LP mayor invited to White House

Bonnie Flickinger, the Libertarian mayor of Monroe Valley, California, was invited to the White House to witness President Bill Clinton signing the Crime Bill — and had to bite her tongue not to say what she really thought about the controversial $30 billion bill.

Flickinger was one of hundreds of mayors and police chiefs from around the country invited to the event on September 13th. “I have no idea how I got invited!” she admitted.

Because of the ceremonial nature of the event, Flickinger said she did not speak out about her disagreements with the Crime Bill. “I’m there as an official representative of Monroe Valley, so this was not a political event. I [was] biting my tongue,” she said.

But at the event, looking at all the Congressmen and Senators, she said, “I’m saying [to myself], we need Libertarians in these power positions! We need to get into the debate! We’ve got to tell them, ‘It’s not going to work!’ ”

Flickinger did express her doubts about the crime Bill to a local newspaper before leaving, saying, “I have serious doubts whether the federal government should be taking law enforcement out of the hands of local government.”

Flickinger is one of three LP mayors in California, and one of 124 Libertarians in office around the nation.

Moriarty blasts Janet Reno at NatCom meeting speech

Michael Moriarty, the Emmy Award-winning TV star, launched a blistering attack on Janet Reno, Bill Clinton, and the government in general in a speech to the LP National Committee in Washington, DC on August 27th.

“After swearing to uphold the Constitution, [Reno] has criminally assaulted not just the Second Amendment rights of the Koresh cult in Waco, Texas but the First Amendment rights of anyone involved in television,” he charged. “Janet Reno wants to institute a kind of cultural martial law.”

Moriarty, star of the hit NBC series Law & Order for four years, has been engaged in a public feud with Reno ever since the Attorney General threatened censorship if the TV violence wasn’t curbed. He was fired from Law & Order shortly after speaking out against Reno last year.

This incident has made him rethink all his political beliefs, said Moriarty.

“Russia throws off the yoke of communism and the whole socialist crock of [crap] begins to fall on our own backs! National Health? Socialized pension funds? State controlled television? Search and seizure laws? Forfeiture laws? If we’re not in the Soviet Union of the United States, we certainly have returned to 1776 and taxation without representation,” he said.

Moriarty displayed surprisingly libertarian sentiments on a wide range of political issues:

> On President Clinton: “He’s into liberal fascism . . . which is even more infuriating than fascism. Fascism says ‘I’m going to tell you what to do because I’m in power,’ Liberal fascism says, ‘I’m going to tell you what to do because I know better than you do. I’m going to save you from yourself.’ ”

> The federal government: “We’ve been asleep for about 50 years. Ever since the end of World War II, we’ve just steadily handed our future and our bank accounts and our children over to the federal government.”

> The Crime Bill: “[A] harebrained scheme about building this nation into a police state because they haven’t the sense to realize that the War on Drugs is a domestic Vietnam.”

Moriarty has appeared in the movies Bang the Drum Slowly and Pale Rider, on Broadway in My Fair Lady, and on television in the Holocaust miniseries.
Winter’s plan would spend less on schools

Candidate’s proposal would allow parents of private school children to receive a rebate on their property taxes.

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Steve Winter says he’s the only candidate with an education reform plan that would lead to spending less on public schools.

The Newbury airline pilot claims his property tax rebate plan would do more to cut local taxes than plans offered by Republican Gov. Steve Merrill, Democrat Wayne King or GOP rival Fred Bramante.

“None of these plans look at the cost of education,” Winter said during a recent interview at The Telegraph. “They all look at ways on which to feed the current system.”

Winter’s proposal would allow parents of private school children to receive a rebate on their property taxes equal to half of the cost of schooling.

“So if the cost per pupil in that district is $6,000, then the parent would have a $3,000 rebate and the district would be saving $3,000 in costs by having that student in an alternative school,” Winter explained.

Winter denied claims that his plan would hurt poor parents who cannot afford to send their children to private schools with only a $3,000 rebate.

And he strongly rejected the view that his rebate proposal would leave public schools with a “students of last resort.” those with special needs or emotional problems to whom private institutions routinely deny admission.

“To say that you are going to keep the poor people in the inferior system is an indictment of our public school system,” Winter said.

“We also think public schools would be enhanced by this form of competition with the private sector.”

Winter was critical of Merrill’s proposal to encourage school districts to offer public kindergarten by repealing business corporate tax credits they now enjoy.

“I think there’s something wrong with our system when we have to take money out of the hands of the business community to pay for kindergarten in this state,” Winter said.

Winter said he would not go so far as to support the privatization of schools but that something has to be done to expand options for parents.

“Right now, public education has a cookie-cutter system,” he said. “Kids are moved ahead which should be held back; students who are overachievers are stunted by the pace of the learning. It’s not a user-friendly system.”

Winter also faulted Merrill and other GOP leaders before him by paying lip service to “choice” for parents while offering few specifics for fear of attracting the opposition of the teachers union lobby.

“I know I’m not going to get the NEA (National Education Association of New Hampshire) endorsement. I don’t even care,” Winter said.

“Republicans talk about choice, but they don’t push any initiatives out there because it is a status quo party.”


On other issues:

Economic development: Winter is opposed to using tax-guaranteed loans or grants for small businesses.

“I think what the governor’s job is to ensure we have an economic advantage by having a low tax climate and that this state’s high quality of life is maintained,” he said. “To be subsidizing economic development with our tax base, I have a problem with that.”

Pease Air Force Base: Winter said the state should have sold off its interest in redevelopment of the base in Newington to the highest private bidder.

“My feeling is if we had a private interest promoting that facility, we would have that area with a lot more economic activity than it has now,” he said.

 Illegal drugs: Winter embraces the Libertarian Party platform, which supports ending criminal penalties for the abuse of drugs. Winter said has only increased the level of violent crime in the U.S.

Some licenses have no clear benefit to anyone

Tom Cox, a Tigard computer consultant running for state labor commissioner on the Libertarian ticket, doesn’t stand much of a chance against the well-heeled and experienced Democratic and Republican commissioner candidates, Mary Wendy Roberts and Jack Roberts. But he’s come up with at least one idea that deserves some attention.

Cox would like to see the state get out of the licensing business, to a great degree, and let businesses and specialty professions regulate themselves in the free enterprise system. His argument is that a lot of licenses and regulations issued by the state are unnecessary and produce few real benefits for consumers or businesses.

Though some professions clearly need state oversight — we’d hate to see hair stylists, for example, nicking clients’ necks left and right with no mechanism for kicking them out of the trade — the need for others to have licenses, including the shorthand reporter example Cox uses, seems fuzzy at best.

In an ideal system of government, trades thought needling licensing and regulation would have a trial period where such things were in effect. If it turned out — as with cosmetologists or pharmacists or contractors — that such regulation was useful, and helping consumers and tradespeople avoid problems, then they’d stay in place. For other professions, needless licenses and rules could be done away with after the trial period, and simple competition would allow competent practitioners to rise to the top.

Unfortunately, government rarely pulls out of the things it gets into. As a result, people like shorthand reporters are still licensed and regulated, with no clear benefit to anyone and with an administrative cost to taxpayers.

Cox may not emerge triumphant come November, but this notion of reviewing licenses and regulations and doing away with the useless ones has merit, and deserves a look from the Legislature.

JK
I expect to win

Libertarians optimistic voters will climb aboard

By PAUL NEVILLE

The Register-Guard

Oregon, libertarians are running in a state's congressional and legislative races — the largest number in recent years.

"Our growth has been explosive and exponential," said Nanni, who is also the party's state chairman.

Nanni estimated that nearly 10,000 of Oregon's 1.7 million voters are registered as libertarians, a number that cannot be verified since state election officials do not identify voters by political party. The Libertarian Party in Oregon is large enough to attract some voters who would normally vote for the Democratic or Republican parties.

The Libertarian Party has yet to elect a candidate to a major office in Oregon. But party officials say they hope to change that this year. They hope to elect some state representatives and even a state senator.

The Libertarian Party's success in Oregon is due to the efforts of its candidates and the party's national leaders. The Libertarian candidates have run in every major political race in the state, and they have won or come close to winning in many races.

The party's success has also come from the efforts of its members. The Libertarian Party has a strong grassroots movement, and its members work hard to get out the vote.

The Libertarian Party's slogan is "Liberty and Prosperity." The party believes in the principles of individual freedom, limited government, and free enterprise. It supports the reduction of government spending and the elimination of unnecessary regulations.

The Libertarian Party's success in Oregon is proof that libertarians can be successful in a two-party system. The party's candidates have run for state and federal offices, and they have won or come close to winning in many races.

The Libertarian Party's success is due to the efforts of its candidates, its members, and the party's national leaders. The party has a strong base of support in Oregon, and it continues to grow in popularity.
Libertarian Party candidates would like to see a hands-off policy in government.

Urn Higgins

MONTGOMERY COUNTY — A drastic reduction of taxes, more parental power in deciding where children should be sent to school and a general hands-off attitude by government in most day-to-day activities are among the priorities of the Libertarian Party.

Such was the case recently at a Montgomery County meeting of Libertarians in Worcester where candidates presented themselves to a gathering of about 30 people.

U.S. Senate candidate Don Ernsberger of Warminster said he attributes the growing attention Libertarians are receiving to the significant number of votes and attention that independent candidate Ross Perot received in the last presidential election.

"I think a lot of people who voted for Perot were not necessarily voting for the man but for the individual choice," he said.

In the coming November election, Ernsberger said there are more than 1,000 Libertarian candidates nationwide. Of those, 100 are running for U.S. Congress and 28 are running for Pennsylvania positions, he said.

Lee Hustad of East Norriton, who is running for the 13th District seat in the state House against Democratic incumbent Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky and Republican Jon Fox, jumps his opponents into one category: "Democrats, Social Security fund is going to be busted, totally broke," he said. "You should own your own pension plan. The same with your medical care — not some corporation, employer or the federal government."

The Libertarian candidates said that government should not be involved in a woman's decision about whether she should have an abortion. The government also should not force people who are opposed to abortion to help in federal funding, the candidates said.

Kern Jacobine of Abington is running for state Senate in the 12th District, including from Abington to Montgomery townships in Montgomery County and from Warminster to New Britain in Bucks County. He is running against Republican incumbent Stewart J. Greenleaf and Democrat Anthony bipolarism. Jacobine spoke out against government taxation, stating that in the 1980s the total tax burden on a middle-class American family was about 12 percent of income. Now, he said the tax bite is more than 30 percent of income.

Jacobine said taxes should be reduced — particularly business taxes — and tax-free enterprise zones should be established in the most economically depressed areas.

Also, certain services now provided by government, such as liquor stores, highway repair and insurance, should be privatized, he said.

Jacobsen said he would also like welfare recipients to be gradually moved off the public dole through deregulation, education and a greater reliance on private charitable organizations.

Charlie McVilaine of Springfield, seeking the 154th District seat in the state House against Democrat incumbent Lawrence Curry and Republican Val Williams, said he would like to ask voters if "Republicans and Democrats have done a bang-up job in your lifetime?"

He also said he would like to limit government power.

Higgins is a reporter for The Daily Intelligencer.