

# Minnesota Libertarian

The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota

## 1998 State Convention - Record Attendance

By Bob Smith

By any standard, our 1998 Convention was a success.

Attendance was approximately double that of any previous convention.

62% of those attending were Minnesota party members from all over the state, joined by 38% visitors.

Our State party membership jumped by about 19% as a result of the convention, and many joined the National LP party as well.

Our crowd was obviously enthusiastic about all of our speakers... Harry Browne, Edmund

Contoski, Duane Korum, and Michael McCarty.

Harry Browne inspired us to think of the many ways a Libertarian society would benefit the average voter.

Ed Contoski blew apart the environmental lies propagated by BIG government propagandists.

Duane Korum pointed out the many ways Minnesota's huge ethanol corporate welfare program harms the environment, wastes money and enriches a few politically connected special interests.

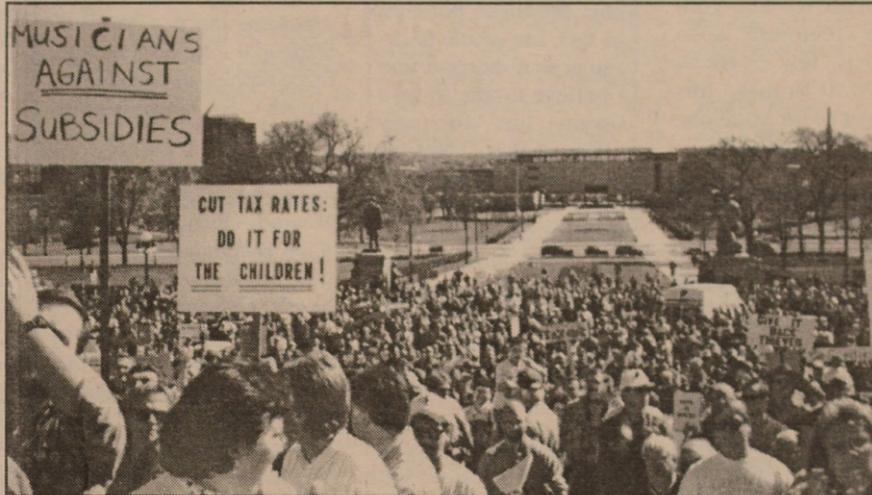
(See related stories on pages

Mike McCarty gave

us his talk on "Does Wrong Become Right, IF the Majority Agree?"

Our video crew shot from 3 cameras, mixing live coverage onto tape covering the complete convention. We will be selling video tapes of the speeches later.

We stretched hard to make the '98 Convention the best ever, and we took some risks in doing so. Those risks paid off in very significant ways, so we can look forward to the 1999 State Convention being still more impressive, in a number of ways. We anticipate holding a 2-day convention, with many additional activities. See you in 99.



APRIL 4 Give It ALL Back Rally #4  
a.k.a. Don't Be Mean. Give Back Our Green!

An estimated 5,000 angry Minnesotans came out on this beautiful Saturday afternoon to listen to over two dozen speakers who supported the return of Minnesota's over \$4 billion dollar tax over-payment (1997-98.) With the help of radio talk show host Jason Lewis and the Twin Cities Republican Association the Libertarian Party of Minnesota lead the charge for the return of this money grab. Speaker after speaker demanded that the money be returned and income, sales and/or property taxes be "permanently" lowered or simply abolished (the Libertarian way.) In the end the DFL majority with the aiding and abetting of over half the Republicans spent 3/4 of the surplus on things that will cost us billions more tomorrow.

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2/1/98  
Libertarian Party  
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27 & 28, 1998  
Gay Pride in Loring Park, Minneapolis

July 2-5, 1998  
Libertarian Party National Convention in Wash, DC

**July 7-21, 1998**  
**Ballot access petitioning**

July 15 - 19  
Ramsey County Fair Harriet Island, St. Paul

July 29 - August 2  
Washington County Fair Lake Elmo

August 4 - 9 Anoka County Fair Anoka

August 10 - 16 Dakota County Fair Farmington

August 16 Cedarfest in Minneapolis

August 27 - September 7  
State Fair St. Paul State Fairgrounds

Libertarian Party  
of Minnesota  
The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 580774, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0774  
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# Ethanol Fraud Exposed

By Duane Korum

Beginning last October 1, 1997 all gasoline sold in Minnesota, with limited exceptions, must be blended with at least 7.7% ethanol on a year around basis. The exception allows each station to sell conventional gasoline in premium grade from one tank for use with classic cars, off-road, small engines and marinas. The legal market for this conventional premium is so small that few stations have seen fit to make this investment or set aside one tank for this purpose.



Duane Korum

Ethanol has been sold to the public on environmental grounds, specifically that it reduces carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. That is why "oxygenated" gasoline has been required in certain metropolitan areas, including the Twin Cities, in the winter since 1992.

Ethanol is the only oxygenate available in Minnesota. However, there is substantial evidence that ethanol blended gasoline (gasohol) may actually do more environmental harm than good. Incredibly, oxygenated gasolines have not been fully tested in real world conditions below 75 degrees! In fact, the

National Research Council cites several studies showing increased levels of CO emissions below 20 degrees with oxygenated fuel. Also, a leading consumer research magazine found CO levels higher from gasohol than conventional gasoline, calling the emissions "unexpectedly high."

**Voters should question office holders and candidates for office as to their support for these policies. In fact, the whole package is so abhorrent that I believe it should be a litmus test for any office seeker. Not all politicians are aware of these facts and may need to be made aware of the truth. No one who supports these policies can claim to value liberty, free choice or to be prudent with tax dollars.**

Furthermore, when ethanol is blended with gasoline, the entire mixture becomes more evaporative. This property works to increase ozone formation, a component of smog, especially in warm weather. In fact, ethanol had to be granted a waiver from the EPA to allow its use in gasoline!

CO levels were at 20% of 1970 levels by 1995 and still declining, in spite of many more vehicles on the road. Most scientists attribute this decline to improved auto emission systems, not oxygenated gasoline.

I estimate Minnesota's ethanol programs will cost consumers and taxpayers roughly \$259 million in 1998. We will spend an estimated additional \$128 million because of gasohol's higher price and

lower fuel mileage and \$31 million in payments and loan subsidies to ethanol plants and investors.

Minnesota will also underpay the Federal Highway Trust Fund by at least \$100 million as a result of federal gas tax subsidies.

Why are we spending all of this money without benefit to the average person? The answer is special interest, pork barrel politics of the worst kind. These programs favor a handful of people - producers and those with close to the producers - by redistributing money from taxpayers and consumers to the ethanol industry. The Minnesota ethanol industry relies upon mandated consumption of its product and heavy government subsidies for its survival. Even so, long term prospects for ethanol production appear shaky based upon poor economic fundamentals.

It appears to me that the State has made a huge mistake with its major commitment to this industry, and has trampled upon individual rights in the process.

Voters should question office holders and candidates for office as to their support for these policies. In fact, the whole package is so abhorrent that I believe it should be a litmus test for any office seeker. Not all politicians are aware of these facts and may need to be made aware of the truth. No one who supports these policies can claim to value liberty, free choice or to be prudent with tax dollars.

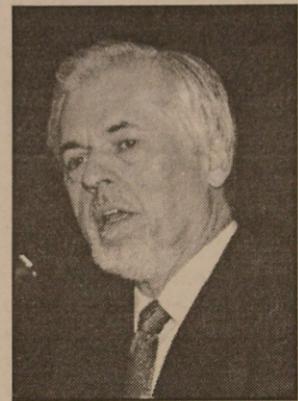
We should demand a free, open fuels market and a stop to the theft of our tax dollars to enrich special interest groups. ■

# Best Kept Environmental Secrets

By Ed Contoski

Minnesotans got a chance to hear the environmental speech that Ed Contoski will be giving at the National LP Convention in Washington, D.C. in July and which he has previously given at other state LP conventions. The audience at the Mystic Lake Casino for the Minnesota LP Convention rewarded him with a standing ovation--and heavy sales of his new books. Ed says, "This was my best convention ever in regard to book sales."

revealing surprising but little-known facts about environmental issues. For example, regarding global warming--which we've been hearing so much



Ed Contoski

about--Ed pointed out that at least 98 percent of any "greenhouse" warming effect is due to water vapor; carbon dioxide accounts for only about 1 percent. And almost all carbon dioxide (about 97 percent) is produced by nature, not mankind. Entirely shutting off civilization--even killing everybody--would have no significant effect on global temperature.

In addition to global warming, subjects covered included acid rain, auto emissions, industrial pollution, chloro-fluorocarbons and the ozone layer, and asbestos. Three themes were evident in Ed's presentation of these subjects:

- 1) Mother Nature produces all of the alleged pollutants attributed to man on a scale that dwarfs human output;
- 2) capitalism provides environmental benefits as a consequence of economic benefits: industrial progress has been steadily making our environment better, not worse; and
- 3) Government programs to protect the environment invariably produce unexpected environmental damage as well as a cost in human lives--which we are almost never told about.

His talk, "Best Kept Environmental Secrets--What You Haven't Been Told and Why," debunked many popular myths by

sequence of economic benefits: industrial progress has been steadily making our environment better, not worse; and

3) Government programs to protect the environment invariably produce unexpected environmental damage as well as a cost in human lives--which we are almost never told about.

Contoski's talk was based largely on the environmental part of his book, *Makers and Takers*, (which was reviewed and recommended previously in the *Minnesota Libertarian*), but there was some new material.

Recently Ed was interviewed on the *Author, Author* cable TV program, which will be broadcast on Metro Cable, Channel 6 in coming weeks. Watch for it.

"By the way, *Makers and Takers* received on nice review in the June issue of *The Freeman* and will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of *Liberty* magazine. It's nice to see our local author getting national recognition in these two important libertarian publications!"

American Liberty Publishers, the publisher of *Makers and Takers* and Ed's other recent book, *The Trojan Project*, will have a booth at the National LP convention. Ed invites all Minnesotans attending the convention to stop by and said he hopes the booth will serve as a rendezvous point for them. ■

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- 2) capitalism provides environmental benefits as a consequence of economic benefits: industrial progress has been steadily making our environment better, not worse; and
- 3) Government programs to protect the environment invariably produce unexpected environmental damage as well as a cost in human lives--which we are almost never told about.

Join the  
LPMN

## Minnesota Libertarians appointed and/or elected to political office June 17, 1998

David Buelow (Elected)  
School Board,  
Waubun School Board  
RR 2 Box 225  
Waubun, MN 56589-9329  
(218) 734-2262

Maynard Meyer (Elected)  
City Council-member,  
Madison City Council  
P O BOX 70  
Madison, MN 56256  
Work: (320) 598-7301

Larry Fuhol (Appointed)  
Planning Commissioner,  
Isanti Town Planning Commission  
515 County Road 5 W  
Isanti, MN 55040-9305  
(612) 444-9008

Peter Eiden (Appointed)  
22603 County Road 117  
Corcoran, Minnesota 55374  
612-428-3778 • Fax 428-3926  
peiden@healthyheartmarket.com

Eric M. Johnson (Appointed)  
Park Commissioner,  
City of St. Croix Beach Park Commission  
1795 Queens AVE South  
Lakeland, MN 55043  
(612) 436-8183  
75624.100@compuserve.com

Paul Streeter (Appointed)  
Charter Commissioner,  
Minnetonka Charter Commission  
15331 Excelsior BLVD  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
(612) 934-0093



The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota

Volume 26 Number 3 May-June-July 1998

Subscription price: \$12 year  
Published about six times a year  
by the Libertarian Party of Minnesota.

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota  
Post Office BOX 580774 / Minneapolis, Minn/ 55458-0774  
(612) 223-0995 or 1-800-788-2660

Circulation: 15,000

Next submission deadline is August 20, 1998

Managing Editor Charles Test  
Senior Editor Larry Hubner  
Proof-reader David Axt  
Production Test Studios - South Minneapolis  
Photographs by Rich Osnes (Candidates)  
Photographs by Charles Test (Events)

Advertising (As of January 1, 1996)

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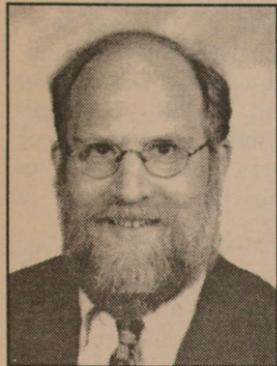
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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIR

From the Chair 6/17/98

As usual, the LP of MN is doing more than ever before and leading the way for others to follow. At the time of the last newsletter we'd sponsored one Give It ALL Back rally. We ended up doing three more



**Charles Test**

(March 23, 30 and April 4) culminating with over 5,000 people coming to our Give It ALL Back #4 a.k.a. Don't Be Mean Give Back Our Green on Saturday April 4. The media may have chosen to ignore us, but the fine people there won't forget it. The rallies did earn me an interview on the radio from Rochester, Northfield and Minneapolis.

Our state convention was bigger and better than ever before. We had twice the attendance of last year. We have endorsed many more candidates in 1998 than in 1996 or 1994. In 1994 we had Eric Olson for Governor/Mike Strand for Lt. Governor only. In 1998 we have a full slate (5) of Minnesota constitutional officers, plus four candi-

dates for US Congress, three candidates for MN House and one for New Prague City Council. Another LP of MN record.

The LP of MN also has over a 50% larger delegation to the 1998 Libertarian Party National Convention in Washington, DC over the 4th of July. We have a full delegation of nineteen, plus several alternates. Lots of good fun in DC coming up.

On April 21 I was invited by Minnesota House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum to testify against the state spending yet more money (\$12,000,000) in 1998, on top of billions in new spending. I asked them if wrong becomes right if the majority agree? If the majority says it's okay to take from the many and give to the few, is it? The hearing went on for over four hours. It's good to be invited to give the no compromise point of view to the Minnesota Legislature's Republicans. They need it badly.

May 1st brought us the fourth annual Freedom Day at the Minnesota Capitol Mall in St. Paul. It was a fun day of cannon salutes and visiting with friends and school children about freedom.

May 3rd was a beautiful day to march the Stars & Stripes down Bloomington Avenue South in the 24th annual May Day Parade to Powderhorn Park. We met a new LP candidate Kevin Houston that Sunday. Kevin is run-

ning for US Congress 5 against Martin Sabo.

On May 16th the LP of MN participated in another celebration, Tax Freedom Day in Minnesota. Minnesota has the third longest wait to tax freedom in the nation. Many could argue that the real tax freedom day is much later when hidden taxes and regulations are factored in.

The fifth annual Great American Picnic took place the weekend of June 12-13-14. Colin Wilkinson, Forrest Wilkinson and I floated down the Minnesota River from Henderson to Belle Plaine. The river is as wild as ever, with countless uprooted trees and eroded river banks. All kinds of wildlife including beavers who slap their tails in the water all night and fish who love to leap out of the water for bugs. The river is as muddy as ever, it's nature's way.

June 27-28 will put us at the front of the Gay Pride Parade. The LP of MN plans a color guard of early American flags. We'll be wearing tri-cornered hats and Libertarian tee shirts. A few members have marching band experience and promise to drill us a little. The parade coordinator liked the idea so much she's putting us fourth in the parade! We're going to be well known for our color guard in the dozens of parades our candidates will attend this year.

These are just a few things going on lately.

## Wanted: Candidate Reward: \$1,000

Offered by  
**Rich Osness**

We need someone to run against Congressman Gil Gutknecht I pledge a \$1,000 campaign contribution to any suitable candidate that steps up and qualifies for the ballot. Tracy Beckman, the DFL challenger, does not qualify.

To qualify for this contribution the candidate must be credible, have an acceptable political philosophy (sorry, Mr. Beckman) and make a significant

effort.

Anyone getting on the ballot, through their own efforts, as a Libertarian, will meet the last two qualifications. A credible candidate is someone that I and the voters can actually envision serving in this office. It can't be that hard. You will be running against an auctioneer. Fast talking not required.

Gil Gutknecht holds a special place in my heart. It is likely that I would find the performance of any other Congressmen as unsatisfactory as Gil's. But

Gil is my Congressman. I take it personally.

I would run myself, but I will be busy running for the state legislature, a race I can win, for an office I want.

I'm serious about the \$1,000. If you're serious about running, give me a call. If there is more than one qualifying candidate, I will make one contribution to the person I consider most qualified.

Rich Osness  
2500 5th Avenue S  
Austin, MN 55912

## You Could Be the Best Choice

By Rich Osness

Our choices in the voting booth are too few. After a while the thrill of writing in "None of the above" wears thin. We will have enough choices only when there is a good Libertarian candidate on the ballot for every office.

Too many potential candidates are reluctant to run. Perhaps they do not think of themselves as well

qualified. This is unfortunate. Many of us would prefer to have an inarticulate and ineffectual Libertarian than any candidate that believes in a greater role for government in our lives.

You can make a lot of work out of a political campaign. Ideally, the candidate should make it a full time job for several months or even a year. Few things in life are ideal.

Most Libertarian candidates put in only as much time as they can spare from their job or business. This is better than not having a Libertarian candidate.

If you are a libertarian, and there is an office for which you meet the minimum qualifications, go for it. You will be doing yourself and every believer in freedom a favor. You could be the best choice we have. ■

### Should I join the Libertarian Party?

Ask yourself: is government too big or too small? Are taxes too high too low? Does the government regulate my business too much

or too little? Does the government control my personal life too much or not enough? If you agree, like most Americans, that government is too large, too expensive, and meddles too much, the

Libertarian Party is for you!

Now it's time to take action. Join the Libertarian Party today - and become part of the new choice in American politics! ■

## Tobacco Capitulation: Liberty Loses Again

By Charles Test

All Minnesotans lost some more individual choice and personal responsibility when the tobacco companies capitulated to government shake-down gangsters and their paid mercenaries on consignment from private law firms. Liberal and conservative authoritarians alike decry the settlement for their own reasons. Neither cares about freedom and adult choice or the consequences of their social engineering, American style.

Liberal-authoritarians complain that tobacco still hasn't been tamed enough. They aren't sure all the booty from increased tobacco prices and taxes will be enough to control the private activities of teenagers. Perhaps deep down in their memories they remember their own teenage challenges to adult authority. Smoking has gotten "grown-ups" bent out of shape for generations. Liberals also aren't sure that the additional free

speech limits on tobacco advertising will do the trick this time. Maybe they'll have to cut out all references to tobacco in all books, or air-brush out smokers in old photos and movies. What ever it takes to make people do the "right thing" seems to be their motto.

Conservative-authoritarians are more concerned with the money. It's a bad deal for the state these accountants say. The lawyers get paid today, but the politicians and bureaucrats get paid over many years out of increases in per pack prices and taxes. Take inflation into account and "hey you guys should have put in an inflation adjustment clause in the articles of surrender." The idea that the bottomless pockets and power of government teaming up with top campaign contributing trial lawyers going after a politically unpopular group of individuals doesn't bother Conservative-authoritarians or Liberal-authoritarians. In their minds this is what government is supposed to be used for. It used to be

blacks and Jews, today it's smokers and adults in general.

All Americans should be appalled at the presumptions of the government and tobacco company attorneys. Tobacco companies believed a Minnesota jury would believe government attorneys who argued that adult Minnesotans ignored all tobacco health warnings for the past several centuries and were putty in the hands of Madison Avenue advertising firms. People are so stupid they ignore their mothers and fathers, doctors, personal experience and believe only the mutterings of the tobacco lobby. America's children and adults have been so conditioned through television and the public schools that they now obey the temptations of mass advertising.

Co-conspirators with the government blackmailers, certain insurance companies claimed economic losses even though they have collected extra premiums on smokers for years. ■

### Contact your LPMN candidates:

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Ken Iverson for Secretary of State kiverson@vistamn.com	612 906-0948
Ruth Mason for Attorney General	612 631-2737
Bob Odden Minneapolis for State Auditor	612 721-7649
Mitch Berg mitch@humanwaredesign.com	612 644-8824
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Larry Fuhol of Isanti for US Congress 8	612 444-9008
Rich Osness of Austin for MN House 27B kkraft@smig.net	507 433-5734
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Kyle Vraa for MN House 52B kvraa@uswest.net	612 697-0385
Rob Babione for New Prague City Council	612 758-3708

# Top 10 Ways Politicians Will Waste Your Money in 1998

WASHINGTON, DC —

The only thing more painful than sending your money to the IRS, Libertarians say, is thinking about all the ways politicians will squander it.

"April 15 is the time to remind taxpayers of how recklessly politicians plan to spend their hard-earned money," said Ron Crickenberger, national director of America's most ardently anti-tax party, the Libertarians. "To get an idea of where your money will go this year, take a look at the Top 10 Most Outrageous Things Politicians Voted to Spend Your Money On This Year."

(1) Themselves. "Politicians gave themselves a pay raise to \$136,672 a year — without even taking a formal vote," Crickenberger said. "This \$3,072 Congressional pay heist gives new meaning to the term Capitol offense."

(2) Their taxpayer-funded Cadillacs. At least 100 House Republicans and Democrats are leasing luxury cars, some at a cost of over \$1,000 a month. "If your 1040 forms are driving you crazy, stop and think about all those Congressmen driving around in luxury — at your expense," Crickenberger said.

(3) The IRS. Three weeks before hearings at which Republicans and Democrats claimed to be "outraged" at how this rogue agency "terrorizes innocent Americans and ruins their lives," Congress voted to increase the IRS budget by \$600 million. "But when the television cameras were turned off, those IRS bullies went back to work — and they're the same people collecting your check on April 15."

(4) Pot smokers. The gov-

ernment paid \$50,000 to study the habits of "habitual marijuana smokers" in an experiment at the Bowman-Gray Medical School in Winston-Salem, NC. "Cheech and Chong, Uncle Sam wants you!" Crickenberger said. "Squandering money like this is the ultimate form of reefer madness."

(5) New York's Metropolitan Opera. "The National Endowment for the Arts is using your tax money to subsidize \$125 tickets for the bejeweled patrons who attend the Met — proving that NEA bureaucrats have mastered the art of picking taxpayers' pockets," Crickenberger said.

(6) Haircuts for Senators. "Taxpayers will be charged \$180,000 to subsidize a shop that pays barbers \$62,000 a year and receptionists \$47,000 — proving that politicians are more concerned about trimming

their hair than about trimming the cost of government," Crickenberger said.

**"April 15 is the time to remind taxpayers of how recklessly politicians plan to spend their hard-earned money," said Ron Crickenberger, national director of America's most ardently anti-tax party, the Libertarians. "To get an idea of where your money will go this year, take a look at the Top 10 Most Outrageous Things Politicians Voted to Spend Your Money On This Year."**

(7) Lecturing teenagers not to have sex. As part of a program to curb teen pregnancy, the GOP inserted \$400 million into the

Welfare Reform Act to promote abstinence until marriage. "A Congress that can't say no when it comes to wasting money thinks it can teach American teenagers to say no when it comes to sex," Crickenberger said.

(8) Paying medical schools not to train doctors. Concerned about a doctor glut, Republicans rolled out a program last year that could pay 1,025 medical schools billions not to train doctors. "No wonder health care costs are going crazy," Crickenberger said. "How about a subsidy for people who promise not to become politicians — since there's a glut of them, and they're making taxpayers sick!"

(9) Deploying troops in 100 nations. The U.S. military bragged that it had stationed American forces in more than half the nations on the globe — costing tax-

payors billions of dollars. "That isn't a national defense, it's a national offense," Crickenberger said. "It's an offense against U.S. taxpayers, who are paying for a global case of military mission creep."

(10) The only good news: A \$4 billion IRS computer that doesn't work. The IRS admitted last year that it spent 11 years and \$4 billion developing a computer system that doesn't work, and an IRS bureaucrat admitted that the agency lacks the "intellectual capacity to do the job right."

"In an odd way, this computer fiasco is good news — it means there's one less powerful, high-tech weapon for the IRS to use to harass innocent Americans," Crickenberger said. "So it's harder for politicians to get our money — which they'll just waste on more silly programs like these." ■

## Are Sweepstakes Contests Really "Deceptive"? Or Do Government Lawyers Just Think We're Dumb?

WASHINGTON, DC —

Congratulations! You may already be a loser!

That's the message the Libertarian Party wants to send to government lawyers who plan to prosecute Readers Digest over its popular sweepstakes — and who apparently "think that Americans are so dumb they can't figure out if they've won a million dollars," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

"How stupid do these government lawyers think Americans are?" he asked. "And how can we get them to focus on real crime — instead of wasting our tax

money to hunt down crime lords like Ed McMahon and his roving Prizemobile?"

Attorneys general in Florida, New York, Indiana, and Connecticut are investigating Readers Digest, claiming that its popular sweepstakes contest — which distributes \$2.25 million annually in prize money — is deceptive or fraudulent.

They charge that Readers Digest's slick mailings "mislead" consumers into thinking that they have won huge cash prizes.

"This is the dumbing down of fraud law," scoffed Dasbach. "America must be a pretty safe, crime-free

country if the only thing these attorneys general have to worry about are gullible people who receive a 'YOU MAY ALREADY BE A WINNER!' mailing...and actually believe it."

The investigation follows similar charges against Publisher's Clearing House and American Family Publishers in recent months. But none of the investigations uncovered any actual fraud — or suggested that the sweepstake companies had not paid the millions of dollars in prize money they promised.

In fact, according to news reports, Readers

Digest has run its sweepstakes without any problem for 36 years. No purchase or payment is required to enter, and the sweepstakes is so popular that over 250 million entries were submitted in 1997.

When you look at the facts, Dasbach said, it's clear that the attorneys general are "looking for fraud in all the wrong places" — and it's clear that the government should stop harassing honest sweepstakes companies.

"Does Readers Digest use exuberant hyperbole to get you to enter its sweepstakes? Sure. Do they want you to daydream about

winning piles of cash? Certainly. Do they try to entice you into subscribing to their magazines? Undoubtedly," he said.

"But is this criminal fraud? And do we really need the government to protect us against the crushing disappointment of not winning a million dollars every time we get a sweepstakes mailing?"

"Or would we prefer to live in a country where we're treated like adults? A country where learning to tell the difference between sweepstakes promotion and reality is our personal responsibility? A land where meddlesome

bureaucrats aren't constantly looking over our shoulders, eager to protect us from our own stupidity?"

One final point, said Dasbach: "If making exaggerated claims, deceiving Americans, and promising to give gullible people lots of money is a crime, I can't wait for these attorneys general to announce their next, logical target of investigation: The politicians who appointed them to office. After all, those politicians are probably responsible for enough lies and false promises to keep the attorneys general busy for years!" ■

## Treat Rogue IRS Agents Like Other Criminals: Charge Them

WASHINGTON, DC —

Gestapo-like IRS agents who storm the homes of innocent Americans, destroy property, and terrorize children at gunpoint should be prosecuted for felony assault, grand larceny, and extortion, demanded the Libertarian Party today.

"Forget about more Congressional hearings: People who behave like street thugs ought to be prosecuted like street thugs," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman. "Congress shouldn't be scheduling hearings — it should be scheduling criminal trials for IRS agents who terrorize innocent Americans."

Dasbach's comments came in response to Wednesday's Senate

Finance Committee hearings, where a parade of frightened witnesses shared shocking tales of abuse at the hands of gangs of "paramilitary" IRS agents.

The stories were so outrageous that even Senator Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) described the actions of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division as "government violence directed against citizens."

One witness, whose house was ransacked by armed IRS agents, said, "I used to believe that such things could only happen in a Communist-bloc country, or a police state."

But Dasbach said Libertarians weren't even mildly surprised at the testimony.

"What do you expect when you grant vast pow-

ers to heavily armed government agents, and then instruct them to seize more than \$700 billion annually from American citizens? Of course these kinds of abuses are going to happen," he said.

But the bipartisan Senate response — to what they admitted were "fascist" and "Gestapo" IRS tactics — was to meekly call for vague IRS reforms, noted Dasbach.

"It's hard to decide what's more outrageous: the crimes committed by government employees or the cavalier way this criminal-coddling Congress responds to them," he said. "You have to wonder if these Senators are really seeking justice — or just seeking publicity."

Libertarians have a better solution, said Dasbach:

charge the IRS agents with the same crimes they would be charged with if they were "ordinary" criminals, instead of criminals in government uniforms.

For example, here are some criminal charges that could be filed immediately, based just on the testimony from this one hearing, he said:

\* Extortion: A team of 64 armed IRS agents swarmed into the business of oil executive W.A. Moncrief of Fort Worth, Texas, in September 1994, seized documents, and ripped out walls. Even though they found no wrongdoing, they wouldn't quit harassing him until he agreed to pay them \$63 million.

\* Criminal property

destruction: After storming the restaurant owned by John Colaprete in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 1994, IRS agents raided his home, ripped off the door, and carted away his property.

\* Sexual assault: Male IRS agents stormed into the home of a Virginia man who worked at a restaurant that was being audited — and forced three teenage girls to remove their clothes at gunpoint.

\* Grand larceny: 15 IRS agents seized computers and other property from Oklahoma tax preparer Richard Gardner in 1995 and kept it for two years.

"In all of these cases, no charges were ever filed against taxpayers, which means the IRS knows they

# New Cigarette Tax Could Trigger Deadly Crime Wave in USA

WASHINGTON, DC —

A federal proposal to raise the price of cigarettes by \$1.10 a pack may not reduce teenage smoking — but it will probably leave dead bodies littering America's streets and be a financial bonanza for organized crime, the Libertarian Party warned today.

"This will be the most deadly tax increase in American history," predicted Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

"This tax will boost the price of cigarettes so much that they'll become irresistible to criminal gangs," he said. "This tobacco tax could launch the second Golden Age of organized crime — which is what happened in Europe and Canada when similar tax hikes were enacted."

This week, the Senate Commerce Committee endorsed a plan to force tobacco companies to pay "licensing fees" that would boost the cost of cigarettes by \$1.10 a pack.

In response, President Bill Clinton urged a larger increase — up to \$1.50 a pack — in order to reduce

teenage smoking. And 26 states are considering additional tax hikes on cigarettes.

As a result, cigarettes in America could cost more than \$3.56 a pack by the year 2002, estimates the Smith Barney Tobacco Research company.

But such tax hikes ignore the bloody price society pays for highly taxed cigarettes, said Dasbach.

"This cigarette tax hike is a recipe for Prohibition III — following the same blood-soaked trail as alcohol prohibition and drug prohibition," he said. "And, as with previous experiments in prohibition, law-abiding citizens will suffer and criminals will prosper."

What can Americans expect when criminal gangs can suddenly make lavish profits by smuggling cigarettes? Just look at Germany, where cigarettes already cost \$3.60 a pack, thanks to a 90% government tax.

\* In Germany's capital, "the smuggling of cigarettes [caused] a surge in

gangland-style executions and turf wars [that] made Berlin streets more dangerous than at any time since World War II," reported the Washington Times. "Authorities fear that cigarette trafficking is leading to crime empires dealing in extortion, prostitution, stolen cars, drugs, and weapons."

\* "People are being executed in cold blood in their apartments and in broad daylight on the streets, on subway platforms, in front of hundreds of witnesses," said Detlef Schade, a police detective in Berlin.

\* "Turf battles between the Vietnamese gangs that control street-level sales have been blamed for the deaths of 40 Vietnamese, 15 in Berlin alone [in 1996]," reported USA Today. These killings are "the latest episode in a bloody gang war over Berlin's lucrative trade in smuggled cigarettes."

Why the brutal battles? Because a single truck "loaded with 50,000 cartons can net a smuggler \$550,000" in profits, said

USA Today.

In fact, all across Europe, high taxes are resulting in a bonanza for smugglers, reported syndicated columnist Bruce Bartlett. "One-fourth of the world's cigarettes are now smuggled across national borders to evade taxes and tariffs," he wrote. "Governments are already losing \$16 billion per year in tax revenues — a figure likely to rise as organized crime becomes a larger player in the business of smuggling smokes. In Italy alone, organized crime is said to make \$500 million per year smuggling cigarettes."

Or, closer to home, look at what happened in Canada when the government raised tobacco taxes by 146% — to 75 cents a pack — in 1991, according to a report in Reason magazine:

\* "The result was an invitation to organized crime. Mohawk Indians from tribes along the U.S.-Canada border, biker gangs, and Asian Triads smuggled cigarettes across the border in boats, air-

planes, trucks, legitimate courier companies, and snowmobiles. By the end of 1993, nearly one in three cigarettes was contraband."

\* "Retailers also [became] victims of a crime wave, as it became more lucrative for thieves to skip the cash register and head straight for the cigarettes."

Even more surprising, despite the steep tax hike, "youth smoking did not decrease and many officials ironically argued that high taxes made it more difficult to control youth smoking," reported Erin Schiller of the Pacific Research Institute.

By 1994, shaken by the crime explosion and lost tax revenues, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien said the cigarette tax threatened "the very fabric of Canadian society" — and drastically reduced the tax burden, "which essentially eliminated cigarette smuggling in Canada," reported Reason magazine.

Even Canadian Health Minister Diane Marleau argued the tax cut was needed to "end the smug-

gling trade and force children to rely on regular stores for their cigarettes" — where purchases could be better controlled.

But Washington politicians seem determined to ignore the lessons of Canada and Europe, and inflict the same bloody crime wave on America, said Dasbach.

"Opportunistic politicians may think they are striking a blow against Big Tobacco with this tax hike — but they are actually striking it rich for criminal gangs," he said. "The biggest supporters of this new tax are not the Republicans or Democrats, but the Mafia, the Asian Triads, the biker gangs, and the Russian mob, who stand to make billions of dollars in black market profits."

"And the biggest victims of the \$1.10 cigarette tax hike will not be R.J. Reynolds — but ordinary Americans who will die in the crossfire as criminal gangs battle for the blood-stained profits that politicians seem determined to give them. That's the real cost of this tax increase." ■

## Outrageous Minnesota Tobacco Trial

By Bob Smith

Last month, six tobacco companies met their match in Minnesota. Although these companies had never lost a suit that had gone to a jury, they accepted a \$7 billion settlement rather than trust a rigged jury of Minnesotans.

The settlement was widely publicized as evidence of wrongdoing... an admission that they were guilty. Regardless of your attitude on that score, here are some tidbits about the trial, as reported in Liberty magazine:

Tobacco company attorneys wanted to argue and present evidence that smokers incur no more health expenses than non-smokers; Judge Fitzpatrick refused to allow them to make that argument, even though there is considerable evidence available in support of that position.

The state based its claim of damages due to smoking on a statistical model which contained obviously bogus charges... having nothing to do with smoking at all. Judge Fitzpatrick accepted the model.

Tobacco company attorneys were not allowed to refuse jurors who openly expressed hostility

toward the tobacco industry, but Fitzpatrick barred at



Bob Smith

least one who admitted that she thought that warnings on cigarette packaging informed smokers of the risks they assumed.

In short, the trial was rigged, perhaps to force the tobacco companies into a settlement. We'll never know what the jury verdict would have been, but the spectacle in the courtroom obviously convinced the tobacco companies that they could not trust a jury of Minnesota citizens.

In addition to the \$7 billion, other extorted penalties include:

Banning all tobacco branded merchandise and promotional items... hats, t-shirts, etc.

An agreement not to market directly to people younger than 18... undefined, but may well mean the complete end of tobacco advertising in Minnesota. An agreement

to stop paying movie producers for featuring cigarettes and smoking in films, anywhere in the nation.

Remember, this trial was for the State of Minnesota and Blue Cross/Blue Shield to recover excess medical expenses they claim to pay due to smoking-related illness. Specifically, the defense was not allowed to present evidence to counter that claim.

I remind you that, even using the government's own claims that "smoking causes early death," that smoking "causes lung cancer," which usually results in a quick death... it's a simple calculation to prove that smokers actually have lower health expenses than non-smokers. Based on smokers' supposed early deaths, they cost far less in Social Security and Medicare benefits... completely aside from the enormous governmental income from taxes on cigarettes.

Make no mistake... that trial was no example of justice; it was a kangaroo court... a staged trial worthy of Stalin's Soviet Union, designed to extort huge amounts of money from commercial businesses, for selling a product that is still perfectly legal, and even subsidized by the Federal government.

Our State government, which has had six straight budget surpluses, has

found one more set of suckers to fleece besides its own citizens... any industry that produces a product that can, in any way, be considered harmful may now consider themselves subject to the same treatment.

Stand by, fast-food chains, to pay for selling food that's not nutritious. Stand by, liquor distillers, to pay for addictions, accidents, and whatever. Stand by, gun manufacturers, to pay for crime. Stand by, auto manufacturers, to pay for auto accidents. Stand by, drug companies, to pay for addictions and side-effects. Stand by, coffee companies, to pay for caffeine addiction.

Is television to be held responsible for couch potatoes and kids zoning out? Are computer manufacturers responsible for carpal-tunnel syndrome treatment? Will fertilizer companies be held responsible for home-made bombs?

Tobacco has been the first witch-hunt... it certainly won't be the last. Minnesotans will be historically judged as having set a new standard of blatant disregard for constitutionality and justice... a whole state blamed for the acts of a very few politically-greedy individuals, urged on by groups who will now reap the financial rewards.

We've been shamed. ■



APRIL 4 Give It ALL Back Rally #4  
a.k.a. Don't Be Mean. Give Back Our Green!

## Cigarette Smuggling in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) -

Sweden's highly-taxed smokers got an unprecedented gift Tuesday when the government proposed slashing tobacco prices to combat a boom in smuggling.

The minority Social Democratic government said in its spring budget it wanted to cut taxes on cigarettes by 27 percent, aiming to reduce the price of a packet of 20 to 36 crowns (\$4.60) from 44.5 crowns in the run-up to elections in September.

Swedish customs officers would also get wider powers to search trucks and mail for contraband tobacco and alcohol.

"We want to curb smuggling without encouraging people to start smoking," said Anders Kristoffersson, director of the finance ministry's tax policy division.

Smuggling and organized crime have surged since Sweden joined the

European Union in 1995 and relaxed border controls. Big tax hikes last year were widely blamed for fueling a switch to smuggled cigarette brands.

Sweden's Customs Board estimates that some 39.3 million cigarettes were smuggled into Sweden in 1997, up from an estimated six million in 1995.

Kristoffersson told Reuters the planned cut would be the first real reduction in tobacco tax in Swedish history.

Even so, prices would still be above the end-1996 level of 31.50 crowns per pack.

"We think these measures will be revenue neutral for the budget," said Kristoffersson. "It's a way of keeping a tax base in a longer-term perspective."

Most of the contraband tobacco comes from eastern Europe, where cigarettes cost a fraction of Swedish prices. ■

# Commie = Green

From Ken Nebel

There is mounting evidence that Joe McCarthy was right, after all. If so, this would explain Cleaver's new campaign, but it would not explain why it took him this long to figure it out.

Gus Hall, child of the Minnesota Iron Range and quite possibly the longest-tenured member of the International Communist Party (the Russians who joined in the 1940s being mainly purged or dead), and Secretary of the CPUSA, wrote a book in 1972, titled *ECOLOGY*. In it, Hall outlined the "ecological crisis" as the best way to win over the American citizenry to the cause of world communism:

"The key factor will be the leadership of the struggle of the working class. 'Masses who after all are the power of any revolution.' This is true in the struggle to save the environment. What is new, is that the knowledge of the point of no return gives this struggle an unusual urgency. Those of us who know capitalism cannot basically be reformed, must work with and for people who have not yet come to that conclusion.

We must be the organizers, the leaders of these movements." (Gus Hall, *Ecology*, 1972, quoted in Holly Swanson's *Set up and Sold Out: Find out what Green Really Means* ISBN 0-9645108-0-4.



# Websites on Free Market Environmentalism

From Ken Nebel

These sites, with links, are at <http://www.free-market.org>

Non-Regional or Global

Environmental Quality Spotlight

Source: Free-Market.Net

Author: Rob Knautz

Country: United States

E-mail: [Spotlight@free-market.net](mailto:Spotlight@free-market.net)

There are numerous irrational and expensive federal environmental regulations. This Spotlight examines the shortcomings of these programs, and recommends ways to make them better — or eliminate them without reducing the quality of our environment. An overview with extensive links.

Political Economy Research Center

Source: PERC (<http://www.perc.org>)

City: Bozeman, State: MT, Country: United States

Based in Bozeman, Montana, PERC was an early pioneer in "free market environmentalism." Their primary goal is to provide market solutions to environmental problems.

CEI Environmental Studies Program

Source: CEI (<http://www.cei.org>)

City: Washington, State: DC, Country: United States

One of the most important policy areas of the Competitive Enterprise Institute is their Environmental Studies Program. Look here for links to a wealth of policy reports, articles, and essays on free-market environmentalism.

Free-Market Environmentalism

Spotlight

Source: Free-Market.Net

Author: Robert Knautz

Country: United States

E-mail: [Spotlight@free-market.net](mailto:Spotlight@free-market.net)

Free-marketeters and environmentalists seem to be two groups that would be on complete opposites of the spectrum, but it is possible to be pro-market and pro-environment at the same time. An overview with extensive links.

[globalwarming.org](http://globalwarming.org)

Source: National Consumer Coalition

City: Washington, State: DC, Country: United States

E-mail: [globalwarming@globalwarming.org](mailto:globalwarming@globalwarming.org)

Home page of the "Cooler Heads Coalition," dispelling the myths and flawed analyses by global-warming doomsayers.

Alliance for America Home Page

Source: Alliance for America

Country: United States

E-mail: [allianceam@aol.com](mailto:allianceam@aol.com)

Umbrella organization for over 500 groups. Dedicated to balancing the need for environmental conservation against private property rights as protected under the Constitution. Lots of partner organizations, press releases, and news advisories.

The Science & Environmental Policy

Project

Source: SEPP

City: Fairfax, State: VA, Country: United States

E-mail: [comments@sepp.org](mailto:comments@sepp.org)

Led by Dr. Fred Singer, SEPP offers an alternative view of "problems" such as global warming, ozone depletion, and other alarmist predictions seized upon by governments bent on control. Nice-looking site with plenty of articles online and books available for order.

(This is an edited for length version of this article. Ed.)

From Ed Contoski

THE CALGARY HERALD

June 10, 1998

"Greenhouse Gases are the result of political motives" by Lorne Gunter, Edmonton Journal columnist (reponses to Gunter at [letters@thejournal.southam.ca](mailto:letters@thejournal.southam.ca))

It's the sun. That giant, self-luminous ball of burning gases—which has a

mass 332,000 times that of Earth and at its core may be as hot as 20,000,000 degrees Celsius—that makes Earth habitable.

Solar radiation absorbed by plants permits photosynthesis. The energy stored in coal and oil originates in the sun. Air masses move and rain falls because of solar radiation.

So why is it so hard for most government climate scientists to accept that the one-degree warming the Earth has experienced since

the mid-19th century has been entirely, or even just mostly, caused by solar activity?

I can't help thinking their motives are political. Government can't control the sun.

Most government climate scientists are suspicious of the free market and generally leery of industry.

You can see their bias in the very fact they believe government-to-government treaties and legislation can actually limit the

global rise in temperature.

And you can see it in the only solution their reports ever propose: mandated emission caps, fuel-consumption regulations, alternative energy source quotas, and so on.

All preserve government's place in the economic driver's seat.

If global warming can be shown to be anthropogenic—man-made—then a case can be made for increasing government power.

# Community Based Planning, Things to Come in Minnesota

From Ken Nebel

Community Based Planning is sold as state help with local land use plans. It ends up being state control of all private and public lands.

Community Based Planning is being pushed from the outside by the "1000 Friends of Minnesota" and the "Land Stewardship Project" and by the met council, Senator Steve Morse and other legislators from within the government.

This concept is not Minnesota born. There are 1000 Friends organizations in every state and their goals are the same.

Oregon is the godfather of Community Based Planning. All the key players in Minnesota have taken trips to "Mecca" — Oregon — to study how Community Based Planning was implemented there. The Sierra Club in their fall 1997 issue boasts of the wonders the 1000 Friends of Oregon have brought to Portland.

Minnesota's legislation is based on the Oregon law. Community Based Planning is fully imple-

mented in Oregon. There, as in Minnesota, participation was voluntary in the beginning. It is now mandatory. What starts out as a local plan ends up without state approval unless the local plan conforms to the metro's ideas. Gradually all planning is given up to the state and all land becomes permanently zoned. No zoning changes can happen without a change in the overall state land use plan and that is nearly impossible.

The regulations become so cumbersome as to render much rural land as unusable but it is not considered takings because it is regulated, not confiscated.

Ostensibly the purpose is to stop urban sprawl and the loss of agricultural land. As Committee Chairman Ann Rest said this year about Representative Dee Long's bill that would have phased in the extension of CBP: "The local arms of government — townships and county boards — have done such a poor job of planning and zoning that we must mandate it from the state."

So goes local control.

If farmland is so important to be saved then

**Minnesota's legislation is based on the Oregon law. Community Based Planning is fully implemented in Oregon. There, as in Minnesota, participation was voluntary in the beginning. It is now mandatory. What starts out as a local plan ends up without state approval unless the local plan conforms to the metro's ideas. Gradually all planning is given up to the state and all land becomes permanently zoned. No zoning changes can happen without a change in the overall state land use plan and that is nearly impossible.**

why is there such great pressure for farmers to abandon farming in favor of wetland and tall grass prairie restoration in the

most productive land in the United States — the Red River Valley.

Whatever environmental concerns exist they are being used as a cover for the real issue — land control.

Randal O'Toole is from Portland Oregon. He is the president of the Thoreau Institute. He is the editor of a magazine titled "A Different Drummer." A certified planner himself, he lectures all over this country and abroad on the myths surrounding the idea of Community Based Planning. He has fought this fight many years and there is no one better to bring a first hand account of the failure of Community Based Planning every where it has been implemented and the terrible cost in local and personal control it brings in its wake.

Community Based Planning is a nationwide movement with the intent of wresting control of all land away from local governments and individuals. It's goal is the depopulation of the rural areas so to increase the density of the metropolitan area in order

to justify light rail transit and the drastic reduction of SOVs (single occupancy vehicles — your car!)

Minnesota Planning in their booklet *Sustainable Development — The Very Idea* states there must be a "complete reorganization of our way of life." (pg. 7) all planning will conform to Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Bio-diversity Treaty (pg. 5). It says Community Planning will "integrate environmental constraints into the design criteria for everything people do." (pg. 13) and this government planning agency says on page 18 that in order to bring about their vision a series of laws were passed in the last three years culminating with the Community Based Planning Act of 1997.

I trust Minnesota Planning means what they say. Mr. O'Toole will speak graphically about exactly what they mean.

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from the outside by the "1000 Friends of Minnesota" and the "Land Stewardship Project" and by the met council, Senator Steve Morse and other legislators from within the government. ■

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# Downtown and Light Rail in Portland, Oregon

From Ken Nebel

I have been saying that the big supporters of light rail and density are downtown business interests and the construction industry. Confirmation of the first of these comes in the form of an op ed in today's Oregonian in which a downtown realtor pushes both light rail and density (which he describes as "absorbing more residents and employees"). J. Clayton Hering, president of the commercial real estate firm of Norris, Beggs & Simpson, says that we should not only build the south/north light rail, we should greatly increase its cost by building it to Portland's Union Station and Greyhound bus depot. "The additional investment will be repaid a thousand-fold," he says, noting the "phenomenal impact light

rail has had on redevelopment in the Lloyd District."

The Lloyd District redevelopment is probably more due to people wanting to get away from the congestion in downtown than it is to light rail. But now Lloyds is getting to be just as congested as downtown, so people will soon try to avoid that area as well.

Aside from that, Hering fails to note that the main beneficiaries of such redevelopment are realtors such as him. Everyone else will have to pay higher taxes (since new developments along Portland's light rail get 10 years of property tax abatements and other subsidies) and suffer more congestion.

Below is the response to Hering's article that I sent to the Oregonian.

Randal O'Toole

**Most light-rail supporters hope that everyone else will ride the light rail so they can drive on uncongested highways. Most density supporters hope that everyone else will live in high-density developments so they can enjoy low-density neighborhoods.**

Downtown realtor J. Clayton Hering ("Let's do it this time," 8 April) is happy to promote downtown real estate by spending billions of dollars of someone else's money on the south/north light rail. But, for anyone who is not a downtown realtor or developer, the benefits of light rail are dubious at best.

A nineteenth-century

technology whose average speed is only 20 miles per hour will not attract many people out of their automobiles. Metro says that spending \$936 million to build a twelve-mile line from Clackamas Town Center to the Rose Quarter will take just 840 cars off the road during rush hour—an average cost of \$1.1 million per car.

Building the full length from Vancouver to Clackamas does only a little better: 4,200 cars off the road at a cost of more than \$2 billion, which is nearly \$500,000 per car. If reducing congestion is our goal, we can find a lot of less expensive ways to do it.

But congestion reduction is not Metro's goal, nor apparently is it Hering's. Metro and Hering know that congestion in the suburbs will enhance downtown real estate values. So, rather than spend your

highway dollars to reduce congestion, they want to increase it. As Metro says in its Regional Transportation Plan, "congestion signals positive urban development."

More than your highway dollars are at stake in the south/north light rail. Selling the bonds to build this line will cost the average Portland-area homeowner nearly \$1,500 in property taxes. And that's only enough to build half the line: The cost to property owners of building all the way to Vancouver will be nearly double.

Contrary to Hering, we are not "all agreed that Portland's ability to absorb more residents and employees is essential to regional growth management." Does Hering really believe that Portlanders want the tripling of traffic congestion and ten percent increase in smog that Metro predicts

this plan will produce?

Do we really want to pay significantly higher taxes to support a growth plan that packs people in at uncomfortably high densities? How many Portlanders really want to live in high-density residential areas such as the new developments that Hering praises in the Lloyd District?

Most light-rail supporters hope that everyone else will ride the light rail so they can drive on uncongested highways. Most density supporters hope that everyone else will live in high-density developments so they can enjoy low-density neighborhoods. And downtown realtors such as Hering hope to get rich while everyone else pays higher taxes and housing costs.

Randal O'Toole is an economist with the Thoreau Institute in Oak Grove, Oregon. ■

## When They Come for You

From Ken Nebel

The following quote is from Chapter 7 of Fulton Huxtable's web site:

<http://www.fatalblindness.com>

This web site should be required reading for every person who considers themselves a lover of freedom and a foe of slavery and tyranny.

The immoral and reckless indifference of so much of the American public to statist's obliterating freedom in one area after another brings to mind the quote attributed to Protestant minister Martin Neimoller, who reflected upon Germany's fall to the Nazis: "In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

If you are like most Americans, you didn't bother to notice that when statist's came for the owners of "public buildings," violating the property rights of these owners, that, in principle, your rights were undermined, undermining what you may do in your own home. You didn't speak out because you are not an owner of one of these "public buildings."

When statist's came for the owners of tobacco companies, infringing on their right of ownership and restricting their freedom of speech, you didn't speak out because you are not one of the owners of a tobacco company or you are not a smoker or you consider smoking to be an evil which must be wiped out at all costs, even at the cost of your freedom, your freedom to follow your own judgment.

When they persecuted and imprisoned innocent individuals for "abuse," you didn't speak up because you were not the one being persecuted. When they imprisoned those individuals for disturbing the "wetlands," you said nothing because you thought it would never affect you, oblivious to the fact that your backyard is a "wetland."

When they searched, without warrant, the private property of business owners, you said nothing because these were only business owners and you are not a business owner. When they seized property without due process, you said nothing because it wasn't your property being seized, even though it could be and will be tomorrow. When they imposed arbitrary fines, you said nothing because you were not the one victimized. When they kicked in the door of the home of someone suspected of drug possession and killed the innocent owner, you said nothing because your loved one was not the one killed and because you believe anything goes when it comes to fighting drug use. When they drove an innocent

man to suicide in their attempt to collect taxes never owed them, you said nothing because the victim was not someone you knew and valued.

**"In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."**

When they bullied television network executives into accepting a ratings system, you said nothing because you are not an owner of a television station. When they, in the name of children, came for the producers of children's television programs, making it criminal to express certain ideas, you did not speak out because you believe anything can be sacrificed in the name of children, even though these children will not be free when they become adults.

When they suspended the right to trial by jury for accused "deadbeat dads," you said nothing because you are not a deadbeat dad.

Even though you oppose socialized medicine, when they passed legislation further regulating doctors, you said nothing, dismissing it as only a "small step," perhaps hoping it would not affect you in your lifetime, hoping that "somehow" it would not result in socialized medicine. When they got you to accept the idea that your money is not yours, that they may forcibly take "your" money and dictate to you how much you may keep for your own needs, you said nothing because you consider taxation to be a necessary evil. When they came for the online news organizations, you said nothing because you are not a user of online services.

And when they and their evil finally come for you—and they will, if America continues down this road to hell—will there be enough left who will care about your plight, will there be anyone left to speak out for you, to defend you? You already know the answer: there won't be, if this country continues to sink into the cesspool of statism, if most Americans continue to maintain an indifferent silence about freedom's decline. And if you are one of those who have said nothing, then your silence and the logic of your bad premises will finally avenge themselves on you in practice...when they finally come for you. ■

## The Value of Liberty

By Larry Fuhol

As a young boy I learned that liberty is the most important gift from God. My parents would tell me about the terrible things that happened to them in an un-free country.

My mother at age 13 lived in the Polish Ukraine in the town of Carpathon. During World War II when the German Nazis invaded Poland my mother watched as her own people got machine gunned down in the streets. When the Nazis got control of the city a Nazi soldier grabbed my mother by the hair and threw her in a railroad car to be taken to a Nazi work camp. To this day, my mother has never seen or heard from her relatives again.

My father at age 10 lived in the Russian Ukraine in the town of Carloka. When Stalin came to power my father saw first hand how communism worked. Stalin and his communists took his dad's farm, the animals and grain and left them with nothing. The grain was stored along the railroad tracks for miles while armed communists guards watched so no one could take even a handful of grain.

The people of the Russian Ukraine were told that Stalin said anyone who does not conform to communism would starve. My father said it was a terrible sight to see - many people die in the streets from starvation. My dad said no one could fight back because Stalin had confiscated all of the guns from the people. If anyone had said anything bad about Stalin in the middle of the night, a black truck would pick that person up and they were never heard from again.

All of these real life examples are what happens when big government is out of control. My parents came to America in 1948 with the clothes on their backs, two

little children and a suit case. My parents could barely read, write or speak English but they came to America for two reasons individual liberty and self responsibility. A compassionate church in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota sponsored my parents and helped my dad get a job to support his family. They never accepted any welfare or any other government subsidies.

In 1960 my parents moved to Isanti County where they bought a 160 acre farm. My father was very ambitious as he worked in a factory in Minneapolis and also worked on his farm which enabled him to pay off his debt for the farm.

This is an example that with individual liberty and self responsibility you can make it in America wherever you come from.

Individual liberty and self responsibility is what our Founding Fathers knew so well in order to maintain a free society. General George Washington told his troops during the Revolutionary War "Remember soldiers you are freemen fighting for the blessings of liberty. Remember that you and your decedents will become slaves if you do not acquit your selves like men." Thomas Jefferson said "The same God that gave us life is the same God that gave us liberty."

The Constitution was written so that we would have a limited Constitutional federal government. We as citizens were free to enjoy liberty without governmental intervention as long as you did not violate another persons Constitutional Rights. If more people would understand the Constitution we could enjoy the liberty our Founding Fathers fought for. Instead, today we have an overgrown bureaucracy that intrudes into every aspect of our everyday lives. ■

**Speak out now, before it's too late.**

# Convention Platform Changes

Three platform changes were adopted at convention. The changes are as follows:

page 4 of 13:  
9. Drugs and Alcohol  
The title has been changed to:  
9. Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol

The second paragraph has been changed to:

We favor the repeal of all prohibition-type laws against the sale or use of any drug, tobacco or alcohol. Prohibition artificially increases the price of the product, resulting in violent crime. However, users of drugs, tobacco and alcohol must be held fully responsible for their actions.

page 5 of 13:  
14. Due Process for the Criminally Accused:

Add the following paragraph after the existing first sentence:

We also call for a repeal and elimination of all laws, rules, regulations and interpretations thereof as well as civil actions by the government which deprive individuals of their property (asset forfei-

ture) without being found guilty of any crime.

page 8 of 13:  
11. Transportation  
This paragraph has been changed to:

We advocate a true free market in transportation; accordingly we support systematic privatization of all forms of transportation including, but not limited to: Amtrak, all airports, taxicab and bus services. We support elimination of all state and federal transportation regulations and regulatory agencies.

Minor format changes:  
page 4 of 13  
9. Drugs and Alcohol  
paragraph 3, insert a space between the words "previous" and "wars".

page 5 of 13  
13. The Right to Keep and Bear Arms  
paragraph one, add a "d" to the word "an" to make it "and".

page 5 of 13  
15. Restitution for the Falsely Accused

add the word "or" between the words "conviction" and "which."

# To Win Converts We Must Win Arguments

By Bill Boushka

At the April 18 LPMN Convention, 1996 presidential candidate Harry Browne outlined a strategy for gradually getting more libertarians elected to both local and national offices. He optimistically predicted that, if his formula were followed, we might within two decades have many Libertarians in Congress, governorships, and possibly even the White House.

A critical part of his suggestion was to recognize the difference between "winning converts" and "winning arguments."

Libertarianism, on its face, appeals to self-interest and to apparently primitive moral principles, such as personal sovereignty balanced with personal responsibility, and non-aggression.

Harry Browne's April speech, in fact, mentioned some plausible counter arguments to our strategies, but even Browne did not get down to all the fundamentals.

The public, in fact, will have to be convinced that it can really "afford" libertarianism and \*non-usufructual self-ownership. We're familiar with the rough outlines of the counter arguments. The Left indignantly talks about how a culture of undeserved "selfishness" is predicated on minority oppression and exploitation; the Right talks

about "family values" as most narrowly interpreted. Both sides suggest that ordered liberty, as we know it, cannot survive the anarchy that ideological libertarianism seems to demand; it's like keeping civilization going on Mars with almost no atmosphere (well, maybe the Grays can).

Most people, in fact, grow up with the idea that representative democracy

**It's about personal responsibility, but it's even more than about not doing wrong; it's about affirmatively changing your own personal priorities."**

is supposed to resolve common moral matters, like those requiring shared sacrifice, personal restraint or even certain conformity in psychological motivation, so that "normal" and even disadvantaged people can leave productive family lives in relative comfort. The idea that morality may itself have layers which government cannot or should not reach is rather new to most people. The creative process required when government retreats is not an easy sell, because the remaining popular tension and energy do not appear to be based in meeting real people's immediate

needs.

The problems concerning equal rights for lesbians and gay men provide a good sneak preview into this moral debate. For example, why should gays hide behind the concept of "immutability," even if that notion is a scientific half-truth? Why shouldn't the choice of adult significant other be a basic individual right and choice under personal sovereignty? The moralists on both sides, used to a tradition of collective aesthetic realism, shrug in stunned disbelief on that one.

There is a good way, though, to present libertarianism to the still uninitiated public in a way that is both simple and intellectually honest. We can say something like this. "Government shall not attempt to regulate personal moral choices except one: that one adult human being does not perform aggression upon or violate the choices of another. If you think this just gives people more freedom than they can handle, ask yourself this. First: are you uncomfortable with having more freedom because your freedom to succeed means you are "free" to fail, that if you can choose or reject others, then they can likewise reject you? Second, if you are objecting to slicing open the safety net, are you uncomfortable with caring yourself for or about vulnerable or needy people,

especially in your own family?" This would be a good way to pull moral debate away from the "collective good" back to expanded personal responsibility. We've got to get people to savor their own sour grapes and sweet lemons.

This might be a way to say to people: "we can get rid of all income taxes - both federal and state - and replace them with nothing. It's up to you. It's about personal responsibility, but it's even more than about not doing wrong; it's about affirmatively changing your own personal priorities." From these questions, we can then go to many of the more specific problems, such as the environment, health care, the aged, privacy rights, discrimination, and military policy.

A more libertarian future requires both numbers and depth. It requires both action and love. Yet, with both components we can see both political and psychological libertarianism explode. ■

Bill Boushka  
Owner, High Productivity Publishing,  
Author: *DO ASK, DO TELL: A GAY CONSERVATIVE LASHES BACK* (1997)  
<http://www.hppub.co>

\* usufruct means the "right to use the property of another [rent-free] as long as the property is not

# Help the LP, Help Yourself at the Same Time

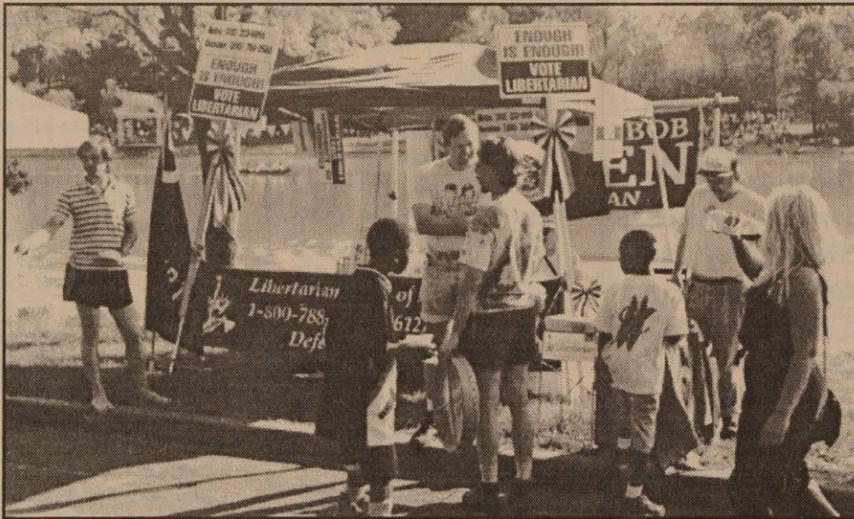
By Eric Johnson

The Libertarian Party continues to grow past the 25,000 member mark nationwide. This is very encouraging for anyone who has been around for a while. When I joined 3 years ago, national membership wasn't even at the 10,000 mark. It seems we are approaching the "critical mass" point, where our success becomes an avalanche. I hope we don't get buried by our success from overlooking a few things.

While many people, including 1996 LP presidential candidate Harry Browne, tells us membership growth is the key to our success, I think there is something they are missing. While big numbers are great, we need something else from those big numbers besides campaign contributions. We need active LP members.

The purpose of a political party is to run candidates for public office.

Imagine the day when we have a third or more of the seats in legislatures and city councils filled with libertarians. The size and intrusiveness of government will finally be



Forrest Wilkinson and Bob Odden, LPMN candidate for Auditor hand out the World's Smallest Political Quiz to the throngs of people at the 24th annual Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre May Day celebration in Powderhorn Park in South Minneapolis

reduced, income taxes slashed or abolished, economic opportunities dramatically increased. But it won't happen by itself. It will take more than just money. In order for the libertarian revolution to succeed, the members of the Libertarian Party must get involved to one extent or another.

I know people are busy with work, family, and everything else. But ask yourself how much more time you would have if you didn't have to work to pay all the taxes that are levied

on us. Depending on how you calculate the tax burden, 35 to 50 % of the money you earn is taken from you either in taxes, or costs of government regulation. How much higher do the numbers have to go before people, particularly libertarians, say "enough!"?

Are you ready to get involved, but don't know where to start? I know the feeling. I slowly began getting involved with the outreach committee.

Soon I was the outreach chair, and the more I got involved, the more I

discovered we could be doing. The sky is the limit to what we could be doing to get our ideas out to people who are fed up with government. I learned the best way to help grow the party is by running candidates for office, so earlier this year I stepped down as outreach chair to focus on my campaign for US Congress.

Here is what you can do to defend your freedom:

-Be a candidate. If you aren't ready to be a candidate, go to the library and

learn about campaigning for public office. As a third party candidate, there is the added challenge of not only getting name recognition, but gaining credibility. I think every candidate should emphasize that we are not only tackling the tough issues by consistently defending individual liberty, but we are building a new political party that can challenge the old parties precinct by precinct, where elections are won.

-Help our candidates with money, or your time. Every candidate needs a campaign manager to help with the logistics of a campaign. We need people to drop off literature door to door. Elections are won by identifying those people who support us, and making sure they make it to the polls.

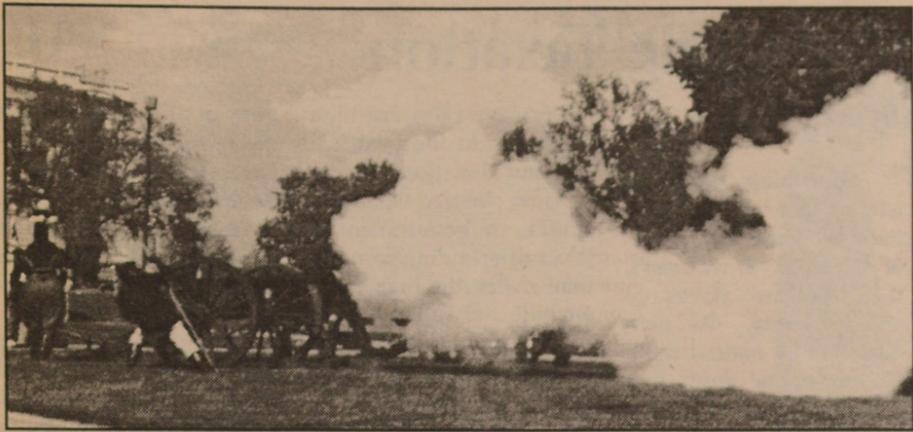
The only way we will be able to do that is with active members walking the rounds, making the phone calls, doing their share in their communities.

-Get involved with your local LP affiliate. We need to grow this party from the top down...and the bottom up. We have a national party organization, a state

organization, and a few county affiliates. We need more county affiliates representing the Libertarian Party at their local events, fairs, gun shows, etc. It is frustrating to not be able to direct willing volunteers to a local organization. As more people are emboldened to challenge the status quo parties, they need a local affiliate to get started with.

As a member of the executive committee, I get more and more calls from people who are fed up with the government and politicians. They ask why we aren't protesting one thing or another, why we can't get libertarians elected. I try to remind them we are just like everyone else, we don't have enough time to do everything we would like. If we had more people involved, even doing just the little things, we could eventually restore sanity to the government.

A few hours a month, and an extra push during election years like this will pay out enormous benefits of more freedom and greater prosperity in a few years. ■



Another salute to freedom from Berg's Battery and the Princeton, MN Militia at the 5th annual Freedom Day on the Capitoil Mall in St. Paul. Sponsored by the River Warren Research Committee and the Libertarian Party of Minnesota Freedom Day is always a blast.

## There's Only One Way to End IRS Abuses

[The following article was faxed to 929 people in the press, broadcasting, business, and various activist organizations last weekend. It resulted in radio interviews for Harry on the Curtis Silwa show on WABC, New York; The Capital Hill Reporter, syndicated on the United Broadcasting Network (UBN); Doug Stephan's syndicated "Good Day USA" show; the Jerry Hughes show, syndicated on the UBN; and "Lionel" on WABC, New York.]

### COMMENTARY

By Harry Browne

Those who hate the income tax (roughly 99% of Americans) cheered when a Senate committee allowed IRS victims to tell their heart-breaking stories to the TV cameras.

So what will come from these revelations of Internal Revenue Service abuse?

Absolutely nothing. The politicians will play on the IRS as a campaign issue, but they won't do anything to soften it.

An enormous government, costing \$1.7 trillion a year, requires a pitiless, energetic, take-no-prisoners tax-collection agency. If the IRS were reined in, revenue would plummet and the politicians would have to reduce government. No chance.

So despite the grandstanding, no one is going to "pull the IRS up by the roots" or "drive a stake through its heart." They may change its name to the Benevolent Revenue Service, but its methods won't change.

A flat tax won't eliminate the IRS. You might file your return on a postcard, but your friendly IRS agent will still summon you and all your records — forcing you to prove you don't have unreported income or fictitious exemptions.

And it's misleading to think a flat tax or a national sales tax will lower your tax burden. Proponents of either proposal talk of tax

rates in the 15% - 20% range, replacing the current 15% - 40% income tax rates. It might sound great, but it's pure fiction.

Whether a flat tax or a sales tax, by the time the politicians exempt the poor

**If the IRS were reined in, revenue would plummet and the politicians would have to reduce government.**

and their most important political backers, a tax rate of 30% or more will be required to finance a \$1.7 trillion budget. Who's going to support a 30% tax?

"Tax reform" merely redistributes the awful burden of big government. The more people who are exempted, the more you will pay to cover the lost revenue. The come-on is that you'll pay less; the truth is that you'll pay more for the goodies the politicians give to their friends.

Spokesmen for the flat tax tell us it will produce "more prosperity, higher incomes, and higher revenue."

Oh really? With the revenue it receives now, the federal government is destroying our education and health-care systems, and it's regulating companies and property owners into bankruptcy. Just think what it could do to you with even *more* revenue.

The flat tax, sales tax, and IRS reform are con games whose time will never come. They are issues politicians can use to raise money and gather votes, but they will never be realities.

We can be free of the IRS only by reducing government to its Constitutional functions — eliminating the need for an income tax and the IRS, and letting the present level of tariffs and excise taxes pay for the remaining activities of government.

At the same time, the

only way to reduce government by even one dollar is to repeal the income tax — because voters won't support reductions in government programs without a major incentive. By combining a massive downsizing of government with the outright repeal of the income tax, we can propose the Great Libertarian Offer to the American people:

Would you give up your favorite federal programs if it meant you never had to pay income tax again?

Only in this way will we ever reduce government, and only in this way will we get rid of the IRS.

So while Republicans and Democrats posture with "tax reform," Libertarians are working for nothing less than the total repeal of your income tax through a massive reduction in the size of the federal government.

Which side are you on? Or, more important, who's on your side? ■

Harry Browne is a Senior Editor at Liberty magazine, and was the 1996 Libertarian presidential candidate.

New subscribers are always welcome.

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LibertyWire is published by the HARRY BROWNE 2000 Exploratory Committee 2556 Virginia Avenue NW/Suite 101 Washington, DC 20037

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## What Do You Want from Politics & How Will You Get It?

By Harry Browne

While the Democrats and Republicans in Washington mud-wrestle over vouchers, Medical Savings Accounts, looting the tobacco companies, and regulating the size of your toilet, perhaps you should stand back and ask yourself what you really want.

Are any of the issues the politicians fight over going to change your life significantly? Or are these battles just more of the intramural squabbling-

vices) that some people will buy regardless of their legality. The nightmare of Prohibition will finally be over.

- Every provision of the Bill of Rights will be honored. Your person and property will be safe from random searches and seizures, and your right to protect your family and home with firearms will never be compromised.

- You will no longer fear

Ah, you say, it sounds good, but Libertarians can't win.

**In a Libertarian America:**

- You will pay no income, estate, or gift tax because a government limited by the Constitution will be small enough to get by on today's tariffs and excise taxes.

That's true (for now). But you can't win either. Even when you vote for the winning candidate, you don't get what you want. You get a constantly growing government and more attacks on your business, your income, and your family's values. When did you last vote for a candidate who actually achieved what you wanted?

No party can give us a free America overnight or even in one election cycle. The Republicans and Democrats have shown that - whether they have the White House or Congress - they will never give us what we want. The Libertarians, however, are building a party that could be big enough, strong enough, and rich enough to challenge the old parties in 2000, and take the first real step toward a Libertarian America. ■



Pamela and Harry Browne speak with Brent and Debby Jass of Odin, MN at the Libertarian Party of Minnesota's 1998 state convention April 18

about-nothing that has dominated Washington for 50 years? Isn't the outcome predictable - that, no matter who wins on any issue, government will grow and your freedom to control your own life will shrink?

Libertarians ignore all this jostling, and are working instead to build the kind of society most non-politicians really want.

In a Libertarian America:

- You will pay no income, estate, or gift tax because a government limited by the Constitution will be small enough to get by on today's tariffs and excise taxes.

- You will no longer be forced to pay 15% of your income to a fraudulent retirement scheme like Social Security. Every dollar you earn will be yours to spend, save, or give away as you see fit.

- You will be free to choose for yourself which products are safe and beneficial. Government regulation will no longer run up the price of everything you buy, hold down the wages you earn, or keep lifesaving medicines out of your reach.

- Your neighborhood will be safe because government will no longer foster a criminal black market in drugs (or in other products or ser-

**Every provision of the Bill of Rights will be honored. Your person and property will be safe from random searches and seizures, and your right to protect your family and home with firearms will never be compromised.**

that your children will fight in a foreign war, or that terrorists will target your city. A Libertarian government will mind its own business, quit making enemies abroad, and rely on a strong defense against both missiles and invasion for peace, rather than by threatening potential attackers with massive retaliation.

- With no income tax, you'll have the money to enroll your child in any private or religious school that meets your standards and values. Your children will no longer be captives of the educational bureaucracy.

Isn't that what you really want? An end to a \$1.7 trillion government. An end to invasions of the Constitution. A society governed by individual liberty and personal responsibility - rather than by Bill Clinton, Newt Gingrich, and Teddy Kennedy.

- With no income tax, you'll have the money to enroll your child in any private or religious school that meets your standards and values. Your children will no longer be captives of the educational bureaucracy.

Isn't that what you want? If so, call (800) 272-1776 for more information.

Or should you cheer on the mud-wrestlers as they thrash at each other over nothing?

Harry Browne, is a Senior Editor at Liberty magazine, and was the 1996 Libertarian presidential candidate.

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## Libertarian World Wide Web Sites:

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's  
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<http://www.lpmn.org>

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's  
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## Libertarian Party of Minnesota upcoming events

June 27 & 28, 1998 Gay Pride in Loring Park, MPLS

July 2-5, 1998

Libertarian Party National Convention in Wash, DC

## July 7-21, 1998 Ballot access petitioning

July 15 - 19

Ramsey County Fair Harriet Island, St. Paul

July 29 - August 2

Washington County Fair Lake Elmo

August 4 - 9 Anoka County Fair Anoka

August 10 - 16 Dakota County Fair Farmington

August 16 Cedarfest in Minneapolis

August 27 - September 7

State Fair St. Paul State Fairgrounds

## Replacing Taxation

By Ken Iverson

Something within us tells us that we should be the sole owners of the fruits of our labor. If we aren't, then we are slaves to another entity. We own ourselves by natural right. No person or group can claim ownership of another person. And since we own ourselves, it follows that we have the right to continue owning ourselves. Since this is so, it means that we have a right to live. From our right to live comes our right to sustain our lives. This brings in our right to acquire property.

Acquiring property may occur through our labor, through no prior claim to an item of property, through barter, for services rendered or other peaceful means. We have no right to the property of another unless the property is given (or traded) consensually.

Since taxation in its many forms extracts property from us without our consent, our natural law of rights has been broken. Therefore all taxation is immoral, violates nature, and constitutes theft. To many in modern society, this may seem an outrageous claim. Surely government must levy taxes or anarchy would ensue. Whether or not government performs good deeds with our taxes is immaterial to the extent of its methods of filling its treasury. Taxation is theft. But if we are not anarchists we must find other ways whereby government can operate within its only justified realm, protecting person and property from aggressors.

Four ways in which government can operate without taxation are by: donations, fines, user fees, and voluntary associations. Firstly, we are free to donate to government's treasury. That right will not likely be taken away. However, only those who sincerely believe in the general modern day functions of government would likely donate. Since

today's tax rates are high compared to the past, we see few donations to the treasury. Instead we usually see in government a flood of spending to more than match the high taxes we pay.

If we can justify a government role in protecting people and their personal property from harm, we may authorize government to exact fines as partial punishment for harm to person or property above and beyond retribution to the victim. This already occurs at some levels of government and provides another reason for obeying laws. Raising fine levels would lead to less law-breaking and more in government's treasury to further thwart crime and help pay for our justice system. We must, however, keep in mind that the only real crimes are acts of harm against individuals or their possessions.

**Four ways in which government can operate without taxation are by: donations, fines, user fees, and voluntary associations.**

User fees offer another interesting option. Using government services and property, just as in the private sector, justifies compensation. A user fee is voluntary compensation for a fee-based service. A payment for using that to which a government claims ownership can thereby be justified. Today's gasoline tax is a user fee of sorts, if it provides for the maintenance of government property (roads). However, in that sense, the term "tax" should be replaced with "user fee". Also, some purists would argue that all roads should be privately owned. In any case, user fees provide a realistic and voluntary way of adding to government coffers.

A fourth and final method of unforced additions to government's treasury is through voluntary associations. As they exist today, voluntary associa-

tions of all sorts provide a means for groups with similar needs and desires to pool assets when seeking the same ends. We see this occurring all around us with homeowner associations, clubs, charity organizations, churches, security associations, financial groups and cooperatives. In addition, individuals donate time and expertise toward countless endeavors where the needs of others are met. All of these entities thrive on voluntary giving toward common goals.

**User fees offer another interesting option. Using government services and property, just as in the private sector, justifies compensation. A user fee is voluntary compensation for a fee-based service. A payment for using that to which a government claims own-**

Thus there are at least four ways by which a government can secure ample revenue for protecting person and property without taxing its citizens. This answers those arguments that taxation is a must. Any forced penance, including any tax, implies one has broken a law, common or otherwise. Taxation is theft with unjustifiable brute force. Tax proponents and special interest zealots would like you to believe that taxation is a necessary deviation from our natural rights as expressed by the US Constitution. But a quick look at a few alternatives shows us that the zealots are wrong.

Taxes are indeed theft, and we would get along splendidly without them. Those who want to pool money and possessions in voluntary association have every right to do so, but must leave the rest of us alone to decide on our own disposition of property. There is no better time than now to initiate an end to each and every tax.

Vote libertarian! ■

## Cable access systems running **LIBERTY**

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**Madison: (Check local listings)**

# Tax Protest Draws Media Attention

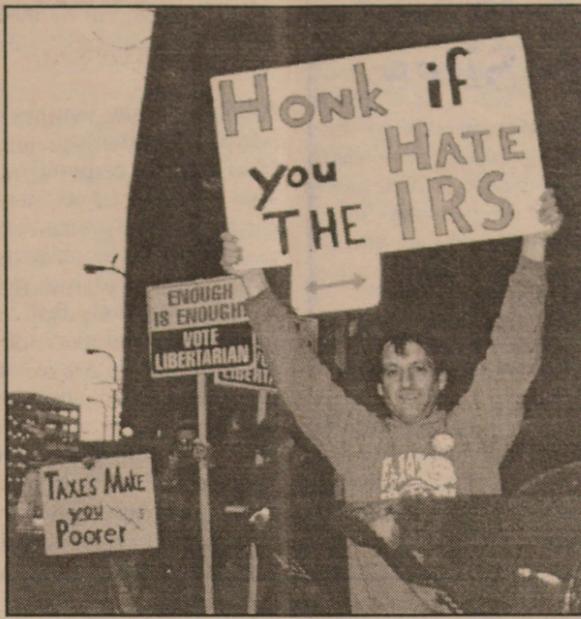
By Kyle D. Vraa

On April 15, the Libertarian Party of Minnesota held its annual tax protest in downtown Minneapolis. Large numbers of last-minute filers converged on the main post office to drop off their income tax returns. Those coming to sacrifice the earnings that fund the wasteful schemes of career politicians were met by a sizable contingent of Libertarians who held signs decrying confiscatory federal and state income tax rates.

the protest were overwhelmingly supportive.

Those coming to sacrifice the earnings that fund the wasteful schemes of career politicians were met by a sizable contingent of Libertarians who held signs decrying confiscatory federal and state income tax rates.

The protest was successful in generating significant media attention. The media has traditionally been apathetic towards the tax protest. A demonstration whose objective is to persuade government NOT to do something is undoubtedly an alien con-



LPMNer Forrest Wilkinson offered this suggestion to last minute tax filers on April 15 at the Main Minneapolis Post Office

cept for mainstream media.

This year, however, the Libertarian Party gained exposure to a wide viewing audience on most of the local television news broadcasts. KSTP TV coverage featured several background shots of Libertarians holding protest signs with messages prominently advertising the Libertarian Party. Their segment ended with a close-up of Forrest Wilkinson displaying his "VOTE LIBERTARIAN" sign directly for the camera. Coming on the heels of the budget surplus rallies at the Capitol in March, the tax protest capped an amazing surge of exposure for the Libertarian Party in print and broadcast media.

The annual tax protest has become so well established that other groups routinely try to piggyback on Libertarian efforts with causes of their own. Participating in events such as the tax protest is a good way for members to become active in the party. More Libertarian participants would help prevent its anti-tax message from being muddled by the animal rights crowd and Women Against Military Madness. Party members should mark their calendar for next year's protest. The more participants Libertarians have, the more media attention the protest will attract. ■

# Freedom of Choice in Education

By Jim Rongstad

Up until a few years I was a supporter of public education and its bond and operating levy referendums. I even worked for the 1988 bond referendum when I lived in the Mahtomedi school district. During the years my daughter attended public school in Woodbury, I gradually became disillusioned with the schools. My wife and I decided when my daughter was in second grade that it was time to look at private schools. We were concerned about both the cost of tuition and entrance requirements of private schools. These concerns were based on what we had heard repeatedly from those in public education.

Contrary to the rhetoric of those in public education we found the tuition to be quite reasonable and entrance requirements non-existent. Both our children are now in their third year of private school and we are quite pleased with the school and our children's progress.

I became interested in learning more about education as a result of the contrast between my personal experience with private schools and what the public education establishment consistently claims about private schools. The reality is that most of what the public education establishment says about private schools is a gross distortion.

The truth is that the vast majority of private schools have low tuition, offer tuition assistance, do not have entrance examinations and are as racially and economically diverse as public schools.

The public education bureaucracy has successfully used the few expensive and hard to get into schools, such as St. Paul Academy or Breck, to represent private schools in

general. This is a distortion on the same scale as using the size and cost of a few of the mansions on Summit Avenue to represent the typical St. Paul home to someone from out of state.

The constant refrain from the education establishment is that the public schools need more money. But is more money really the solution? According to the U. S. Department of Education, inflation adjusted per pupil spending in public schools in 1990, was three "times as much as it was in 1960." I want to emphasize this is per pupil spending that has been adjusted to take inflation into account. In addition the U. S. Department of Education in 1992 said that per pupil spending in U. S. public schools exceeded the per pupil spending of any other major economic power. In fact per pupil spending in U.S. public schools was double that found in Germany and Japan.

The typical private elementary school in Minnesota spends half as much per pupil as the typical public elementary school in Minnesota. In general these private schools achieve better results than their public counterparts. Furthermore, contrary to what the education establishment would have us believe the demographics of private schools are very similar to those of the public schools.

Why does this cost discrepancy exist between public and private schools? It is because private schools must compete in the free market where the parents are true consumers who therefore look at cost and results when making a decision on whether to choose a particular school. Private schools know that if they allow costs to soar or results to decline they will soon lose their customers and cease to exist. Public

schools on the other hand do not operate in the realm of the free market, they operate in the realm of politics. In the political environment the consumer (parents) are merely a minor player, a mere nuisance. This is especially true as more and more control is moved from the local level and given to the state.

**The typical private elementary school in Minnesota spends half as much per pupil as the typical public elementary school in Minnesota. In general these private schools achieve better results than their public school counterparts. Furthermore, contrary to what the education establishment would have us believe the demographics of private schools are very similar to those of the public schools.**

At the state level education policies are subject to pressure and financial influence of special interest groups ranging from the largest (the teachers unions) to a myriad of others that try to have their agenda imposed on all students, whether the parents like it or not. If parents don't agree with the agenda they do not have the option of not paying their taxes to support the public school. In addition many parents who wish to send their children to private school are precluded from doing so because they cannot afford to pay for school twice. The political and bureaucratic control of the public schools is similar to that of the failed socialist economies of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe where the political class and bureaucracy controlled the factories. The factories turned out goods as determined by the bureaucrats, instead of by consumer

demand. Just like these factories, the funding of the public schools continue whether or not they meet the needs of their customer.

Even on a local scale we can see the public schools serving the needs of the political class and not the parents. A group of parents in Woodbury's Seasons neighborhood who live in the North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale School District, courtesy of a politically determined boundary, wished to have their children attend South Washington County schools with the rest of the neighborhood children.

Due to the political rules currently in place, the only way to accomplish this desire would be to have the political boundary adjusted to move the neighborhood into the South Washington County School District.

The North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale School Board refused this request because they didn't want to lose the tax base. Moral: The loss of tax dollars to the District is more important than the needs of a few parents and their children. Even though their needs were denied these parents have the great privilege of continuing to pay their tax dollars to support this unresponsive entity.

Even more important than the financial arguments for returning to a free market in education, is the basic ideal which this country was founded on: Individual Liberty. The education establishment is fond of saying that public schools are vital for our country and democratic institutions. They conveniently ignore the fact that the United States was founded without public schools and that education was provided almost exclusively by private schools until the 1830's.

The rise of the public school rode on the back of anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic sentiments of this

era. The public schools were designed to make these immigrants good Protestants. In other words the schools were seen as a means to indoctrinate certain politically determined values whether they were wanted by the parents or not.

This conflict continues today whether it is sex education, multi-culturalism, school prayer, Outcome Based Education and on ad infinitum. If we return schools to the free market, then parents will be able to choose schools that are compatible with their beliefs and values. The free market will allow more choices in many other areas as well.

Some schools may offer extensive music and theater programs, others

**The rise of the public school rode on the back of anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic sentiments of this era. The public schools were designed to make these immigrants good Protestants. In other words the schools were seen as a means to indoctrinate certain politically determined values whether they were wanted by the parents or not.**

may emphasize vocational courses or college prep. The key is that parents will be able to select a school to meet their needs and values. Instead of the absurd idea that there is one best way or method of learning, a free market will open the door to a wide variety of ideas while not forcing parents to accept nor fund those they believe foolish or harmful.

A program or educational method that may work wonderfully for one student may be an absolute disaster for another. A free market in education will be

beneficial for teachers also. Instead of having to adjust their teaching method to the latest directive of the education bureaucracy, they can seek employment with a school that shares their philosophy.

The education bureaucracy will attack an education free market on the basis that the poor will not be able to provide for their children's education and that this is why we need government run schools funded by taxes. This too is not true. Before the advent of public schools in this country, education was widespread over all economic classes of society.

The fallacy of this education establishment argument can be seen by the fact that the government does not run tax supported grocery stores that hand out free food to rich, middle class and poor alike (or at least not yet).

In summary, a free market in education will be more efficient and sensitive to the desires of parents, resulting in an improved product at a lower cost. Parents will have a wide variety of schools to choose from and the never ending struggle over values and methods would come to an end. ■

For more information on this subject I would suggest the following books:

*Dumbing Us Down*  
John Taylor Gatto  
*Why Schools Fail*  
Bruce Goldberg  
*School Choice*  
David Harmer  
*Separating School & State*  
Sheldon Richman

If you are interested in ending government controlled schools contact:

The Separation of School & State Alliance  
4578 N. First #310  
Fresno, CA 93726  
(209) 292-1776  
(209) 292-7582 Fax  
www.sepschool.org



**Frank J. Germann for Governor of Minnesota**

Age: 55  
Current occupation: Retired Civil Engineer with

31 years of government service.

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

The Republican Party and their utter failure to make any progress in reducing taxes and regulation after talking a libertarian talk in order to win votes. Working for the government also helped to show me just how hopeless the government is. The government is counterproductive in almost everything it does.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

Reduce taxes, hopeful-

ly to near zero. Reduce regulations to only those that are necessary (drive on the right side of the street, stop for red lights, go for green, that sort of thing). Privatize all services that the government doesn't need to be in. Private enterprise is generally much more efficient than government at producing services for people.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

*Free to Choose* by Milton Friedman because it was one of the first books of a libertarian bent that I had read. Others like Adam

Smith's *Wealth of Nations* and all books by Ayn Rand are influential, but by then my mind was already made up.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?**

They (the people) certainly can't win if the Democrats and/or the Republicans win. They will just get more of the same, that is, higher taxes and more regulation. Any vote for Libertarians will not be wasted even if we lose. Each vote will serve as a wake up call to the legislature. It will say: "You better start changing your

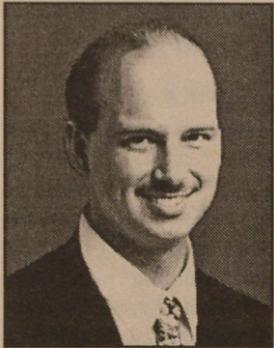
**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

The legislature had a four billion dollar surplus that they blew. They spent almost all of it instead of giving it back to the people from whom it was taken.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

My likely opponents are Coleman, Humphrey, and Ventura. Coleman's weakness is that he supported a new taxpayer funded stadium for the Twins and a taxpayer funded arena for a professional hockey team in Saint Paul.

Humphrey's weakness is what he believes is his strength, the suit against the tobacco companies. A large number of people don't think the settlement was very fair. It, in reality, amounts to a large tax on the one third of the population that smokes. People that smoke should be allowed to smoke if they want and should be held responsible for any damages they do, that is, the rest of us should not be required to pay for their health needs should they get sick.



**Michael C. Strand for Lt. Governor**

Age: 35  
Current occupation: Production Employee-Andersen Corporation

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

Principle.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

1. Eliminate auto emissions test.
2. End annual vehicle registration.
3. Eliminate property taxes and government education.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

Richard Bach

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?**

Not thinking like that! Besides, I definitely wouldn't win if I didn't run.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

Giving back tax surplus.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

Out of touch with most Minnesotans

**Any other comment for publication? (Optional)**

Minnesotans are

good people. Let's stop treating them like bad children.



**Ken Iverson for Minnesota Secretary of State**

Age: 46  
Current occupation: Software engineer

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

The nomination of Dan Quayle to the Republican ticket in 1988.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

The dissemination of information about the Libertarian Party, the elimination of taxes, the elimination of public welfare.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

*Freedom Daily*, a monthly pamphlet by the Future of Freedom Foundation, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800, Fairfax Virginia. Also, *Why Government Doesn't Work* by Harry Browne.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?**

A vote for either of the two major parties is a vote

for more government, which is probably not what you really want. Your only hope for less government and more individual freedom is the Libertarian Party.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

The 5% vote barrier for minor parties to hurdle for placement on the ballot without petition. This is much too high, keeping Dems and Reps controlling

the levers of power. For this office alone, 2,000 voter signatures are required to see a Libertarian name on the ballot.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

Her complacency and belief in the status quo.

**Any other comment for publication? (Optional)**

Welfare in Minnesota is going to send business packing and the most talented people with it. Is that what you want? I doubt it

because that would make us all poorer. Ending welfare will give people back their social conscience. Ending taxes will give people back their belongings, facilitating goodwill and replacing public welfare with compassion for the truly needy.



**Ruth A. Mason for Minnesota Attorney General**

Age: 44  
Current occupation: Cable TV volunteer, Cable TV technician (for City of St. Anthony), and homemaker

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

I came into contact

with the party both through my husband and through my cable TV volunteer work. Once exposed to the party's ideas, I saw that they were logical, unlike other parties which cater to special interests. I was impressed with the party's work to try to restore and maintain the type of government the founders envisioned.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

I feel that the majority of people understand, as we do, that government is too big and a threat to their freedom. They just don't know what to do about it. So, I believe it is important to make them aware of the Libertarian Party. As Attorney General, I will rearrange the priorities of Minnesota's law enforce-

ment. Your tax dollars will not be squandered to prosecute people for victimless "crimes." I will give priority to protecting the citizens of Minnesota from harm through force or fraud, including that inflicted by the government.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

Harry Browne (and his book *Why Government Doesn't Work*) and Dr. Mary J. Ruwart (and her book *Healing Our World*). I have had the privilege of hearing both of them speak in person. I also had the exciting opportunity to have dinner with Harry Browne and his wife at this year's state convention.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?**

**How will you respond?**

It is better than trying to run as a Whig or a Federalist. Parties have come into existence, grown old, and died. The Republicans and Democrats are now in power, but are faltering. As was the case with other parties before them, their end will come, and likely soon. The Libertarian Party is growing and winning. Yes, we don't win the majority of our races yet, but we are advancing steadily. We are the party of the future. Our chances are getting better all the time. Every time we win one, we get publicity that helps in the next contest. And it ain't over 'till it's over; just ask President Dewey.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

The Office of the Attorney General has been pursuing a very wrong course. The tobacco settlement is a prime example. The incumbent got the tobacco companies to agree to collect more money from Minnesota consumers, and redistribute it to lawyers and insurance companies. Over five hundred million dollars to the lawyers. Another large sum to insurance companies who are already charging large enough premiums to operate at a comfortable profit. Out of the pockets of the ordinary consumers. That's obscene. Encouraged by this success, he's now suing Microsoft, and investigating Major League Baseball. This from

an office that is charged with the protection of the people. I want to correct the course, and make the office once again a servant of the people.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

The other parties have not yet made their nominations, but I think all the candidates are lawyers. That is certainly a weak area for them. The Attorney General is a policy maker who happens to supervise lawyers. Putting a lawyer in charge of that operation is probably why we're paying half a billion dollars to a law firm for the tobacco mess. We need somebody who knows the value of a dollar, as many lawyers evidently do not.

**Mitch Berg for State Treasurer**

Age: 35  
Current occupation: I own a software User Interface design firm.

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

I grew up in a very statist, big-government family. Over the years, my faith in big government eroded further and further. There was

no "straw that broke the camel's back" - but a number of events made me sit up and take notice that Washington has strayed a long way from its original ethic of "limited government."

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

- 1) Abolish the office of Treasurer.
- 2) Educate the public (by example, at the very least) in the benefits of reducing

the size and intrusiveness of government.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

*Modern Times* by Paul Johnson, with *Parliament of Whores* by P.J. O'Rourke a strong second.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?**

**How will you respond?**

If I educate even one Minnesota voter - start even one of them on the journey that leads them eventually away from blind faith in the nanny-state then it's a victory. If we repeat this process enough - and convince enough Minnesotans that security follows liberty rather than the other way around then victory will happen.

Maybe not this election but eventually people will realize the liberties they've lost. And we'll be there.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

As an integral part of Libertarianism is seeking to divest ourselves of needless government, I will be moving to abolish the State Treasurer as a constitutional office. It serves virtually no purpose, and the tax-

payer will receive a better value for their money by abolishing the office.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

They're too well-funded. Too well-organized. Too many volunteers, too much help from a too-well-funded state and national party apparatus. I think they're in serious danger of being too overconfident!



**Bob Odden for State Auditor**

Age: 47

Current occupation:  
Safety Consultant in

the Loss Prevention Department of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. Part of my job is to audit the safety programs of Liberty Mutual's business insured. If a weakness in the business safety program is found, recommendations are made.

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

In College I read Ayn Rand's books and wanted to be around like-minded people. I feel that the Libertarian Party, through the election process, is a great way to educate the public. I want to live in a world that is freer, peaceful,

and safer (Libertarian).

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

1. To sell the public on specific Libertarian changes in a campaign. This will show that Libertarian ideas can solve problems.

2. To get Libertarians labeled as Libertarians out in front of the public. This will get the public wondering about what makes Libertarians different. I have been working to get Libertarians to run for political office.

3. To get Libertarians active in their personal lives promoting Libertarian ideas.

This can be done through school board meetings, marching in parades, neighborhood groups, writing to the local paper, or converting relatives to Libertarian ideas. I have contacted Libertarian members by phone to encourage individuals to get more active.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

*Atlas Shrugged*

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian.**

**How will you respond?**  
We may not win this election, but we will win. Winning may not involve

getting into office at first, but getting Libertarian ideas into politics. We have a message that almost sells itself, we just need to communicate it.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

To do more than just audit to see that money is properly spent according to guidelines. To use the audit information to make comparisons between free markets and government. Then to make recommendations for change to achieve more effective results.

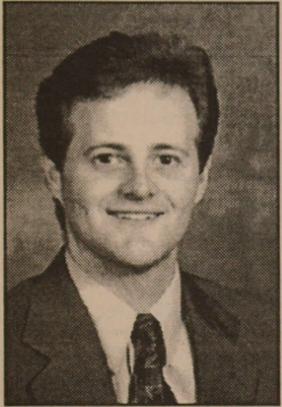
**What is your opponent's**

**biggest weakness?**

Long delays in getting audits done even when there is knowledge of serious problems. The auditor's office also does not help organizations prepare for audits.

**Any other comment for publication? (Optional)**

Being on the ballot shows the public that Libertarians are committed. Things unforeseen may happen that might give us leverage that we did not initially count on. For that to happen, we must be willing to take a chance.



**Michael A. Neitzel for US Congress**

**District 4 (Ramsey County)**

Age: 29

Current occupation:  
Courier for Fed Ex and student at Augsburg College.

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

I was watching C-Span in the fall of 1992, and Andre Marrou was being interviewed. He struck a chord with me, for prior to that election I was a Republican. I had voted for George

Bush in 1988. When Bush increased taxes and also signed in more gun control laws, that was it for me. I voted for Marrou and joined the LP in the spring of 1993. I've been a Libertarian ever since.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

1) Ending the federal income tax and abolishing the IRS.  
2) Protecting the Bill of Rights, especially the 2nd Amendment.

3) Privatizing Social Security.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

My friend Jo Jorgensen has had an influence, since we met at the state convention in 1996. Also the radio talk show host Jason Lewis has kept me going when it seems like there are no Libertarian voices in the media.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How**

**will you respond?**

Do you really think that the two old parties are going to change their ways? You're not getting what you want from them, so vote for what you want. Vote Libertarian!

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

Social Security.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

Bruce Vento(DFL) is

the incumbent and has been in office since 1978. Dennis Newinski(IR) has run against Vento for the last two elections and will be running again this time. The biggest weakness for both of them is that their ideas are old, tired, and worn out.

**Any other comment for publication? (Optional)**

We need volunteers for the petition drive in July.

Please give me or Anthony Sanders a call.



**Kevin Houston for US Congress District 5 (Hennepin County)**

Age: 33

Current occupation:  
Computer Programmer

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

The Libertarian Party's

opposition to the CDA (Communications Decency Act) which would have required that all internet material be "suitable for children" and would have effectively stifled freedom of speech on the internet.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

1) End the War on drugs.  
2) Stop government mandated encryption and for-

bid the government from holding "backdoor" keys.

3) Reduce the size and scope of the federal government to only those powers enumerated in the Constitution.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

Harry Browne.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian.**

**How will you respond?**

If people will just vote their conscience on the issues, instead of trying to "vote for the winner," Libertarians would win every time.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

Having a representative who listens to his constituency.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

His own apathy and unresponsiveness to his constituency.



**Eric Michael Johnson for US Congress District 6 (Anoka, Washington and central Dakota Counties)**

Age: 36

Current occupation:

Aircraft Mechanic

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

I was concerned about the direction this country is going. Government is getting too intrusive and expensive. I wanted to actually do something positive to defend liberty, besides complain about what the current group of politicians are doing.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

Abolish the income tax so working Americans can keep the money they earn, end the War on Drugs to make our streets safer, and begin reducing the federal government to its constitutional size by returning government programs and

agencies to the states or private enterprise as stated in the 10th Amendment.

**Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:**

I discovered Harry Browne's book *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World* about 16 years ago. It persuaded me to not depend on government, and not get involved with politics at all, including voting. After a couple of years of Bill Clinton and the Republican "revolution," I changed my mind and, incidentally, so did Harry Browne when he ran for president.

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian.**

**How will you respond?**  
If every person who

thinks government has gotten too big and too expensive would vote for me, I would win. My challenge is to get my message to the voters to quit electing politicians who are exploiting them. Things don't have to be this way; they could be much better.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

The high cost of government, and how it is preventing Americans from enjoying a more rewarding life. All the money taken from their paychecks is rightfully theirs, not the government's. In a libertarian society, everyone would have more time and money to do the things they like

doing, not the things they have to do to keep our bloated government running.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

My Democrat opponent, Bill Luther, has kept a pretty low profile. He promotes himself as a fiscal conservative, yet every year government has gotten bigger and bigger. While that might look good to the average voter, it means nothing when it comes to reducing the size of government. He is a typical career politician who doesn't rock the boat and tells people what they want to hear to stay in office. He represents the status quo: big, expensive, intrusive

government.

**Any other comment for publication? (Optional)**

Each of us, as members of the Libertarian Party, must lead by example and show people how we can restore government to its proper role of defending our lives, liberty and property. This is by doing what political parties do: running candidates for office, and identifying the voters who support us and making sure they get to the polls on election day. Everyone who is tired of working for the government and is ready to change things can start by joining the Libertarian Party and helping our candidates.



**Larry Fuhol US Congress District 8**

Age: 43

Current occupation:  
Laborer, Hoffman Engineering in Anoka.

**What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?**

I had an IRS code violation in 1989. I had a bad

experience with the court system and the IRS.

**Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:**

1. Abolish the income tax and the IRS.  
2. Give people choice on either government or private Social Security.  
3. Promote school choice and return education to local control.

**Libertarian (or book)**

**who/that most influenced you:**

"The Federalist Papers" and "The Thomas Jefferson Administration."

**People will say you can't win as a Libertarian.**

**How will you respond?**

You can still vote Democrat or Republican and your candidate may win, but you're still going to lose because nothing is

going to change.

**What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?**

Abolish the IRS and the federal income tax.

**What is your opponent's biggest weakness?**

Jim Oberstar embraces big government and high taxes, while I embrace liberty.



**Francis Klinkner for Minnesota House of Representatives District 24A**

Age: 23

Current occupation: Grocery Store Clerk

What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party? Their issues.

Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda.

Lower taxes, less welfare, and increased penalties for violent criminals.

Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:

Harry Browne

People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?

If I had the vote of everyone who said that, I would win.

What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?

Lack of money

What is your opponent's biggest weakness?

His refusal to lower taxes.

### Francis Klinkner Nomination Speech:

We find ourselves at a unique time in history. Our state is experiencing a booming economy, a budget surplus, lower welfare rolls, and the lowest unemployment rate in memorable history. Our state is also experiencing over taxation, over regulation of both industry and people, oppression of certain minority groups, and a government that is so big it can no longer respond to the basic needs of its people.

We gather here today to rejoice in these successes, identify solutions to these problems, but most importantly we gather to pronounce our belief that the current path of government will merely continue to talk about these problems and

do nothing to act upon them.

Our successes are due to a past that has been littered with recession, budget cuts, and the amazing ability of people to join hands in difficult times, and see each other into a better day.

It is these budget cuts and lower taxes that have boosted consumer confidence and created more jobs. And it is this amazing resilience of people to get off welfare and find a better way to succeed.

But rather than government learning from past successes, they have spent this past legislative session, unnecessarily spending excess money with numerous pork barrel projects throughout the state, finding ways to further regulate industry, they have even gone so far as to take certain companies to court

for reasons that have yet to be made illegal.

If we were to continue to lower taxes, industry would continue to grow, jobs would continue to be created, and the welfare rolls would continue to dwindle. If we reduced government to the simple task of protecting an individual's right to their own life and their own property, we could eliminate most taxes and create a world were the only oppression would come from within oneself.

Thomas Jefferson once said that every generation should have its revolution against government. Revolution doesn't have to take place on the battlefield, it can take place in the voter booth, and my friends, it is time.

It is time for us to break loose of a government that dictates when,

how and if we will drive a car, when how and if we will be able to marry, when how and if we be able to purchase certain products, and when, how and if we will be able to change that government.

On July 4, 1776, our Founding Fathers spoke to the world by saying, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

My friends it is once again time for us to realize those rights.

It is time once again for Minnesota to Discover Freedom!

Francis Klinkner  
Mankato, MN 56001  
e-mail: klinkner4house@geocities.com



**Rich Osness for Minnesota House**

### District 27B

Age: 50

Current occupation: Baby Photographer.

I have owned and operated Kolorkraft for 26 years, the last twenty in Austin, MN. Kolorkraft is a portrait photography company that operates in several states and professional photo lab that does work for about fifty photographers across the country.

What inspired you to join

the Libertarian Party?

I had been a Libertarian voter for about fifteen years, when there was someone to vote for. I joined in 1996 because I wanted to do something positive about our government. About four months later I announced I was running for the State Senate. It was the most fun I had had in years.

Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda:

1. Reduce the effect of environmental hysteria in our

government regulations.

2. End welfare, corporate and personal.

3. Return public schools to local control and funding.

Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:

There are so many it would be unfair to pick even a few.

People will say you can't win as a Libertarian.

How will you respond?

Perhaps, but it is more satisfying to attempt to improve our society by

restoring our freedom than to remain silent or actively work to reduce our freedom and destroy what brought my grandfather to this country.

I don't allow myself to think it is futile. It would be too depressing to believe that we really are doomed to ever growing fascism and socialism.

What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?

Convincing the voters that it is not a waste of their

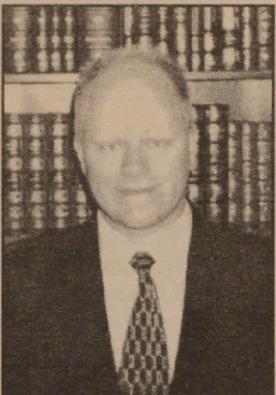
effort to vote for me.

What is your opponent's biggest weakness?

His lack of credibility.

Any other comment for publication? (Optional)

Becoming politically outspoken in my community has been a lot of fun. I feel better about myself than I have in years. I recommend it.



**Kyle Vraa for State Representative 52B**

Age: 28

Current occupation: Commercial Support

Services at U.S. Bank in Minneapolis

What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?

The dismal performance of the Republican Party in the 1996 presidential election. Harry Browne's appearances on C-SPAN were also quite influential in initiating a party switch.

Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda

- 1) Elimination of state income taxes.
- 2) Dissolving the state monopoly on education.
- 3) Establishing a right to

the concealed carrying of firearms for law abiding citizens.

Libertarian (or book) who/that most influenced you:

I consider myself a libertarian conservative. As such, I find Charles Murray's brand of libertarianism most accessible. The book that most influenced my drift to political libertarianism would probably be Hayek's *Road to Serfdom*. I find political libertarianism meshes quite well with maintaining a general conservative disposition in other aspects of life. Harry

Browne seems to convey this message quite well, too.

People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?

Can't win - not necessarily. Won't win - most likely. At this stage, winning isn't paramount. What is important is building the party, gaining credibility, and giving people a choice. This strategy will lay the foundation for future races with a stronger party and a larger voting block.

What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?

Getting on the ballot. Obtaining 500 signatures in a largely residential, suburban state house district is a significant challenge. People can only vote for candidates who are on the ballot.

What is your opponent's biggest weakness?

Geri Evans is a member of the current state legislature. That is her biggest weakness.

Any other comment for publication? (Optional)

As more and more people realize the ineffectiveness of government, the larger and larger it grows.

The size of government, not the rate of its growth, has to shrink. The Democrats will fight cuts in government to the last man. Republicans will say they support cuts, but will head for the hills every time a liberal editorialist raises an eyebrow. The Libertarian Party is the only party that genuinely understands the proper role and size of government. That is why I am running as a Libertarian.



**Robert K. Babione for New Prague City Council**

Age: 64

Current occupation: Retired federal employee

What inspired you to join the Libertarian Party?

I found out (in 1977) that the Libertarians best represented my point of view.

Name the top three items on your libertarian agenda.

- 1) Competition for services.
- 2) Elimination of onerous regulations and zoning ordinances.
- 3) To eliminate the extortionate practice of requiring developers to dedicate a portion of the property to be developed to the city for park land (or pay an equivalent fee).

Libertarian (or book)

who/that most influenced you:

David Friedman, the author of *The Machinery of Freedom*.

People will say you can't win as a Libertarian. How will you respond?

This race is nonpartisan and no party label attaches to ballot placement; however, my response would be that winning elections is sec-

ondary to promoting the just cause of freedom. First, above all else, one should do what's right.

What is the most critical issue within your specific campaign?

Creating a climate conducive to business expansion by eliminating road blocks like zoning and regulatory restrictions.

What is your opponent's biggest weakness?

N/A - opponent not known yet.

Any other comment for publication? (Optional)

For promoting libertarianism, a small town (4,000 pop) nonpartisan campaign will have limited effect. On the other hand, ballot access is assured with nothing more than filing and paying a \$10 fee. And a real plus -- one has an excellent chance of winning!

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sometimes, or need more information, or **N** for no.

Are you a Self-Governor on PERSONAL issues?	20	10	0
• Military service should be voluntary. No draft.	Y	M	N
• Government should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet.	Y	M	N
• Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults.	Y	M	N
• Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.	Y	M	N
• Let peaceful people cross borders freely.	Y	M	N
PERSONAL Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

Are you a Self-Governor on ECONOMIC issues?	20	10	0
• Businesses and farms should operate without government subsidies.	Y	M	N
• People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.	Y	M	N
• Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal.	Y	M	N
• End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.	Y	M	N
• All foreign aid should be privately funded.	Y	M	N
ECONOMIC Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

### How to use the Self-Government Compass:

Mark your PERSONAL score on the  
left and your ECONOMIC score on  
the right. See example: 20%  
Personal and 10% Economic.  
Now, follow the grid lines  
until they meet at your  
political position.  
The compass  
measures  
self-

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# Successful Ballot Access Petitioning

By Rich Osnes

Getting on the ballot by collecting hundreds of signatures on a petition scares off a lot of minor party candidates. It's not that hard. Anyone can collect the 500 signatures necessary to get on the ballot for the state legislature in two weeks by themselves.

It does take some time. It will take 50 to 100 hours depending upon your skill and your community. Many people put that much time into their hobbies.

I learned a lot in 1996. I will waste a lot less time this year.

Plan your activities from this moment through the petitioning period. You cannot collect signatures until July 7th, but you can get ready.

Get the necessary petition forms from the Secretary of State or call Charles Test. Fill in the blanks and run off copies. Get clip boards for yourself and your volunteers.

Only eligible voters can sign your petition. They must be 18 years of age by November 3rd, and they must live within the political district served by the office for which you are running. You can get an exact definition of your district from the Secretary of State in St. Paul, in the State Office Building, next to the Capitol.

Schedule as much time for petitioning as you can. The late afternoons, evenings and weekends are the most productive.

Plan where you will collect signatures. This is any place that a large number of eligible voters might gather.

Parades, festivals, picnics, concerts, ball games, shopping centers, parks, main street or any place that a number of voters from your district might be are good places. Make a list of every community event during the petitioning period. Rate the events according to the number of voters from your district that will be there. Consider how busy people will be. Will they take time to talk to you? People waiting in line at a ball game are great.

I do events first, parks next and main street last. If I see a group of two or more people on the street when I am traveling to the next spot, that's an event. I stop and ask.

Two years ago I had trouble getting permission to work businesses and shopping centers. I had to stick to public property. Others have had great success in shopping center parking lots. I'm going to ask again this year, BEFORE the petitioning period.

I did try to work the Post Office in 1996. It bombed. The people were

in too much of a hurry.

Get your volunteers before the petitioning period. Most of them will collect a few signatures from friends, family and co-workers. Don't count on many signatures this way.

**"This doesn't commit you to voting for me. It just allows me to be on the ballot with the Republican and Democrat. You can vote for anyone you want to in November."**

Few people will let you leave a petition at their place of business, but it doesn't hurt to ask. You won't get many signatures this way.

The only volunteers that you can rely upon for a significant number of signatures are those that commit to working with you during a specific period for a big event like a concert or parade.

Show them how to solicit signatures. Watch them solicit a few people. Keep them working and enthusiastic by not leaving them alone for too long.

Most of the people that volunteer to go out and solicit signatures on their own will produce little. You will spend more time trying to motivate these people than it is worth. Don't try to recruit volunteers during the petitioning period.

Okay. It is Tuesday afternoon, July 7th. You are off work for the day and you have a clipboard full of blank petition forms. This is the hard part. This is where most people fail or succeed. Now you actually have to do it.

Treat it like a sales job. Never been a salesman? Here's how it works.

You only have a few productive hours during each day. Make the most of every minute. Move briskly from person to person. Don't rush the customers, uh, prospects, but don't waste a second between them either.

Remember your goal is to get signatures, not votes, and certainly not to win arguments. Introduce yourself. Find out if they qualify to sign. Ask them to sign. Thank them, whether or not they sign. Move on.

The following paragraph is my typical patter. Use something similar that fits your style. Don't try to memorize it. After you stumble through it a few times something will develop that feels natural.

"Hi. I'm Rich Osnes and I'm running for the State House of Representatives. To get on the ballot, I need to collect the signatures of 500 eligible voters. Do you live in Mower County? Will you be 18 by November 3rd? (Elderly women love that one. You might as well

have fun.) Please sign my petition to get on the ballot. If they hesitate say: "This doesn't commit you to voting for me. It just allows me to be on the ballot with the Republican and Democrat. You can vote for anyone you want to in November."

Underneath the petitions for yourself have a few petitions for the statewide candidates or the congressional candidate from your district. They need to collect more signatures than you do. THEY need help.

Get the signature for yourself first. If a signer seems enthusiastic, ask them about the other candidate or candidates."

Don't push it. Asking someone to sign a half dozen petitions usually doesn't work. After you file your completed petition, THEN you can go out and work for another candidate.

The hardest part is separating the seat of your pants from the car seat. The next hardest part is keeping them separated. The best way to do this is to push yourself every minute. Stay focused.

A parade or concert only lasts so long. If you finish working before the event ends, hurry on to your second location. If you run out of events, hit the parks, main street and the shopping centers.

During the petitioning period my clipboard is always nearby, but I get

almost all of my signatures when I am specifically soliciting signatures.

Don't go door to door. It takes a long time to get signatures that way. If you go door to door, you will have people ask you to stop back. You don't have time to do this and you won't get many signatures.

You do not have time to talk people into signing. You will get more signatures, in less time, if you concentrate on people who are willing to sign immediately.

This is not the time to sell your candidacy or the Libertarian Party. If you find someone who wants to know more or do more, answer a few quick questions and get their name and address on a separate sheet of paper.

Collect extra signatures. You will have some out of district signatures or others that are rejected. Experienced petitioners recommend a minimum of 50% extra. I would not turn in a petition that had less than 120% unless I simply had no choice.

Every community is a little different. Every person will have different levels of comfort with different methods. Modify my methods and those of others to suit your circumstances. Plan each day and drive yourself.

This is a great way to warm up to approaching strangers, something every politician should learn. ■

## Libertarian Party of Minnesota

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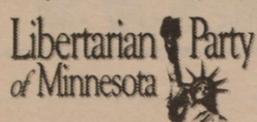
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