



# ALABAMA LIBERTY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA LIBERTARIAN PARTY

VOL. 4, NO. 4

NOV-DEC, 1985

## TAXPAYERS' SLATE DOES WELL

Libertarians Frank Monachelli and Steve Smith made a strong showing in the Oct. 8th Birmingham City Council race.

In a pack of 21 candidates running for five council seats, Monachelli finished 8th with over 7,000 votes, or about 15%. Smith finished 12th with over 5,000 votes, for 10.5%.

Even though the race was non-partisan, the news media often identified the two Taxpayers' Slate candidates as Libertarians. The vote percentages are higher than any Libertarian candidate has ever before achieved in Alabama.

Monachelli's showing was especially impressive. All but one of the seven candidates ahead of him were incumbents, or had the endorsement of the Citizens Coalition (a political machine loyal to the mayor), or both. The seventh candidate, a lawyer who spent heavily on advertising, was a former lobbyist for the City of Birmingham.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

by John Sproul

The national Libertarian Party convention, held this year in Phoenix, Arizona, featured a considerable number of nuts-and-bolts talks in keeping with the convention theme of "Freedom Reborn." The local group had activities well organized and the hotel was first class. Even the weather has a pleasant surprise (only 12% humidity on the day I arrived!) Delegates from the Rochester area were Dave Hoesly and John Sproul.

(CONTINUED PAGE 4)

The top four candidates (Bill Myers, Eddie Blankenship, Roosevelt Bell, Linda Coleman) each got over 50% of the vote and went directly into office. The next two (Bettye Collins, Antris Hinton) went into a runoff for the remaining seat (won by Collins on Oct. 29th).

Smith and Monachelli kept a heavy schedule of candidate forums and press interviews. They appeared for 45 minutes each on local cable TV. They were the only non-incumbent candidates who attended city council meetings throughout the campaign, presenting reports on (and counter-arguments to) the actions being taken there.

Although a few of the other 19 candidates spoke against raising taxes, Smith and Monachelli were the only ones who called for a tax cut.

(CONTINUED PAGE 4)



## H. R. 2320

Progress is being made on H.R. 2320. Congressman Edolphus Towns of New York is a new cosponsor. The mayor of Washington, D.C., former Congressman Ron Paul, and the National Baptist Convention are all new endorsers of the bill.

There is a nationwide effort to take this issue to the office of every Congressman in the country. There is an immediate need to get more cosponsors and endorsers for this bill. If you can help contact Bob Chapuis (Birmingham, AL 35202-1514). If you have not already done so please write a letter to your Congressman, Congressman Al Swift, and your local newspapers. Also take the time to sign and mail the enclosed postcard. Congressmen often act according to how much mail he gets on a particular issue!

## DON'T PAY YOUR TAXES!

Don't pay taxes. Make a year-end donation to the Alabama Libertarian Party. Your donation is tax-deductible and will be used to finance effective and expanding activities of the party. Your money is therefore a double blow to the big-government forces. You may also place your donation in a restricted fund for a particular use.

Alabama Liberty is sponsoring a letter-to-the-editor contest. Any letter printed in an Alabama newspaper in 1986 will be eligible to win. First Prize will be substantial and will include a years subscription to REASON Magazine. A complete listing of prizes will appear in the next issue. Send your letters to Alabama Liberty, P.O. Box 1124, Auburn, AL 36831.

## GETTING BETTER AT GETTING WELL

Dr. George Yossif, of Alabama, has published an article in The Freeman (July, 1985). His article is titled "The Economics of Medical Care". Dr. Yossif does a very good analysis of this difficult subject. He brings an excellent understanding of theoretical economics and the market process to the study of the market for medical care. His experience in the medical profession provides for a complete analysis of the "sacred" occupation. The cost of health care is an issue that is not brought to the attention of the public by libertarians. This is primarily because we don't understand how or in what ways the government is involved in medical care. The author does a good job of enlightening the public on this point. His combination of economic arguments and arguments for freedom should be both interesting and informative for libertarians.

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## WINNING THE WAR

The 1985 local and national elections have come and gone. There were few races nationally and even fewer surprises. Both the Democrats and Republicans are claiming victory and "political alignment" in their favor. However, little evidence is available to back either of these claims. The evidence does indicate that both major parties are losing ground to independent voters, and to a small extent, the Libertarian Party.

Libertarians are being elected to public office in record numbers. Alabama Libertarians fell just short of electing two people to the city council of one of the largest cities in the south. Yet many libertarians are easily discouraged that we are not gaining ground and have not yet achieved major party status.

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Paul Jacob is still in prison for resisting Draft Registration. Allen Lindsey is setting up the "Minuteman Project" to keep this libertarian issue alive and to keep up the fight against the draft. To get more information and a newsletter please write to the "Minuteman Project", P.O. Box 15305, Little Rock, AR 72231. You can also call 1-800-Slavery, leave your name and address and mention the "Minuteman Project".

This discouragement however, is not warranted. Our ideas do matter, our activities are having an impact. However, it is a long run war that we must win, not individual battles. Take a look at what the other side is saying. Congressional Quarterly, in an article entitled "Third Parties Fight for Recognition", says the Libertarian Party could be a "vital force" but faces two problems.

The two problems are "stringent state laws limiting their access to the ballot and the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA), the FECA will provide more than \$20 million apiece in public funds to the Democrats and Republicans...but nothing to third party candidates" (In fact it even limits individual contributions to third parties). "Critics warn that the Libertarians may be too rigid for their own good...yet the party is clearly growing"!

In the October 2nd issue of the Birmingham News, Jack Germond and Jules Witcover point to the weakness of the major parties, particularly the Republicans, at luring young voters permanently into their parties. "Opinion surveys consistently show young voters agree with the Republican consensus on economic issues but are generally progressive on most social issues." This means that the next generation of voters is largely libertarian. Big-government forces realize this and are worried.



## NAT'L CONVENTION

From page 1

Talks were given on the Sanctuary movement, the Great Depression, existence of moral rights, the environment, street people, administration of justice, international affairs, ethics in sex/love, capitalism and gays, and feminism. Practical talks included: campaign strategy, brochure production, ballot access, marketing libertarian ideas, and video production.

Andre Marrou, the Libertarian state legislator just elected in Alaska, gave an informative talk on How To Get Elected. Dave Hoesly gave a talk describing the Rochester letters-to-the-editor efforts. The Bergland/Lewis roast was a three alarmer as all the speakers were thoroughly scorched. A three-way debate on defense strategy for libertarians (Star Wars vs. unilateral disarmament vs. dismantling land based missiles and relying on submarine based missiles) was very interesting. A panel on The Future of the Party generated considerable discussion. A cartoon slide show by editorial cartoonist John Trever of the Albuquerque Journal (see his cartoon this page) was a special treat.

All the talks were taped and copies are available write for purchase (most are \$7 each). For a free list of tapes available write: Liberty Audio/824 West Broad Street Richmond, Virginia, 23220. Specify the 1985 Phoenix LP Convention.

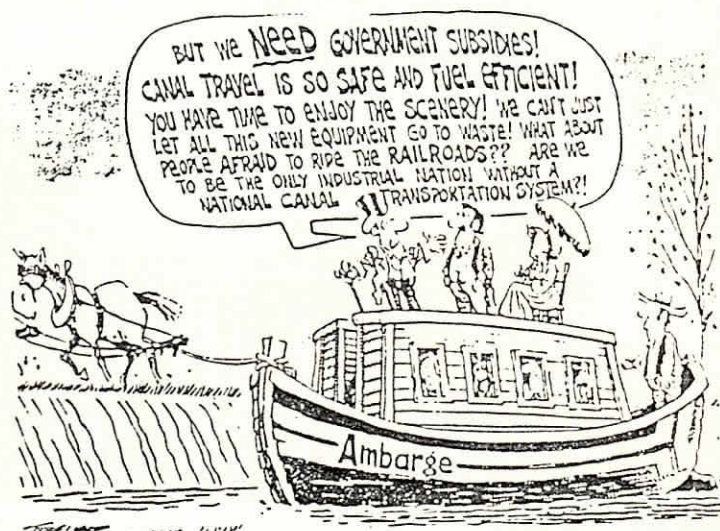
At the concurrent business session the party by-laws and platform were fine-tuned, and national officers were selected. Jim Turney of Virginia was elected national chair.

## TAXPAYERS' SLATE

From page 1

The Taxpayers' Slate made some important gains, even though the statists retain full control of city government for now. These include a greatly expanded mailing list of freedom-leaning Birmingham voters, and increased (if grudging) respect from the media and political experts.

Smith and Monachelli plan to keep in regular contact with the many friends they made during the campaign. This should provide Birmingham libertarians ready-made launching pad of support for future campaigns.



Editors Note: John Sproul is the Editor of Rochester (N.Y.) Libertarian. He also reports, that at New York's last state convention the Party's name was changed from "Free Libertarian Party" to "Libertarian Party of New York" to conform to the style in the other 49 states. At last, a united party!