



**Thirty Percent Solution:** Like many of his Hoover Fellows, Martin Anderson (right) served in the Reagan administration. But 30 percent of the Fellows are Democrats, including former SJSU prof Shelby Steele.

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police chief notes, "and there is certainly no one here telling me who I can or cannot criticize. That just does not happen."

Or, Raisian urges, take the case of another Hoover scholar, Chinese dissident Harry Wu, who was recently released from a Chinese prison after getting caught sneaking into the country as part of his ongoing effort to document his contention that slave laborers in Chinese prisons are producing goods that are later exported to the United States. Wu, who already served a long term in a Chinese prison for his dissident activities, has also charged that Chinese prison officials have been selling human organs belonging to some of their inmates.

"This place was Harry Wu Headquarters," recalls Hoover's press relations officer, Michele Horaney, half of the Hoover's two-person press relations office. "Now, is that a Republican issue, or is it something larger?" she asks. "I think many people don't have a very good understanding about what goes on here. There are a lot of dated images floating around about what we do and who we are." She notes that Hoover's most recent addition, senior fellow and former SJSU professor and affirmative action critic Shelby Steele, is a registered Democrat.

Additionally, Raisian points out

that Hoover's extensive library, containing 1.6 million volumes, 58,000 microfilm reels, 25,000 serial titles, and 3,860 newspapers and magazine subscriptions, is—unlike the nearby Stanford libraries—open to the public year-round entirely free of charge. Keeping the holdings, which take up 25 miles of shelf space and are growing by a mile a year, open to the public costs Hoover about \$7 million annually, Raisian calculates, including the expense of paying the dozens of librarians who answer, or try to answer, even the most obscure research problems posited by anyone who happens to walk in the door.

"That was one of the original conditions imposed by Herbert Hoover when he established this place," Raisian notes, "that we keep the door open to the public and that we serve the public. We take that obligation very seriously."

On one recent afternoon, for example, a bilingual librarian spent more than an hour helping a recent Chinese immigrant locate information about his family's fate after World War II. "We don't have anything like this in China," the immigrant said, waving off the request for his name with a "no, no" as he thumbed through a stack of what looked like Chinese phone books.

Even so, as evidenced by the dearth of criticism aimed at Republicans, the Hoover Institution can still seem like a place, to mangle

Mao, where a single school of thought contends and one flower blooms a hundred times. Notwithstanding a few radical departures, the debates at Hoover still usually swirl around one end of the political spectrum and rarely if ever seem to threaten any concentrated bastions of wealth or power, unless it's those powerful welfare recipients or the "special interests" who pushed for a more accessible system of affordable national health care. Similarly, Hoover's administrators won't reveal the identities of most of those who fund the institution's operations. "Many of them don't want any publicity for that sort of thing," Raisian notes. "If it gets in the papers that they have given money to us, it can lead to them getting unwanted solicitations."

One exception is Hoover benefactor Tad Taube, who Raisian says has been "very generous" in supporting Hoover's initiative on American institutions and economic performance. "I don't think he minds us talking about it, but many of our donors prefer to keep their gifts as private as possible," he says.

The question of just what those gifts are buying does not trouble Raisian, who maintains that Hoover's research agenda is unrelated to the financial objectives of any of its donors. However, when the six Hoover scholars selected by Gov. Pete Wilson to serve on his Economic Advisory Board made their report recently, they identified California's most pressing problem as the need to cut personal and corporate income taxes by 15 percent over the next three years. The position, which was trumpeted on the front page of a recent edition of the institution's newsletter, seems unlikely to offend any well-heeled donors.

As if to confirm the traditional relationship between the piper and the tune, while a single uniformed parking officer was busy guarding the growing phalanx of Caddys and European sedans outside the meeting room, a clean, bright-red Nissan Maxima, adorned with a personalized license plate reading FUND RSR, slid easily into a nearby spot; in the world of ideas, after all, money remains a rather compelling concept. ⬆

## THE BIG PICTURE

### Heady Subjects at Hoover

Fellows take on hot topics after Cold War thaw

**S**HORTLY AFTER taking over the helm at Hoover, director John Raisian announced three new research programs designed to move the Institution beyond the Cold War. The first is *American Institutions*: exploring the relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Another one, titled *Transitions to New Economic and Political Institutions*, studies the economic, political and social dynamics of change in nations which are evolving from various forms of socialism to democratic, capitalist economies.

The third is *Sovereignty and Statecraft* which examines and documents the principles of statecraft, the art of government, and relations among nations during war, revolution and peace.