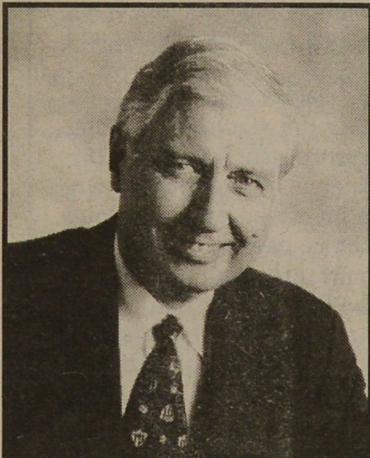


Again in 2000?

Browne considers second LP run

In what would be a first for the Libertarian Party, Harry Browne says he just might consider running for president again in the year 2000 "if conditions are right"; and an exploratory committee chaired by Jack Dean of California has been launched to "test the waters" for such a run.



Harry Browne

In a letter to his 1996 major donors in mid-February, Browne wrote: "I won't run again if it has to be the same kind of campaign we ran in 1996.

"To make an impact

on the future of America, we have to run a campaign that's comparable in size to those of the Republicans and Democrats," he said. And to have that, "it all comes down to one thing: How big the Libertarian Party is.

"Today the LP has about 22,000 members," he noted. "While that's the largest membership in its history, it is still way too small to make an impact on American politics. We need a party at least 10 times that size—200,000 or more members."

A party that size would provide the substantial fundraising base to run a first-class campaign, the volunteers necessary to conduct a true grassroots effort, and the clout to cause the press and TV networks to cover the race on a daily basis, he explained.

"With that kind of impact, I will gladly run again," Browne said.

He noted that there are other factors that will bear on his decision—which he expects to make in late 1999 or early 2000—but that "the size of the party dwarfs all other factors in importance." Membership growth was a theme that

see **Browne** on page 3

Jim Lewis dies

VP candidate, champion of liberty

Jim Lewis, who spent 17 years of his life working to advance the cause of liberty as an author, political activist, opponent of the income tax, and Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate, died recently. He was 63.

Upon learning of his death, David Bergland, who topped the Libertarian Party's 1984 presidential ticket, called Lewis "the best in the Libertarian movement."

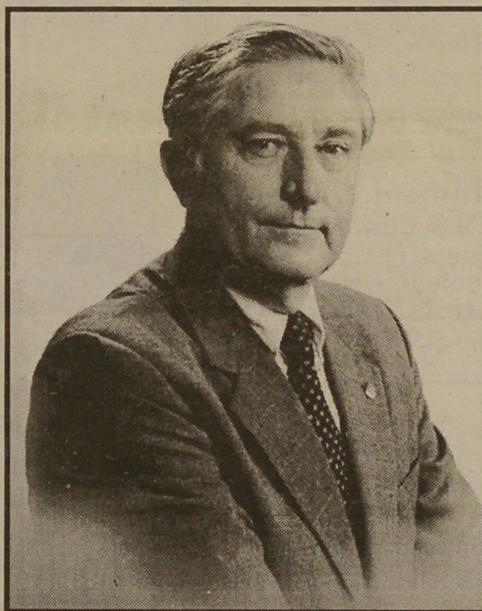
Lewis died suddenly at his home in Norwich, CT, on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1997, of an apparent heart attack. He is survived by three sons, a daughter, and his mother.

"I will always remember Jim Lewis fondly," LP National Director Perry Willis said, upon hearing the news. "On that day when we finally accomplish the goals that he held so dear, I know that he will come to mind, and the sweetness of victory will be tempered by the fact that Jim isn't there to see it. Liberty has lost a good friend."

"The Libertarian Party has lost a principled champion," agreed National LP Chair Steve Dasbach.

Bergland said, "We were fortunate to have Jim Lewis on our side. Jim represented the best in the Libertarian movement. Not only principled,

see **Lewis** on page 8



Jim Lewis

Libertarian Party NEWS



April 1997

The Party of Principle

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 4

Former AL LP chair gets state appointment

Mark Thornton, the former chair of the Libertarian Party of Alabama, has been appointed to a high-ranking position in that state's banking department—and says he is "optimistic about achieving some good for the people of Alabama."

Thornton, a professor of economics at Auburn University and state LP chair in 1996 and 1997, was appointed as assistant supervisor of banking in the State Banking Department in mid-February by Republican Gov. Fob James. He stepped down as LP chair to take the new job.

The appointment followed Thornton's high-profile campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1996—a campaign that he said seemed to leave the "media and the voters favorably impressed" by both his ideas and credibility.

"I think that the visibility of my campaign for U.S. Senate did have something to do with the appointment," Thornton said. "It was a positive campaign that stressed issues and solutions. We [Libertarians] have radical solutions, but I think the fact that I stressed their general-interest appeal, their practicality and success, and their general consistency with the Constitu-

see **Thornton** on page 7

National party hosts Success '97

In early March, the national Libertarian Party hosted a leadership conference, entitled Success '97, in Washington, DC. Two sessions were held to accommodate the large turnout.

Participating in the conference were Libertarian Party national officers, headquarters staff, Libertarian National Committee (LNC) members, and state chairs.

During each of the two-day events, participants listened to presentations on a variety of subjects and had time for discussion and sharing of ideas.

Participants at each session were divided into three groups to allow for discussion. About 50 people participated in each of the two conferences.

"The blend of great instruction with years of experience resulted in highly effective sessions," said Ken Bisson, LNC Region 3 (Indiana, Ken-

tucky, Ohio, and Michigan) representative.

Among those participating in the event was Ron Crickenberger, newly hired political director for the national party.

Crickenberger has served as LP Campaigns Committee chair, as an LNC representative, and in various state and local LP positions. Crickenberger had to relinquish his LNC position to take the new job on the headquarters staff. His replacement on the LNC will be named at the LNC meeting this month.

Topics at Success '97 included: a focus on continued party growth, presented by LP National Chair Steve Dasbach and LP National Director Perry Willis; a look at national headquarters (LPHQ) services, presented by LPHQ Affiliate Services Manager Dan Smith; convention planning and a look at the 1998 national convention,

presented by LPHQ Projects Manager Kris Williams; building a strong state party, presented by LPHQ Director of Communications Bill Winter; building a strong local party, presented by Willis; a look at what is new at the LPHQ, presented by Dasbach, LPHQ Director of Operations Dan Gallagher, and LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger; and fund raising, presented by Dasbach and Willis.

"Many participants expressed the view that this had been their most important LP function," Bisson said.

"I challenged myself to accomplish two tasks as I left this conference—renew my commitment to lead this party in the right direction. . . and foster two-way communication about that vision with the LP members of the four states I represent," Bisson said.

Another suit filed in NJ

Two New Jersey Libertarian Party members filed suit in U.S. District Court in mid-March against an East Brunswick police officer, the Township of East Brunswick, and three other police officers yet to be named.

The suit, filed by John Paff of Somerset and Tim Konek of Spotswood, seeks compensatory damages, attorney fees, and an injunction against future harassment by East Brunswick police.

The suit was filed in response to Paff and Konek's arrest for conducting a tax protest in front of the East Brunswick post office last April 15. The two Libertarians were arrested and charged with defiant trespassing for distributing mock \$1 million bills to last-minute income tax filers. The mock bills contain language critical of the Inter-

nal Revenue Service and federal spending levels. Libertarian Party affiliates have used the bills in similar protests at post offices nationwide for a number of years.

Paff and Konek were held under \$5,000 cash bail each and were detained at the East Brunswick police station for about three hours. They were then moved to the Middlesex County Workhouse for an additional three hours before fellow Libertarian Party members could raise the necessary bail.

After making four court appearances, the East Brunswick prosecutor dismissed the charges against the two LP members on Sept. 20, 1996.

At issue is whether the court will grant a preliminary injunction preventing the township police from arresting Paff and Konek if they conduct a similar protest at the East Brunswick post office this month.

The matter is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on April 7 before a federal court judge.

WY contest

The Wyoming LP is conducting a Tax Day IRS (Idiotic Revenue Suggestions) contest proposed by activist Craig McCune, with a \$100 reward, for any idea for a workable tax that would be more stupid than the income tax.

Rules for the contest are: Ideas must be workable, but need not be constitutional; entries not postmarked or received on or before midnight, April 15, 1997, are subject to penalties and lack of interest; entries for the stupidest tax system must be submitted in writing and are limited to 1040 words or less; judges' decisions are final; entries become the property of the Wyoming Libertarian Party.

Mail entries to: Wyoming Libertarian Party, P.O. Box 15713, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

California LP: Separate sports and state

California Libertarians unanimously passed a resolution calling for the separation of sports and state.

Drafters of the resolution cited the increasing trend of professional sports franchises and leagues to get city governments to finance stadium construction or renovations at taxpayers' expense by means of taxation and bonded indebtedness.

"At least five California cities have been or are currently being lobbied by sports organizations either to renovate its existing stadium or to build a new one," wrote co-drafters Rodney Austin and Edward Teyssier.

Negotiations or controversies are going on in San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, Anaheim, and Oakland. The added debt to each community will range from \$60 to \$100 million, not

including interest.

The resolution addressed only "corporate welfare" for professional sports organizations, not for community sports complex/facilities such as are being planned in cities such as Fresno and San Luis Obispo.

"However," said a state LP spokesman, "whether the stadium financing schemes are corporate welfare for private organizations or community endeavors, the ones who end up paying the tab are the taxpayers."

In approving the resolution, delegates pointed to the LP principle that private groups such as professional sports owners should be supported solely by the free will and full consent of their sponsors and customers, not through the force of government taxation and bonded indebtedness.

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see page 15

Browne

continued from page 1

Browne stressed throughout his campaign, and party officials credit much of the LP's membership increase during 1996 to excitement generated by the campaign.

Browne covered some of these points at the California LP's annual convention in Sacramento on Feb. 16, when he announced the formation of his exploratory committee. He received a standing ovation from the banquet crowd when he said that he was considering another run.

Former California LP State Chair Jack Dean, who is heading up the exploratory effort, feels this is another major step in the Libertarian Party's development and entry into the real world of politics.

"We're seeing several 'firsts' in LP history with the formation of Harry's exploratory committee," Dean said. "It's the first time anyone has indicated an interest in the nomination this early, it's the first time that fund raising for that purpose has started this early, and it's the first time we could conceivably have a presidential candidate run twice.

"We've always pointed to our emphasis on 'principle over personality' to explain why no Libertarian candidate has ever run twice in our 25-year history," Dean said. "But a more honest reason is that no candidate has been willing to run a second time. And who could blame them? It's a very demanding job.

"Harry, however, was a natural," Dean said. "He enjoyed campaigning—probably because he had spent the last three decades on the speaking circuit. He was wonderful with outreach, especially on all those radio talk shows. Plus his skills as a writer were a real bonus that elevated the tone of the entire campaign."

Dean noted that it's also time to learn from the other parties: "Republicans Steve Forbes, Lamar Alexander, and Jack Kemp have already launched exploratory committees, as has Vice President Al Gore. They know the importance of starting early to build momentum."

The committee will be used as a platform for outreach efforts, to help LP recruitment, to maintain media contacts established during 1996, to pursue new media contacts, to continue to build Harry's name recognition, and to raise money to provide the campaign with a fast start in the year 2000, according to Dean.

"We can't continue to launch presidential campaigns with no money in the bank and expect anyone to pay attention to us," he commented.

Browne plans to spend the bulk of his time between now and 2000 working to help build party membership. He has been doing libertarian radio commentaries on the Talk America and United Broadcasting networks. He continues to appear on radio

talk shows on behalf of the party, and in February he filled in as guest host on Lowell Ponte's syndicated talk show. And he has been raising money for the Libertarian Party's membership recruitment campaign. According to Dean, he's also scheduled to speak at two more state LP conventions this spring, and requests have been received from several other state parties for summer and fall appearances.

But what happens if Browne decides not to run?

"If it turns out that I don't run in 2000, everything we've done will help whoever

becomes the LP's presidential candidate," said Browne in his letter. "The money raised can be spent on his or her campaign, and we will use our contacts to assist the candidate.

"No matter who runs, we must be in a position to wage a first-class campaign that will reach every American voter many times."

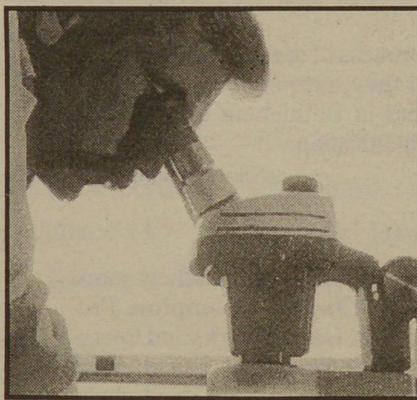
Dean began working for the Browne for President campaign as a consultant in the spring of 1995. At the time he was senior partner in the fund-raising consulting firm of Dean, Spear & Associates. He left the

firm in July 1996 after the Libertarian nominating convention to work full time for the campaign as senior adviser.

Dean has managed several Libertarian legislative campaigns and has been a candidate himself. He served as executive director of the Reason Foundation in the late 1980s.

The Harry Browne for President 2000 Exploratory Committee can be contacted by mail at 2556 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20037, or by e-mail at <info@HarryBrowne2000.org>.

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Affiliates

Eggert appointed Justice of the Peace in CT

Alabama

The following new state party officers have been elected: **Steve Dow**, chair; **Mark Bodenhausen**, vice chair; and **Bob Burns**, executive director.

Source: affiliate officer

California

Mark W. A. Hinkle of Morgan Hill was elected chair of the state party for a two-year term at the recent state convention. A senior project support coordinator for Hitachi Data Systems, Hinkle has served the Libertarian Party in various state and national posts.

Hinkle succeeds **Gail Lightfoot** of Pismo Beach. Lightfoot will continue to serve on the state party's executive committee and as Hinkle's assistant.

Others elected were: **Jon Petersen**, northern vice chair; **Robert G. Weber Jr.**, southern vice chair; **Elizabeth Brierly**, secretary; and **Eric Fine**, treasurer.

In addition to Lightfoot, executive committee members are **Ted Brown**, **Allan L. Swain**, **Terry C. Savage**, **Mary T. Gingell**, **Philip Zoebisch**, **Joe Dehn**, and **Jeffery Sommer**. Two others are still to be appointed.

In early March, Bellflower voters elected an ally of Libertarian Councilman **Art Olivier**. Olivier "already had one ally, so there is now a 3-2 majority of pro-liberty (but not officially libertarian) council members in Bellflower," reported **Mark Hinkle**, LP state chair. Olivier is being elected mayor pro tem (vice mayor) and should rotate into the mayor's chair next March, Hinkle reported.

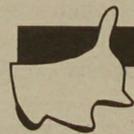
Tom Tryon was the recipient of the 1996 Sons of Liberty Award at the 16th Annual Samuel Adams Society Awards Luncheon in mid-February at the state party convention in Sacramento. In November, Tryon was re-elected to his third term on the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors.

Source: affiliate officer

Connecticut

Libertarian **MaryAnn Eggert** recently was appointed to a four-year term as justice of the peace in Bethlehem. She is the first Libertarian justice of the peace in the state.

Eggert was appointed to the office by the Connecticut secretary of state. The town of Bethlehem has 10 justices of the peace.



National pulse

News from the states

As a justice of the peace, Eggert can take acknowledgments, marry town residents, take depositions, and issue subpoenas.

"It should be fun," Eggert said. "I don't know how much I'll get to do. I just want to do what I can."

Eggert is a retired supervising sergeant for the Litchfield County Court.

Eggert also hopes her appointment will be a step toward making the LP a factor in local politics. Her husband, **George Eggert**, ran for the state legislature in 1996 and for the board of selectmen in 1995 as a Libertarian Party candidate.

The Eggerts are in the process of organizing a Libertarian Town Committee, and they have sent out about 250 letters to unaffiliated voters in Bethlehem urging their participation in the new organization.

Source: affiliate officer

Florida

Seminole County has five Libertarians in office, more than any county in the nation: **Charles Champion**, Program Review Commission; **Kurt Harris**, Parks and Recreation; **Larry Lawver**, Code Enforcement Board; **Karl Williamson**, Historical Commission; and **Bill Lang**, chairman of the Board of Mechanical Contractors. Four of the five were appointed by **Grant Maloy**, a libertarian-leaning Republican who was recently elected county commissioner.

Several Libertarians testified on Florida's harsh ballot access laws at the Florida legislature's election reform hearings, which were held at various locations around the state in February. **Daniel Walker** spoke in Tallahassee, **Janet Hawkins** in Orlando, and **Jim Ray** and **Jay Tynan** in Miami.

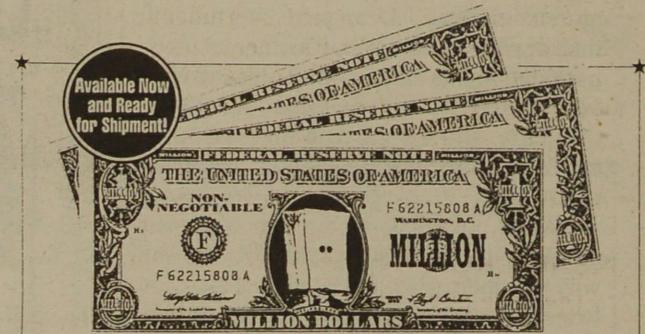
Palm Beach County LP Chair **Jim Alsis** has had great success at coalition building in his county. On March 8, the American Liberties Coalition, an alliance of groups seeking to restore the Constitution and lessen the power of

government, held a picnic attended by 220 people. The speakers included Reform Party of Florida Vice Chair Pauline Klein, Florida Tax Cap Committee Deputy Director Paul Carpenella, Michael Kiriakon of the Fully Informed Jury Association, and Florida LP Chairman **Nick Dunbar**. The LP's OPH booth at the picnic identified 14 people who scored above 80-80 on the political quiz.

Source: affiliate officer

Illinois

LPI member **Jim Haring** has launched a public-access see **Affiliates** on page 5



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Affiliates

continued from page 4
cable-TV talk show in Chicago under auspices of the Liberty Bell non-profit corporation. The show airs on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., discusses issues from a Libertarian perspective, and invites viewers to call in with questions or comments. Haring is encouraging other LP members to take the technical training available at the public-access station so that Liberty Bell will be able to produce complete shows for distribution to other TV outlets or for private viewing.

In the Elgin area, LPI member **Ken Prazak** has started a commercial radio program called Freedom Rings on WRMN-AM, 1410 from 11 a.m. to noon on Mondays. Each week Prazak presents a different issue for listener feedback and has segments such as The Stupid Government Regulation of the Week. On a recent show, the guest speaker was Jim Tobin of National Taxpayers United of Illinois.

Visit the state party's Web site at <http://www.mcs.com/~lpi/>.

Source: affiliate officer

Kentucky

The state party is on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ky.lp.org>. Webmaster is **Charles Wimmer**.

Source: affiliate officer

Massachusetts

At the state convention in February, a new board was elected. The new members are: **Carla Howell, Walter Ziobro, Peter Everett, Irwin Jungreis, Eli Israel, Jim Sullivan, and Muni Savyon.**

At a board meeting immediately following the convention, Carla Howell was elected as the new state chair.

In a fund-raising effort at the convention dinner, Eli Israel raised \$6,404—setting a record for fund raising at a Massachusetts state party convention.

Source: affiliate officer

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Michigan

Northwest Michigan LP Chair **Richard Ask** is hosting a monthly live talk/call-in television show on public access television in Traverse City. The program, entitled "America—The Way It Should Be," features guests, lectures, and discussions. It is produced by Ask's wife, **Cyndi Ask**.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Missouri

Thomas L. Knapp, vice chair of the

Greene County LP, received 20 percent of the vote in the Springfield City Council primary in February. Although it was a non-partisan race, Knapp made no secret of his Libertarian Party affiliation.

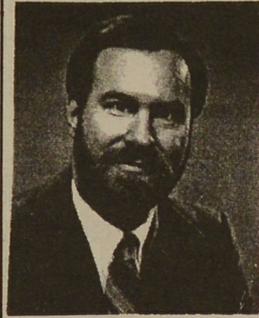
Knapp told his supporters, "Many of you have told me that 20 percent is pretty damn good for someone who ran as a self-proclaimed Libertarian against two registered Republicans. I've been told that 20 percent is pretty damn good for someone running in a three-candidate race where one opponent is a former councilman with an ongo-

ing organization and large name recognition, and the other is a wealthy businessman with the backing of the city's most powerful PAC.

"Nonetheless, 20 percent is not pretty damn good if you're looking to win. So I won't pat myself on the back," he said.

"This little campaign has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I don't know when or if I will run for office again, but I will be working in the near future to draw some lessons from the experience."

see **Affiliates** on page 6



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Affiliates

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rience that may help future candidates," Knapp said.

The St. Louis County LP recently elected the following new officers: **Dean Scott Hodge**, chair; **Tamara Millary**, vice chair; **Matthew Peters**, treasurer.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Ohio

Chet Sutherland was elected east central chair and **Jim Babka** was elected east central representative during the annual local elections in Akron in late February.

Babka also was appointed state fund-raising chair.

Also in late February, LP member **Heather Loughley** was interviewed on Columbus television and radio in opposition to a Franklin County (Columbus) sales tax increase to build a sports stadium. The Libertarian Party joined a coalition of activists called VAST (Voters Against Stadium Taxes) opposing the tax hike. Central Region Rep. **Dena Bruedigam** co-founded VAST.

Donald Gallick addressed the Athens City Council in opposition to unequal enforcement of a 24-hour parking law. Gallick's

comments were rebroadcast on local television and radio, as well as being printed in two local newspapers.

Source: affiliate officer

Oklahoma

At the state convention in mid-February, **Michael Clem** was elected state chair. Other new officers are: **Whitney Boutin**, vice chair; **Charles Osborn**, secretary; and **Steve Galpin**, re-elected treasurer. **Chad Vanis**, **Rebecca Clem**, and **Leo Mendus** were elected as members-at-large. The district chairs elected were **Randy**

Gann, **Lynn Atherton**, **Rufus Randall**, **Tom Saunders**, **James Farrell**, **Robert Sumner**, **Susan Scammahorn**, **Richard Hampel**, and **D. Frank Robinson**. The state party newsletter, "Oklahoma Liberty," will be edited by **Charles Burris** and **Robert Murphy**.

Source: affiliate officer

Pennsylvania

PCN, the Pennsylvania Cable Network, has indicated it intends to give live television broadcast coverage to the speakers at the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania's annual state convention, Saturday, April 5, according to **Ken Sturzenacker**, state chair.

PCN reaches approximately 1.7 million households statewide. The live coverage will be a first for the Pennsylvania LP, and may be the first ever live television coverage of speakers at an LP state convention.

Saturday's speakers include **Candace Allen**, a charter member of the Separation of School and State Alliance and a 23-year veteran teacher who has won nine awards initiated by students and other teachers; **Dr. Lois Copeland**, a member of the board of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, and former teaching doctor at New York University before entering private practice more than 20 years ago; and **Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger**, founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation, Fairfax, VA.

Source: affiliate officer

South Carolina

The Anderson County LP affiliate marked its first anniversary by conducting an outreach booth at a large indoor fair sponsored by a local radio station in mid-March. The party has decided to make outreach a priority in 1997.

"It is important to present candidates for local as well as state and federal offices and, for that, we must grow the local party," said **Douglas Taylor**, Anderson County LP chair.

Recently, the Anderson County affiliate named **Charlie Comberrel** to the state party executive committee. Comberrel, a controller for a local business, also is the affiliate's secretary-treasurer.

Source: affiliate officer

Virginia

The LP of Fairfax County is gearing up for their spring activities including local and state conventions and a fund raiser and leadership conference featuring author **Charles Murray**.

Murray will be the luncheon speaker at a fund raiser and leadership conference to be held May 31 at the Algonkian Regional Park Convention Center in Sterling. The LPFC expects participants from Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. Murray is the author of "Losing Ground," "The Bell Curve," and his newest book, "What It Means to be a Libertarian." Murray will be available afterward to answer questions and autograph books.

Source: affiliate officer

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Thornton

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tion is a very positive approach."

Even so, the appointment of a high-ranking Libertarian Party member did surprise some observers, acknowledged Thornton.

"I am a tough and outspoken critic of some Republican policies and a member of an alternative political party," he said. However, the fact that "libertarian economic thought is winning the day all over the world" may have made the difference, he theorized.

As assistant supervisor of banking, Thornton will help oversee the deregulation of the state's banking industry.

"Banking is going through a deregulatory and integration phase," he said. "Like most deregulations it brings the promise of enhanced competition and greater consumer satisfaction, but it also brings some of the problems and pitfalls that we have seen in other partial deregulations."

Thornton said he's going into his new job with an awareness of the difficulty of the task ahead of him as a Libertarian trying to reform a state-controlled industry.

"Government, especially state govern-

ment, is a lot more tricky than most libertarians would care to admit," he said. "Many state programs are largely controlled by the federal government. Then you have the interest groups, the lobbyists, the state legislature, and the state employees. I do, however, feel that my economic analysis can have an effect and I am optimistic about achieving some good for the people of Alabama."

And Thornton said he is also aware of the temptations that come with a government job—even for a principled Libertarian.

"The natural question that pops into every Libertarian's head when they see someone go off to work for the government is: Is Thornton going to be a sellout? Maybe you can check back in a couple of years to see how things turned out," he said with a smile.

Thornton is at least the second LP member to get appointed to a state-level position after an energetic campaign for public office. In 1993, Miriam Luce in New Hampshire was appointed to a spot on the State Liquor Commission after her campaign for governor.

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The following web sites are some LP members' favorites you might want to check out. If you would like to offer your favorite web pages—they don't have to be political—send them to: net.g@ins, c/o NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503, or e-mail your list to <lpnews@mindspring.com>.

- > <http://www.drcnet.org>
The Drug Reform Coordination Network's home page.
- > <http://www.wizard.net/spcook/lp.htm>
The Top 10 Deckchairs on the Federal Titanic; home page of LP member Scott P. Cook.
- > <http://www.nfgcc.oo.net>
The National Foundation for Gifted and Creative Children.
- > <http://www.cis.ksu.edu/~mac/home.html>
Myron A. Calhoun's home page with lots of libertarian-type quotes.

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Lewis

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but willing to stand on his principles even if outgunned by the tyrannical state. He was one of the few, if asked, are you willing to pledge your life, fortune, and sacred honor to the cause of Liberty, could truthfully answer: I already have."

At the time of his death, Lewis was serving as the membership director of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut—a job which was just the latest chapter in a colorful career in Libertarian politics that took him across the U.S., and from center stage as a vice presidential candidate to a federal court in Connecticut where he challenged the constitutionality of the income tax.

Lewis was born in 1933, graduated from Babson College in 1958, and spent many years as a salesman for the General Book Binding Company of Cleveland, OH.

He first heard about the Libertarian Party in 1976, but it was four more years before he was able to make contact with the party. That same year, he also found a copy of Roger MacBride's book, "A New Dawn for America," and read it from cover to cover. "I was converted," he said.

He quickly became active in the party, and started applying his sales skills to promoting the libertarian philosophy. In 1981, he was elected as the Libertarian National Committee's regional representative for New England.

In 1982, he ran for U.S. Senate in Connecticut against Lowell Weicker, while also encouraging other New England parties to field more candidates.

In 1983, he won the party's nomination for vice president. Over the next year, he waged an energetic campaign, making appearances in almost 40 states.

Using his background in sales, Lewis approached the campaign as a "marketing challenge" in which he was competing against "two huge companies that are marketing defective products."

His marketing secret? Sell the advantages of liberty, he said.

"It can take [voters] 10 years or more to understand the philosophical and moral underpinnings to Libertarian ideas. We have to answer real problems right now—for example, jobs, gay rights, peace. Target the one issue that your audience is interested in. Give them the product they want." And liberty, he noted, is a "great product."

The Bergland/Lewis ticket appeared on the ballot in 37 states, and ended up winning 228,705 votes.

In 1984, Lewis published "Liberty Reclaimed," a slim introductory book on Libertarian ideas he co-wrote with Jim Peron. Murray Rothbard called it, "Timeless... the best available primer on libertarianism for Americans."

In the book, Lewis pointed out the grave problems caused by big government but remained enthusiastic about the prospects for liberty.

"Must America perish? The answer is No!" he wrote. "America need not perish. The challenge of liberty can be reborn, but for that to happen, the great ideals of the American revolution must be reborn. America was great because the ideals on which it was founded were great. And America will only reclaim that greatness when it rediscovers its heritage."

In 1987, Lewis announced his interest in the party's 1988 presidential nomination—a prize which eventually went to former

Congressman Ron Paul.

In 1988, Lewis's political beliefs collided with the judicial system.

Throughout his political career, Lewis had not hidden the fact that he considered the income tax to be illegal. Seven years after he stopped filing income tax returns, his defiance led to his arrest.

He was tried in U.S. District Court in New Haven, CT. Lewis acted as his own lawyer, arguing that the 16th Amendment did not grant the federal government a "hitherto unknown power of taxation," and that the Bill of Rights, especially the Ninth Amendment, protected citizens against having to file income tax forms.

His arguments weren't successful; Lewis was convicted in March 1988. A month later, he was sentenced to a year in jail, with two additional years suspended, and five years probation. He served 10 months in a minimum security prison in Allenwood, PA.

In 1990, Lewis became the field organizer for the LP of California, stressing outreach and membership growth, before returning to the East Coast as membership director of the LP of Connecticut.

In both states, Lewis used the popular Operation Politically Homeless booths and the Nolan Chart to spread the word about the Libertarian Party.

"Jim was one of the strongest proponents of using the Nolan Chart to discover new Libertarians," Dasbach said. "He understood that in order to succeed, we have to grow."

At the time of his death, Lewis was working for exactly that—to build a stronger grassroots structure for the state party, and figuring out ways to achieve a 33 percent membership growth rate in Connecticut in 1997.



THE 1984 LIBERTARIAN PARTY TICKET - Jim Lewis, left, 1984 LP vice presidential candidate, appeared with David Bergland, 1984 LP presidential candidate, and Alicia Clark.

"We have lost one of the most dedicated Libertarians ever, and his shoes will be next to impossible to fill," said William H. Russell, eastern coordinator for the Connecticut LP.

The state party plans to create the Jim Lewis Foundation and the Jim Lewis Libertarian Center in the house where Lewis used to live. The center will serve as a meeting place for the Connecticut LP, and as a site for courses on liberty.

Donations may be sent to: Jim Lewis Libertarian Foundation, c/o William H. Russell, 399 Laurel Hill Ave., Norwich, CT 06360-6935; or the Connecticut LP, P.O.

Box 551, East Granby, CT 06026.

Libertarians may best remember the spirit of Jim Lewis through the words he wrote in "Liberty Reclaimed"—words that serve as a rousing call to action for all LP members:

"We must hold forth a vision of a freer, more tolerant America," he wrote. "We must show the American people the great benefits of a society based on mutual, voluntary exchange where coercion and fraud has been banished from society. We will only be satisfied when we have a truly free society. But we will not wait for that to happen—we will make it happen."

Jim Lewis - A remembrance

By Tom Scott Ross

The following excerpts are from a eulogy delivered by Tom Ross at a memorial service for Jim Lewis at the Old Lyme Congressional Church in Connecticut.

I first met Jim at the Groton Expo in 1981. A booth had been rented by the Connecticut LP, and I went there to see what a Libertarian looked like. Jim was tall, lean, 22 years my senior, and had an air of dignity about him. Jim and I talked as hours passed. A friendship blossomed. By dark, all the activists had left except Jim and me. He asked if I'd stay, run the booth, and then close up. I did, and I wondered how Jim had transformed me from a visitor who wasn't sure what a Libertarian looked like, to the person running the booth!

I later went to a meeting at his mother Dorothy's home and found that as passionate as Jim was about liberty, his first priority was family. Dorothy is a great lady and Jim clearly had the greatest respect for her. As I got to know him, I found that he held similar respect and pride for his three sons and daughter. His desire to bring about a better society was fueled by his intelligence, honesty, sense of justice, and his desire to live in such a place—but equally that his children have an opportunity to live there...

The world he dreamed of had as its core the mutual respect, warmth, and cooperation he felt with his family. It is a place

where families, friends, and neighbors grow and succeed in a safe yet exhilarating civil society. There anyone can find an opportunity to work honestly and prosper. They can see the fruits of their own labor multiply and bring good to the world...

Jim wasn't content learning and thinking about a free society. He repeatedly set achievable goals that he felt would help move us in that direction, and then carry through on them. In 1982 he decided to introduce his ideas to the people of Connecticut by running a full slate of candidates. He announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate and recruited 15 other honorable candidates. He asked me to be his campaign manager, and I told him, "It would be an honor." His proudest moments were touring Pratt and Whitney and taking part in six and one-half hours of televised debates with the other three candidates for U.S. Senate. I remember how brave he was as we scaled the steps of an auditorium on our way into the first debate...

In 1983 we decided to go to our first national convention. In our hotel room, Jim said he'd been thinking that since his job had him traveling all over the country, he could do a great job as the vice presidential candidate. He wanted to try. The next day we made flyers and buttons. He was nominated and later elected by a wide margin. Jim wanted me to be his campaign manager again. I accepted. Six months before

the election, Jim was working at it full time.

... When we were through, Jim had met with people in 150 cities, in almost every state. We had a pile of clippings almost two feet high. We'd spent only \$5,000...

Jim realized that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, even at the cost of his own security. He became convinced that he should stand up against the income tax, and he did so, courageously. In preparation, he completely memorized the Constitution and became an expert on the income tax. He argued his case before a jury for two weeks, but the system was against him, and he was sent to prison. Even there, Jim never lost his optimism. He enlightened the inmates.

Once out, he continued to work at spreading his vision. In his later years Jim chose to focus his efforts on recruiting new members into the libertarian movement by running surveys in public places. He sometimes would introduce his ideas to more than 200 people a day. He always returned to his family, caring for his beloved mother until his last breath.

Jim followed in the footsteps of the Fathers of Our Country. I think history will look at Jim as one of the Fathers of the Rebirth of American Liberty. A reporter once asked Albert Einstein to what he attributed his great success. "I stood on the shoulders of giants," he said. Jim has further granted us that opportunity.

Should Libertarians save Social Security?

By JACOB G. HORNBERGER

The message that Democrat and Republican candidates deliver to the American people is an insulting one. "You are a bad and irresponsible people. If you were caring and compassionate, as your ancestors were, we wouldn't need Social Security. Your ancestors lived without it for 150 years, but they could be relied upon to honor their parents voluntarily. You, on the other hand, must be forced to do so because, again, you are a bad and irresponsible people."

Libertarian candidates have a much more positive message to the American people. "We Libertarians believe in you. This is why we call for the repeal, not the reform, of Social Security. We have no doubt that you would honor your mother and father on a voluntary basis and that you would assist others who had nowhere else to turn. We believe that freedom would, indeed, work."

Yet, many Libertarians are now calling for various plans to save or reform Social Security rather than simply repealing it. For example, a centerpiece of Harry Browne's presidential campaign was a plan to "save Social Security."

Why?

After all, look at the origins of Social Security. The idea was originally enacted in the late 1800s by Otto von Bismarck, the "Iron Chancellor of Germany," who had taken it from the German socialists. And it later became one of the hallmarks of the German National Socialist (Nazi) Party. Why in the world would a Libertarian want to save any socialistic program, much less one with these historical roots?

The plans that have been developed to save Social Security are many and varied. In one way or another, virtually all of them continue the coercion and plunder that characterize all socialistic schemes. For example, one plan would give people a "choice" to create a new Social Security IRA. Contributions to it would be deductible on a person's income tax return. Advocates of these types of plans to save Social Security always fail to answer a fundamental moral question: Under what moral authority does the state take a person's money in the first place, use its taxing power to rob from the young to give to the old, or manipulate what a person does with his own money?

Harry Browne's plan to save Social Security was different. He proposed the sale of assets belonging to the national government. The proceeds would be used to pur-

chase annuities for people over a certain age.

But don't these assets belong to every American? If they are to be sold, then why not distribute the proceeds to all Americans? Why select one specific group—the elderly—to receive the money? Is the fact that Social Security might be Harry's favorite government program a valid reason for distributing the sales proceeds in this way? Or is the selection simply one of political expediency—an attempt to purchase the votes of old people?

And why annuities? If the money is going to be paid, why not simply a lump-sum cash payment? Doesn't Harry trust people to spend their money the way they want? Or is he afraid that they are going to spend it all at once on beer, cigarettes, and lottery tickets? Is it necessary for Libertarians to paternalistically protect people from their own spending habits?

And who would issue the annuities? Harry suggests that we use private insurance companies. He says that the annuities would be safe because big insurance companies never fail. But the results of the market process are always uncertain. There is always going to be the possibility that an insurance company will go bankrupt and default on the annuities.

Suppose it does. Then what happens to those people who have received Social Security annuities? Should government step in and pay the balance owing? If not, then doesn't this leave all those old people to the vicissitudes of freedom? And if we have confidence that all will work out in this instance, then why not call for the abolition, rather than the saving, of Social Security in the first place?

Or would Harry suggest that the annuities be government-guaranteed? If so, then under the Browne annuity plan, taxpayers might again have to be coerced to fund the liability at some time in the future.

What was Harry Browne's rationale for saving Social Security as compared to thousands of other socialistic welfare-state programs? He said that there is a "promise" that has been made to the elderly. But if we examine the language of the Social Security law itself, we find no promise. The Social Security tax is simply a tax—like an income tax, sales tax, or excise tax. And Social Security payments are just another welfare program—like food stamps, subsidies, or public schooling.

During his campaign, Harry said that the elderly "feel" like they've been promised Social Security and that this is what is

Commentary

important. But Libertarians have historically stood for the "rule of law" to ensure a predictable standard for governmental conduct. Wouldn't a "rule of feelings" create an illusory and shifting standard for the payment of government largess? Wouldn't we have to save every single welfare program that people "feel" they have been promised?

For example, what about Medicare? Don't people "feel" that they have been promised free health care? Then we'll need a Libertarian plan to save Medicare. What about public schooling? Don't people "feel" that they have been promised free education? Then we'll need a Libertarian plan to save public schooling. What about farm subsidies? Don't people "feel" that they've been promised free agricultural assistance?

By the time it's all over, we might just have such a conglomeration of Libertarian central plans that save everybody's favorite government program that we'll wish that the Democrats and Republicans were back in charge!

And look at the message that Libertarians send to the American people when they call for the saving of socialistic welfare-state programs like Social Security: "If freedom worked, we could simply abolish the programs. But freedom doesn't work. And so we need to save the government programs."

Some Libertarians might argue that we

need to save Social Security in order to appear "respectable." Excuse me, but I am a Libertarian. That gives me all the self-respect I need. Why should I moderate, compromise, or dilute my beliefs in order to satisfy someone else? After all, the people who should be concerned about credibility are the Democrat and Republican ilk who have brought all this socialistic damage and destruction to our country.

For over 150 years, the American people said "no" to Social Security. There is not one single instance of a person starving to death as a result. From 1787 to 1935 (the year Social Security was enacted in the U.S.), families, neighbors, church groups, and people in communities all across America used their ever-growing wealth to take care of those who were unable to care for themselves.

The most powerful weapons that we Libertarians have in our arsenal are truth and principle. These weapons will ultimately overpower money and armies. If we weaken them in an attempt to "reach out" to people, defeat is certain. If we continue honing them and wielding them in battle, victory is possible.

We Libertarians must help our fellow Americans to recapture their sense of self-esteem—their capacity to believe in themselves and in freedom. And the best way to do this is with a frontal assault on the crown jewel of the socialistic welfare state. We must call for the repeal, not the saving, of Social Security.

Jacob Hornberger delivered the keynote address at the 1996 national Libertarian Party convention.

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More news about the convention will appear in future issues of the NEWS.

Talking points

Intellectual ammunition on education and more

The coming Libertarian Age

"A libertarian world wouldn't be a perfect one. There will still be inequality, poverty, crime, corruption, man's inhumanity to man. But unlike the theocratic visionaries, the pie-in-the-sky socialist utopians, or the starry-eyed Mr. Fixits of the New Deal and the Great Society, libertarians don't promise you a rose garden. Libertarianism holds out the goal, not of a perfect society, but of a better and freer one. The result will be, not an end to crime and poverty and inequality, but less—often much less—of most of those things most of the time.

As we enter a new century and a new millennium, we encounter a world of endless possibility. The very premise of the world of global markets and new technologies is libertarian. Neither stultifying socialism nor rigid conservatism could produce the free, technologically advanced society that we anticipate in the 21st century. If we want a dynamic world of prosperity and opportunity, we must make it a libertarian world.

The simple and timeless principles of the American Revolution—individual liberty, limited government, and free markets—turn out to be even more powerful in today's world of instant communication, global markets, and unprecedented access to information than Jefferson or Madison could have imagined. Libertarianism is not just a framework for utopia, it is the essential framework for the future."

David Boaz, the Cato Institute's executive vice president, in his new book, "Libertarianism: A Primer" (Free Press, 1997).

Made our day

"Dirty Harry is a Libertarian. In an interview in the March issue of Playboy, Clint Eastwood was asked: 'How would you characterize yourself politically.'

Eastwood: 'Libertarian. Everyone leaves everyone else alone.' [No other political party] 'seems to have the ability to embrace that sort of thing.'

Eastwood joins a growing number of well-known personalities who have identified themselves as libertarians. Included are TV star John Laroquette, humorist Dave Barry, author P.J. O'Rourke, actor Russell Means, magician Penn Jillette, author Camille Paglia, TV reporter John Stossell, and comedian Dennis Miller."

From Libertarian Party press release, Feb. 18, 1997.

Our education president

"President Clinton has ambitious plans (for education). He envisions a corps of volunteers (paid volunteers being the Clinton specialty) to teach all eighth-graders to read. He wants new federal funds to connect every high school to the Internet. He proposes Hope Scholarships (in the form of a refundable tax credit) to those who maintain a B average in school and tax deductions for college tuition.

The first proposal, the corps of 'volun-

Libertarian talking points

Marc Beauchamp

Editor

teers' (\$2.45 billion over five years) to teach reading, is the most revealing. If 40 percent of our eighth-graders cannot read at grade level, doesn't that suggest something fundamental has gone awry with our education system? Yet the president proposes no serious reform of the failing system [like taking on the teachers' unions], only a flying buttress of volunteers to prop it up. Oh, and oodles more taxpayer money (an increase of two-thirds in the federal education budget). George Santayana said, 'Faticism consists in redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim.'

Mona Charen, *The Washington Times*, Feb. 12, 1997.

More money for what?

"President Clinton wants more money for education. He's proposed tax credits and deductions for college students and large increases in Pell Grants for needy students. Mr. Clinton would have us believe that not enough students have a chance to go to the nation's 3,600 colleges and that money will solve the nation's education problems.

College enrollment, 14.5 million students in 1995, is greater than high school enrollment of 14 million that year. In 1960, the nation's colleges spent \$7 billion. By 1980, they were spending \$62 billion. In 1995, the nation's colleges spent \$201 billion.

According to Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Dr. Martin Anderson's book, 'Imposters in the Temple,' public universities receive about 15 percent of their budget from tuition. Sixty percent comes from state and federal government. About 25 percent comes from gifts, endowments, and miscellaneous sources. We might ask what we're getting for the money we're spending now.

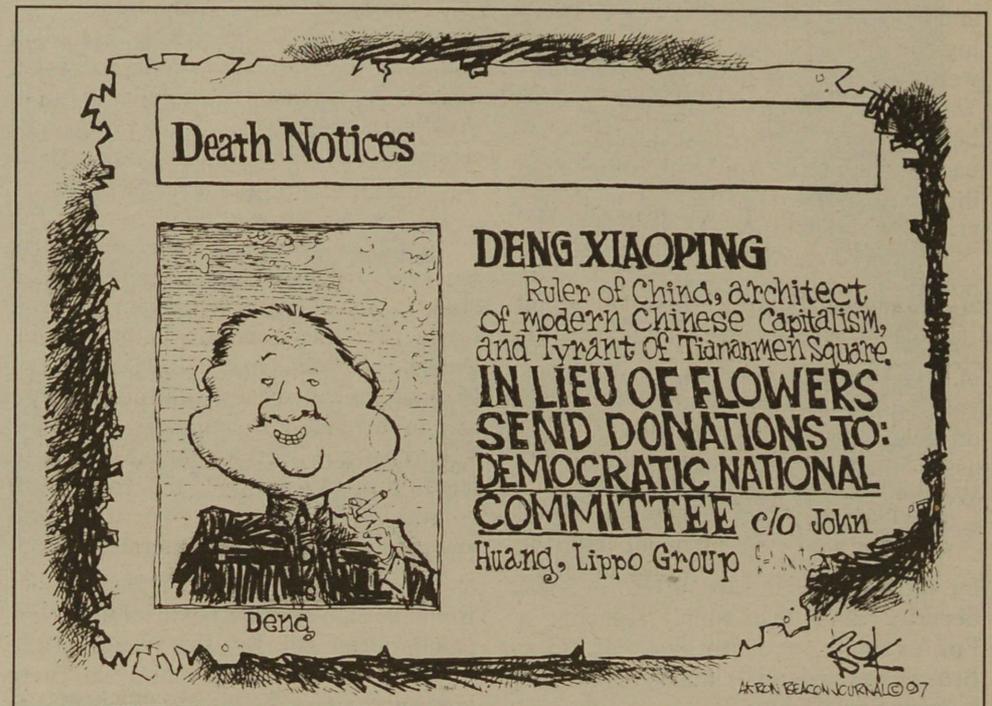
A 1987 Gallup poll of more than 700 college seniors found: 55 percent couldn't identify the Magna Carta; 23 percent thought the statement "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need" was part of the U.S. Constitution.

Then there's gross deceit about student performance. Student preparation, as measured by SAT scores, has declined since 1960, but grades are up. Seventy-eight percent of Harvard students made the dean's list in 1978, compared to 20 percent in the 1920s and 26 percent in the 1930s. At Princeton, 70 percent of the grades were A's and B's in 1975; the average grade at Stanford University was A-minus."

Walter Williams, *The Washington Times*, Feb. 22, 1997.

The trade deficit

"Pat Buchanan, the AFL-CIO, Ralph Nader's shop, assorted leftists, and Perotists claim that with each uptick in the trade deficit hundreds of thousands of jobs are lost—that if imports are sold in this country for a cheaper price it means job



losses for American workers.

If anything, there is a considerable body of evidence that more jobs are created, not less. A study last year by Heritage Foundation analyst Bryan Johnson showed that U.S. unemployment has declined as the trade deficit has increased. The reason: If a family saves money on imported sneakers, a stereo, a car, they have more money left over to spend on something else. And that in turn supports existing employment or helps to create new jobs.

Obviously, in the rough and tumble of competition and the free market, there are winners and losers in any given year. Such is the untidy nature of capitalism.

If trade surpluses were uniformly a sign of a country's economic health, then the countries that regularly sell us more than we sell them, like Japan, should be booming. In fact, Japan has been in an economic slump for years, a victim of higher taxes and an over-managed economy.

The trade deficit should be seen as a manifestation of U.S. affluence at home and our export strength overseas. No doubt there will be trade deficits with some countries and surpluses with others. But these are not numbers we should be worrying about. There are billions of new customers in the world economy hungry for American goods and services, and we need to be out there in these emerging markets aggressively selling all that we can."

Donald Lambro, *The Washington Times*, March 3, 1997.

Build a bridge

"Yes, the Republic has seen tawdrier times than these, even with Bill Clinton in the White House and Newt Gingrich in the speaker's chair. One thinks, for example, of the Gilded Age at the tag end of another century. But has hypocrisy ever been so accepted, mendacity so expected, shame so unknown? It's not the gravity of these derelictions that impresses—others have surely done worse—but that they no longer shock, not even the critics.

If the Republic has seen worse days, it will see better ones, too. Because one day such routine tawdriness will become a thing of the past again, something for history professors to regale their students with during the study of an otherwise bland and mediocre period of American history. Because as long as we can remember the republic of Washington and Adams, of Hamilton and Jefferson, we can restore it, we can re-create it. One day, one day, the American people will sweep out all these little cheapnesses like the residue of a party that went on too long the night before, and face a new morning clean. Yes, let us build a bridge to the 18th century."

Paul Greenberg, *The Washington Times*, March 3, 1997.

Real reinvention

"If Vice President Al Gore is genuinely serious about federal downsizing, he ought to peruse the new lime-green Cato Handbook for the 105th Congress, which makes nearly 400 individual proposals—100 more than the last Congress.

Among them: Abolish agencies and departments that are not authorized in the Constitution, have failed in their purpose, have outlived their usefulness, or are an unwarranted expense.

In other words, in this scenario, the Departments of Education, Commerce, Labor, Energy, Agriculture, Interior, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and last, but certainly not least, all 'cultural' agencies."

"Inside the Beltway," *The Washington Times*, Feb. 26, 1997.

Mencken on government

"Nowhere else in Christendom, save only in France, is government more extravagant, nonsensical, unintelligent and corrupt than here, and nowhere else is it so secure. . . . Is government, then, useful and necessary? So is a doctor. But suppose the dear fellow claimed the right, every time he was called in to prescribe for a bellyache or

see **Talking points** on page 11

Talking points

continued from page 10

a ringing in the ears, to raid the family silver, use the family tooth-brushes, and execute the 'droit de seigneur' upon the house-maid? . . .

Something would be accomplished by viewing [government] more realistically—by ceasing to let its necessary and perhaps useful functions blind us to its ever-increasing crimes against the ordinary rights of the free citizens and the common decencies of the world. The fact that it is generally respected—that it possesses effective machinery for propagating and safeguarding that respect—is the main shield of the rogues and vagabonds who use it to exploit the great masses of diligent and credulous men.

The extortions and oppressions of government. . . will come to an end when the victims begin to differentiate clearly between government as a necessary device for maintaining order in the world and government as a device for maintaining the authority and prosperity of predatory rascals and swindlers."

H.L. Mencken, "Prejudices: A Selection."

How dumb do they think we are?

"Attention critics of the Nanny State: Here's one government body that doesn't treat citizens as children. With pamphlets on everything from how to spot bad fruit (it's moldy) to driving tips (bring a spare tire) the federal Consumer Information Center treats Americans not as children,

but as outright morons. Do we really need the government to answer the question 'Should You Go On a Diet?' Looking in the mirror usually makes the answer all too obvious.

The CIC has been explaining the obvious for 26 years. Established by President Nixon in 1970. . . [it's] a \$2 million division of the General Services Administration and employs 22 people at its Washington headquarters and several dozen more at its Pueblo, CO, distribution center.

Do the people who actually need the advice that the government offers—i.e. folks whose IQ aren't exactly Mensa material—stand to benefit from it? For example, if you really need the government to explain, 'Never Take Medicines in the Dark,' as an FDA brochure advises, will the message sink in by reading a pamphlet?

Perhaps not. But if your loved ones fail to heed the FDA's advice in this realm, and the results prove fatal, the government still has a role. Just order 'Funerals: A Consumer Guide.'"

New York Post media critic Evan Gahr in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 8, 1997.

Thanks to Scott Shreckhise of Roanoke, VA; Roger W. Mason of Silver Spring, MD; and R.O. Roland of Aiea, HI, for contributions to this month's column.

To contribute ideas, articles, or constructive criticism, write to Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church VA 22043.

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Kriho fined, but no jail time

Laura Kriho, whose case was profiled in last month's NEWS, was fined \$1,200 at her sentencing in Gilpin County, CO. No jail time was imposed.

The prosecutor asked that Kriho be fined severely because, the prosecutor said, she was "likely to re-offend."

Kriho was found guilty of contempt of court in part for her failure to volunteer her beliefs on certain drug laws.

Kriho did not make any mitigating statements on her own behalf; however, former Colorado State Sen. Lloyd Casey spoke eloquently for her.

Kriho and her attorney, Paul Grant, plan to appeal the conviction.

More than 150 people attended her sentencing and a demonstration beforehand. Court TV, local television stations, and many print media covered the sentencing.

"I am thankful they didn't put me in

jail," Kriho said. "I still feel I would never have been prosecuted if I had voted guilty on the jury. I want to prevent this from happening to anyone else again, so we will appeal my conviction. I don't want anyone to have to be afraid to serve on a jury."

"I think the appellate court will overturn" the decision, Grant said.

"The court is trying to intimidate anyone with an independent mind. We should all be very concerned about this case," he said.

"The judges will regret the Pandora's box they have opened," he predicted.

Grant said he had received numerous letters of support and donations from Libertarian Party members.

For more information, contact the Laura Kriho Legal Defense Fund, c/o Paul Grant, P.O. Box 1272, Parker, CO 80134.

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Letters

Comments on debt, emotions, sexuality, more

Big question

In his article "The Many Roads to Freedom" (March 1997 NEWS), Harry Browne erroneously asserts that I rejected the utilitarian case for advancing freedom in my guest commentary (Feb. 1997 NEWS). On the contrary, my article expressly stated that the utilitarian case is important in advancing liberty, but only secondarily so. Since Harry's original article (Jan. 1997 NEWS) failed even to mention the moral case for advancing liberty, I believed that it was important both to emphasize the moral case and to integrate it with the utilitarian case.

I am disappointed that Harry glossed over Charles Murray's compromises of libertarian philosophy as if they were no big deal. Compromises might be esoteric points to an academician like Charles Murray, but they present a severe moral dilemma for an office-seeker like Harry Browne.

For example, during the course of his campaign, Harry endorsed sales taxation, excise taxation, and tariffs to finance \$800 billion in annual government spending. (Harry's platform called for a balanced budget and a 50 percent reduction in a \$1.6 trillion budget.)

But if Harry had been elected president, thousands of libertarians would immediately have stopped paying all taxes. What would Harry have done?

Long ago, Leonard E. Read, founder of



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

The Foundation for Economic Education, pointed out that if a person refused to pay his taxes and met force with force when the state came to seize his property, the state officers would kill him for "resisting arrest."

Would President Browne have permitted U.S. marshals to kill libertarian tax resisters? If so, then what could be worse than a libertarian president killing libertarian citizens? If not, then why endorse taxation in the first place? For that matter, why call for a balanced budget entailing \$800 billion in government spending?

Compromises in the academic world are one thing. But in the political world, they can be deadly. So come clean, Harry: Are you willing to give up your favorite taxes if it means you never have to kill a libertarian?

Jacob G. Hornberger
Ashburn, VA

Use the NEWS

The present NEWS basically has a few rah-rah articles, a little who's where, some arcane talking points, and the actions of selected state organizations. There is

nothing compelling for a reader to pursue the discovery of libertarianism or the party.

I realize the NEWS is prepared for members of the party, but this is basically preaching to the choir. I receive the NEWS with the same enthusiasm as my company's newspaper, simply more minimally interesting stuff from the corporate propaganda department.

It is unfortunate, considering our limited resources, to not use the NEWS more effectively. A paper we could leave in a break area at work which would attract the interest of others might be more beneficial. If we are to move from a self-centered debating club to a political party, we will have to appeal to real people.

The field (political governance) provides rich opportunity. As the national voice, the NEWS could concentrate on the federal government. Pick a few topical issues for each edition and discuss them from a libertarian perspective. Do it as a principled discourse without the attack bites so common in the general media. Basically, what is the district up to now and what will it mean to those of us who pay the bills?

Douglas Beijer
Hernando, MS

First class

The new first class stamp bears a stunning image of Miss Liberty. How did you guys manage that!

Kevin Burt
Cheyenne, WY

Debt ridden

The LP and most others seem to refer to the size of the national debt as \$4-5 trillion, leading to \$19,000 per person. That estimate, unfortunately, does not count all the unfunded future liabilities (e.g., federal pensions) the Republicrats have taken on (for all of us to pay). When those are correctly included, the true size of the national debt is revealed to be \$18-20 trillion dollars. We ought to start pointing out the correct figure—maybe it could help to wake up some more people.

Herb Johnson
hjohnson@juno.com

Emotions

I greatly enjoyed reading the article about Jon Coon's campaign for the Michigan State Rep. It was very inspirational, and showed excellent teamwork and drive. I hope he can run again in '98, and build on what's already been accomplished.

Voter apathy is, unfortunately, here to stay. It's nothing new. The Declaration of Independence, in regards to government, reads in part "... that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

Clearly we're up against the very fabric of human nature itself. People won't change unless they are provoked into changing, and that's normal whether we like it or not. A vast majority of today's Libertarians became Libertarians by thinking through the logical arguments and coming to a logical conclusion. Unfortunately, we Libertarians are a minority in that regard. I believe what

motivates most people is not logic, but emotion. Clinton was re-elected because he makes people feel good.

I've thought about making a Web page that gives the proverbial "10 Reasons to Become a Libertarian." I started working on that, but quickly came to the conclusion that the content would not grab the attention of most people because it was too rational. I suggest half seriously that it might work better to divide it up into "Five Rational Reasons to Become Libertarian" and "Five Emotional Reasons to Become Libertarian," and then let readers choose the one that interests them more.

If we're going to succeed, we need to appeal to the emotions of people, not just their sense of logic. It sounds like Jon Coon's campaign was able to do that, but just not do it enough. More power to you next time.

Neil McIver
neil@cjmcciver.org

Sexuality

Jeff E. Jared's article in the February 1997 issue of the NEWS explained how laws against "sexual harassment" are duplicative and unnecessary. I would like to add that not only are they unnecessary, but they reflect a severe and fallacious notion that pervades both the right and left wings of U.S. politics: The association of guilt with sexuality. Fundamentalist Christians on the right want to suppress sexual expression because they consider sex for pleasure to be a "crime against God," while militant feminists on the left want to achieve the same objective because they view sex as a "crime against women." Neither side wants to recognize the simple fact that sex is normal, healthy, and pleasurable when carried out in a rational manner. . . .

As a committed Objectivist, I continue to support the right of each individual to run his own life and property his own way using his own reasoning. This includes the right of employers to allow crude jokes, nude pin-up posters, or any other activity short of the initiation of physical force (as opposed to visual or auditory "force"), threat of physical force, or fraud. Until many more people accept Objectivism as their belief system, though, destructive laws like those against "sexual harassment" will continue to be implemented by our government. Persons who want a brief overview of this powerful system of thought can learn more at my Web site: <<http://ddi.digital.net/~setzer/OPAR.htm>>.

Luther R. Setzer
Cocoa, FL

Faith and reality

We cannot see air, but we can prove it exists. We cannot smell radiation, but we can prove that it exists. We cannot taste gravity, but we can prove that it exists. The same thing cannot be said for "god." Eric Frizzell's letter (Feb. 1997 NEWS) is a good example of why we need to maintain this important distinction between faith and reality.

Without belaboring the point excessively, the U.S. was founded as a secular nation. Yes, the right of the see **Letters** on page 14

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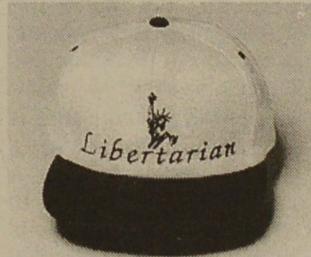
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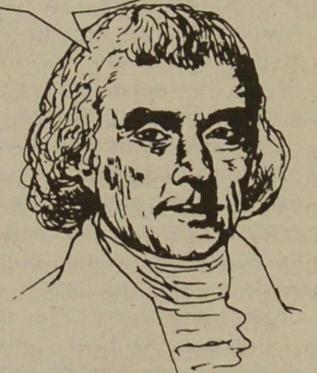
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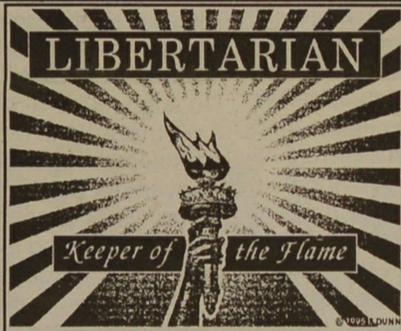
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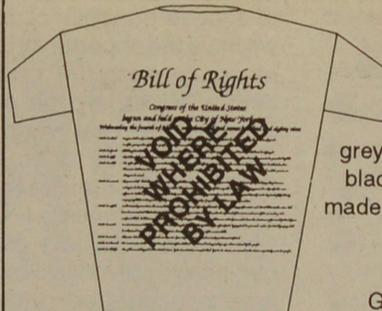
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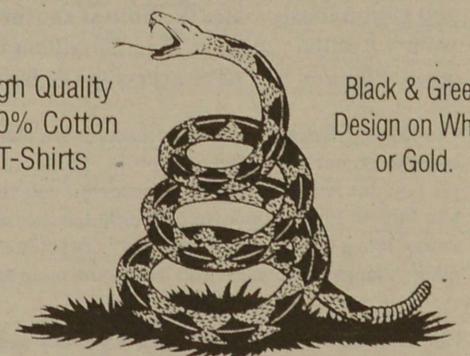
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Letters

continued from page 12

individual to choose his or her own religion was guaranteed by the First Amendment, but in no place in the founding documents of this nation is an official religion named, nor is there any proclamation that America is a Christian nation. Some of the founders were Christians, some were deists, some were Jewish, some were freethinkers. The whole concept of a free nation of individuals was based upon the premise that no religion had the right to oppress others. Hence, libertarians who are not prepared to give their souls and brains to Jesus are not left-wingers as Frizzell proclaims, but rather individuals who do not wish to see one form of autocratic government (i.e. the one we have now) replaced with another one (i.e. the Christian theocracy in which "god" reigns supreme and the Bible is the foundation of all societal organization that Frizzell advocates).

Perhaps the best summation of why religion must always remain a strictly personal matter (rather than the basis of governmental authority) was given by one of our founders, James Madison, who noted that: "During almost 15 centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What has been its fruits? More or less, in all places, pride and indolence in the clergy; ignorance and servility in the laity; in both, superstition, bigotry and persecution."

Jules D. Gliesche
Stoughton, WI

Expand the message

Regarding the Browne vs. Hornberger debate: It is exasperating that Mr. Browne

continues to view this issue as "either/or." Personally, I believe the greatest failure of the Browne campaign lay in what he apparently saw as one of its successes: this self-imposed segregation of Principle ("philosophy") and Practice ("politics"). He never tired of separating himself from the intellectual and educational layers of Libertarianism, and regularly expressed pride that he wasn't "muddling the message" with philosophical irrelevancies. Although Mr. Browne is correct in his belief that the electorate must learn the benefits of freedom, what he overlooks is that many, if not most, of our nation's voters have some semblance of a conscience. Things like the abolition of the income tax, therefore, strike many as "selfish." They may already be quite sold on the personal benefits it would bring them, but think of voting for it as socially irresponsible. I submit that this mindset can only be overcome by reference to first principles.

This does not entail, as Harry so often implies that it does, converting each voter into a philosopher who can cite von Mises passage and verse. All I'm saying (and I know hundreds of LP'ers who feel the same way) is that Harry should look at the title of his own book. In print, explaining why government doesn't work (principle) had made him come off as stimulating and engaging; on TV, simply asserting that it doesn't work (politics) sounded like an arbitrary crotchet, and at times made him come off like a broken record. Or worse: like a politician with a line. Remember the movie "The Candidate"? ("No matter what their questions, make sure you give them

our answers . . .")

Mr. Browne needs to expand his message. He has plenty of time between now and the next campaign to work on and refine the art of dovetailing the practical and the moral, which will be truly inspiring. That which is right is also that which is good—and that which America needs to hear.

Brian Mulholland
BriGuy301@aol.com

Property rights

M.R. O'Mara (March 1997 NEWS) cites Locke's principle of the origin of property rights, which has an orientation reflecting the land-based forms of production which predominated in the economies of his times. There are, however, more expansive ways to envision the process of "justly acquiring property." Property is not merely land. Property includes all forms of personal material property, plus intangibles such as rights which are generated in contractual relationships.

To start from scratch, we all have the material parts of our bodies as our "justly acquired property." At some stage, we emerge from our family and go out "on our own." At that time we each usually possess some articles of material property which were given to us—such as clothing and a few bucks. From then on, our "just acquisition" of property consists of contracting with others who own stuff, and exchanging services which they want someone to do for them for parts of their property, usually money. Everything we gain by that process is "justly acquired property." Once we get sufficient property to exceed our daily consumption needs, we have the opportunity to exchange parts of our property for property owned by others. When we do so, we hopefully increase the total worth of our property inventory. Thus does "justly acquired property" become wealth. We can acquire land in this process. If O'Mara wonders where the legitimate ownership of land begins, we can only allow that the present legally recognized owners are also the just acquirers. We haven't the wherewithal to go back and ensure that the chain of ownership from some hypothetical day zero was a chain of just acquisitions. (Yes, it was tragic what happened to the Indians, the Jews, and the Celts, but that's impracticable to fix now.) Sure, as the party of principle, we need to articulate such issues. But the possibility that we have overlooked some step which most people have some common understanding of should not become a stumbling block.

Hal Rounds
Memphis, TN

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

M.R. O'Mara (March 1997 NEWS) complains that the LP "needs to either adopt Locke's principle of property rights, or offer a consistent alternative principle." Such an alternative was presented in my speech at the 1996 LP convention in Washington, DC. I will send a free copy of that speech to anyone who writes me at 1711 West River Road, Grand Island, NY 14072.

Richard D. Fuerle
Grand Island, NY

Stop the draft

Regarding Michael Edelstein's proposal to draft Harry Browne to run for president in 2000: I would also like to see Harry run again, but I don't like the idea of trying to force someone to do something with a

draft. Instead, I'd like to propose to Harry this incentive: He could make minor revisions to his book "Why Government Doesn't Work" (i.e. update statistics, etc.) and his publisher could issue it again as a "New, Revised Edition." This time Perot III should not be a player, and Harry should get some big-time publicity for his book.

John C. Sproul
Rochester, NY

Stay, don't stray

I am a newcomer to the LP. I have become very active since joining. During the congressional election, I worked extremely hard for Dr. Janice Presser here in Burlington County, South Jersey. I am collecting many signatures for Dr. Presser in her run for assembly. With her strong issues and new ideas, we have hope.

The reason for this letter is due to a disturbing letter pertaining to Libertarians running as Republicans to get elected. I left both major parties because of their failure. If we have to run as Republicrats, then we are no different than they. If Libertarians have to run as something else then they are not true to the party.

I feel great in the LP. My message to members—stay, don't stray!

Peter J. Vaile
Mt. Laurel, NJ

Polling place

Some of the letter authors seem very ready to dilute or abandon our principles in order to buy more votes; I hope that that is not what the LP is all about, but in any case cannot see a shred of evidence yet to suggest it's needed.

Surely, the correct solution to the problem of the disappointing vote last November will not emerge before a proper analysis has been done of what caused it. As I understand it, that is the essence of rational management in any context.

Therefore, may I encourage all candidates who have a little left in their campaign funds to consider pooling that money so as to commission a survey? Our national office could administer the task, which would inquire of randomly chosen voters why, in fact, they withheld their votes from Libertarian candidates.

Results in hand, we may then acquire a basis for proposing what might best be done to raise the figures next time round.

A.J. Davies
New London, NH

VoteScam

Maybe Harry Browne got more votes than we think.

Every Libertarian, and especially the national committee, should be thoroughly familiar with the book, "VoteScam: The Stealing of America," the 25-year investigation by the Collier brothers into computerized vote fraud. Their conclusion that the establishment is now perpetrating vote fraud with impunity on a massive scale is deeply disturbing.

If "VoteScam" is true, then the only vote we may have left is our vote on the jury—and the Fully Informed Jury Association takes on monumental importance.

Tom Stahl
Waterville, WA

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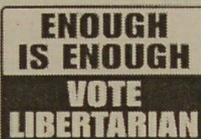
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■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. A concise overview of Libertarian philosophy, covering free markets, social issues, political action, and more! Cost: \$1 each

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■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party—Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each: general, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. Cost: \$3 for set

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Cost: All buttons are \$1 each or 75¢ for 5 or more.

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■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

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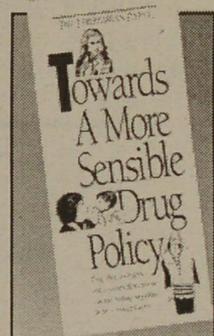
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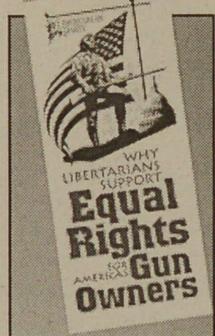
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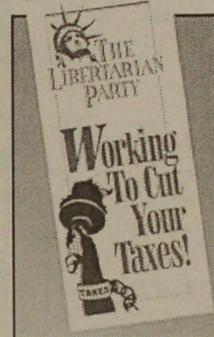
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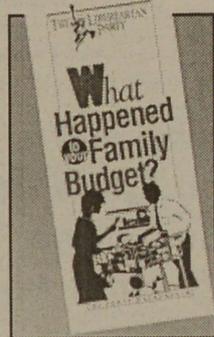
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■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Flyer. New, improved 2-color version! (blue & red). Hard-hitting outreach to gun owners, listing 10 compelling reasons why the Libertarian Party deserves support. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



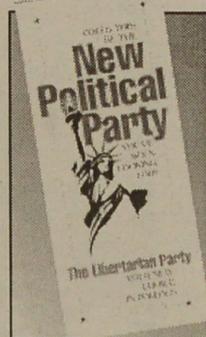
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■ **What Happened to Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Hard-hitting look at how government impoverishes the "typical" family through taxes and inflation. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's innovative five-point Operation Safe Streets "crime-control" program. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



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Randy Langhenry, editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 4-6, 1997:

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Hilton Hotel, Allentown; for information call 610-264-3692. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger and Doug Bandow.

April 13, 1997:

St. Louis Libertarians' 5th Annual Thomas Jefferson Birthday celebration, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, MO; for information call 314-481-1776 or 314-343-7129. All-day celebration including live music, refreshments, speeches, etc.

April 15, 1997:

Tax Protest Day!
Get your outreach supplies from the national HQ now!

April 18-20, 1997:

Illinois LP Convention, Ramada Woodfield Hotel, Palatine; for information call 847-836-0531. Speakers include Harry Browne, Bonnie Flickinger, Jim Collier, and Yuri Maltsev.

April 19, 1997:

New York Citywide LP Convention, Third Floor Ballroom in Three West 51st St. in Rockefeller Center, Manhattan; for information call 718-670-3270. Speakers include Richard Boddie.

April 19, 1997:

Virginia LP Convention, Best Western/Hanover House Hotel, Ashland;

for information call 800-619-1776.

April 19, 1997:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Concourse Hotel, Madison; for information call 608-829-2913. Speakers include Marshall Fritz.

May 2-4, 1997:

Ohio LP Convention, "Nuts and Bolts of Political Campaigns," Holiday Inn, Springfield; for information call Tom Brown at 937-296-0543.

May 2-4, 1997:

Michigan LP Convention, "Libertarianism in the 21st Century," Holiday Inn, Traverse City; for information call 616-941-1306. Special events include Casino Night and workshop on "Why and How to Build Affiliates."

May 4, 1997:

Rhode Island LP Convention, Bickford's Restaurant, Warwick; for information call 401-848-9733.

May 10, 1997:

Alaska LP Convention, Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks; for information call 907-566-1235. Speakers include Harry Browne.

May 24-25, 1997:

Florida LP Convention, Sheraton Orlando North Hotel, Maitland; for information call 407-578-3797. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger, Mary Ruwart, and Grant Maley.

May 30 - June 1, 1997:

Missouri LP Convention, "Liberty Countdown," Stratford Inn, St. Louis; for information call 314-481-1776. Speakers include publisher Rich Nadler.

May 31, 1997:

Fairfax County (VA) LP sponsors a day-long event featuring author Charles Murray, who will be speaking and signing his new book. A workshop will be held on getting Libertarians elected. More details to follow. For information call 703-329-6857.

May 31-June 1, 1997:

New York LP Convention, Stadler Hotel, Ithaca; for information call 607-687-7597.

July 10, 1997:

The Discussion Club, St. Louis, MO; for information call 314-621-2033. Guest speaker will be Jacob Hornberger of the Future of Freedom Foundation.

Oct. 18, 1997:

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Nashua; for information call 603-627-3666. Speakers include Nadine Strossen, Jacob Hornberger, and Barbara Goushaw.

July 2-5, 1998:

Libertarian Party National Convention, Washington, DC; for information, call 202-333-0008.

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

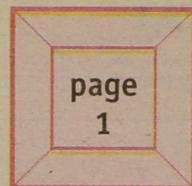
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Once more into...

Harry Browne considers running again in 2000



Jim Lewis

LP's 1984 vice presidential candidate dies



Why bother?

Should the Libertarian Party save Social Security?



Enlightened



FRANK CHODOROV — from "The Income Tax. Root of All Evil," published by The Devin-Adair Company, 1954:

“Certainly, no tax on incomes got into the Constitution. That was unthinkable. A people that had but recently kicked over the traces because of taxes far less onerous would hardly have countenanced an income tax. They knew their freedom.”