



Arch Conservative? *The Hoover Institution is trying to get away from its ivory tower image and charges that it leans to the right.*

Right on the Money

Despite new blood and a policy of glasnost, the Hoover Institution still carries the conservative torch **By Hal Plotkin**

BEHIND THE yellow police tape blocking off the front entrance to the Hoover Institution, a two-day gathering of one of the Bay Area's most influential tribes was called to order late last summer. Inside the squat building that abuts the Stanford campus' most famous phallus—the Hoover Tower—former U.S. attorney general and longtime Ronald Reagan confidant Edwin Meese III took his seat among the thin crowd of 50 predominantly gray-haired policy wonks.

As the meeting of the Hoover Board of Overseers got under way, Meese—looking more relaxed than he ever did on TV during his Reagan days—smiled broadly as former SJSU president John Bunzel, another Hoover senior fellow, welcomed the attendees with some awkward one-liners. “The first thing President Pat Buchanan is going to do,” Bunzel said, peering into the future, “is to line the border with U.S. troops.” Noting some approving nods from the small crowd, Bunzel went

for the rim shot, “Which will be required,” he continued, “to keep U.S. residents from leaving.” As the group chuckled gently, Bunzel kept up his Jay Leno imitation, “Really, the GOP ticket in 1996 should be Strom Thurmond and Jesse Helms,” he suggested. “After all, why waste 200 years of experience?” It wasn’t Comedy Central, but the attempt at levity, and the fact that anyone was there to report on it, indicates some changes.

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