going to do everything I can between now and the election. This, Proposition 30, is key to breaking the gridlock. See, in Washington when they have gridlock, they just live in it, they wallow in it. We don’t have to do that in California, cause we do have an initiative. And we have initiatives on the ballot, some are good, some are not so good. Proposition 30 is among the good ones, so that’s the one you vote yes on. Now, since life is not just about saying yes, some things in life we have to say no to, that’s proposition 32. We say no on that one. It’s pretty simple, we say yes on 30, no on 32.

And those folks from Arizona, over there, I don’t know where they come out of - the desert? But, they’re there. By the way, interesting enough, their lawyer is the lawyer for Karl Rove, I’m told. So, I think there’s a plot here. Now some people think that’s secret money, the $11 million is secret money. Some people think it’s coming from the East coast. Other people think it’s coming from California, and they did a kind of a switcheroo, they sent the money to Arizona, laundered it, scrubbed it, clean of any identifying marks and then shipped it back to California to another laundry called the Small Business Committee, but it’s not small business.

It’s about the most powerful financiers in the whole world. Read that list and they’re all there. So I think they ought to change their name, maybe be would call the Federal Trade Commission and file a complaint for dishonest advertising. They’re not small, they’re big, these are the biggies. The small people are ordinary working people who put their dues together and are able to combat it, and that’s what 32 is all about and that’s why we’re going to stop 32, while we pass 30.

And then in the years ahead we have a lot of work to do because it’s not just about money, it’s about what are we teaching, and how do we evaluate teachers and how do we help teachers and what courses do we have, what do we put it in, and how many laws should we let Sacramento make about schools and how much should we let teachers decide what goes on in the classroom, and principals.

So I do like to emphasize the point that there are different layers and levels of authority. When we want to solve a problem, we want to solve the problem closest to where the problem is. And if we’re talking about the problem of education, the problem does not show up in Washington.

There are a lot of people in Washington who like to tell you what to do in the classroom. Now I think Washington has to deal with the wars or avoiding the wars, they have to deal with social security, they have to deal with Amtrak, they have to deal with you name it, but when it comes to writing questions for third graders, I think maybe they ought to leave that to somebody a little closer to third graders.

In Sacramento we have the same thing. There are more laws on education than there are school districts; there are a lot of them. So you have to be careful on what you have Sacramento do. Now, they have a role, which I’m not going to talk about today. Then below that you have the school district. The school district has a lot of rules and they’re doing stuff, and then you get down to the principal and then maybe you have an academic dean or something, then finally you get to the teacher. Well, that’s kind of the forgotten person in this whole education story.

Everybody thinks they know more; as we all know, everybody went to school, so everybody thinks they know how to teach, or they think they know something about education. I’m putting my faith in the teachers and I believe that as we get the money we need to put into our schools and colleges and universities, we have to take the next step and make sure the curriculum, the technology and the professional development all combine together to make sure California has the best educational opportunity in the country.

Thank you. Go 30! No on 32!

**Gov. Jerry Brown – interviews with reporters following his speech.**

Q How concerned are you about the possibility that it won’t pass?

A Well I ‘m very concerned that this is a very competitive election and that every teacher and student and citizen that can needs to go out and make sure that proposition 30 does pass.

Q You said in an interview with capitol public radio that even if 30 passes it’s not enough and there might have to be cuts.

A No, what I said was, and if you read not the headline buy my actual words, was that I would be exercising fiscal discipline in the coming years. And I say that because that’s the spirit in which I govern. But also I want the taxpayers and the voters to know that when and if we get this money for our schools and colleges I’m going to be very careful with the entire state budget to make sure that wherever we find waste we cut it out and I make the continuing pledge and commitment to make our government as efficient as possible.

Q When you’re looking at fiscal issues and where’s there’s waste, would education be a part of that?

A When someone asks me the question, will there ever be any more cuts or will everything be wonderful forever, well that’s kind of silly. In our own lives, in the lives of government in the lives of schools, we always face new problems, new challenges; the economy goes up the economy goes down. I just want people to understand that proposition 30 is really important for the quality of our schools, for the well being of our citizens. But in the years to come, I’m still going to make tough decisions, some bills I’ll sign and some bills I’ll veto. We’re going to find problems in different departments because that’s what life is.

But the real challenge is to solve them in a thoughtful way and that’s what I want to assure people, that I’m going to be the same careful steward of the public trust and money that I’ve been the first two years.

Q You said that some people think the $11million involves money laundering. Do you consider it that?

A Oh certainly. It’s complete money laundering because money laundering is when you take something that you’re ashamed of or you want to hide and you put some Clorox on it or you scrub it or you wash it and it comes out looking like something else. And this looks like some leadership committee going to some small business committee. In truth, they’re neither leaders nor are they small business. It’s major financial interests and powerful corporation or personalities that have the ability to move $11 million at will. So, I think it’s crucial to find out about this stuff and I think the law of California is violated in this respect. A committee when it gets money, particularly $11 million, has a duty to understand where it comes from. Is this money from a foreign source? That’s illegal. Is it money from terrorists? That’s illegal. In order to assure yourself that everything is up and up you have to find out where it is.

When these people from the small business committee said the money just arrived, evidently, are they saying they didn’t solicit it? They just opened up the check (he means mail) one day and there it was. I believe the small business committee knows who it is and they’re hiding that fact. And I call them to come out from under the bushes there and if they don’t’, I feel rather confident that the FPPC will be doing it’s duty since it just propounded a rule that requires exactly what I said.

Q Why did you wait until today to kick off the ground game. Is three weeks going to be enough to get this passed?

A Were you at SacCity last week? I’d love to campaign everyday, I really like campaigning, but I’ve been elected by the people as their governor and I have a lot to do. We had 700 bills to read, we have dozens of departments to manage, and my first job is to be governor of California, and then when I can squeeze in some extra time, then I’ll go on the campaign trail, so I’m doing a lot of that over the next couple of weeks, but I like to balance in favor of the citizenry, which is doing my job, and then when I can add to that by way of campaigning I do.