National LP announces new “welfare” policy package

End welfare as we know it? No — end welfare.

That’s the basis of a new public policy proposal issued by the Libertarian Party last month. Entitled “Ending the Welfare State,” the package puts a Libertarian spin on the current debate about “reforming” welfare, and argues that only private, voluntary charity can solve the problem of poverty in this county.

“For years, people have asked us, ‘what about the poor?’ And now we have the answer,” said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach.

Subtitled “How to Promote Opportunity, Work, and Individual Responsibility,” the proposal details the failure of the modern welfare state, critiques Republican and Democratic reforms, and outlines a four-point plan to replace government welfare with private charity and increased economic opportunity.

Dasbach promised that the National LP will use the “Ending the Welfare State” proposals to try to influence the current welfare debate. “We’ll be doing our part to spread the word. We’ll do a mailing to influential talk show hosts, send information to our state parties, and send details about our plan to Washington’s most powerful politicians,” he said.

How to annoy a bureaucrat: Pay your taxes in loose change

Want to annoy a bureaucrat? Pay your property tax in quarters.

That’s what LP member Katherine Fox Polizzi did in Algonquin, Illinois in early September — much to the dismay of town tax collectors.

Polizzi hauled in five bags of coins weighing more than 140 pounds — containing 9,200 quarters, 60 dimes, 23 nickels, and one penny — to protest another increase in the town’s property tax to fund public education.

“I just want government out of our schools,” said Polizzi, who sends her two children to private school. “I’m doing everything legally to get my point across.”

The protest earned Polizzi coverage in at least three newspapers in her area. But County Treasurer Bill Ward didn’t appreciate Polizzi’s action, and took the opportunity to lecture her. “I think paying taxes is a privilege and great fun,” he explained.

Libertarian News Notes

Number of Libertarians in office reaches 150

The number of Libertarians in office has finally reached the 150 mark, with victories and appointments over the past month in three more states.

In California, LeRoy Nelson was elected to the Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board of Governors, and will take his seat on December 15, 1995. Nelson says he hopes to end the “fiscal irresponsibility” of the board.

In Alaska, Jim Hager, 43, was elected to the Cordova City Council on October 3rd by a vote of 424 to 338. Cordova is a small fishing port (pop. 1,500) south of Valdez.

Also in early October, Libertarian Michael Buoncristiano was appointed to the Hoboken City Council’s Task Force on Rent Control & Modernization in New Jersey.

Harry Browne wins WWW “straw poll”

Harry Browne, a candidate for the LP’s presidential nomination, was the leading vote-getter in an Internet “straw poll” of presidential candidates.

As of September 27th, Browne led Republican Phil Gramm by 251 votes (18% of the total) to 232 votes (16%) in a survey conducted by the Stardot World Wide Web site on the Internet. Rounding out the top five were Republican Alan Keyes (207 votes), Democrat Bill Clinton (170), and author Colin Powell (167).

First CityVote debate canceled

The CityVote debate scorecard: Two cancellations, one confirmation, and one “maybe.”

The first CityVote debate (scheduled for October 8th, but moved to October 6th) was canceled after all the major Republican candidates — including Bob Dole, Phil Gramm, and Pat Buchanan — and President Clinton declined to participate, according to Sharon Ayres, Harry Browne’s campaign manager. LP presidential contender Harry Browne was scheduled to attend that debate, which would have been broadcast on C-SPAN and PBS.

The second debate, scheduled for October 22, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, (Pacific Time) in Spokane, Washington will go on as scheduled, said Ayres — with the sponsors saying “they are going forward with the debate no matter who shows up.” C-SPAN is expected to broadcast that debate.

The third debate, scheduled for October 29th in Pasadena, California, has also been canceled. “There is talk of holding another debate on November 5th in Boston, Massachusetts, but it is still unconfirmed,” said Ayres.
Libertarianism gives Gays yet another choice

by Gene A. Cieswski

Forget Gay Republicans and their homophobic cousins on the far right. Depart from Gay Democrats and their dependent friends on the far left. Instead of the left-wingers or the right-wingers, consider a libertarian view — what Rush Limbaugh sarcastically called "up-wingers."

Gay Libertarians stand apart from the two traditional flanks. The mainstream, left-wing Gay groups that see government as our enemy don’t get it. Got a problem, call a politician. Somebody hurt your feelings? Go tell the police or some commission. These left-wingers don’t include Gay Libertarians as part of the rainbow. Gay Libertarians’ blend of individual liberty with personal responsibility creates a shade that doesn’t fit into their spectrum.

On the right, Gay Republicans just seem to want a place at the right-wing table, and even squishy moderate Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) doesn’t want to be seated next to them. Presidential candidate Dole gave them the boot when he returned a campaign contribution from a Gay Republican group. You hear a lot of talk about smaller government coming from the right, but if Virginia Gov. George Allen honestly believes the Jeffersonian admonition for smaller government, he should be leading the charge to repeal sodomy laws in that state.

How can libertarian approaches protect our community, a diverse people that have historically been victims and offenders of racism? Our heritage of racism gives vivid examples of the vicious impact of discrimination. Add that to today’s perverted free market — a marriage of big business and big government that concentrates power unjustly in the hands of special interests — and a sense of victimization creates a shade that doesn’t fit into their spectrum.

William Weld told a meeting of the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Boston that they have to find "some kind of bridge to the Gingrich revolution." Or else, he said, things will be worse off for Gays and the whole country. Weld called for small-government libertarianism. That’s exactly what Gay Libertarians advocate. To see the benefits, we first have to separate government and private politics.

America’s tragic record with racial civil rights was government policy. In county courthouses, restrooms were segregated on racial lines. On city buses, African Americans were forced to the back. Jim Crow laws subjected economic opportunities for blacks. Chain gangs often served business owners who made corrupt deals with officials. And it was the unitary that segregated black and white troops under a guise of "unit cohesion." All this was government policy, not private enterprise.

Gay Libertarians believe the best government is the one that governs least in all parts of our lives. One of the few positions shared by most Libertarians and the mainline Gay civil rights movement is the desire to repeal sodomy laws. It is not government’s proper role to rule private, consensual, intimate behavior. In light of today’s enforcement tactics, sodomy laws violate a precious element within our Constitution. The equal protection clause is ignored when the only people who suffer persecution for sodomy are same-sex’s violators. Heterosexuals make up most of the people violating these laws, but they don’t get arrested.

On the national policy front, President Bill Clinton’s "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell" policy against Gays in the military is wrong in Gay Libertarians’ eyes. Retaining people for who they are and not how they perform in their jobs against true capitalism. Barry Goldwater got to the core of libertarian philosophy. He said that what’s wrong with justice for the wrong is not that a soldier is straight, but if he can shoot straight. The best military requires objective qualifications, skills, and obedience to orders. And the Tailhook scandal proves that the acts of individuals run unit cohesion, regardless of sexual orientation. But take note: The moral underpinning of why the military should not discriminate against Gays is the same one that makes affirmative action quota laws wrong. If one accepts that qualifications and skills should be the basis for military service, laws forcing employers to hire people based on status violate that argument. You cannot have it both ways. In a true free market, there are ways to deal with the immoral practice of discrimination against classes of people.

There’s the mass distribution of information and boycotts, of course. But there are even more effective tools. Nobel economist Milton Friedman laid down a moral code for companies. He said that management has a single obligation to stockholders: earning honest profits. When managers deal with anything short of how well employees do their jobs, they violate their fiscal responsibility to the shareholders. In a real free market, this would allow shareholders to sue for damages and a correction in the policy.

All over the United States, Gays prove this natural element of the free market. Like ethnic immigrants early in this century, many have naturally segregated in urban areas, providing our own sense of community and our own businesses. The Gay gentrification of urban areas — from Dupont Circle to West Hollywood — shows the power of the free market in our own community.

On other issues, Gays seek a truly just society share more in common with Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed than U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.). For instance, when one applies the test of equal protection for all, one can see why hate crime laws are a bad idea. To enforce laws that make acts of violence against Gays worse than violent acts against somebody else only creates animosity. Whether that person hates you, is mad at a spouse, or steals your grandparent’s pension check shouldn’t matter. The intentional and violent act against another human is enough reason for society to intervene swiftly and severely.

A real free market offers Gays the best opportunity to pursue our own happiness. It does and so does stepping on the equal rights of other people to pursue their own happiness. The problem posed by the left-right wing is that they will step on the folks they oppose to get their way. A little more libertarianism from the left and right would mean a more peaceful world for everybody.

Gay Libertarians believe the best government is the one that governs least in all parts of our lives.

Fallon claims cutting edge choice

By Galina Espinosa

Fallon is the only Phoenix mayoral candidate who campaigns on his own personalized Internet page. It is an appropriate distinction. For just as computer pundits are championing the Internet as the social tool of the future, so, too, are Fallon’s supporters declaring him to be the kind of modern mayor that cities nationwide will elect during the 21st century.

The appeal of the Internet, experts say, is that it is the one network of computers allows people to communicate with each other at the touch of a button. Fallon’s appeal, his supporters contend, is that he espouses the forward-thinking Libertarian principles of individual liberty and personal responsibility. But in order for Fallon to campaign effectively, he often has to overcome his misconceptions about what it means to be a Libertarian. "One reason government is getting out of your life," Fallon said. "If you’re peaceful and honest, you should be left alone."

The Phoenix mayoral election on Oct. 3 is supposed to be nonpartisan. But Fallon is running on a slate of Libertarian principles embodied in the document "Phoenix Taxpayers Emancipation," the Libertarian answer to the Republicans’ "Contract With America."

It sounds the recurring themes of Fallon’s campaign — taxes, urban sprawl and crime — by calling for an elimination of the primary property tax, shifting police officers from desk jobs to street patrols and requiring new developers to cover all of the costs for the homes they decide to build in the desert, without the taxpayers’ help.

Fallon also proposes cutting $47 million from the city budget, partly by eliminating a number of departments, including the offices of public safety, transportation services and public information, plus the Phoenix Film Office and the Community Relations Office.

With a face that looks as freshly scrubbed as a teenager in a Noncom commercial, Fallon appears younger than his 35 years, almost like your best friend’s kid brother. But it is this clean-cut image, coupled with his passion for Libertarian principles, that Fallon’s supporters say will get him elected.

"He’s very good in debates because he very passionately and reasonably presents Libertarian principles," said Emie Hareck, chairman of the Maricopa County Libertarian Party. "He can change people’s minds."

By Galina Espinosa

Family: Married with two children

Top issues: Taxes, urban sprawl, police
Libertarians to challenge anti-drug tax

Lack of results cited

By Tim Todd
The Examiner

Area Libertarians are preparing to launch their own "just say no" campaign.

But the slogan, made popular as a way of urging teens to resist peer pressure to use drugs, will not be a part of a fight against substance abuse. Instead, it may prove to be the battle cry for a group opposing the county's quarter-cent anti-drug sales tax, which goes to voters Nov. 7.

"Are they really calling all criminals off the streets? I haven't seen results," said Jeanne Bojarski, head of the Kansas City area Libertarian Party.

The party will host a meeting at 2 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Westport Library that likely be a call for war on the sales tax.

Bojarski said members of the party and others have seen few results from the tax other than the creation of new agencies that feed off the drug tax. While Prosecuting Attorney Claire McCaskill and others point to increased arrest and prosecution numbers since the tax was implemented in 1990, Bojarski dismisses the figures, saying that she has not seen proof the tax is working.

"It's my impression drug addicts, like alcohol addicts, do not cure until they make up their minds to be cured," she said.

"There are plenty of recovery programs that don't cost the taxpayers," Bojarski said she would also like to see the results of an independent study of the tax being conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The tax generates about $5 million for the county annually. The money goes to law enforcement agencies, to hire recidivists and to community education and treatment programs.

Bojarski said she has not seen any documentation of a drop in crime and treatment programs should be administered without county funding.

"The only difference between Republicans and Libertarians on the budget off your backs and eliminate government spending,' and they don't do it," he said of Republicans.

The Libertarians don't have candidates running a full slate of candidates in 1996. That one party — America's real third party — is the Libertarian Party.

Libertarian Party gathering endorses less government

By CARSON WALKER

Unlike political conventions that offer a good dose of party rhetoric, the South Dakota Libertarian Party's annual gathering sounded more like a civics lesson in American values.

Libertarians met Saturday in Sioux Falls, but not to tinker with government and draft grand ways to improve it.

Rather, a dozen or so of the 430 registered members quoted Thomas Jefferson and dreamed of a Tyrannosaurus rex tooth.

"We believe in individual freedom and personal responsibility," Dawson told the group.

Dempster, a Republican, said many of his beliefs are Libertarian in nature: a free market is the best way to distribute resources and many of his beliefs are Libertarian in nature: a free market is the best way to distribute resources and people who use a service should pay for it, such as a gasoline tax for roads instead of property taxes.

"But I disagree with the Libertarian view that says all laws are bad laws," he said.

The Libertarians have not candidates lined up yet for the 1996 races, but they did pass bylaw changes, including a measure to allow any registered independent voter to take part in their primary.

Newland predicted that with Democrat John Behnke and secretary Donna Malone said the party would elect officers this month at a general meeting. They said the party hopes to build support for the national organization and to field candidates for city and county elections.

Libertarian Party forms first chapter in Memphis

A few activist members of the national Libertarian Party have formed the Libertarian Party of Memphis, becoming the second locally organized chapter in the state.

Interim chairman John Behnke and secretary Donna Malone said the party would elect officers this month at a general meeting. They said the party hopes to build support for the national organization and to field candidates for city and county elections.
Taking aim
Libertarian hopeful sets sights on House seat

By Amy Kuras & Denise Jenkins

SOUTHGATE - A Libertarian candidate riding the wave of government discontent is hoping to convince Downriver voters to discard a Democratic incumbent and put this region in the Michigan history books.

Jon Coon, the unsuccessful 1994 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, announced earlier this year that he is running for the 24th District seat in Congress.

He said he has lived in Southgate "off and on" for about six months, and is selling his home in Henderson. Although he will have lived in the district only about a year-and-a-half when the November 1996 election rolls around, he said he believes he will be qualified to represent the district.

DOWNRIVER'S STRONG blue-collar character is comfortable for him, he said. If elected, he would be the first Libertarian to hold state office in Michigan.

"It depends on how you see it, if residency is an issue," he said. "It's where your heart is. I grew up blue collar. I identify down here."

Though Downriver characteristically votes Democratic, Coon said his U.S. Senate campaign did quite well locally last year. About 50 percent of those who voted for the Libertarian candidate in 1994 identified themselves as Democrats, he said.

He said he has lived in Southgate "off and on" for about six months, and is selling his home in Henderson. Although he will have lived in the district only about a year-and-a-half when the November 1996 election rolls around, he said he believes he will be qualified to represent the district.

Liberty Pledge News • October 1995