Convention ’93: Unity and Progress

More than 600 people attended the national Libertarian Party convention in Salt Lake City in early August, and most seemed to agree afterward that the event was productive and free of acrimony.

“I have never seen a convention that started out with so many divisive issues, and ended up with so much unity,” said newly elected National Chair Steve Dasbach.

Leading the list of hot issues that were resolved peacefully was the debate over the pledge and platform.

“The delegates defeated the proposals to eliminate the membership certification and change the platform,” said outgoing National Director Stuart Reges. “The membership certification has been retained, and the platform remains virtually unchanged, although the delegates did adopt a plan for a separate ‘campaign platform’ to be developed by the presidential candidate that would serve as an outreach tool.”

In LP officer elections, Dasbach was elected Chair on the first ballot with 57% of the vote, beating Natalie Lloyd of Ohio who won 25%, and NOTA with 17%.

Dasbach said one of his goals as Chair will be to double the number of Libertarians elected to public office by 1995.

“Opportunities lie before us like never before,” he said. “Voters are increasingly frustrated, and they are more willing to consider alternatives. We want to be that alternative. By building an even stronger network of state and local parties, we can elect more Libertarians to public office.”

Karen Allard was elected Vice Chair, John Famularo won as Secretary, and Hugh Butler was elected Treasurer.

Gene Cisewski was approved by the National Committee as new National Director. Currently the Vice Chair of the Wisconsin LP, Cisewski will join the national office in November, with former National Director Perry Willis helping out during the transition.

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One of the most popular presentations was by U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), who blasted the FDA for their ongoing attempts to ban or restrict the sales of vitamin and herbal supplements. “It’s the FDA that needs a warning label, not a bottle of vitamins,” said Hatch to spirited applause.

Shadow Cabinet Praised by Virginia Newspaper

The Libertarian Party’s Shadow Cabinet won praise last month from a Virginia newspaper — which suggested it was such a good idea that the Republicans and Democrats ought to steal it.

In an August 19th editorial, the Richmond Times-Dispatch wrote: “Every once in a while the feisty Libertarian Party scores some points for the good guys. Last spring the party announced the formation of a Shadow Cabinet.”

The newspaper went on to note that the British use such a system of “shadow government,” but speculated that in this country, Republican and Democrats might not be able to adopt such a program because of political pressure.

Despite this, the idea has “advantages,” wrote the newspaper, and “...the Libertarians are on to something.

“From time to time, third parties throw a scare into Republicans and Democrats fearful of losing even a small percentage of their usual vote. Historically, the major parties have met the threat by stealing the third-parties’ best ideas. If the Republicans and the Democrats pinched the Libertarians’ Shadow Cabinet, few voters would press charges,” said the Times-Dispatch.

Libertarian Contests Special Election in WI

A Libertarian candidate is contesting a special State Senate election in Wisconsin, and could hold the balance of power in that legislative body if he wins.

Jim Rustad, 35, is gathering signatures to get on the ballot to replace Donald Stitt, who reportedly resigned from the State Senate because he was “bored with his job.” His resignation left the Senate split 16 to 16 between Republicans and Democrats.

“The voters can pick a Democrat or Republican and get the most junior member of the Senate’s freshman class, or they can elect me and get the power that comes with being the tie-breaker in every partisan fight,” said Rustad.

Rustad, the Secretary of the Wisconsin LP, blasted Stitt’s resignation as “an incredible waste of taxpayer money.”

The election is scheduled for September 21st. The Wisconsin LP is soliciting volunteers and funds to help put Rustad “in a powerful position to change state government.”
Hatch Finds Common Ground With Libertarians

Political Party Shares Views

With Republican Senator on Stinking Government, Taxes

By Tony Semerad

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch appears to be toning down the party's radical platform, but would-
ners to cut out large parts of the party's platform.

Hatch also shares a Libertarian suspi-

The party believes government's

In Utah, the party's candidate for attorney general, J. Michael

On Drugs, which most members re-

To salt Lake City. Lib-erary leaders also joined a successful cam-
paign that blocked a tax on mail in Salt Lake Valley. Members of the reform group, Committee for a Libertarian majority, believe the party platform is outdated and, in places, inflam-atory. Requiring prospective party members to go along with all details in the position paper makes it difficult to build mem-

Consumer advocates say the FDA oversight would prevent harmful substances from flooding the market.

Among other things, it favors the abolishment of taxation and most government agencies, le-

The party, which was estab-

But Hatch continues to give the wide range of beliefs Hatch shares

Continued from A-1

ut deal with teachers' union re-

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The old guard is having diffi-

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happen now, but it's going to hap-

The party also urges the repeal of the National Labor Relations Act, state right-to-work laws, and the abolition of the Salt Lake County Libertarian party. Chairman Dasbach says the party does not keep track of how many of its members belong to a union, although he estimated there were hundreds.

“We have much more agreement than dis-

The party's existing platform includes a section on libertarian principles, which most members re-

and political director of the re-

Terry Babcock, a high school teacher and former Salt Lake County Libertarian party chairman. Mr. Babcock says the party wants to attract more members.

“We're all for working men and women. "Our's is an attempt to bring the free market with labor."

Libertarians have a woman's right to an abortion, but believe an employer also should have the

By Michael Phillips

The Libertarian Party has been on the outside of mainstream politics for much of its existence, and until recently has struggled to attract more members. Many of the party's members are radical libertarians, who believe in a radical free market economy and a minimal role for government. But the party has also included more moderate libertarians, who believe in a smaller role for government and a greater role for individual liberty.

"Our's is an attempt to bring the free market with labor."

The party also opposes state mandated drug testing for teachers and other public employees. The party believes that such testing is an invasion of privacy and violates the rights of individuals.

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Luce poised to shake up liquor industry

By PAUL TOLME
The Associated Press

CONCORD — Privatization efforts are sweeping the former Soviet republics and prying loose the fingers of government worldwide, but up to now have been unable to crack New Hampshire's liquor industry.

Proponents of turning over jobs traditionally run by government to private industry say New Hampshire, with its small-government bent, is just the place where privatization would take hold.

That hasn't been the case in the liquor industry, over which the state has kept a tight monopoly. But the winds of change are blowing.

**Las Vegas Sun, Las Vegas, Nevada July 22, 1993**

**TAMARA CLARK**

says she will be spending time testifying before Congress for the Libertarian Party.

Libertarian chief will go national

Clark to resign state chair to take on marketing chores for growing party

By David Clayton

LAS VEGAS SUN

The chairwoman of the Nevada Libertarian Party will resign to devote more time to national responsibilities.

Tamara Clark said she will step down during the party's state convention this weekend in Tonopah. During her 18 months as chairwoman, the Nevada Libertarian Party has grown from 800 members to nearly 3,000.

A rising star in the Libertarian Party nationally, Clark has accepted responsibility for marketing the party throughout the United States. Her new tasks will include testifying on select issues before Congress, supervising all major media functions nationally for the party, and oceans of public speaking.

"My job will be to sell our party to the public," Clark said. Clark, 29, will continue to live in Las Vegas. In fact, she said, she anticipates another run at the state Senate next year. She received almost 45 percent of the vote last fall in a campaign against Sen. Ray Shaffer, D-Las Vegas. Next year, she said, she plans to file again in Senate District 2, this time for the seat now held by Sen. Thomas Hickey, D-Las Vegas.

Additionally, Clark said she plans to be active locally next year in a statewide petition drive. The petitioners will represent a coalition of political parties who believe taxes have gotten out of control, she said. The petition will seek a law requiring that no tax may be increased without first being approved by the people it affects, through a direct vote.

The petition drive formally will be announced in September and begin in earnest in January.

"People very much want to have control of their money," Tamara Clark, State Libertarian chairwoman, said.

"People very much want to have control of their money," Clark said. The government says it isn't imposing new taxes. Maybe, but they're sure raising all the old taxes.

Libertarians believe that a robust, market-driven economy is the key to freedom and that achieving it is possible only by deemphasizing and downsizing the government, while simultaneously exalting the entrepreneur.

Clark said she had been a member of the Libertarian Party for three years. She said she had been a member of the Libertarian Party for three years. She had been nominated by Gov. Steve Merrill to the state's Liquor Commission, a powerful state agency that runs liquor stores, sets prices and brings the state hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

Although she hasn't been confirmed, Luce's nomination and Merrill's statements that he wants to consider privatization "in light of issues facing the commission" indicate the liquor industry could be in for at least a fine-tuning.

However, Merrill isn't in favor of privatization, said his spokesman, Jim Rivers.

"There is no compelling reason why the government should be in the liquor business," said Logue, who is teaching Western business practices to Russian officials.

"Sure it works fine now," he said of the state's liquor monopoly. "But the fact it works now is not a reason to ignore the alternatives."

Another scenario could be one where the state rents its liquor stores and facilities, keeps tight control of revenues, but lets private industry handle the day-to-day management, he said.

"The key for change will depend on whether Luce gets 'boxed in by the political powers that be,'" Harrigan said.

The state employees union has opposed calls for farming out aspects of the liquor industry to private businesses, citing the enormous profits and 450 employee changes that would jeopardize.

"Why touch the golden goose?" Denis Parker, executive director of the State Employees Association, has said in the past.

"Rather than turn over the industry to the private sector, the state could do things such as introduce management tactics used by businesses to increase efficiency, said Chris Henchey, the SEA's chief negotiator.

Others say that's not going far enough.

"The role of the liquor authority is to make money, not employ people," Logue said. "If we start redeploying our workforce in a more efficient way, I think the economy of the state would benefit."

Harrigan says the union would have no argument if a plan was laid out showing private industry could increase jobs and raise state revenues.