

Renaissance News

seeking the new world

VOL. 3, NO. 7

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS LIBERTARIAN PARTY

JUNE-JULY 1974

Fie on Government

WILLIAM MURCHISON
Editorial Staff Writer

OF MY best friends
Yock. New

CONVENTION UNDER WAY

Libertarian Knocks Government Control

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Libertarian Party To Meet in Irving

The third national conven-
tion of the Libertarian Party,
a young political party that
supports, among other...

IT SUPPORTS recognition
of the right to secede from
the union...

Individual rights basic principle of Libertarian party

The first day of the third annual national convention of the Libertarian party yesterday at the Ramada Inn on Airport Freeway was a day of organization of more than 300 delegate from across the nation; in-

all over the nation," says Michael Holmes, press secretary for the convention. "There are Libertarians running in Louisiana, Colorado, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and Utah.

"There is a Libertarian

DALLAS '74
LIBERTARIAN PARTY
NATIONAL CONVENTION

Libertarian

'3rd party' opens convention here

More than 300 delegates from across the nation have arrived in Irving to attend the third national convention of the Libertarian Party the United

chose Texas because we are strong here, and the location is ideal, central between New York and California.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Although some of you may not have heard from us in a while, the Renaissance News and the Texas Libertarian Party are alive and well. Many of us have been quite busy these past two months with Dallas '74, the National Libertarian Party convention recently held in Irving (a suburb of Dallas-Ft. Worth). In addition, the editorship of this journal as well as the state chairmanship of the party have changed hands. With the accompanying shift in party headquarters from Dallas to Houston our publishing efforts have been unavoidably delayed. Finally, your editor will be taking a much-needed vacation and beginning a new job during July and August, so the next issue will probably be out in early September.

Once the summer doldrums are over the Texas Libertarian Party intends to resume its assault upon the advancing collectivist barbarism with renewed intensity. Already several libertarian-oriented candidates from the "Brand X" parties have been discovered. We intend to become actively involved in local issues and the upcoming Constitutional referendum. It also appears that the right-to-work and horseracing issues will be presented separately on the November ballot and the TLP can be expected to make itself felt on these issues as well.

In addition to the party activities, Renaissance News will be

expanded to include some new features and hopefully become more of a working tool for the party's state-wide activities. We are initiating in the next issue a letters-to-the-editor section to encourage more reader participation and feedback, and with this issue we are featuring a new column devoted to a discussion of party goals, strategy and tactics in an effort to further articulate the direction and role of the TLP in the political process. Finally, as a means of reducing the operating costs of this publication, Renaissance News will be carrying advertising for those who are interested in reaching our 400+ readership (rates are available upon request).

We also hope that you will take the time to send in the survey printed in this issue to enable us to more effectively carry out party and Renaissance News operations. This publication is sent regularly to TLP members and subscribers, and periodically to those who may be interested in the politics and ideas of individual liberty. The TLP and this journal operate largely upon hope, courage, principle, little love and even less cold, hard (and increasingly worthless) cash. For this reason, we encourage you to become a party member or Renaissance News subscriber.

After all, what else have we got?

RENAISSANCE NEWS
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Robert Tinney
Robert Bakhaus

DALLAS '74

While Richard Nixon was in the Middle East giving away millions of U.S. tax dollars to both sides of the recent conflict and while he was resting up for his friendly chats with the Soviet tyrants in Yalta,

over 350 dedicated individuals from 30 states and Canada gathered at the unassuming Ramada Inn in Irving, Texas for what may have been a far more historically important event. Certainly, for those who are truly

concerned with peace and freedom in the world today, it was far more significant than the publicity-stunt grovelings of our increasingly desperate Presidente. The third national convention of the two-year-old Libertarian Party held this past June 12 thru 16 reflected the increasing political strength and sophistication of the political side of the broad-based libertarian movement and established a firm precedent for future Libertarian Party activities.

Through the efforts of Guy and Cheryl Brown, whose long hours of planning and preparation brought the convention to Texas and coordinated the five day event, and through the cooperation and hard work of other dedicated members of the TLP, the second actual working convention of the Libertarian Party can only be characterized as an overwhelming success. It is difficult to describe in a few hundred words what actually happened at Dallas '74. Beyond the changes in Party rules, the platform modifications, the receptions, banquets and breakfasts, the primary accomplishment of the convention was to demonstrate dramatically the ability of serious-minded individualists to work harmoniously towards the common goal of, in Dr. Hospers' words, restoring liberty to America.

The Ramada Inn was booked full a day and a half before the convention was officially underway. Approximately 150 official party delegates arrived from all over the country, as well as a group of official observers from the growing Canadian Libertarian Party. The large delegations from California and New York were the most visible, with the New York party arriving en masse by chartered jet. The first indications of the magnitude of the gathering began when the early open sessions of the Credentials, Rules and By-laws, and Platform committees were heavily attended, as was the first lecture Wednesday night sponsored by the Dallas-based Institute for Libertarian Studies.

ILS held a series of three lectures given by nationally prominent freedom-oriented scholars which ran concurrently with the official party activities.

The serious work began Thursday afternoon with the welcoming speeches and the presentation of the Credentials Committee report. While the committee report favored a strict interpretation of the pre-convention delegate selection procedures, and resulted in several state delegations failing to comply with the required deadlines, the convention as a whole chose a generally liberal policy of accreditation to insure maximum possible participation. The initial floor sessions provoked some intense disagreement and reflected a general dissatisfaction with the often tiresome and tricky use of parliamentary procedure which often seemed to drag the proceedings on endlessly. However, as the general session proceeded with the credentials report and turned to the rules and by-laws changes, delegates settled down and slowly moved forward with the business at hand. Although the much-publicized ideological split between the limited-government and anarcho-capitalist factions occasionally erupted over specific issues, no deep-seated schisms developed and the much-touted "Radical Caucus" group which had made ominous rumblings before the convention never really materialized on the convention floor. As expected, the proceedings ran behind schedule, and once the rules report was settled the delegates voted to postpone consideration of wording changes in the party Statement of Principles until after the platform report and modifications were completed. The final platform session ran all Saturday night into early Sunday morning, with a lengthy break earlier Saturday afternoon for the election of National Party officers and the Executive Committee and a break for the Dallas '74 Banquet Saturday evening.

The final accomplishments of the convention sessions can be best appre-

ciated when the newly-adopted rules and platform are available in late July from the National Party. In general, the rules were modified to maintain the decentralized structure of the party and to comply with the increasingly complex legal restrictions imposed upon political parties. Changes in the platform included minor rewording in the Statement of Principles and the inclusion of new planks covering such diverse issues as involuntary psychiatric commitment, property rights of American Indians, legal and penal reform, tax resistance and foreign policy issues. Somewhat surprisingly, there was a great deal of interest and intense campaigning over the National chairmanship. Buttons, position papers and good old-fashioned politicking characterized the race between Edward Crane of California and Scott Royce of Virginia. Crane stressed his administrative and fund-raising abilities while Royce centered his campaign on his record as the Mid-Atlantic Executive Committee member and the need for a Washington, D. C. based office for political lobbying and publicity. Crane won the post and Royce later won one of the eight at-large positions on the National Executive Committee. Other officers elected were Andrea Millen of New York (Vice-Chairwoman), William Westmiller of California (Secretary), and John Kraft of Wisconsin (Treasurer), as well as the 13 regional members of the Executive Committee including TLP Vice Chairman Bill Howell of Denton.

Aside from the official convention business and the ILS lectures, delegates and observers were also kept busy with a wide range of other activities. Jerry Tuccille, New York gubernatorial candidate, gave a well-received address as did Louisiana state representative "Woody" Jenkins. Kal Kalchier and Karl Bray presented a valuable seminar on tax resistance, and many delegates also visited the exhibits room which featured thousands of dollars worth of libertarian books and materials as well as a large dart game tar-

geted with the well-known features of America's favorite globe-trotting spendthrift. Three cocktail receptions were held for the new country project (Abaco), Tonie Nathan, and John Hospers, and two early-morning breakfasts were addressed by former New York City mayoral candidate Fran Youngstein, Tonie Nathan, and a spokesman for the Canadian LP. The Free Libertarian Party of New York staged a professional fund-raising poolside extravaganza for Tuccille on Friday night which raised over \$16,000 and provided weary delegates with entertaining slides, songs, skits and a striptease number which ended with an Ester Williams-type plunge into the pool.

Convention press secretary Mike Holmes issued a continuous stream of press releases and that plus the Friday afternoon press conference resulted in good local coverage. The convention coverage resulted in four Dallas television features, an uncounted number of local and Texas-wide radio spots, and coverage in all of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area newspapers, including an editorial and column in the influential Dallas Morning News. The UPI also picked up the story in a nationally distributed wire story which resulted in a good deal of statewide and national publicity.

In what was perhaps the highlight of the convention, the Saturday night Dallas '74 Banquet featured Willis Stone from the Liberty Amendment Committee and 1972 LP presidential nominee Dr. John Hospers. Hospers' moving address outlined the decline of the American tradition of individual liberty and independence, and provided delegates with a firsthand account of his recent expulsion from the Bahama Islands on the grounds that he was a "dangerous leftist radical". The emotional impact of Dr. Hospers' speech was further heightened by the tape and slide presentation which immediately followed, and the experience drove home the realization that the Libertarian Party must redouble its efforts if

in their areas and program the relevant information for processing. The potential benefits of this system are too numerous to list here, but one obvious one is postage savings available by using third-class mailing permits once complete zip code data is collected.

The second project, which is still in the planning stage, is the establishment of a full-time state headquarters office in Houston. Currently the party affairs are handled through the personal residences of the party officers, which imposes limitations upon what can be done by the state party. The establishment of a storefront office, complete with desks, phone, maps and literature available and open to the public (and press) will greatly facilitate the ability of the state party to utilize volunteers in the nitty-gritty day-to-day operations of the organization. Such an office would

be a tangible step away from the realm of "living room" politics and allow us to present a more professional image to the news media and the public at large. To accomplish this, the TLP will need at the very least a \$200 per month operating budget for the office. This might be reduced if we can obtain office space on a donated basis by a Houston area landlord or businessman, but as of yet no such offer has been forthcoming. So, in a word, this project will require money. While such a financial burden may seem currently out of reach, I believe that the party and its members now have the resources available to fund this project. Its reality will only be a matter of time, effort, and the support of TLP members for this second important stage in our political development.

- to be continued -

COUNTY PARTY REPORTS

HARRIS COUNTY - The HCLP held a successful July 4th picnic celebration on Clear Lake which turned out over 30 Houston area libertarians. The pot luck event provided attendees with ample food and drink, and swimming and sunbathing were the two most popular activities. Jeff Calvert intended to provide water skiing with his boat, but is now considering rechristening it "The Dollar" after it began to sink lower and lower into the lake. HCLP party elections were held and both the Hospers and Sennholz tapes were played from the National Convention.

Recently the HCLP has been in contact with Dr. Ron Paul, the Republican candidate for U.S. Congress from District 22. He faces an uphill fight against entrenched "conservative" Bob Casey, but Dr. Paul's main appeal is his libertarian economic orientation. The HCLP will be hosting a meet-the-candidate reception for Dr. Paul on Sunday, July 21 at the Downtown Holiday Inn at 7:30 P.M. Louisiana state representative

"Woody" Jenkins is also expected to be on hand and the event should prove to be an interesting and educational introduction to a libertarian who is becoming active in politics.

Officers:

Chairman - Robert Bakhaus, 1023 E. Shaw, Pasadena 77506, 477-5989
Vice Chairman - Robert Tinney, 5702 Logan Ln. #8, Houston 77007, 869-3102
Secretary - Linda Fraser, 2006 San Sebastian Ct. #131, Nassau Bay 77058, 333-4564
Treasurer - Elaine Sowers, 306 Pebblebrook, Seabrook 77586, 334-1080
Publications - Lonnie Brantley, Box 26781, Houston 77032, 649-0080

DALLAS COUNTY - The DCLP is riding the impetus provided by the news coverage of the National LP Convention and is scheduled for several local radio appearances. Work is going forward on preparation of introductory packets of material to be sent to people interested in the party. The DCLP is also looking at various local candidates to see if

it is to successfully confront the socialistic "1984" nightmare overtaking the world.

Those who departed Dallas on Sunday for distant points throughout the United States and Canada left with a renewed sense of confidence,

determination and purpose. Clearly, the Libertarian Party will never be the same. The crucial 1974 and 1976 elections remain ahead. The larger tasks loom before us, and in the words of one of the original revolutionary patriots, we have just begun to fight.

DALLAS '74

National Convention

Souvenir Special

Preserve these valuable mementos of the historic 3rd National LP Convention. These items available exclusively through the Texas Libertarian Party.

1. Who's Who of the Dallas '74 Convention - over 80 biographical profiles of convention delegates and other convention information. (Limited) \$4.00
2. Convention Activities Packet - includes press releases, copies of convention press coverage and an original Dallas '74 convention program. \$4.00
3. Dr. John Hospers Convention Banquet Address "To Keep Time With" - with introduction by Louisiana representative "Woody" Jenkins, 90 min. cassette \$9.00
4. Prof. Hans Sennholz's Institute for Libertarian Studies lecture "Caesar is Coming" - includes questions & answers. 120 min. cassette \$12.00
5. Both tapes - \$21.00 value: \$18.00
6. Total Souvenir package - \$30.00 value: \$25.00

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