



Repeal The Cigarette Tax!

This issue contains a petition for a ballot measure to repeal the tobacco tax enacted by the passage of Proposition 10 last November. The LPC has officially endorsed this initiative and urges all its members — including you — to stand behind it by completing and returning this petition ASAP!

In last November's election, Proposition 10 was approved by voters with only the slimmest of margins — less than 80,000 votes. That measure, known as the "Reiner Initiative" for its lead proponent, film director Rob Reiner, added a \$0.50 per pack surtax on cigarettes in California and equivalent surtaxes on other tobacco products such as cigars.

The additional tax money raised was earmarked for early childhood development programs and created new agencies in each of California's 58 counties, plus a



Mail petitions BEFORE Sept. 17

state Children and Families First Commission, which Governor Gray Davis appointed Reiner to head. "Government has no business getting involved in raising children," declared Libertarian state executive director Juan Ros in remarks before a joint legislative hearing on Proposition 10 last fall.

Ned Roscoe, LP member and president of Cigarettes Cheaper! — is circulating petitions to get an initiative to repeal Prop. 10 on the ballot. A petition has been included with this month's issue of *LPC Monthly*.

(continued on page 7)



"Expert Talent Bank" Created by LPC

This Talent Bank will help Libertarians promote liberty effectively and efficiently!

Have you ever needed help with fundraising? Ever wanted to run for local office but didn't know where to turn? Ever wanted to write that "perfect" speech or press release?

The LPC has created a resource that can help you in these areas and more: the LPC's Expert Talent Bank. Two dozen of the state's most talented individuals have agreed to be included in the talent bank in order to provide assistance to LP members and activists who may not know where to go for help or assistance in a particular area.

"It's time to stop reinventing the wheel," declared LPC Executive Director Juan Ros, who helped put the Talent Bank together at the behest of the LPC Executive Committee. "Veteran activists know many of these experts, but newer members may not know where to turn if they have a question or concern in a particular area. This Talent Bank will help all Libertarians promote liberty as effectively and efficiently as possible!"

The idea for the Talent Bank originated as part of the "Reality Growth Plan," a proposal created by LP of Santa Clara County Chair Marv Rudin and LP of Shasta County veteran activist Al Swain, and promoted at the LPC's 1999 convention. "Marv and Al definitely deserve credit for advancing this concept at the state level," Ros said. "Many activists will benefit from this collection of experts — they're the best and the brightest of the LPC!"

Indeed, many famous Libertarian names make up the Talent Bank, including LNC Chairman David Bergland (Legal Issues

expert), veteran San Diego activist Richard Rider (Ballot Arguments - Writing; Campaigns - Local Measures; Letters to the Editor), two-term Simi Valley City Council Member and current LPC Secretary Sandi Webb (Local Office - City Council), and *Ballot Access News* editor Richard Winger (Ballot Access).

Ros pointed out that the list isn't complete — other activists can step forward if they feel qualified as an expert in a particular category. "This list is a work in progress," Ros said. "We encourage LP members to volunteer for the Talent Bank if they can provide assistance to other activists in these or other areas of expertise."

The complete Expert Talent Bank list is shown on page 9. The list can also be found in the activist section of the LPC web site at <http://www.ca.lp.org/act/>. If you would like to be considered for the Talent Bank, contact Juan Ros at director@ca.lp.org.

(Talent Bank List is on page 9)



I N S I D E

- ▶ *Be a Hero in Double Zero*
- ▶ *Talent Bank List*
- ▶ *Execom Meeting*
- ▶ *Pop Quiz*

LPC Monthly

July 1999

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Betsy Mill

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LPC Monthly is published twelve times a year.

Send materials for publication to LPC Monthly's mailing address. All submissions are subject to editing. Deadline is the fifteenth day of every month.

Send changes of address to: Libertarian Party of CA, 400 Capitol Mall Suite 900 Sacramento CA 95814.



From the Editor:

A Few Words

The LPC recently selected me as the new Editor of *LPC Monthly*. This is an honor and a tremendous responsibility.

Perry Martin has established a newsletter of top-quality and high standards. I hope to continue his fine work. Perry has been wonderful about sharing his knowledge and experience with me. Fortunately, he will be Publications Oversight Chair so we will continue to work together. I also look forward to working with Associate Editor Joe Dehn, State Chair Mark Hinkle and Executive Director Juan Ros, among others.

As the former editor of the San Diego Libertarian Newsletter for twelve years, I know how much work is involved. I also know how important it is to receive information, articles, photos and news items from the readers.

Please work with me to continue to produce a high-quality newsletter that reflects the goodness, common sense and intelligence of the people who are California Libertarians.

You can send newsletter items to my address on the left (yes, the one with the funny street name). E-mail and fax will work too. Your suggestions will be listened to, heeded, and (usually) acted-upon. ■



Betsy Mill

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LETTER

Drug Laws Cause Crime

In response to the letter by Dr. Robert D. Hawkins, published in the April/May issue of *LPC Monthly*, I would like to point out the following:

1. The *only* reason that anyone ever has to steal to get drugs is because they are illegal. It costs *nothing* to grow marijuana. It is a weed. Most other drugs are extremely inexpensive to produce. They are expensive because those who trade in them demand a premium price to compensate them for the risks that they take. This is the most basic of economic theories. The end result is that criminalization of drugs drives up prices, increases the value of trading in drugs, and as a result, *creates* crime and violence.

2. To be human and exercise freely human activities and behaviors are the most basic of freedoms. To be human is to make stupid choices. Let's face it, we all do stupid things at some time. To deny our right to make stupid choices is to deny our right to be human. Therefore, to deny the right of individuals to drug themselves is to deny the right to be human. No reasonable person would suggest that taking drugs is a positive behavior, but it is no one's business except the individual's.

If an individual makes the choice to be stupid and drug him or herself, they have that right, *providing no one else is affected*. If that individual commits a crime, regardless of motivation or rationale, they should be incarcerated for a very long time. Whether or not they were drugged at the time is irrelevant. A person who breaks into a house then spends 15 years in prison isn't going to be able to commit very many crimes in their life.

If we quit inventing crimes and criminals and simply enforced laws against the basic crimes that we all know and loathe and sentenced criminals to prison terms that were appropriately long, crime would almost disappear. It is obvious. The revolving door has got to be shut! Drugs aren't the problem. Bad government is the problem.

Walter Fetsch, Alameda CA

DIRECTOR TRAVELS CALIFORNIA DEFENDING LIBERTY

From San Diego to Yreka, Executive Director Juan Ros has been on the road — racking up frequent flier miles and promoting the Libertarian Party of California wherever he goes.

“It’s been a grueling schedule, but also very rewarding,” said Ros. The more people I network with, the more I demonstrate that the Libertarian Party is a serious force in California politics.”

Nowhere has Ros been making that point more forcefully than in Sacramento, where Ros has traveled seven times since April. Representing the Libertarian Party, Ros attended four meetings of the Attorney General’s Medical Marijuana Task Force.

“Those meetings were eye-opening,” Ros described. “There were a hefty number of law enforcement officials on the Task Force, and the bias against the use of medical marijuana was overwhelming. Still, the Attorney General forced law enforcement to sit with members of the medical marijuana community on the Task Force precisely so the two sides could come to some agreement on how to implement Proposition 215.”

Ros lobbied the Attorney General’s office when he first heard about the Task Force so that he could be allowed to audit the meetings. At the Task Force’s first meeting in February, Attorney General Bill Lockyer acknowledged that he had

received a deluge of faxes and e-mails from Libertarians regarding the Steve Kubby case. Kubby, the 1998 Libertarian candidate for governor, was arrested along with his wife Michele on 19 counts of marijuana charges despite both being legitimate medical marijuana patients.

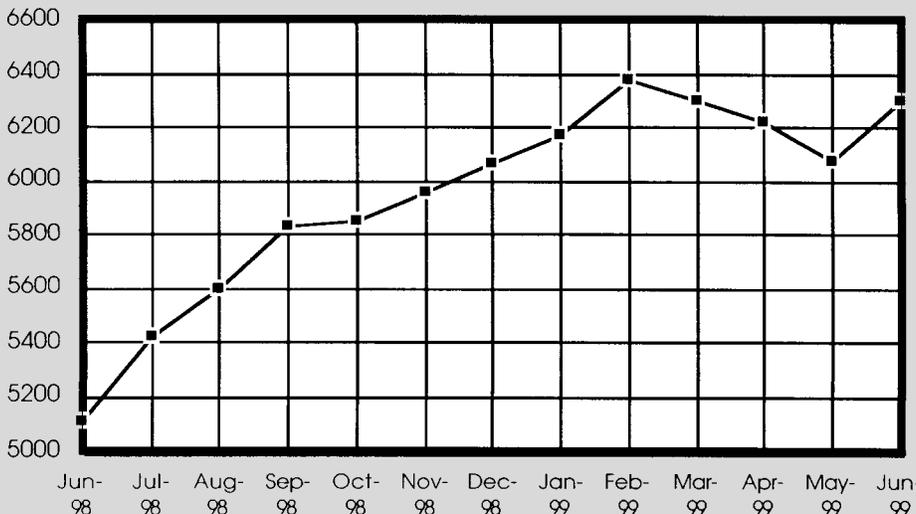
“I brought up the issue of ‘retroactivity’, to ensure whatever guidelines issued by the Task Force would be retroactive to the passage of Prop. 25 so patients such as the Kubbys could benefit from those guidelines.” ■



At Jefferson State Fair LP Booth in Yreka, California. Juan Ros (left) meets with Glenda Thomas, Chair of LP of Siskiyou County (center) and Dwight Bailey, Chair of LP of Shasta County (right).

Growth Watch

Membership May 31: 6300 • Goal 7,000



May-31-99	6300
Apr-30-99	6081
Mar-31-99	6225
Feb-28-99	6305
Jan-31-99	6381
Dec-31-98	6170
Nov-30-98	6070
Oct-31-98	5958
Sep-30-98	5848
Aug-31-98	5832
Jul-31-98	5593
Jun-30-98	5419
May-31-98	5110

From The Chair:

Revving up the Engine: Meeting the Challenges!

Before we review our progress toward our goals, it's my pleasure to welcome Betsy Mill as the new editor of *LPC Monthly*. I know from her long time with the Party and her long tenure as an editor of the San Diego LP newsletter, that we've got a dedicated and experienced wordsmith taking over this most important job.



MARK HINKLE

Fortunately, *LPC Monthly* has not lost retired Editor Perry Martin completely: as LPC Publications Oversight Chair, he'll be providing Betsy with lots of support. I don't often say this, but working with Perry Martin over the last 2 1/2 years while I've been LPC Chair has been a joy. Knowing that *LPC Monthly* (widely regarded as the best state Libertarian Party publication in the country) was in his capable hands, left me free to work on other goals. I trust that Betsy will continue this tradition. So, welcome aboard Betsy, and thanks a million Perry!

Now, on to the update...

We, as a Party, had three main internal goals for 1998:

1. Increase our dues paying membership to 7,000;
2. Increase our monthly pledge base to \$6,000 per month;
3. Maintaining ballot status. (DONE!)

LPC GOAL #1: Results from Project Archimedes are moving us closer to this goal. We had 6,725 contributors at the beginning of May. According to the latest figures available, we now have 7,309 contributors! Voting central committee membership went from 6,081 at the end of April to 6,300 at the end of May – an increase of 219 members in just one month!

LPC GOAL #2: Last month, I reported that our monthly pledge program reached an all time high of \$3,959.26. Unfortunately, we've lost a number of long-time pledgers, but we've sign up a few new ones, so we're down \$5.00 for the month of June. So, basically, we're treading water. If we want to start swimming, we need your help. We NEED you to become a monthly pledger. As I've said, many times before: joining the LPC's

pledge program is the single most important and productive thing you can do to support the LPC. If you can only do one thing to help us this year, please let it be that. Remember, freedom isn't free. If we don't get more pledgers soon, we're going to have to start the painful process of cutting our activities — and I, for one, would really

hate to see that happen. I hope you agree with me. Becoming a monthly pledger is very simple: just call LPC Executive Director Juan Ros at (818) 506-0200 and tell him you want to do your part to grow the Libertarian Party!

Mindful that a political party must have other goals besides growth, some political goals for 1999:

POLITICAL GOAL #1: Pressuring the state government to uphold Proposition 215, the medical marijuana law. Toward this end, the LPC launched the 215NOW web site on April 26, 1999. Since then, our web site has had over 5,000 people sign the online petition. Of course, we want many, many more. Have you signed the petition? Have you told your family, friends and co-workers about it? If you haven't visited the web site and signed the petition yet, please do so today — and spread the word! For many sick people in our state, this is truly a matter of life and death!

We've raised about half of the funds needed to keep this site going. Our most recent fundraising letter was a success, netting over \$2,700 at press time. Thank you for your support, but more contributions are needed to keep the site online for the scheduled 6 months plan of operation. I've signed a 6 months contract with a vendor to maintain the site, so your continued support is needed. Monthly pledgers are needed most urgently.

Please help us to end the suffering of countless cancer and AIDS victims at the hands of a callous government. This is but one battle in the fight to end the war on drugs. But, it's a battle we just might be able to win. The people are on our side. Prop 215 isn't just a good idea, it's the law — and the people of California made it so!

POLITICAL GOAL #2: Repeal Prop 10, the tax on tobacco users. You should be receiving a copy of a petition calling for a repeal of Prop. 10 with this issue of *LPC Monthly*. Please have your family, friends, and co-workers sign it. If you need more petitions, contact your local LP officials or visit one of the Cigarettes Cheaper! stores.

POLITICAL GOAL #3: Support the vehicle tax initiative (Vehicles License Fees, Taxes) which would repeal the car tax, submitted by Assemblyman Tom McClintock and Senator Ray Haynes. While it's not the immediate repeal of this tax that we Libertarians would like, a tax cut is a tax cut...so what's not to like? A copy of a petition in support of the initiative was included in your June issue of *LPC Monthly*. If you have not already signed, circulated and returned it, please do so ASAP.

POLITICAL GOAL #4. Field 200 candidates in the year 2000 election. It's official: the LPC Executive Committee voted to endorse the goal of 200 partisan and non-partisan candidates for the year 2,000! That breaks down to 153 partisan races and 47 non-partisan races.

This is a very ambitious goal, and a difficult one to achieve; but it's better to aim high and just miss, rather than shoot low and hit your target. With your help, we can aim high AND hit our target! Will you help? If you would like to run for public office, contact our candidate recruiter Ted Brown at (626) 286-7817 and let him know you'd like to throw your hat into the ring!

**I leave you with a question:
How fast do you want to achieve liberty?**

Recently, a number of people have told me that they like the listing of our goals in my column each month — that it helps us stay on track and work together toward a common set of objectives. These members want to see what progress, if any, we've made. Let me remind you, we can accomplish these goals no faster than what your support allows. I've said it before and I'll say it again: your time, talent, or money is the fuel that runs the Libertarian Party engines. The more you give, the faster we run! Please do your part to stoke the Libertarian Party of California's engines! ■

Executive Committee Meeting Summary

LPC officers and Reps meet in Santa Clara in June

The Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of California met in Santa Clara on 19 June 1999.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 March were approved with some corrections. There was a brief discussion of the style of the minutes.

The Chair made some remarks concerning fundraising, including reporting on an analysis of contributions by region.

The Northern and Southern Vice Chairs presented written reports, topics including: recent and future work to activate inactive regions, plans for the region chairs conference in August, and plans to recruit and support candidates.

The Treasurer presented financial statements showing liabilities slightly in excess of assets and reported that he was not up to date with dues distribution to the regions because of lack of funds. There was discussion, topics including: the amount being spent on the 215Now web site; low fundraising results; the need for the Chair, other EC members, and the Executive Director to do more work on raising money; the possibility of help from the regions; the need to grow the pledge program; and the possibility of raising money from supporters of Prop. 215.

The Executive Director presented a written report covering a wide range of topics including media activity, meetings regarding legislation, the weak response to the 215Now web site, an initial list of "specialty information managers", and plans for the 2000 convention.

There was some discussion of the role of the Operations Committee, including the circumstances under which it is appropriate for it to act rather than having a mail ballot of the EC and whether an alternate should be selected to serve while a current member is going to be unavailable for an extended period.

The newsletter editor selection committee reported that it had received proposals



Joe Dehn

from three people and was recommending selection of Betsy Mill. Discussion included: the similarity of the fees being proposed by the three bidders and whether it was an appropriate amount, reasons why Mill was the best choice, and what termination provision would be in the contract. The selection of Mill was approved by a unanimous vote.

There was discussion of work to be done on an audit for 1998. Topics included different kinds of auditing activities and some items discovered by the Treasurer that might call for amendment of the 1998 statements. Steve Marsland volunteered to help with this.

There was discussion of the Blue Ribbon Committee (on medical marijuana). Topics included whether enough was being done on this issue, specifically whether there should be a recall project in Placer County, and whether revisiting this question would be a duplication of effort of the BRC members. The Chair reported that Ed Clark had resigned from the BRC, that Jack Dean would be resigning, and that he had appointed David Nolan. The EC voted to add Tom Spielbauer.

The EC reviewed the report of the Style Committee on the Bylaws and Convention Rules and adopted some of the recommendations, in some cases in revised form. Consideration of the report on the Platform was deferred to the next meeting.

There was discussion of criteria that might be established for presidential candidates to participate in a debate or other presentations at the 2000 convention. Topics included: whether such criteria were necessary, suitability of criteria based on FEC filing or fundraising amounts, and the timing of any requirements. No rule was adopted, but it was decided that all known candidates should be notified by 1 October of whatever rules there might be at that time.

Having 200 candidates in 2000 was adopted as an official LPC goal.

Ballot Access Bill: Stalled in Committee!

In a victory for the LPC and third parties, a ballot access bill that would increase the burden for third party candidates trying to get on the ballot was stalled in committee on June 24 after opposing testimony from LPC executive director Juan Ros.

"Third parties have a reason to celebrate!" Ros exclaimed. "Our efforts at the state level combined with a grassroots lobbying campaign worked effectively to block this bill."

A resolution in support of single transferable voting was adopted. It was decided to change the LPC's official mailing address to the Sacramento suite address.

Splitting the North Coast region back into separate Lake County and Mendocino County regions was approved.

There was discussion of problems with the "region chairs" e-mail list that were causing some region chairs and other activists to unsubscribe. Topics included: the difficulty in having a forum that will satisfy everybody, different kinds of limitations that could help keep traffic down, and the possibility of establishing a new forum more focussed on the topic of region business.

There was a presentation by Steve Alexander on "team building" and it was decided to have a team building session in conjunction with a future meeting.

A request from the "Northern Chairs Caucus" to be officially recognized as a caucus was discussed but not approved.

Other items briefly discussed included petitioning for repeal of Prop. 10, plans for more efficient candidate petitioning, the "Reality Growth Plan", literature that could be used in conjunction with candidate petitioning, and pending legislation that might remove central committee candidates from the primary ballot in uncontested situations.

The next meeting is scheduled for the weekend of 18-19 September in the Los Angeles area.

This is only a summary of the meeting, and is not intended to be relied upon as a complete record of business. ■



Pop Quiz

by Mark Hinkle

What does it take to become an elected Libertarian?

Your choices:

1. spend a million dollars on a partisan race
2. be very famous, such as an actor
3. develop a grassroots organization, spend lots of money, and work your butt off getting elected
4. simply sign form indicating you're a candidate and do nothing else
5. any of the above

Answer: #5 - any of the above

Now, I know some of you are saying "1 through 3, I can understand, but just sign the form and do *nothing* throughout the election...come on, get real!" Believe it or not, it's true. Several years ago, an article appeared in the *San Jose Mercury News* just after the deadline for the filing period for most of the non-partisan races in Santa Clara county. The article highlighted the fact that 57 board seats drew *zero* candidates. Literally any Libertarian living in one of those districts could have been elected with *zero* expense, *zero* campaigning, and just enough time to fill out the forms down at the Registrar of Voters. Two hours tops I'd say.

And, that's just one of the 58 counties. Imagine the number of vacant seats that could be filled by Libertarians!

And, if being a candidate isn't "your thing", there's still plenty you can do. Money is the mother's milk of politics, so your contributions are always welcome and sorely needed. Petitioners are needed to help our candidates avoid the very expensive filing fees and they need nominating signatures that must be from registered Libertarians. Our candidates do a lot of hard work, so any help from you is appreciated.

If it's to be, it's up to me.

With the largest membership base in our history, we ought to be able to find 200 Libertarians willing and able to run.

How about you?

Be A Hero In Double-Zero!

LPC Candidate Goal: "200 In 2000"

Calling all candidates!

The LPC has announced a goal of 200 candidates in year 2000 — an ambitious goal that will produce the greatest number candidates in a single year in LPC history.

"Our membership has grown tremendously in the last four years, next year is a presidential election year — interest and excitement is at an all-time high," noted LPC Executive Director Juan Ros. "200 candidates is an aggressive goal, but an attainable goal as well. Libertarians will be everywhere in 2000!"

In order to reach the 200-candidate goal, the LPC will need to recruit not only a record number of partisan candidates but also a record number of non-partisan candidates as well. "If more Libertarians run for local non-partisan office, the chances are greater that more Libertarians will be elected to office!" Ros pointed out.

153 partisan offices will be voted on in California next year (not counting President): one U.S. Senate seat, 52 U.S. Congressional seats, 20 State Senate seats, and all 80 State Assembly seats. In addition, literally hundreds of local non-partisan offices will be voted on:

- Two or three supervisor seats each in all 58 counties
- Various other county offices (District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer/Tax Collector)
- City offices in 328 cities (City Council, City Attorney)
- School Boards, Water Districts,

Transportation Districts — even Mosquito Abatement Districts!

"The number of electable non-partisan offices is staggering, and the LPC will be very aggressively pursuing non-partisan candidates like never before," Ros said. "Getting on the ballot for local office is easier than for partisan offices and the chances of winning are better!" Ros esti-

ated that roughly 100 non-partisan candidates will need to run for office in order to make up for any shortfall on the partisan side.

LP members interested in running for non-partisan office should contact their County Registrar's office and City Clerk's office to learn what offices will be on the ballot next year. "With the early primary on March 7 next year, the signature-gathering periods are earlier than ever," Ros

The more Libertarians on the ballot, the greater visibility the Libertarian Party will have, the greater choice for voters in the voting booth, and the greater possibility for Libertarians in office!

noted. "But not all local elections will be held on March 7 — some will be in April, May, and June. Prospective candidates should contact

their local elections officials and learn what the ballot requirements are and when the various deadlines fall."

If you have decided to run for office, contact LPC Southern Vice Chair and candidate recruiting coordinator

Ted Brown: (626) 286-7817,

E-mail: tebrown@earthlink.net.

If you are considering running for office, contact Brown or LPC Executive Director

Juan Ros: (818) 506-0200,

E-mail: director@ca.lp.org.

For a list of cities holding local elections in 2000, visit the LPC web site at

<http://www.ca.lp.org>.

"Be a hero in double zero and run for office!" Ros said. "The more Libertarians on the ballot, the greater visibility the Libertarian Party will have, the greater choice for voters in the voting booth, and the greater possibility for Libertarians in office!" ■



Visit the LPC
ON LINE!

<http://www.ca.lp.org/>

AROUND THE STATE

San Bernardino

Libertarian Appointed to Board of Police Commissioners

On Monday, May 17, I was appointed to the San Bernardino Board of Police Commissioners, by a unanimous vote of the San Bernardino City Council.

A month earlier, I heard that there was a vacancy in the police commission, and phoned my city councilman to express an interest. Since we had been opponents in a city council race in March, he decided to offer the appointment (I suspect, as a means to keep me out of the next council race in November).

My foot is now in the door, I'll have to see what develops from here. But I think this will greatly help me in my next campaign.

I strongly urge my fellow libertarians to seek appointments to local committees and commissions. This is how we gain legitimacy in the political arena.

John S. Ballard
Region 36 Chair



REPEAL CIGARETTE TAX!

(continued from page 1)

Here's what to do:

- (1) Get 10 registered voters (including yourself) to sign the petition. Note: all petition form signers must be registered to vote in the same county (be sure to fill in which county in the highlighted space near the top of the form).
- (2) Completely fill out the "Declaration of Circulation" at the bottom of the petition, filling in all highlighted spaces.
- (3) Return the completed petition to:
Cigarettes Cheaper!
Prop. 10 Repeal Campaign
P.O. Box 2400
Benicia CA, 94510.

Completed petitions must be submitted by September 17, 1999, please return your petition before then.

San Diego

Libertarians Protest Bombing

San Diego Libertarians held a war protest at the popular Horton Plaza Center in San Diego during the height of the American/NATO bombing attacks on Kosovo in May.

Standing (left to right) Randy Hall, Mike Metti, Don Goldberg, Dan Litwin, Hanna Metti, Victoria Vaughan, John Graham, and Odie Hall. Front row: Max Metti, Sebastian Metti, and Philip Zoebisch. (Philip Zoebisch sent the photo.)



POLITICS AS USUAL

Excerpts from the San Diego Liberty Newsletter

JANITORS CLEAN UP IN CALIFORNIA

In the May Revision of California's Budget for the fiscal year 1999-2000, Governor Gray Davis proposes replacing current private janitor services with 87 full-time union government workers at a cost of \$8.6 million - \$4 million more than currently being paid using private contractors. That works out to \$98,851 per janitor.

Libertarian Party Release

RASH DECISION: POISON IVY IS A WEAPON

An eighth-grader in Westerville Ohio was suspended for the rest of the school year for rubbing poison ivy on her teacher's chair. The Principal said the district's definition of a weapon includes a dangerous object or chemical.

Associated Press, May 25, 1999

JAPAN OKS VIAGRA IN WEEKS - YEARS TO OK BIRTH CONTROL

In a major step toward ending Japan's ban on birth control pills, the nation's top medical advisory council recommended

allowing the pill to be sold. Japan is the sole industrialized country that bans the pill. Sales of Viagra were approved almost immediately. Various news reports

REGULATIONS ARE OUT-TO-LUNCH

A plane with 55 passengers circled an airport in Benbecula, Western Scotland for half an hour while the air traffic controller had lunch. There is just one controller and she had to take a break because national air traffic rules forbid any controller from working more than two hours without a break. Reuters Limited, June 1, 1999

HALF-BAKED ALASKA

Six months after Alaska voters approved a ballot initiative that granted residents approval to use marijuana to ease the symptoms of grave illnesses, state lawmakers passed legislation limiting that right. Under the bill passed, patients must register with state authorities and they are limited to one ounce and six plants of marijuana, with no exceptions.

USA Today, May 19, 1999

From Harry Browne: Credits Libertarian Activists

Asset Forfeiture Reform Act Passes House Easily

The Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act of 1999, a bill sponsored by Reps. Henry Hyde (R-IL), John Conyers (D-MI), Bob Barr (R-GA) and Barney Frank (D-MA), sailed through the House of Representatives by a 375-48 margin on June 24.

The Libertarian Party supported the bill, and helped generate an avalanche of phone calls and faxes to legislators' DC offices by sending an e-mail alert to over 120,000 people who are on its Defend Your Privacy mailing list. A number of groups spanning the political spectrum worked together to pass the bill.

"This is the most important property-rights legislation to come out of the House this year," said Senior Policy Analyst Scott Ehlers of the Drug Policy Foundation (<http://www.dpf.org/>). "Americans are a step closer to being protected from some of the worst abuses of police power."

Ehlers said that proponents of the bill were hoping that it would pass by a wide enough margin for the Senate to take no-



Harry Browne

notice. "The House has clearly and resoundingly said that property rights are important and that the Senate should pass this bill."

An amendment by Reps. Asa Hutchinson (R-AR) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY), which would have watered down H.R. 1658 and strengthened civil asset forfeiture laws, failed by a 268-155 vote. H.R. 1658 would make numerous changes to civil forfeiture law, including:

- Forcing the government to prove that seized property is related to a crime, as opposed to the current practice of the owners' having to prove that their property is not guilty;
- Creating an "innocent owner" defense, whereby property owners unaware of criminal activity occurring on their property could recover their property;
- Providing indigent defendants with appointed counsel; and
- Eliminating the cost-bond requirement, which currently requires property owners to pay up to \$5,000 or 10 percent of the seized property's value in order to contest the seizure in court. ■

CORRECTIONS

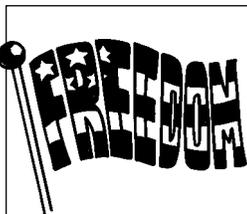
In the June issue, Assemblyman Tom McClintock's AB 1776 bill was mentioned in relation to the car tax petitions included with the newsletter.

AB 1776, a bill that would have repealed the Vehicle License Fee (car tax), was stalled in the Legislature in 1998. As a result, McClintock is pursuing a constitutional amendment ballot measure, the "Keeping the Promise" initiative. The petitions included with the June issue are for this ballot initiative, not for AB 1776.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Deadline for returning signed petitions is August 9.

The June issue included a picture on page 9. The person on the right should have been identified as Brad Walker.



Quick Changes

LPC members can update information at <http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-member-services.html>

Renew membership, address change, contribute, plus, plus.

Drunken Judge Leads Marijuana Prosecution

"It is ironic that our drug laws are created and enforced by drunks."

By Steve Kubby

Judge Thomas J. Borris is an example of a drunk who can use his drug of choice, illegally endangering other people and then, after a slap on the wrist, he is back the next day condemning others like Marvin Chavez to prison.

Marvin Chavez merely tried to help sick and dying people by providing them with a remarkably safe medicine (marijuana). Judge Borris refused to allow Marvin to use Proposition 215 as a defense and then threw him in jail for six years.

According to *The Orange County Register*, Judge Borris crashed into a tree at 1 am in the morning. His blood alcohol level was almost three times the legal limit. His case will be heard in Los Angeles with arraignment scheduled for Aug. 6.

This blatant hypocrisy and selective enforcement of the law demands a response from all of us. I urge you to address your concerns about Judge Borris to:

Honorable Kathleen E. O'Leary
Presiding Superior Court Judge
Orange County Superior Court 700
Civic Center Drive West
P.O. Box 1994
Santa Ana, CA 92702-1994

You can also sign an online petition to pressure government to uphold medical marijuana law. **215Now.com** is the Proposition 215 web site.

Steve Kubby was the LPC 1998 candidate for governor. ■

Quotations from
Healing Our World
by Dr. Mary J. Ruwart

W ealth is created when we use existing resources in new ways. Since creativity is virtually limitless, wealth is too.

If each of us works on the piece of the puzzle that appeals to us most, the final picture will reflect the composite of our dreams.

EXPERT TALENT BANK - SAVE THIS LIST

(continued from page 1)



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The articles from each issue are being made available online shortly after the hardcopy version goes to the printer. This means that — depending on where in the state you live — by reading the articles online instead of waiting for the hardcopy you can get the news up to several weeks sooner.

Making your subscription an online one is simple. Just use the form that has been provided for this purpose on the LPC member services page at:

<http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-member-services.html>

Simply fill in the information, including your e-mail address, and you'll start receiving a notice of each issue by e-mail instead of the hardcopy.

You also have the option of getting the online notice but still receiving the hardcopy. Simply subscribe to the LPC's announcement list by sending a message to

announce-request@ca.lp.org

with "subscribe" in the subject line.

Renewing Your Membership

Renewal notices are sent to members whose expiration date is coming up. Just return your dues payment in the accompanying envelope and your membership at the national, state, and local level will be renewed for one year. Please respond to renewal notices promptly so we don't need to send additional reminders — every additional notice costs money we could otherwise use to grow the party!

Address Changes

Be sure to let us know if you move! Send your address change notice to the national office so that your newsletters and other important correspondence can be sent to your new address. If you are moving out of state but want to continue as an LPC member or continue subscribing to *LPC Monthly*, please also notify the state office so we can make the necessary arrangements to keep you on our list.

Address Labels

The address label on your copy of this newsletter provides important information relating to your membership records. On the line above your name, you will find a six-digit number. Please mention this number in any correspondence relating to your membership.

On the same line you will also find a two-digit number identifying the LPC region with which you are affiliated. (If you are not a member but are receiving the newsletter for some other reason there may be a two-letter code instead.) See the listing on page 11 to find out the name of your region and who to contact for information about local activities.

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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature: _____

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- \$1000 Life

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