

ann treneman political rhetoric

California has definitely started something. Although Oregonians defeated the two "tax-cut fever" measures Tuesday, 12 other states approved their tax measures.

Idaho and Nevada voters went all out and approved measures similar to California's infamous Proposition 13 — which froze property taxes at 1 percent above their 1975 assessed values. The two states each can expect a 57 percent cut in property taxes.

In addition Alabama, Illinois, Hawaii, Michigan and Texas

Black leader talks tonight about China

Black activist Robert Williams comes to the EMU Ballroom tonight at 8 p.m. to speak on "The New Political Environment in China" in an event sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum.

Williams, 53, joined the civil rights movement in his home town of Monroe, N.C., but advocated armed self-defense in response to the NAACP's strategy of non-violence. He also organized the struggle in Monroe against the Ku Klux Klan and later wrote a book *Negroes With Guns*, about his experiences in Monroe.

Events in Monroe culminated in what Williams called a "framed-up," kidnapping charge against him, and in 1961 he fled the United States and went to Cuba.

After a brief stay in Cuba, Williams was invited by Mao Tse-Tung to the People's Republic of China, where he lived for over a decade. During the famous Cultural Revolution, he addressed hundreds of thousands of Red Guards in Peking square, while his book *Negroes With Guns* was studied extensively by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong during the war.

After he returned to the United States, all charges against him were dropped. He has spoken at numerous universities and has taught at the University of Michigan. His experience in China and his personal friendship with both Mao tse-Tung and Chou En-lai gives him a unique perspective on the events of the Cultural Revolution and the present leadership in China.

voted to place ceilings on state spending. The measures linked spending ceilings directly to state growth. Proposals aimed at cutting taxes received support in Alabama, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota. Arkansas, Michigan, and Oregon voted their tax measures down.

Oregon and California just can't seem to separate themselves. Both states' constituencies supported death penalty measures Tuesday. California voters approved a longer list of crimes punishable by death and Oregon reinstated the penalty for the second time.

The death penalty measure only changes the law, however, and not Oregon's constitution, which means the 1979 Legislature can do what it sees fit with the death penalty when they convene in January.

Oregon had a death penalty provision on the books from 1859 to 1919, when voters repealed it. It was reinstated in 1920 and then repealed again in 1960.

Fifty-eight persons have been executed in Oregon — 40 by hanging and 18 by the gas chamber. The state estimates it will cost \$130,000 to install a gas chamber in Oregon.

The last person to be put to death in Oregon was LeeRoy McCahuey, who went to the gas chamber in 1962 for the murder of a 22-month-old boy.

Spirits were high Tuesday night in San Francisco, a city known for its large homosexual population, as Californians defeated Proposition 6. The measure would have required that teachers who are homosexuals (or who advocate homosexuality) be fired. An effort to repeal a local Seattle gay rights ordinance also

failed.

However in Dade County, Florida — orange juice squeezer Anita Bryant's old stomping grounds — gay rights is still nowhere.

The drive to oust homosexuals from California teaching positions was backed by the identical religious groups that won anti-gay vic-

tories in Dade County, St. Paul, Minn., Wichita, Kan. and Eugene.

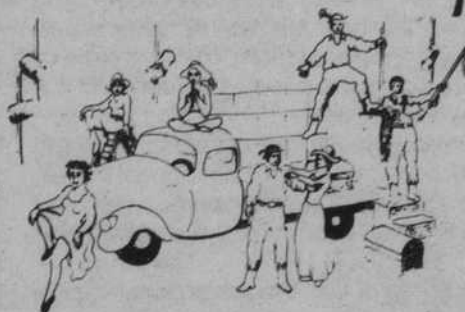
The No on 6 campaign drew in some unlikely supporters. Although it is unlikely the likes of President Carter and Ronald Reagan would support a non-discrimination for homosexuals' clause, they voiced their disapproval of the California measure.

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