

GOLDEN: Christie's strength diminished

In making his pitch for further pension system changes, Christie invoked the experience of Detroit, forced into bankruptcy due in large part to out-of-control pension obligations, and the state of California, whose refusal to control its pension costs led to increased taxes on its citizens.

He argued correctly that he inherited a deeply troubled pension system from his predecessors, who failed to live up to their responsibilities to make appropriate payments to the fund. His arguments fell on deaf ears. Democrats agreed that much blame could be assigned to prior administrations but took the position that pointing to the past sins of others is of no help in dealing with today's problems.