Hess to Seek Governor's Seat in West Virginia

Karl Hess, Editor Emeritus of the LP News and Honorary Chair of the Marrou/Lord Campaign, has agreed to stand for the Governorship of West Virginia. Although Karl's health will not allow an active campaign schedule, he will be available for media interviews and does have definite campaign goals.

Chief among these goals is that of gaining permanent ballot status in West Virginia. Karl stated that if he "could get one percent of the vote, the Libertarian Party could have permanent ballot status in a state that has erected formidable barriers against third parties. I feel that it would be almost craven not to go ahead with the project."

While Karl does expect to raise and utilize campaign funds, the first priority will be the petition drive, and he is asking his supporters to work closely with National Ballot Access Coordinator, Bill Redpath until that job is done.

Ballot Access
Progress on all fronts

Kentucky petitioning has started and finished in the last month.

Indiana petitioning, due to low validity rates and quirky qualifying procedures for signatures, had to be reopened, but is now considered completed again, proving once more that "it ain't over 'til it's over".

The monstrous Florida drive has been turned over to a professional petitioning firm. Volunteer and paid petitioners have collected almost 40,000 signatures in Florida, but with Spring having arrived our management efforts need to be concentrated elsewhere.

Oklahoma petitioning has started and is proceeding well.

West Virginia is the next major effort to be undertaken, beginning the end of this month.

Inquiries Keep Pouring In

The national office has recorded over 3,200 new names in the last 4 weeks as the Marrou/Lord Campaign team continues to generate publicity. In a recent swing through Philadelphia, several radio appearances by Nancy Lord generated 213 Pennsylvania inquiries and 108 New Jersey inquiries.

Over 11,000 follow-up letters were sent in March to 1991 inquiry names. The early returns are encouraging.
Libertarians want 'equal consideration'

The Libertarian Party of Washington State yesterday filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking equal consideration for minority political parties.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Tacoma, challenges a state law that requires non-major parties to hold a nominating convention at least two weeks before the candidate-filing deadline.

The Libertarian Party contends this gives Democrats and Republicans an unfair advantage because they don't have to indicate who's running until the filing deadline.

"It essentially forces us to tip our hand," said Tom Isenberg, Libertarian spokesman. The lawsuit asks that nominating conventions be allowed to occur up to the filing deadline.

The suit also challenges a provision of state law that enables the major parties to appoint candidates to unfilled partisan races after the filing deadline.

The lawsuit was filed against Secretary of State Ralph Munro and several local election officials.

John Pearson, a state election official, said that his office had not seen the lawsuit, but that changes in the election law should be made by the Legislature, not by the courts.

Submitted by Karen Allard

Message clear

It's only 31 votes, but it's a telling sign of what's on the voters' minds these days.

Little Dixville Notch, a hamlet nestled in New Hampshire's White Mountains, counted the first ballots cast in the New Hampshire primary early this morning. The community's voters are very conservative. In the 1988 general election George Bush beat Michael Dukakis 34-31; Ronald Reagan took Walter Mondale to the cleaners, 29-1, in 1984.

In the 1988 primary, Republican candidates outswept Democrats 22-7.

Then came Primary 1992. Republicans still got the most votes -- 12, with Bush garnering nine, and Pat Buchanan and Ralph Nader getting three apiece.

But the big winner in this tiny town was someone virtually ignored throughout the primary season. Andre Marrou, a Libertarian candidate in the New Hampshire gubernatorial race, outdistanced his competitors by taking 11 votes. Marrou's a Libertarian, the party of Simi Valley City Councilwoman Sandi Webb. It's the party that preaches less taxes and less government. It's a party that is growing in strength and numbers.

We don't expect Marrou to sweep New Hampshire or the nation. It's doubtful his Dixville Notch win will be repeated elsewhere in the state.

But the conservative town folk of this mountain village have sent a clear message resounding through the countryside — enough of big government and big spending. And if the Republicans and Democrats can bring it down, it's time to find a party that can.

That's a sentiment that's sweeping the nation.

Submitted by Sandi Webb

To the Editor:

On December 12, I made one of the most difficult decisions of my life. As a member of the New Hampshire State Legislature, I take my responsibilities seriously, and have worked countless hours representing the people of the town of Merrimack.

Due to the deep recession and high unemployment, I have consistently voted against any increases in revenue that would either directly or indirectly impact my constituents. I believed that I could make a difference. What I found was that the Republican and Democratic parties are becoming one in their political ideologies. The fiscally conservative platform is diminishing. The citizens of New Hampshire and the United States are ready for a change.

The Libertarian Party is becoming a viable alternative in New Hampshire. Although I do not agree with everything the Libertarian Party stands for, I do believe in their basic philosophy of limited government and the fact that they fully embrace the Bill of Rights. To the people who voted for me, I want you to know that my views of government, my stances on issues, and the way I have represented you in Concord have not and will not change! During the past year, I have listened to my constituents, their thoughts, their ideas and their desires and I have voted accordingly in Concord.

I have always felt that our government is too large, and I will continue to fight to reduce it's size. I am opposed to and will fight against a broad based sales tax and state income tax. Government should be left to it's lowest common denominator, the local level. In Concord, my voting record will speak for itself.

The Libertarian Party is the third largest and fastest growing political party in the United States. In 1991, the Libertarian Party candidate for governor, Miriam Luce received 5% of the vote, enough to give Libertarians ballot access for 1992. February 18, was the first time that New Hampshire voters had the opportunity to vote Libertarian in a presidential primary.

Any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation, will now be able to ask for Libertarian ballots.

Sincerely,
Finlay C. Rothhuas
State Representative L.-Merrimack

Submitted by Jim McClarin
Simi bus lines may go private
Option considered to lift tax burden

By Terry Kanakri
Daily News Staff Writer 2 - 16 - 92

SIMI VALLEY — The city is considering turning its bus system over to private enterprise, to end government subsidies that some officials say are putting an unnecessary tax burden on Simi Valley residents.

Putting the system into the hands of a private firm could make the system run more efficiently and lower the city's financial burden at a time when revenues are declining, City Councilwoman Sandi Webb said.

"When you look at the cost to the taxpayers of about $4 per person who rides the bus system, I think that's outrageous," Webb said. "It's subsidizing people at the taxpayers' expense — that's wrong."

Other city leaders believe turning the bus system over to private industry would be a big mistake.

"You might be able to save the city some money, but do you save the citizens any money? No," said Mayor Pro Tem Bill Davis. "This is a cost to the taxpayer."

Davis said subsidizing ticket prices is needed because 45 percent of the riders are students and senior citizens, who do not earn a lot of money.

Simi Valley's nine 40-seat buses will cost $1.03 million to operate during the 1991-92 fiscal year alone, Crompton said.

"If private industry could do it more efficiently and lower the city's financial burden, we'd be happy," he said.

But he noted that some city leaders have reservations about contracting with a private firm to run the bus system.

"We're trying to decide whether to turn the buses over to the county or whether to accept an offer from a private firm," Crompton said.

"That's not an easy decision to make if you're the right students with the right program," he said.

Besides offering students a chance to see how they measured on the political scales, Knight also hopes to spread the word about his party to potential voters.

"There are some serious misconceptions that we have to deal with," he said. "Basically, I try to avoid any inflammatory rhetoric because I want to get straight to the meat and let people know what we're about. Of course, the goal is not convincing anybody of anything. It's basically searching for students who already are Libertarians."

"While many people understand Libertarians as radicals, Knight views his job as a means to get the record straight."

"The country was founded by trailblazers," he said. "We came into existence when a group of Libertarians signed a document of treason and called it the Declaration of Independence."

The aims of the Libertarian platform is also one he thinks should interest most voters.

"Let me put it this way: Democrats and Republicans are taking away our freedoms and spending us into bankruptcy. We want to get the other way for a while," he said. "The other thing that we try to get people know is that we are no longer a minor league player."

"We have over 100 Libertarian candidates actually holding public office, we've seated state legislators in three states. So, we're getting off the ground," he said.

As if to drive his point home, Knight pointed to the primaries that are gearing up.

"In New Hampshire right now there are three parties: Democrat, Republican and Libertarian," he said. "CNN did a survey in New Hampshire in which they discovered that our candidate has more name recognition than all the Democrats, and we're actually coming in second to Bush."

"Florida has the toughest ballot status in the country," he said. "You need to get 60,000 good signatures (to get a name on the ballot)."

Submitted by Sandi Webb
Libertarians make bid for the main stream

Their candidates are on a ballot. They hope to attract alienated Republicans and Democrats.

The 78-year-old federal income tax, which accounts for nearly 40 percent of the government's income, would be abolished.

Only the most necessary federal agencies would survive with the taxes that remain, but they would do a lot less. Charities would do a lot more. Private companies would take over many government tasks.

People would have more of their paychecks to spend. The economy would get healthy and stay that way.

So say the Libertarians, who are competing in a presidential primary — in New Hampshire — for the first time in their party's 20-year history.

Please see PARTY 2A