Unexpected Praise From GOP Governor

New Hampshire’s Republican Governor Steve Merrill had amazingly good things to say last month about a group of his fiercest critics: The Libertarian Party.

“Libertarians speak an important and thoughtful message of lower taxes and less government,” said the first-term GOP governor in late July. “At a time when some in our state want to spend every dollar on more programs, the Libertarians can be counted on to try their best to turn the argument around and ask: ‘Why should this money be spent at all?’ The Libertarians know what they believe, and they are willing to fight for their beliefs.”

Merrill’s surprising comments came not long after Don Gorman, the leader of New Hampshire’s four-man Libertarian State Representative delegation, had delivered a blistering attack against a new business tax proposed by the governor. And although the Libertarian delegation has applauded some of Merrill’s fiscally conservative decisions, they have also voted unanimously against other proposals by Merrill to increase or extend taxes.

Merrill is scheduled to be the special guest speaker at the LPNH monthly meeting on September 8th in the state capitol, Concord. It is believed to be the first time a seated governor has ever addressed a Libertarian Party meeting.

At Last Minute, Perot Cancels Dinner With LP Activist

It was a case of “Guess Who Isn’t Coming To Dinner” last month, when political maverick Ross Perot unexpectedly canceled a scheduled dinner with Libertarian Party of Nevada activist Tamara Clark in Las Vegas on July 17th.

“I was disappointed,” admitted Clark, the former Chair of the Nevada LP. “We did not get to go to dinner; we did not get to speak; we did not get to discuss ballot access.”

The dinner invitation came about after Clark warned the scrappy Texas billionaire about a bid to exempt independent candidates from a proposed ballot access reform bill in Nevada several months ago. Clark’s quick action allowed Perot to marshal his lobbying forces in time, and the bill passed as originally written. In gratitude, Perot extended the dinner invitation.

Clark planned to use the meeting to enlist the support of the former independent presidential candidate for the Penny Bills, which would ease ballot access restrictions in all 50 states. [See story in July issue of Liberty Pledge News.]

But the unpredictable Perot rearranged his visit to Nevada at the last minute, flying out of the state well before the scheduled dinner. “The [United We Stand America] state organizer came over and told me,” said Clark. “She was mortified. There was an extreme lack of communication between the national Perot people and his state people.”

The biggest disappointment, said Clark, was the missed opportunity for a major breakthrough in ballot access reform. “The message about the Penny Bills was important — and important to his people as well — and Perot could have really pushed it forward, all around the nation,” she said.

Clark said she did get Penny Bills information in the hands of Perot’s regional coordinator. “Whether he’ll ever get it, I don’t know,” she conceded.
Libertarian candidate Daniel O'Neill rounds out field of 116th District

Daniel J. O’Neill is from PROCTOR POINT — Daniel J. O’Neill is from Lake Sun Leader August 26, 1993

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“Libertarians oppose airport plans on their holding up the property proposals to the West Bend Municipal Airport. “If there is only a need for airport expansion, then let the customers be better protected. The 20-question device measures individual community. It is personal and it breaks the mold that the major candidates are running on,” O’Neill said. “People often find that they fit with the Libertarian Party better than the Republican or the Democrat. O’Neill’s success places him firmly into the Libertarian Party. And that’s where most Americans would find themselves if they just looked at the issues, he insists.

Libertarian candidate brings real-world experience to race

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Wyatt Vaught is chairman of Libertarians for Parking Reform, a group that will begin circulating petitions to remove Missoula’s parking meters.