



LIBERTY **VA**

Libertarian Party of Virginia

MARCH 1981

VOLUME 2 NO. 3

DRAFT PROPAGANDA BEGINS

On February 6, 1981, NBC broadcast "Who will fight for America?" on Channel 12 in Richmond.

The first forty five minutes of the program was devoted to showing "reasons" for the apparent lack of re-enlistments, purported poor quality of current recruits and the need for well trained, experienced pilots, maintenance people and leaders.

Many "man in the street" interviews were shown with people who had been in the Armed Forces for 12-18 years and who were now getting out because

- 1) Civilian jobs doing exactly the same work paid many times more salary.
- 2) NCO's had to get food stamps and have their wives work at menial jobs to survive.
- 3) People turned down promotions because the "promotion" would result in the loss of food stamps and an actual cut in total income.
- 4) Poor medical service.
- 5) Greatly extended and very frequent naval cruises because the level of naval activity was greater now than during the Vietnam war.
- 6) Frustration at the quality of many of the new recruits, although some people conceded that some recruits were good people.

Our Senator John Warner was a star on this program, along with some other Senators, many Generals and Admirals and of course, Casper Weinberger, our new Secretary of Defense.

The last fifteen minutes of the program was supposed to represent a discussion of solutions to these problems. Senator Gary Hart said there were 4 or 5 alternatives, but didn't say what they were. The only apparent solution, expressed with apparent reluctance, seemed to be the draft. When the moderator reminded us that President Reagan

continued on page 8



A TRIBUTE TO LPVA ACTIVISTS



"Nice young man" to the press.

Ken Morrison ran a very successful campaign with one of the highest percentages of the vote on the Federal level in the country.

Early last year, Jim Crowe came to Virginia Beach to an organizational meeting of the Libertarian Party for the 2nd and 4th Districts. When he asked for volunteers, Ken stood up. There were ten of us in the room and most of us had not met each other before the meeting.

Ken's campaign for the 2nd District Congressional seat was an intense learning experience for him. His two best qualities are his organizational ability and his ability to make a favorable impression on the press. He is excellent in making a favorable exposition of libertarian philosophy understandable to the non-libertarian.

Ken contributed half the funds in his \$2000 campaign fund. He committed all of his spare time from his job as Director of Financial Services of Old Dominion Research Foundation.

Ken was excellent in his ability to interest the press in his ideas and make a favorable impression. He did his home work on the issues and became very persuasive in selling libertarianism.

continued on page 2

FROM THE EDITOR

We are now getting lots of published letters to the editor -- it is too difficult to pick the "best", and space limitations prevent printing them all. Please do not be upset if your letter did not get printed in this issue, but keep writing to your local newspapers and send us copies. Writing letters and getting them published to educate non-libertarians is the main goal, and you are meeting that goal!

Time-Life Publications have started a massive campaign to *re-form* the government, which will give all of us even more subjects to write about.

Thanks for the good response for letters to SOAPBOXVA - keep them coming. We would also like to see more poems, articles, cartoons, ads and general suggestions and comments for improvement. Don't forget, its your newsletter!

As usual, the "deadline" for the next issue is the 10th, but continue sending items before and after that date.

Jerry Sklute
804/458-4279

Libertarianism

LIBERTARIANISM IS NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN THE POLITICS OF LIBERTY. WHILE OTHER PARTIES AND GROUPS SEEK TO USE THE TOOLS OF POLITICS TO GIVE SOME GROUPS POWER OVER OTHERS, TO ENRICH SOME AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS, OR TO IMPOSE SOME SET OF VALUES ON THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH THOSE VALUES, LIBERTARIANS SEEK NOTHING MORE THAN LIBERTY.

LIBERTARIANS PROPOSE TO END THE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY ABOLISHING THEIR POWER TO DISPENSE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

LIBERTARIANS SEEK THE END OF CONFISCATORY TAXES - AND ALL TAXES ARE CONFISCATORY - AND REGULATIONS ON PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGES OF ALL TYPES. WE SEEK THE ELIMINATION OF ALL RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EMPLOYMENT.

IN ECONOMICS, LIBERTARIANS ADVOCATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PURELY FREE MARKET, THAT IS, A MARKET UNHAMPERED BY GOVERNMENT INTRUSIONS. WE ADVOCATE THE FREE, VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

IN CIVIL LIBERTIES, LIBERTARIANS BELIEVE INDIVIDUALS MUST RESPECT THE RIGHT OF OTHERS TO LIVE DIFFERENT LIVES, TO READ AND ENJOY DIFFERENT COMMODITIES, TO SHAPE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL AND OTHER, TO LIVE THEIR LIVES IN THEIR OWN WAY, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE AND RISK, NEVER FORCING OTHERS TO PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES.

IN FOREIGN POLICY, WE ARE NON-INTERVENTIONISTS. WE ADVOCATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, BELIEVING THAT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES HAVE NO BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF AMERICAN BORDERS. WE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION AS BEING A FORM OF SLAVERY - IN PEACE OR WAR.

WHEN THE AMERICAN COLONISTS HEROICALLY RISKED THEIR LIVES, THEIR PROPERTY AND THEIR SACRED HONOR TO REBEL AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF BRITAIN, THEY SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US ALL. AMERICANS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO KNEW THAT ETERNAL VIGILANCE WAS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY, AND WERE PREPARED TO PAY THAT PRICE. WHETHER WE ARE WILLING TO PAY THAT PRICE TODAY IS A QUESTION WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED INDIVIDUALLY, BY EACH OF US. BUT WE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY HAVE MADE OUR CHOICE. MOVED BY A PASSION FOR JUSTICE, BY COMPASSION FOR THOSE OPPRESSED BY STATE POWER AND PRIVILEGE, WE HAVE RAISED THE BANNER OF LIBERTY.

ADAPTED FROM LIBERTARIANISM, LIBERTARIAN PARTY POSITION PAPER #1, AVAILABLE AT \$5.50/100 FROM THE LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, 2300 WISCONSIN AVE., NW, SUITE 201, WASHINGTON, DC 20007.

KEN MORRISON *continued*

Since the election, Ken has decided that he does not want to work for an institution which derives most of its income from the government and that since he is a "nice young man", he will go west to Arizona and contest Mo Udall for his seat in the future.

As a close personal friend of mine, I wish him the best.

Henry Thrasher

CONTACTS **VA**

Virginia Chair: Scott Bowden....703/356-0750
 Membership: Jo Ann Willis....703/548-3286
 1st District: Stew Engel.....703/663-2279
 2nd District: Henry Thrasher....804/424-9857
 3rd District: Carolyn Paulette..804/232-6644
 4th District: Pete Berzanskis...804/424-3881
 5th District: vacant
 6th District: Wayne Staton.....804/384-8252
 7th District: Matthias Mitman...804/293-7021
 8th District: Dave Pendleton...703/780-4168
 9th District: Mark Marcucci....703/552-8919
 10th District: Julie Floyd.....703/920-3552
 Arlington: Scott Royce.....703/920-3552
 Blacksburg: Kathy Rice.....703/953-1013
 Linda Wahrman....703/951-2266
 Charlottesville: Sondra Stallard...804/973-6579
 Fredericksburg: Stew Engel.....703/663-2279
 King William: Graham Evans.....804/843-2093
 Lynchburg: Frewen Wilson....804/384-5996
 Newport News: Ray Johnson.....804/877-2922
 Richmond: Ron Courtney.....804/222-1421
 Mary Godsey.....804/232-6644
 Jim Turney.....804/231-7379
 Chuck Walton.....804/353-3307
 Roanoke: George Wade.....703/774-4213
 Northern Va.: Jim Hainer.....703/528-3886
 Kathleen Taylor...703/442-0798
 Southwest Va.: Ray Smith.....703/597-8180
 Tidewater: Henry Thrasher....804/424-9857

Committees

1981 Convention: Michel La Vean..804/355-1923
 Fund Raising: Michel La Vean....804/355-1923
 Publicity: Vincent Drosdik III..703/979-9145

NatCom Rep: Jule R. Herbert.....202/543-1300
 National Libertarian Party.....202/333-8209

why not add your name?

FROM THE CHAIR

The State Central Committee meeting got underway in Williamsburg at 2:15 pm and adjourned just before six. There were three five-minute recesses which totalled about half an hour (there being about 120 seconds to a libertarian minute). The time did not fly, it was a long and exhausting three and a quarter hours of work. In fact, it was soon after sunset when the meeting adjourned just as it lost its quorum. By then at least 90% of the planned business had been considered; with two of the motions being set aside as special orders of business for the next meeting.

Although most of the motions passed or failed unanimously and none of the votes were close, it would be incorrect to conclude that the meeting was characterized by accord. Over the last three or four months many sharp controversies have been handled outside the Central Committee meetings. The worst of the remaining emotional arguments were aired in this meeting. Strong opinions and emotional arguments were voiced on many sides of each of these issues. This is entirely proper in a deliberative assembly, or for that matter, any friendly gathering. Certain theatrics and in some cases, personal characterizations, however, were out of order. Though I do not expect any more of this, I am making certain that the committee members are prepared to express their disapproval should this arise again.

I'll take this opportunity to congratulate all the participating committee members for an outstanding display of endurance. I had about a two and a half hour drive home after the meeting, towards the end of which I was pretty bug-eyed. I realize that two and a half hours is small potatoes for some of the members.

Scott Bowden
State Chairman

Editor's note: The next State Central Committee meeting will be held at 1:30 pm on March 7th at the VPI campus, Blacksburg.

THIRD DISTRICT NEWS

At the February 5th meeting of the Third District, Howard Maxwell discussed the difference between an Anarchist and Libertarian State. Both would place protection of individual liberty at the top of the priorities. Howard pointed out that many people have already opted out of our society already, neither voting or paying taxes.

Carolyn Paulette was elected as the new Third District Chair, replacing Chuck Walton, who resigned. Chuck has volunteered to be Program Chairman. Ron Courtney discussed libertarian support and opposition to legislation before the State Legislature, in particular, the bill reducing sales tax on food. He encouraged local libertarians to call their legislators to voice their support of the bill.

At the February 17th meeting of the Third District Jane Rosecranz of the newly formed VCU Libertarians reported on the CARD Convention in Detroit. She voiced concern that the National CARD had allowed the Socialist Workers' Party to gain control of the speakers for the Convention and the means of speaking from the floor (control of the microphones). The issue of the draft was secondary to concerns of the Left, such as South Africa, full employment, nuclear power and discrimination against minorities and women. She questioned Libertarians' affiliation with CARD in the future and strongly advocated a separate Libertarian organization against the draft.

Jerry Sklute led a lively discussion of Libertarians' approach to foreign policy. Jim Hainer, an economics professor at George Mason Univ. will give an analysis of Reagan's tax and budget proposals at the March 5th meeting. A libertarian approach to property rights will be discussed at the March 17th meeting. All meetings are held at 4314 Forest Hill Ave. in Richmond. Call 804 232-6644 for more information.

Carolyn Paulette

TENTH DISTRICT NEWS

Organizing efforts in the 10th have, to date, focused primarily on Arlington County. The nine member Arlington LP Organizing Committee has approved a set of bylaws, and a mass meeting will be held at 1:30 pm on Saturday, March 14. A site and keynote speaker are now being finalized.

The Arlington newsletter, edited by Scott Royce, has been expanded and is currently being sent to 10th District members outside the county as well. Planning is now underway to create formal Party organizations in Fairfax and Falls Church. Candidates for House

continued on page 6

WHO'S A NEO-LIBERTARIAN?

I am puzzled by E. Scott Royce's description of Lt. Gov. Chuck Robb as "the son-in-law of LBJ with views to match" and of Att. Gen. Marshall Coleman as having "neo-libertarian views." (SOAPBOXVA, Feb. 1981)

I am not aware of any new development in Marshall Coleman's political philosophy that rates the term "neo-libertarian." He is perceived by many observers as a moderate to conservative Republican with strong personal attributes of glibness and ambition.

Mr. Royce's description of these two government officials is contrasted by an analysis of the upcoming election for Governor written by Garrett Epps and published in the Virginia-Pilot and Ledger-Star (1/25/81). In this commentary, Mr. Epps quotes Chuck Robb and Marshall Coleman on their political philosophies and what is conveyed is very different from Mr. Royce's Characterizations.

Mr. Epps writes of Chuck Robb: "When asked what issues engage his passions, he answers that he would like to help dismantle the welfare state his father-in-law helped build." Then Robb is quoted by Mr. Epps as saying "The pure libertarian would suggest that government ought not to be really involved in anything - 'Just let me alone, absolutely laissez-faire, and stay out of my life.' Well, there's a little of that in me. Government is involved in a lot of projects that it really shouldn't be involved in, and there's a constituency for these programs, which are all well-meaning. There's very few programs that I've been able to find that don't have a rational humanitarian reason, and yet they tend to grow a little bit like Topsy, and we find that as taxpayers we are required to support a government that is beyond the control of any of us."

Mr. Epps writes of Marshall Coleman; "In one area, at least, Coleman's conservatism clearly differs from Robb's. The Lt. Gov. seems to want to halt government in its tracks, even the mild form of this disease that infects Richmond. Coleman, however, waxes enthusiastic about the possibilities of state government, if it could just get the federal monster off its back." Then Coleman is quoted as saying "I'd like to see a two-tiered system of government. The states can't sit out here and say, 'this far and no farther,' and then do nothing. These are terrific responsibilities that the state has."

continued on page 6

TOMAHAWK

The October wind slaps my face red
Everywhere the crimson rain falls
Fiery trees helpless dandelions in fall winds
Three centuries since these woods rang
With the scarlet screams of tomahawk death
I climb through a sterile nature now
And find civil defense radar on the summit
Still confronting the Asiatic menace
Tomahawk missiles arching in a bloody sunset.

*Pete Schleck
Charlottesville*

TREATING YOUNG ADULTS AS ADULTS

Being a teenager these days has to be awfully confusing - one minute you're treated like a four-year-old, the next, "they" demand that you act like an adult.

Admittedly, a lot of teenagers don't help the matter by being irresponsible and rebelling not only against authority (even proper ones) but also against what's decent and common sensical.

I think, however, that adults should be treated as such - and should shoulder much of the blame for the confusion experienced by young people.

Not so long ago - through the beginning of this century, in fact - once you turned old enough to have sex, you were considered to be an adult. You joined the work force (if you hadn't already as a child), you married, you settled down, you paid taxes. A few went on to finish high school, and fewer still attended college.

Economic times have changed, to be sure. Productivity increased so much in the last hundred years that children no longer had to work, not even teenagers. They attended school longer and longer. Child labor laws, in fact, prevented most from working. The labor unions, of course, liked that, limiting competition among laborers and thus holding up the wages for union workers. The minimum wage laws further restricted work by young people and the unions were happier.

Still, in most places teenagers can drive a car at 16, and are subject to the draft and can vote at 18. They can drink at 18 or 19 in most states, and can work, marry and sign contracts by 18-21 on their own.

But why are they prevented from "growing up" sooner? They did in earlier generations.

continued on page 5

Again, protective legislation, backed powerfully by organized labor, has done its job.

Yet, all religions recognize that people are fully responsible for their actions by age 10 or 12 if not sooner. In the Catholic Church, the first Confession is heard as early as age seven, while Confirmation comes between 12 and 15. The Bar Mitzvah in the Jewish faith occurs about the same time.

Historically, then, kids have stopped being kids in their early teens, not late teens.

In Maryland, the religious lobby is teed-off that a legislative committee voted to allow guidance counselors and nurses to advise students on matters such as drugs, pregnancy and contraception. Who cares that by high school many young people are sexually active? (Remember, that in an earlier era, by age 15 or 16, most people were married.)

And in Virginia, the General Assembly is considering a bill to ban the sale of drug paraphernalia. Who cares that drug use will continue no matter what is done to the devices on sale commercially? The paraphernalia ban ignores the libertarian contention that drug use per se is none of the State's business.

The answer to this muddle is deregulation; deregulation of people's very lives. Recognizing reality as revealed by a study of history and tradition, that young people should be treated as adults, I'd suggest the following:

1. Repeal compulsory attendance laws. Let the parents decide when and for how long their children should attend school. Some young people are untrainable past a certain age and should be working, not incarcerated in an institution of learning.
2. Along with this, government schools should be abolished. As a temporary compromise, tax credits should be granted, and the effective monopoly on schools broken up.
3. Child labor and minimum wage laws should also get the can. Common sense, common law and the Constitution can take care of problems of compulsory servitude by children on orders of their parents.
4. The age of majority should be lowered to 16 for drinking, working, joining the armed forces (voluntarily, of course), signing contracts and marrying. Children could leave parents at that age, and thus become adults, and parents could also show their kids the door.

More SOAPBOXVA on page 6

All public and private retirement or pension law including Social Security, should be phased out for present and potential participants. When funds are at zero balances, costs would be paid from any income to governments and the private sector, being charged off as the cost of operations or doing business as any other expense.

The amounts to be paid on a periodic basis would be determined by the employer concerned subject only to agreement on entry of employee with employer or by law for government employees.

The premise on which this is change is based takes its basis from the assumption that compensation is provided before retirement by employers and should be continued at lower levels after retirement by the employer as well, being in the nature of deferred compensation for faithful service.

This is as it should have been all along. The horrendous admixtures of plans spawned over the years have resulted in gross inequities, mismanagement and malmanagement of pension and retirement funds, creation of paper empires, intrenched bureaucracies, corrupt practices and outright fraud.

There is just no way to alleviate these conditions except by a fresh start. Fund

continued on page 8

5. Anti-drug laws should be repealed. Caveat emptor!

6. For that gray area of ages 12-15, children should have any of the above rights when both parents and children consent.

7. Finally, from age 12 up, all people should be treated equally - as adults - under criminal law. No more slaps on the wrist and suspended sentences for heinous crimes such as murder and rape. With deserved rights listed above come deserved punishments for wrong-doing.

This libertarian program should go far to produce a more mature and responsible citizenry, as well as more freedom. For too long we have been over-protecting our youth, with results predicted a century ago by English philosopher Herbert Spencer:

"The ultimate effect of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools."

*Vincent Drosdik III
Arlington*

WHY PUNISH FOREIGN STUDENTS?

Of all the awful ideas advanced by our state legislators this year, one of the worst comes from Sen. Ray Garland. The Roanoke Republican, normally a responsible moderate, now seems determined to become a spokesperson for the state's xenophobes.

Garland suggests that students from countries with which the U.S. government lacks "normal diplomatic relations" be barred from state-supported colleges. The Senator admits that anti-American demonstrations by a minority of Iranians attending U.S. schools stimulated his proposal.

If Garland's plan had been in effect during the hostage crisis, several hundred Iranian students in Virginia educational institutions would have been expelled and thus have become subject to deportation under the Carter administration's senseless policy.

Contrary to popular mythology, these "Iranian" students are a diverse lot. Some are apolitical. Many are Jews, Zoroastrians, Kurds and others whose political, ethnic, or religious backgrounds make them strong opponents of the Khomeini regime. Deporting or expelling such persons would have been a great injustice, reminiscent of FDR's racist internment of Japanese-Americans during World War 2.

Students in this country should not be blamed for the acts of foreign governments located half way around the world. Retaliatory moves against such persons are unlikely to have any positive impact on foreign relations. More importantly, such actions contradict America's image as a democratic state in which due process and basic civil liberties are accorded all individuals.

E. Scott Royce
Arlington

TENTH DISTRICT NEWS *continued*

of Delegates are also being recruited.

Tenth District Party members coordinated the January anti-draft activities of Northern Virginians Against Involuntary Servitude, and have recruited *LIBERTARIAN REVIEW* editor Roy Childs to debate victimless crime issues with a right-wing staffer before a local conservative group.

Julie Floyd

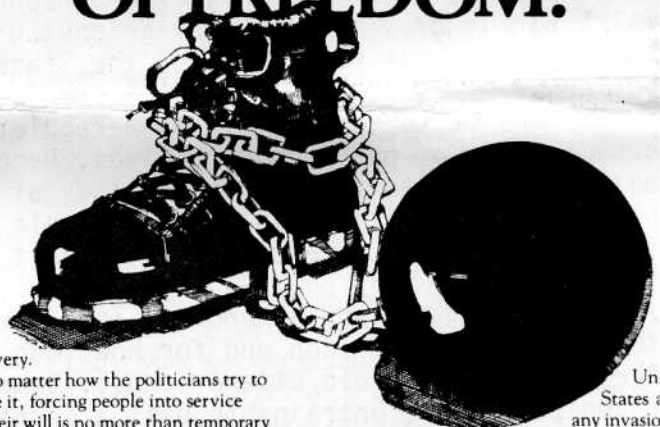
NEO-LIBERTARIANS *continued*

I would hesitate to refer to Chuck Robb as a neo-libertarian, but he at least acknowledges the libertarian philosophy and ascribes some part of it to himself. But Marshall Coleman appears to relish governments and especially the opportunities for action that state governments offer. This is important because it is a state office that this gentleman will be running to fill.

Care should be used by Libertarians in referring to others as having neo-libertarian views. But more importantly, a great service would be provided if a real Libertarian was in the race for Governor in 1981. That would bring heat to the contest and illumination as well.

Trevor Bradshaw
Norfolk

SLAVES MAKE LOUSY DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM.



Conscription is slavery.

No matter how the politicians try to rationalize it, forcing people into service against their will is no more than temporary enslavement of those people. For if someone cannot refuse to serve, what is he, if not a slave?

This principle holds true whether the involuntary servitude is military or civil. But it is particularly obscene when someone is forced to kill others and risk his own life involuntarily. And to send conscripts out into the world as "defenders of freedom" is the greatest obscenity of all.

The Libertarian Party is totally opposed to conscription, for any purpose.

We are confident that the American people will voluntarily defend the

United States against any invasion.

A military draft serves only to facilitate foreign wars, and its re-institution poses the greatest threat to freedom currently facing our nation.

For Libertarians, opposition to conscription is a moral issue; it is not a matter of political expediency. We believe there is no battle more important than the fight against The New Slavery.

If you agree, we invite you to join the hundreds of candidates and thousands of individual members who are working to build a real alternative in American politics.

The Libertarian Party, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20007.



BEST LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For more than 40 years I have believed that a citizen army of conscripts was this country's best means of defense. Because of this belief, in 1940 I volunteered for military service to my local draft board. During recent years and months I have felt it necessary to change my mind on this subject. Aside from the fact that forced military service is actually a form of slavery unsuitable in a free country, I find that the U.S. military services are being prostituted to the point of being used as stakes in a crap game of 18th century-style power politics using 20th century nuclear dice.

I have no desire to be identified with those knee-jerk anti-militarists whose philosophy should be compared to a campaign of eliminating crime by tearing down the police station. I simply submit that adequate national defense against any combination of enemies is possible without our policing the world or depending upon the good will of client states, and that such a policy is honorable, efficient and economical. Multi-national industrial interests will scream that the idea of a "Fortress America" is unreal, and simplistic. All of these arguments against such a policy boil down to one theme: "It won't work because it's never been done before." Such was the criticism of the Declaration of Independence and of the U.S. Constitution.

As only one person, I have been hesitant to make public a belief that obviously contradicts that of so many experts on government. I had to remind myself that last November some 900,000 individual Americans went to the polls and voted in support of citizen rights as opposed to the rights of big government and against forced military service.

PUBLISHED 2/7/81
RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

John F. Zirkle
Harrisonburg

I would like to ask your readers some questions about our free public schools.
Are we parents free to withdraw our children from public schools?
Are teachers free to select the methods and materials that they feel as teachers, would be the most effective?
Are private citizens free to obtain copies of the working budget of our county schools?
Is the county school board free to remove administrative personnel from the school payroll without extra cost to the taxpayers?
Is a property owner-taxpayer who lives under the threat of property seizure to fund free public schools free?

Is an institution which extracts over \$20,000,000 every year from us entitled to be termed "free"?

Is an institution which is imposed upon us by law, funded by threat of property confiscation and its attendance assured by threat of force free?

Will students who are processed through such a schooling system be prepared to understand and practice freedom upon graduation?

How much longer will we be able to afford our "Free" public school system?

PUBLISHED 2/5/81
VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEER OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

L. Ray Smith
Vansant

LIBERTARIAN ACTIVIST NETWORK *continued from page 8*

it, we can put you in touch with others who have similar interests or experience in that area. or if you want to find a source for a particular libertarian product or service, LAN may be able to help.

All of this depends on you. We can answer the phone, write letters and collect information, but unless you contact us, we will not be able to establish a fully functioning communications network. Please write to us at the Libertarian Activist Network, P. O. Box 25188, Richmond, Va. 23260, or call us at 804/358-0294.

Help us to help each other.

Ron Courtney
Libertarian Activist Network

THE LIBERTARIAN ACTIVIST NETWORK

The Libertarian Movement has grown from a handful of dreamers in the late 1960's to a dynamic, growing movement of thousands in the 1980's. Many prominent authors, economists, teachers and others are publicly identified with libertarian thinking; the Libertarian Party candidate for President in 1980 polled nearly a million votes; and judging from the attacks on it from both left and right, the libertarian political philosophy is being taken quite seriously by many political commentators.

Meanwhile, down here at the grass roots level, most of us are not functioning very effectively in defending our individual rights and promoting the growth of the libertarian ideal. Rules and regulations are constantly being imposed upon us by legislatures, city councils, school boards, bureaucrats, and other authoritarian figures while we stand there in bewilderment, watching our freedom slip away. One of the primary reasons for our lack of success in responding to threats to our liberty is that most of us haven't the foggiest idea how to begin fighting back. There is a serious lack of basic communication among grass roots libertarians which forces all of us to start from scratch in our local activities. If we don't know about the tactics, projects, successes and failures of other libertarians across the country, then each of us has to individually invent his or her own approach to these problems.

In order to improve this situation, the Libertarian Activist Network has been formed to increase communication and cooperation among libertarian activists everywhere. To make this network function effectively, we need to know who you are, where you are, and what you're doing. If you belong to an activist group or put out a publication, we want to know about it. If you have an occupation offering a product or service that other libertarians might need, such as a libertarian law practice, anti-tax advisory service, survival food business, etc., we'd like to have this information so we can make it available to other libertarians. If you're being victimized by government (who isn't?), we want to know your situation so that we can get you some help.

Once a substantial network is established, anyone who needs this kind of information can write or call us and get an immediate reply. If you have a particular project or issue in mind but don't know how to approach

continued on page 7

DRAFT PROPAGANDA *continued*

campaigned against a peacetime draft, Mr. Weinberger said that the government would need some time to condition everyone to the need for the draft so we wouldn't have people upset like they were during Vietnam.

Somehow, Senator Mark Hatfield was not on the program.

Somehow, during the entire program, no one asked how draftees would instantly be able to replace people with 5 - 18 years experience. No one talked about the re-enlistment rate of draftees, nor of the training costs for a continual turnover of drafted personnel.

Somehow, no one suggested that if the salaries were increased, the re-enlistment rate would increase along with the quality of volunteers. This, despite some of the "men in the street" saying they would stay for less than equivalent civilian pay.

Somehow, no one questioned the need for 43% of our military overseas or all of this frantic, intense military activity. No one questioned or explained how our Foreign Policy would result in our "defense". And of course, no one pointed out that the "Department of Defense" used to be called the "War Department".

Jerry Sklute

PENSION POLICY *continued*

managers obviously will be disenchanted by this proposal and those exercising varying degrees of control will be outraged at the stripping of authority.

The advantages would be a simple policy understood by all, elimination of contributory systems with the impossible funding deficiencies. Taxation of business would be eliminated as a substitute for the direct expense outlined. A further benefit would be the reduced cost of materials, finished items and services.

The billions of dollars now involved in present policy is unrealistic. The effort to provide a well earned retirement is the mark of civilized society but sorrowfully it has gotten beyond control. The numerous other proposals and one that is believed to be the final recommendation of the President's Commission on Pension Policy, will result in further exacerbation of an already complex and complicated policy.

*Samuel Greenberg
Arlington*

Classified

Wholesale buying club for natural products. Proteins, vitamins, herbs, trace minerals, storage foods. Information \$1.00 for postage and handling. Contact: The Ultimate Marketplace, Route 1 Box 304, Charles Town, WV 25414 or call 304/725-1110.

FOR SALE: Drafts of libertarian letters to the editor. Specific subjects or current events. Price - your promise to send to local newspapers after polishing. SASE to Letters, Dept. LL, LIBERTYVA.



CALENDAR VA

FEBRUARY

- 26 Patriot Network Dinner Meeting 7:30 pm Seminar on Defense against IRS. Marriott Motel, Washington. Contact Edith Bradbury 703/370-1586 cost \$16
- 28 Ayn Rand's play "Night of January 16th" 8 pm, The First Unitarian Church, 1000 Blanton Ave., Richmond \$3 call 355-0777
- 28 Deadline for National Membership determination of Virginia Delegates to the National Convention. *Have you joined?*

MARCH

- 1 "Night of January 16th" 3:00 pm
- 4 Richmond CARD meeting. ACLU office, 112A North 7th, Richmond. Contact Napi Ippolito 804/644-8022
- 4 VCU Libertarians meeting. Contact Michael Large 804/358-0661
- 4 Patriot Network meeting. Anti-tax group, Hammond High School, Seminary Road, Arlington \$2 donation expected. Contact Scott Bowden 703/356-0750
- 5 3rd District meeting at 7:30 pm at 4314 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond. Jim Hainer to give analysis of Reagan's tax and budget proposals. Contact Carolyn Paulette 804/232-6644
- 6,7 "Night of January 16th" 8:00 pm
- 7 State Central Committee meeting, 1:30 pm 340 Squires, VPI, Blacksburg. Contact any officer, District Chair or Kathy Rice, 703/953-1013 for directions.
- 10 Deadline for next newsletter.
- 10 "The Incredible Bread Machine" shown by Manchester League at 308 Squires, VPI, Blacksburg 6:30 pm
- 11 VCU Libertarians meeting. Contact Michael Large 804/358-0661
- 11 2nd District meeting. Contact Henry Thrasher for time & place 804/424-9857
- 14 Arlington Mass Meeting at 1:30 pm Contact Scott Royce for place. 703/920-3552
- 16 Richmond Peace Center Program - Creative Conflict Resolution, 7:30 pm Contact Steve Hodges 804/358-1958
- 17 3rd District meeting, 7:30 pm at 4314 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond. Talk on Property -Call 804/232-6644
- 18 VCU Libertarians meeting
- 24 Manchester League meeting, 308 Squires

ADVERTIZING RATES

FULL PAGE.....	\$40
HALF PAGE.....	\$25
QUARTER PAGE.....	\$15
EIGHTH PAGE.....	\$ 9
CLASSIFIED.....	15¢/WORD

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Virginia is to legalize freedom by political action because we believe that no person, group of people or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group or government; with "force" meaning fraud, extortion, stealing, threats against life or property as well as physical aggression.

Please send information about the Libertarian position on the following (check appropriate boxes):

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarianism | <input type="checkbox"/> The Draft | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflation | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business and Government | | <input type="checkbox"/> Victimless Crime Laws |

☐ I'm already convinced! Sign me up as a member of LPVA.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/COUNTRY _____

STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE () _____

☐ \$6.00 enclosed, please send LIBERTYVA for one year.

☐ I would like to donate ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$_____ to LPVA

I would like to join the National Libertarian Party (Sign oath):

☐ Student (\$5) ☐ Basic (\$10) ☐ Sustaining (\$20)

I would like to be active in the LPVA:

☐ LIBERTYVA ☐ Letters to the Editor ☐ Speakers Bureau

☐ Local Organizing ☐ Campaigning

Other (Specify) _____

Please make all checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Virginia and mail to: LPVA, P.O. Box 1449, Hopewell, Virginia 23860

Common Sense, II

by Jerry Sklute

WHY DO WE NEED A GOVERNMENT? PART 2

In 1776 our government was initiated in order to secure the unalienable rights of life, liberty and property with which every person is endowed. Many of the original American leaders were well read in history and political philosophy and had direct personal experience with the tyranny of government.

When independence was won, these leaders turned to the formation of a new kind of government, consistent with their ideals. This government was to have very limited power because these men knew that government was force. They developed a document which listed a few specific powers for a government composed of three separate branches. The three branches were planned to oppose each other with checks and balances to further limit the power of government.

Even these restrictions were not enough. Before this new Constitution was accepted, ten amendments had to be added to further limit the government and to list some specific rights of the people. The insight and experience of these leaders still resulted in skepticism about the ultimate success of this government in protecting our rights, but they felt it was the best they could do at the time. Ratification by some states was agreed by only a few votes. In Virginia, ratification passed by only 10 votes, and then only because of the enormous influence of George Washington.

Unfortunately, the skeptics were correct. Patrick Henry refused to attend the Constitutional Convention saying that he "smelled a rat." On the last day of the Convention, when Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government was proposed, he replied, "A republic! If you can keep it."

Some of the people who attended the Constitutional Convention expressed their reservations, especially about the Supreme Court - Edmund Randolph (Va.) had suggested amendments to take away the power of the President to nominate the judges and to limit and define the judicial power. George Mason (Va.) said "the judiciary of the United States is so constructed and extended as to absorb and destroy the judiciaries of the several States." Elbridge Gerry (Mass.) predicted that "the judicial department will be oppressive and unfortunately, he was correct."

Murray Rothbard, in *For A New Liberty*, explains that "no constitution can interpret or enforce itself, it must be interpreted by men. And if the ultimate power to interpret a constitution is given to the

government's own Supreme Court, then the inevitable tendency is for the Court to place its imprimatur on ever-broader powers for its own government"... "If a judicial decree of 'unconstitutional' is a mighty check on governmental power, so to a verdict of 'constitutional' is an equally mighty weapon for fostering public acceptance of even greater governmental power."

The draft, restrictions on what farmers grow, minimum wages, speed limits, lending money to Chrysler and New York City, New Deals, Great Societies and bussing children are not powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution, but all are now "constitutional".

These laws all violate our unalienable rights of life, liberty and property. Initially, Congress used the "elastic clause", "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution...", to expand the power of government. Now, they have found that the voters are much less upset if they pass vague laws, which the Supreme Court "interprets". If the Supreme Court says its "constitutional", it must be "OK".

Is it "OK" to force a person to give their money to another person? An individual act like this is called "theft". When the government does it, it is called "taxation" or "welfare".

Is it "OK" to print money which has no value? An individual act like this is called "counterfeiting". When the government does it, it is called "deficit spending" or "inflation".

Is it "OK" to aggressively kill innocent people? An individual act like this is called "murder". When the government does it, it is called "defense", or "in the national interest".

Governments derive their powers from the people to secure their unalienable rights of life, liberty and property. How can criminal acts by individual people suddenly become lawful when committed by government? Especially when these criminal acts violate the very rights which the government is supposed to protect? Isn't there a contradiction with "rights" which require criminal acts for "protection"? Is this the kind of government that we need?

to be continued

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

TOM PAINE

"the great object of my fear is the federal judiciary. This body ... ever acting, with noiseless foot ... gaining ground step by step, and holding what it gains, is engulfing insidiously the special (state) governments..."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

LIBERTYVA

Libertarian Party of Virginia
P.O. Box 1449
Hopewell, Virginia 23860



A red X on label means this is last issue, please send subscription today. Use coupon on other side

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1117
RICHMOND, VA.