

# Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

## 1984

### SOME BAD NEWS — SOME GOOD NEWS

Now that 1984 is here, it is important to recognize that many of the features described in Orwell's famous book are already with us. Federal and state governments continue to grow and to become more oppressive each year.

Presiding over the ominous growth of the federal government is President Reagan, who promised in 1980 to cut taxes, abolish the draft, balance the budget, and reduce the size and power of the federal government. However, most Americans are paying more in taxes now than in 1980, and the budget deficit is larger than ever. Federal spending is soaring out of control. Inflation is still with us, and paper money is rolling off the printing presses.

Mondale is telling the truth when he says that he will raise taxes if elected and that Reagan will probably do the same if he is re-elected. Unfortunately, neither of these candidates seem willing to propose drastic cuts in federal spending, which is the proper way to balance the budget.

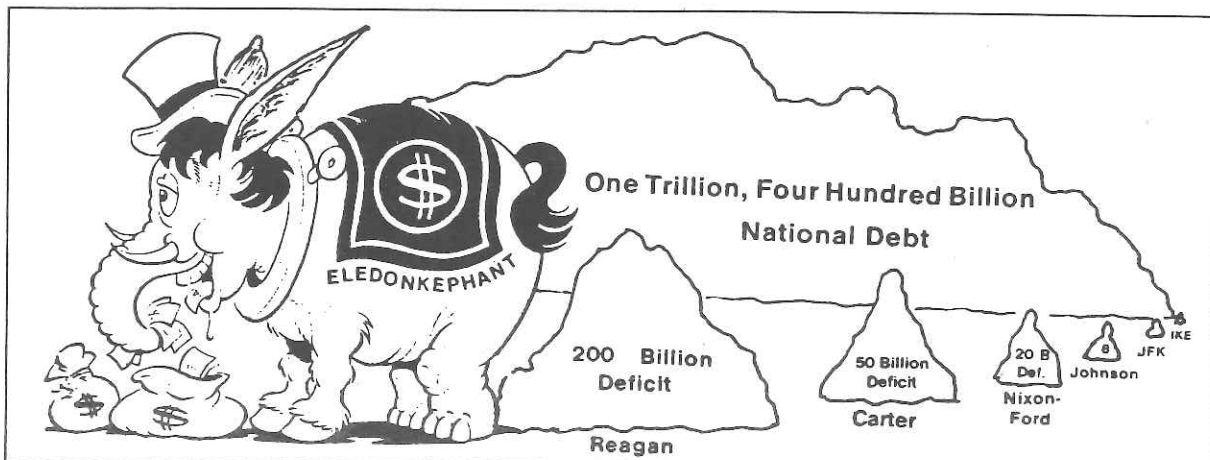
The government plans to start printing a new type of paper money in order to flush the old money out of the underground economy, but this will just make things worse. The free-market underground economy contributes greatly to America's economic prosperity. Since immigrants contribute to this

process and create more jobs than they take, any crackdown on "illegal aliens" will make unemployment a lot worse and will harm both the aliens and American citizens.

The federal government is trying to persuade all states to make it a crime to sell alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21, but this same government continues to register millions of young Americans for the draft. Slavery is generally considered to be a crime, but the government doesn't care as long as it is the master.

The recent one-cent increase in the state sales tax proves that the federal government is not the only threat to our freedom. News announcers and government officials glibly speak about "the one-cent sales tax increase to improve education." They are totally oblivious to the fraudulent nature of this assertion. This proves that Orwell's dreaded Newspeak is already with us. Not only will public education probably get worse (after a short-term boost), but the state will continue to make things difficult for parents who wish to educate their children at home. Government control of education is making Orwell's vision of mind control a reality.

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1984

(continued from page 1)

The state legislature continues to bring into being absurd laws that have no rational purpose, while old absurd laws remain on the books. One absurd law is the recent criminalization of "child-selling." Family Court Judge Mendel Rivers called this law "silly" because child-selling isn't a problem in South Carolina. There is not even one case of a child ever having been hurt by any such practice, but hundreds of children are abused every year by their biological parents.

Another absurd law is the recent raising of the legal drinking age. The government fails to recognize that it could also cut down on drunk driving by making it illegal for anyone over 50 to drink, but nobody has proposed that. The legislature is harassing young persons simply because they don't have any political clout. 18-year-olds will continue drinking, as will younger persons, because absurd laws just don't work.

Libertarians agree that drunk driving is a serious problem, but the best way to solve the problem is to focus on drunk drivers, not drunk non-drivers. Drunk drivers should be held fully responsible for any damages, and they should be forced to compensate their victims (when possible). Punishment without restitution is neither just nor an effective deterrent.

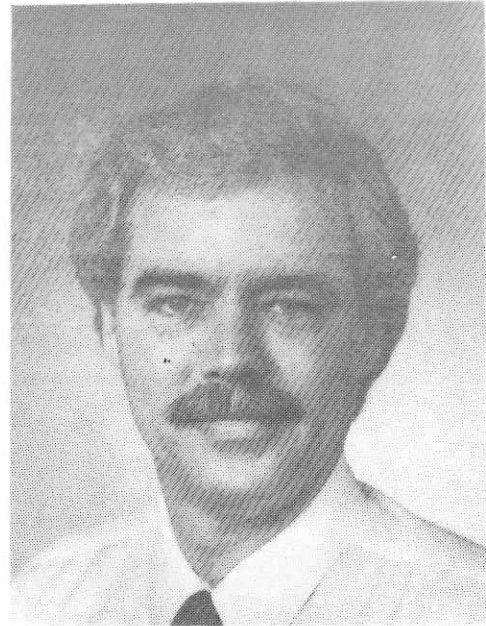
Tougher state and federal laws against selling drugs will only result in more overcrowded prisons and an overloaded criminal justice system. Laws against victimless crimes decrease the effectiveness of our law-enforcement system, squander the taxpayers' money, and needlessly punish thousands of persons who have not harmed anybody else.

The courts are eroding our liberty nearly as rapidly as the legislatures. The U. S. Supreme Court, which is supposed to uphold the U. S. Constitution, has repeatedly allowed government officials to violate our most basic natural rights to life, liberty, and property. As Alan Burris so eloquently states in *A Liberty Primer*, "On the rare occasions when its decisions have favored liberty, the Supreme Court has made it very clear that its opinions were not based on respect for human rights. Instead, it was merely substituting its preferred policy for that of some other branch of government."

DESPITE ALL THESE OMINOUS TRENDS, THERE ARE QUITE A FEW BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE PICTURE. One such bright spot is the slow but continuous erosion of the state's Blue Laws, which still outlaw the sale of many items on Sunday. These authoritarian laws violate all principles of religious and economic freedom. Libertarians have spoken out against these laws for years, and, fortunately, there is a growing perception that they should be abolished.

Another bright spot is the recent growth of local groups that are engaged in various activities designed to fight tax increases. Other groups are trying to stop government officials from violating the state and federal constitutions. Across the nation, other groups have sprouted up: sound money groups, anti-draft groups, and groups seeking to decriminalize victimless crimes. Libertarians are active in many of these organizations (Lexington County L.P. Vice-Chairperson Jan Chapman is actively involved in the widely-publicized separation of powers lawsuit).

The greatest source of optimism is the growth of the Libertarian Party, which is fighting for everyone's freedom on EVERY issue. Already the third-largest political party in the nation, the Libertarian Party is now larger and more active in South Carolina than at any time in history. Scores of S.C. Libertarians are putting forth great efforts to advance the cause of Liberty.



## DAVIS LIBERTARIAN FOR U.S. SENATE

P.O. BOX 1251 • GRAMLING, S.C. 29348

1984 has been an exciting year for the S.C. Libertarian Party. Grassroots party organization has grown by leaps and bounds. Libertarian groups have started to thrive in Aiken, Cherokee, Darlington, Greenwood, and York counties, in addition to previously active groups in Anderson, Charleston, Florence, Greenville, Lexington, Richland, and Spartanburg counties. Several other counties are also blessed with Libertarian activists.

The S.C.L.P. State Convention in April was the largest and most exciting ever. Four candidates for national office were nominated. The highlight was an eloquent speech by David Bergland, the Libertarian Party candidate for President. Bergland spent a week travelling and speaking in S.C., and he received a lot of media coverage, including radio and television appearances.

The Convention reconvened on August 18 in Columbia and nominated additional candidates (see page 3). Also featured was a speech by Jim Lewis, the Libertarian Vice-presidential candidate. Lewis spent three days in S.C. and received nearly as much media coverage as Bergland.

In his race for the U.S. Senate, Steve Davis is running the most active and comprehensive campaign ever put together by a Libertarian in South Carolina. Davis realizes that he has tough opponents in Strom Thurmond and Melvin Purvis, but he hopes that thousands of South Carolinians will recognize the cogency of his views and will decide not to waste their votes on the Demopublicans. He is campaigning actively for three months (two weeks in each congressional district) and will be in the Columbia area Sept. 10-14 and again during the week of the State Fair in October.

Bergland, Lewis, Davis, and other Libertarian candidates offer the only real hope for the future of Liberty in South Carolina and the nation. As Reagan's 1980 promise to "get government off our backs" continues to lose credibility, and as the Democrats provide no real alternative, freedom-lovers have nowhere else to turn.

## SULLIVAN FOR CONGRESS!

Cynthia Edwards Sullivan announced her candidacy for the U.S. Congress, 2nd District, on August 18 in Columbia at the S.C.L.P. State Convention, where she was nominated along with Linda Blevins, who is running for Congress in the 5th District. Sullivan and Blevins join Bob Madden, Ray Pike, and Hugh Thompson, who are running in the 3rd, 4th, and 6th districts.

Sullivan, a 33-year-old mother of two, lives in Lexington County in the St. Andrews area. She will face Republican incumbent Floyd Spence and Democrat Ken Moseley. She said that she decided to run because "I am disturbed by the legacy that the government is leaving for our children. Even 16-year-olds are forced to pay into a Social Security system that will be totally bankrupt in several years. The present Social Security system is a prescription for economic disaster. We must act now to make participation in Social Security totally voluntary and to move care for the elderly to the voluntary sector."

"During my campaign," Sullivan said, "I plan to point out how unemployment is caused by government interference with the economy. Historically, small businesses have provided most of the new jobs in America, but government regulations are now strangling small businesses, especially minority businesses. Minimum wage laws were designed to help the poor, but they have actually destroyed millions of jobs. Licensing laws discriminate against the poor by reducing employment opportunities."

According to Sullivan, "Gun control laws also discriminate against the poor by depriving store owners in high-crime areas of their most effective means of self-defense. Cities that have instituted gun control have seen an increase in violent crime."

Sullivan believes that the United States should pursue a foreign policy based on the Jeffersonian principles of peace, non-intervention, and free trade. "The United States should not



Cynthia Sullivan

be a policeman for the world," she said. "I also favor a totally voluntary military force. Conscription is nothing less than slavery, and slaves can hardly be expected to be enthusiastic defenders of freedom. Draft registration should be abolished."

According to Sullivan, "There are a lot of people who have fought and died so that we could have liberty, but we are letting this liberty slip through our fingers. I think it is time for me to make a personal commitment to try to reverse this trend."

## SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR LIBERTY VOTE LIBERTARIAN!

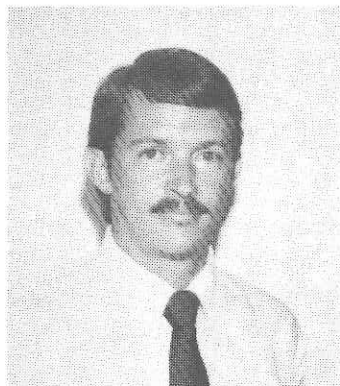
### VANDERVELDE, CHAPMAN, GRIFFIN SEEK LEGISLATIVE SEATS

At the August 18 Convention, the S.C.L.P. nominated seven candidates for state office, including Steve Vandervelde, Jan Chapman, and Bill Griffin. Other candidates are listed on page 4.

VANDERVELDE, 31, is running for the State Senate in District 21 (Richland and Calhoun counties) against either incumbent Democrat Isadore Lourie or Democrat Mary Miles, who is currently in the State House.

Vandervelde is Chairman of the Richland County Libertarian Party and was S.C.L.P. Vice-Chairman last year. He says he is running because he was inspired by the high-quality aggressive campaign being waged by Steve Davis for the U.S. Senate. He plans to emphasize his opposition to the state sales tax. According to Vandervelde, "The sales tax is a regressive tax and hurts the poor even more than the rich. There is absolutely no excuse for the recent 25% increase in the state sales tax, especially when the majority of South Carolinians opposed it."

Vandervelde is also opposed to government regulation of private education and is opposed to any form



Steve Vandervelde

of discriminatory "drinking age." He agrees with candidate Jan Chapman that the state income tax is unconstitutional, since the state constitution has no provision for it. Vandervelde also seeks to abolish the state's Blue Laws and to decriminalize paramutual beeting.

CHAPMAN, 36, a housewife who lives near Lexington, is running for the State Senate in District 23 against Democrat James Leslie and either Republican incumbent Norma Russell or Republican incumbent Joe Wilson. She is Vice-Chairman of the Lexington County Libertarian Party and was the



Jan Chapman

Libertarian Party candidate for Secretary of State in 1982. She is also one of the four original plaintiffs in the widely publicized "separation of power" lawsuit aimed at licensed attorneys serving in the executive and legislative branches of the state government.

Chapman is running because "I am disturbed by the continuing increase in state taxes, spending, and government regulation, and I am also disturbed by flagrant abuses of power by government officials. I'm not at all

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CANDIDATES

(continued from page 3)

surprised at a recent survey showing that South Carolinians have little confidence in their lawmakers."

"If elected," Chapman said, "one of my goals will be to restore the right of the people to initiate or repeal legislation and to recall legislators. I will propose a constitutional amendment requiring all new tax laws to be approved by the voters in a referendum."

Chapman favors the repeal of the state income tax, especially since the tax is unconstitutional to begin with. She also favors the repeal of the recent 25% increase in the state sales tax. Other laws Chapman would repeal include the so-called Education "Improvement" Act, restrictions on private education, and the Blue Laws.

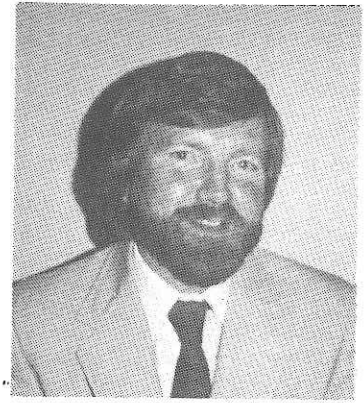
Chapman said, "I will also introduce legislation requiring that judges instruct all jurors that they have the power to decide issues of law as well as fact, and that they can vote to acquit a defendant if they believe the law to be unjust."

According to Chapman, "The only proper role of government is to protect each person's right to life, liberty, and property. The government has no business telling people how to run their businesses or their personal lives. I believe that South Carolina should be a shining example of liberty, justice, peace, and prosperity for the rest of the nation."

GRIFFIN, a 37-year-old father of two children who lives in South Congaree, is running for the State House in District 88 against Democrat Hale Jordan and Republican incumbent Lenoir Sturkie. Griffin notes that Sturkie favors the state's Blue Laws. By contrast, Griffin seeks to repeal the Blue Laws.

Griffin also favors the reduction and eventual elimination of property taxes. According to Griffin, "Property taxes actually take away the right of individual ownership. As long as property taxes are due on our cars and homes, we are only renting them from the state or county."

"I was outraged over the passage of Governor Riley's 25% sales tax increase," Griffin said. "Everything that I had heard and read before



Bill Griffin

passage said that the tax increase did not stand a chance. I decided to get involved instead of complaining that there was nothing I could do."

According to Griffin, "Every time you turn around it seems like there are more taxes and higher taxes. I want to take some positive steps to reduce the amount of government control over my life and the lives of my children."

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 \* OF THE \*  
 \* SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN PARTY \*  
 \*  
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 \* natural right to life, liberty, and \*  
 \* property; that liberty is essential \*  
 \* to human happiness, progress, \*  
 \* survival, and creativity; that force \*  
 \* may only be used in defense of life, \*  
 \* liberty, and property; and that the \*  
 \* organization of the defensive force \*  
 \* should be voluntary and limited to \*  
 \* the protection of life, liberty, and \*  
 \* property. \*  
 \* Freedom requires responsibility. \*  
 \* Each individual has the responsibility \*  
 \* to respect the rights of others, to \*  
 \* accept the consequences of his or her \*  
 \* own actions, and to accept the \*  
 \* ultimate responsibility for \*  
 \* maintaining his or her own life. \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

1984

LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES IN  
SOUTH CAROLINA

U.S. PRESIDENT....David Bergland

U.S. VICE-PRESIDENT...Jim Lewis

U.S. SENATE.....Steve Davis

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 2.....Cynthia Sullivan

District 3.....Bob Madden

District 4.....William Ray Pike

District 5.....Linda Blevins

District 6.....Dr. Hugh Thompson

S.C. SENATE

District 4.....Howard Johnson

District 10....C. Wayne Crews, Jr.

District 21....Steve Vandervelde

District 23....Jan Chapman

District 29....Mitchell Olinger


S.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 13....John D. Compton III

District 88....Bill Griffin

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# A Newsletter Is Born!

This is the first issue of the Sandhills Libertarian Gazette, a special newsletter for libertarians in the midlands of South Carolina. This newsletter will be published three times per year - more often if possible - and will have a strong educational emphasis.

The birth of the Sandhills Libertarian Gazette marks a significant step in the evolution of grassroots organization in the South Carolina Libertarian Party. The state party is encouraging local libertarian groups to become more active and self-sufficient. The Lexington County Libertarian Party is serving as a focus of activity in the midlands area - Lexington, Richland, and surrounding counties.

Unfortunately, TANSTAAFL ("There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch"). The Lexington County Libertarian Party needs money in order to continue publishing this newsletter and to obtain literature, buttons, and bumper stickers for the booth at the State Fair in October.

The Campaign '84 Committee of the S.C. Libertarian Party needs money in order to print the candidates' brochures. Since political campaigns are the hottest things going at present, the importance of these brochures cannot be understated.

Please contribute as much as you can. If you contribute \$15 or more, you will receive a free copy of Liberty Reclaimed: A New Look at American Politics. This brand new book by Libertarian Party Vice-Presidential candidate Jim Lewis is a powerful and convincing introduction to our country's libertarian heritage. If you contribute \$30 or more, you will receive both the Lewis book and a free copy of A Liberty Primer by Alan Burris, which is packed full of interesting information, insights, and quotations. The Lexington County Libertarian Party will send half of your contribution to the Campaign '84 Committee.

Please send your contribution today! Remember the words of Thomas Paine: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

**YES!** I want to help the South Carolina Libertarians and receive one or more free books.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$100     \$50     \$30     \$15     Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to Lexington County Libertarian Party.

P.O. Box 2297, West Columbia, S.C. 29171

BOOK REVIEWS

Williams, Walter. *The State Against Blacks*.  
 New York: McGraw-Hill, 1982. \$14.95.  
 Order from: Laissez Faire Books, 206  
 Mercer St., New York, N.Y. 10012.

Reviewed by Richard A. Cooper

Economist Walter Williams of George Mason University indicts government interference with the economy as the major barrier to the progress of blacks and other Americans. People say that blacks benefit from big government. People say that the poor benefit from the minimum wage. People say that occupational licensing benefits the consumer. The iconoclastic journalist H. L. Mencken observed that for every problem there is a solution which is "simple, neat, and wrong." Every common belief mentioned above that relies upon state interference is wrong and harmful. Instead, Williams demonstrates that the economic policy most beneficial to minorities and others is laissez-faire capitalism - that is, non-interference with market decision-making and defense of individual rights.

Unfortunately, few people understand how the market system operates, including "free enterprise" politicians. The market relies upon the price system for rational calculation of economic activities. The price system serves as an efficient manager of scarce knowledge, goods, and services. Because of widespread ignorance of the market, people fall prey to the schemes of those who wish to distort market conditions for their own benefit by relying upon state intervention.

Value is subjective, based upon the consumer's preferences. But a tenacious error, held in turn by ancient Greeks, medieval Christians, and contemporary Marxists, regards value as something inherent in a good. Marxists believe that something is labor. Many rejections of market pricing are based upon false notions of value. When producers reject the market determinations by consumers of their goods and services, the intransigent form pressure groups to turn the state into their accomplice for imposition of their desires upon their fellows in society.

Unpopular minorities will be disadvantaged in this pell-mell scramble for privilege. The French economic writer Frederic Bastiat, in *The Law*, perceived that "The State is that great fiction whereby everyone tries to live at the expense of everyone else." Bastiat contended that the state had been perverted from an agency of protection for individual rights into an agency of legalized plunder. In 1851, he feared that the United States would suffer a civil war from its two glaring examples of legalized plunder: slavery and tariffs.

As Bastiat realized, the tariff is an obvious example of legalized plunder, using force to live off your neighbor. But the minimum wage is not so obviously wrong. Williams provides an understandable explanation. Minimum wages foster unemployment by imposing a higher-than-market wage. You do not hire at a price (we call the price of labor *wages* or *salaries*) greater than your own valuation. Faced by this bar, the employer economizes on labor by hiring less, substituting machinery, and, at worst, relocating or abandoning that business. The effects on the job-seeker are devastating. For young people, the effects are long-lasting, as a first job prepares young workers for a lifetime.

Who wants the minimum wage then? Was everyone ignorant? Not everyone. If you restrict supply by force, you drive incomes up for those who are able to work. The frequently racist labor unions are based upon labor monopoly. Unions benefit from elimination of competition. At best, the unions benefit only a



*Dr. Walter Williams*

privileged group. South African economist W. H. Hutt reveals the statist nature of apartheid's political economy and its reliance upon the labor unions. The market economy is suspect, he notes, to the racist Afrikaaners because of "its lack of respect for privilege and historically determined race and class structures."

Occupational licensing of businesses and professions revives the medieval principle of guild exclusion. To assure higher incomes to the privileged, they exclude the powerless from free trade. The advocates of legalized plunder cloak themselves in the mantle of the public interest. Williams demonstrates the detriment to consumers of the restriction of their choice and and imposition of price minimums. Licensing blocks the aspirations of those who seek to start new enterprises. Williams maintains that the enterprising find their way blocked by an establishment which fears competition. The barriers wreak great harm: historian Ronald Hamowy discovered that the rising barriers to medical practice early in this century reduced the number of black and female doctors sharply between 1910 and 1930.

(continued on page 6)

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*To control the biggest threat to liberty in our country - government - we must reduce taxes. I do my part, and maybe I can help you do yours.*

Richard Winchell  
 Bookkeeping and Tax Service  
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WILLIAMS

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Economist Ludwig von Mises cautioned that "Our age is full of serious conflicts of economic group interest. But these conflicts are not inherent in the operation of the unhampered market economy. They are the necessary outcome of government policies interfering with the operation of the market....They are brought about by the fact that mankind has gone back to group privileges and thereby to a new caste system."

Walter Williams denounces laws that restrict economic activity as anti-people. He is hopeful that they may be repealed by an aroused citizenry. Williams challenges the current myths regarding economic policy. Williams recognizes that the power of interest groups to restrict the freedom of trade is unjust. As Mises noted, such scrambles for privilege threaten peace at home and abroad. The State Against Blacks holds an important message not just for blacks, not just for Americans, but for all mankind. To grasp the mailed fist of the state is a sentence of death on prosperity and a declaration of war of all against all.

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Richard Cooper is an export manager who lives in Westbury, N.Y. His book reviews have appeared in numerous publications.

"Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one."

Thomas Paine, 1776

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The Sandhills Libertarian Gazette is published by the Lexington County Libertarian Party in conjunction with the South Carolina Libertarian Party in order to promote the S.C.L.P. in the midlands area. Ad rates are available on request. Please address all correspondence to the Editor.

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