Quick action from LP Headquarters wins retractions on LaRouche stories

A quick response and firm demands from the national LP headquarters helped squash another outbreak of the perennial “Lyndon LaRouche is a Libertarian” rumor last month, following LaRouche’s release from jail.

The incident occurred on January 26th, when ABC Radio news broadcast a UPI story identifying the convicted felon as the “Libertarian Party leader.”

“Some of our members called and warned us,” said Bill Winter, LP Director of Communications. “I immediately called the Chicago UPI, where the story originated, and talked to the reporter who wrote the story. She apologized, and said a corrected version of the story was being sent out.

“I also called ABC Radio; they said they were aware of the mistake, and would broadcast the corrected version.”

Not content with this response, National Chair Steve Dasbach urged further action.

“The next day, National Director Perry Willis faxed a letter to UPI and ABC Radio, requesting that they issue a retraction — stating that the previous stories were incorrect, and that LaRouche was not a Libertarian,” said Winter.

In the letter, Willis wrote: “For the record, let me state: LaRouche is not a Libertarian Party member. He has never been one. And, given his views and character, he will never become one. He has never run for public office as a Libertarian. He holds no leadership position in our party.”

Good journalistic ethics

The letter to ABC radio news went on to say: “It is your journalistic duty to publicly correct this error — in as ‘loud’ a voice as when the error was first disseminated. Specifically, we would like you to broadcast a correction stating that your previous story was in error, and that LaRouche is not in any way associated with the Libertarian Party. We believe this action is the only one consistent with good journalistic ethics and common decency.”

On January 28th, on their nationwide 12:00 noon report, the ABC Radio networks broadcast the following correction:

“Two days ago we reported that political extremist Lyndon LaRouche was released from prison. We mistakenly identified him as a Libertarian. Lyndon LaRouche is not in any way associated with the Libertarian Party.”

UPI did not respond to the letter.

Winter and Willis said they plan to follow this up with a letter to hundreds of media outlets across the country, reminding editors and reporters that LaRouche is not associated with the LP.

Almost simultaneously with the ABC Radio and UPI incidents, the Detroit News printed a small story on January 27th identifying LaRouche as the “founder of the Libertarian Party.” Immediate phone calls that day by Winter to the News’ Washington and Detroit offices resulted in a retraction, which was printed the next day.

Shadow Cabinet members blast Clinton health plan

Two members of the Libertarian Party Shadow Cabinet garnered nationwide publicity as co-signers of a document opposing President Clinton’s health care plan.

Richard Vedder, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Labor, and Thomas Gale Moore, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Transportation, were just two of 562 prominent economists who signed a public letter to the president warning against the consequences of the Clinton Plan.

The letter — patterned after a 1930 letter by economists warning President Hoover about the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act — was printed in the Wall Street Journal, and sparked newspaper articles around the country. The letter warned that under the Clinton plan, “we will end up with lower-quality medical care, reduced medical innovation, and expensive new bureaucracies to monitor compliance.”

Five LP’ers appointed to office

In an unprecedented surge over the past month, five more Libertarians were appointed to public office around the country.

- Michael Pierone was appointed to the Sussex County Economic Advisory Committee in New Jersey.
- Ed Wiesffnan was appointed to the Sussex County Solid Waste Advisory Council in New Jersey.
- James Dan was appointed to the Sparks Charter Committee in Nevada.
- Sam Edelston was appointed to the Metuchen Financial Advisory Committee in New Jersey.
- Bruce Martin of Middle Island, New York was appointed to the Districtwide Facilities Task Force.
Libertarians ‘Arrive’—With Baggage

T
HE PARTY has battled allegations that its
presidential candidate was a womanizer and ac-
cusations that it is controlled by extremists.
Even so, leaders predict great things for 1994.
I’m speaking, of course, of the Libertarian Party.
The Libertarian National Party formed back in December 1971. But
some state chapters, including Illinois, oppose it and
have dropped it. Dissidents tried unsuccessfully at
September’s national convention to get the pledge
canceled.
Some believe that a political party shouldn’t have a
pledge, whether good or bad,” Bush explained, noting
that the Missouri party still had it. “It
turns some people off. They may want to
join the party, but aren’t sure what this
means.”
Still others, he said, quibble with the
wording. Some see it as a statement of
anarchy. Others believe the pledge runs
counter to the party’s anti-tax position.
“Some see taxation as use of force,” Bush
explained.
Bush said the party had created the
pledge to protect Libertarians against J.
Edgar Hoover, still head of the FBI in the
early ’70s. The pledge made it clear that
the Libertarian Party did not advocate the overthrow
of the U.S. government.
Rather, the party hopes the public will increasingly
flock to the Libertarian banner out of disgust with the
Democratic and Republican parties.
Libertarians have a way to tally the last presiden-
tial election. Marion got 500,000 votes out of
about 101 million cast. He had hoped for 1 million, but
Libertarians believe Ross Perot’s independent candi-
dacy cut into their support. They say Marion also was
hurt when officials barred him from the three major
presidential debates. If Perot had not been around, Marion probably
would have got more public attention. Like Perot,
Marion was an outspoken candidate with a flair for the
quotable quote.
To get his party’s nomination, for example, Marrou
battled internal debate over his four failed marriages.
Some were concerned that his marital history might
hurt his bid. He later gave me my best unpublished
quote. “I was faithful to each one of them.”
The Libertarians are an established party, all right.
They have a way to go. In the last presiden-
tial election, Marion got 500,000 votes out of
about 101 million cast. He had hoped for 1 million, but
Libertarians believe Ross Perot’s independent candi-
dacy cut into their support. They say Marion also was
hurt when officials barred him from the three major
presidential debates. If Perot had not been around, Marion probably
would have got more public attention. Like Perot,
Marion was an outspoken candidate with a flair for the
quotable quote.
To get his party’s nomination, for example, Marrou
battled internal debate over his four failed marriages.
Some were concerned that his marital history might
hurt his bid. He later gave me my best unpublished
quote. “I was faithful to each one of them.”
The Libertarians are an established party, all right.
Libertarians have a way to tally the last presiden-
tial election. Marion got 500,000 votes out of
about 101 million cast. He had hoped for 1 million, but
Libertarians believe Ross Perot’s independent candi-
dacy cut into their support. They say Marion also was
hurt when officials barred him from the three major
presidential debates. If Perot had not been around, Marion probably
would have got more public attention. Like Perot,
Marion was an outspoken candidate with a flair for the
quotable quote.
To get his party’s nomination, for example, Marrou
battled internal debate over his four failed marriages.
Some were concerned that his marital history might
hurt his bid. He later gave me my best unpublished
quote. “I was faithful to each one of them.”
The Libertarians are an established party, all right.

Libertarians aim lower and hope for municipal posts

By BILL SWAYZE
Herald Staff Writer

NEWTON — The Libertarian Party will shift gears and run
candidates in municipal races this year, the chairman said Tuesday.
The Sussex County chapter of the party, which has about 40-50
members, is about 4 years old in Sussex County. It has in the past
focused all of its attention on
races for Congress, state Senate
and Assembly, and the polls,
the chair, said party
Chairman Michael Pierone
of Vernon.
Pierone, who ran unsuccessfully
against Rep. Marge Roukema, R
— 5, said municipal government will
be the proving grounds for Lib-
tarian and will allow the party to
build a strong political base.
“We have to give people a chance to see what Libertarians
do when they get in office,”
Pierone said.
The local party claims that it
is fiscally conservative and cut
spending and taxes, but its can-
didates have never been successful in
the polls, failing behind Repub-
lican and Democratic candidates.
At the municipal level, getting
elected may be even more difficult.
Libertarian and independent
candidates to appear on the ballot.
Dundas received 3,225 votes in a
third-place finish for county clerk
in 1992. and 2,225 votes in a third-
place finish for freeholder last
year.
Libertarian Ed Wriesemann of
Sparta received 1,219 votes in a
third-place finish for county clerk
in 1992. and 2,225 votes in a third-
place finish for freeholder last
year.
During the 1993 campaign, Wriesemann was even endorsed by
Republican Freeholder Dick
Durina as the candidate voters
should support if they do not
support him. Both candidates
supported privatizing Sussex
County Community College.
Libertarian Bill Dunns received
19 percent of the vote, or 8,272 votes, in an bid to unseat
Littell captured 38,106 votes.
Out of the county’s 24 municip-
aliies last year, two, Sparta and
Wantage, gave Dunns 1,600 or
two votes — two of 12 municip-
aliies that gave him 300 or more
votes — a sign of life, Pierone
said.

New Jersey Herald • Newton, New Jersey • January 5, 1994
Rider seeks nomination for governor

By Michael J. Williams
Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — Libertarian Party member Richard Rider of San Diego announced Wednesday he plans to seek his party's nomination for governor.

Acknowledging that his chances of winning the 1994 race are unlikely, Rider said in his campaign announcement that his goal is to help the Democrats defeat Gov. Pete Wilson, the probable Republican candidate.

"What makes my candidacy different from other Libertarian races is that I'm not running to educate the public or gather Libertarian Party converts," Rider said. "I am running with the express purpose of draining off as many conservative Republican voters as possible from Pete Wilson, thus ensuring the election of the Democratic candidate."

Rider is most well-known as the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit that overturned the county's half-cent sales tax intended to support jails and courtrooms.

The state Supreme Court's decision to strike down the sales tax because it conflicted with a provision of Proposition 13 cost the Regional Justice Facility Financing Agency more than $300 million in tax revenues.

A scathing critic of county government, Rider ran in the June 1992 primary for the 3rd District county supervisor seat.

Though Libertarians are known for entering campaigns aware that they have no chance of winning, Rider ran a serious campaign based on his criticism of the county's spending policies.

He finished third with 19.2 percent of the vote, 7 percentage points behind Pam Slater, who won the seat in a November runoff election against San Diego City Councilwoman Judy McCarty. He also campaigned unsuccessfully as the Libertarian candidate for the 41st Congressional District in 1986 and 1988.

Rider said he wants to aid in dumping Wilson because he believes his policies are the same as those of the Democrats in the state Legislature. The Libertarians philosophically oppose the Democratic Party's traditional support for government social services.

"It's time the Republican Party stopped running 'stealth Democrats' for governor," Rider said. "The Republican Party should offer the public a clear alternative to the big-government advocate selected by the Democrats. The public is tired of the present choice of 'Tweedle dum and Tweedle dum.'"
Libertarian Party gaining strength

By MARY JANE LORTON
Staff Writer

While the Libertarian Party is rarely referred to in political discussions on the major networks or in passing conversations at local coffee shops, the local chapter of the national party is hoping to change that.

Commenting that he believes the Democratic and Republican perspectives to be "seriously off track," Sean Frick, coordinator of the Elkhart County Libertarian Party, said that the local group is working to attract a broader base and to get the tenets of the Libertarian philosophies out in front of the public.

Beginning to get things going in November, Frick said that the county party held its first meeting Dec. 2. Future plans include reaching out to other groups that are already in line with the philosophies of the Libertarian Party. "We've been talking to some guns rights groups," Frick said.

In addition, Frick said the group is looking into getting a cable access show.

"Locally, we will hold a health care public policy forum around March 1," the coordinator said. During the forum, the organizers will introduce Project Healthy Choice, the Libertarians answer to the health care crisis. "We really want to get citizens interested in the health care issue," Frick said, adding, "Clinton's plan is one of the biggest invasions of economic and civil liberties to date."

The Clinton plan which supports the notion that everyone has a right to health care, Frick said, perpetuates the back ing of a false right. "The right to health care is a false right because it gives someone the right to the production of someone else," Frick explained. "Every individual is free as long as he doesn't initiate force against someone else," the coordinator added.

The overall hope of the local group, Frick said, is to return to the basic ideas in governing. "It just escapes being no government at all where individuals are free," Frick continued. "It would be nice to see a time when the lead stories in the media aren't about what people are doing in Washington, but about science and business."

In the last election, 107 people voted Libertarian in Elkhart County. "We really don't expect a candidate to be elected yet," Frick admitted, "Right now we're more philosophically oriented than election oriented."

"But we hope someday to have a Libertarian Congress and president," Frick said.

The county organization has been researching the idea of fielding local candidates. "But that possibility would take a massive effort to just get on the ballots," Frick said. The county party will work on the 1994 campaign for the state secretary of state post, supporting candidate Steve Dillon.

Frick joined the Libertarian Party in July of 1993. Believing that the two major parties had no philosophical or rational approach to the way government should be run, Frick said his membership in the Libertarian Party was a logical move given his feeling that it had the right philosophy with respect to the role of the government and the protection of rights.

Investigating how active Libertarians were locally, Frick was brought in contact with the state chairman who named the Elkhart Central High School senior the coordinator of the county organization. "We don't have officers yet, but once officers are elected my job as coordinator is done," Frick said.

Those wishing more information about the Libertarian Party can address their questions to: P.O. Box 672, Bristol, Ind. 46507.

Another View

A study of recent history shows what happens when government tries to regulate morality...

DeGroat, of Modesto, is a member of the Libertarian Party.

By DON DeGROOT

As one of the "few libertarians" referred to in your editorial about Dr. Elders' controversial idea of treating drug abuse in other than criminal terms, I would like to ask how you came to your conclusion that "decriminalizing use of drugs seems to offer more peril than promise"?

Did you walk into your news room and ask in a loud voice, "How many in here would become drug abusers if it were not criminal?" Then did you ask, "How many would become drug abusers if it were not criminal and was affordable?"

I DOUBT your conclusion was based on even that much research.

A study of recent history shows what happens when government tries to regulate morality as they did with the 18th amendment. Crime and killing became a way of life as fortunes were made by selling something that costs pennies to make for hundreds of dollars.

Additional lives were lost because of wood alcohol and other substitutes. Normal citizens lost liberties and families due to selective prosecution. Entire police departments and court systems were corrupted due to the amount of money that could be made.

Hello! Does this sound familiar?

As a recent episode of "60 Minutes" showed, your government is the largest drug dealer and the biggest benefactor when it comes to making it and keeping it illegal.

IT'S GREAT job security and you can make all sorts of side money by confiscating virtually anything you want by declaring it was bought with "drug money." The Rambo's of these organizations can bust down your door on a tip from seemingly any source and start shooting.

If it's the wrong house they simply try to get it right the next time.

Many illegal drugs were at one time legal. George Washington grew cannabis to make rope.

HEROIN and cocaine have been around for years and available to the general public in various concoctions.

Countries that treat drug abuse medically rather than criminally (England is a good example) have citizens who go to work each day and contribute to society rather than break into homes and eventually rot in prison.

How about some facts instead of opinions and let your readers decide which offers more solutions?