LP to Congress: Abolish FEC, or raise contribution limits

Congress should abolish the Federal Election Commission, a Libertarian Party representative advised an influential Congressional committee — or, at the very least, raise legal contribution limits and reduce the regulatory burden on smaller political parties.

“We want you to do something to help third parties in this country because America won’t survive without its independent voters and third party candidates,” former LP National Director Stuart Reges testified to the House Oversight Committee on December 12th.

At the hearing on campaign finance reform — broadcast live on C-SPAN — Reges joined the chairmen of the Republican and Democratic National Committees to urge Congress to allow Americans to make larger contributions to political parties and candidates.

But unlike his Republican and Democratic counterparts, Reges said the real solution is to get the government out of the election business. “We believe that federal involvement in elections has been far more harmful than helpful, and would prefer to see Congress repeal the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, eliminate all public funding of campaigns, and abolish the FEC,” he said.

Staggering burden

Reges also gave the Committee a primer on how FEC regulations impose a staggering burden on third parties. “Federal election law is now so complex that third parties have to spend 5% or more of their budget on compliance issues. In 1992, the Libertarian Party spent almost as much on compliance as it did on TV ads,” he said.

Part of the problem, he continued, is that the FEC considers “what impact their actions will have on Democrats and Republicans, but it never seems to occur to them to consider what impact their actions will have on smaller parties like ours. We feel that Congress should consider a different regulatory standard for minor parties.”

Reges hastened to add that the LP did not want the same government subsidies the major parties get.

“We don’t want a hand-out and we don’t want you to regulate us or our opponents to death. Just get out of the way by increasing contribution limits and decreasing regulatory burdens. We’ll take it from there,” he said.

Reges was National Director of the LP from 1992 to 1993, and remains a consultant to the party on election law and FEC compliance.

Libertarian News Notes

The LP is now a “trendy” statistic

The Libertarian Party has made an appearance in one of America’s cultural landmarks — Harper’s Index.

The trendy and oft-imitated “Index” appears monthly in Harper’s magazine, and features unusual, topical, or surprising facts presented in the form of statistics, ratios, or numbers.

The Libertarian Party joined this exclusive circle of chic statistics in the November issue. The entry: “Chances that an American member of the Libertarian Party joined within the last five year: 1 in 3.”

“It’s a slightly oblique statistic, but seems to refer to the fact that Libertarian Party membership has increased by more than a third in the last five years,” explained LP National Director Perry Willis.

LNC votes to oppose military action in Bosnia

The Libertarian National Committee, at their quarterly meeting in Washington, DC in early December, unanimously passed a resolution condemning American military involvement in Bosnia, and urged “immediate U.S. military withdrawal and a rededication to a foreign policy of no foreign wars.”

“The U.S. is not a global empire, or policemen of the world. The vital interests of the United States — namely, our Constitutional liberties, our national independence, and our security from invasion — are not at stake in Bosnia,” said National LP Chair Steve Dasbach.

Maryland LP sues over ballot denial

The Libertarian Party of Maryland — with the help of the ACLU — will file suit after one of their candidates was refused a place on the ballot.

Bob Creager filed his papers to run for Congress on December 8th, but was notified by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws that he didn’t qualify — unlike his Republican and Democratic opponents.

The LP of Maryland had submitted more than 13,000 petitions in May 1995 to win a spot on the 1996 ballot, and the right to register as Libertarians.

“This is a direct attack on the people’s right to choose who they want representing them. By denying Libertarians the same right to get on the ballot that the Democrats and Republicans have, the state is discriminating against a whole class of people,” charged Creager.
Libertarians ready to party over government shutdown

By Danial Vasquez
STAFF WRITER

Federal employees home has irked the shutdown that sent 800,000 a lot of folks, especially those in time. Libertarians Terry Savage is need of a passport or vacation trip when she ran in South Carolina and worked as marking director for the party. The vice presidential candidate grabbed 2 percent of the vote when she ran in South Carolina as a Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress in 1992. She was former vice chairman of the South Carolina party and worked as marking director for the party nationally.

Savage, who plans to run for Congress in the 13th District in 1996, said the fact that the federal government has been partially shutdown since midnight Monday, after Clinton vetoed a stopgap bill because it raised Medicare premiums, and the sky has not fallen proves, in essence, that there are too many bureaucrats running the country.

"Cutting the government back to these levels is a good thing," he said. "I mean, I wouldn't keep the national parks closed or things like that, but we definitely could cut out 40 percent of the workers and bureaucrats, and 'essential' employees that have become pawns in a budget battle represent roughly 40 percent of the federal work force.

"I intend to attend the party, but this is not exactly what we want," said fellow Libertarian Robert Gough, a Fremont business owner. This is only a temporary (work force) cutback, and it essentially means a paid vacation for 800,000 workers. We want to see something more permanent.

"But, it is worth celebrating because bureaucrats are a lot less dangerous sitting at home watching Oprah than sitting behind a desk signing papers."

The "shutdown" party is at 7 p.m. at Round Table Pizza at 5644 Thornton Ave. Call 796-4040.

Party: Less government is better, say the Libertarians
Georgia is tough for third parties

Libertarians pave the way: Victories in Avondale Estates and Auburn city races give the group a toehold on elective politics.

By Kathey Alexander
STAFF WRITER

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en, who monitors election laws na-

The Perot movement is the most visible of the third parties, and is considered the most likely to find success. But so far, Perot followers remain but one part of a vast quilt of outsider party efforts — mostly unsuccessful — that dot Georgia's political history.

No independent or third-party candidate has won statewide in Georgia since the 1968 presidential campaign, when Alabama Gov. George Wallace marched the state with his American Independent Party's pitch to be a voice for Southern whites.

About 17 parties in various stages of preparedness are registered as political groups in the state, including newcomers like the Georgia Patriot Party, formed at Georgia State University this year. But only the Libertarian Party has consistently won enough votes to have their statewide candidates automatically included on the ballot.

"Usually, they hop out, go for a while, and you don't hear from them again," Jeff Lanier, head of the Secretary of State elections division, said of third party candidates. "Because of their views, most of them really don't expect to win. They just hope to influence the process."

The Marion Party, for example, registered with the state 15 years ago, but almost disappeared, including the crumbling of its state organization and the closing of its local chapters.

Georgia supporters of Ross Perot plan to organize an Independence Party.

"We're just trying to keep the Democrats and Republicans honest and straight."

RAYMOND YOUNG
Populist Party chairman

soon lapsed into oblivion. Likewise, the Georgia Socialist Workers Party, formed to educate the working class and overthrow capitalism, and both the Libertarian Party of Georgia and the Conservative Society of America have failed to thrive in the state, supporters of the two parties say.

The party will field nearly 1,000 candidates for various offices in 1996, he said, and the party has qualified to run candidates in a majority of states. National party chairman Steve Dasbach said the 24-year-old party is the strongest it's ever been, but needs to continue recruiting members and contributors and building a strong party organization.

"If we're going to be a majority party...then we have to become as strong organizationally as the Republicans and Democrats," he said. The party has about 112,000 registered Libertarians and about 15,000 regular contributors, he said.

Dasbach said the Republicans' failure to make good on their campaign promises to cut government and government spending presents great opportunities for Libertarians. He said even House Speaker Newt Gingrich talks about slowing the increase in government spending. "We don't need to slow the rate of increase, we need to cut," said Dasbach.

"The Libertarian Party is the only true opposition to big government," he said, insisting that the Republicans are being hypocritical when they claim to oppose big government.

Winter dismissed the possibility that Ross Perot's Independence Party could become a viable third party, saying it will field only one candidate, likely Perot for President. That's "not the same as a permanent, broad-based, growing party," he said. In contrast, he said, the Libertarian Party is unified and stable and can provide voters with candidates who have a core of beliefs and guiding principles and have stands on a variety of issues.

Among the speakers at the convention were Presidential hopefuls Harry Browne and Irwin Schiff, and vice presidential candidate Jo Jorgensen.

Libertarian Leader: Party Can Attract Disaffected Voters

CONCORD The Libertarian Party is ideally positioned to pick up members and elected representatives, according to former state party chairman Bill Winter, because Republicans are failing to deliver on campaign promises that sounded a lot like the Libertarian anti-government philosophy.

Addressing party members at the state convention yesterday, Winter, now national communications director for the party, said polls and vote results in the 1994 elections show strong support for the Libertarians' goal of cutting government.

Winter said polls show the American electorate is moving toward the Libertarian Party, or at least the pro-business, anti-government philosophy. In the 1994 elections, he said, when the party fielded 82 congressional candidates, 16 Senate candidates and 15 gubernatorial candidates, "more than 2.2 million people voted for Libertarian candidates." The party will field nearly 1,000 candidates for various offices in 1996, he said.

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Libertarian Hopeful Sets Sights on IRS

**Tax resister Irwin Schiff will tell the state Libertarian convention today that the federal income tax is illegal.**

**By PAT HAMMOND**

**Sunday, Nov. 26**

Irwin A. Schiff doesn't want to BE President. He wants to RUN for President.

And if the Las Vegas-based income tax resister who hopes to be a Libertarian Party candidate for President in 1996 had his way, the IRS would be nothing, too, for its life.

When Schiff asks New Hampshire Libertarians for their support during a luncheon address in Concord today, he'll do so by telling them why the federal income tax is illegal, a contention he substantiates with references to wording on the 1040A income form.

Schiff acted on these beliefs by not filing tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service, which landed him in federal prison for four years and cost him his business and marriage.

The time he served in Danbury and three other federal prisons intensified, rather than discouraged, his message. Schiff writes books, makes speeches, and spars on radio talk shows, all driven by the conviction that government illegally extorts income taxes from the people, and gets away with it because federal judges and prosecuting attorneys are corrupt.

Schiff isn't the only Libertarian eying to be the party's Presidential nominee. Harry Browne, an investment adviser in Tennessee, is running, as are Rick Tompkins and Chuck Hughes. Together, the trio who will not be at the state convention today.

Browne's message is more traditional Libertarian than Schiff's. The principal theme of his talk on Sunday, he said last week, "will be Americans now want a government, or what we have. The Libertarian is designing a society where people — store clerks, barbers, tax divers, anyone — whether they want more government, less government, or what we have now — at least seven out of ten will say they want less. Their realizations and hopes may differ from ours in some ways, but they all want to move in the same direction. The desire for less government isn't a passing fad."

Schiff's major crusade is persuading the public that federal income tax filing is not compulsory. He cites the IRS commissioner's message on page three of 1040A form which begins, "Thank you for making this nation's tax system the most effective system of voluntary compliance in the world." Schiff says the operative word is "voluntary."

Schiff offers $50,000 to anyone who can cite a law that says income taxes have to be filed and paid. He says he's made that offer for years and nobody has found such a citation.

Schiff, who holds a degree in economics, says the word voluntary is used for a reason. "Voluntary" says the IRS may give the information to the Department of Justice and other federal agencies, as provided by law. "And if you give information to the government, you can tell them it's okay to use this information against you? Could the government REQUIRE you to do that? "No. The only way is to voluntarily do it."

Schiff said you don't have to go far to witness the implications of the IRS providing information to law enforcement agencies. Newspaper files substantiate that a Chester couple was convicted last spring in U.S. District Court, District of New Hampshire, of evading more than $100,000 in income taxes. "And Kari and Kathie Schneider Tuchsinsky had participation in a tax protest by throwing income tax forms into the trash."

Browne, 62, says, "If you ask people — store clerks, barbers, taxi divers, anyone — whether they want more government, less government, or what we have now — at least seven out of ten will say they want less. Their realizations and hopes may differ from ours in some ways, but they all want to move in the same direction. The desire for less government isn't a passing fad."

"I just tell them there is no way the federal government has been extorting income taxes from the American public ... so that those personal freedoms that want to pay it may do, but those who do not wish to pay it will not be illegally prosecuted or harassed for not having done so."

"I don't tell people to not pay," said Sherwood several times during the interview. "But I don't think there is no law."

"The platform also wants the party platform to demand that the Federal Reserve Board be abolished; declare paper money worthless because the constitution only permits authorization of gold and silver coin; end foreign aid because it is not authorized in the constitution; and remove the immunities from civil suit and criminal prosecution that federal judges now enjoy."

In a telephone interview, Browne said his goal as President would be to strip government of all its powers except the "absolute defense of the country, nothing to do with bringing peace to Korea or Kuwait."

"And I would discretely use all foreign treaties and peace-keeping operations. NAP TA and GATT serve no purpose for becoming members of the party."

"For me, the central principles are the principles that the least government is the best government. In recent interviews New Hampshire Libertarians defined their own more specific reasons for becoming members of the party."

"The major issue for the Libertarians is convincing the electorate that the Republicans are not getting the job done, in New Hampshire, or anywhere," said Luce, who was appointed to the state liquor commission by Republican Governor Merrill.

"Their rhetoric is closer to the Libertarians are looking for than the Democrat, but their performance falls short," she said.

**The Juneau Empire**

Juneau, Alaska

November 27, 1995

Libertarians poised to appear on ballot

**Supporters to turn in petitions to Election Division today**

**By MARK SABBATINI**

A former Alaska lawmaker was the national Libertarian Party's most successful candidate in 1992. That won't happen again in 1995, but someone from the party will likely be represented on the state ballot.

A petition with about 5,500 signatures was scheduled to be presented to the selection of Elections office in Anchorage to ensure the party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates are on next year's ballot.

The party must get 2,508 signatures from qualified voters equal to one percent of the voters who cast ballots in the 1992 election, 90 days before the election.

"If we resolved to get it done before that," said Len Karlinski, Alaska chairman of the Libertarian Party, in a phone interview today from Anchorage.

And while the surge of another alternative party, the Alaskan Independent Party, in the state might mean the party may turn in several other candidates, are also running, but none are from Alas-ka.

The nominee will be brought to Alaska for a short tour and there are party supporters in Juneau who could house him, Karlinski said. But he said a decision on travel plans won't be made until the state party's March convention in Anchorage.

The Libertarian Party has fared well in all three elections, seating several state legislators during the 1980s. But Karlinski said he expects the surge of another alternative party, the Alaskan Independ-ence Party during former Gov. Walter J. Hickel's 1990 campaign to attract voters. There are no Libertarian members in the Legislature today.