

THE TENNESSEE LIBERATOR

FEBRUARY 1976

TENNESSEE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

VOL. 1 NO. 1

MACBRIDE GUEST FOR TRI-STATE CELEBRATION

Roger Lea MacBride, Republican defector, and the 1976 Libertarian Party candidate for President, will be the honored guest at the 1976 Tennessee LP Convention and Tri-State Celebration in Memphis on Saturday, March 27, 1976. The Convention and Celebration will be held at the Airport Admiral Benbow Inn beginning at 11:00 a.m. (Complete convention agenda on page 4; convention and hotel registration cards enclosed post-paid for your convenience.)

Roger MacBride gained nationwide attention in 1972, when as a chosen Presidential elector on the Republican slate from Virginia, he cast his ballot for LP nominee John Hospers. He is the author of three books, the latest his libertarian manifesto *A NEW DAWN FOR AMERICA*. Roger is a graduate of Princeton and of Harvard Law School, and is co-creator of the NBC-TV series "Little House on the Prairie."

MacBride will be in Tennessee March 26, 27, 28, 1976. Newspaper, television, radio, and other personal engagements are being scheduled for Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis.

A rally and news conference is being planned upon his arrival at Memphis International Airport. Roger will be piloting his own DC-3 aircraft. Plan to be there! More details will be in the next issue of "The Tennessee Liberator."

Much interesting convention work is to be done on the Tennessee LP Platform, officers to be elected, help on the "Liberator" to be solicited, etc. Please plan to come to Memphis in March, enjoy yourself, meet some fascinating and unique folks, and -- while you're at it--straighten us out.

BALLOT DRIVES BEGIN

The Kentucky and Alabama Libertarian parties are now conducting their ballot drives. Kentucky needs 1,000 signatures and Alabama 5,000. Kentucky would like to have volunteer help at Bowling Green and Alabama needs help at Huntsville. They must complete their work by March 1, 1976. If you can help in either or both areas, please contact:

The Admiral Benbow will give us a convention room rate; a single is \$15.00, a double, \$18.00. Please help us by making room and convention reservations by March 10.

*
* CONVENTION SPECIAL *
* Anyone selling \$100.00 worth *
* of convention tickets will *
* be recognized at the dinner *
* and will receive a FREE ticket. *
* *

Bobbi Jahn H. N. Crumhorn
2713 Pineview Dr. P. O. Box 3204
Villa Hilge, KY Huntsville, AL
41016 35810

ABOUT TITLES, HEADINGS, ETC.

This is the first issue of "The Tennessee Liberator," the newsletter of the Tennessee Libertarian Party. The "Liberator" arises from the combined ashes of "West Tennessee Notes" and of "The Liberty Bell." The "Notes" is defunct; the "Bell" (the publication of the Committee for Individual Liberty) in at least temporary hibernation, as is the Committee, in order to allow Committee members to devote more time and energy to LP activities.

The name, "The Tennessee Liberator," was chosen by the editor in honor of one of his personal historical heroes, the indomitable William Lloyd Garrison. Garrison fought a lifelong battle with enormous courage, conviction, and scarcely-contained fury, to erase the scourge of slavery from a "free" country. There are those of us who see similar contradictions today in the Leader of the Free World. We take these first steps in what we hope to be a manner worthy of spiritual heirs of William Lloyd Garrison.

We believe a society based on slavery to be as pernicious as one based on war. Garrison lived in a land in which some men were deprived of their liberty without cause, deprived of the fruits of their labor by others presumed to be their owners. We need not discuss the perversion of the concepts of "property" and "ownership" to include the notion of ownership of human beings.

We live in a society in which some men coolly and calculatedly so undertake as to cause and compel other men (always other men) to engage in the most terrifying acts of violence. The horror of war has come to be regarded by the average American as a normal and commonplace occurrence. Young men who refused to suspend their moral judgment are to this day harassed and imprisoned by the very State which conducted the most barbaric and genocidal war in human history.

The editor's column thus emerges. The Greek omega (Ω), the electrical symbol for resistance, was the symbol of war and draft resistance during the 60's. It is the editor's view that the resistance has been more ably served by the left than by the right. Murray N. Rothbard's classic "Left & Right: The Prospects for Liberty" presents an eloquently argued case for viewing liberty as a left-wing revolt against the statist right. Reflection upon events in recent past...the Goldwater movement, the Objectivist movement, and, unfortunately, most recently in the LP...reinforce this perspective.

The "Liberator" will be initially as inexpensively produced as possible, distribution by the Tennessee Libertarian Party to all interested. Articles, news, comments are, of course, welcome.

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Conservative - A statesman who is enamored of existing evils, as distinguished from the Liberal, who wishes to replace them with others.

--Ambrose Bierce...The Devil's Dictionary

AN INVITATION

THE TENNESSEE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

requests the pleasure of your company

to our

CONVENTION

and

TRI-STATE CELEBRATION

featuring the Libertarian Party's

Presidential Candidate

Roger Lea MacBride

at the

Airport Admiral Benbow Inn
2201 Winchester Road
Memphis, Tennessee

RSVP

Box 18165

Memphis, Tennessee 38118

March 27, 28, 1976

CONVENTION RESERVATION PRICES

	Before 3/10	At the door
Business Meeting/Dinner/Celebration	\$13.00	\$17.00
Dinner/Celebration Only	9.00	12.00

PLEASE ORDER NOW AND SAVE, USING POSTPAID RESERVATION CARD

CONVENTION AGENDA

TENNESSEE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

1976 Convention and Tri-State Celebration
March 27, 28

Saturday 11:30 Registration
1:00 - 4:30 Business Meeting
 Credentials Report
 Constitution/Rules/By-Laws Committee Report
 Treasurer's Report
 Election of Officers
 Election of '76 Convention Delegates
 Election of Committees
 Constitution/Rules/By-Laws
 Platform
 Judicial
 MacBride for President
 Platform Committee Report
 Candidate Nominations

4:30 - 5:30 Open for Guest Speaker

Libertarian
Tri-State Celebration
Arkansas-Mississippi-Tennessee

6:00 - 7:00 Reception
7:15 - 8:00 Dinner
8:00 - Roger MacBride
Films: "We Won't be Fooled Again"
 "The Incredible Bread Machine"
 "MacBride CBS TV Clip"

Sunday
9:00 a.m. Unfinished Business
 Executive Committee Meeting

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF LOUISIANA CONVENTION

by Myrle Carden

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana held its state convention in New Orleans January 30 and 31 at the same time that the National Libertarian Party Executive Committee was holding its meeting in New Orleans, January 31 and February 1.

Tonie Nathan, the only woman to receive an electoral vote for Vice President of the United States, delivered the keynote speech at the state convention, then rushed downstairs to attend the Executive Committee meeting.

The actual business of the convention was completed during the morning session, mostly reports and a few changes in the platform. The convention reelected Dr. Jeremy Millett Chairperson (that's their word, not mine). Dr. Millett is a professor of Political Science at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

The afternoon session was taken up with speeches and movies. The speakers included Dr. Millett on the Presidential Campaign 1976; Dr. Eric Mack, professor of Philosophy at Tulane University on the Value of Libertarian Activism; John Metcalf, faculty member of the Economics Department at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) on An Alternative to Municipal Transit; and Williamson (Bill) Evers, Research Assistant at the Hoover Institution, editor-in-Chief of the LP News, member of the National Executive Committee, on American Foreign Policy: World Imperialism or Isolationism.

The film, Adam Smith and the Wealth of Nations, was very impressive. The film of the Incredible Bread Machine was well done by the same young people who had edited the latest edition of the book.

The evening banquet was attended by nearly 100 Louisianians, National Executive Committee members, and others. Roger MacBride was the main speaker, introduced by National Chairman Ed Crane.

TENNESSEE BALLOT SITUATION

by Jim Forrester

The Tennessee election law requires at least 27,500 signatures of party members, who are registered voters, before Roger MacBride can be on the November ballot as the Libertarian party candidate for President.

The 27,500 "qualified signatures" are required by June 1, 1976. Pros at ballot drives say that it is advisable to double the number required.

Last November, Philip Carden led a team of lawyers in a suit filed at Chancery Court in Davidson County contending that this law was unreasonable

--continued on page 11

WHAT FOR?

by Craig Franklin

[Source: MASSACHUSETTS LIBERTY, the Massachusetts LP Newsletter]

The following is an article which describes four basic positions as to what the purpose of the Libertarian Party should be. Since there seemed to be general interest in this topic, it has been added to the agenda at our upcoming state caucus. So read carefully and decide where you're at.

"What for?" was Francisco d'Anconia's favorite question. I think it's time to ask that question again about the Libertarian Party in general and the Mass L.P. in particular--not because the question hasn't been asked and answered before, but because different people have different and, to some extent, incompatible answers.

When David Nolan founded the L.P., the first question he answered was "What for?". He said that the course of future events will be shaped by ideas; to change a culture's ideas requires education; and (this is the crucial point) the most efficient way to spread new political ideas is via a new political party. Sanford Cohen, one of the most successful L.P. political activists to date, succinctly summarized this viewpoint in his Reason Profile (REASON, July 1974, p. 37):

"We already have the philosophers and the philosophical base for building a Free Society--for the rest of us, actions speak louder than words. That's why I'm in politics--it enables one to reach the most people in the shortest period of time.... Our campaign reaches 300,000 to half a million people a week. That's an impressive educational effort right there, plus getting elected will give me a chance to change the system from within." I call this view of the L.P. the "educational-political" viewpoint.

There is another position that I call the purely "political" viewpoint. Proponents of this position (I believe Dave Long is one) give the following arguments: within the libertarian movement, there are a great many organizations and institutions; the function of the Libertarian Party is to be the political arm of the movement. It should concern itself solely with political activities per se, for example, running candidates for office, working to change bad laws, opposing especially bad candidates, speaking out on current political issues. It should engage in non-political activities, such as inviting speakers or holding social events, only when these activities have a political purpose, such as raising money or attracting new members to the Party. The function of groups such as the TANSTAAFL dinner series is to educate; the function of philosophers is to settle the limited state vs. anarchy dispute; the function of private parties is to provide social activities; and the function of artists is to

provide freedom-oriented works of art, etc. The sole function of the Libertarian Party is political activity, and it is proper that this should be so by the Law of Comparative Advantage, which is the justification for specialization and the division of labor.

Another view is that the Libertarian Party should be an umbrella organization, a sort of holding company for the libertarian movement, much as General Electric is actually a holding company for many related but specialized profit centers. The "umbrella" position holds that there are economies of scale in having one mailing list, one publication, etc., and that this need not inhibit diversity of activity. To some extent, we currently simulate this situation with cooperation: cross advertising, interlocking directorates, even exchange of mailing lists with suitable privacy safeguards.

There is also the purely "educational" position, which is advocated by Ayn Rand and others. What follows is my understanding of her position. Ideas, fundamental ideas, determine the course of a culture. It is earlier than you think for political activity, as shown by Barry Goldwater's disastrous campaign. The American people are pro-freedom in their sense of life, but a sense of life can help choose the right path only in an emergency situation. The battle must be won by replacing the ideas of the present culture with better ideas--and the battleground is the university campus, not political rallies. It is worse than futile to win a battle effort only to see your children go off to college and turn into hippies, your savings dwindle more rapidly every year from currency debasement, and your life being poured down the rathole of global altruism as your ever-increasing taxes go to feed starving populations around the world, whose corrupt leaders spit at you in return, in the forum you pay for, the United Nations. If you want to kill weeds, you can't do it one weed at a time--you have to invent a weedkiller. The only way to kill ideas is to replace them with better ones--and you have to change the whole culture if you want to change its political manifestations, because people in a free country get the government they think they want. If you want to do something to reverse the present trend, the most effective action you could take is to introduce other people to libertarian ideas. The most effective way to do that is to sell them a copy of ATLAS SHRUGGED. After all, how did most libertarians become libertarians?

There may be still other points of view. I would like to see them advocated in print. My purpose in presenting these is to begin a debate within the Mass L.P. about what we should be doing. I am almost pure educationist; other members of the State Execomm seem to be purely political. There is no conflict here, in the sense that different tactical views are perfectly compatible in a purely voluntary organization. How would you categorize yourself?

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BACKGROUND

By contemporary labels libertarianism is neither left nor right wing. It is a political philosophy based on the concept of the absolute sovereignty of the individual--the idea that every human being has a right to live in any manner he or she chooses so long as force or fraud are not used in dealings with others. Consistent with this principle, the Libertarian Party platform calls for a strict respect for civil liberties, a free market economy, and a non-interventionist foreign policy.

In the summer of 1971 a small group of people in Denver, Colorado who were concerned about the growing concentration of power in government got together to discuss the possibility of forming a new party. The American Revolution was dedicated to the belief that a government's sole function should be to protect a person's life, liberty and property from those who would initiate aggression, and that belief is shared by libertarians today.

The first convention of the Libertarian Party was held in 1972 and at it the distinguished academician Dr. John Hospers, was nominated to run for President of the United States. His running mate was Ms. Tonie Nathan of Eugene, Oregon and though only on the ballot in two states, they criss-crossed the nation exposing many people for the first time to the ideas of libertarianism.

The highlight of that campaign came when Roger MacBride, who was then a Republican elector in Virginia, refused to vote for Nixon and Agnew and instead put "principle above party" by casting his Electoral vote for the Libertarian Party candidates.

In 1973 the LP began growing rapidly and soon it had affiliated organizations in over 30 states. The organization and financing of the LP became stronger that year and media attention started to increase. Syndicated columnist Nicholas von Hoffman wrote favorably of the Libertarian Party's candidate for Mayor of New York City, Francine Youngstein, who warned of that city's impending financial collapse. --continued on page 12

- o PUBLICATION NOTES - "The Tennessee Liberator" is published monthly by the TLP and is distributed "free" to all on the mailing list.
- o Editor Bob Williams
- o Contributors:
- o Philip Carden, Jim Forrester, Myrle Carden, Sandra Dean, Jane Williams
- o Submissions graciously accepted - Box 34272, Memphis, Tennessee 38134

TENNESSEE BALLOT SITUATION continued from page 5

for several reasons. Two weeks ago, the chancellor ruled against us without dealing with the significant issues.

Roger can definitely be placed on the ballot as an independent. Only 25 signatures are required. (Wonder why it takes 27,500 signatures for a candidate of a voluntary association and 25 signatures for an independent?) The answer is obvious: To protect the interests of the two "major parties."

* * * * *	* * * * *
* West Tennessee Libertarians	* Mid-State Libertarians
* will have their monthly meeting	* plan a booth at the Flea Market
* Tuesday, March 2, 1976 - 6:30pm	* State Fairgrounds - Nashville
* Monte & Sons, 3788 Summer	* Saturday - Sunday
* We need Convention help!!!!!!!	* February 28-29 6:30am - 9:00pm
* * * * *	* * * * *

Detach and mail to TENNESSEE LIBERTARIAN PARTY, Box 18165, Memphis, TN 38118

The TLP is increasing its efforts to expand individual liberty. These efforts cost money and require the energy of many individuals. Money and human energy is needed to help with: 1) lawsuit against the state 2) convention 3) literature, advertising, libertarian educational efforts 4) newsletter publication (up to 300 copies each issue) 5) ballot drives in nearby states.

If you are interested in helping and/or becoming a member of the TLP, please indicate your agreement with the Statement of Principle: "Each individual, by nature, has the right to life, liberty and property. No individual, group or government should interfere with the exercise of these rights; nor can they rightfully use force except to defend individual rights."

Signature _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Donation suggestion: \$10.00 per quarter. Any amount will be appreciated and used wisely in the cause of Liberty.

T.A.N.S.T.A.A.F.L.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BACKGROUND continued from page 10

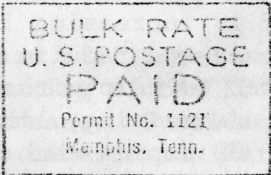
By the elections of 1974 the Libertarian Party was organized in 42 states and had dozens of candidates running for state and local office. Serious campaigns for federal office were run from coast to coast.

In 1975 the Libertarian Party had grown to the point where its Presidential nominating convention in New York received nationwide network television and radio coverage as well as the attention of numerous syndicated columnists. Now organized in all 50 states, the Libertarian Party has "come of age" and its Presidential ticket of Roger MacBride and Dave Bergland will be on the ballot in most states across the nation. Indicative of the growing impact of the Libertarian movement are the recent presentations of the Nobel Prize in economics to libertarian Friedrich von Hayek and the 1975 National Book award in philosophy and religion to Libertarian Party member Robert Nozick.

MacBride and Bergland believe it's time you owned your own life. In this Bicentennial year the Libertarian Party is determined to revive the libertarian goals of 1776--minimal government and maximum individual liberty!

LP AREA CONTACTS: Wendell D. Hill, Jr., 3488 Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga 37411; Clinton R. Anderson, 508 W. 2nd N. St., Morristown 37814; Philip M. Carden, Box 60347, Nashville 37206; Bob Williams, 460 Cherry Rd., Memphis 38117.

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