LP asked for help with tax-cut bill

National Chair Steve Dasbach is urging Libertarians to lobby for the “A-Z Spending Cut Plan” — a bill that could potentially slash billions of dollars from the federal budget — after the LP headquarters was asked for help by the office of one of its Congressional sponsors.

“This is a bill that every Libertarian can support. It does nothing but reduce federal spending,” said Dasbach.

The LP got involved with the bill when Chip Griffin, legislative assistant to Rep. Zeliff, called the National headquarters on May 11th to ask for assistance.

National Director Perry Willis said, “As far as I know, the national LP has never been asked for help by a U.S. Congressman before. This is an excellent opportunity for us to become a more serious and respected player in Washington politics.”

The “A-Z Spending Cut Plan” — sponsored by Rep. Bill Zeliff (R-NH) and Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ) — is being stonewalled in Congress by Speaker of the House Tom Foley. Now, Zeliff and Andrews are trying to muster public support for the bill so 218 House members will sign a “discharge petition” to force the bill onto the floor of the House.

The “A-Z Spending Cut Plan” consists of two parts:

- House Resolution 406, allocating 56 hours to debate proposals to reduce government spending. There would be an on-the-record “yes or no” vote on each specific spending cut. No tax increases could be considered.
- House Bill 3266, which provides for automatic reductions in Congressional spending limits by the amount of the cuts.

The A-Z Bill has been endorsed by the Wall Street Journal, the National Taxpayers Union, Citizens for A Sound Economy, and Citizens Against Government Waste.

What Libertarians can do:
- Call or write your Congressman as soon as possible. Ask them if they have signed the discharge petition for the “A-Z Spending Cut Plan.” If not, urge them to do so immediately.

Here’s how to contact your U.S. Representative:
Call: The telephone switchboard for all members of Congress is (202) 224-3121.

Libertarians mourn passing of Karl Hess

Libertarians are mourning the death of Karl Hess, the long-time political activist who charted a remarkable political journey from speech writer to Barry Goldwater to Libertarian activist and editor of LP News. Hess died in Charlottesville, Virginia on April 22nd. He was 70.

National Chair Steve Dasbach said about Hess’s passing: “In many ways, Karl embodied the heart and soul of the Libertarian Party. He embraced tolerance and caring for others with a passion equal to that with which he embraced his libertarian ideals. I can think of no more fitting tribute to his memory than for each of us to rededicate ourselves to carrying that struggle forward.”

“$1,000,000” outreach project is big hit with LP activists

A new National Libertarian Party Tax Day protest project—the “$1,000,000 Outreach Project”—was a smashing success around the country, according to LP activists.

The National LP headquarters sent every state chair camera-ready “million dollar bills.” The reverse explained that the federal government spends that amount every five seconds — and noted that the LP is the only political party working to reduce that.

In Pennsylvania, where activists in 14 locations distributed over 18,000 copies, State Chair Ken Sturzenacker said, “Receptivity was very high. At least one radio [talk show host] talked about the $1,000,000 bill for several days prior to the 15th, increasing people’s awareness and receptivity. Some actually came looking for us and our money.”

Around the country:
- Pennsylvania: Bucks County LP Committee Chairman Andrew Barniskie won the President’s Award from the Falls Township Rifle & Pistol Association on April 13th for “defending the interests of gun owners.”
- Washington DC: Alan Forschler, Chairman of the DC LP, testified on April 21st before the City Council against an unfair law which granted special ballot access privileges to Republicans and Democrats.
- Nebraska: State Chair Steve Bode and Vice Chair Keith Kafka organized a citizens committee to fight a $30 million bond issue in Ralston. The result: The bond issue lost by a more than two-to-one margin.
Letters

Medical savings accounts: Reform that works

In his March 30 letter, Roger Ether of Information America criticizes the Libertarian Party for offering medical savings accounts as a "silver bullet" for solving American health care problems. Mr. Ether is absolutely correct that Medical Savings Accounts — though an excellent idea — are not the answer to all the problems with our current health care system. That is why they are only one part of the Libertarian Party's comprehensive health care reform plan, dubbed Project Healthy Choice, also calls for:

- Making out-of-pocket health care expenditures and the cost of individually purchased insurance fully tax-deductible.
- Eliminating government regulations that drive up health care costs and limit access to care.
- Speeding new pharmaceutical products to the market and reducing their cost by replacing the bureaucratic and inefficient Food and Drug Administration with procedures for voluntary certification of drugs by a private sector organization, similar to the way Underwriters Laboratories certifies electrical appliances.
- Expanding private sector alternatives to Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

The Libertarian Party believes that the solution to our health care problems lies not with huge new government bureaucracies and price controls, massive new taxes and the rationing of care, but through the creation of a thriving free market in health care services and the empowerment of health care consumers.

STEVEN DASBACH
National Chairman
Libertarian Party
Washington

Libertarians add rifle raffle to tax-protest festivities

By Victor Dricks
THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

April 15 just wouldn't be the same without a tax protest, but this year the Libertarian Party is throwing in a bonus.

The Maricopa County chapter will kick off its annual tax protest outside the downtown post office on Central Avenue and Fillmore Street at 5:10 p.m. Friday with a drawing for three assault rifles.

"We want to call attention to the fact that measures are pending in Congress to ban assault rifles," said Mike Dugger, Second Amendment Caucus director for the Libertarian Party.

"We figured this would be a good way of killing two birds with one stone."

The party has sold more than 1,500 raffle tickets at $5 each. Dugger said. First prize in the raffle will be a Colt AR-15 rifle.

Rebate isn't a prank

County sales tax drops to 7 cents

By Michael J. Williams
Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — It's no April Fool's joke.

At 12:01 a.m. today, consumers in San Diego County will be paying the lowest sales-tax rate in the state — 7 cents on the dollar.

"Pinch me, let me make sure it's real," said Libertarian Party gubernatorial candidate Richard Rider, whose lawsuit filed in 1988 set the stage for the tax rollback nearly six years later.

The suit challenged the legality of a half-cent sales tax imposed by a bare majority of the county's voters in June 1988. The county Board of Supervisors proposed the tax to finance jail and courtroom, and the measure set up the San Diego Regional Justice Facility Financing Agency to distribute the dollars.

The half-cent tax went into effect Jan. 1, 1988, but the courts ordered the revenues to be collected in a trust fund until Rider's lawsuit was resolved. The state Supreme Court ruled in December 1991 that the tax was invalid because it did not pass by a two-thirds majority, a requirement of the Proposition 13 property-tax law.

The half-cent tax ended Feb. 13, 1992, when the county's sales-tax rate was lowered from 8 1/4 cents to 7 3/4 cents per dollar. But politicians, attorneys and county representatives soon became embroiled in a series of courtroom disputes on what to do with the pot of revenues, which has now grown to $450 million, including interest.

State Sen. Lucy Killea, I-San Diego, in cooperation with Sen. Henry Mello, D-Monterey, attempted to quash the dispute with legislation authorizing the sales-tax rollback, while allowing consumers who paid the tax on at least $5,000 in total purchases to claim refunds.

The rollback will probably last from a year to 18 months. When insufficient dollars remain to subsidize the projected $450 million for another quarter of the fiscal year, the 3/4-cent tax will be restored. The several million dollars left in the pot will be turned over to the county general fund.

"For about 18 months, we will be able to enjoy lower taxes here, which I hope bodes well for the county's struggling economy," Rider said.
Libertarian candidate takes flight

Winter running for governor

By DAVID TIRRELL-WYSOCKI
Associated Press

An airline pilot running for governor as a Libertarian hopes to steer New Hampshire toward a future of dramatic education reform, drastic tax cuts and a fundamental overhaul of state government.

Steve Winter, 55, of Newbury, announced his candidacy yesterday, promising the strongest, best financed and most competitive campaign yet by his party.

His announcement came on the federal income tax filing day — "the one day of the year when millions of Americans instinctively yearn for a government run by Libertarians," Winter said.

Winter said he would work to repeal the state business enterprise tax, review every state agency to see which can be turned over to private enterprise and revamp education to emphasize private schools and lessen the need for property taxes.

He supports giving parents who take their children out of public school tax rebates of up to half the cost of public education.

He figures up to 50 percent of public school children would leave, but half of the money earmarked for them would stay in the school, giving public schools more money per pupil, and helping to lower property taxes.

Winter, an American Airlines pilot, also is for:
• Supporting abortion rights.
• Reducing of social service programs.
• Abolishing the statewide school Supervisory Administrative setup, which he said could save more than $30 million.
• Turning the liquor business over to private business.
• Faced competition in the Libertarian primary from Candida businessman Clarence Blevens and Raymond Rep. Calvin Warburton, has the support of former Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Miriam Luce, who is now a state liquor commissioner.

Luce received 5 percent of the vote in 1990 and 4 percent in 1992.

Karl Hess; Goldwater's Speech Writer in 1964

By MYRNA OLIVER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Karl Hess, a Republican speech writer who worked as U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign phrasemaker in 1964, has died. He was 70.

A resident of Kearneysville, W. Va., Hess died Friday in a Charlotteville, Va., hospital of an undisclosed illness.

Hess was probably best known for coining Goldwater's famous campaign slogan. "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice; moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

"It is a sad loss," Goldwater said Monday. "He was a very dear and valued friend, one of the finest writers I have ever known. I am going to miss him."

Hess was a speech writer for the Republican National Committee, and briefly for President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Vice President Richard Nixon and various Republican senators and congressmen.


A member of Goldwater's "Arizona Mafia," Hess was described during the presidential campaign as "a round, cheerful man . . . a dedicated right-wing ideologue who is even more conservative than the senator." As he sat in San Francisco hammering out the party's platform that year, Hess was described by The Times as "intense in his devotion to the cause of conservatism in politics."

After Goldwater's defeat, Hess appeared to bolt across the political spectrum to become a Libertarian. He believed, however, that conservative and libertarian thinking were similar.

"I moved in a direction which the FBI chooses to call 'leftward,'" he once said. "What I actually did was to go to work as a commercial welder, get arrested for demonstrating against the Indochina War, work with Black Panthers and teach a course on anarchism." Hess ran for governor of West Virginia as a Libertarian in 1992, but failed to get the required number of signatures to make the ballot.

"I don't really expect to get the job," he said. "I am running for the right of people to be represented on the ballot, which is so fundamental to our form of government."

He is survived, by his second wife, Therese Machotka Hess of Kearneysville, and two sons, Karl Hess IV and Eric Hess.

The Morning News
Springdale, Arizona
April 26, 1994
COUPLE OF CANDIDATES

Husband, wife on Libertarian ballot

By Lane Lambert
The Patriot Ledger

Move over, Bill and Hillary. Here come Cris and Peter.

Political power couples like the Clintons are a familiar thing these days, but Cristina Crawford and Peter Everett are doing something truly rare: The Hanover husband and wife are running for statewide office together as the Libertarian Party’s candidates for governor and secretary of state, respectively.

Crawford, who’s direct but soft-spoken, is one of the few women ever to run for governor in Massachusetts and the second one on the Libertarian ticket. The party’s 1992 gubernatorial candidate was teacher Rebecca Shipman of Hanson.

Crawford, 36, and Everett, 33, were nominated last month at a party convention in Somerville. He’s a software engineer at Parametric Technology in Waltham. She was a software engineer there for seven years and previously was a state mental health worker.

This is the first time that either has run for any political office. Crawford decided to run a few months ago. The party needed candidates, “and I felt I could do it right,” she said.

Then she persuaded her husband to stand for secretary of state.

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PARTY

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They readily admit that their chances of winning are extremely small in a heavily Democratic state where the governor is a Republican who professes to be a small-L libertarian. They’ll declare victory if anyone on their slate gets 3 percent of the November vote.

“We should qualify us as a permanent political party,” Crawford said. Before 1990, the gubernatorial candidate had to get 3 percent to make the party permanent. In 1982, the party’s nominees for auditor got slightly more than 3 percent; other candidates didn’t fare as well.

Official status would be a major achievement for a party that has fewer than 1,000 members. But Crawford and Everett think the time has never been better for an alternative party to challenge the two established ones.

Crawford said that’s one of the reasons she decided to run this year.

Voter dissatisfaction is high, she says, and a record number of voters are unenrolled independents. They say the Libertarians’ mixture of social liberalism (pro-gay and abortion rights) and economic conservatism (no property taxes and less government) will appeal to those voters.

Crawford said that’s exactly the reaction she got from some of her friends in Hanover.

“At first they were incredulous when I told them I was running,” she said. “Then they said, ‘That’s great. I can’t stand the other two parties.’”

She thinks Gov. William Weld can be challenged, despite his libertarian credentials.

“He’s record is generally good,” she said. “But he compromised on state funding for the Megaplex, and he switched his position on gun control.”

Crawford opposes both. She also says the MBTA, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and Massport should be sold to private companies.

She expects many voters to be initially puzzled by the Libertarian Party’s positions, which range from lower property taxes for public schools to a repeal of seat-belt and anti-smoking laws. But she says all those positions have a common theme.

“He said the party could get a sizable protest vote with a mixture of the party’s positions, which range from lower property taxes for public schools to a repeal of seat-belt and anti-smoking laws. But she said all those positions have a common theme.

“People shouldn’t be forced to do things,” she said. “They should be persuaded.”

That has been her and Everett’s philosophy since they were in college.

Crawford, who’s from Michigan, has been voting Libertarian since 1976 and was known around Hanover as the only registered Libertarian in town. She got her first taste of political action four years later, when she was a Massachusetts volunteer for the party’s presidential candidate, Ed Clarke.

And she and Everett, who’s a distant relative of noted Massachusetts senator and politician Edward Everett, got their first experience in state politics in 1990, when they campaigned for the successful Question 4 ballot question. That initiative, written by a couple of Libertarians, changed the 3 percent rule, which lowered the number of signatures that minor parties need to get on the ballot and made it easier for voters to register for those parties.

Everett was party chairman that year.

Crawford met Everett when she was working at Parametric. She left the company in January and now makes and sells traditional-style quilts. On a recent evening, the dining room table in their two-story frame home was piled high with them.

She won’t have much time for quilting this summer and fall, as the election heats up. But she doesn’t yet know how many hours a day she’ll be spending on the campaign trail.

She and her fellow Libertarians have just begun collecting signatures to get their names on the ballot.

On April 15, she and Everett will join other Libertarian candidates at their party’s annual tax protest outside the South Postal Annex in Boston. The candidates will answer questions and explain their 1994 platform.

Crawford doubts she’ll do much door-to-door campaigning. She does plan to be on a lot of radio talk shows. And she’s already taken the first 90-style step toward a serious run for office: She’s hired a political consultant.

Peter Golden of Brookline met Crawford in 1990, when he ran the Question 4 media campaign. He thinks her work on that issue will help give her a promising shot at the elusive 3 percent vote.

Democratic consultant Michael Goldman is doubtful.

“I would love to debate our ideas with them,” she said. “If I were a Republican or a Democrat, I wouldn’t want to debate us,” she said.

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, Massachusetts, April 9, 1994

Liberarians eye local man for governor

— JOHN McNALLY —
Pocono Record Writer

SNYDERSVILLE — A local man running as a Libertarian Party nominee for governor says his campaign will be about freedoms such as firearm ownership and legalized drug use.

“Freedom is a package deal. I will run a principled, professional campaign.”

It will offer people the choice of personal responsibility versus state control,” said Pat Fallon, 43, of Snapdersville.

Fallon was nominated by the Libertarian Party at their state convention last weekend in Harrisburg.

Fallon said a population of the right to bear arms is the greatest deterrent to a tyrannical government.

“Guns are used primarily, responsibly, to deter crime. I would be very sorry to see that taken away,” he said.

Another way to deter crime is to lift the “new prohibition” on drugs, he said.

According to Fallon, the liquor prohibition in the 1920s led to more crime, and when it ended in 1933, murders declined significantly.

He said he thinks legalizing drugs would cut the murder rate.

The Pocono Record
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
March 21, 1994