Is GOP Senator “courting” NH Libertarians?

Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, a moderate Republican who appears to be repositioning himself as a philosophical libertarian for an expected 1996 presidential bid, met with several key members of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire this month — but party activists aren’t quite sure why.

Specter met with LPNH Chairman Jeff Emery, LP State Representatives Don Gorman and Jim McClarin, State Liquor Commissioner Miriam Luce, and several other local LP activists on December 6th in Manchester.

Specter told Emery that he had been advised by 1988 GOP presidential candidate Pete DuPont to touch base with state Libertarians.

“But the question of why remained largely unanswered,” said McClarin, who speculated that Specter might be “looking for support for his possible 1996 bid for the [Republican] nomination. He expressed a desire to meet with a larger group of Libertarians. He’s courting Libertarians.”

“I’m sure he’s seen the Times/Mirror poll showing a Libertarian shift, and realizes that small-l libertarian is a hot new label,” said Luce. “I think he hopes to position himself to appeal for independent votes in the primary. But he may have misconstrued our role as a [separate] political party.”

McClarin said Specter gave a brief background sketch of himself, and then “invited input on matters of mutual interest.” Among the topics discussed were school choice, Andre Marrou’s win in Dixville Notch, the 10th Amendment Resolution, Luce’s campaigns for governor, the possible future bankruptcy of the federal government, and term limits.

“A Newsweek photographer was on hand to record the get-together on film,” said McClarin.

Specter has been positioning himself as a “fiscally conservative, socially libertarian” candidate for president, which made LP National Committee member and Pennsylvania resident Don Ernsberger scoff. “He’s a traditional Rockefeller Republican!” he said.

LP gets two-state ballot access boost

The Libertarian Party got a double dose of good news this month, learning that it had qualified to be on the ballot in two more states for the 1996 election — Utah and Illinois.

Jeanette Clinkunbroomer, Illinois LP State Chair, said the state Board of Elections — inspired by the threat of legal action — ruled that a Libertarian candidate had indeed received the required 5% of the vote in a nine-way race for University Trustee. “I think it’s great! We will be on the ballot and we don’t have to petition!” she said.

Clinkunbroomer estimated that it would have cost more than $50,00 to petition to get the party on the ballot again in 1996. “We just saved a lot of money!” she said.

Meanwhile, in Utah, LP candidates did win enough votes to maintain ballot status, contrary to previous reports. “The Lt. Governor’s office just officially announced that the LP did retain ballot access,” said Brent Dotson of the Davis County LP. “Most of our candidates got at least 4% and a couple got 19%. We made it with plenty to spare.”

Warburton recovers from post-surgery coma

Former State Rep. Calvin Warburton — the first New Hampshire legislator to switch to the Libertarian Party — has emerged from a coma, following heart surgery.

“He is out of the coma, and recovering,” reported former State Rep. Andy Borsa on December 14th, after talking to Warburton on the phone. “He sounded good. The hospital said his condition was good.”

Warburton, 84, had gone in for surgery for an aorta aneurysm in early December. At the time, he had joked, “The doctor says [this operation has] a 90% success rate. If he had said 100%, I would have seen another doctor since my predecessor in the House died as a result of the operation. I’m planning on living.”

Warburton had switched from the GOP to the LP in 1991, and been re-elected as a Libertarian in 1992. He unsuccessfully sought the LP gubernatorial nomination this year instead of seeking re-election as a legislator.

Cards can be sent to Warburton’s home: P.O. Box 365, Raymond, NH 03077-0365.
Libertarians add their party flag to Mass. ballot

By PAUL TENNANT
Gazette Staff Writer

BOSTON — Peter C. Everett may have lost the battle but he won the war, so to speak.

Everett was the Libertarian candidate for secretary of state in Tuesday's election. With 65,154 votes, he placed a distant third to former state Rep. William F. Galvin, D-Brighton, who won the office with 982,001 votes; and state Sen. Arthur E. Chase, R-Worcester, who was the runner-up with 723,118 votes.

Everett's finish, however, may very well win official status for the Libertarian Party. By virtue of winning more than three percent of the vote in his race, the Libertarians, provided the results are certified by Secretary of State Michael J. Connolly and the Governor's Council, will be entitled to a reserved place on the ballot during the 1996 presidential primary.

The party will also be entitled to a state primary to nominate a U.S. Senate candidate, as well as nominees for Congress and the Legislature.

While this was Everett's goal during the 1994 election, he said the real work for the party lies ahead.

"The hard part will be recruiting candidates," he said. "Legal parity will not give us numerical parity."

Everett, a Hanover resident employed as a product planning manager for Parametric Technology, said the "acrimony and mud slinging between the Democrat Galvin and the Republican Chase" may have helped the Libertarians an automatic place on the ballot.

"We are definitely going to be easier if their candidate for governor, Eric Andreasen, had captured 5 percent for them to stay on the ballot."

Among statewide races, John Karow, Libertarian gubernatorial hopeful, received a berth on the ballot in the next election, Everett said. He attributed his vote total was better than three percent, the Libertarians are "in.")

Other "non-incumbent" parties, including the Mass. High Tech Party in 1990 and the American Party of the 1970s, have won official status at the polls, only to lose it in subsequent elections.

The law used to require a party to win more than three percent in a gubernatorial election, but a change approved by the voters in 1990 affords official status to a party that surpasses the threshold in any statewide race.

Everett told The Gazette the presence of a Libertarian slate also helped the party's cause this week, even if his "slate mates" didn't win more than three percent.

Dean Cook for governor and lieutenant governor, and Lauraleigh Dozier for U.S. Senate, were the Libertarian candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

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Ballot

(Continued from Pg 1)

Susanne Poulin was the candidate for treasurer while Geoff Weil ran for state auditor.

Lauraleigh Dozier was the Libertarian entry in the U.S. Senate race.

Libertarian candidates have succeeded in getting elected to the New Hampshire Legislature, Everett said. He pointed out they have succeeded in doing so in other states, including Alaska.

As the name implies, Libertarians emphasize the importance of personal freedom and not having government dominate peoples' lives. The party's symbol is the Statue of Liberty.

Everett said he and other Libertarians will probably recruit coalitions from among the opponents of the mandatory seat belt law, rent control and the graduated income tax referendum questions.

On the other hand, he said he will likely find common ground with the proponents of term limits.

Everett strongly indicated that the Libertarians plan to hold on to their new official status and are not about to fold.

Their presence should make Massachusetts politics even more interesting.

The Haverhill Gazette, Haverhill, Massachusetts, November 11, 1994

The Arizona Republic, Phoenix, Arizona, November 10, 1994

Despite falling short of goals, Libertarians vow to return next time

By Charles Kelly
The Arizona Republic

Libertarians didn't bag any victories in Tuesday's state election and failed to hang onto an automatic place on the ballot, but they say they scored well enough to keep them in the game.

"We are definitely going to be back," said Tamara Clark, campaign director for the Arizona Libertarian Party. "There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it."

Coming back would have been easier if their candidate for governor, John Buttrick, had captured 5 percent of the vote for the District 18 state Senate seat. Several other Libertarian candidates in statewide races with their less-taxes, less-government pitch.

But Libertarians put up good numbers in several other races with their less-taxes, less-government pitch.

Their best showing was that of Donna Hancock, who won the office of Secretary of State with 723,118 votes.

Incumbent Fife Symington, who won, emphasized the importance of personal freedom and not having government dominate peoples' lives. He said he will likely find common ground with the proponents of term limits.

The party's symbol is the Statue of Liberty.

Clark said the party made gains, but he managed to take just over 3 percent of the vote.

The Arizona Republic, Phoenix, Arizona, November 10, 1994
Libertarians view 1994 election with mixed emotions

By David Pittman

The Libertarian Party was founded Dec. 11, 1971, by disillusioned members of the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties. The group saw a need to elect candidates who would represent the views of a third political party. In Missouri, the group held its first meeting in February 1972.

The group has experienced growth and decline over the years. In 1972, the group had a membership of 1,400. By 1980, the group had doubled its membership to 1,700. However, by 1988, the group had declined to 1,400 members.

In 1994, the group held its first national convention in Denver, Colorado. The convention had a membership of nearly 20,000. The group also had a national convention in 1996, which had a membership of over 30,000.

The group has had some success in state and local elections. In 1994, the group had a candidate for governor in Montana. The candidate, Ronalyn Schumacher, received 20,000 votes. The group also had candidates for state legislature in several states.

The group has faced some challenges as well. In 1994, the group faced a lawsuit filed by the state of Missouri. The lawsuit claimed that the group was a front for the Democratic Party. The lawsuit was later dismissed.

The group has faced some criticism as well. Some critics have accused the group of being a front for the Democratic Party. However, the group has proudly stated that they are a political party in their own right.

The group continues to grow and to fight for their beliefs. They are committed to the ideals of liberty and limited government. They continue to work towards a society where individuals are free to make their own decisions and to live their lives without interference from the government.
Libertarians offer specifics on cutting government

C

3rd option

hange? You want change?

When I was a child, I loved Lewis Carroll.


Leading the Times' "Week in Review" section Oct.

23 was an essay by Richard Berke entitled "Running

on Empty: Where Did All The Issues Go?"

Candidates in the 1994 off-year election are not

campaigning on issues like free trade or health care,

sighs Mr. Berke.

Instead, Berke finds that Democrat and Republican

alike are out on the hustings crying "Government is

not the answer."

But "even the campaign's one big issue doesn't look

and sound much like a campaign issue," Mr. Berke

further complains. "It may be that some Americans

would cheerfully tolerate a few more potholes on the

Interstate highways, or drastic cuts in Social Security,

for the cause of shrinking the Government. No one

can tell, because no one is asking. Instead, politicians

are crafting broad anti-Government sound bites to

capitalize on public dissatisfaction without discussing

the proper role of the Government they seek to

reform."

Leave aside for the moment the Freudian

capitalization of the word "Government," as well as

the malarky about potholes. (Interstate highways

sold to private, toll-charging firms would not be

potholed. Nor does anyone want to cut Social Security

benefits except the incumbents: Libertarians favor

paying back investors all that's been deposited in their

accounts.) Leave aside for the moment the "freedom

from potholes" by receiving 5 percent

of the lovely young thing keeps saying "I broke up

with you last week. I moved out. We're finished. I

never want to see you again," and the young suitor

keeps asking "Yes, but what does this mean for our

relationship?"

It would indeed be hard to miss the change in

America's political rhetoric in recent months.

Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Scott Grainger and

gubernatorial candidate John Buttrick went on

television to debate their twin Republican opponents

on Arizona public television Oct. 16 and 23, and

whenever it was Grainger or Buttrick's turn to answer

first, their opponents virtually piled on top of each

other with their "me-too, smaller-government

responses."

Challenge them to name a single government office

they'd close, of course, and these wessels grow

squint-eyed and choke for breath as they visualize the

rank and fire of the "public service" unions cupping

their ears at home. But if Libertarians are such

"unelectable radicals," how come everyone's

suddenly impersonating them?

No, not every Libertarian candidate is the best

qualified — yet. But in Nevada, Scott Kjar in Assembly

District 41 is, as are James Frye for lieutenant

governor, Paul Pratt for Assembly District 12, and

Dan Johnson for Assembly District 31 in Washoe

County to the north.

In Arizona, where the party is larger, Buttrick and

Grainger are head and shoulders the better men for

their jobs, as are John Karow for attorney general,

Ernie Hancock for secretary of state, Mark Yannone

and Philip Murphy for Congress, Rick Tompkins for

State Senate District 17, Gary Fallon in House District

24, Tracy Dugger in House District 27, and John

Marek in House District 6.

So why do reporters at "mainstream" newspapers

and TV stations still throw away press releases like

Kjar's?

Because if the public were allowed to hear it, more

than likely they'd vote for it. And in their hearts, that's

the kind of "change" that terrifies the shuffling

bureaucrats who inhabit many of our newsrooms on this

Halloween in America, 1994.

Vin Suppynowicz is the assistant editorial page


Libertarians' total gains right

to be on ballots in '96 elections

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Libertarian

Party has maintained its right to

put candidates on the ballot for the

1996 general election.

Mark Bell, a spokesman for the

secretary of state's office, said yes-

terday that the party secured "ball-

lot access" by receiving 5 percent

of the total vote in a statewide race

during Tuesday's election.

Libertarian John Hawley re-

ceived 18.7 percent of the vote in

his race for Place 1 on the Texas

Supreme Court against winn-

ing Raul Gonzalez, a Democrat who

received 81.3 percent of the vote.

There was no Republican in the

race.

Hawley's showing was enough to

ensure that the Libertarian Party

can list candidates on the ballot in the

1996 general election, Bell said.

Minor-party candidates get ignored

By TONY NATHAN

Recently in Missouri I bought a "Voters' Guide" authorized

by the League of Women Voters of

Missouri's Education Fund pur-

posely to inform nonvoters. It was

a guide to the ballot measure on

whether to amend the constitution

to prohibit the state from raising

funds by way of a gasoline tax.

On the ballot, the measure was

shortened to "Proposition F: To

 abol.

ish the gasoline tax."

Readers, I was pleasantly surprised and delighted to
discover that of the 11 Libertarian can-
didates running for office in November, only two are

mentioned.

Dan VanderPly of Portland is covered in the
guide. His "Name: Dan VanderPly. Age:

39. Occupation: Lawyer." He also

is mentioned in the essay on the

ballot measure. His name is in the guide, even if he didn't

respond.

I called the League to find out why the name of the

Libertarian U.S. Senator candidate Scott Grainger was not

included and was told that, unfortunately, they were not

capable of dividing large blocks of names into smaller

blocks. I was told that they could include two or three

names on a page. But no names were

ever mentioned.

Obviously if candidates waited until the last day of filing,

as many did, the League would not have known about them.

While this may explain the absence of Lib-

ertarians in the voters' guide, it does not explain the error.

I can suggest some election law changes that could make it

possible to avoid future mistakes. Primaries

are one way to select candidates. But if the ballot guide

contains a list of candidates, it is largely because the law

forbids minor-party candidates from being officially registered

on the November ballot until 80 days before the May primary.

This means that when media and forums throughout the

state ask for official candidates' names, independent

candidates' names are mentioned in the guide, even if they are

unknown.

This is not accidental. The Republicans and Democrats do not

want competition. The laws that make this possible have

difficult for independent candidates and minor parties.

There is a valid reason for this. Illustrated by the American

Legal Foundation's "The Public Service Unions" report, it

how the public service unions have been able to

monopolize elections, they will receive little, if any, attention from the

media during the primary season. This is largely because the law

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