Libertarian tells FDA bureaucrats: Privatize!

How many Libertarians have a chance to stand before an audience of Food & Drug Administration bureaucrats and bluntly inform them that their jobs should be turned over to private industry?

LP member Dr. Paul Smith had that opportunity on July 31st in Portland, Oregon, as a guest speaker at the annual convention of the Western Association of Federal Drug Officials — and his speech was so warmly received that he's been tentatively invited back next year.

"The reaction was definitely positive," said Smith about his speech, which focused on "what the [FDA] might do differently," from a free market perspective.

"I emphasized that we all want safe drugs and nutritious foods, and [their] mission to ensure these is very important. I pointed out, though, that their alliance with government ultimately thwarts [the FDA's] mission because no matter how cleverly you disguise it, behind every action you take lies the 'gun' you have been given by the government. And scientific inquiry cannot proceed at gunpoint."

Smith said he got his biggest laugh when he compared the FDA to the mythical chimera "which has the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent. Likewise, the FDA has lions in its leadership who roar loudly to provide the requisite noise to keep funding coming, the body of goats — or more precisely, scapegoats — who do all the work, and who are in turn wagged by that serpentine tail, Congress."

And that, said Smith, is the real problem with the FDA — "Its only real 'customer' is Congress. Contrast this to an organization like the Snell Foundation, which oversees bicycle and motorcycle helmet safety as a private organization. I pointed out how rapidly and effectively the industry responded to consumer demand for well-designed bicycle helmets, and contrasted this to several well-known FDA fiascoes, including the silicone hearings and the great cranberry scare."

The solution? Complete privatization of the FDA, argued Smith, who noted that "rational decisions are seldom made in the glare of the media. But as a public entity, dependent upon Congress for funding, [the FDA] has to be in the public spotlight by their very nature, and to ensure that Congress continues to fund them." Smith said afterwards that one listener told him that his remarks were "right on target," and another requested a copy of his speech.

Smith is a long-time Libertarian activist and a health care advisor for the Cascade Policy Institute.

Another newspaper columnist joins LP

Another newspaper columnist has joined the parade of journalists embracing the Libertarian Party.

In the Dearborn Times-Herald (Michigan) on August 6, 1995, columnist Tom Edwards announced: "I finally made a leap of faith! I've rejoined the Libertarian Party after a lapse of nearly 20 years. The LP platform is one of the most reasonable and rational documents I've read since the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights."

Gorman starts legislative "Friends"

The annual New Hampshire legislative session is over, but State Representative Don Gorman has left a legacy of liberty behind — the "Friends of the Constitution" caucus.

"These are basically Libertarian-type folks, even though most of them are registered Republican," reported Gorman about the group, already several dozen strong. "We've focused on the First and Second Amendments so far." Gorman said the "mission statement" of the group is to uphold the U.S. and state Constitutions — and that the members are "as tough as nails and won't back down."

"Libertarian" — Now it's an award, too

"Libertarian" is not just a popular political label anymore — now it's an award. The Daily Press newspaper in Victorville, California, has instituted the "Libertarian Achievement Award," to be presented to the area's "leading advocate of economic liberty." In its announcement of the award, the paper noted: "The Daily Press believes that Libertarian principles are the keys to a free economy's success."

Nancy Lord wins major "War on Drugs" case

Libertarian attorney Nancy Lord achieved a major victory against the "War on Drugs" last month, winning the acquittal of three men of felony charges of illegally cultivating marijuana in Madera, CA. Lord said she successfully defended the men by appealing to the jury's "sense of justice and conscience."

The defendants had been arrested after planting sterile cannabis seeds as a protest against laws prohibiting the cultivation of industrial hemp. "Their actions were clearly a protest, and acknowledged by all involved as such," said Lord.

Lord said she faced a hostile judge during the trial — but "the tactics of the court backfired. The jury was clearly insulted by the high-handed attitude of the judge, and moved to acquit the three defendants." The victory — which saved the defendants from a three-year term and a $10,000 fine — proved that "Liberty and justice can happen one jury at a time," said Lord.
Most of Livingston County is Libertarian, they just don’t know it yet.

Livingston County Libertarian Party
background information sheet

Libertarians may locate state office in Brighton

By Fred Menko

A background sheet prepared by the Livingston County Libertarian Party states way down at the bottom, “Most of Livingston County is Libertarian, they just don’t know it yet.”

As it is, Alabama was one of only nine states which requires for independent candidates 500 percent. By contrast, a new political party in Russia needs only 0.8 percent to register. Just because some of these third parties don’t have a formal organization, that doesn’t mean they are not doing the work. The party's philosophy supports a free market, limited government and individual freedom. The party's goal is not to win elections as election spoilers we say, “I don’t believe (the Libertarians) are running for groups like the Michigan Mill.”

The Livingston County Libertarian Party may locate state office in Brighton.

The group’s discussion topic was “Is the U.S. Government violating the second amendment?”

The group has already held two meetings this year. The first topic was first amendment violations by the government and the second topic was the raid on Waco. Although the topics like the raid on Waco, are also rallying points for groups like the Michigan Mill.

“One of the problems with the current Waco investigation is that it seems to be politicking,” MacDonald said. “It seems to be one party pointing the finger at the other. We are starting to do more and more government intrusion. Some of it seems to be illegal.”

MacDonald believes the federal government should only provide a military, a criminal court system and post office.

“Police duties should be left to the county and local government units,” he added.

“I think the vast majority of what the government is doing it shouldn’t be doing,” MacDonald said.

One of the things the Libertarian Party fervently believes is that the federal government should only provide a military, a criminal court system and post office.

While Colin Powell, Ross Perot and Jesse Jackson may look at the continual growth and because of the support for the Libertarian Party in Livingston County. MacDonald said, “We intend to run people for the local races and for the 66th House seat.”

A platform sub-committee has been formed. MacDonald said, but has not been active yet.

For example, an election the first few years the Libertarians may only affect campaigns by stealing votes from Republicans and Democrats. But, he hopes it will only be a short-term.

“My goal is not to be election spoilers,” MacDonald said. “It is to win. If we have to cross a few elections as election spoilers we will, but our goal is to win.”

By KEN STURZENACKER

The party has been looking for a location to move their office from what the government is doing it shouldn’t be doing,” MacDonald said.

One of the things the Libertarian Party fervently believes is that the federal government should only provide a military, a criminal court system and post office.

While Colin Powell, Ross Perot and Jesse Jackson may look at the continual growth and because of the support for the Libertarian Party in Livingston County. MacDonald said, “We intend to run people for the local races and for the 66th House seat.”

A platform sub-committee has been formed. MacDonald said, but has not been active yet.

For example, an election the first few years the Libertarians may only affect campaigns by stealing votes from Republicans and Democrats. But, he hopes it will only be a short-term.

“My goal is not to be election spoilers,” MacDonald said. “It is to win. If we have to cross a few elections as election spoilers we will, but our goal is to win.”

By KEN STURZENACKER

The party has been looking for a location to move their office from Livingston County voters can expect to find the Libertarians on their ballots in upcoming years. Although the county party won’t be supporting its local candidates, the new Party infrastructure, local party chair Doug MacDonald said, the Libertarian Party in Livingston County is one of the main issues behind the disenchantment of voters is this loss of identity, MacDonald said. “There are many people who consider themselves liberals, but don’t agree with what liberals say. The word liberal doesn’t mean what it meant when they made it part of their identity.”

And government continues to grow bigger every year and the country’s two biggest parties don’t seem to offer a change. “Next year, we will spend more money, we will have more rules and regulations,” MacDonald said. “Government will keep getting bigger. When ’96 comes around, we will see real change. This is why there is a need for a third party.”

On Sunday, Aug. 6, the Libertarians threw a state party picnic at the American Heritage Heirs Associations Pavilion in Brighton.

“The county’s move toward the Libertarian party has been noticed by the state party’s organization, which has named Brighton its first pick for the location of a state party.”

“The reason Livingston County was chosen was because of the growth and because of the support,” MacDonald said. “It’s also one of the Issues the voter can’t stomach or dislikes for the government is doing it shouldn’t be doing.”

Theresa Pollock
Secretary, Livingston County Libertarian Party

“A Libertarian is a person who believes in freedom of action and thought.”

American Heritage Dictionary

The group’s discussion topic was “Is the U.S. Government violating the second amendment?”

The group has already held two meetings this year. The first topic was first amendment violations by the government and the second topic was the raid on Waco.

Although the topics like the raid on Waco, are also rallying points for groups like the Michigan Mill.

“This is not a militia issue,” MacDonald said. “One of the problems with the current Waco investigation is that it seems to be politicking.”

“It seems to be one party pointing the finger at the other. We see a lot of more and more government intrusion. Some of it seems to be illegal.”

MacDonald believes the federal government should only provide a military, a criminal court system and post office.

“Police duties should be left to the county and local government units,” he added.

“I think the vast majority of what the government is doing it shouldn’t be doing,” MacDonald said.

One of the things the Libertarian Party fervently believes is that the federal government should only provide a military, a criminal court system and post office.

While Colin Powell, Ross Perot and Jesse Jackson may look at the continual growth and because of the support for the Libertarian Party in Livingston County. MacDonald said, “We intend to run people for the local races and for the 66th House seat.”

A platform sub-committee has been formed. MacDonald said, but has not been active yet.

For example, an election the first few years the Libertarians may only affect campaigns by stealing votes from Republicans and Democrats. But, he hopes it will only be a short-term.

“My goal is not to be election spoilers,” MacDonald said. “It is to win. If we have to cross a few elections as election spoilers we will, but our goal is to win.”

Political competition restricted

By KEN STURZENACKER

Times Guest Columnist

While Colin Powell, Ross Perot and Jesse Jackson consider independent campaigns, Libertarians and Independents in at least 10 states are working overtime to stop them before they start.

In recent months, legislators have tried to restrict ballot access in Alabama, Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Main, New Hampshire and New Mexico. No barriers would cripple ballot access hopes of existing third parties, such as the Libertarians.

In Alabama, HB-66 would boost the signature requirements for independent candidates 500 percent.

As it is, Alabama was one of only nine states which did not have three-party candidates run for statewide office in 1994.

As they do in Pennsylvania, Democrats and Republicans in most states share a monopoly on ballot status, under terms they themselves wrote into law. "Oh, yes, little actions can add up, 'cause we'll let you play in our elections with us. But we get to make the rules, run the clock, and count your score ourselves." Under such an equal status in Pennsylvania would require 15 percent of all the registered voters be registered Libertarian, about 9,000 total. That is more than the number of voters who claim no party affiliation.

If that standard were applied in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C., the Republicans would not have status as a major party because its percentage of total registered voters falls below 15 percent.

If two corporations in the private sector were to form a new political party, they simply had to file a certificate of formation to become a political party in Livingston County. MacDonald said.

The party's philosophy supports a free market, limited government and individual freedom. The party's goal is not to win elections as election spoilers we say, "I don't believe (the Libertarians) are running for groups like the Michigan Mill."
Youngest voters don’t like labels
Poll shows less trust in government

By Niki Ziegler
Commercial-News Staff Writer

DANVILLE — Roger Trolinger doesn’t see much difference between Republicans and Democrats, says he’ll vote with his head, not his party, when he punches his first ballot.

“I have views on things like the death penalty, but I’m not going to vote for someone just because they’re Republican,” the 17-year-old Oakwood High School student said.

Trolinger’s political philosophy mirrors that of the nation’s youngest group of voters, who have swept past traditional party lines to create their own mix of liberal and conservative.

These 18- to 30-year-olds, the so-called Generation X, are relying less on party affiliation and more on specific issues to cast their votes, some national polls say.

They also are more likely to want big government out of their fiscal and social lives. That type of thinking helps out the state’s Libertarian Party, which promotes individual rights and small government.

The party’s membership has grown by 20 percent in the past few years, and one state official thinks young voters turned off by party politics are a large part of the growth.

Michael Ginsberg, Illinois Libertarian Party chairman and, at 31, on the outer cusp of Generation X, agrees people throughout the state realize that government infringes on too many parts of their lives.

Ginsberg thinks the “less is best” philosophy of Libertarians appeals to individualistic 18- to 30-year-olds.

“We want to put individual responsibilities and individual rights where they belong — with the individual,” he said.

Ginsberg, who received 4 percent of the vote during his 1994 run for state comptroller, said young voters reject major party platforms limiting their right to do what they want with their bodies, their possessions or their money.

Although these voters may sway toward the traditional parties, their single-issue voting affects Libertarians tenets, he said.

“When you’re 18 to 22, it’s very hard to figure out what your philosophy is,” Ginsberg said.

But Christian Doelner, a 29-year-old student at Danville Area Community College, said party affiliation is strong among his classmates. He said students rarely discuss the Libertarian Party’s platform “because it is a different political position,” he said.

While this is the first time “None of the Above” has been submitted as a candidate in Ann Arbor, it’s a longstanding practice of the party nationwide.

“The rationale behind it is that many times in a race, the voters just don’t like the candidate,” said David Raasfluh, an Ann Arbor attorney who’s running as the Libertarian candidate in the 4th Ward council race.

“Then we have a chance to send a message.”

The death penalty and abortion, things probably don’t fall much different between them.”

Ann Arbor candidate list loses ‘None of the Above’

By ANDREA NOVEL
Special to The Free Press

Ann Arbor Libertarian Party members are being thwarted in their effort to put their 1st Ward candidate “None of the Above” on the city council ballot this fall.

Seems they can’t prove that “None of the Above” meets city charter requirements, which include being a resident of that ward.

“They have submitted that name, but we will not have that name on the ballot,” Ann Arbor Deputy Clerk Yvonne Carlson said. “There has to be a real person in order to run.”

But Emily Salvette, chairwoman of the Michigan Libertarian Party and secretary for its Ann Arbor caucus, said the charter rules shouldn’t apply.

“None of the Above isn’t a candidate; it is a different political position,” she said.

In Ann Arbor, however, when voters currently write in “None of the Above” their vote isn’t counted. Carl said.

The local Libertarians didn’t have a sure candidate in the 1st Ward, where Democratic incumbent Patricia Vereen-Dixon faces Republican John Kadle.

The party has candidates running for the four other council seats up for election.

So why not make a serious statement, Salvette said of the decision to push for candidate “None of the Above.”

“It’s the crazy politics in this town,” Paul Ungrodt, an Ann Arbor resident and businessman, responded when he heard about the effort. “We do some very strange things, being a university town.”

He wouldn’t vote for “None of the Above,” although folks in his office got a laugh out of the idea.

Carl said the city clerk’s office “kind of chuckled” when it received the filing. “Our first reaction was what do we do with that?” she said.

“It’s a novel idea but it’s definitely got some merit.”

The noted that voters already write in “None of the Above,” along with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Members of the party’s Ann Arbor caucus caused a stir in the city’s decision not to put “None of the Above” on the ballot.

Some suggested that they might file a lawsuit to try to get it on the November ballot, or run a write-in campaign, or drop the issue in Ann Arbor and push for a hearing on a Michigan House of Representatives bill that would “vote of the Above” as an option on all state ballots.

Don’t believe all promises

Protect your wallets. Politicians in Washington promise to balance the budget.

Check their credibility before you are tempted to believe them. You’ll find a false flaw which makes all their balanced-budget promises worthless.

Guest Column

Ken Sturzenacker

Deficits for 26 consecutive years have made the national debt 4.8 trillion dollars. At 5.5%, the interest costs $1,000 for every man, woman and child in America over 1 year. The national debt $1 trillion every year locked away from your ability to buy a home, vacation, start a family, send a child to college, and plan for your retirement. All of the federal government’s other operations cost extra.

So make no mistake, the federal budget deficit is increasing, very quickly.

During his ’92 campaign, Bill Clinton promised to balance the budget in five years. Three years later, $1 trillion dollars are locked in it 10 years. That’s an eight-year delay.

In three tries, Clinton has not proposed a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. He and the 1993 Congressional Democrats are responsible for a $150 billion tax increase.

The first three deficits of his White House tenure will average $340 billion per year, half a trillion in new debt.

If Clinton goes away, these promises are likely to get much worse.

The Congressional Budget Office says Clinton’s assumptions are far too optimistic. The CBO estimates right now the annual deficits in the Clinton plan will be more than $200 billion each, adding another two trillion dollars to the existing 4.8 trillion national debt.

Despite their rhetoric, the Republicans’ 7-year plan also increases spending. $55 billion the first year, $38 billion the second year, to an average of $45 billion each of the next five years, for a total increase of more than $231 billion in new spending.

Balancing the budget with higher spending means only one thing: higher taxes.

Is that what you voted for in ’92, or ’94?

The promises from both Democrats and Republicans are phony and useless. No political promise has any value after the politicians’ term of office ends. Every promise made which cannot be fulfilled while in office is worthless. Every candidate who expects you to believe otherwise insults your intelligence.

Knowing that now, can help us understand which candidates are serious. Most of these Democrats and Republicans have never voted for a balanced budget next year. Why should any of us believe they have the discipline to balance it in some future year?

Challenging federal level incumbents and candidates to cut spending and balance the budget in their next office will improve the honesty of the 1996 campaigns.

For a list of candidates who promise less will help save you and every member of your family $1,000 a year and even more for the rest of our lives.

Editor’s note: Ken Sturzenacker is chairman of the Libertarian Party of Pa.
They want to legalize drugs, wipe out gun laws, and give back our privacy.
They see Libertarians as liberals and conservatives making strange bedfellows. Today, the Fourth of July, is a big holiday for members of the party.

**By KATHLEEN ALLEN**

By KATHLEEN ALLEN

• Libertarians see Independence Day as representing the party's basic ideas.

"We believe in the civil liberty aspects that are traditionally liberal, and we believe in the free market aspects that are traditionally conservative," he explained.

"The Libertarian Party is a good fit for him, said Walker. And he thinks many others will find the same.

He didn’t like the ban, and joined a Second Amendment rights group. "After reading the (assault weapon) ban, I became convinced that it was a bigger boondoggle," said Zajac, a biologist who is trying to establish a digital sound editing business for films and television. "I think it was a bigger boondoggle," said Zajac, a biologist who is trying to establish a digital sound editing business for films and television.

"I think it was a bigger boondoggle," said Zajac, a biologist who is trying to establish a digital sound editing business for films and television.

"I think it was a bigger boondoggle," said Zajac, a biologist who is trying to establish a digital sound editing business for films and television.

"I think it was a bigger boondoggle," said Zajac, a biologist who is trying to establish a digital sound editing business for films and television.