LP's PUBLIC DEBUT A SMASHING SUCCESS

On January 31, the National Office of the Libertarian Party held its first Press Conference, to publicly announce the formation of the Party, publicize libertarian stands on the issues of the day, and reveal goals and strategies for 1972. The results were tremendous.

Lengthy (and largely favorable) stories were carried in every major paper in Colorado. In addition, we received coverage on one TV station and four radio stations; two radio stations have requested in-depth interviews. The New York Times ran a major story in its February 6th edition. And UPI interviewed Temporary LP Chairman Dave Nolan for a major feature story, to be sent out over their national wires, to all papers and radio/TV stations.

As a result of this publicity, over 50 people contacted Party HQ in the first week after the conference -- including several who phoned long distance. And inquiries are still coming in.

In sum, our first press conference generated more publicity for the libertarian movement than any other single event since the publication of Atlas Shrugged ... at least, as far as we know. This completely vindicates our original belief that libertarians can do more to reach the public by becoming involved in the political process than by any other means ... and demolishes forever the claim that political action is "futile" or "inconsistent with libertarian principles."

During the past month, the National LP has also been active in building organizational strength. A Temporary Executive Committee, made up of leading libertarians around the country, has been formed (see p. 2). State organizations now exist in Colorado, Texas, Utah and Wyoming, with California, Michigan, Florida and New York on the verge of organizing.

Membership has nearly doubled in the last 30 days, with our goal of 1,000 members by June now appearing conservative. But, our growth and progress depends almost entirely on your getting out there and hustling. Only you can reach the libertarians in your area; we'll provide material, but you must do the rest. And remember, those cash prizes for recruiting the most members can be yours as well as anyone else's!

We'll do our part; full-page ads are scheduled in Reason, Individualist, and Abolitionist (which is changing its name to Outlook). And we've sent out over 2,000 ad reprints, to date. Nonetheless, the bulk of the recruiting effort must come from you.

An example of what can be done is the leaflet produced by the Colorado Libertarian Party (enclosed). LP organizations and members in other states are welcome to copy this leaflet, with such modifications as they desire.
Unlike some organizations, the Libertarian Party is not going to be one of those outfits where a small clique of self-appointed leaders runs the show, and everyone else does all the work. At the Convention in June, National Officers and an Executive Committee will be elected; for the interim, however, a Temporary Executive Committee has been appointed, to hasten the process of decentralization. To assure geographic balance, the country has been divided into eight regions, and one or more Party members from each region have been appointed to the Temporary Executive Committee. These individuals were chosen on the basis of past achievements and degree of enthusiasm shown for the LP concept, plus a determined effort to make sure that all age-groups and philosophical schools are represented according to their strength in the Party.

REGION 1 (WEST)
John H. Taylor
7407 Alvarado Road, Sp 45-C
La Mesa, Calif. 92041

REGION 2 (MOUNTAIN)
Karl Bray
425 W. 800 N.
Provo, Utah 84601

REGION 3 (MIDWEST)
Guy Curtis
229 W. 9th
Imperial, Neb. 69033

REGION 4 (S. CENTRAL)
Mike Holmes
Box 66321
Houston, Texas 77006

REGION 5 (GREAT LAKES)
June Grem
P.O. Box 385
Oak Park, Ill. 60303
Peter McAlpine
12297 Pine
Taylor, Mich. 48150

REGION 6 (SOUTHEAST)
Mark Coleman
503 ½ Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, Fla. 32303

REGION 7 (EAST)
Vacancy; Applications Welcome

REGION 8 (NORTHEAST)
Mark Frazier
Lowell D-11, Harvard Univ.
Cambridge, Mass. 02138
Paul Lepanto
P.O. Box 1221
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12602
By the time this Newsletter reaches you, delicious Dick Nixon will be about to embark on his pilgrimage to Peking, where, presumably, he will commune with his spiritual brethren, the masters of the latest slavic concepts. In New Hampshire, Congressmen Ashbrook and McColley will be out pounding the campaign trail, as the Consolidated Granite State Republicans that the one-time wheel-of-fortune barracks for Precinct, Arizona's Slippery Gulch Rodeo should be denied re-nomination for the presidency.

Dick's perfidy needs no elaboration; anyone who still thinks that Rascally Richard offers any hope to libertarians is simply retarded. But what on earth is Chuck Colbuchi's sudden change of heart, as a few people have suggested, libertarians can form an alliance with either Nixon or McColley?

Let us first consider Mr. McColley. McColley is, for the most part, a 'one-issue' candidate -- and his one issue, the Indo-China war, is becoming less important every day. On other issues, McColley is a moderate liberal. The semi-socialists Alasda gives him a rating of 53, while the moderate-conservative AGA gives him a 41, and the hard-conservative National Review gives him a 21. McColley is no better than Nixon. Furthermore, his chances of accomplishing anything are almost nil if he will receive more than 105 of the vote in New Hampshire, it will be a miracle, and it is unlikely that he will remain in the contest for the GOP nomination beyond March or April. Thus, there is no reason, either moral or strategic, for libertarians to become involved with McColley.

Ashbrook, in contrast, is appealingly interested in several issues. On the record in the area of economic issues is good (ABA 0; JCA 95; RN 94). Even on civil liberties issues, he's no worse than most, and better than many, to whom he's fair -- for a strong domestic defense system, but too interventionist to qualify as a true libertarian. And his campaign has opened a new political spectrum, defined as fair-to-good, although perhaps more on the "fair" end of the range. To his credit, however, is the fact that he is one of the few Republican Congressmen has open endorsed Nixon -- and for the right reasons, and in no uncertain terms.

It is a sad commentary on the current state of affairs that Ashbrook, with all his drawbacks, is one of the best members of the House of Representatives; nonetheless, this is the case, and the fact that this is no cause for a few to jump up and down, as they suspect that he might be well-advised to abandon our plans to run our own Presidential candidate, would be an embarrassment.

Unfortunately, there are several drawbacks to this approach. First, and most important, there is very little chance that Ashbrook will be able to throw the Nixon, 20% vote, and the rest of the possibility that Ashbrook can make a respectable showing in the GOP primaries -- perhaps even to the extent of drawing 30% of the vote. However, even assuming that he does well, which is highly unlikely.

At most, he might force Nixon to withdraw. If this happens (and it seems unlikely that a power-weak, like Milhous voluntarily give up his seat), the Republican Party could still select an acceptable pres
date candidate. But if this is not the case, and even if they were, there is no assurance that Richard the Loyal-Honest and Richard the Re-elected, the only promise he could be held to would be that of keeping Agnew at bay.

Thus, there is little to be gained by throwing in with Ashbrook, on a short-run basis, unless one indicates unequivocally that he will carry his challenge to Nixon into the general campaign if Nixon is re-nominated. And even then, there is considerable doubt that Ashbrook would work as hard as Nixon, for example, as Nixon endorses every 50% of the planks in our platform, and unless he were willing to do this, we would be in an awkward position. Therefore, in this writer's opinion, our best strategy vis-à-vis Ashbrook is the following:

1) Those IP members who are inspired to work for Mr. Ashbrook between now and June, solely to embarrass and harass deceitful Dick, should feel free to do so.

2) At the Libertarian Party convention, in June, a resolution can be introduced, stating that the LP will withdraw its own candidates, and endorse Ashbrook, if and only if Ashbrook continues his challenge to Nixon which the GOP Convention endorses at least 50% or more of the planks in our official platform, and, of course, if this resolution passes will of course depend on the judgement of delegates to the convention.

3) In the meantime, we should proceed full-steam-ahead with our efforts to create an effective LP organization, nationwide -- so that when this breakthrough comes, and endorses Nixon (as he is almost certain to do), there will be someone for Ashbrook's supporters to turn to.

WILLIAM F. RICKENACKER

IP member Ken Ryan of Idaho recently sent in an excellent article entitled "The Law Forbids" which was written by William F. Rickenbacher: which appeared in the January 21, 1972 issue of National Review. It presents an excellent case for the repeal of all our "legal out sin" laws, such as drug law, bedrock laws, usury laws, and vice laws. Look for it.

GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS

After many years of using the AGA rating system and the PAC rating system to determine the standings of our Senators and Congressmen, it began to appear that something was wrong. According to these systems, things just weren't as bad as we all know they are. Well, a new rating system, "The Individualist" has been created by David S. Rickenbacher, the highest-scoring Senator, so there is only 10 Representatives scored 6 or above, in the 1971-1972 session. department more realistic to libertarians. Copies of the ratings may be ordered from Review of the Week at a cost for a dollar for up to 100 copies.

THE CASE FOR A Lberian Party

An article of the above title has finally appeared in the "July/August" issue of The Individualist. It was written by IP Chairman David F. Nolan and outlines the reasons for the LP. The issue can be obtained from The Individualist, 440 Donavan Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 for 50c per copy.

If enough of you feel that this article would be a good recruiting tool, we will publish reprints of it. We will have to have the orders before printing. Please use the form on page 1 to place your order. If enough are received we will reprint the article and send your order with a bill. The price will be 50c a copy, but please don't send any money until we tell you that we are going to proceed.

PLATFORM PLANK ALREADY HAS MUCH SUPPORT

The National Committee to Legalize gold (1124 Hillary, New Orleans, Louisiana 70115) is mounting a massive campaign to repeal the prohibition on gold ownership. As this affords an excellent opportunity for us to publicize our project, and that we will bill for if we undertake the project.

NEWSPAPER READERS NEEDED

Since our press conference on January 31st, many papers have been carrying articles on the Party. However, since Associated Press and United Press can't carry them, we need press coverage of your local activities as well. For each clipping sent to Headquarters we will give you extra points in party contests--please specify what you want when submitting the clippings. Also, if possible, they should be marked with the name of the paper and the date.

CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUE MANUAL

An excellent reference book on all phases of electioneering is available from the National Association of Manufacturers at $3.00 per copy. To have been using the book here at National and feel that it would be of great help to many of our members. A description with order form is enclosed.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ENSHED

Readers who are IP members will find their current membership cards enclosed. All are dated January 1972 so your renewal will not be due until next January if you joined at any time prior to February 1st, 1972. Those joining after February 1st will have their cards mailed with their membership kits.

SUBSCRIBERS

Those of you who have recently subscribed to the IP Newsletter, re-

NOTE: In future issues, we will deal with other political developments, as they occur. For this reason, the May issue will be published approximately one week later, allowing us time to comment on the results of the New Hampshire and Florida primaries.

The Libertarian Party Newsletter is published by the LP from the 15th of each month, by the editorial committee of the Libertarian Party. Items of interest for the newsletter should be sent to the editors, in care of the Libertarian movement are welcome. Editor: David F. Nolan.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

1.000 by Convention Time

Election Day

LATEST LIBERTARIAN KIP-OFF

There's a group out in California, we hear, that's trying to get libertarians to vote as Non-Voters. For $7.50, we understand, you can become an "active non-voter"...whatever that is.

We have no quarrel with those libertarians who choose to abstain from voting, unless they try to claim that not voting is the only moral thing to do. We do think, however, that there are better ways to spend $7.50 than paying not to vote...like, for instance, on a couple of cases of beer, or a subscription to Reason for your local library.
TEXAS LIBERTARIANS INTERVIEW LP CHAIRMAN ON RADIO

Texas LP leaders Keith Jones and Mike Holmes interviewed Temporary LP Chairman Dave Nolan, via telephone, on the January 20th broadcast of their weekly radio program in Houston. For 15 minutes, the three discussed the Party's Temporary Platform, the underlying philosophy, and the Party's plans for action in 1972. If there's a radio station in your area that would be interested in doing the same thing, contact them -- and LP Headquarters -- to arrange a similar interview; it's a good way of reaching potential members in your area.

CONVENTION NEWS

The dates of our first National Convention have been finalized. It will be held in Denver, June 8th through 11th. Dale Nelson has accepted the post of Convention Arrangements Chairman and may be reached at Headquarters for any questions concerning the Convention. Definite plans as to activities, exact location and accommodations will be announced as they are formalized in future newsletters.

ORDER FORM

___ copies of the Membership Application (no charge up to 50 copies)

___ copies of the ad preprint (2¢ each; minimum order 50 copies)

___ copies of the Platform (4/$1; 10/$2; 25/$4; 50/$7; 100/$12)

___ copies of the January Newsletter (10/$1)

___ copies of the February Newsletter (10/$1)

___ copies of "News Release Tips" (10/$1)

I also wish to pre-order ___ copies of the article THE CASE FOR A LIBERTARIAN PARTY at 10/$1. No payment for this item is enclosed. I understand that I will be billed when my order is shipped.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO LIBERTARIAN PARTY.

NAME__________________________________________

ADDRESS________________________________________

CITY_________STATE_______ZIP______

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!

Libertarian Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
7748 LOWELL BOULEVARD
WESTMINSTER, COLO. 80030
PHONE (303) 429-0400