



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the contributors in the National Libertarian Party's Liberty Pledge Program and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to current National Committee Members and State Party Chairs in appreciation of their involvement and to serve them as a regular update on Libertarian activities at Headquarters and in the news.

Clippings and other stories of interest are appreciated.

Libertarian Party National Headquarters • 301 W. 21st St. • Houston, Texas 77008 • 713/880-1776

Want to raise your Pledge? Adjust it? Call us at 1-800-682-1776.

January, 1987

Dear Supporters of Liberty,

Good news: '84 ballot drive debt reduced by \$6,793.38 in December and January!

The January fundraising letter (your copy enclosed) went out the door on the 15th, and is without a doubt one of the best letters yet.

About this month's issue:

You'll notice that there's a preponderance of articles about former congressman Ron Paul. So, before anyone jumps to the conclusion that the National Headquarters is "pro" Ron Paul, let me state categorically that we're going to feature clippings about any and all that vie for the nomination. No favorites.

Worked in with the clippings on pages two and three are ads for list companies that could be of help to state parties looking for new names and sources for fundraising. The ad on page three includes an offer for a free catalogue.

Page four is particularly interesting to activists. Offered are FOUR different types of specific lists (through brokers):

- * Two are for lists of "tax avoiders".
- * One is from New Options, an outfit with over 1,800 periodicals mailing lists...something for every facet of your state or local parties ideas on expansion.
- * Also included is an ad for a highly informative guide to TV News media. Well worth the investment. Read the ad carefully.
- * Last, and my favorite, is the list for the Americans Against Gun Control CONTRIBUTORS list! There's over 200,000 names available!

We're about to bring the recently donated micro computer on-line. Soon we'll be offering merge/purge services to all state and local parties, and they'll be able to send and receive their material via modem. This will greatly enhance affiliate parties mailings and fundraisings, example: merge/purge your list with ours and/or the Mother Earth News subscribers list for your area. Saves time, work, and money.

See you in Seattle in September!

Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention
Seattle Sheraton Hotel • September 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1987

Libertarians may draft Paul for president

By ROBERT MCGLOHON
The Brazosport Facts

(TX)

Influential members of the Libertarian Party have formed a committee to draft former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul as their party's candidate for president in 1988. Paul, a Lake Jackson obstetrician and a former three-term Republican congressman from District 22, said Tuesday he is giving the offer "serious consideration."

Paul left his seat in the House in 1984 after a failed reelection bid. He was eventually won by

Phil Gramm, R-College Station.

At the time, Paul said he was retiring from elective politics to rebuild his medical practice.

PAUL SAID HIS dissatisfaction with the Reagan administration and with both major political parties has led him to reconsider his retirement.

"What makes me stop and ponder this a bit — and I'm a long way from deciding — is the fact that people are so frustrated, so sick of what's happening," Paul said. "That's the message I got from 10 years in politics. This was even before the Iran scandal."

Paul described his decision as a dilemma, saying

he was torn between a desire to continue his medical practice and a very intense interest in the current U.S. political situation.

"I've been giving it some very serious thought," Paul said. "I've been back here two years and I've rather enjoyed my medical practice. That's just really getting started and therefore I have lots of mixed feelings."

Paul said he would make a decision by February.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY members involved in the "Ron Paul for a Free America" committee said they were confident Paul would eventually decide to run.

Calling Paul a "libertarian in the generic sense," an organizer of the draft committee said he "would be extremely disappointed and surprised if he didn't" accept.

Committee organizer Burt Blumert, a California friend and business associate of Paul's, said Paul "knows exactly what we're up to. He's been very, very happy with the flood of support from our best people."

More than 40 prominent Libertarians have expressed their support for a Paul presidential campaign. See RON PAUL, Page 15A

Libertarians like Paul's viewpoint

Party stresses freedom

By ROBERT MCGLOHON (TX)

Dick Blumert, the California businessman behind the campaign to draft Ron Paul as a presidential candidate, says Paul is a natural for the job.

Though Paul served three full terms as a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Blumert says the Lake Jackson obstetrician really belongs in the Libertarian Party.

"If you use the word libertarian in the generic sense, then Ron is a libertarian," Blumert says of his friend and business associate.

"Ron is very special. His record in Congress, we think, was an impeccable one."

BLUMERT POINTS TO a day during Paul's last term in Congress as an illustration.

"The Greeks and Turks were killing each other, as they've been doing for a thousand years," Blumert recalls, "and the U.S. Congress was going to send a statement to the effect that they were supporting the Turks, because the Greeks have a communist government."

The vote was 479 to 1. It wasn't the first time Paul was the lone voice in the wilderness.

"The *Washington Post* was there," Blumert continues. "They

know Ron and they were teasing him, 'Well, you did it again, Congressman Paul.'

"And when they asked him why he voted against that, he answered, 'Why is it any of our business?'"

"That's the kind of man Ron is."

AND THAT, Blumert says, is a Libertarian kind of man.

Bill Evers, a party theoretician and also a member of the Ron Paul for a Free American Committee, agrees.

Paul is "pretty much in line with the Libertarian Party viewpoint," Evers says.

And just what is that viewpoint? "It is very strong for personal liberties, the Bill of Rights, for a free market and no foreign meddling," Evers explains.

The Libertarian Party, he says, is about liberty.

And so is Paul.

"PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN I haven't been a very typical Republican, even though I've worked very closely with the Republicans over the years," Paul says.

"We have conservative Republicans and liberal Republicans. My views came together more as a small 'I' libertarian Republican."

A lowercase libertarian, Paul explains, believes simply "in free-

See RON PAUL, Page 20A

Ron Paul: A good Libertarian choice

The last major national campaign by the Libertarian Party was for Ed Clark as president, six years ago. Now the party is considering Ron Paul, physician and three-term congressman from Lake Jackson. He would probably accept the nomination, despite the personal sacrifice.

No one in the Libertarian Party has any illusions about capturing the presidency. The party might nevertheless make a significant contribution to good government in the United States by the effort.

As it is now, the pendulum swings back and forth between two major parties. Neither is a distinct, definable entity: They vary from region to region, and change with time and conditions. The trend is for voters to ignore the parties in favor of appealing individuals. Candidates have tended to follow that trend by mounting individual campaigns rather than as standard-bearers for a party.

A party is actually a coalition of powerful political interests, and its character is whatever these interests agree on at a given time and place. The end product is a party without fixed principles, and with goals that reflect a compromise between the demands of component interests and constituent voters.

A forum by these two giants leaves something to be desired. Criticism is restrained, for each is in the position of a pot calling the kettle black.

Libertarians are at this stage free of the influence of political action committees, for these only finance potential winners. They are therefore free to lambast either party from a platform of clear-cut principles.

The nucleus principle of libertarians is that the cause of individual freedom is the uppermost consideration, and that any degree of government is a risk to that freedom. A government must exist to establish and control an armed force, to protect citizens from foreign predators; and a system of laws to protect one citizen's freedom from encroachment by another citizen. Beyond that, services and regulation should be the absolute minimum, and even at that represent a compromise and risk of growth through self-interest.

At its present level of membership the party tends to take an extremist attitude toward this limitation of government. Any growth in the party would tend to moderate its position, and it does with any party.

Libertarians are perhaps the only minor party that can address the full range of national interests. Other parties tend to be either one-issue groups or advocates of an alien system of government.

The party might have a direct influence if there was a vote so close that neither major party achieved a majority vote. But the chief value is as a critic of the major parties.

In this, the Libertarians could find no one with governmental experience more sincerely devoted to the principle of limited government than Ron Paul.

Ron Paul

Continued from Page 1
paign, including Ed Clark, the party's 1980 candidate, and David Bergland, the 1984 candidate, Blumert said.

Jim Turney, the national chairman of the Libertarian Party, said Paul would face little or no opposition for the party's nomination, should he want it.



TURNERY SAID PAUL'S national reputation as a leader of the "lowercase libertarians" in the Republican Party would serve him well in a presidential campaign.

"Libertarians in the Libertarian Party have always admired him," Turney said from his Richmond, Va. office. "He's always been a good friend of the Libertarian Party. He's not just your typical politician that gives a speech to the local Jaycees every now and then."

"Most all of the Libertarians I've talked to would be very pleased to see him as a candidate. I don't think he'll really have much of a problem if he decides he wants it (the nomi-

nation)."

Turney said he thinks Paul will eventually decide to seek the nomination because "I think he understands that '88 is a great opportunity for libertarians."

BILL EVERS, a Libertarian Party official and one of the backers of the draft Paul campaign, agreed.

He said the party, with Paul's cooperation, already has begun to line up financial support for a presidential campaign.

"He (Paul) participated in some fund-raising events that were held in early November in California," Evers said. "Funds were not really raised, but pledges were raised contingent upon him deciding to run. He cooperated with that."

Evers said he didn't know the extent of the pledges received at the fund-raisers — one in northern and one in southern California — but he said they were successful.

Blumert, who attended both events, said the pledges totaled between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

PAUL CHARACTERIZED the meetings as receptions.

"I was in California for some hard-money investment seminars," Paul said. "Following those seminars, which I was there for already,

a few people got together and had a little reception for me. I was sort of a very passive member of that reception. I attended because they invited me."

Paul did note, however, a presidential campaign "can be a very expensive, from a personal viewpoint, involvement."

Should he decide to commit to such an involvement, Paul said he would do so with the knowledge that his campaign would likely be unsuccessful.

The Libertarian Party, with 400,000 registered voters nationwide, has about 60 elected officials at low levels, the highest being a state legislator in Alaska, Turney said.

IN 1984, THE Libertarian Party candidate polled less than 5 percent of the popular vote.

However, Paul said a presidential campaign can have an important effect on the national debate.

"That's exactly what motivated me to go into politics in the first place," Paul said. "The last thing I needed or wanted was to run back and forth to Washington. In many ways, I think I did influence the debate, especially in the money issues."

Both Paul and the Libertarian Party espouse free market economic policies.

1986 ELECTION RETURNS

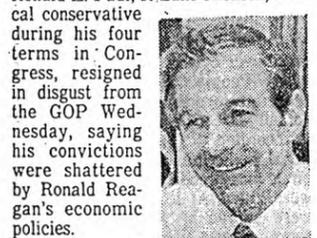
There were 160 statewide third party candidates on the ballots of the various states in last November's election. For a free list of all of them, how many votes they received, what percentage they received, and how the same party did in the same race four years earlier, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Richard Winger at the address below. When you write, please tell me your opinion of HR 2320 and how the new version can be supported.

The cumulative total for statewide third party candidates in 1986 was 9,182,628 votes. This does not include independent candidates, nor third party candidates for district or local office. The biggest cumulative totals were racked up by the Libertarian Party (2,813,710 votes) and the Illinois Solidarity Party (2,259,680 votes).

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Former Rep. Paul jumps ship on the GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Rep. Ronald E. Paul, R-Lake Jackson, a fiscal conservative during his four terms in Congress, resigned in disgust from the GOP Wednesday, saying his convictions were shattered by Ronald Reagan's economic policies.



Paul

"I guess it's something I've been thinking about for months, if not for years," Paul said. "My struggle has been to minimize government. Very

early in the Reagan years, I knew it was all over."

In a three-page letter of resignation sent to the Republican National Committee, Paul detailed reasons for renouncing his membership in the GOP.

Since Reagan took office as president six years ago, Paul said he has grown weary of ineffective attempts by the Republicans to reduce the size of the federal government, which instead has grown to mammoth proportions.

"How is it that the party of balanced budgets, with control of the White House and the Senate, accumulated red ink greater than all previous administrations put together?" asked Paul, who represented the 22nd district near Houston from 1976-84.

"All Republicans rightly chastised (former President Jimmy) Carter for his \$38 billion deficit. But they ignore or even defend deficits of \$220 billion, as government spending has grown 10.4 percent per year since Reagan took office, while the federal payroll has zoomed by a quarter of a million bureaucrats."

Paul called Reagan's defense buildup of recent years a drain on the economy that fails to provide even an adequate shield from aggression.

"Knowing this administration's record, I wasn't surprised by its Libyan disinformation campaign, Israeli-Iranian arms-for-hostages swap or illegal funding of the contras," Paul said.

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Trustee Walsh won't run in 1987

By SUSAN SHERLOCK
Staff Writer

Trustee Gerry Walsh, the top vote-getter in the Roselle's 1983 municipal elections, will not be a re-election candidate in 1987.

Walsh, a research engineer for Quaker Oats, has decided the demands of his job preclude another run for trustee. Walsh a Libertarian, is the only independent member of the Village Board. He was the Libertarian's lieutenant governor candidate in the recent gubernatorial election.

"For the past year and a half I've been doing a lot of traveling for the company. At this point I don't have the time to do it and I don't see the situation getting any better in the next year," Walsh said.

Village voters will elect three

trustees in April. Incumbents Gayle Smolinski and Jim Rak along with newcomer Ronald Sass are the candidates of the longstanding Roselle Village Party. Greg Everhart, the owner of Countryside News Agency, has announced his candidacy. A.J. "Woody" Monroe, had considered an independent campaign but has decided not to become a candidate.

"I know that Adlai Stevenson announced that he would not enter politics again. I would not say that. I would be surprised if I did not run for something again," said Walsh.

Walsh said his exit from the race leaves the village without any truly independent candidates.

"I don't see him (Everhart) as a serious opponent. He is pushing the same things (as the incumbents). I think he is just upset about them (the party) slating the mayor's

brother-in-law (Sass)," said Walsh.

Everhart had sought the party's nomination, but lost to Sass, Mayor Sandra Birdsall's relative and a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. With Walsh out of the race, Everhart is the only candidate who lives north of Irving Park Road in Roselle.

Everhart said the party has a "representation problem" by not having a candidate living in his area. However, he said he was not upset that the party did not slate him.

Walsh said Monroe, a former trustee, would not have provided an independent alternative.

"I would not see that (Monroe's candidacy) as a major change from what we have now. I don't see him as being any different from the slate or any different from Greg,"

Walsh said.

"I put in my four years. It's unfortunate (because) I would like to see someone in there stirring up a little mischief, but I don't have the time to do it this time."

The lameduck trustee said he believes that without his input Roselle residents would have been taxed for auditing services and the village's utility tax may not have been withdrawn at the end of 1986.

Walsh worked for a tax cut referendum in Roselle which limited the village's corporate tax rate. The effort was led by Residents Organized to Enlighten and Serve. R.O.S.E. succeeded in getting voters to approve a referendum by a three-to-one margin.

Despite those efforts, Walsh laments that the tax rate has continued to climb.

"The bottom line is the tax rate keeps going up," he said. "I would guess it would have gone up more had there not been the referendum or if I was not elected."

20A Ron Paul

Continued from Page 1
dom across the board."

Unfortunately, Paul says, freedom isn't a popular concept.

"The basic premise of a libertarian is that you do not ever initiate violence against another person," Paul says. "That would be a pretty perfect society if nobody would steal from anybody else, defraud anybody else, or hurt anybody else."

"IF YOU BOIL IT down to not initiating violence and respecting other people's property and their lives, it's pretty simple and I don't know how anybody can disagree with that."

"But when it comes down to saying, 'Well, are you going to let certain people follow lifestyles that you don't like,' nobody likes that."

"They say, 'We shouldn't let them do that. We should put them in jail for that.'"

Paul and the Libertarian Party disagree.

However, Paul says one of the reasons he still hasn't decided whether to run a Libertarian is their disparate reasons for disagreeing.

Other than his pro-life position on abortion, Paul says, he and the Libertarian Party are in accord on most philosophic issues: all they really want is to let people alone.

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