

SLL'S LAWSUIT AGAINST BRIGGS

NOTE: The Briggs-Garris Debate left us in debt. Yet we need funds for the lawsuit against Briggs. Please send what you can to SLL, P.O. Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632.

The REGISTER

Thurs., Nov. 2, 1978

A3

Briggs Faces Suit In Prop. 6 Debate

By LARRY PETERSON
Register Staff Writer

FULLERTON — State Sen. John Briggs, R-Fullerton, has been sued for failing to show up at a debate at Cal State Fullerton with an opponent of his homosexual school employees initiative.

Briggs and California Defend Our Children were named as defendants in a breach of contract suit filed in municipal court here Tuesday by the Society for Libertarian Life.

Joining the society as plaintiffs in the suit for \$3,500 in damages were the Orange County Committee against the Briggs Initiative, Students for a Libertarian Society and the Rev. Eric Garris, who was to represent the anti-Proposition 6 group at the Oct. 26

debate.

The lawsuit maintains that Briggs was committed to the debate a month in advance by his daughter, Kathy Briggs Bailey, but instead was represented at the event by UCI professor George Kent.

Briggs was not available for comment on the lawsuit, but an aide, Don Sizemore, termed the action "ludicrous" and said the senator has referred to it as being "like suing someone for breaking a date."

Sizemore said it was agreed only that Briggs and the Defend Our Children would produce "a qualified speaker" to debate Garris, currently a candidate for the city charter commission in San Francisco.

Although the possibility that Briggs himself might debate Garris was mentioned, no firm commitment was made, Sizemore said. And, by having Kent participate in the debate, Briggs and the Defend Our Children group fulfilled its agreement to supply a "qualified speaker," he added.

Larry Samuels, president of Society For Libertarian Life, said about 300 persons turned out for the debate but claimed the draw would have been larger if Briggs had showed up.

The \$3,500 in damages is for time, materials, postage, phone bills, travel and other costs incurred in setting up and promoting the debate, Samuels said.

Sizemore said Briggs chose not to participate in the debate because he received several threats on his life and the physical layout of the debate site, the campus quad, offered a poor setting for security arrangements.

Garris maintains that Briggs is "afraid" to debate a Libertarian Party member on Proposition 6, which would allow the firing of openly homosexual school employees and those who advocate the homosexual lifestyle.

He said Briggs backed out of an earlier commitment to debate David Bergland, the party's national chairman and its nominee in the 36th state Senate District. Bergland is attorney for the plaintiffs in the current lawsuit.

No date has been set for trial of the suit, Sizemore said.

Los Angeles Times

15

★ R Thurs., Nov. 2, 1978-Part II

BRIGGS SUED FOR FAILING TO SHOW UP AT DEBATE

FULLERTON — The Society for Libertarian Life and three other plaintiffs have filed a \$3,500 breach of contract suit against state Sen. John Briggs (R-Fullerton) for his failure to appear on the California State University, Fullerton, campus for a debate last week.

A spokesman for the organization said the North Orange County Municipal Court suit seeks damage costs incurred in preparing for the debate between Briggs and the Rev. Eric Garris on the Proposition 6 homosexual teacher ballot issue.

It should be said that Briggs' aide, Don Sizemore, knows very little. In the first place, the Briggs vs Garris Debate was always scheduled for the CSUF Multi-Purpose Room from the very beginning. Secondly, it was always understood that the Senator himself was to debate Rev. Garris. In the very beginning we made this a point because Briggs backed out of the Cypress College debate last semester. We told Kathy Bailey, Briggs daughter, who arrange Briggs speaking and debating engagements, that we wanted nothing to do with this debate if Briggs might cancel his appearance. In fact, Kathy Bailey personally came over to our place to give us a photo of the Senator for our flier announcing the debate.

Society for Libertarian Life, P.O. Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632.
(714) 537-8936