Eugene Ruyle, Peace and Freedom Candidate, Tries to Shake Up Assembly Race

By Coburn Palmer • Tue., Oct. 9 2012

Eugene Ruyle, the Peace and Freedom Party candidate who won a spot on the November ballot for state assembly, is calling for the resignation of UC Regent Richard C Blum. The 15th District Assembly candidate is taking on Blum, who is married to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, claiming he has a conflict of interest since he is presiding as a UC Regent while also being a major shareholder in for-profit colleges.

"On the one hand he's voting to raise fees, while he's driving students to his diploma mills," Ruyle tells us. Blum, a real estate speculator and businessman, has made headlines for years, from stories detailing his meteoric rise to prominence to the recent alleged conflicts of interest.

"I have no illusions about what is going to happen in November," he said. "The reality is the Democrat is going to be re-elected."

He is running, however, to give voters a choice -- and a little insight about the rising cost of education. As a UC Berkeley alumnus, he's worried about how future generations will be able to afford college.

He says his next goal is to add "debt cancellation" to the Peace and Freedom Party's platform. He says that if you borrowed money you should have to pay it back, but he thinks many of the fees that banks charge are outrageous.

Ruyle also fears that Proposition 14 will hurt the Peace and Freedom Party, because it won't have enough votes to keep its candidates on the ballot.

Now for his slogan: "End the wars, tax the rich, power to the people."

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