



Demonstrators jam the corner of Market and Castro streets Monday evening to denounce Gov. Wilson's veto of a gay rights bill. All was relatively peaceful prior to the march downtown.

EXAMINER PHOTOS BY CHRIS HARDY

◆ GAY RIGHTS from A-1

Officials line up against Wilson veto

bashing," McBride said. Not unexpectedly, Wilson's veto cued a drumbeat of protests out of San Francisco's political establishment — ranging from Mayor Agnos, who said the governor has been captured by extremist elements of the Republican Party, to the San Francisco Police Officers Association.

Override asked by POA

The latter, which had members on the streets Monday night trying to maintain order during anti-Wilson protests, said, "We as police officers see and deal with bigotry and hate crimes daily and recognize the immediate need for this legislation."

The 1,700-member POA's executive board added, "The governor's short-sighted view on this issue is out of step with the citizens of California, and the SFPOA strongly recommends that the Legislature override the veto immediately and/or that the initiative petition process begin to place this issue before the voters."

In the streets of Los Angeles as well as San Francisco, protesters marched, chanted and vowed to exact revenge on a state leader they feel betrayed them.

Agnos said it was apparent the right wing's hold on the California GOP is becoming stronger, adding "I am angry that Gov. Wilson has allowed Republican Party politics and his standing with extremist elements to cloud his judgment, supersede his previously stated intentions and to disappoint so many well-intentioned people who had believed he was a different breed of Republican politician."

The Board of Supervisors unanimously condemned the veto. "Wilson is pandering to right-wing extremists who despise gays and want to deprive us of our right to protection in the workplace," said Supervisor Carole Migden, who co-sponsored the resolution with fellow lesbian Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg.

Administrative mediation

"It is a cowardly and cynical act. We intend to fight back," Migden said.

Achtenberg said the veto will cost businesses money. "Employees who suffer discrimination will be forced to go straight into the courts without an administrative mediation process."

"The bottom line is that Gov. Wilson and the Republican Party have dumped Abraham Lincoln and put Lou Sheldon in his chair."

The supervisors' resolution said Wilson's decision was "based on bigotry, ignorance and political expediency."

Assemblyman John Burton, D-San Francisco, decried Wilson's "hypocrisy," saying the veto was "purely a political decision."

Wilson allowed himself to be "bullied by bigots," said San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith, giving them a victory for discrimination. The veto was an "affront to logic," he said.

"By vetoing AB101, Gov. Wilson is saying bigotry is acceptable," said Mark Haven, spokesman for California's fledgling Green Party.

Mayoral candidate Frank Jordan called the veto a travesty, saying, "Even though the bigots have won this battle, we'll never let them win the war."

Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose, wrote a letter to Wilson, accusing him of succumbing to "cowardice ... and/or avarice — your own political ambition."

Vasconcellos said he was "utterly astonished and deeply saddened."

The S.F. AIDS Foundation condemned Wilson's veto, calling the move a setback for all Californians who care about civil rights.

◆ PROTEST from A-1

Rioters protest gay rights veto

these words:

"There I was accosted by an angry protester and surrounded by the crowd. Some of the protesters grew unruly and abusive and I was pushed, kicked and shouted down. Someone even tried to steal my watch."

"I tried to leave the scene quickly, but the mob pursued me. My supporters and I had to walk several blocks before I was finally driven away in a police car."

The rioters wreaked their most severe damage on the office of Diana Marshall, new chairman of the state's Workers Compensation Appeals Board.

Her office was at the corner of Polk Street and Golden Gate Avenue. It was "100 percent damaged," according to John Duncan, deputy director of the state Department of Industrial Relations. An adjoining office was 80 percent damaged, he said.

A facsimile machine is missing. Case files were overturned and strewn about. Many were incinerated or ruined by water. One computer was destroyed, others were damaged.

The board hears appeals from workers compensation judges' decisions, and "in some cases these files are going to have to be reconstructed," Duncan said.

Southern California rallies

In downtown Los Angeles earlier Monday, one protester was arrested for vandalism after a window was broken and another for battery after allegedly throwing dye on two plainclothes officers during a demonstration outside the Ronald Reagan Office Building.

In West Hollywood, which has a large gay populace, thousands of people blew whistles and chanted messages aimed at Wilson. An effigy of the governor was burned.

In vetoing AB101 Sunday, Wilson said it would burden employers by adding to the "flood-tide" of litigation that he called a threat to the state's economic well-being.

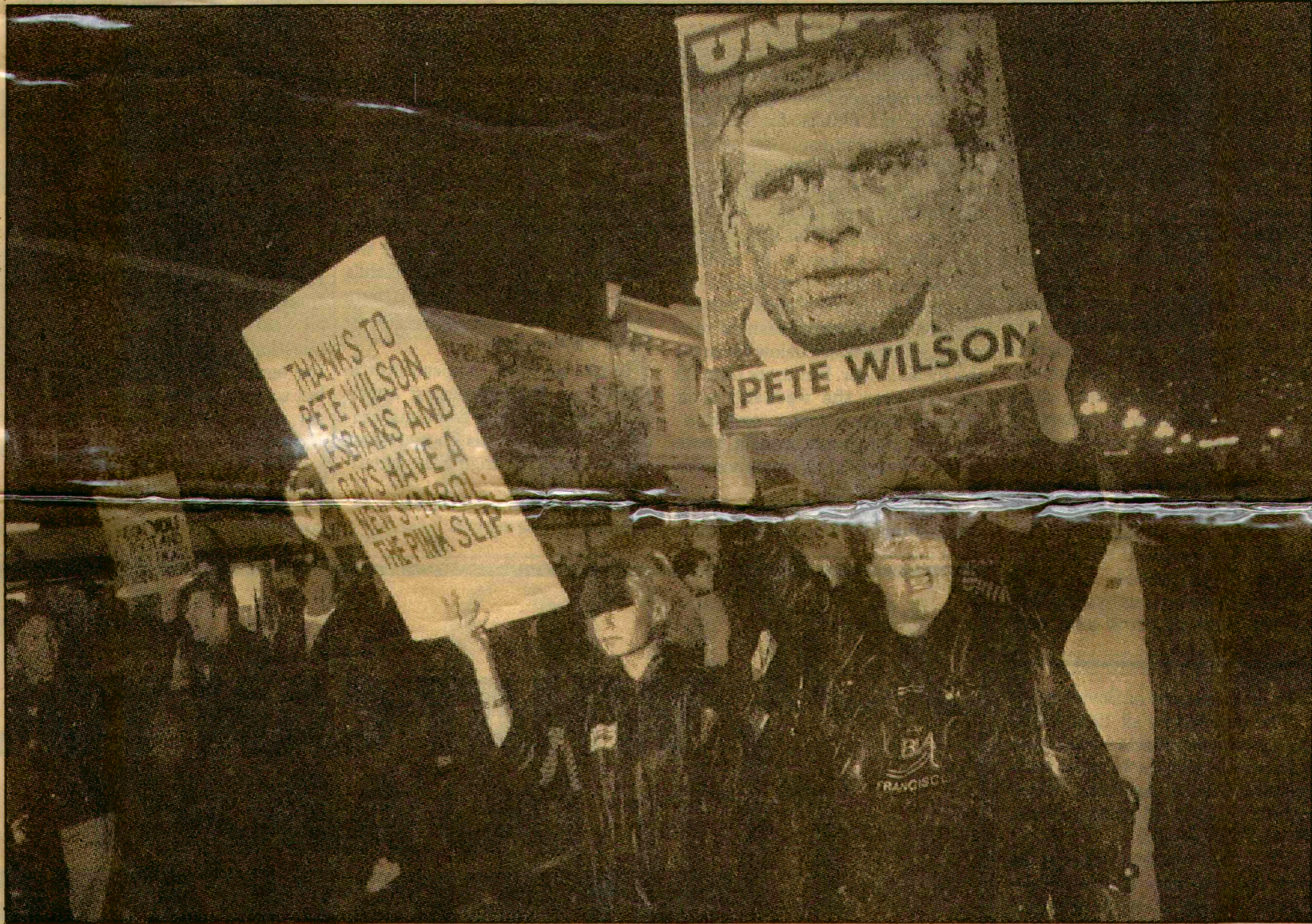
In San Francisco, no arrests were reported and injuries were said to be minor, though police officers and protesters exchanged sprays of Mace as demonstrators launched a concerted assault on the main entry to the old State Building at 455 Golden Gate Ave.

The mood of the crowd, which swelled in numbers to an estimated 5,000 as it gathered steam in a march from the Castro District down Market Street to the Civic Center, grew ugly as it approached downtown.

Peaceful beginning

The protest didn't start out ugly. Earlier in the evening, thousands of frustrated gay men, lesbians and their supporters gathered at Market and Castro streets to hear a litany of protest. The speakers counseled the angry crowd to keep the protest peaceful.

With a sound truck blasting out Boy George's "Clause 28," a rock



5,000 protesters march from Market and Castro toward Civic Center, angrily chanting slogans such as "Queers bash back" and "Wilson is a liar."

anthem that speaks to Britain's own problems over gay rights, the crowd marched to the new State Building at Van Ness Avenue and McAllister Street, rallied there briefly, then moved on to Wilson's symbolic San Francisco seat at the old State Building.

Within moments, the leaded glass window at the main entrance, titled the "Power of the Sun," was shattered, news racks were thrown through the entry glass and set afire, and three dozen other windows along Golden Gate Avenue were broken and offices broken into and fire-bombed.

Police barricades were used first by protesters to break through windows, then as ladders as they climbed into the first-floor offices and threw computers and office equipment to the sidewalk.

State Police and San Francisco officers stood just inside the entrance as hooting, jeering protesters hurled barricades, flares, newspaper racks and other missiles through the plate glass doors and the decorative, \$60,000 leaded glass art work that was commissioned by former Gov. Jerry Brown as a paean to ecology.

Only after a clump of papers was set afire and hurled inside did the officers inside respond, breaking out a fire hose and dousing the flames — and demonstrators — with rusty brown water.

Some protesters sprayed the officers inside the building's entrance with Mace, while others painted bitter slogans on the sidewalk and the side of the building — "Wilson is a liar," "Queer rights now," "Queers bash back."

Capt. Glenn Della-Monica of the San Francisco office of the

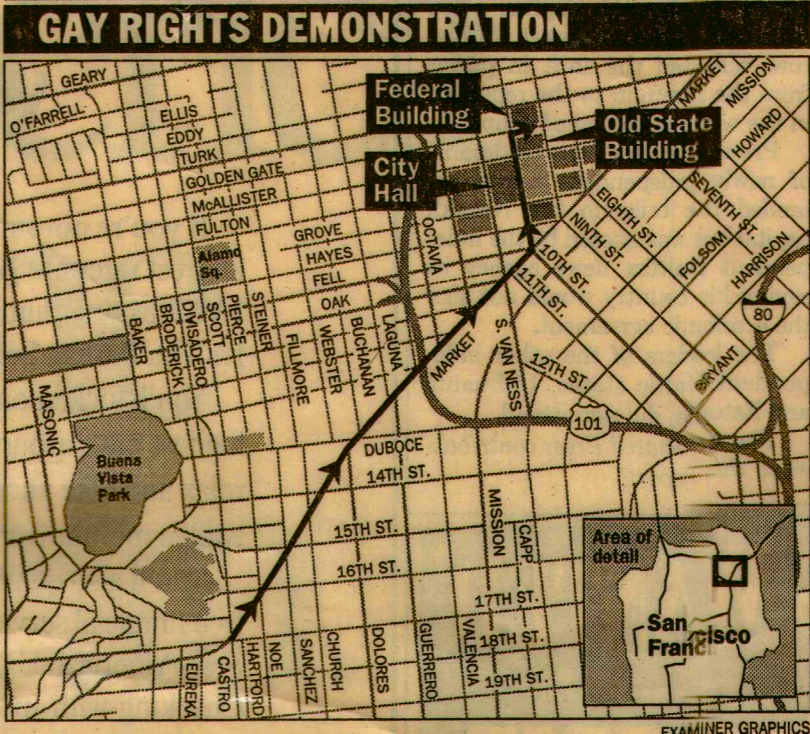


Demonstrators swiped, burned flags from old State Building.

State Police said three offices were damaged by fire bombs and also sustained water and smoke damage.

In Concord, about 150 people rallied Monday night to celebrate the veto and begin a campaign to overturn a city measure barring discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

Eric Brazil, Tom Dowling, Malcolm Glover, Lynn Ludlow and John O'Connor of The Examiner staff and Examiner news services contributed to this report.



EXAMINER GRAPHICS

Californians wanted a gay rights law

62% favored bill vetoed by Wilson

ASSOCIATED PRESS

As gay rights activists launched a second day of protests over Gov. Pete Wilson's veto of gay rights legislation, a new statewide survey showed strong support for the bill.

Californians favored the signing of the bill by a margin of more than two-to-one, according to the California Poll.

Results showed respondents

were 62 percent to 29 percent in favor of the bill, which would have barred job discrimination against homosexuals, extending the current ban on discrimination based on race, religion, gender or national origin.

The survey showed some partisan differences. Democrats favored the bill becoming law by a 72 percent to 21 percent margin. Republicans also supported the bill, but by 53 percent to 36 percent.

Strongly conservative Republicans favored vetoing the bill by 62 percent to 25 percent.

The poll found strong feelings on both sides of the issue, but the stronger sentiment lay with the minority seeking a veto.

Almost half of those favoring a gubernatorial veto said they would be "very upset" if Wilson signed the bill. Among those who wanted Wilson to sign the bill, less than a third said they would be "very upset" if he vetoed the measure.

The poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 19-25 among a cross-section sample of 998 California adults. It has a 3.2 percent margin of error.