

Libertarian Penn

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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MAC BRIDE AND BERGLAND NOMINATED

Roger MacBride and Dave Bergland were the choice of the National Libertarian Convention to run for President and Vice President of the United States on the Libertarian Party ticket.

At the convention in New York City, Aug 30, MacBride won on the first ballot over Kay Harroff and Guy Riggs. Bergland was a "dark horse" who entered on the second vp ballot after the first ballot achieved no majority among Jim Trotter, Manny Klausner, and Toni Nathan. Trotter withdrew and several other names, including Bergland's were entered.

The convention received a gratifying amount of media coverage: two articles in the New York Times, 5 minutes each on NBC and CBS TV nationwide Sat. evening news, Toni Nathan on the Today Show, and several appearances on local talk shows by LP members.

The delegates from 35 states approved a platform which expanded many previous planks and in addition:

- included a specific freedom of religion plank
- directly opposed "right to work" laws
- supported the rights of homosexuals under the law in several areas
- opposed campaign finance laws
- included a strong disarmament plank.

Most of the LP Executive Committee members were re-elected: Ed Crane, Chair; Andrea Millen, V. Chair; Greg Clark, Sec.; and Fran Youngstein was elected Treasurer. 7 Exec-com Members were chosen from at least 14 candidates by a new and controversial system of accumulative voting. Region 7 caucus elected Kathy McAdams representative.

DIARY OF A NOVITIATE IN LIBERTYVILLE

Monday: The NYC Statler Hilton-overrun with Libertarians for a week. A microcosm of a libertarian society? a real Libertyville? Well, at least a first national LP convention for me.

First encounter: "Those Bastards. . ." exclaimed Howie Rich when we met with him to tell him about the Pa ballot requirements. "Sue them. . .take it to court."

Oil conspiracies? Hey, Rothbard and the Oil panel go for conspiracy theorys in a big way. Only, I can't tell whether they're serious or pulling our leg.

Tuesday: Workshops

Campaigns--Arthur Finklestein says cause-oriented (vs. personality-oriented) campaigns always do well getting money and media, bomb out when it comes to votes. Sounds like us.

Candidates--Woody Jenkins says "run to win" (he won, as a democr.) "because you can do a lot more from inside than outside." His secret? Hard work. Oh.

Howard Katz--populist revision of arguments for hard money. Something like, "You shall not crucify the people with this cross of fiat money." Sounds great!

Fundraising--Sandy Cohen, pure chutzpah for the common person. Bob Meier, go for the big, big money.

Ballot Drives--it's a veritable assault of lawyers, managers, organization to the teeth. We'll need it.

Average Person's Economics? They say the economic ups and downs have come to match 4-year presidential terms exactly. Power to the Keynesians.

Wednesday: And more workshops.

Newsletters--10 new reasons to fight with your state chairperson. Everyone else has done it, why not me?

Campus Organizing--"Comrads! Let us co-opt the successful techniques of the left." Not a bad idea, at that. More productive than trying to overtake the student government.

Organizing--Liberty, Equality, . . .but leave out that sisterhood or brotherhood. It interferes with action.

Congressional Aides--the only real purpose of libertarian position papers is to educate the aides of your congresspeople.

Communications--get some good books and learn to manipulate the media for all they are worth, which is a great deal.

Bus Tour of Manhattan--a chance to re-establish contact with reality, but by now we are walking satires of ourselves. Do you believe we actually crane our necks to see Ayn Rand's windowblind and hiss at the UN buildings?

Thursday: Friedman takes on Nozick, Nozick takes on Friedman. That fellow is the Nozick?

Upbeat slide shows. Hospers lulls us with images of Siberian serfs.

Platform debate begins--Rothbard, Evers, Greenberg, Nolan, Westmiller, Long, under Crane's dry-humored moderating.

The edge of awe is beginning to disappear. That is, all those names I've read about,

those names whose books I've read--have been paper people, out there--now they're real, right here. A sense of community, of pride in associating is taking the place of awe.

About those platform issue debates--why is it that sometimes both sides can sound so reasonable? My head is whirling.

And somewhere in the middle of all this, one anarchist very nearly convinces me that political action is immoral and counterproductive.

Friday: The days are beginning to blur. The pace is beginning to increase. Words--words, is there never an end to words?

But people are beginning to come into focus the candidates especially. Question: what would be your first act as president?

Riggs: move into a smaller apartment.

Harroff: dismiss the government.

MacBride: call home all troops not held by treaty.

And very personal issues are being dealt with--tentative beginnings of a libertarian feminism.

Saturday: It's hoopla day and we need it. Have a feeling everyone will dress tie and suit type to impress the media. Therefore I'll go down in dungarees and sweatshirt.

Seems like a walkin for MacBride, even though the best speeches are given by Riggs supporters. MacBride--on first ballot.

Hoopla on a grand scale--cheering, shouting, live band playing "Happy Times", everyone handed a prepared MacBride poster to wave at the TV cameras

MacBride's speech is direct, uncompromising, hard core, optimistic, and aimed to please the media by attacking media regulation.

But, he ends with all sorts of militaristic images, leading up to "We will conquer." Ouch. Can't we liberate our language from that?

Saturday afternoon: A drama is just beginning. V.P. nominations, no majority on first ballot. MacBride endorses Klausner.

Then, electricity in the air, rumors sparking. Second ballot voting in disarray because of rumor that MacBride will veto Trotter on the basis of past irregularities in his tax returns. Voting abandoned and Conv. recesses.

Then, reconvenes. MacB. comes in and confirms the rumor--explaining that he feels the unavoidable "one-issue" campaign would be the downfall of the movement. Trotter withdraws. Convention is stunned and politicized. By his action, Trotter has suddenly become a tax resistance hero of sorts, though he never planned it that way.

Within many of us is that gnawing anger that we must work within a political system that we despise in order to change it--and the urge to do it our way--to do it all at once--to break free now--is overwhelming. Who's to dare to tell us what to do--certainly not the status quo or anyone speaking for it. Politics as usual is unacceptable.

But then the arch tax resistance hero Karl Bray speaks. The party is a "tactical tool"

--tax resistance is another field of endeavor. To mix the two is to damage both. After simmering a bit, we adjourn.

While many spend the night in strategy, there are other things to do. We watch ourselves on national TV.

Hey, we really look great! Roger looks better on TV than in real life. David Long is dubbed forever a "flower child", and the Capitalism Liberates Women banner gets full camera.

Sunday: Climax and denouement.

Several more V.P. names nominated. Our discontent is articulated with profound simplicity by Nozick, who says there are two tactical views--both valid.

- advocating and exemplifying the libertarian society openly
- adapting to where people are now and pulling punches where necessary, not putting forth all of our views at once.

MacB. favors the second. He favors the first. And he nominates John Vernon, whose alternative life style might also lead to a "one-issue" campaign and to a veto. Nozick and Vernon become the standard-bearers of rebelliousness.

Then the issue is defused in a master political move.. MacB. states he will not veto anyone.

The dark horse V.P. nominee Dave Bergland flown in from Calif. overnight and supported by Karl Bray has the luck of being unassociated with any issue in the deadlock. He seems acceptable to all, and wins.

Election of LP officers seems anticlimatic, in spite of the fact that they are probably as important to the coming campaign as is the candidate.

The Sunday night banquet: Rothbard sums up libertarian issues in his inimitable manner. There is music and noise, and then of course, the outpouring of our spirit--the putting our money where our mouth is. The 30 in '76 (30 states on the ballot) campaign seed money rolls in --\$10,000--\$15,000. Egads, I feel like a little fish in a big pond. But I am immensely thankful that it is not the other way around--or we'd get nowhere.

Sunday night--to Monday morning--to Monday afternoon:

The rarified atmosphere of Libertyville leaves us heady with a warm spirited feeling that we really can change the world. We can--we have Murray as our guru--Bray, Nozick, Vernon, Trotter, as our folk heroes--MacBride and Bergland as our working capital--our hands, heads, and wallets as our laboring force. Big Brother, your days are numbered.

Mildred Freeward

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Editor

LIBERTARIAN ACTIVISM (or, Idle Hands are the Devil's Playthings)

The more-than-a-dozen Pennsylvanians who made the trip to NYC for the Presidential Convention and a week of intensive Libertarianizing don't have to be told that the LP is a growing, viable organization, with capable, professional people involved at all levels. My own subjective list of the Convention's highlights:


- A superlative job of organization by the Free Libertarian Party of NY, which planned a week-long slate of activities with virtually no breathing (or sleeping) time between events;
- A V.P. deadlock, resulting in last-minute additions to the ballot and a surprise winner, proving that reasonable individuals CAN work out solutions to difficult problems peacefully;
- A SIL-sponsored cocktail party which totally refuted those population council statistics about how many people can fit into 1 square foot of area and still be happy;
- Chairman Ed Crane recognizing "the delegate from Virginia" and Marshall Bruce Evoy striding down the aisle in Revolutionary War garb to give Patrick Henry's "give me liberty or give me death" speech;
- Serious nation-wide media coverage, including articles in the New York Times and spots on NBC and CBS news.

We've been told that getting ballot status in Pa. will be rough, but it will also open many doors (media coverage, appearances by the candidates, financial help). We're considering challenging the petition laws in court, but in the meantime the first step is to dig in and get to work. We can't actually petition until February; until then, there's several things to be done:

1. The Pa. treasury is very low, and we will need money for mailings to encourage contributions and to solicit volunteers for petitioning. Several people have already made contributions for purchasing literature. If you can't or don't want to make an outright contribution, consider upping your level of membership (see membership form) or invest in some literature and start recruiting in your area.
2. Let us know what you can do to help. It will be time-consuming and expensive for us to contact you. A letter or phone call from you letting us know how much time you can devote to a petition drive, what your special talents are, opportunities for publicity in your area, and what type of fundraising or organizational work you can do would give us something to go on.
3. Be the first on your block to be a Presidential elector! We need 27 of them by the end of September, so let me know NOW if you and friends or relatives will lend us your names.
3. Publicize our positions and problems. I found that as a result of one letter

written in response to a radio editorial, I'm being given an opportunity to do a 30-minute talk show on a local FM station. If I had been writing letters for the past two years, I could be a national institution by now, and contributions would be pouring in (the Chair should be allowed one flight of fantasy in each newsletter).

It's going to be a lot of people doing a lot of little things that will lay the groundwork for a successful ballot drive and an exciting, equally successful Presidential campaign.

 JoAnne Chernow
LPP Chair

ACTIONS AND CONSPIRACIES TO ACT

- We're settling the western frontier!

Fred Hofstadt writes: The LPP is now starting to grow measurably in western Pa. We are planning a series of dinners and speakers centered around the philosophy of a free society.

The first dinner will be held on Thursday evening Sept 18, 7:00 pm, at the Monroeville Sheraton Inn. The speaker will be Bob Miller, a former vice-president in charge of International Finance for Equibank, and now a financial consultant. Bob was a former student of the late Ludwig von Mises.

Contact Fred (see directory) for reservations and further information

- Fred also wishes to pass on the information that:

The Foundation for Economic Education is conducting a seminar at Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia. Bethany is on Rt 67 about midway between Wheeling, W. Va and Steubenville, Ohio. The program runs Sept. 19-21. For further information, contact: Susan Gresham, Millsop Hall, Bethany College, Bethany, W. Va.

- Roger Kelly appeared on Ken Boehm's radio talk show in Philadelphia on July 20. He talked about the Libertarian Party and answered caller's questions on general libertarian issues. "Roger did a good job," said Gerry Morris, who arranged the appearance. Ken's show is on WWDB FM, Sundays from 9-11 pm. He has had Phil. libertarians on previously and maintains a conservative-libertarian perspective in his own replies.

- The Central Chapter met, discovered it had more money than members (an amazing state of affairs), and settled its mantle on Paul Bilzi and its money on the ballot campaign.

Paul's plans are to work on membership, particularly in the State College area, at the University, in order to have more hands, feet, and heads available for the signature gathering.

Currently Paul, a geologist, is on an assignment in West Virginia, but will return to his State College address.

