

Libertarian Party

NEWS

December 1995 Vol. 10, No. 12

Election '95

Libertarians elected in local races

The Libertarian Party continued to solidify its position as America's third-largest and fastest-growing party during the 1995 elections.

From a good showing by Libertarian Party presidential candidate hopeful Harry Browne in the national CityVote presidential preference poll to victories in local elections, the 1995 results demonstrated what the media is finally recognizing—more and more Americans identify with the libertarian philosophy.

Two members of the Georgia LP won election to city councils in hard-fought races. Bruce Van Buren was elected to the Avondale Estates City Commission, placing first in a field of five candidates vying for two open seats. Although a non-partisan race, much was made of Van Buren's party affiliation by the other candidates, including last-minute hit pieces.

"This essentially made it a partisan race for Bruce, but a non-partisan race for the other four candidates," said Ron Crickenberger, LP national campaign committee chair and Van Buren's campaign manager.

The campaign spent about \$2,200 to win 428 votes. Turnout was high at more than 55 percent.

"We out-walked, out-talked, out-mailed, out-issued, out-spent, and out-thunk the forces of evil, and beat an entrenched small town political machine," said Crickenberger. Avondale Estates Mayor John Lawson, upon learning

that Van Buren had beaten all of his hand-picked candidates, said simply, "Well I'll be damned."

Dewayne Metheny placed second in a field of six candidates vying for two spots on the Auburn City Commission. Metheny had come close to winning a seat on the council in a special election earlier this year. Metheny's campaign was managed by veteran LP campaigner Larry Bolin.

Also in Georgia, LP members were instrumental in helping to defeat sales tax increases in the two counties where the LP candidates won election. The defeat of the tax increases saved taxpayers more than \$1.5 billion.

In Colorado, Doug Carlsten now occupies a seat on the Brighton City Council. Carlsten, a longtime Libertarian, ran unopposed for his Ward 3 seat.

In Indianapolis, IN, Libertarians fielded a slate of 10 candidates in the city/county elections. Steve Dillon, the LP's mayoral candidate, made a very good showing of 6.5 percent of the vote in a three-way race against a very popular Republican mayor.

In New Jersey, Janice Presser, LP candidate for state assembly who spent only \$22.50 in her campaign, received the endorsement of the local *Courier-Post* newspaper, as well as support from several radio stations. In the endorsement, the newspaper wrote: "We go outside the two dominant parties to recommend Janice Presser, a Libertarian Party member. Presser impressed us with her vast knowledge of the issues and her willingness to consider alterna-

see **Election** on page 2

Calvin Warburton

The Libertarian Party noted with sorrow the death of Calvin Warburton, the former state representative in New Hampshire who made history by leaving the Republican Party in 1991 to join the Libertarian Party.

Warburton, 85, died Oct. 18.

"In years to come, when the Libertarian Party elects a Libertarian president, Congress, and Senate, we'll look back and realize that what Cal did in 1991 was a vital stepping stone on our road to success. For that, we owe him a debt of thanks," said LP



Director of Communications Bill Winter, who was the state chair in New Hampshire when Warburton joined the party.

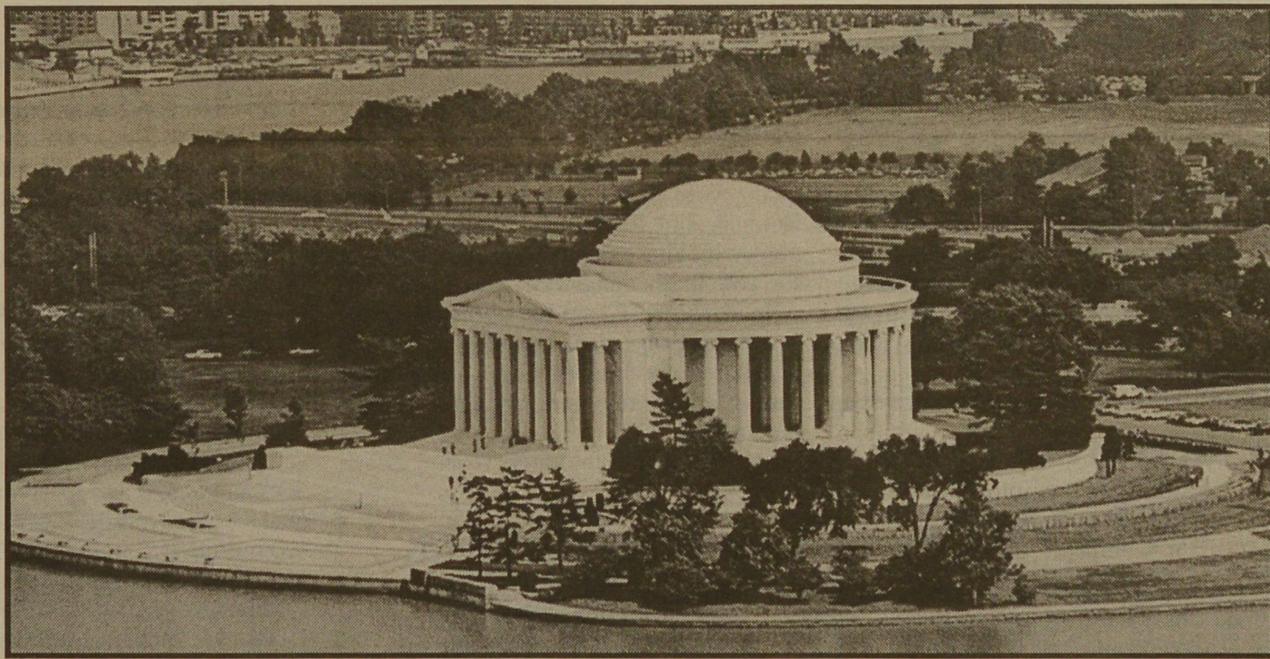
National LP Chair Steve Dasbach agreed. "Cal Warburton took the bold step of leaving the Republican Party and joining the Libertarian Party long before it became fashionable to wear the libertarian label," he said. "He was an inspiration to the hundreds of Libertarians seeking public office each year, and a role model to those in office. When the Libertarian Party becomes the majority party in America, it will be because of heroes like Cal Warburton who were willing to act on their convictions."

After serving seven terms as a GOP state legislator, Warburton publicly announced on July 16, 1991, that he was leaving the Republican Party to join the Libertarian Party.

"I have joined the Libertarian Party because it is the party of freedom—economic freedom, personal freedom, social freedom, and judicial freedom," Warburton announced at a press conference in the Legislative Office Building in Concord, NH.

His defection to the LP earned Warburton national attention as the first Libertarian state legislator in the lower 48 states. (Three Libertarians were elected to the Alaska House in the early 1980s.)

see **Warburton** on page 11



An Evening at the Jefferson Memorial

The gala opening of the 1996 LP National Convention

Over a year ago, the organizers of the 1996 Libertarian Party National Convention conceived of the idea of using the Jefferson Memorial as the site of the opening ceremonies of their convention.

It took a number of meetings with the National Park Service and a number of experiences filing legal applications and permits, but the evening of July 3, 1996, will see hundreds of libertarians assembling on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial to take part in a historic celebration of individual liberty in song and words as the 1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention opens.

The program will consist of two hours of music and quotations delivered by major activists in the Libertarian movement over the past 30 years, including a number of surprise appearances. The music will span a wide time period and stress themes of individual liberty.

The Jefferson Memorial is perhaps the only monument in Washington, DC, fitting for such an occasion. Thomas

Jefferson asked that any monument erected to him face the White House so that he could watch to see if its occupant were holding true to the principles of the nation. Libertarians will, that night, share the grief that his spirit must feel, seeing what has happened to that wish.

Jefferson, who authored the Declaration of Independence and pioneered the principles of individual liberty and the right to revolution, would be honored for the Libertarians to share his memorial that evening. Tour trolleys will transport convention attendees to the Memorial after dinner on Wednesday evening and bring them back to the hotel at the end of the program. Participants will be seated on the Memorial steps facing the tidal lake overlooking the White House and the Washington Monument grounds. Together, that evening, Libertarians will rededicate themselves to the task of restoring liberty to this nation.

More Libertarian Party national convention news appears on pages 7, 8, and 9.

AZ LP gets ballot status for 1996

The Arizona secretary of state announced on Nov. 1 that the Libertarian Party had registered enough voters to gain "continued representation status" in that state, and win an automatic spot on the presidential ballot in 1996.

"Arizona is state number 26 for us," said Libertarian Party National Director Perry Willis. "We're more than half way now to 50-state ballot status in 1996."

Libertarians collected more than 18,600 voter registrations, comfortably more than the required 15,000, confirmed Arizona Secretary of State Jane Dee Hull.

Meanwhile, also on Nov. 1, Ross Perot's new party qualified for a spot on a solitary state's ballot—California.

"Ross Perot's fourth party has some catching up to do," noted Willis. "And while Perot's bragging about getting on the bal-

lot in one state, the Libertarian Party—quietly, without fanfare—has surged past the halfway mark," said Willis. "We're going to make sure that every American can vote for Libertarian candidates in 1996."

The Libertarian Party has announced it will contest more than 1,000 public offices in 1996, running candidates for president, U.S. House, U.S. Senate, governor, state senate, state legislature, and local offices.

By contrast, Ross Perot said his party will run just two candidates—for president and vice president.

When the Libertarian Party achieves ballot status in all 50 states (and the District of Columbia) in 1996, it will mark the first time in more than 60 years that a third party has been on the ballot in 50 states for two consecutive elections. The party's 1992 candidate for president, Andre Marrou, also was on all 51 ballots.

The Libertarian Party already is on the ballot for 1996 in Alabama, California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The party also has petitioning drives going in North Dakota, Kentucky, Alaska, and Oklahoma.

CityVote Results

The following are unofficial final results from the CityVote presidential preference poll held on Nov. 7 in cities and towns across the country.

Candidate	Vote	%
1. Bill Clinton	91,763	43.7
2. Colin Powell	38,205	18.2
3. Bob Dole	24,890	11.9
4. Steve Forbes	10,134	4.8
5. Ross Perot	7,619	3.6
6. Pat Buchanan	6,209	3.0
7. Phil Gramm	6,122	2.9
8. Bill Bradley	5,729	2.7
9. Jesse Jackson	4,234	2.0
10. Alan Keyes	2,786	1.3
11. Harry Browne	1,974	0.9
12. Lamar Alexander	1,434	0.7
13. Richard Lugar	1,306	0.6
14. Arlen Specter	1,286	0.6
15. Pete Wilson	1,124	0.5
16. Lyndon LaRouche	1,106	0.5
17. Lowell Weicker	993	0.5
18. Bob Dornan	969	0.5
19. John Hagelin	921	0.4
20. Charles Collins	391	0.2
21. Art Fletcher	241	0.1
Write-In	505	0.2
Total	209,436	100

Jorgensen for VP campaign update

Jo Jorgensen, candidate for the LP vice presidential nomination, campaigned in five states in four days during late October. With numerous stops for Libertarian Party functions and interviews with radio talk shows, newspapers, and television stations, Jorgensen campaigned in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Delaware.

The Jorgensen campaign also announced recently that Howard Scott Lichtman is the new campaign manager for the Jo Jorgensen for Vice Presi-

dent campaign. Lichtman is a management consultant for the automotive aftermarket and makes his home in Newark, DE. Lichtman replaces Joe Hauptmann who has stepped down to spend more time with his newborn son. "The change was necessitated by the overwhelming support the campaign has generated," said Lichtman. "The original plan called for a modest effort, but the enthusiasm and momentum has dictated a more dedicated, professional campaign." Lichtman can be reached at 302-737-3732.

Election

continued from page 1

tives to the usual stopgap measures. Neither Democrats or Republicans have implemented corrections to lighten the burden of taxes on the average family."

Presser finished third in a four-way race, but said, "I'll be back next year. With the support of the press and radio, my name and more important, my positions, will be more familiar."

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In Arizona, Libertarian candidates fared well in city races in both Phoenix and Tucson. Richard Duncan received 19 percent of the vote in his race for Phoenix City Council, and Ed Kahn, LP candidate for mayor in Tucson, received 10 percent of the vote in his three-way partisan race.

In Michigan, Glenn Barr, who ran a very active campaign, got 37 percent of the vote in his race for Walker City Council. Barr was in a two-way race against a 16-year incumbent.

In Maine, LP member Wayne Leach

finished second in a three-way race for Winslow City Council. In the partisan race, Leach had to run as "undeclared because of Maine not recognizing the Libertarian Party, yet," he said.

Leach defeated the Republican challenger in the race.

Harry Browne finished 11th in a field of 21 candidates in CityVote, which was billed by its organizers as "the first national urban presidential primary." Hampered by sabotage attempts from the Democratic Party and snubs from the Republican Party's major candidates, and marginalized by minimal media coverage, CityVote nonetheless wound up with nearly 210,000 voters participating—more than will vote in the New Hampshire primary in February.

Browne polled 1,974 votes (0.94 percent) placing ahead of four current "well-known" Republican candidates—Alexander, Dornan, Lugar, and Specter—as well as independent Lowell Weicker, Democrat Lyndon LaRouche, and Natural Law Party candidate John Hegelin.

"Overall, we're pleased with these results," said Browne's national campaign director Sharon Ayres. "However, we feel Harry could have done substantially better if all three planned televised debates had actually taken place.

"While at first glance 0.94 percent doesn't seem impressive, we have to put that number in perspective," she said. "It's comparable percentage-wise to what Ed Clark received in the 1980 election, but with two very big differences—the actual election is still a year away, plus this ballot had 21 candidates on it to split the vote."

Those cities in which Browne actually campaigned—Boulder, CO, Tucson, AZ, and Fayette, MO—produced his best results. He placed seventh in Boulder (2.2 percent), ninth in Tucson (1.6 percent), and sixth in Fayette (5 percent).

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1995 Libertarian Party Election Returns

The following Libertarian Party election returns were available to the NEWS at presstime.

Arizona

Ed Kahn	Tucson Mayor	6,691	10%
Tim Loomis	Tucson City Council	6,756	10%
Gary Fallon	Phoenix Mayor	2,983	3.5%
Jim Savoca	Phoenix City Council, District 1		3.8%
Tim McDermott	Phoenix City Council, District 3		10.5%
Robert Anderson	Phoenix City Council, District 5		11.8%
Richard Duncan	Phoenix City Council, District 7		19.2%

Connecticut

Stanley Viens	Windham First Selectman	548	11.2%
David Gauthier	Windham District Selectman	261	5.3%
Marvin Edelman	Windham School Board	526	10.8%
John Adamo	Windham School Board	1,025	21%
William Rood	Windham Board of Finance	702	14.4%
Joan Goetschius	Windham Board of Finance	407	8.3%
Robert Langworthy	Windham Board of Finance	445	9.1%
Theodore Misak	Windham Board of Finance	501	10.3%
Carlton Harris	Windham Board of Finance	445	9.1%
David Howe	Windham District Selectman	196	4%
Maurice McClure	Windham District Selectman	265	5.4%
Joseph Santa Lucia	Windham District Selectman	364	7.5%
Gloria Haddad	Windham District Selectman	317	6.5%
Steven Edelman	Windham District Selectman	242	4.9%
Lincoln Phillips	Windham District Selectman	272	5.6%
Charlie Ferris	Windham Zoning Board of Appeals	626	12.8%
Brian Tilton	Windham Zoning Board of Appeals	415	8.5%
Shirley Vigneri	Windham Zoning Board of Appeals	527	10.8%

Colorado

Carol Stuckey Hill	Leadville City Council	69	32.1%
Cy Smaling	Aurora City Council		
Stephen Foster	Thornton City Council	171	31%
Dan Cochran	Loveland City Council	316	20.2%
Dan Cochran	Loveland Home Rule Commission	513	49.5%
Doug Carlsen	Brighton City Council		Winner

Georgia

Bruce Van Buren	Avondale Estates City Commission	428	Winner
Dewayne Metheny	Auburn City Council	217	Winner

Indiana

Steve Dillon	Indianapolis Mayor	7,175	6.5%
Dr. Gary Proksch	Indianapolis/Marion City-Co. Council	331	4.5%
Dr. John Pasqua	I/M City-County Council, District 4	276	4.9%

Indiana

Kenneth H. Fary	I/M City-County Council, District 7	300	4.2%
Lucy Brenton	I/M City-County Council, District 8	278	7.3%
Dan Ferris	I/M City-County Council, District 25	123	3%
John V. Curotto	I/M City-County Council, At-Large	4,739	4.5%
Michael D. Miessen	I/M City-County Council, At-Large	4,111	3.9%
Webster J. Smith	I/M City-County Council, At-Large	3,971	3.8%
J. Scott Upton	I/M City-County Council, At-Large	3,788	3.6%
Bill Kempf	Fort Wayne Mayor		3%
David Roach	Fort Wayne City Clerk		3%

Louisiana

Mike Wolf	State Representative		2%
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Maine

Wayne Leach	Winslow City Council	544	22%
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Michigan

James Montgomery	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3	63	3%
Glenn Barr	Walker City Council		37%
Walter White	Milan City Council	320	
Douglas Friedman	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 2	33	1.4%
David Raaflaub	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4	37	1.9%
Renee Emry	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 5	214	7%

New Jersey

Janice Presser	State Assembly, District 8	1,915	
Austin Lett	Chatham Township Committee	715	16%
Ray Connors	Chatham Township Committee	586	9%

Ohio

Jim Berns	Cincinnati School Board	15,812	21%
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Pennsylvania

Thomas F. McGrady Jr.	State Senate, District 19		5%
Mark Messics	Orefield Township Supervisor	538	31%
Grace Matelyn	West Bradford Township Supervisor		30%
Brian McHugh	Abington Township Commissioner	111	23%
Joseph M. Lisowski	Chester County Commissioner		3.9%
George E. Barnett	Chester County Commissioner		3.6%
John F. Andl	Chester County Prothonotary		6%
Ken Krawchuk	Abington Township Commissioner	144	25%
J.B. Herr	Lancaster County Commissioner	3,738	3.3%

Virginia

Eric Strzepek	State Senate, District 25	427	1%
Paul Gagnon	Fairfax Co. Board of Supervisors	1,081	6.1%
Tomas Estrada-Palma	Prince William Co. Board	1,452	3%
W. J. Bennett Rutledge	Fairfax County School Board	9,209	3.6%

Washington

Art Rathjen	State Senate, District 43		10%
Jim Campton	Federal Way City Council		22%

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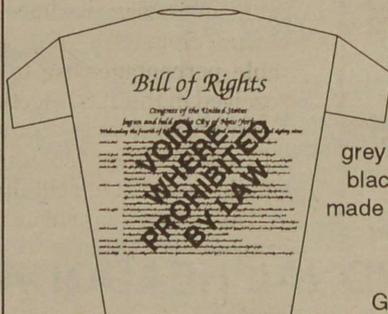
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Affiliates

Libertarian elected to city council in Alaska

California

The Young Libertarians Club of Saratoga High School recently entered its third year. Along with political activities, last year four club members entered a school roller hockey tournament and reached the semifinals. The name of the team was "The Libertarians."

The club has produced colorful T-shirts with its own logo and the words "Libertarians of Saratoga High." You can support these young Libertarians by purchasing a T-shirt for \$15. Write to: The Young Libertarian Club, 15256 Bellecourt Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070.

Florida

Christopher W. Carman, treasurer of the Manatee County LP, recently was appointed by the Manatee County Commission to serve a four-year term as a board member of the Manatee County Board of Historic Preservation. "Doesn't it sound like a board that *needs* abolishing?" noted Carman.

Kentucky

Longtime party activist Shirley Smith McAfee of Richmond died in late September after a long bout with cancer. McAfee was a former member of the LP state executive committee and a delegate to the LP national convention.

Maryland

The following state party officers were elected at a recent convention attended by about 100 LP members: Jesse N. Markowitz, chair; Keith Halderman, vice chair; Christie Gardinier, treasurer; Stuart Simms, assistant treasurer; Terry Atwood, secretary; Ron Kean, assistant secretary; and Amy Rule, parliamentarian.



National pulse

News from the states

New Jersey

Members of the LP of Somerset and Middlesex Counties (LPSMC) recently met with the mayor of Franklin Township and demanded the removal of an illegal form from the police department's firearm permit application package. Libertarians Frank Girardeau and John Paff have objected to a form that asks permit seekers for "the name and address of an adult member" of the household. State law does not allow local jurisdictions to add any conditions or requirements to the permit process other than those specifically set forth in the statute.

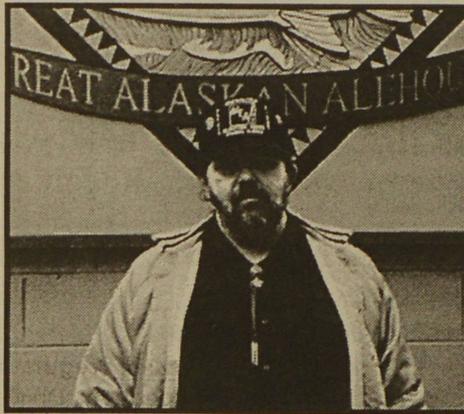
Girardeau's permit application was delayed by the local police because he refused to file the additional form.

"I wish the police would spend more time apprehending criminals and less time throwing illegal stumbling blocks in front of law abiding citizens who want to legally purchase a firearm," said Girardeau.

"If the Franklin police don't like the law," said Diane Adler, LPSMC chair, "they should go through the proper channels to have it changed. Ignoring it is not acceptable. No matter what side of the gun control issue you're on, you'd have to agree that the police, more than anyone else, should obey the law."

Pennsylvania

The Bucks County LP's registration success was front page news in October: There are now 1,113 registered Libertarians, more than the number in the entire state only three and one-half years ago. There were significant LP registration in-



NEW OFFICEHOLDER - Libertarian Party member Jim Hager of Cordova, AK, was elected to the Cordova City Council in early October. Hager, a journeyman power plant operator, is married and has seven children. Cordova, with a population of about 1,500, is located off Prince William Sound, north of Valdez. One of the main projects Hager will be working on is to institute a property tax cap in his city. A newcomer to political office, Hager felt the time was right to get involved in the political process.

creases in other counties as well: Dauphin County, up 104 percent; York County, up 55 percent; Lehigh County, up 46 percent.

South Carolina

State party members sponsored booths at the state fair in Columbia Oct. 5-15 and the Aiken County fair from Oct. 17-22. Rob Moore was in charge of the state fair booth, assisted by Mary Anderson, Howard Bouknight, Rob Bucker, Scarlett Flowe, Julian Griffith, Marion Hopkins, Mark Johnson, David Morris, Geb Sommer, Dick Winchell, and Greg and Steve Vandervelde. Tom King was in charge of the Aiken County fair booth, assisted by

Terry Bouknight, Boots Boyer, Terry Buyers, Chad Carroway, Doug Greene, Wayne Henderson, Ron McCoy, Mary Lou Seymour, and Bob and Debra Roushear. The booths garnered several new members and added 100 names to the mailing list.

The recently organized Low County Libertarians (Beaufort and Jasper counties) now have more than 20 active members. Chuck Williams has been elected interim chair.

Washington

Dale R. Reed recently received 10 percent of the vote in a primary election for Highline School District 401 Board. Reed's campaign centered on his belief that "visionary school board members can provide leadership for the transition from forced educational systems of taxes and truant officers to more efficient competitive free market environments."

Reed reports that he got "lots of smiles at candidates' nights," and that he is still receiving phone calls of support.

West Virginia

More than 60 Libertarians turned out for the recent state convention. The following state party officers were elected: John K. Brown, chair; Roger Fritz, vice chair; John Sturgeon, secretary/treasurer; Dr. Wallace Johnson, a gastroenterologist from Beckley, was unanimously nominated as the LPWV gubernatorial candidate for 1996. For information on his campaign write Johnson for Governor in '96, P.O. Box 177, Philippi, WV 26146-0177.

Wisconsin

This year's Wisconsin State Fair turned out to be a great marketing tool for the state
see Affiliates on page 6

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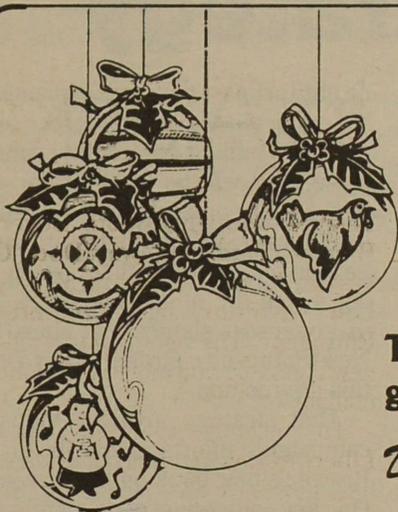
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TAPE R3. How government regulations kill. An insider's perspective. Drawing on my 25 years in the health care industry, I document the immense suffering and needless death caused by the FDA, using my sister Martie's struggle with cancer as an example. You will also learn the free market alternatives to the FDA. (Recorded at the 1993 ISIL International Conference.)



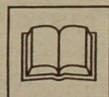
TAPE R4. How changing our beliefs changes our world. Church-goers want separation of church and state, yet unwittingly compromise it by advocating government coercion for good cause. In this tape, I discuss my sister Martie's Kevorkian-assisted suicide as an example of the danger of trying to legislate morality. (Recorded at People's Unitarian Church, 1995.) **Also included:** *Unity Through Community*, in which I explain how treating others with extraordinary respect can change the world.



TAPE R5. Liberty Works: Multiply the effectiveness of your communications through practical, principled arguments. Would you advocate libertarianism if you were convinced it would result in poverty and misery? Of course not! But that's precisely where many people believe liberty will lead us. Learn how natural rights and utilitarian arguments are actually two sides of the same coin. (Recorded at the 1995 Kentucky LP Convention.)



Video Tape of "Liberty Works"
See Dr. Ruwart speak live at the Ohio LP Convention. This video of her powerful "Liberty Works" presentation (described above), captures all of the fun and excitement of her appearance at the convention. This makes a great gift for your local LP chapter and helps prepare candidates for the 1996 campaign. **Tape V1.**



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T2

Browne campaign sets new strategy

The Harry Browne for President Committee has announced a major change in its campaign strategy, one that national Campaign Director Sharon Ayres calls "an exciting departure from our traditional approach."

According to Ayres, the major effort originally planned for the New Hampshire primary in February has been replaced by a new approach that will concentrate on three areas: Developing Harry's name recognition; recruiting new LP members; and raising money—all utilizing Browne's new book, "Why Government Doesn't Work,"

which will be in bookstores on Nov. 27.

The new strategy and the thinking behind it are outlined in detail in a letter from Browne that is being mailed to all national party members and NEWS subscribers, noted Ayres.

In his letter, Browne writes: "As with all economic decisions, we have to decide how to use our scarce resources of time, effort, and money to provide the maximum impact in the 1996 presidential election... The political circumstances have radically changed in the last few months. So we had to make radical changes to do what is best

for our presidential campaign and the Libertarian Party... If we succeed with this new approach, we hope to bring in enough new supporters to run the kind of national Libertarian campaign we've all dreamed of from July 4th through election day 1996."

"We had to re-evaluate our plans based on the massive media expenditures being made by Republican candidates in New Hampshire," said Ayres. "The entry of Steve Forbes into that race was of special concern to us."

"These candidates will be spending over \$360,000 every day in New Hampshire right

up until primary day," she explained. "Plus, it's predicted that Steve Forbes alone will spend \$2 million before the primary. The noise level will be too high for us to be heard. Our entire planned advertising expenditure of \$250,000 for the primary would have amounted to less than one day's spending for all the other candidates. It didn't make sense to simply forge ahead with our New Hampshire strategy after evaluating this information."

That strategy involves focusing the campaign's efforts primarily on getting Browne's new book on the best-seller list. One key component of doing this will be to book Browne on as many radio talk shows as possible over the next 90 days to promote the book. A dozen radio interviews already have been arranged.

"'Why Government Doesn't Work' will be in bookstores on Nov. 27," Ayres said. "It's the first Libertarian campaign book ever published by a large New York publishing house—St. Martin's Press—and the first printing is 40,000 hardback copies."

According to Ayres, the decision to pursue this "best-seller strategy" was made at an in-depth strategy meeting of the core Browne for President team—Ayres, David Bergland, Michael Cloud, Jack Dean, Browne, and his wife, Pamela Browne—on the weekend of Oct. 27. "We all support this strategy completely," states Browne in his letter.

"We urge every LP member to buy one or more copies during December to help put it on the best-seller list," stressed Ayres. "To make *The New York Times* list, a non-fiction hardback book needs to sell roughly 5,000 copies per calendar week. We feel we can make that happen with the help of Libertarians across the country."

Four of Browne's previous eight books were bestsellers. More than 2 million copies of his books have been sold.

Affiliates

continued from page 4

party. Unlike last year when the booth was set up to lure people in for various discussions, this year's booth was set up for fun. "We learned quickly that people come to the fair not to be serious, but to have fun," said **Ron Emery**, LP state chair. "So we set this year's booth up to be fun and it worked great."

The booth's main attraction was an electronic Nolan chart set up on a computer monitor. "We actually had people lined up to answer the Nolan chart questions and find out where they stood politically," said Emery. Another attraction at the booth was a 27-inch color television that ran the national debt clock. The television was also raffled off to help defray the cost of the outreach effort.

The highlight of the booth was the 2,700 teal balloons with the Wisconsin LP logo on each. The balloons were given away to children and senior citizens in wheelchairs. The balloons were a big hit with visitors and also got the LP logo carried all over the fairgrounds.

"Most important was the attitude change of the people," said Emery. "Last year the crowds looked at us with skepticism. This year they generally seemed happy to see us."

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T.K. Pullman

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State LP chairs fired up after council meeting

"The grassroots of the Libertarian Party are alive and charged with energy," said Gene A. Cisewski, District of Columbia LP chair, at the opening of the recent Libertarian Party Council of State Chairs meeting.

The enthusiasm was evident as 40 people—representing 25 states and more than 80 percent of the LP membership—met in Washington, DC, in early October. For three days, state party leaders shared notes, exchanged ideas, and took action to reinforce their commitment to increasing the rate of growth in the LP.

During the three-day meeting, the council unanimously elected Cisewski to succeed Alicia Clark as leader of the group. He

will serve through the 1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention.

Cisewski said the council will focus on training sessions for local leaders. "What we want to do is have intensive sessions running for a couple of days before the actual convention starts in July," said Cisewski. He said planning has begun for a State Leadership Conference. Sessions are being planned for state party treasurers, newsletter editors, public relations personnel, fund raisers, and grassroots organizers.

John Famularo, LP national secretary, and Cisewski presented the council with an introduction to strategic planning and mar-

keting planning. "If we're going to be effective with our limited resources," explained Cisewski, "we have to do more than set our goal at more members and more money."

The council adopted a framework from which volunteers will begin to develop a full-scale strategic plan in cooperation with all party entities. The council set three specific goals as ideals: 1) By the year 2012, achieve majority status with the U.S. government; 2) By the year 2004, achieve an elected presence in 35 state houses and elect enough members of Congress to deny either of the current majority parties an absolute majority; and 3) Next year, obtain 50-state ballot access for the presidential ticket, and place more than 1,000 Libertarian Party candidates on the ballot—at least 175 of whom will run for Congress.

While each state has different priorities based on ballot status issues, the chairs were committed to running candidates. Gail Lightfoot, California LP chair, reported that her state will provide 52 of the congressional candidates. Jay Manifold, Texas LP chair, told the group that his state party had to focus on retaining ballot status in setting its priorities. Jesse Markowitz, Maryland LP chair, reported his state party is looking at creating a test case to challenge congressional ballot access roadblocks based on the recent Supreme Court ruling on term limits.

As part of the working sessions, a new "Libertarian Party County Organizing Manual" was unveiled. Written by Cisewski and produced by The Monticello Group, the 62-page manual is a guide for setting up effective local party organizations.

LP National Chair Steve Dasbach ad-

ressed the group in a speech covered by C-SPAN television. Dasbach took the opportunity to discuss how Ross Perot's so-called party lacks the principles and grassroots leadership that made the Libertarian Party America's third-largest and fastest-growing political party.

Another guest speaker Donald Lambro, chief political correspondent for *The Washington Times*, encouraged Libertarians to "keep pushing the envelope on policy initiatives." Lambro suggested that if it were not for the growing popularity of LP positions, the Republicans would not even be talking about eliminating the income tax.

U.S. Term Limits National Director Paul Jacob, another guest speaker, said, "The people are with [Libertarians]." Jacob noted that "the vast majority of Americans don't like politics and they don't want to pay attention to politics—they just want to be left alone." He said that this fact gives the Libertarian Party an edge if Libertarians can position themselves as a part of that majority.

Special college student 1996 convention offer

The organizers of the 1996 Libertarian Party National Convention are making a special offer to libertarian college students. Because the convention, for the first time, is occurring during a holiday period in the middle of the summer, college students from across the nation will not have conflicts with their fall semester classes. A special program is being offered that will include campus organizing workshops, talks by successful college organizers from the past 30 years, admission to all educational functions, and discount group rooming.

Students attending should plan to arrive on Thursday morning, July 4. That afternoon the college workshop will begin in the conference theater with a four-hour series of panels and discussions. That evening, students can attend the fireworks display and return to the hotel for all-night discussion groups. Rooming (four to a room) will be provided Thursday and Friday nights.

On Friday, students will be given an

all-day pass to attend all panels and seminars. They can attend the LP 25th birthday party on Friday evening.

On Saturday, special sessions on communication and newsletter production will be offered. The special guest speakers include several who will review available internship programs in Washington, DC, where students can have the opportunity of working for pro-liberty organizations—often with college credit.

The special amazingly low cost of the college package is \$99. Applicants must submit a letter of interest, including your plans for libertarian activism on your campus, along with a check for \$99 to FEE by Feb. 28, 1996, in order to participate.

This offer is limited to current students under the age of 24. ID will be checked at registration.

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July 3-7, 1996 Washington, DC

1996 LP Convention Agenda

Wednesday, July 3, 1996:

- Candidate Training
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Conference Theater
- National Committee Meeting
- ☆ **Convention Opening**
Jefferson Memorial
"Liberty in Words and Music"
(Buses from convention hotel to Memorial)

Thursday, July 4, 1996:

- ☆ **Convention Opening**
"Welcome to Washington, DC"
"George Washington's Farewell Address"
- ☆ **Keynote Speaker**
- ☆ **Opening of Business Session**
Reports/Agenda/LP Platform
- ☆ **Major Speakers**
"The State of Liberty in America 1996"
Views from the left and right
- ☆ **Business Session**
Platform Committee Report
The LP Program
Platform Committee
Recommendations
Floor Debate on 1996 Platform
- College Workshop
Conference Theater
- ☆ **The Fourth of July Fireworks**

Friday, July 5, 1996:

- ☆ **Breakfast & Speaker**
- ☆ **Convention Business Session**
Platform Committee Reports
Debate on LP Platform 1996
- Candidate Training
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Conference Theater
- ☆ **Panels and Speakers (all day)**
Panel #1 - **Education in the 21st Century**
Panel #2 - **America and the World Policeman Role**
Panel #3 - **The War against Drugs is War against America**
Panel #4 - **Environment and Private Property**
Panel #5 - **Social Security**
Panel #6 - **Welfare Reform**
- The Liberty Pledge Luncheon
- ☆ **Presidential Candidates Debate**
- ☆ **Happy 25th Birthday LP Party**

Saturday, July 6, 1996:

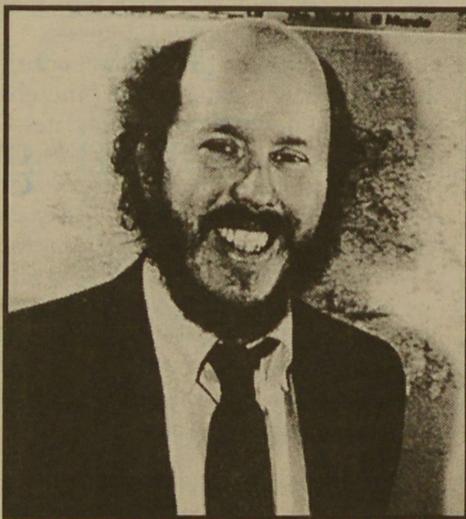
- ☆ **Breakfast & Speaker**
- ☆ **Convention Business Session**
The Platforms of the Candidates
Nomination of Presidential Candidate
Nomination of Vice Presidential Candidate
- College Workshops
- ☆ **The Presidential Banquet**
Grand Ballroom

Sunday, July 7, 1996:

- ☆ **Breakfast & Speaker**
- ☆ **Convention Business Session**
Election of National Officers
Election of Regional Reps.
Election of Judicial Committee
National Committee Meeting

Convention speakers announced

Convention organizers are pleased to announce the first three major speakers who will address convention-goers. You will not want to miss attending this memorable convention nor the chance to hear rousing messages delivered by some of today's most brilliant writers, lecturers, columnists, and observers of the political scene.



JAMES BOVARD is the author of "Shakedown: How the Government Screws You from A to Z", the book that is shaking up Washington. Said GOP presidential wannabe, Steve Forbes, "Bovard's make-your-blood-boil book of government's abusive excesses against ordinary Americans should turn even the most stout-hearted statist into a fervent libertarian. Bovard's wide-ranging, meticulous research has probably put him at the top of any bureaucrat's most-wanted list." Undoubtedly, his last book, "Lost Rights: The Destruction of American Liberty", drew denunciations from the director of the FBI, the secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the chairman of the National Labor Relations Board among other bureaucrats.

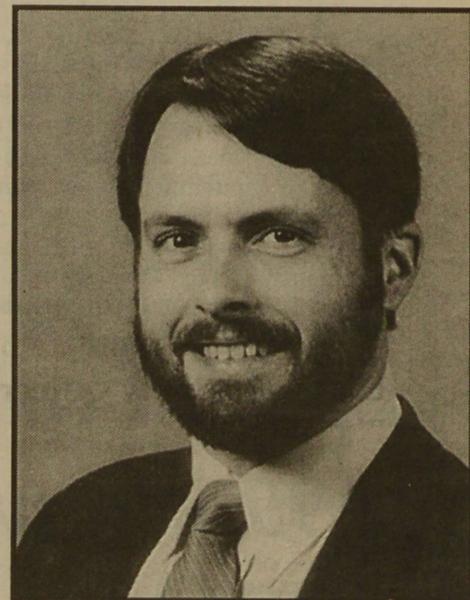
Bovard has written extensively on government's abuse of power for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, and other publications.



NEWS photo by © Joanne Savio

NADINE STROSSEN crusades tirelessly for civil liberties as president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Dr. Strossen, professor of law at New York Law School, has lectured internationally in the areas of constitutional law, civil liberties, and human rights. Civil liberties are under attack from both the left and right; the ACLU, while controversial in many circles, leads the fight on many issues where common ground is found with libertarian principles.

Dr. Strossen, a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, has been named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." She is a founding member of *Feminists for Free Expression* and a board member of the *National Coalition Against Censorship*, and author of "Defending Pornography: Free Speech, Sex, and the Fight for Women's Rights."



NEWS photo by Chas Geer

DOUG BANDOW is senior fellow at the Cato Institute and a columnist for *Copley News Service*. His cogent writings make the case for free-market alternatives in areas such as health care, regulation, law, economics, and foreign policy. Bandow, a graduate of Stanford Law School, has studied—and helped formulate—public policy since 1979 when he became a senior policy analyst with the Reagan campaign. He served as special assistant to President Reagan until May 1982 when he became editor of *Inquiry* magazine.

Bandow's writings have been published in *The Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *National Review*, *The New Republic*, *American Spectator*, *Harper's*, and *Foreign Policy* journal, to name just a few. He is the author of "The Politics of Envy: Statism as Theology" and "Perpetuating Poverty: The World Bank, the IMF, and the Developing World."

These three speakers are just the beginning of an exciting line-up of speakers to be announced in the coming months. Please use the registration form elsewhere in this issue to ensure that you don't miss the exciting and stimulating 1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention.

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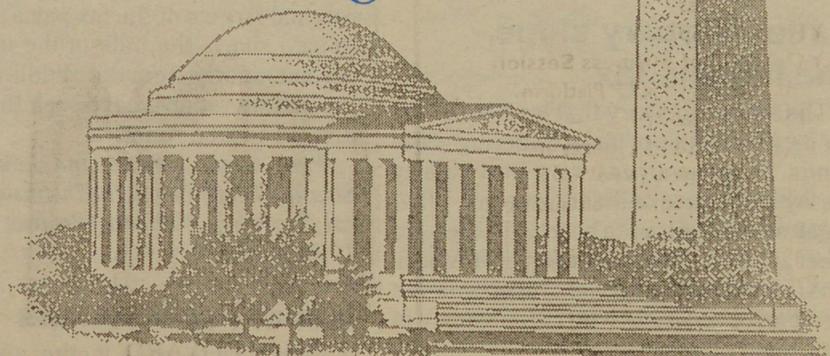
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- 25th Birthday Party for the Libertarian Party
- Major speakers and panels**
- Presidential candidate platforms**
- Election of Party Officers
- Platform committee and floor debate
- Election of the National Committee
- Meeting of the Council of State Chairs
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- Silver \$200** All of the above plus Presidential banquet and Jefferson Memorial event.
- Gold \$260** All of the above plus three Breakfast meals.

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Talking points

A look at taxes, food stamps, and regulations

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty).

Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Issue: Slippery slope - The income tax

The steep trajectory that leads from minor inconvenience to major suffering at the hands of government was particularly greasy in the case of the income tax. What began so modestly as to have no immediate effect at all on the great majority of Americans is now the central fact of economic life for almost everybody who earns money in the United States.

"During the 1913 legislative debate on the income tax, Congress promised that the top tax rate would never exceed 7 percent, and that was on incomes over \$500,000 (over \$5.5 million in today's dollars). The personal exemption for a single person was \$3,000 (\$34,400 in today's dollars) and for a married couple \$4,000 (\$45,900 today). In 1913, only 4 percent of the population earned enough to file a tax return. The 16th Amendment would have never been ratified had Congress sought the tax code we have today."

Walter E. Williams, professor of economics at George Mason University and syndicated columnist, in The Dallas Morning News, July 16, 1994.

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"The Sixteenth Amendment passed because the country thought only the rich would pay. In 1910 William Shelton, a Georgian, wrote that Southerners favored ratification 'because none of us here have \$4,000 incomes, and somebody else will have to pay the tax.' This view proved shortsighted.

Libertarian talking points

Charles D. Poe

Editor

As Frank Chodorov noted in "The Income Tax: Root of All Evil": 'At first it was the incomes of corporations, then of rich citizens, then of well-provided widows and opulent workers, and finally the wealth of housemaids and the tips of waitresses. This is all in line with the ability-to-pay doctrine. The poor, simply because there are more of them, have more ability to pay than the rich.'

"The states followed the federal example, and by 1970 almost all of them had their own income taxes. . . . Today, although the original targets of the tax pay a disproportionate share, the bulk of the income-tax revenues come from the middle class. The tax that was supposed to soak the rich has instead soaked America."

Paul Craig Roberts and Lawrence M. Stratton Jr., fellows at the Institute for Political Economy, National Review, April 17, 1995.

Issue: Food stamps

Republicans make a great show of denouncing welfare in general, but they are nevertheless quite fond of the food stamp program in particular. The newly-Republican House of Representatives had an opportunity to back up its words with legislative action early this year, but had no enthusiasm for getting rid of something that is not only a fraud-ridden welfare program for those who receive the food stamps, but also a taxpayer-supported workfare program for farmers.

"Food stamps are as much welfare as cash benefits,' said Robert Rector, senior policy analyst with the Heritage Foundation.

"As part of its original welfare reform bill, Republicans proposed replacing this, along with other anti-poverty programs, with block grants to states. But food stamps over the years have developed a hardy, if seemingly unlikely, coalition among farmers, wholesalers, and grocers, on one hand, and anti-poverty organizations on the other.

"James Ohls and Harold Beebout, economists for Mathematica Policy Research Inc., a Plainsboro, NJ-based research group,

estimated that about 9% of recipient households in 1991 had gross incomes above the poverty threshold, adding that analyses based on Census data possibly would triple that ratio.

"Moreover, food stamps often supplement cash welfare. In recent years about 50% of all food stamp recipients have collected AFDC or state general assistance payments, and another 20% have had earned income, according to Ohls and Beebout.

"Further, children are not the only beneficiaries. Ohls and Beebout estimated that around 60% of recipient households had children during the period of 1980 to 1991.

"The Cambridge, MA-based consulting group, Abt Associates Inc., revealed that in fiscal year 1988 only 25.3% of food-stamp households participating in a new employment and training program had children.

"There is probably no more fraud-ridden and vulnerable program in the federal budget than food stamps,' observed Cato Institute Distinguished Fellow Paul Craig Roberts."

Investor's Business Daily, March 17, 1995.

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"Under pressure from farm-state Republicans, House leaders on Friday abandoned a campaign promise to disband the food stamp program that helps 27 million Americans buy groceries.

"Farm-state Republicans had fought hard to keep food stamps, a \$27 billion program that serves 11 million households, at the federal level. They promised reforms that would tighten eligibility and cut the illegal trafficking, fraud, and errors that drain an estimated \$3 billion a year from the program.

"Food stamps are considered the ultimate social safety net today. They feed single people and married couples, children and the elderly, the unemployed and the working poor, the healthy and the disabled.

"But, unlike other welfare programs, food stamp supporters include an influential sector of the national economy: grocery stores, farmers, and agriculture businesses.

"The GOP's 'Contract With America' proposed folding food stamps into a block grant with other federal food and nutrition programs, with the states in a block grant. The plan also sought to end the automatic guarantee to benefits for poor Americans.

"Rep. Bill Emerson, R-MO, head of an Agriculture subcommittee that has been holding hearings on food stamps, rejected the idea that the GOP's decision Friday went against the grain of the 'Contract With America.'

"We didn't promise we were going to do things that didn't make sense,' he said. 'You don't want to hold us to the letter if the letter has unintended consequences.'"

Jennifer Dixon, The Houston Post, Feb. 25, 1995.

Issue: Regulation and the Republican revolution

When the Republicans gained control of both houses of Congress in 1994, political commentators who were inclined to ex-

press dismay at the vast regulatory apparatus that makes us all poorer and less free than we would be otherwise were also inclined to express hope that this crushing burden of laws and loopholes would finally stop growing and begin to shrink.

"The time is ripe for a new round of reform in government regulation of business.

"The limited reductions of transportation regulation carried out in the late 1970s and early 1980s are ancient history, and the 1990s to date have been dominated by a new round of expensive and burdensome regulation of the private sector.

"Now is an especially propitious time for Congress to embark upon significant reform of government regulation in the United States.

"Such action would respond to the widespread citizen dissatisfaction with the high cost and limited benefits of many governmental activities.

"Government decision-makers overlook an important fact when adopting new or expanded regulatory requirements: Government intervention often does more harm than good.

"Policy-makers should not ignore the tremendous ability of individuals to deal with the shortcomings that inevitably arise in a modern economy."

Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Reagan, Houston Chronicle, Feb. 5, 1995.

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"We used to be a free people. Now we are hedged in by millions of laws. Harassed by a plague of opportunistic lawyers. Harmed by regulations meant for our protection. Unnecessarily taxed to pay for a suffocating bureaucracy. Drowning in petty paperwork. Stifled by 'rights' that rarely benefit anyone.

"It was this fear of more regulation, bureaucracy and nitpicking intervention in our lives—whatever it's called and however well-intended—that made so many of us leery of the Clintons' health plan.

"It was part of what swept so many Republicans into office last November. It is what Republicans want to change. But they won't, although they may talk about reform. They will just pile on a new layer of legislation and regulation and the bureaucrats and regs-writers—whom no one elected and no one seems able to fire—will crank out tens of thousands more pages of rules we have to follow.

"The Republicans will have to change the process—dismantle agencies, throw out volumes of regulations, downsize bureaucracies drastically—or they will fail to keep public support, too."

Joan Beck, columnist, Houston Chronicle, Feb. 6, 1995.

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Letters

Subscribers sound off on ethics, taxes, lots more

Christian Libertarians

As a Christian Libertarian who has been both for many years, I believe that the only rational political affiliation for any Christian is Libertarian. I am also aware that the vast majority of Christians are loyal to one of the two larger parties, neither one of which is at all Christian. I am also aware that most Libertarians are not Christians, but they behave more like Christians than most dedicated Christians.

Libertarians realize that government is not some kind of a God, Jr. We know that no matter how right we think we are about lifestyle beliefs we do not have any right to force them on others. But we see Christians working through government to pass new laws regulating family life, entertainment, and other areas. They seem to think that without these laws enforcing their beliefs, other laws will be made to force them into what they believe is a non-Christian life.

I think that it is essential to convince Christians that in the absence of regulation, they will be able to live according to their personal beliefs. A major tax reduction will enable traditional families to have the mother at home (or non-traditional ones to otherwise enjoy the advantage). Jim Crow laws against women, censorship, even more juvenile status laws, and the like will not only harm our country, but will harm the Church. This is something we need to get through to them in time for the 1996 election.

Therefore, I would like to call on any Libertarians who are Christians and plan to attend the convention in Washington, DC. I hope to meet with you there and brainstorm about making the Religious Right and others aware that coercion is not the way to go and that our platform and candidates will help them more than all the laws in the world.

If you are interested, please write me at 11423 Ohio Ave. #3, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Alice Lillie
Los Angeles, CA

Browne tax proposal

Lord, save us from the righteous! A. J. Davies writes (Oct. 1995 NEWS) that we should all shun the Harry Browne for President campaign because we have signed a pledge not to initiate force. He maintains that creating a 5 percent national sales tax initiates force. That's rubbish, and a man as intelligent as Jim Davies should know that. If Browne were proposing to add the sales tax to the income tax, I would be there with the tar and feathers myself. But, of course, that is not what Harry Browne proposes.

The current individual federal tax ranges up to 39 percent of income. Browne proposes reducing that current individual tax to 5 percent of expenditures. To any reasonable individual that is a reduction of force, not an initiation. Significantly, the proposal is not just to reduce the income tax, but to *eliminate* it. In addition to reducing our federal tax, the proposal allows us to get the hated and feared IRS forever out of our lives, and even to repeal the 16th Amendment.

I see no initiation of force in Browne's proposal. There *is* no violation of principle. . . The "pledge" is a worthwhile statement to assure the public that we are not bomb



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

throwing anarchists. But let's not interpret it so dogmatically that we inhibit our party's full message: A smaller, less intrusive, less expensive government. If we are to be the Libertarian Party instead of the Libertarian Debating Society, we must grow and accept those who are moving in our same direction.

Steve Winter
New London, NH

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I found A. J. Davies' letter (Oct. 1995 NEWS) to be such an incredulous piece of writing that I had to voice my complete opposition.

Let's start with the "new" tax. I guess I just look at my world differently. This tax, that fee, it's all the same to me. I can only think of a "new" tax as one that adds to my already overweight tax burden. Under Browne's plan (one that we might just have a chance of selling to the American voters) my tax burden will be less. In fact, I can think of dozens of reasons why my whole family will be better off, and if that's a new tax, it's sure a new one on me.

I don't have any illusions of achieving a perfect libertarian country in one easy election. But every Libertarian candidate knows that unlike the Democrats and Republicans their constituency will not go back to sleep after the election. It is my faith in my fellow libertarians that the struggle will go on.

Klint Monroe
San Diego, CA

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In response to A.J. Davies' letter (Oct. 1995 NEWS) asserting that we should not nominate Harry Browne—it is not worth quibbling over Browne's plan to drastically reduce government. So long as the overall trend is toward more liberty, I have no problem with a small sales or flat tax, or whatever ends up temporarily replacing our current system. . .

If we wait for someone who runs—and can get elected—on a platform of eliminating *all* taxes, bad regulations, and bad laws immediately, we will still be waiting long after some totalitarian regime has rounded us all up and shipped us off to "re-education" camps. The faster we repeal statism the better, but let's be realistic. Americans have been losing freedom over many decades. "All at once" is not the only principled way to increase liberty. Any progress should be encouraged. Should we reject all tax cuts which aren't 100 percent?

Jefferson wrote: "Liberty is gained by inches." I agree.

If we reject Harry Browne, we will not just be perceived by the general public as irrelevant losers, we *will* be irrelevant losers.

Scott Frost
Seattle, WA

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Mr. Davies' letter (Oct. 1995 NEWS) criticizing Harry Browne's proposal to replace our current federal tax system with a national sales tax shows why "The

Pledge" must be eliminated as a requirement for LP membership. As long as it exists, any Libertarian candidate who proposes a reduction in any tax or government program will be attacked for it by members of our own party.

The Pledge is essentially an absolutist statement. It does not allow for cuts in taxes, reduction in spending, or "downsizing" of government, because whatever was left over would still be an "initiation of force". It makes no distinction between a tax increase or a tax decrease. It makes no distinction between a 1 percent tax, or a 1,000 percent tax. Anyone who signs it is agreeing not to support any tax, at any time, however small.

The Pledge puts Libertarian candidates in an impossible position. If they call for the immediate elimination of all taxes, everyone outside the LP will dismiss them as a crank. If they put forth a responsible plan for a tax cut (even a two-thirds cut as Harry Browne has done), fanatics within the LP will say they are still initiating force. You can't win.

Chris Struble
St. Maries, ID

Voting

The "New way to vote?" article (Oct. 1995 NEWS) failed to note that the result of plurality nominations and plurality elections (in most states) and the gerrymander for every state legislature and in the U.S. Congress is tyrannical indirect minority rule with vicious special interest fascist/communist/statist gangs de facto making the laws in our country.

Around 25-30 percent of all voters elect a bare majority of the members of each state legislature and 218 of the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives (a plurality of the votes in a bare majority of the districts). Around 10 percent of all voters elect 51 of 100 U.S. senators (due to the fixed gerrymander of two senators per state).

A public legislative body exists only because the electors cannot easily assemble in person and enact legislation by majority rule.

Another simple proportional representation system for legislative bodies (the Jones proxy system) is to have multi-member districts (at least five members per district), have the voter number his or her choices (1, 2, 3, etc.), have the candidate with the lowest number of votes lose, have such votes transferred to each voter's next choice who remains, repeat until five candidates remain (who are elected), and to have each elected candidate have a voting power in the legislative body equal to the number of first choice and transferred votes received. Most voters would, in effect, give their proxy to a member of the legislative body.

Another reform is "approval voting" in which a voter can vote for one or more candidates for each executive and judicial office. The candidate(s) with the highest number of votes is/are elected.

When will the LP get a national committee elected by all party members using proportional representation (rather than using the gerrymander in electing regional NatCom members) and having direct nominations and elections (by mail or computer ballots) by all party members

for party officers and the party's candidates for public offices (rather than by party elites who have the time and money to attend conventions)?

Other reforms include having the initiative, referendum, and recall.

LP members cannot logically complain about the tyranny/stupidity of the federal, state, and local governments until the LP gets proportional representation, approval voting, the initiative, the referendum, and the recall into the LP's bylaws and platform.

Thomas W. Jones
Detroit, MI

Execution

I was a bit dismayed to read David Holden's chronicle (Oct. 1995 NEWS) of the execution he witnessed.

Libertarianism is a remarkably consistent and rational philosophy which leaves little room for disagreement as to a surprisingly broad number of issues. And I readily confess that capital punishment is one of those few upon which reasonable libertarians can disagree. However, I do believe careful analysis of the issue in the context of our philosophy mandates a strong stand against capital punishment.

Let me emphasize at the outset that murderers deserve to die, and I'm as thrilled as Mr. Holden when they do. I am particularly approving of armed citizens who dispatch violent aggressors on the spot. Bravo! Arguments against defending oneself (such as pacifism or "turn the other cheek") are morally backward, notwithstanding their haughty tone.

But there are two (and only two) arguments against capital punishment which simply overwhelm any and all arguments in favor.

First, even if the death penalty were not administered by the government, mistakes would be made. Mistakes in this context are phenomenally tragic (especially from the libertarian perspective), and they are irreversible. Now, factor in the reality that it is administered by a government agency, and you can see that mistakes will not be rare at all, almost by definition. If we deem the loss of a few innocent lives to be an "acceptable" cost, then where's our commitment to individual rights?

Secondly, there is the very real concept of the slippery slope. Libertarians like Mr. Holden need to consider carefully the very

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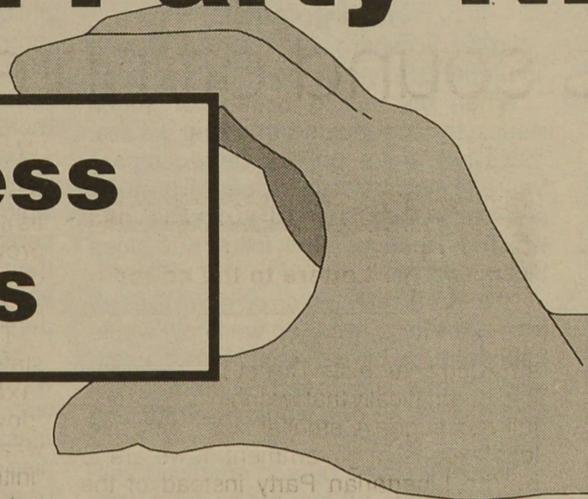
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Letters

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long-term dangers inherent in giving any government the right to legally execute its citizens, for any reason whatsoever, even if it's a good one. America's drift toward totalitarianism is plain as day to any libertarian.

Certainly no one knows more about avoiding hysteria than we libertarians; through direct application of our principles, we've routinely avoided emotional sewers such as the drug war and the immigration imbroglio. The death penalty debate requires an extra step of analysis since, at least in theory, it does not involve the initiation of force. However, even the power of retaliatory force, certainly a proper governmental role, must be carefully circumscribed.

A "bright line" rule which forbids government executions under any circumstance, while admittedly blunt, will provide an important bulwark supporting individual rights and limiting government tyranny.

Charles Novins, Esq.
Newark, NJ

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In David Holden's article about being witness to an execution, he states that capital punishment is not likely to be a deterrent for the criminal intent on committing a capital offense.

I feel the need to disagree with this statement.

Holden mentions that the criminal had the usual "rap sheet" of a repeat offender, including second and first degree murder.

It is known that most serious crimes, especially those against people, are committed by repeat offenders.

Capital punishment is 100 percent effective in preventing repeat offenses by that particular criminal.

Now *that's* a deterrent!

Dwane Koppler
Springfield, MO

Evil

Yes indeed folks, one of the two deputy U. S. marshals involved in the 1992 raid on the home of the Weavers at Ruby Ridge, ID, told senators he believed that it was Randy Weaver himself who shot his own son in the back, accidentally.

Anyone who believes that, please call me immediately for the deal of a lifetime. I will sell you, at a greatly reduced price, my highly lucrative 51 percent interest in the Golden Gate Bridge.

Evil is never stronger, nor more deadly, than when it comes in the form of sanctimonious, cover-your-ass, badge-toting bureaucratic righteousness.

L. A. Anderson
Tucson, AZ

Targeting campaigns

The third most powerful political force in this country was for a while Ross Perot. Right now it is U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. The proof of that is on your TV screen every time congress is taking a vote. It looks like our party is going to again waste all of its money and time losing the presidential race in all 50 states. Why don't we just target one or two congressional districts and use our resources to win for a change? It just might get us noticed by the media and the public.

Bob Bajor
Easton, PA

High ground

I'd like to share a method for putting libertarianism on the moral high ground.

When discussing politics or social issues, try responding something like this, "Let's not argue politics, let's compare free-ride ethics to self-responsibility ethics and see which is socially positive and which is negative." Then follow with these two questions:

"If every single person on earth lives by free-ride ethics, what do we know would happen to the human race? Isn't it a self-evident, inescapable fact that we would all starve since no one would be producing food for us to eat?"

"If every single person practiced self-responsibility ethics along with free markets and full competition in all products and services, what do we know would happen to humanity? Don't our eyes tell us that we would have massive abundance of life-enhancing products to make life better for everyone?"

(Notice that including every person in the examples makes the result obvious, self-evident, and indisputable.)

Now move toward getting agreement to this logical conclusion: "Isn't universal self-responsibility the positive morality system? Would you agree then that self-responsibility ethics must be the survival and prosperity ethic system, or morality system for humanity? Would you agree that free-riderism is the negative morality system because it is a destructive and suicidal ethic for humanity?"

Free-rider advocates will see that denying these self-evident facts destroys their own credibility and may respond something like this: "But what about poor people? Don't you feel guilty because they are suffering?"

Consider this response: "Are you willing to voluntarily help people learn to be self-responsible and fulfill their own lives? Would you want to reduce poor people to being dependent even if it destroys them and you?"

"Isn't voluntary charity the only ethical way to help the truly needy? If we make welfare funding compulsory wouldn't we be practicing slavery since the literal definition of slavery is compulsory servitude? And as more and more producers climb on the free-ride band wagon to escape being victimized, won't we reach a point where not enough food is produced to keep us alive? Won't compulsive welfare bring us right back to suicide social morality?"

"As for feeling guilty, have you considered the difference between true guilt and false guilt. You are not guilty for conditions which you did not personally cause. Have you noticed the massive conditioning our society does to make us feel false guilt and that we are under false social debts and false social contracts? Universal contract law holds you cannot be bound by contracts you did not personally consent to—with no deception nor force being used nor implied—because it is slavery."

Consider giving them this offer to think over, "I am willing to make a true social contract with you. You do not owe me food, clothing, shelter, and life-fulfillment. I am willing to let you control all your property, money, and your life, if you are willing to grant me the same consideration."

This brings a whole new and graphic perspective on the issues to honest people trying to make sense of social ethics. They can't see much difference between political

philosophies. But no one wants to see themselves as being unethical or immoral. So this method might open an opportunity to show how and why libertarianism is the moral social system.

Be sure to listen to everything the other person says. They may give you leads which help you win them over. Also, if they sense that you are not fairly considering their side but just waiting to attack them, you will destroy your credibility with this person.

New converts can immediately begin to win their acquaintances to the liberty ethic with this method since it doesn't require mastery of philosophy or economics. They also will not have to come back so often to us older Libertarians asking, "What do we believe about this issue?" The universal self-responsibility rule and common sense enable them to work out most social justice issues for themselves.

I always had a secret feeling that wanting to keep control of all my property and money was somehow selfish and mean spirited. Not being 100 percent sure it was right made me a poor promoter of liberty. After discovering that it is the only positive morality system available to us, I am selling it with confidence and enthusiasm. And people I used to offend by being too strident, possibly from not understanding the essence of what I was promoting, are now willing to reconsider freedom.

L. Ray Smith
Vansant, VA

Growing up fast

What a great time to be a Libertarian Party member! We can really be proud of ourselves for all that we have achieved, though the work that remains is great. Reflect for a moment.

Our party in its infancy was in essence a split from conservatives. Where they shrunk from civil liberties, we stepped in with a banner for freedom held high.

In our youth, we observed the demise of communism, the end of the cold war, and now in our pubescence, our real awakening, we observe the complete discrediting of liberalism and redistribution of wealth mentality. Republicans seem more libertarian. Democrats, as Pat Moynihan has stated, seem to be going the way of the Whigs. Rush Limbaugh says that some in Washington see the shift as resulting in only two viable parties: the Republicans and the Libertarians. We see Cato and Reason and their scholars and enthusiasts quoted daily. Essentially, as teeny-boppers, we Libertarians have had our first date and have survived the experience. Pimples and all.

Now we're full-fledged teenagers, making our way as young adults. We are the high school football team and the cheerleaders. Simply, we are the show! We are the young adults that everyone else wants to be. They are emulating us, they are talking the talk and walking the walk. They know we know what we are doing, what we are talking about. We are the cool kids.

Soon, the pressure will really mount. It's drawing close to graduation time, oh yes, but before we can think about that we have to think about going to the prom. It's being held soon in Washington, DC, and we have to pick a date to take with us. All eyes will be on us then, in the nation's capital. Then soon after the last dance is danced, the last stealth shot is downed, the last kiss pressed, we will be ready to graduate.

A summer job of hard campaigning awaits us after the diploma is slapped in our hand. And on the first Tuesday in November 1996, we will take our first true step into adulthood. We're going to surpass every expectation, blow out every poll.

We are maturing, friends, and we can see the results of our hard work everywhere we turn. Congratulations to us. I can't wait for the prom. And I can't wait to start college next fall.

Sally Eastman
Clifton Park, NY

X factor

"The X factor" (Sept. 1995 NEWS) was an interesting piece and it points out the growing dissatisfaction with the two-party system of government. I want to disagree with some characterizations being made about libertarians. Specifically, I do not agree with the notion that "libertarianism is a mixture of liberal views on social issues and a conservative bent on pocket book issues."

Some points in case: Gun control is a large social issue for many liberals. They believe that the state will eliminate crime and establish order if private ownership of weapons is regulated and eventually outlawed. As libertarians, we believe the complete opposite. Private ownership of weapons actually protects individuals from crime and tyranny. Lifting the prohibitions on the consumption of drugs seems to be a liberal solution to other crimes, but is it? Liberals want to control drug consumption through taxpayer-funded therapy and wasteful government programs.

I also find it interesting that so many of our social ills, such as poverty, hunger, crime, discrimination, and pollution, would be drastically reduced if the liberals in power would drop their pet programs and use libertarian solutions to these problems. Charity, privatization of self-help organizations, private ownership, and freedom of association are not solutions that liberals would consider for these problems. They are libertarian solutions that should be claimed as such!

Furthermore, to say that libertarianism has a "conservative bent", even on economics, is a misnomer. Was it conservatism or libertarianism that laid the foundation for free enterprise principles? If conservatives truly believe in a free market, then why don't those in power practice what they preach?

Will the twenty-something generation be more libertarian? They appear to be now; I just hope they still are when they become the thirty-something generation.

Robert J. Howard
Houston, TX

Smoking

I was disappointed by Grant Kuhns' letter (Oct. 1995 NEWS).

He described himself as one of the 11 percent of the U.S. population allergic to tobacco smoke and recommended it be legislated an "assault weapon" and regulated thusly. Mr. Kuhn included himself as a Libertarian, but what kind of Libertarian would support more legislation for the minority at the expense of individual liberty? This attitude is a classic example of the kind of social intolerance seen increasingly since the 1960s.

I am pleased that Mr. Kuhn considers himself a Libertarian, but I do think that he should reexamine the principles of personal liberty.

Henry Clay Marshall
Nashville, IN

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 3, 1995:

Oklahoma LP Organizational Meeting, including election of officers and delegates, Holidome, Tulsa; for information call 918-585-3746 or 918-663-8938.

Dec. 3, 1995:

Oregon LP Special Nominating Convention (to fill Bob Packwood's seat), Monarch Hotel, Portland; for information call 800-829-1992.

Feb. 10, 1996:

Massachusetts LP Convention, Cambridge Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge; for information call 617-876-FREE.

Feb. 16-19, 1996:

California LP Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Long Beach; for information call 310-428-8113

April 13, 1996:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Country Inn and Convention Center, Pewaukee; for information call 800-236-9236. Speakers include Rick Tompkins and Harry Browne.

April 19-20, 1996:

Indiana LP Convention, Indianapolis.

April 19-21, 1996:

Michigan LP Convention, Georgian Inn, Roseville; for information call 810-784-8783.

April 26-28, 1996:

Ohio LP Convention, Holiday Inn North, Sharonville; for information call 800-669-6542.

May 25, 1996:

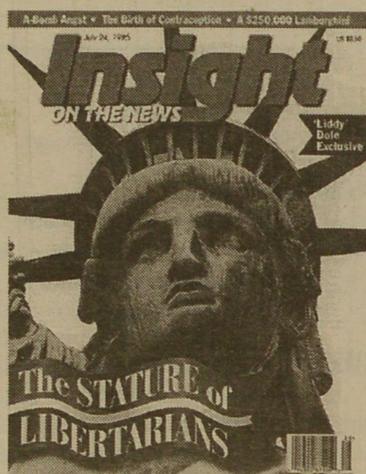
Missouri LP Convention, Ramada Convention Center, Columbia; for information call 314-874-3454 or 314-443-4883, or e-mail: hemerson@mail.coin.missouri.edu

July 3-7, 1996:

1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, DC.

Send upcoming event notices early to: Libertarian Party NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503.

The word is out!



Insight, July 24, 1995



U.S. News & World Report, Nov. 6, 1995

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