The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the contributors in the National Libertarian Party's Liberty Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to National Committee Members and State Party Chairs, in appreciation of their involvement as well as to network information on activities at Headquarters and libertarians in the news.

Clippings and other stories of interest are appreciated.

Libertarian Party National Headquarters 301 W. 21st St. Houston, Texas 77008 713/880-1776

HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR PLEDGE? WANT TO RAISE IT?
CALL 1-800-682-1776

April '87

James Libertarian Burns has officially announced his candidacy for the LP's presidential nomination. Burns is well known in the LP for having had his middle name changed to "Libertarian," insuring that, with or without ballot status, his philosophy and Party affiliation would be clearly noted on the ballot.

Harry Glenn, who ran as a Libertarian for Sherriff in Illinois, declared his intent to seek the LP's highest nomination at the Illinois Convention last week, stating he would also accept the vice-presidential slot if Russell Means presidential nomination campaign were to prove successful.

In other News:

The Libertarian National Committee met in Atlanta the first weekend of April in conjunction with the Georgia convention;

Tax Day protests were well attended, according to reports from around the country.

At Headquarters:

Natcom member, Hugh Butler, and his wife Marsha, were on-site April 24th to survey the staff's needs regarding the purchase of the computer network that will replace the present Data General computer. Their inquiries were very detailed as to each staff member's computer input tasks and output/reporting requirements. Mr. Butler also did some examinations of the database on the Data General and offered suggestions regarding some annoying problems we've had.

Assistance Request:

With the transition to the MS DOS system coming up soon, the National Headquarters requests the following help from you:

1. Examine your pledge statement closely for errors of any sort. If there are any, please make corrections on the statement and return it to us in the enclosed envelope.

2. If you or any LP'er you know has not been receiving LP News or other LP mailings, pass such information to us.

We want to make sure that the information we transfer into the new Dbase is as accurate as possible. Your help is appreciated.
Libertarian town sets sights on attracting new industries

Desert News—Salt Lake City, UT

BY JOHN OSTRUM—Residents of this small median-income, salt-tongued government by platoon mayor, or are hoping their experiment in libertarian governance will help usher in a new era of economic development, Big Water’s population has nearly doubled since 1980, and development bottlenecks are worries over the possibility of hurting business. The area’s growth is limited by a handful of red tape. But the libertarian philosophy is a boon for businesses selling as few of its advantages as others in the state. The late 1970s when he got to Big Water, claims the desert lakeside community is now one of the “fastest growing” cities in Utah. And the broad context of a planned Town Hall renovations, which this year officials have the right to tell you you can’t do anything, people. “I was an inspector this week. . . I was amazed with Libertarian viewpoint Johnson.”

“...I was... 

For example, he apologized to vet- erans for putting the wrong information since the opening of the “Every time it’s thrown at me...”

And, said the city attorney, “Most of our growth can be attributed because he or she is not given much of a ballot, then the citizens’ right to vote has been...”

“We'd love it. It would really improve our employment...”

The LWV is dedicated to open, free and honest elections. And, said the city attorney, “Most of our growth can be attributed because he or she is not given much of a ballot, then the citizens’ right to vote has been...”

Chopping at the government jungle

The country needs more elected officials who be- lieve strongly that bigger is not always better. We were reminded of that in a discussion this week with Andre Marrou, Libertarian candidate for vice president of the United States, who was in McMinnville, Oregon, for his political party’s Oregon convention. Knowing that Libertarians believe in dramatic re- ductions in government, we asked Marrou where he would begin cutting if he had the power. “It would be like being placed with a machete in the middle of a jungle,” he said. “You could just start chopping.”

The Libertarian philosophy goes too far in the direction of individual liberty at the expense of proper societal rules and regulations. But it is a fact that government — especially the federal government -- is too big, too wasteful and too expensive.

A few well-placed swings of the machete would not be all bad. It would be preferable to the rhetoric of improving government when, in fact, much of government needs to be eliminated. “This all-over government” over the past few decades has put our generation into debt beyond...”

“...I was...”

“We'd love it. It would really improve our employment...”

It is an irony that a philosophy espoused by individual libertarians is used to justify the idea of a dominant, centralizing government, a fruit of this week’s MTV special..."
**Door-To-Door**

The Advertiser/ Montgomery, AL

The chairman of Alabama’s Libertarian Party wants to make it easier for minor political parties to get on the ballot in Alabama, so much so that he says he’s willing to go “door to door” to find a state lawmaker who will sponsor a bill for him.

Frank Monachelli said that a requirement for a political party to receive at least 20 percent of the vote in the most recent general election to be included automatically on the next state ballot is unfair. He’s got a point.

According to the Washington-based Academy for State and Local Government, Alabama’s requirement of 20 percent is the highest in the nation. Most states require that parties receive between 1 percent and 10 percent of the vote to make it on a state ballot.

Monachelli said his party wants to see the requirement lowered to 2 percent.

The Libertarian chairman says the 20 percent rule forces minority parties to spend all their manpower and resources gathering signatures instead of campaigning for candidates. Currently, if a party does not meet the 20 percent rule in the most recent election, it must gather signatures of thousands of unchallenged signatures of registered voters to make it onto the ballot.

Alabama raised its party vote requirement from 10 percent to 20 percent in 1982 after a growth in the number of minor parties seeking space on the ballot.

It does seem that 20 percent is too high for fairness; conversely, the 2 percent cut-off proposed by Monachelli seems low. Perhaps the 10 percent level in effect prior to 1982 wasn’t so unfair, after all.

We suspect that the real reason lawmakers raised the limit had more to do with their not wanting to be bothered with having to run against any of these “minor” candidates than with worries about cluttering the ballot.

While putting the smaller parties on the ballot may cost a little more for printing, that cost should be at least partially offset by officials not having to deal with checking petitions.

But even if it costs a little more, it’s worth it. No matter if they never elect anyone; third parties can serve a useful purpose by bringing fresh ideas into a campaign when thinking in the two major parties stagnates.

As historian Richard Hofstadter noted, “Third parties are like bees; once they’ve stung, they die.”

In a state where too many incumbents routinely go unchallenged, a few minor-party candidates could also serve to force those incumbents to face the electorate every now and then. That alone justifies making it easier for third-party candidates to get on the ballot.

**Libertarian Officeholder Abolishes Office**

The American Libertarian Party on Sunday, Santa Barbara, CA - After a three-year effort, the Mission Canyon Fire District (Santa Barbara, CA) is being abolished, saving each district household over $200 per year in special assessments, and that the Libertarian Party has been included.

The District Board of Directors was chaired by libertarian Lou Villadsen, who reports that 75 percent of the voters in the district agreed that the district was an expensive and unnecessary waste of their money. "The LP can't count me as an officeholder now," she said, "but we can point to a small victory. There are probably hundreds of these little districts all over the country, sucking up tax money because nobody ever looked at whether or not they're really needed. Our Board went to a lot of work to gather the data and prove the case objectively, and it worked!"

Leary the libertarian

AUSTIN, Texas — Former Harvard Professor Timothy Leary says adults ought to be able to decide for themselves whether to use drugs, but a former federal drug official says people can't choose which laws they will follow.

"Any adult American should have the right to put into her or his body ... anything he ... pleases," Leary said during a debate Thursday at the University of Texas.

But Peter Bensinger, former head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, disagreed: "It is not up to the individual citizens to pick and choose the laws they want to obey.

Leary, who became famous as the guru of users of the drug LSD during the 1960s, said he opposes drug abuse and the use of drugs by minors. But he said he was appalled by what the government wanted to do on the pretext of caring for his body.

"Defend your brain and your bodies against Big Brother," he urged.

Republic
Fairfield, CA

**Indian activist runs for office**

LAKE COUNTY — American Indian activist Russell Means announced his intention to seek the Libertarian Party nomination for United States president at the California Libertarian Party convention in San Francisco.

Recently in the public eye for his attempts to garner manpower and money for the Indian populations of Nicaragua, in support of their defense efforts against the Sandinista government, Means says that his goal of self-determination for Indian people has not been sidetracked by his decision to run for president.

"I now realize that all Americans, not just Indians, desperately need to regain control of their own lives. By running for president as a Libertarian, I hope to show all Americans that the 'failure of socialism' which former Secretary of Interior James Watt once pointed to on American Indian reservations is a universal problem, and that the Libertarian is a very important way for people of all races to say 'We've had enough — give us back our freedom.'"

Four term Republican Congressman Ron Paul publicly quit the Republican Party and joined the Libertarian Party on Sunday, announcing his intention to run for president on the LP ticket. An ardent supporter of the hard money movement, Paul symbolically paid for his Libertarian Party membership with an ounce of gold. Paul was elected four times to the Congress from Houston, Texas, and served as a member of the House Banking committee and as a sponsor of the U.S. Gold Commission.

Paul is a staunch non-interventionist and pledged recently to run on a platform of bringing all American troops home from overseas and cutting the military budget by one-third.

"Some opponents of mine once charged that I wanted to 'take a chainsaw to the federal budget'. How right they are! Big government is running away with our freedom and our money, and the Republicans are as bad as the Democrats. There really isn't a dime's worth of difference between the major parties.”

Ventura Star Free Press
Ventura, CA

Officer who became call girl gets 3-year term

**LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former civilian traffic officer who became a call girl suggests that a hooker de-..."