NEW CHAIRMAN -- Randy T. Ver Hagen, Wisconsin coordinator of the Bergland for President campaign, was appointed Chair of the Libertarian Party by the National Committee meeting in Seattle on April 20. Under LP Bylaws Ver Hagen's appointment is to complete the term vacated by the recent resignation of Paul Grant. New Party Officers will be elected at the regular business convention in Phoenix August 14-18.

Current Vice-Chair Mary Gingell and 1980 presidential candidate Ed Clark had each been encouraged to run for national Chair, but both deferred to Ver Hagen, who was attending the Seattle meeting in preparation for a possible run for a full term for Chair in August. He was nominated for the position by 1984 presidential candidate and former national Chair David Bergland.

"In some ways, it looks like I've inherited a can of worms," Ver Hagen said, "but I like to go fishing. I'm very, very optimistic about the Party's future. It's going to take lots of work and new directions." He said he "absolutely" would run for a full term in August.

Ver Hagen, who is 32 and the owner of a Milwaukee insurance agency, received 40% of the vote in a race for Waukesha County Board of Supervisors in 1982 against a 20-year incumbent, and led in one of five wards. Since joining the Libertarian Party in 1981, Ver Hagen has been secretary, media coordinator, and platform committee chair for the Wisconsin LP and chair of the Waukesha County LP. As Wisconsin coordinator during the 1984 Bergland/Lewis campaign he arranged five campaign tours and managed other campaign activities.

1987 CONVENTION -- Reno, Nevada was selected by the National Committee on April 20 as the site for the 1987 Presidential Nominating Convention following a presentation by Lyn Sapowsky of Redwood City, California. Several northern California Libertarians will be actively working with the Nevada LP on the convention, scheduled for August 1987, although it may be moved to April 1988.

Bids for the convention were also made by Libertarians from two other cities: for San Antonio, by Greg Clark and Texas Chair Roger Gary, and for Seattle, by Skip Barron, organizer of the successful Northwestern Freedom Conference which hosted the National Committee meeting. Barron said Seattle Libertarians would hold another regional conference next year and would also bid again for the next national convention.

1985 CONVENTION -- A 16-page tabloid promoting Freedom Reborn, the 1985 National LP Convention, has just been mailed to Libertarians by the Convention Committee. Major speakers include Larry Dodge, Karl Hess, Gene Burns, Sam Steiger, and Dick Boddie. The deadline for early registration discounts is July 4.

Committee appointments were made by the National Committee April 20 for the three convention committees.

Appointed to the Platform Committee from the large states are David Nolan of Colorado, temporary Chair, Steve Givot of Illinois, and Sharon Ayres,
Now that's real "tax reform"

Let us set as our goal the total elimination of the Federal Income Tax. A most fundamental and important change needed is in our view of the people in government and the jobs they do. Think of government as a conglomerate of service businesses. Must the people providing these services be government employees? Must these services be paid for with taxes? The answer to both questions is clearly: No. The path to that goal (tax elimination) is through greater reliance on market-provided services in place of government and by adopting voluntary methods of raising funds to pay for services which government continues to provide.

— DAVID BERGLAND, 1984 presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party.

Health Inspectors Clamp Lid on Libertarian Protest Soup

San Fernando Valley Libertarian Party members cooked up more than they had bargained for Monday when they set up a soup line in Van Nuys to protest income-tax laws that they claim finance a meddlesome government.

Los Angeles County health inspectors cited the group for dispensing food without a permit and ordered a halt to the noontime soup-serving to crowds visiting the Van Nuys Boulevard federal building for tax forms or to mail tax returns.

The action left more than 10 gallons of chicken-vegetable soup steaming on a camp stove. It left the Libertarians steaming mad. "This simply represents one more example of the omnipotent, ubiquitous state of things," said John Vernon, 45, who prepared the soup at his Van Nuys home.

Health officials said they spotted the soup from their office across the street. "It was out there in the open, susceptible to flies and people coughing into the kettles," said Frank Litick, chief sanitarian in the health department's West Valley Health Center.

Wants Albany to 'Give it Back'

Nassau Libertarians will begin their 'Give It Back' campaign on April 15. The campaign is to convince the state legislature to return their pay increases. Last December, after the elections were past, the Legislature passed by votes of 44-14 in the Senate and 113-31 in the Assembly pay increases for themselves and state officials. These "defenders of the taxpayer," Republicans and Democrats alike, gave themselves a Christmas present of 30.5 percent in salary, bringing their pay up to $43,000. They added more "lulus" for powerful legislators and raised the pay of 70 state commissioners and 1100 judges. For information call 212-226-6483.

LEVI TOWN TRIBUNE - LEVI TOWN, N.Y. - APRIL 4

Making a point

The Libertarian Party chose an unusual, if not original, method to protest taxes yesterday. Richard E. Caligiuri wears a barrel as he leads Lady Godiva, Susan Wrobleski of Carrick, through Market Square. (See Phil Musick column, page B1)
I couldn't let the government's day for calling in all markers slip by without comment, so the promised column on Rand McNally's oversights in the San Fernando Valley will have to wait a day. The tax man taketh precedence.

That benevolent old uncle of ours changed into skinflint Scrooge again, didn't he? "Pay up, Cratchit, and why ain't that kid of yours working yet?"

Besides alimony, there ain't no more rotten check to write during the year than the one that balances the ledgers with the Internal Revenue Service. It humbles the working class, makes their hands shake in anger, their sweat glands work overtime. By the time they get to the signature line, they start feeling like Rodney Dangerfield doing five minutes at an IRS convention.

I went out Monday looking for tax revolt on the streets — maybe a sit-in at the post office, or a post office under siege. I was really hoping for something big, like a mass-burning of W-2 forms on the lawn of the federal building.

And then they make you wait

But, no luck. We taxpayers are a beaten lot. Not only does the government take our money on the 15th, but it makes us wait an hour at the post office to give it up. That's like saying thanks to the guy who robs you.

I did find one mini-protest. But it was more in mock fun than anger. A group from the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Libertarian Party set up a free soup kitchen adjacent to the federal building and post office in Van Nuys.

They dished out vegetable soup to the walking wounded leaving the post office. Surprisingly, many taxpayers took up the free soup. There's something about a soup line that binds people together.

"If we keep paying taxes, we'll all end up in the poorhouse," complained Barbara Briggs, an Agoura woman who preaches the Libertarian Party line of "less government-the-better."

And then what? A complete breakdown of law and order? Free soup kitchen protesters.

"We're basically trying to have a little bit of fun," said Katie S. Smith, the spokesperson for the Northeast Regional of the Ohio Libertarians. "Once you get the people's attention, you can give them something serious to consider."

Ms. Smith can at least claim a victory in gaining the people's attention. Every bench seat was taken on the Public Square quadrant, and automobile bumpers came within a few inches of each other in near collisions, thanks to drivers whose eyes were not on the road.

AMY MORRIS of Spencer, Ohio, said she was in Cleveland on some other matters and decided to attend the protest when she saw the lady on the horse.

"I think it's a good idea," Ms. Morris said. "With taxes, it seems you work half for yourself and half for the government."

The Libertarians asked the crowd to shout their opposition to taxes. The loudest of the retorts came from a scream by the Spencer woman's 4-year-old daughter, Christine. Christine then said that she was not going to let these upstarts get away with their tax protest, didn't you?

You can't get away with that

But you just knew the government was not going to let these upstarts get away with their tax protest, didn't you? Let one group have its way and the-less-government-the-better.

Next month, he supposed to

"There's a lot of people who don't like the idea... of taxes. I think we had a good response."

Ralph Pierce also said the event was a success. Pierce owns VIP Carriage Co. and he rented Godiva's horse to the Libertarians.

The horse is an 8-year-old gelding named Milo, and it is a former harness race horse. Pierce said that after years of hauling harness drivers, this is Milo's first ride with a Lady Godiva. So what's next for Milo? Next month, he is supposed to carry a woman dressed as the Statue of Liberty. The choice of her wardrobe has not yet been mentioned.
Bill Evers, and Mark Hinkle, all of California. Appointments from the small states are Larry Dodge of Montana, Murray Rothbard of Nevada, James Martin of Washington, Dale Pratt of Hawaii, and Jim Hedbor of Vermont. Ranked alternates from the large states are 1) Scott Bieser of Texas, and 2) Dick Eagleson of California. Small states alternates are 1) Llew Rockwell of Alabama, and 2) Dean Ahmad of Maryland.

Bylaws and Rules Committee appointments are Bill White, temporary Chair, David Bergland, and Richard Winger, all of California, Skip Barron and Ruth Bennett of Washington, Dale Hemming of Minnesota, Hugh Butler of Utah, David Walter of Pennsylvania, Roger Gary of Texas, and Ken Bennett of Indiana. Alternates appointed are 1) Paul Kunberger of Maryland, and Jim Turney of Virginia.

The Credentials Committee appointments are Lyn Sapowsky, temporary Chair, of California, Heide Hartmann-Davis of South Carolina, Frances Eddy of Maryland, Peggy Jeney of Arizona, and Gary Johnson of Texas. Alternates are Kate O'Brien of California, and Lee Nason of Massachusetts.

The ten largest states also will each appoint a member to the Platform Committee by no later than one month prior to the convention. Already appointed are Helen Heyden from Illinois and Henry Haller from Pennsylvania. The other eight states entitled to appoint a committee member are California, Texas, New York, Michigan, Florida, Alaska, Colorado, and Ohio. The Platform Committee is required by Convention Rules to meet at least two months prior to the convention. The five largest states also will each appoint a member to the Credentials Committee by no later than one month prior to the convention. Already appointed is Mary Alice Strzalka from Illinois.

**BUDGET CRUNCHED --** In other action at the Seattle meeting, the National Committee reacted to the income shortfall during early 1985 by scaling back budgeted expenditures by 11%, including a 22% cut in the budget for *LP News*. Editor Mike Holmes anticipates that he will be able to hold to his bi-monthly publishing schedule through the convention in August, but that the size of the issues and the number mailed will be reduced.

**FREE LUNCH BUNCH --** National Finance Chair Matt Monroe has announced the formation of a new special group of Libertarian Party supporters to be called the Torch Club. Membership is open to anyone who contributes $1,000 or more to the Libertarian Party in any calendar year. Sharon Ayres of California has agreed to be the director and 20 persons have already joined for 1985. Among the special benefits of membership will be an invitation to a "free lunch" at the Phoenix convention in August.

**ALASKA DEREGULATION --** Libertarian State Representative Andre Marrou has succeeded in shepherding one of his bills through the state house. The bill deregulates concert promoters, one of 15 regulated professions in Alaska. It will now be automatically introduced in the state senate at the beginning of the next session.

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You may find it more convenient to have your pledge automatically credited to the LP without writing a check each month. If you would like to convert to Mastercard or VISA, please fill out and return this form. We will debit your card account on approximately the 7th of each month during the term of your pledge. If you prefer to make an open-ended pledge, just leave the "until" space blank and we will keep you enrolled in the Liberty Pledge until you notify us otherwise.

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