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Berkeley Demos for Hutch

By Hobey Landreth

Though there is nothing unusual about politicians and voters crossing party lines as Election Day draws near, such shifts are frequently key factors in the race and generally serve to quicken the pace of the campaign efforts. The recent formation of the Berkeley Democrats for Hutchison is no exception.

The Democrats who formed this group are highly dissatisfied with the incumbent Ronald Dellums and have joined forces to elect Claude Hutchison, a moderate Republican.

"I remember when Ron Dellums caught holy hell from the Left because he chose to run as Democrat," recalled Council member Leo Bach. "His response was, 'If you want to get elected in this town, you'd better run as Democrat. That's where the voters are' he is a Socialist by his own admission. There's nothing wrong with being a Socialist, but to do the cloak of a Democrat every two years just to get elected smacks of expedient politics.

Keith Carson, Dellums' Campaign Manager, sees the incumbent's socialist ideas as an important asset in the campaign.

"As people begin to lose the