LP issues public challenge to GOP

In an effort to inspire the GOP to live up to its 1994 campaign promises, the Libertarian Party has issued a public “Challenge to the Republicans,” urging them to immediately eliminate 21 specific federal programs, agencies, and policies.

“The time for talk is over,” said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach. “The time to deliver on their promises have arrived. Will the GOP carry out the mandate given to them by the American voter last November? Libertarian Party members will be watching.”

The 21-item “hit list” included economic issues, “pork barrel” projects, personal freedom issues, and foreign policy — and ranged from Amtrak to the Selective Service; from the Davis Bacon Act to the semi-automatic weapons ban; from “War On Drugs” civil liberties violations to unnecessary NATO and UN military expenses.

“This list will serve as a litmus test of how serious the GOP is,” said Dasbach.

The “Challenge” was hand-delivered to the Capitol Hill offices of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole on January 6th.

The LP plans to publicize its challenge as widely as possible, and party spokesmen are appearing on talk radio programs around the country to promote it.

LP City Councilman wins citizen approval for tax hikes

A Libertarian City Council in Sparks, Nevada won passage on December 28th of an ordinance requiring future property tax hikes to be approved by a majority of city voters.

Ernest Walker, Ward 2 Councilman and Vice Chair of the Nevada LP, argued that citizens have a right to vote directly on their tax bills. “After all, it’s their money, isn’t it?” he asked. The measure was also necessary, said Walker, because city officials need to do a better job prioritizing issues — “focusing first on public safety and letting other matters slide if they must.”

The ordinance was supported by LP member James Dan, who said, “It will lead to a leaner and better government [and] serve as a model for the rest of the state.”

LPNH legislators file three bills

New Hampshire’s Libertarian State Representatives are jumping into the legislative fray immediately — sponsoring at least three bills to reduce the power of government.

House Libertarian Leader Don Gorman (L-Deerfield) is filing a “10th Amendment Resolution,” to remind the federal government that “all rights not delegated to Congress by the Constitution are retained by the state and the people.” The bill, already passed in a number of other states, is seen as a rejection of federal mandates. To add teeth to the bill, Gorman is also sponsoring another bill to create a state legal defense fund to sue the federal government for infringements on the 10th Amendment.

Gorman is also sponsoring a bill that would enable towns and cities to grant educational tax abatements to home-schooling families.

First-time legislator Jim McClarin (L-Nashua) said he won’t sponsor any bills this year because “few freshman bills are passed, so any bill I [sponsor] now will just be a waste of $1,500 of the taxpayer’s money.” But McClarin said he would co-sponsor an education reform bill.

Two more LPers appointed to office

Two new Libertarians have been appointed to public office over the past month — boosting the number of Libertarians in office to a record 133.

In Michigan, Jeff Grund was appointed to the South Central Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council. “I see this as a way to monitor how taxpayer dollars are spent and to lobby quietly for drug legalization,” said Grund.

Some eyebrows were raised at Grund’s appointment, including the local newspaper, the Jackson Citizen-Patriot, which headlined their story: “Advocate of Legal Drugs is Appointed an Advisor on Treatment.”

In New Jersey, Harvey Michelman was selected for a spot on the Lenape Valley Regional Board of Education. Michelman promised to examine the school’s “economics,” and lower the “cost base” per student.
A) My initial one is good in that I think this means the American people are sick and tired of it and they are blaming the government. I'm still holding back on deciding how successful it's going to be because there are a few points I'm not totally pleased with. I think there's some risk in claiming you can balance the budget if you're not willing to address the Social Security system and you're anxious to spend more money on the military-industrial complex. ... They now have a little contract to come to the White House and they have not talked about one of the subjects I've been interested in, and that's monetary policy.

Q) Generally speaking, though, do you feel like the country is warming up for a change in direction? I was just probably a little bit ahead of myself.

Please see LIBERTARIAN, A-14

I'm a libertarian. You may be one, too. Or perhaps I can convert you today, although it took 14 years of discussion and argument to convert my wife.

We're social liberals and fiscal conservatives. While we think we're logically consistent, we find ourselves agreeing on different issues with a startling variety of people, from the National Taxpayers Union to the ACLU.

We believe others should be allowed to smoke marijuana, and that the government should stay out of the bedrooms as well as our bank accounts.

Some of us tried to use government to do good, and were discouraged by the experience. Others were victims of government, and haven't forgotten. And still others were smart enough to study history, and learn the weaknesses and evils of government without having to experience them.

Some of us are fundamentalist Christians who like the fact that libertarians follow Christ's idea of using persuasion rather than force to try to change others' behavior.

That's the key. Much as some of us may love guns and battle gun control...

Libertarians are everywhere

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The difference between us and other anti-violence groups is that we believe the threat or use of violence by government is usually as evil as its threat or use by the unrelated. Government, like organized crime, doesn't have to actually use violence very often. Instead, it depends on citizens' fear of force for compliance with most of its demands.

We believe citizens have a right to be free, if not from crime, at least from disobedience, and, often, to resist both criminals and tyrants. Our argument is with the initiation of violence, not its use in defending ourselves.

We agree with former Drug Czar Bill Bennett who, after years of running lives, now says government should be a last resort, not a first resort, in attacking our problems.

We concur with P.J. O'Rourke that, "Giving power and money to politicians is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

We sometimes use the motto "Pro-Choice on Everything" to describe ourselves. It's an accurate statement of our beliefs on everything except, strangely, abortion. We all agree you should be able to run your life as you wish, but we disagree on abortion because some of us are more sympathetic to the rights of the mother and others to the rights of the fetus.

We're all over the place. Jersey City mayor and potential presidential candidate Brett Schundler describes himself as "sort of a libertarian." Tory columnist George Will used the term in Congress recently, as he spoke of his disagreement with the continued failures of government. Christie Whitman's statement that Republicans should lower taxes and not tell us how to run our lives is a libertarian message.

TERRY DWYER lives in Morrilton.
New Libertarian chairman looks to party's future

By Jim Ryegaki
Staff writer

The new chairman of the Libertarian Party in the city says he wants to "embrace" its position as the "No. 1 party.

In Okaloosa County, where he ran unsuc-
cessfully for sheriff in 1992 on the Liber-
tarian ticket, he said he is an insur-
ar anti-tax man who moved into the city earlier this year.

In the November election, the Libertarian candi-
f fields in all citywide races, the Republic-
ain and in many of the state, county and area races.

The Libertarians' participa-
tion in future campaigns will ensure that voters hear different viewpoints and different solutions. During the '94 campaign Mr. Crumly offered unique ideas for running the county, from privatizing custodial services at the courthouse to defying improving traffic flow without having to build bridges and by-passes.

The Libertarians believe in a limited government, unrestrained capitalism and an end to most entitlements like welfare. They are involved in Libertarian-type prom-
ises." McCune said. "We believe the size of government should fit within the bounds of the constitution," he added.

Heldend said Libertarians believe government intrudes too much into people's lives. Using the issue of smoking while driving, he said he usually voted Republican - pointing out that all Libertarians are for- mer Republicans - and that his transformation that former Presi-
dent Ronald Reagan's administra-
tion showed he was concerned about the government bureaucracy.

"He got the committee estab-
lishe in the city and he had-
ted in a professional manner," Holden said.

He characterized his own style as "aggressive," one and said he would use that to continue build-
ing the party's influence. Holden pointed to his red-white-and-blue lapel button which identified him as "politically incorrect" per- son.

Heldend said. "As someone in the insurance business, if you want to smoke, you pay more."

"They are still involved in that basic se-
riety and power brokering. They are far too suscep-
tible to special interests.

"We will make reminder that people will be on the ballot the next time if the Republicans don't follow through," he continued.

The odds are long that Libertarians will win a congressional race anytime soon, but the party has enjoyed success at the statewide level in New Hampshire and may have the power to sway mainstream party platforms in Wy-
mung, he said.

"You don't have to win to get attention," McCune said. "Winning in politics is done in a whole lot of ways. They have to pay attention to us because a 1 or 2 percent difference in the polls are very important to the elder parties."

The Libertarian Party used to need at least 10 percent of the vote in a congressional race to achieve minority status.

The Libertarians lobbied to re-
duce it to 3 percent, which McCune said legislators still consider the possibility. Dawson actually received 5 percent of the vote.


EDITORIAL

Third political party is making its mark

A

and the political and cul-
tural fallout from last week's general election, one of the most interesting news items was the emergence of a viable third party in North-
west Florida.

It's true that this third party, the Libertarian Party, placed candidates in only three races affected Okaloosa County and won not a single contest. But these three candidates drew more votes than almost anyone had expected.

Dean Crumly got 7,863 votes in his bid for the Okaloosa County Commission's District 4 seat. Bob Wilson gathered 5,186 votes in his race for the Florida House District 4 seat, which represents parts of Oka-
flusha, Santa Rosa and Excamb-
s county. Susan Matuska drew 2,092 votes for circuit clerk in Southwest City, Missouri.

These numbers are moderate, Ms. Crumly, for instance, lost to E. Gordon Thomas, who got more than 27,000 votes, but consider the numerical ob-
stacles faced by Libertarians: in Okaloosa County, no more than 100 voters had registered as Libertarians by mid-
October; in Santa Rosa the total was a paltry 25. And Florida's ballot-access rules are tipped so heavily in favor of the two major parties, the Rep-
ublicans and the Democrats, that two Libertarians who wanted to run for regional of-
cfices couldn't even get their names on the ballot.

After all candidates rang-
ing from 4,979 to 7,863, do n't look back. "We only expected a couple of hundred votes in any race," Ms. Ma-
tusk said a few days after the election. "But by running, we let people know that there is an alternative.

That alternative is to have new candidates who are running for office - and that's exactly what the Libertarians are doing.

The Libertarians' partici-
pation in future campaigns will ensure that voters hear different viewpoints and different solutions. During the '94 campaign Mr. Crumly offered unique ideas for running the county, from privatizing custodial services at the courthouse to defying improving traffic flow without having to build bridges and by-passes. Whatever one thinks of Mr. Crumly's ideas - and we think they are worth considering - the new party is an alternative that was selling anything as fresh.

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What we are endorsing here is the availability of new ideas, fresh perspectives and a wider range of choices. The ascent of a third party as a player in North Florida politics ought to provide those.

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Libertarians try to break the mold

By ARI RICHTER

In defining political views, it’s traditional to think of a spectrum from liberal to conservative. You’re either on the left, on the right or in the middle.

The pitfall of that model is it leaves out the possibility that a person is conservative on one type of issue and liberal on another. And that’s exactly the case with Libertarians, according to Miriam Luce, the party’s candidate for governor in 1990 and 1992.

Conservative on economic issues but liberal on social ones, Libertarians are left off the spectrum altogether.

They’re also left out of most of New Hampshire’s political discussion.

Republican and Democratic leaders argue that because the Libertarians aren’t plugging a hole in state politics. But Luce and her colleagues say it’s just a matter of time until New Hampshire residents realize the Libertarian Party most represents their beliefs.

They say there’s a large base of people (in New Hampshire) who are fiscally responsible and socially tolerant, but they don’t know that there’s anybody here who represents them,” Luce said.

She believes recent elections show an increasing disagreement among voters for the growing size and role of state and federal government. She says she predicted that by the year 2000 either the Republicans or the Democrats will have begun act like Libertarians, or the Libertarians will have gained a significant amount of power.

Steve Duprey, the state Republican chairman, acknowledges many New Hampshire residents have a Libertarian streak in them, also known as Yankee independence. But he says the Libertarian Party hasn’t been aggressive enough to make that streak and not be at any time soon.

“I think we’ve given the Libertarians more than an ample community to prove themselves as a viable political party,” Duprey said. “I think they’ve had limited success.”

The writer is S. J. Hall, distinguished professor of economics at the University of Virginia and academic affairs for the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Auburn, Ala.

Murray N. Rothbard

New Gingrich
Is No Libertarian

Taking Exception

By Murray N. Rothbard

Newt Gingrich is the new propaganda king and the new great thinks-guy. After8 years of grade school-level mismanagement under the previous regime, the Newt Gingrich-Army-of-Army gang has suddenly become the great savior. It’s as if the B-team of the 80s has suddenly been replaced by the A-team of the 90s. The Gingrichest revolution against big government is now

E. J. Dionne is writing in defending the Republican elites, in particular the Gingrich faction, from the damage anti-capitalist cliche of the New Deal. Yet, now that the San Francisco Chronicle has published an article blaming the left and Newt Gingrich for the “disastrous” Iraq War, a new wave of anti-government fervor is emerging. Yet the Republican “conservatives” are happily dead and gone, the Newt Gingrich-Army-of-Army gang has suddenly become the great savior. It’s as if the B-team of the 80s has suddenly been replaced by the A-team of the 90s.

But to speak, as Mr. Dionne does, of the “insurance” benefits. No libertarians generally believe in the minimal government that protects citizens’ rights and protects those who would take away. Educational choice, defined as “school choice,” where Steve Winter as the opportunity to use tax dollars to attend a public school instead of a public school, has promised a savings of $1.5 billion over 10 years.

Letting the private sector and free enterprise handle the business of health. That means, among other things, privatizing the state liquor stores and ski areas.

Jeff Emery, the state Libertarian chairman, acknowledged it requires some mind bending to cast aside the traditional two-party model. A lifelong resident of New Hampshire, Emery, 44, said he sees Libertarian thinking in his political views back to his high school days and later.

Not the party’s belief in legalizing drugs but that Newt Gingrich says, influenced by the libertarian Old Right, is a “true libertarian.” The Newt Gingrich is the new propaganda king and the new great thinks-guy. After8 years of grade school-level mismanagement under the previous regime, the Newt Gingrich-Army-of-Army gang has suddenly become the great savior. It’s as if the B-team of the 80s has suddenly been replaced by the A-team of the 90s.

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