LP launches new website to defeat FDIC’s Know Your Customer proposal

Party’s campaign picks up speed as FDIC’s March 8 public comment deadline looms

As the deadline for public comment draws near, the Libertarian Party has picked up the pace of its campaign to defeat the “Know Your Customer” regulation—an FDIC proposal that would require banks to spy on their customers for the government.

Over the past month, the party has launched an e-mail campaign against the proposed regulation, set up a privacy website, and done an unprecedented number of interviews to publicize the dangers of what party leaders are calling “a law that only the KGB could love.”

Public outcry
The purpose of the campaign: To generate a massive public outcry against the Know Your Customer proposal before the FDIC’s public comment period expires on March 8.

As of early February, more than 15,000 complaints had already flooded into the FDIC’s office, according to news reports—99.9% opposing it on privacy, constitutional, or civil liberties grounds. Unless it is revoked, the Know Your Customer rule is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2000.

“This time, the government has gone too far,” said Steve Dasbach, LP national director. “The government is waging a war on our privacy, and we can’t afford to lose this battle. We’ve got to let these federal bureaucrats know loud and clear, that Americans won’t stand for this disgraceful invasion of our privacy.”

The Know Your Customer rule was proposed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the federal agency that insures bank deposits.

Under the proposal, banks and credit unions would be required to find out where their customers get their money, determine a customer’s normal pattern of transactions, and report any “suspicious” transactions to the federal government.

The complete text of the proposed directive is available at the FDIC website: www.FDIC.gov.

E-mail letter
To generate more public outcry against the regulation, the Libertarian Party has launched an innovative Internet campaign, said Dasbach. In mid-February, the LP sent a message to the 10,000 people on its e-mail list, asking them to forward a short e-mail letter to their friends, warning them about the Know Your Customer regulation.

The e-mail letter invites people to visit the party’s new DefendYourPrivacy.com website, which explains the regulation in detail.

Radio host Gary Nolan joins party

Gary Nolan, a syndicated radio talk show host heard on 45 stations, has become a card-carrying member of the broadcast industry to join the Libertarian Party.

On January 12, Nolan “signed on the dotted line” and became a card-carrying member of the party during a live, on-air broadcast of his program, Nolan At Night. His show is heard around the country—including such major markets as Florida, Texas, Missouri, Washington, and Virginia.

Nolan was joined for the occasion by LP National Director Steve Dasbach and LP Press Secretary George Getz, who watched him sign his LP membership form and then welcomed him into the Libertarian Party.

For the answer, see pages 14 & 15
California LP joins a lawsuit to block Prop. 10's tobacco taxes

The Libertarian Party of California has joined in a lawsuit to overturn Proposition 10, the $700 million tobacco tax initiative narrowly approved by voters last November, which party leaders described as “a rotten bill of goods.”

On January 19, the party filed a brief in California Supreme Court in support of a complaint filed on January 4 by the California Association of Retail Tobacconists (CART), a coalition of over 100 tobacco businesses.

Noble intentions
“The issue is very simple: This initiative violates the California Constitution,” said LP State Chairman Mark Getz. “Despite the noble intentions put forward by the initiative, the people of California have been sold a rotten bill of goods.”

Mark Hinkle: “The people of California have been sold a rotten bill of goods.”

The initiative took effect January 1 and raised state taxes on cigarettes by 50 cents a pack to pay for a new state commission, the California Children and Families First Commission.

According to the lawsuit, the Prop. 10 violates the state Constitution in two ways: The new tax money pays for programs unrelated to smoking, thus violating a Constitutional provision that limits initiatives to a “single subject,” and the measure creates agencies outside the governor’s and the legislature’s control, violating another Constitutional provision.

In its brief, the party states its support of these arguments and concludes Prop. 10 is unconstitutional and should be stricken in its entirety.

The brief also states: “An immediate stay would protect against the irreparable harm of Constitutional violation to the Libertarian Party, its members, and the entire taxpaying public of California.”

Talk show host Gary Nolan joins party

GARY NOLAN: “I'm totally fed up with the GOP's egregious budget bills.”

Dashbach said he had the same sense about Nolan's reasons for joining.

“Nolan finally gave up on the Republican Party,” he said. “He was particularly fed up with their chronic failure to cut taxes and their support for increases in government spending. He respects our commitment to principle and our willingness to take on the tough issues.”

Capitol Watch

Nolan is syndicated on the Radio America network. He is also the head of Capitol Watch, a conservative-leaning, budget-cutting group based in Washington, DC.

Nolan is the most recent of a long series of prominent radio personalities who have joined the LP over the past four years, including syndicated host Art Bell, David Brudnoy of Boston, and Neal Boortz of Atlanta.

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Kubby arrested on medical marijuana charges

Blue-ribbon panel formed to investigate arrest of LP's '98 gubernatorial candidate

For the second time in six months, a prominent Libertarian medical marijuana activist has been arrested in California.

On January 19, Steve Kubby, the 1998 LP candidate for governor of California, and his wife Michele were arrested after a police raid of their home in Olympic Valley. They were charged with unauthorized cultivation, harvesting, and processing of marijuana.

After entering a "not guilty" plea, the Kubbys were released on their own recognizance.

In response, the Libertarian Party of California formed a Proposition 215 Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate allegations of Governor Wilson's " astrology-driven mandate " and to develop an ongoing strategy to assist the Kubbys.

"Steve and Michele Kubby appear to be the latest victims of what I would call political persecution," said LP State Chair Mark Hinkle. "The Committee will get to the bottom of this issue and determine the state party should respond. We will investigate all avenues available to us — legal, political, and media — and decide on a suitable course of action."

Since medical marijuana is legal in California, Hinkle said, "They have broken no laws and should never have been arrested in the first place."

**Key role**

Kubby, 52, had played a key role in Proposition 215, overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 1996, which made it legal for seriously ill patients to grow and use marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

Medical marijuana was also a centerpiece of Kubby's campaign for governor last fall. Many Libertarians believe that political considerations may have been behind the arrest. In August 1998, Peter McWilliams, best-selling author and outspoken LP advocate of medical marijuana, was arrested on similar charges.

Kubby had also been diagnosed with adrenal cancer in 1975 and used medical marijuana under doctor's orders. Michele Kubby also took medical marijuana to alleviate the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome.

The members of the Proposition 215 Blue Ribbon Committee include LP National Chairman David Bergland; 1980 LP candidate for President Ed Clark; former Simi Valley City Council member Sandi Webb; Tahoe Public Utility Board member Dennis Schluemp; past LP State Chair Jack Dean; and LP political strategist Aaron Starr.

"The committee was formed to help people like Peter McWilliams and Steve and Michele Kubby," said Hinkle.

Minneapolis Libertarians announce 'evolutionary' legislative agenda

The LP of Minnesota has come up with a "Legislative Agenda for the New Century" — a series of legislative proposals that the LP and Libertarians plan to promote in 1999.

"While rooted firmly in Libertarian philosophy and principles, this legislative agenda spells out an achievable agenda for Minnesota that will enhance the life, liberty and opportunities for prosperity for all Minnesotans," said Craig Westover, who is coordinating the project.

The party's legislative agenda consists of seven policy sections — ranging from reducing the state government's impact on "civil society" to reining in squandering the state treasury and initiating structural reforms in state government to increasing protection of civil liberties. When finalized, the agenda will be made available to state legislators.

Each policy section has specific legislative proposals "for comprehensively changing the scope of state government and moving toward a greater level of liberty," said Westover.

While some of the proposals are radical and some are incremental, the legislative agenda acknowledges that "political liberty is an evolutionary concept," said Westover.

**Political progress**

"To make political progress toward maximum liberty, a legislative agenda based on principle must compromise with the prevailing values of the majority of society," he said.

"Can Minnesota achieve maximum liberty? That is a debate for philosophers. Can and should Minnesota move toward a state of maximum liberty, and will that effort be engendered by this LP legislative agenda proposal?"

Some of the specific policy proposals that Minnesota Libertarians advocate include:

- Abolish Minnesota's Gift and Inheritance taxes to allow family farms and family businesses to pass on their property free of gift or death taxes.
- Pass a Civil Rights Act, which prohibits any state entity from discriminating or giving preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.
- Pass the Super-Majority Act for the Minnesota Legislature, which would require a two-thirds vote to increase taxes. "To more effectively control the budgetary process, the ability to raise taxes or enact new taxes should require a minimum of two-thirds of the House and Senate," he said.

"Libertarians will not sit still while decent, law-abiding citizens are being persecuted for standing up and expressing their political beliefs. We know this happens in Cuba and North Korea, but it shouldn't be happening in California."

**Blasted by LP**

Kubby's arrest was also blasted by the national LP.

"By throwing cancer patients in jail, California prosecutors have arrogantly substituted their judgment for that of physicians and voters," said LP National Director Steve Dabash. "They should drop their prosecution of Steve Kubby — and every other medical marijuana patient in California."

Professionally, Kubby is the publisher of an online recreation magazine, Alpine World. He won approximately 1% of the vote in 1998, and has said he is considering running again in 2002.

**Contributions are being accepted for the Kubby Defense Fund. Mail to and make checks payable to: Kubby Defense Fund, c/o Attorney Dale E. Wood, 10833 Donner Pass Road, Suite 205, Truckee, CA 96161.**

**Michigan LP will sell outreach matchbooks**

"Hoping to capitalize on smokers' anger at the government's War on Tobacco and new cigarette taxes, the Libertarian Party of Michigan is expanding its successful matchbook outreach program to the entire country."

The Michigan LP is offering matchbooks — which state the Libertarian Party's pro-choice position on cigarettes and feature the party's 1-800-ELECT-USA phone number and web address for support to Libertarians and affiliate parties across the USA.

"Smokers are a huge constituency [but] so politically incorrect that neither so-called free market conservatives nor personal freedom liberals will stand up for their rights," said Michigan LP State Chair, Tim O'Brien.

**Adult citizens**

"That leaves them completely without political representation. Unlike of course, there is a political party that actually believes that government should treat its adult citizens like adults," he said.

The matchbooks, printed in...
Bolstered by raves, Success ’99 heads for Texas & South Carolina

Surprise: Who’s for impeachment now?

Look who’s climbing on the bandwagon. Seven months after delegates at the Libertarian National Convention called for impeachment of Bill Clinton for “crimes against the Constitution,” another group has done the same.

In an advertisement in the February 22 issue of The Nation magazine, a collection of old-style liberals demanded: “Impeach Bill Clinton for the right reasons: Not for Lewinsky, but rather for the illegal bombing of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan.”

The advertisement was signed and paid for by veterans of the American left, including Barbara Ehrenreich, Staughton Lynd, and professors from Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.

The advertisement went on to demand that Clinton be impeached for “abuses of presidential power,” including his recent missile attacks on Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan, which, they noted, violated Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution and the 1973 War Powers resolution.

Burke selected as advisor to governor

Libertarian Richard Burke didn’t win his gubernatorial race for governor but he will still have influence over Oregon’s highest office: He’s been tapped as a political advisor to newly elected Democratic Governor John A. Kitzhaber.

“It is not a paying job,” said Burke. “From time to time the governor’s chief of staff will consult with me on particular issues. However, I see it as a breakthrough precedent, since a Libertarian has direct access to an Oregon advisor executing day to day campaign strategy.”

Burke said he hopes his position will allow him to influence the governor’s policies.

“I have a chance to affect the governor’s thinking,” he said.

“In most cases, I will not be able to turn the governor around. But occasionally, I will be able to get him to budge.”

Why is the governor getting advice from a candidate that won only 2% of the vote in the election?

“I believe the governor sees value in having access to the Libertarian perspective,” said Burke. “We are known for looking at things from unique points of view. If we give him a countercultural perspective, he’ll know that it is a secure one — not one designed to facilitate legislative grandstanding.”

Kubby ad wins prestigious Pollie award

Libertarians have won their first Pollie award, a political advertising prize given out every two years by the American Association of Political Consultants.

Over the weekend of January 16-17, the Monticello Group won the award for the best political television commercial (longer than 30 seconds) of the 1997-1998 election cycle for its “South Park Parody” ad, which was aired by the Steve Kubby for Governor campaign in 1998.

The ad was conceived and produced by Gene A. Ciesewski, and written, directed, and animated by Douglas Scribben, who is the Secretary of the Orange County LP in California.

After the award was announced, Scribben said, “As the artist of the ad, I would gladly take a cash contribution to offset the two months I took off work to complete the ad!”

The 60-second ad, which was broadcast on several cable networks in the final days of Kubby’s campaign, attracted considerable attention for its barbed spoof of Comedy Central’s foul-mouthed, crudely animated South Park characters.

The ad depicted Kubby’s Republican and Democratic rivals as interchangeable cartoon characters. It also took a special swipe at (losing) Republican candidate Dan Lindgren, showing him killing a “Denny” character by depriving him of medical marijuana. [View the ad at www.kubby.com.]

“Congratulations to everyone who helped create this award-winning advertisement,” said LP Political Director Ron Crick- enberger. “One of our candidate’s ads winning a Pollie Award marks another step forward for the Libertarian Party.”

Privatizing Libertarians outnumbered at Social Security forum in California

Six California Libertarians ventured into the lion’s den on January 23 when they participated in a Social Security forum — and found themselves “horribly outnumbered” by the proponents to a privatized system.

“Libertarians have quite a challenge in persuading the general public that establishing private accounts is a compassionate, simple, effective, and cost-efficient solution that will benefit all Americans,” said Juan Ros, Executive Director of the California LP, who led the delegation.

“I noticed a stunning lack of knowledge of basic economics [from conference participants].”

The forum was sponsored by Americans Discuss Social Security (ADSS), a non-partisan effort created by The Pew Charitable Trusts to “engage Americans from all walks of life in a nation-wide discussion about the future of Social Security.”

It was held at the campus of the University of Southern California, and was connected by teleconferencing technology to participants in nine other cities. Approximately 150 people participated in the four-hour event.

Ros and the other Libertarians — Orange County LP chair- man Brian Lee Cross and San Fernando Valley LP members Linda Starr, Duke Fleming, Bruce Acker, and Eric Olsen — were invited to participate after an ADSS representative ran across the California LP website.

Co-sponsor

The LP was listed on the program as a “co-sponsor” of the event, said Ros, along with the American Association of Retired Persons, the Concord Coalition, and Economic Security 2000.

“I wish our co-sponsorship had had more of an impact,” said Ros.”Unfortunately for the advocates of privatization, we were…plainly outnumbered.”
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Operation Bootstrap underway in Florida to double LP membership

**JIM ALSIS:**
The Florida LP must “focus on increasing our membership base, immediately.”

The Libertarian Party of Florida has announced an ambitious plan — called “Operation Bootstrap” — to double its paid party membership by August 1999.

“We have reached the limits of our current political organization,” said LP member Jim Alsis, who is coordinating the project.

To expand the Florida LP in time to be politically effective in the year 2000, we must literally pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, and we must do it this year!”

The party is now raising the estimated $30,000 it will need to boost its membership from the current 1,500 figure to 3,000.

More productive

“In essence, we are proposing to add 1,500 dues-paying members to the Florida LP at a cost of $20 each,” said Alsis.

“While this cost per new member is higher than the cost per [new] member, Operation Bootstrap is more cost effective, more repeatable, and more productive than any other project this state party has ever done!”

Operation Bootstrap will have four phases, said Alsis:

- **In March/April:** the national Libertarian Party will mail 12,000 recruitment letters as part of Project Archimedes to Florida residents. Approximately 5,000 will go to current LP prospects, and 7,000 will go to registered Libertarians.
- **Immediately after that mailing:** 30 Florida LP volunteers will make follow-up telephone calls to the 6,000 people for whom they have phone numbers, and ask them to join the Libertarian Party.
- **This first calling and culling [will] be done in the most professional manner,” said Alsis.**
- **A training manual and a script will be provided to each volunteer to guarantee maximum effectiveness.”**
- **In May, the Florida LP will drop a second piece of mail to the 12,000 prospects who have not yet joined, and offer a special premium gift as an added incentive.**
- **After that mailing, volunteers will make a second round of phone calls to solicit memberships and “remind them how important their membership contribution will be to our campaign effort in the year 2000,” said Alsis.**

To get the project underway, the Florida LP will invest in a paid Project Administrator, a Development Director, and a Database Manager, he said. Additional money will be spent on telephone and direct mail costs.

**Benefit**
If the plan succeeds, the Florida LP will benefit immediately from the “doubling of the membership and our monthly revenues,” Alsis said.

A membership-building project like Operation Bootstrap is urgently needed because of the passage of Revision 11 in 1998, he said. Thanks to that initiative, ballot access barriers in Florida have been dramatically lowered, making it possible for the Florida LP to run a large number of candidates for the first time ever.

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**Editor’s Note:** Each month, “The Issues” will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to “announce-request@lp.org” with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.

**LP blasts “State of the Government” speech**
President Clinton’s State of the Union speech on January 19 demonstrated that “good news may be the worst news for taxpayers,” the Libertarian Party said.

That’s because a robust economy and a budget surplus have unleashed the president’s big-government instincts — leading him to advocate 29 new federal programs, 25 expanded programs, and more than $3.4 trillion in new spending, noted Steve Dasbach, the party’s national director.

“The legislators have opposed. The State of the Union address was Bill Clinton’s astonishing wish list of new government programs and expanded spending,” he said.

“Instead of using prosperity as an opportunity to reduce the role of the government, President Clinton wants to use it to make big new budget surpluses bigger—and to introduce new intrusive regulations,” he said.

In his speech, Clinton said the nation and economy are “strong,” the government will generate budget surpluses for 25 years, and crime rates are falling. To deal with all this good news, Clinton proposed 34 new or expanded federal programs.

In fact, he said, “state officials aren’t, in fact, a State of the Union speech, but a State of the Government speech. And under his administration, the state of the federal government is strong — and getting stronger every day,” said Dasbach.

**Sale of license photos: A “privacy invasion”**

The decision by three states to sell millions of drivers license photographs to a private company is a “picture perfect” example of why you can’t trust politicians to protect your privacy, the Libertarian Party said.

“Without your permission, politicians in three states have decided to sell your most personal possession — your image,” said Dasbach. “If we don’t stop them, what will they sell next?”

In the latest “Big Brother” privacy scandal, three states — Florida, South Carolina, and Colorado — have agreed to sell 22.5 million drivers license photographs to Image Data LLD, a private anti-fraud company.

Image Data says the photos will be part of a nationwide image database, which retail establishments can use to confirm the identity of customers who cash checks or use credit cards.

But whether such a database will actually prevent fraud, Dasbach said politicians should have no right to sell people’s photographic images: “Your image represents the essence of who you are, and politicians should not be able to sell it to the highest bidder. It is the ultimate violation of your personal privacy.”

**Social Security plan: A million problems**

Here’s the biggest problem with President Clinton’s proposed Social Security “bail-out” plan: It will prevent most Americans from becoming millionaires by the time they retire.

“Do you want to retire as a pauper or a millionaire? That’s the million-dollar question you should ask yourself,” said David Bergland, LP national chairman.

In his budget proposal, Clinton suggested that 52% of project workers could expect to save to “save” Social Security. But the problem, said Bergland, is that the plan will rob most Americans of the opportunity to retire as millionaires — with monthly incomes two to five times what Social Security pays.

Millionaires? Is that hyperbole? Not at all, said Bergland.

According to the Cato Institute, if the average American collected the money the government takes in Social Security taxes — 12.4% from the employee and employer — and invested it in the stock market, “average-income families could expect to retire with savings of nearly $1 million or more. Even low-income families could expect to save a half-million dollars.”

“Why is this alarmist story so the Clinton plan — but it would help create a nation of millionaires. How could any American advocate anything less for themselves and their children?”

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<td>Keynote Address: The Libertarian Party, The Unreasonable Alternative Michael Cloud</td>
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<td>Intro: Hon. Finney Rothaus</td>
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<td>LIB98-V02</td>
<td>The Eroding Legitimacy of the National Government: Charles Murray, Intro: Bill Winter</td>
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<td>LIB98-V03</td>
<td>Liberty Versus Power: The Eternal Struggle: David Boaz</td>
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<td>Liberty: Open Minds On Open Borders: Jacob Hamberger, Intro: The Administration of Justice: Judge Ira Roob</td>
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**VIDEO PRICING:** $19.95 each

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A conga line for liberty and how to (really) trim a state budget

**Delaware**
State Libertarians are celebrating the re-election of Jack Dalton, Town Commissioner of the Town of Bridgeville — who has also become the Libertarian Party's newest mayor.

"I’m thrilled that Jack was re-elected and will remain as one of Delaware’s three Libertarians in public office," said Michael Sensor, the State Chair of the Delaware LP. "His victory, on the heels of Jim Larsen’s win as Arden Town Assessor, shows that Libertarians can seize the reins of power if they choose their battles carefully."

Dalton was the leading vote-getter in the municipal election, held on January 9, defeating two challengers. Not only will Dalton serve another two-year term, but he was also "elected by the Commission to the President's Chair (Mayor)," he said.

**Indiana**

Government-owned buildings should have to accommodate the rights of everyone, including smokers, say Evansville Libertarians. So they’re circulating fliers to stir up opposition to a proposed smoking ban in the city’s civic and convention centers.

"We’re not saying we want to run through the building smoking anywhere we want," said Indiana LP member Dan Steward. "We just want an area set aside for us."

Earlier this year, Libertarians fought unsuccessfully against a smoking ban in city buildings. Now county commissioners, who claim they’re concerned about “second-hand smoke,” want to impose a similar smoking ban — and $30 fine.

"We just want designated areas to smoke," said LP member Brian Majors. "It’s just not right to ostracize smokers."

**Michigan**

A property tax proposal backed by a coalition of environmentalists and local politicians was defeated after Washtenaw County Libertarians mounted a high-energy campaign against it. "Libertarian volunteers put up scores of yard signs, knocked on hundreds of doors, and raised thousands of dollars" to help defeat Proposal One in November, said James Hudler, Chairman of the Washtenaw County LP.

The 10-year, $32 million tax hike would have financed various land acquisition and "urban renewal" programs.

Libertarians joined with the Board of Realtors, the Home Builders and several other construction groups to form a "No-tax" coalition, which financed a TV and radio ad campaign. As a result, voters rejected the scheme, 58% to 42%.

But even though voters "spoke out loud and clear against new taxes and the ever-increasing reach of government," Hudler said, the pro-tax forces still didn’t get the message.

**Maine**

Their goal, said Robert Coolidge, editor of the state LP newsletter, is to change the law to "allow all citizens to participate in the political process."

Specifically, the Coalition will attempt to reduce the top-of-the-ticket 5% requirement for "major party" status, liberalize petitioning deadlines, and reduce the current 15-month wait before new parties are recognized by the state.

"Maine, wonderful state that it is, has atrocious election laws for minor parties," said Coolidge. "Maine needs election laws that reflect the spirit of its people."

**Minnesota**

Libertarians braved sub-zero temperatures to attend the inauguration of Governor Jesse Ventura on January 4 and deliver their own policy proposal: A $3.3 billion tax cut.

"Many candidates boasted of coming to our Give It All Back Rally at the Capitol last year, including Governor Ventura," said State Chair Charles Test. "We want him to know there’s widespread public support for a large, permanent tax cut — now."

Test said the governor and legislature could return most of the $3.3 billion surplus simply by lowering income tax brackets by 1%, trimming sales taxes by 1% and reducing the car tax.

Test also urged passage of a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds majority vote to raise taxes.

"Libertarians recognize the limited role of the state, we think that voters do. We hope Governor Ventura will, too," he said.

**Missouri**

Libertarians aren’t bothering to conceal their enthusiasm for an upcoming statewide vote on a concealed-carry gun law.

They claim that voters didn’t understand the measure, and they’re vowing to fight on. That’s why our coalition is going to stay organized."

An audience of 40 Libertarians listened on January 17 as Steve McGhee, president of the Missouri Sport Shooting Association, told the LP state committee meeting that "the No. 1 deterrent to violent crime is the possibility of an armed victim. People have a fundamental right to protect themselves."

The Missouri LP had invited McGhee to the Columbia meeting to help build support for Proposition B. "The Right to Concealed-Carry," which will be on the April 6 ballot.

"McGhee gave compelling reasons why concealed carry should pass," said State Chair Jim Givens. "He pointed out that 31 states already have concealed carry, and that crime is being reduced as a result."

After the presentation, the state committee passed a resolution urging Missouri Libertarians to work for the passage of the referendum.

**New Hampshire**

The State Chair of the New Hampshire Libertarian Party has announced his candidacy for the Democratic Party, or "the best of directors of the state’s largest taxpayer’s organization — much to her surprise."

"I got home one evening and there was a message on my answering machine that informed me of my election to the GST’s (Granite State Taxpayers’ Board of Directors)," said Danielle Donovan. "Some unnamed jokester wrote in my name, and I won."

Despite the shock value, her election may be good news for the GST, which has been "less than friendly to the taxpayer and a front for the Republican Party," she said.

"It appears that some of their fiscally conservative members have been disappointed in the GST’s direction, and are attempting to wrest control from the old guard," said Donovan. "I am cautiously optimistic that this new leadership will be more responsive to Libertarian tax positions."

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Libertarians have lost an energetic lobbying battle to significantly push back the state’s property tax reform measure, but still ended up with an improvement in state law.

On December 24, Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed S-1227/A2228, which set primary day in early June as the filing deadline for minor party candidates’ petitions for general election ballot status.

"Although this is better than the old deadline, which was 54 days before the primary, activists were disappointed, since they had been trying to amend the bill to set the deadline in July, and..."

The New Jersey LP had lob¬
bied — via testimony before a State Assembly committee and via hand-delivered letters to the governor — for the July deadline. That later deadline would have given Libertarians more time to collect petition signatures.

“Moving the filing deadline back to early June serves to erect a barrier for alternative party can¬
didates,” charged NJLP Vice Chair Len Flynn. “The Gover¬
nor had ample time to consider her action, but apparently chose to ignore our request.

[**New York**]

You’ve got your right to party. That could be the motto for Libertarian Travis Stewart, who joined about 300 other states — but dancing — New Yorkers in a four-block-long conga line protest on January 9. The purpose of the unauthorized street box rally: To protest the resur¬
rection of the 1929 “Cabinet Law” by Mayor Rudy Giuliani, which allows police to shut down any bar, club, or restaurant that al¬

tows dancing without a govern¬
ment license.

“It’s a law better suited for 17th century Massachusetts,” said Stewart. “When it comes to dancing, people have a right to do what they want with their own bodies and no government has any business interfering.”

The conga line rally, which was organized by the Dance Lib¬

eritarian Front, three-stepped- and-kicked its way up Avenue A in Manhattan before ending up at Tompkins Square Park for speeches blasting the law.

Apparentl­

y concerned about unauthorized jitterbugging or fox-trotting might break out, a heavy police presence of 40 of¬
cers and a dozen squad cars, vans, and paddy wagons moni¬
tored the march.

[**North Carolina**]

Want to cure the state’s $1 billion budget shortfall? Cut the size of government in half, sug¬
gested state Libertarian Sean Haugh.

“There at least $6 billion in the state budget that would be better off staying in the taxpay¬
ers’ pockets,” said State Chair Sean Haugh. “And we’ve got the figures to prove it.”

In late January, the LP of North Carolina published a 25- page Libertarian budget plan that listed 465 state programs that could be trimmed, reformed, or abolished.

“The list of taxes the plan abolishes is almost as extensive,” said Haugh. “The result is a North Carolina state govern¬
ment almost exactly half its cur¬
rent size.”

Libertarian proposals in¬
cluded aggressively rooting out corporate welfare; giving parents a $2500 per pupil tax credit; privatizing alcohol sales; trans¬
ferring Medicaid and other social services to private charity; and selling state properties such as the state railroads.

“We hope [the General As¬
sembly] will do the right thing and let our citizens keep their hand earned dollars, instead of squandering billions more on their pet projects,” said Haugh.

[**Oregon**]

Libertarians played a crucial role in the defeat of an $82 mil¬

lion tax-funded convention cen¬
ter expansion plan on Mult¬

tnomah County.

On November 3, the mea¬
sure went down to a resounding defeat by a vote of 120,685 to 75,920 — thanks in large part to a Voter’s Pamphlet statement written by local Libertarians.

“Libertarian Party members were not going to stand by while the measure had a free run for taxpayer money,” said Mike

Wilson, Chairman of the Mult¬
tnomah County LP.

LP members Bob Tiernan, Joe Tabor, Ralph Edwards, and Wilson helped draft the statement, summarizing the party’s opposition.

The measure ended up the number one argument in the pamphlet, and “it may have helped defeat the measure,” said Wilson.

[**Texas**]

After 16 years in the Repub¬
lican Party — including stints as a Precinct Chair and Election judge — a leading GOP activist has quit in disgust and joined the Libertarian Party.

On December 8, Paul Morris told The Austin American Statesman, “I will devote my time and energy to the Libertarian Party, which I consider the only party commit¬
ted to reducing the size and scope of government, and pro¬
tecting personal liberties guaran¬
teed by the Constitution.”

In his resignation letter to GOP leaders, Morris also charged that “Republicans have no inter¬
est in fundamental change, only perpetuating themselves in of¬
fice” — and noted that Republi¬
cans political “dole out . . . cor¬
porated welfare like Democrats dole out Aid to Families with
dependent Children.”

The decision by Morris was hailed by Harris County LP Chair Laura Coker-Garcia, who said, “HCLP is happy to welcome him, and [we] know he will be an asset to our organization.”

[**Virginia**]

The state Libertarian Party has a new strategy to kick-start LP activism in unorganized re¬


dions: A weekend “tour” by party leaders.

In late January, State Chair Gary Reams, former State Chair Dana Johansen, and Jefferson Area Libertarians vice chair Jim Lark visited four towns in the Ninth Congres¬

tional District to meet with new LP members, answer questions, and encourage the formation of local affiliates.

“The trip was extremely suc¬
scessful,” said Lark. “The attend¬

ees were excited [about the] trip, and each attendee seemed very enthusiastic about increasing his/her level of activism. Believe we shall see substantially in¬
creased efforts to promote liberty in each of the areas we visited.”

Over the weekend of Janu¬
ary 22-23, party leaders visited

the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area, Narrows, Pounding Mill, meeting with about a dozen LP mem¬
bers and access to “an improved Web calendar from which to give directions and event details,” she said.

The state party was inspired to launch Project Reach Out because of advice from Juan Ros, the executive director of the Cali¬


tornia LP, who noted, “This is crucial outreach. Personal phone calls helped make San Diego the largest (regional LP organization) in California.”

The Power of Just One Signature

Do you think that our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

You can help change that by joining the Libertarian Party! We’re the only political party that is fighting —

with 100% of our energy — to lower taxes, to reduce the size of government, and to defend the Bill of Rights. With your support — and your proud signature on this membership form — we can work harder than ever to build a powerful political force for freedom.

But we need your help to do it. Join us today!

Libertarian Party Membership!

[**YES**] Sign me up today as a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party!

I’ll receive 12 issues of the monthly newspaper, LP News, and a membership card. I’d like to be a Libertarian Party member in the following category:

- **$25** Basic Member
- **$50** Sustaining Member
- **$250** Sponsor
- **$500** Patron
- **$1000** Life Member

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe — and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles — we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

> I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Please Note:

- **Payment**
  - To help you in your important work for liberty, I have enclosed an additional donation of:
  - **$**

- **Total payment enclosed**
  - **$**

- **Check/money order enclosed.**
  - (No stamps, checks, please.)
  - Or: Please bill me: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard.

**ACT#**

**Amount**

**Date**

Please print your full name here.

Signature Required for Membership

**Subscription**

- **Enclosed is $25. I’d rather not join just yet. Instead, please sign me up for a one-year subscription to LP News (12 monthly issues).**

**Name & Address**

**Libertarian Party**

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TALKING POINTS

Better politics through language, & how to weasel out of jury duty

The crime problem

Federal agents can seize people's house, car, wallet, boat, or other property by invoking a hundred different federal statutes, covering alleged offenses involving narcotics, wildlife, structuring withdrawals from one's bank account, having friends and relatives play poker for cash in your home, having too much cash in one's wallet or luggage, etc.

Since 1979, federal seizures of property under forfeiture laws have increased 2,500%, totaling over $5 billion confiscated from accused private citizens and businesses.

While people are terrified of private crime, they have neglected to notice how government actions cost them far more than private crime.

The Justice Department estimated that total losses from the 7,885 bank robberies nationwide in 1994 was approximately $28 million. The same year, federal prosecutors confiscated $2.1 billion in property, cash, and other goods in asset forfeiture proceedings.

JAMES BOVARD
Freedom in Chains
(St. Martin's Press, 1999)

It's the language, stupid!

Free market advocates need to regain control of the political vocabulary. We should replace verbal smog with the crisp language of truth. Take the word "surplus." What do we do with surplus wheat or cheese? Give it to the needy. By extension it apparently makes sense to donate the surplus federal social programs — sorry, (in Clintonspeak) "critical investments."

James K. Gallesman suggests we break out of this mind-set by referring to excess revenues as "the overcharge." Unlike "surplus," this term clearly indicates that the money really belongs to the people who paid it, and that they deserve a refund.

In his 1946 essay "Politics and the English Language," George Orwell cataloged some of the linguistic snares and per-versions that had long served powerful people. He wrote that "one ought to recognize that the present political chaos is connected with the decay of language, and that one can probably bring about some improvement by starting at the verbal end."

JOHN J. PITNEY JR.
Reason magazine, February 1999

A legal inspiration

In Stafford County, Virginia, a prospective juror in a criminal case was excused from jury service when he bluntly informed a county judge: "As long as Bill Clinton is not in jail, I can't vote to put anybody in jail!"

— NATIONAL JOURNAL
January 16, 1999

Size matters

Debate over the size and scope of government has long been the stuff of politics, and the upcoming presidential election will be no different. Al Gore is certain to advertise his credentials as a "New Democrat" by taking credit for nearly 400,000 jobs cut from the federal payroll over the past five years.

To see the true picture one must count all the heads, including full-time federal civil servants, uniformed military personnel, postal workers, and people who deliver goods and services on behalf of the federal government under contracts, grants, and mandates to state and local government.

When all those numbers are added together, the federal government looks very big indeed. In 1996, the most recent year for which good numbers are available, the total size of government was just under 17 million, or roughly 10 times as large as the head count Mr. Clinton used when he announced the end of big government.

That total includes the 1.8 million civil servants in the president's head count, plus 1.5 million uniformed military personnel, 850,000 postal workers, 5.6 million contract employees (of whom 4 million were working under service contracts), 2.5 million grant employees and 4.7 million state and local employees encumbered under federal mandates.

Although the contract, grant and mandate numbers are estimates, they suggest the presence of a huge shadow work force that accounted for 64 jobs per 1,000 Americans in 1996 — not the 11 per 1,000 advertised in that year's federal budget.

— PAUL C. LIGHT
The Wall Street Journal, January 13, 1999

Arresting statistics

Increased drug arrests and longer prison sentences have not slowed illegal drug use, according to a study by the nation's largest drug-fighting agency.

In a study, the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section found that illicit drug use increased 7% from 1996-1997... [At the same time], the ABA study found that 1.2 million people were arrested on drug charges in 1997, a 73% increase over the number of people arrested in 1992.

— GARY FIELDS
USA Today, February 4, 1999

Thank you, Monica

Some earnest souls have gone so far as to aver that impeachement has distracted President Clinton from raising taxes, destroying health care, appointing 1960s bikersheads to high political office, soliciting felonious campaign contributions, hanging friends out to dry for Arkansas real estate frauds, giving missile secrets to the Chinese, taking credit for the benefits of a free market about which he knows little and cares less, using U.S. military forces as fig leaves for domestic scandals and au pairs for the U.N., leading foreign policy back into the flep circus of Jimmy Carterism, having phone sex, groping patronage seekers, and shaping the elastic on the underpants of psychologically disturbed school- age White House interns entrusted with the task of delivering high- level government pizza.

— P.J. O'ROURKE
The Weekly Standard, February 1, 1999

Road to ruin

The federal government is slated to spend over $200 billion on highways over the next several years, while at the same time the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is doling out taxpayer dollars to support anti-highway activism at the state and local level.

According to Peter Samuel, editor of the Toll Roads Newsletter, the EPA's "Transportation Partners" program derides road-building as "an expensive short-term fix that leaves (an) even bigger mess — (in an area) — (that) encourages driving," and is funding 340 groups in 43 states that feel the same way.

Recipients of EPA's anti-road largesse range from the Bicycle Federation of America to the Environmental Defense Fund. Thus, American tax dollars don't just pay for roads, they also pay for the campaign to stop building them.

— COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE UPDATE, January 1999

Republican retreat

Republican control of Congress proved that Republicans do not mean their stricture against even minor increases in "big government". The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which was created three decades ago in a television environment of three networks, survives in a 500-channel world.

There is probably no Republican majority — perhaps not even a significant Republican faction — fundamentally opposed, as a matter of principle, to, say, Clinton's idea that ending social promotion in schools is a federal responsibility. Or to extending to employees of smaller firms coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

— GEORGE F. WILL
The Washington Post, January 31, 1999

Leave Microsoft alone

From the American public: 40% believe the government has brought the (antitrust) case against Microsoft more to help Microsoft's competitors than to help consumers (29%). By a 2:1 margin, Americans believe the government's case is a bad use of taxpayer dollars, by a 5:1 margin, Americans believe the federal government should "stay out of it and let the marketplace and consumers decide."

— PHIL WRIGHT
National Research (National Survey), January 4-7, 1999

Jaruzelski approves

Former Polish (Communist) dictator Wojciech Jaruzelski was asked by the New York Times in 1993 what political philosophy did he feel close to. "Actually, I'm in Clinton's program I see elements I like a lot," he responded.

The former dictator presumably still likes what he sees: A fast-growing state, increased manipulation of the economy, higher penalties on the most productive and entrepreneurial, tighter direction over young people's lives, further control over the health care system, and Orwellian wordspeak about reliance on the private sector while favoring the public sector. The American way shares with the retired Polish general a belief in the infinite perfectibility of man by beneficial social engineers running the state. It is this belief that should become the new political battle line.

— DUG BANDOW
The Washington Times, January 27, 1999

ATTENTION PETITIONERS!

The Libertarian Party of New Mexico recently won major-party status but we need a few things. We need registered Libertarians to maintain it.

We are contemplating a voter registration drive this summer and will probably need professional help. Send proposals and recommendations to Coordinator: JOSEPH KNIGHT
Box 698
Flora Vista, NM 87415

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Box 698
Flora Vista, NM 87415
Have a Million-Dollar-Dollar Tax Day Outreach/Rally!

W ant to add some fun — and success — to your Tax Day rally this year? Want to generate more prospect names? Want to make your rally more enjoyable for LP volunteers? Our $1,000,000 bill outreach literature will do the trick! Printed in green ink, the front side looks like a Federal Reserve $1,000,000 note. The other side explains that the federal government spends $1 million of our money every five seconds — and the only political party trying to change that is the Libertarian Party. There’s a reply coupon and our phone number! The $1,000,000 bill is one of the most popular LP outreach devices ever, according to activists who have used it. Using the line, “How would you like a million bucks to help pay your taxes?”, LP volunteers report an acceptance rate of over 60%. People smile, laugh, and joke when they get it and even remember to get extra copies.

ORDER FORM

$1 Million Tax Day Kit (Send as Priority Mail)

LITERATURE

- Party Literature
- Buttons & MUCH MORE!

LITERATURE
- Buttons & MUCH MORE!

ORDER FORM

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 14 weeks for delivery. For $10.50 for expedited shipping. Call 1-800-682-1776 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order $50. Orders shipped via UPS, ground or 2-day delivery. Federal law requires political committees to report the names and addresses of individuals who contribute to the Libertarian Party. Federal law requires political committees to report the names and addresses of individuals who contribute any contribution in excess of $100 in a calendar year.

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LITERATURE
Will “personal, down-to-earth” approach pay off for John Reda?

After heartbreaking 36-vote loss, he tries again in mayor's race

By Ron Crickenberger
LP Political Director

John Reda is ready for a victory in his second run for Mayor of Elsmere, Delaware — a partisan position he missed before by only 36 votes.

Elsmere, a densely populated suburb of Wilmington, is the fifth-largest city in Delaware. The town is traditionally a Democratic stronghold, but Reda nearly pulled off a Libertarian coup against a Democratic incumbent in 1993 by campaigning against excessive zoning and permitting requirements.

The council back then put in law that mandated permit requirements to replace a window, have a yard sale, or even put up a birdhouse! They required a 6% fee be paid to the city for roof repairs," said Reda. "The same people have been running the town for years, and we have a real need for new leadership with fresh ideas.

The town is sure to get a majority of new leadership in the April 24th election, as three council members and the incumbent mayor have declined to seek re-election. Despite the second highest property tax rate in the state, the Elsmere council managed to run up a $261,000 deficit on a 1996 budget of less than $1.5 million, drawing the ire of residents.

When the council scheduled a vote to raise taxes to pay off the deficit, Reda organized a citywide leafleting campaign, urging citizens to attend the meeting and speak out against the increase.

"It worked — but only temporarily," said Reda. "The council was afraid to raise taxes in the face of open opposition. But instead of cutting spending they went to a state fund to bail us out. We should have cut waste here at home instead of going to the state for a handout."

Refused to pay

"People here are fed up with the council to the point of civil disobedience," he said. "Residents completely ignore many of the zoning requirements, and when the council tried to raise everyone's garbage fees by $50 a month, so many people refused to pay it that the council was forced to rescind the ordinance."

In his first run, Reda received the endorsement of three former Democratic mayors, and knocked on nearly every door in the town.

"I'll be doing door-to-door work almost daily from now till the election," he said.

"A personal, down-to-earth approach is how I came close to winning last time."

Much closer?

Reda may, in fact, have come much closer to winning last time than the 36-vote margin indicates. Thirty-five more votes were recorded than actual voters who checked in with the clerks — more than enough to swing the election. "We couldn't prove fraud then, but we're sure going to be on top of it ahead of time for this election," said Reda.

Reda's roots run deep in Elsmere. A Delaware native, Reda has worked for the New Castle County government for 26 years as a heavy equipment operator. Reda hosts a Saturday morning jazz show on a local radio station and plays drums and sax with a local band.

If Reda wins, it will be the biggest partisan victory the Libertarian Party has achieved in the lower 48 states with only a Libertarian ballot line.

Want to support the Reda for Mayor campaign? Send contributions to: The Reda Committee, 1905 Orleans Road, Wilmington DE 19810.

Want to see your campaign in LP News? If so, contact LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger at: 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037. E-mail: Ron@Crickenberger.com, compuserve.com.

New Bovard book is out in February

James Bovard, one of the most influential libertarian journalists of the 1990s, released a new book in February. Freedom in Chains: The Rise of the State and the Demise of the Citizen (352 pages), published by St. Martin's Press, was available in bookstores on February 22.

The book "looks at the development of the State into a benighted monster that threatens to destroy the individual at the cost of the idea of liberty — the belief that government is inherently superior to the citizenry...and that vesting more arbitrary power in government officials will eventually make citizens happy," said St. Martin's Press.

"Freedom in Chains is must reading for anyone trying to understand how far we've come from our eighteenth century roots as a community of impas- sioned patriots to our sorry positions as wards of the state at the end of the twentieth century."

Michigan LP match books for sale

Continued from Page 3.

green and black, ask: “Smokers, have you had enough of... getting kicked outside in all kinds of weather; being taxed again for every new government scheme; paying over $2.00 a pack for cigarettes worth only 20 cents? Then maybe you’re a LIBERTARIAN.”

The Michigan LP first used the match book just before last fall’s election by leaving a box at every tobacco shop, bowling alley, and bingo parlor they could find, said O’Brien.

“The response was incredible,” he said. “The first time I approached a location, I didn’t even try to explain. I simply handed the owner one of the matchbooks and said with a smile: ‘Here, read this.’”

“The ‘Yes...Yes...YES!’ reaction as the guy read each of the points was like a scene out of When Harry Met Sally. I explained that there was no charge, we merely wanted him to hand them out for free to his customers. He nodded eagerly and snatched the box out of my hand.”

20 cases

Michigan Libertarians went through their first 20 cases of outreach matches in a matter of weeks and are now awaiting the production of their 20 case re-order, said O’Brien.

“The great thing about this is that it’s an outreach program that requires no work to create, and is so inexpensive on even a small scale that anyone can take advantage of it,” said Michigan LP vice chair, Stacy Van Oast, who is coordinating the project.

“Plus, it is so narrowly targeted — I mean, who else besides smokers even picks up a book of matches?”

The Michigan LP is offering the match books for sale by the case — 50 boxes of 50 books (2500 total books) — for $100 plus $10 S&H anywhere in the U.S. Minimum order: one case. Any shipping address must have a person there to receive during business hours as shipped cannot be left outside — “for obvious reasons,” said O’Brien.

To order, send check or money order payable to Libertarian Party of Michigan for $110/ to: LP of Michigan, 604 North Vernon, Dearborn, MI 48128. For information about custom printing (which has minimum four-case order) call Van Oast at (810) 784-8783.

Minnesota legislation

Continued from Page 3.

be made as politically difficult as possible,” said Westover.

■ Shorten legislative sessions, and have the Legislature meet only in odd years.


■ Pass a “Responsible Tax Cut” to reduce state spending growth to be no greater than the rate of inflation or the rate of growth in personal income.

■ Pass a Minnesota version of the Family Education Freedom Act. This bill would amend the IRS Code to allow individuals a credit against their income taxes for tuition and related expenses at public and nonpublic schools,” said Westover.

■ Create a Privatization Initiative Panel, which would consider government priorities by determining what activities are inherently governmental and which could be more efficiently provided by a private source.

■ Pass “Sunset” legislation, so every state law, program, and agency expire after a certain period of time.

Revolutionary?

“Philosophically, libertarians might argue for a [more] revolutionary campaign for individual freedom based on the planks of the LPFMN Platform,” acknowledged Westover.

“However, the political reality is that an electorate composed of coalitions of interest groups requires a utilitarian as well as a principled reason to discard its government security blanket. Thus the need for this legislative agenda proposal.”

If implemented, the Libertarians’ proposals would move Minnesota “toward a prosperous society based on the principles of maximum liberty,” he said.
Friends of Liberty

Over the past few years, "libertarian" has morphed from a word that nobody could pronounce into a description that, seemingly, everybody wants to embrace.

From movie stars to baseball players, from economists to magicians, more and more Americans are identifying themselves as "libertarians," or speaking out about their support for libertarian concepts of limited government and individual freedom.

Here is a quick look at some of the prominent Americans whose public statements have earned them the title, "Friends of Liberty."

Clint Eastwood is one of the world's biggest film stars and directors. The list of his blockbuster films includes: A Fistful of Dollars (1964), Dirty Harry (1971), Any Which Way You Can (1980), In the Line of Fire (1993), The Bridges of Madison County (1995), and Absolute Power (1997). In the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (November 17, 1997), he said: "I've always taken the libertarian point of view. Quit messing with everyone." And in an interview with Playboy magazine, when asked to describe his politics, he said: "Libertarian... Everyone leaves everyone else alone." (March 1997)

Penn Jillette is the bigger and louder half of the magic team of "Penn and Teller"—perhaps the most popular pair of professional magicians in the world. When not touring, he stars in the variety show, Penn and Teller's Sin City Spectacular, on the Comedy Central cable network. He's also a Libertarian Party member and stopped by the LP's national headquarters in Washington, DC, on October 31, 1998.

Except as otherwise noted, being featured on this "Friends of Liberty" list does not imply endorsement of any political party or specific political issues.

P. J. O'Rourke has been called "one of the funniest writers in America" by Time magazine, and "the funniest writer alive" by the Wall Street Journal. He is a Mencken Fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute, and the author of several best-selling books, including: Parliament of Whores: Holidays in Hell and All the Trouble in the World. His most famous quote may be: "Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

Art Bell, the fourth most listened to radio talk show host in America, joined the LP in 1998, saying, "The Libertarian Party is the only viable alternative to the Republicans and Democrats." Bell's show is syndicated on 389 stations and has an estimated 9 million weekly listeners.

Camille Paglia, the iconoclastic author of Sexual Personae and Vamps and Tramps, has described herself as a "60s-style liberal libertarian." In an interview on C-SPAN, she even claimed, "The Libertarian Party has written to me and asked me if I would be their presidential candidate." (June 4, 1998)

Stand-up comic turned sharp-witted host of ABC's Politically Incorrect, Bill Maher has mentioned his interest in libertarian ideas many times on the show. He has also had prominent libertarians— including David Boaz, Charles Murray, and Harry Browne — as guests. On the November 12, 1997, Politically Incorrect, Maher said, "I count myself as a libertarian, also."

Dean Koontz is the #1 bestselling author of Intensity, Sole Survivor, Fear Nothing, and Dark Rivers of the Heart. Politically, he said, he has "developed a profound distrust of government. I remained a liberal on civil rights issues, became a conservative on defense, and a semi-libertarian on all other matters." Quoted in The Dean Koontz Companion. (1994)

Professional baseball player Mike Piazza, who made his reputation with the Los Angeles Dodgers before moving to the New York Mets. "When it comes to politics, I'm more of a libertarian, I think," he told Penthouse magazine (October 1997).

Movie star Kurt Russell has appeared in Silkwood (with Meryl Streep), Tango and Cash (with Sylvester Stallone), Backdraft (with Robert DiNiro), as well as Escape from New York, Tombstone, Stargate, Executive Decision, and Breakdown. He attended the Cato Institute's 20th Anniversary Banquet in 1997, and told the Washington Post, "I'm a libertarian. I think a lot of people are libertarians and are afraid to admit it." (May 2, 1997). And at a Beverly Hills breakfast, Russell introduced former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, saying, "I'm not a Republican, I'm a Libertarian." (Los Angeles Times, January 16, 1998)
Drew Carey is the star of the hit ABC sitcom The Drew Carey Show, top stand-up comic, and author of the best-selling new book, Dirty Jokes and Beer. He’s also a supporter of the Reason Foundation, and an outspoken fan of limited government. In an interview in Reason magazine, he said that when it comes to government, “the less the better. As far as your personal goals are and what you actually want to do with your life, it should never have to do with the government. You should never depend on the government for your retirement, your financial security, for anything. If you do, you’re screwed.”

John Larquette is a former Emmy Award-winner. He is familiar to millions of Americans for his starring roles in TV shows such as Night Court and The John Larquette Show. On Tom Snyder’s Late Late Show Larquette told guest host Jon Stewart that he was a libertarian and a member of the Libertarian Party, declaring that Libertarians are “serious people with important ideas.”

Milton Friedman is one of this century’s most distinguished and influential economists. He is a Nobel Laureate, and has been a presidential advisor, and Newsweek columnist. His books Capitalism and Freedom (1962), and Free To Choose (1979) are classic defenses of libertarian style capitalism. He has also stated: “I am a limited-government libertarian” (1991), and is an outspoken opponent of the War on Drugs and its “army of enforcers empowered to invade the liberty of citizens on slight evidence.” (1989)

Dr. Demento (real name: Baret “Barry” Hansen) is America’s undisputed king of novelty music. For the past 25 years, he has hosted the appropriately named “Dr. Demento Show,” a weekly syndicated radio show on 200 stations that features weird and wild songs. He has described himself as a “libertarian” for years, and has performed as a DJ at parties at past Libertarian Party national conventions.

Dave Barry is one of the most popular humorists in America and a past member of the Libertarian Party. He has credited libertarian writer Sheldon Richman (currently with the Future of Freedom Foundation) with converting him to libertarianism, and many of his columns reflect an “everyman’s” cynicism of government. His Pulitzer Prize-winning column in published in hundreds of newspapers, and he is the best-selling author of Dave Barry Sleeps Here: A Sort of History of the United States; Dave Barry’s Complete Guide to Guys; and Dave Barry in Cyberspace.

On the Tom Snyder Show, top comedian and film star Denis Leary told Snyder he was a “libertarian” (April 24, 1998). Leary has appeared in some two dozen movies, among them Wag the Dog, The Matchmaker, Two If By Sea, The Ref, and Demolition Man (where he played a fast-talking individualist rebel in a future society). He’s also headlined an acclaimed HBO one-man show (No Cure For Cancer), is a successful stand-up comedian, and starred in a series of ground-breaking advertisements for MTV.

Lead singer and harmonica player for the popular rock group Blues Traveler, John Popper has identified himself as a “libertarian” several times, including interviews on MTV and the Howard Stern radio show. Some of his songs also reflect his libertarian perspective, including “Support Your Local Emperor.” The lyrics state: “Support your local emperor / Pay him tribute every time / But could you tell me what he’s ever done for you?”

OTHER PERSPECTIVES:
What’s being said about the “Know Your Customer” law

From all appearances, federal regulatory authorities have become repositories of fascism. Little Hitlers are everywhere. They surfaced recently at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which published a “regulation” on December 7 requiring every bank to spy for the government on every customer. The regulation requires banks to commit many invasions of privacy that are strictly illegal under existing laws. Among the Gestapo-like requirements, banks are instructed to monitor all customer transactions and to report any unusual pattern of deposits and withdrawals.
— Paul Craig Roberts, The Washington Times

February 8, 1999

The Know Your Customer proposal forces banks to become agents of the police, spying and reporting on their own customers — without ever obtaining a warrant. It’s an appalling attempt to do an end-run around our Constitutional rights of privacy. The Know Your Customer rule has no place in a free country. No American citizen should be treated like a suspect.
— Solvig Singleton (Cato Institute), The Washington Times, January 10, 1999

Not only does [the Know Your Customer regulation] represent a topling of our legal heritage and a dangerous philosophic shift, it is also a ridiculously heavy burden to place on financial institutions. The many bankers who have contacted my office have said they are not sure which is worse: The heavy toll this will take on our precious liberties, or the high cost these rules will mean for the institutions and passed on to customers.
— Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), January 31, 1999

New proposed federal regulations will convert banks into conspirators against their customers. The Know Your Customer rules, announced in the Federal Register, could be a landmark in the history of the subversion of American privacy and property rights. If people acquiesce to this expansion of federal power, it is certain that, in future years, regulators will come back and demand even deeper intrusion into people’s lives.
— James Boyard, The Washington Times

January 28, 1999

By April 1, 2000, every FDIC bank in the country would be required to establish a program to systematically spy upon all of its customers, record the results of this spying, and rat out to the Feds any suspicious customers [under the Know Your Customer regulation].
— Michael Kelly, The Washington Post

February 3, 1999

Know Your Customer rules send privacy to the cleaners. Among the clear losers under the new rules would be small banks; Robert Rowe of the Independent Bankers Association of America termed the proposal a “compliance nightmare.” Also hard hit would be residents of many low-income and immigrant neighborhoods. Lawrence Lindsay, formerly a Federal Reserve Board governor and now a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, has noted that honest poor persons, after scrapping to arrange the cash for a down payment on a house, are now stymied when wary bankers demand that they prove their money is untainted.
— Walter Olson, Reason magazine

March 1999

Under the guise of ending drug use, the government is able to do things that would have appalled the American people a few generations ago. [The Know Your Customer rule] is just the latest thrust of the jackboot onto the throat of Lady Liberty.
— Sheldon Richman (The Future of Freedom Foundation), January 1999

Anti-bank spying campaign grows; LP launches new privacy website

Continued from Page 1

greater detail, allows people to send a message directly to the FDIC, and lets concerned citizens rebroadcast the original e-mail letter to more people.

“We’re hoping to create a chain letter-type phenomenon where people visit our website, file a comment to the FDIC, and then let more of their friends know about this resource,” said Dasbach. “If it works, we hope to generate tens of thousands of hits on our website — and tens of thousands of complaints to the FDIC.”

Basically, we want to put the power of the Internet — and the pro-privacy ideology of most cybercitizens — to work to defeat this regulation.” [See “What you can do to help” on page 17.]

Media response

The party has also used the Know Your Customer regulation to generate an unprecedented media response, said George Getz, the LP’s press secretary.

“We’ve never talked about an issue that has produced this kind of reaction from radio talk show hosts — or the American public,” he said.

Since January, Getz, Dasbach, and LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger have done 48 radio interviews about Know Your Customer, and appeared on 406 individual stations. Response from the public has been so intense that Getz has been invited to appear on some stations two, three, and four times, he said.

“Once people hear about this issue, the phones light up,” he said. “They can’t believe it at first — and then the reaction is that this time, the government has gone too far. People are concerned about privacy, and are overwhelmingly on our side about this issue.”

One radio interview even caused a senior member of the House Banking Committee to call in and promise to hold hearings on the Know Your Customer regulation.

In a January 11 interview on WJBO in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Getz and host Ed Buggs were blasting the proposal when U.S. Representative Richard Baker (R-LA) called the show.

“He said he was concerned about the regulation, and said he would get the House Banking Committee to hold hearings on it,” recounted Getz. “I pressed him to let a representative from the Libertarian Party testify — since we seem to be the only political party that’s 100% opposed to it. Since Baker voted for the bill that originally authorized Know Your Customer, I’ll believe his promise when he actually comes through.”

In other Know Your Customer news, Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), the 1988 Libertarian Party candidate for president, has filed a trio of bills to squash the regulation, curb federal regulation of banks, and protect Americans’ financial privacy. [See story on page 17.]

Presumed guilty

“I’ve heard from literally thousands of people, and not one of them wants the government to require banks to implement these massive new programs, which turn every customer into a presumed guilty suspect,” said Paul when he announced the bills.

The Libertarian Party has joined the Ad Hoc Coalition for Financial Privacy, set up to rally support for Paul’s bills.

Know Your Customer is being opposed by a wide coalition of political, banking, civil liberties, and privacy organizations, including the Eagle Forum, American Civil Liberties Union, the American Bankers Association, and the Free Congress Foundation.

Corrections/Updates

In the February 1999 issue of LP News, in an “Affiliate News” item about Massachusetts, David Rostcheck was incorrectly described as a “Boston-area Libertarian” active in the campaign for the Freedom of Marriage Act and the Freedom of the Bedroom Act. In fact, he is not an LP member, but an activist with the Bisexual Resource Center, which supports the legislation.

A final vote result for the November 1998 elections has been announced: Libertarian Donald E. Kucht, Jr. won 44 votes in his race for the Herman Board of Trustees in Nebraska.
Ron Paul files financial privacy bills

A new line of attack has been opened against the Know Your Customer regulation: Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) has introduced several bills to overturn the FDIC's controversial proposal and to protect "the financial privacy rights of American citizens."

On February 3, Paul announced three pieces of legislation to specifically prohibit the FDIC from implementing Know Your Customer, to repeal other federal banking regulations, and to open up federal financial files to the public.

"We proclaim that American citizens have the right to be free of the snooping, prying eyes of government bureaucrats," said Paul at the press conference announcing the bills.

Peace of mind

"This legislative package will, once enacted, give Americans the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their every financial step is not being filed away and viewed as potentially criminal. This package stores and protects the fundamental privacy and due process rights that are the foundation of our system of government."

The three bills in Paul's "Financial Privacy Protection Package" include:

- The Know Your Customer Sunset Act (HR 516): This legislation would prohibit the FDIC, Federal Reserve, and other agencies from implementing the Know Your Customer regulations. Paul said about a dozen lawmakers have already agreed to join him as co-sponsors of HR 516.
- The Bank Secrecy Sunset Act (HR 517): This legislation would sunset the Nixon-era Bank Secrecy Act, which has been much-abused (allowing regulators to create Know Your Customer, for example) to the detriment of the customers of financial institutions," said Paul. The Sunset Act would require that Congress either re-write the law, or devolve the regulatory power to the states.
- The FinCEN Public Accountability Act (HR 518): This legislation will allow American consumers to see the files created on them by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Net-

What you can do to help

- If you haven't done so already, send a comment to the FDIC:
  - Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attn: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429.
  - Or fax: (202) 898-3838.
  - Or send e-mail to: comments@FDIC.gov.

Note: The FDIC's e-mail system is apparently being overloaded by complaints, and some Libertarians' e-mail is bouncing back. If that happens, try again later, or mail your comments.
- Visit the Libertarian Party's anti-Know Your Customer website. Use it to comment to the FDIC or to send e-mail to your friends encouraging them to get active in the campaign.
- www.DefendYourPrivacy.com

"I'm from the government... I'm here to help you."

Had enough help?

Contact Freedom Law School!

The Freedom Law School (FLS) was founded to assist those freedom loving and self-responsible people who are committed to living their lives free of oppressive control and taxation by governments and their agents and live free, in pursuit of happiness.

By learning about your rights, and the proper procedures that you need to utilize in asserting them, you can live your life in freedom. This knowledge will empower you to keep the meddlesome government agents out of your life, and if the pesky government agents insist on harassing you, you will know the proper way to respond and get the leeches off your back.

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The world's most popular political quiz?

The World’s Smallest Political Quiz is rapidly becoming the “world’s most popular political quiz”—thanks to a recent spate of publicity for the Advocates for Self-Government’s website and its famous quiz.

Over the past several months, the Advocates’ website — www.selfgov.org — has been featured in PC Novice magazine, Yahoo! Internet Life magazine, and in a new political science text book, American Government: The Politics of Diversity, said Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates for Self-Government.

The Advocates’ site was also showcased on the MSNBC cable news network; on the Larry Elder radio show; on the Houghton Mifflin publishing company website; and on C-SPAN.

“Breakthrough!” said Harris. “Houghton Mifflin, Yahoo!, PC Novice, Larry Elder, C-SPAN... these are big names, and I’m excited by the exposure they’ve recently given our cause.

Thanks to the publicity, more than two million people have visited the Advocates’ website since 1996, said Harris, and over 320,000 have taken the Quiz — with 41% scoring Libertarian.

The World’s Smallest Political Quiz is a four-way political map that accurately measures whether people are conservative, libertarian, liberal, or authoritarian. It was developed and promoted by the Advocates, which is a Georgia-based, non-partisan libertarian educational organization.

LP “clothing criminals” start defense fund

Two LP activists who were arrested in New Mexico for the “crime” of wearing Libertarian Party clothing near a voting booth have started a legal defense fund, and are soliciting funds for their upcoming trial.

“It amazes me that in a country that calls itself democratic, a voter could go to prison because of the clothing he wears,” said Gary Fincher.

In November 1998, Karen and Gary Fincher were stopped from voting by poll workers for wearing an LP jacket and tee-shirt respectively, both of which featured the party’s Statue of Liberty logo. Election staff said their attire violated state law that restricts campaigning at the polls.

When Gary Fincher declined to remove or cover his shirt, they were arrested and detained until after the polls closed. They face a 364-day jail sentence and up to $5,000 in fines. At the time, both Finchers were working on Maurice McDonald’s Libertarian campaign for State Land Commissioner.

The Finchers have established a legal defense fund to defray legal costs which are estimated at $5,000.

“arrested across the country will chip in to help fund our legal defense against these outrageous charges, then that will go a very long way toward deterring these kind of egregious police state actions in the future,” said Gary Fincher.

Contribution can be sent to: Fincher Legal Defense Fund, Daniel Bartholomew, Trustee, c/o Los Alamos National Bank, P.O. Box 60, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

Larry Elder: National syndication next?

Los Angeles fans of the libertarian/conservative radio talk show host Larry Elder may soon have to share him with the rest of the country — the self-described “sage from South Central” may soon get a national syndication contract.

Elder, who has been described as a “firebrand libertarian” by local media and who gave a popular speech at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention in which he declared, “I am not a newsroom hack,” is negotiating with ABC. National show? Radio Network and could finalize a syndication deal within a few months, according to Variety magazine.

Despite his bold libertarian positions — everything from sharply limiting the power of the federal government to legalizing prostitution to ending affirmative action — Elder has become the highest-rated talk show host on KABC AM radio.

Libertarian code-cracking team wins new $1,000 encryption prize

The Libertarian team was joined in by the EFF’s “Deep Crack,” a customized code-cracking machine built by Libertarian John Gilmore, a long-time supporter of encryption rights.

The purpose of the contest was to prove that 56-bit DES encryption technology — which is still widely used by financial services to protect sensitive on-line information — is inadequate. DES is the strongest data-scrambling technology legally sanctioned by the U.S. government.

“We hope the result of this contest delivers a wake-up call to those who still believe DES offers adequate security,” said Gilmore.

Now that the 56-bit DES contest is over, the Libertarians for Privacy team will go back to their ongoing effort to help crack a 64-bit encoded message, said Macia. Hundreds of LP members are contributing the spare processing cycles of their home computers in that effort.

To join the Libertarians for Privacy team: Contact Macia via e-mail at vltvC@catamount.com.

Or visit the LP Website at: http://www.catamount.com/rcs/rcs-join.html.
Is It Time to End the War on Drugs?
by Jacob G. Hornberger

Hardly a week goes by without some mention in the media of the war on drugs. Record drug busts, money-laundering schemes, increasing drug abuse, gang warfare, thefts and robberies, political corruption, infringements on bank privacy, searches and seizures, confiscation of assets, arrests, convictions, and incarcerations.

If the overall situation—both with drug usage and the drug war—keeps getting worse, shouldn’t Americans be asking some fundamental questions: How long is all of this going to continue? How bad do things have to get before people finally recognize that the war on drugs has failed? How many infringements on individual liberty and privacy must still be tolerated?

The policy question is: If the war on drugs has admittedly failed to achieve its objectives after decades of warfare, and if the situation has continued to worsen over the years, then why shouldn’t this government program simply be terminated?

Of course, the basic moral question is: Why shouldn’t an individual be free to engage in self-destructive behavior? Isn’t that the very essence of human freedom? If a person is not free to do bad, harmful things to himself, then how can he truly be considered free? Under what moral authority does the state regulate and punish an adult for doing something bad to himself?

The true test of a free society is not whether people are free to engage in what the state defines as “responsible” conduct. After all, even the Chinese and North Korean people are “free” by that standard. The real test of a free society is whether an individual is free to engage in irresponsible behavior, so long as it does not interfere, in a direct and forceful way, with the ability of others to do the same. In other words, as long as a person doesn’t murder, rape, steal, burgle, defraud, and the like, freedom entails the right to do anything a person wants, even if it’s the most irresponsible and self-destructive thing in the world.

There are also pragmatic reasons for ending the drug war. For one thing, even if it were capable of succeeding, the price in terms of liberty and privacy would be high. After all, they can’t even keep drugs out of prisons. How would they finally keep them out of people’s homes—with government cameras and drug-sniffing dogs and children who are taught to rat on their parents?

Moreover, when a person desires or needs some drug, making possession or distribution of the drug illegal is unlikely to achieve its intended result. Since making drugs illegal restricts supply, the price is artificially forced upward. Drug users are usually going to do whatever is necessary to get the money to pay for their drug. Thus, it is not a coincidence that burglaries, robberies, muggings, and thefts increase when drugs are made illegal. When was the last time you saw a winesealing money to pay for wine?

The most effective way to treat drug addiction is through therapy, not incarceration. That’s why Alcoholics Anonymous has been so effective in treating alcohol abuse. But therapy entails an addict’s freely talking about his addiction and the underlying reasons for his addiction. By making drug use illegal, the drug war has the opposite effect—it makes it much more difficult for people to come forward and openly seek treatment.

Ironically, ending the war on drugs would be more likely to achieve the type of society in which most of us would like to live: a peaceful, harmonious, law-abiding one. Does that mean that people wouldn’t take drugs? Of course not. But it would mean that prices would drop and that drug users would have less incentive to steal or rob to get the money to pay for the drugs. It would also enable addicts to talk freely about their addictions, openly admit they have a problem, and seek treatment.

Most important, ending the war on drugs would move us in the direction of replacing the paternalistic state, and its massive infringements on liberty and privacy, with a government whose powers are limited to protecting the right of the individual to live his life as he chooses so long as he respects the right of everyone else to do the same. Isn’t this the principle on which our nation was founded?

Mr. Hornberger is president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va.

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We Don’t Compromise.
A s Washtenaw County's (Michigan) only elected official, it is my duty to offer this report on recent activities concerning my position as Superior Township Parks Commissioner.

Remain loyal

To that end I remain loyal to the two constitutions I have taken in this regard: Firstly, the Libertarian pledge that I do not believe in the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, and secondly, the oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the sovereign state of Michigan. It should be noted that nearly every member of the Superior Township Parks Commission is in violation of the non-initiation of force, and often contrary to the spirit of said constitutions. I should also note that I have one vote of six, and that a vote of six out of the seven commissioners who feel as I do on this matter. Thus, I am usually the lone dissenter on most votes.

Perhaps the most important issue that has come before me recently was the projected budget for 1999.

Some background: The Superior Township Parks Commission was authorized by a vote of the people to add responsibilities were added by ordinance in the early 1980s. It is my opinion that the department serves little useful function, is not popular among the citizens, is a burden to the Township Council — and thus should be abolished. The department's budget is allocated from the township general fund (tax money), and supplemented by grants from other government agencies (tax money) and a small amount of private organization grants and donations.

For fiscal year 1999, the chair of the Superior Township Parks Commission moved that we request approximately $130,000 from the Township Council. During discussion, I offered an amendment to change that amount to "zero dollars." When asked why, I explained my principles on the matter and offered the option of improving our public safety and better serving our constituents by de-funding the department.

Plus, we would all probably become celebrities by being a government agency that puts itself out of a job! My amendment failed 5 to 1. The original budget passed (5 to 1) and was eventually approved by the Township Council.

Another controversial vote that I cast was a "No" vote to recommend a person to replace an open position on the Parks Commission (for a commissioner who had resigned).

The election last November for Parks Commissioner did not have any candidates listed to fill that vacancy. Since no one ran, no one was elected. The usual procedure in this matter is for the Superior Township Parks Commission to interview the candidates and make a recommendation to the Township Council to appoint a replacement.

None of the above

I objected to this on the "none of the above" principle. If no one was interested enough to run and the people had spoken by electing nobody then nobody should fill the position. Also, the prospective candidate stated her main qualification for the job was her experience at writing government grants! She was recommended on a 4 to 1 vote, and the township appointed her unanniously.

My other Libertarian positions have been "No" votes to imprison people for not being dead, look into, consider, or even think about government grants. These intergovernmental transfers of stolen wealth are the poison of our republic. Public influence, political patronage, and turn local governments into fawning, begging, pawns of the state and federal government. Unfortunately, to a local government official, receiving a grant is like hitting the lottery. No one (but a Libertarian) would ever refuse this offer.

I have also moved at several meetings that the Superior Township Parks Commission move to reclaim all funds in our budget back to the general fund, sell off all assets, and return the money to the township. This motion was never seconded and is often ruled out of order as the chairperson feels the Parks Department can request and spend tax money — but not give any back.

My goals for the future are to attempt to convince the Commission to sell off the Recreation Building — and I am looking into ways to get a ballot initiative to repeal the Superior Township Parks Commission.

By Brett Cashman

Why why political "compromise" has become a dirty word

Why the R's and D's always give away their rights

By John Anderson

Compromise: Theoretically the cornerstone of representative government. It is the basis by which diverse interests can come to accord and ultimately live with each other. But, alas, the trend of compromise lately has been very disturbing.

Democrats, formerly defenders of civil liberty, have consistently allowed these liberties to be compromised in the interest of "protection" or "safety" — in exchange for cooperation in the liberal agenda in the form of increased regulation and taxation.

Republicans, formerly the defenders of property, gun, and states' rights, have compromised their position in order to obtain increased spending on their pet projects — such as prisons and missile defense.

Consider recent crime bills. Republicans want harsher sentences for convicted drug dealers. They want more money for federal prisons and police officers. They want to give the same rights to citizens as to police officers. All to "protect our youth from the scourge of drugs."

Republicans claim citizens have the right to bear arms to defend themselves and their families. Yet they are far too willing to compromise these rights away to secure the increased powers they feel are necessary.

Empowerment

Democrats want more education and welfare to give citizens "empowerment." They want to turn over control of the gun to guns. They feel it is the obligation of the federal government to "help" neighborhoods that don't seem to have the ability to help themselves. All to "protect our youth from the scourge of poverty and violence."

Democrats claim citizens have the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure; that police must have limits on their power. Yet they are far too willing to compromise these principles away to achieve their goals of increased regulation and social welfare.

So the answer, of course, is compromise. The Republicans could give up the prisons and police, and maintain gun and property rights. The Democrats could give up the liberal social policies they want in order to maintain the civil liberties they claim to hold dear.

Both often do not such a compromise for the sake of freedom occur? Sadly never and why should it? Legislators work to gain core constituencies of special interests, rarely doing what is best for the population as a whole. This is how they make themselves attractive to the special interests that finance campaigns.

The pressure is firm and constant. Without diligent philosophical dedication to the principles of freedom, the result is inexorable. Less individual freedom and more government power.

Even without the pressure of the special interests, the result may be the same. Consider the career politician. To the extent he can pass legislation to increase the size of his "business," he is a success — just as we see those who expand their private enterprise as successful.

The buck stops...

The responsibility of maintaining a free society rests with the voter. It has been said that the "buck stops" with the president. I say it stops with the voter.

To the extent we elect these people, we deserve them. The only reason we should vote for any particular candidate is by their dedication to freedom. For this is the only way we will keep it.

Editor's note: John Anderson is the editor of the San Diego LP's Libertarian newsletter. This essay is reprinted from the February 1998 issue of that newsletter.
“I’VE BEEN TO TWO STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP AND CAMPAIGN WORKSHOPS PUT ON BY THE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS. THIS BEATS BOTH OF THEM!”
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Managing suburban growth... destroying Americans' freedom

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** How can Libertarianism solve America’s problems? Each issue, LP News will showcase how “Libertarian Solutions” — or interim steps in a libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

**By Joseph L. Bast**

Several times each year for the past 23 years, I’ve driven from Chicago to Appleton, Wisconsin, and back again. I’ve seen the fields and woodlands alongside highways 44 and 41 gradually replaced by office parks, shopping malls, and residential developments. Over the years, the change has been dramatic.

“Urban sprawl” worries some people. They say it will lead to a shortage of agricultural land, deplete the planet’s limited supplies of fossil fuels, and load the air we breathe with hazardous pollutants. Others worry that sprawl reinforces social inequalities by separating jobs from workers and encouraging race- and class-segregated communities. Still others think sprawl is compromising our quality of life by taking away the intimacy, small-town atmosphere, and sense of community identity that come from living in compact neighborhoods.

**The environment**

I have a difficult time taking seriously any of the concerns raised by the growth control crowd. What triggered my skepticism were the claims of environmental damage that so often accompany calls for growth management. Urban expansion is, in fact, responsible for surprisingly little conversion of either forest or croplands into roads, houses, and parking lots. In 1945, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, urban land use accounted for just 1% of the area of the U.S. By 1992, that figure had risen to 3%. Forests covered 32% of the U.S. in 1945 and 30% in 1992, and stayed unchanged at 24%.

Urban sprawl is not correlated with a decline in air quality. Air quality in nearly all major American cities has dramatically improved during the past 20 years, even as suburban sprawl boomed. Concentrations of all six of the air pollutants tracked by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fell dramatically between 1975 and 1991: Dust and airborne ash fell by 24%; sulfur dioxide by 50%; carbon monoxide, by 53%; nitrogen dioxide by 24%; and lead, by 94%.

Will the long commutes caused by sprawl lead to depletion of the world’s petroleum supplies? Not in our lifetimes, and almost certainly not in our children’s. During the past 20 years, estimates of oil reserves have increased nearly every year due to new discoveries and technological advances, even as we consume more gasoline with every passing year.

**Development**

Those who blame suburbs for luring industry and jobs away from cities, leaving behind many skilled but unemployed workers, have confused cause with effect. As cities grow, property values in their central business districts rise, prompting businesses that require large amounts of space — typically manufacturers — to leave, and companies requiring less space — typically service providers — to enter. The new companies are less likely to impose nuisances upon their neighbors.

**By Steve Dasbach**

**LP National Director**

**QUESTION:** What should be done to halt “urban sprawl”? **Managing suburban growth... destroying Americans' freedom**

**Libertarian Online Guide**

Libertarian Party: http://www.lp.org/
Libertarian Party News: http://www.LP.org/lpn/
Law or regulation?
In my most recent copy of the LP News, I see repeated mention of a new "Law" concerning bank privacy ["LP works to stop bank spying law," February 1999]. It appears that my own party cannot distinguish the difference between a real law passed by representatives elected by the people, and signed by an elected executive, and a "regulation" imposed on us by unelected bureaucrats.

This is where the real battle is. If we tamely send our petitions to an unelected bureaucracy which imposes its whims on us by fiat, we have already given up the struggle for freedom. If we resist and refuse to recognize such unconstitutional restrictions on our freedom, and if we send our protests to our elected representatives who have abdicated their duties, perhaps we have some hope of restoring a government of law.

I am shocked and dismayed that the party of freedom cannot differentiate between a law passed by Congress and a regulation imposed on us by unelected bureaucrats. Perhaps this is the real problem. Even the defenders of freedom have lost the meaning of the word.

— JOHN LEWICKE
Mason, New Hampshire

Editor’s note: In fact, the "Know Your Customer" provision is both a proposed regulation and a proposed law. In late 1998, the U.S. House passed HR 4005, the Money Laundering Deterrence Act, which instructed the FDIC to implement the Know Your Customer policy.

“IT APPEARS MY own party cannot distinguish between a law and a regulation.”

Just plain stupid
In reference to the article, "Michigan Libertarian stops county anti-smoking law," [LP News, February 1999] I would like to comment on this.

Referring to smoking as "property rights" is just plain stupid. I believe smokers have a right to smoke wherever they want as long as they don't force others to breathe their smoke and/or are a fire hazard. Like anything else one's right ends when it takes away someone else's right. We all have a right to breathe clean air and not have our clothes and hair all stunk up. Please, let's keep things in perspective.

— FRED C. HAMMERSTEIN
Cookville, Tennessee

Christian Libertarian?
LP News seems especially proud of a new Christian LP member Greg Cunningham ["My Exodus to Libertarianism," February 1999]. His outstanding virtue seems to be that he came to realize that most Republicans lack the courage of their own lukewarm support for individual rights, Hurrah! The key to Greg, as he is eager to point out, is his Christianity, not his Libertarianism. He is likely in the short run to be an active promoter of LP programs — as long as they do not promote the fundamental Libertarian value of individual sovereignty. He opposes, as already do too many other LP members, the right of a woman to her own body — and, by extension, the fundamental right of anyone to manage their own body. He simply thinks it is best for them to do so most of the time.

Greg found he could support legalization of drugs only after hearing the argument that the Bible did not "sanction the state to regulate what chemicals a person used." I fear that, over time, other people will find many passages in the Bible that do suggest such sanction, and many more sanctions, may be possible.

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THE PULSE

Liberation's novel heroine

What does it take to be a Libertarian hero? Running for president or running a free-market think tank helps; so does winning a Nobel Prize for helping to win the Revolutionary War.

But the best way to become a hero, according to readers of LP News: Publish several lengthy, best-selling books: start your own philosophy; and (eventually) get your own country.

The author, Texas' own, explains why Ayn Rand, the Russian-born Objectivist author, won this month's unscientific poll on "My Libertarian Hero" — winning a solid plurality, with 15.5% of the vote. Coming in second: Firey orator Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger, president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, with 6.6% of the vote.

And in a tie for third place (each with 4.4% of the vote) were Thomas Paine (Revolutionary War-era author of Common Sense): Milton Friedman (Nobel Prize-winning economist); Karl Hess (presidential speech writer and past LP News editor); and Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate and author of Why Government Doesn't Work).

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

Ayn Rand: No one has articulated so clearly to so many the flaws of socialism as Rand has. And no one has so brilliantly conveyed the hope and excitement of living in a principled, libertarian society as Rand has.

— Allen Tiffany, Cypress, Texas

Thomas Jefferson: For his advocacy for a small, limited government. Jefferson did more than any other man to counterbalance the power of the blue-blood Federalists, and keep power with the states and with the people.

— Jim Cheaney, Colo, Iowa

Ayn Rand: Atlas Shrugged. Need I say more?

— Mark Hinkle, Morgan Hill, California

Milton Friedman: Need I say more?

— Aaron Clemens, Las Vegas, Nevada

Gene Roddenberry (creator of Star Trek): By bringing Libertarian principles in sci-fi form to millions of people around the world, he has helped the development of the Libertarian Party in an effective, subtle manner.

— George F. Wright, Meadville, Pennsylvania

Robert Heinlein: His passionate defense of libertarian ideas in his fiction was able to reach me much more powerfully than the dry explanations why Ayn Rand, the

— Tony Valle, Oviedo, Florida

L. Ron Hubbard: Through his writings and lectures he gave me back my patriotism and desire to help my country. His writings helped me find the Libertarian Party. He made me believe if I worked for my principles, I could make a difference in the world.

— Diane Lichtensteiger, Clayton, Alabama

Mark Scott (radio talk show host, Detroit, Michigan): The airwave's leader against government tyranny. Mark fights everyday for the liberty and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

— Eric Myers, Flagstaff, Arizona

Karl Hess: More than anyone else I ever met, he lived the libertarian philosophy that he espoused. The man exemplified the amazing potential of a libertarian society.

— Henry Haller, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Harry Browne: His book, Why Government Doesn't Work, opened my eyes to the tyranny of the Federal government. One must respect the high standard he set for LP candidates in the future.

— Michael Oberg, Lawrenceville, Georgia
THE PULSE

Continued from Page 23

■ Dennis Kurk, my dad. In 1972, I was going to vote for George McGovern because I believed he would stop the war in Vietnam. Then my dad gave me information about the Libertarian Party and it made perfect sense to me. Because of my dad, I voted for the very first Libertarian candidates, and have voted Libertarian ever since.

— REBECCA KURK, Eden Prairie, Minnesota

■ Jacob Hornberger: His conviction in supporting our principles is unquestionable and uncompromising. Bumper car can’t be bought because he has no price.

— DAVID STEVENS, Millington, Tennessee

■ William Blake: He continuously used his art to condemn the state’s power to push people’s individualism down. He did this at great personal risk.

— CHRISTIAN G. DAVIS, Fayetteville, North Carolina

■ Peter McWilliams: After I read Ain’t Nobody’s Business If You Do a couple of years ago, I stopped reading fiction in favor of non-fiction books. The prohibition of consensual activities had always seemed absurd to me, but McWilliams really brought home the level of injustice.

— JERRY RIVARD, Newton, Connecticut

■ Nobody: I was not converted to libertarianism, so I cannot claim a mentor or idol. I feel my Libertarian thought is in my bones.

— E.W. ANDERSON, Naples, New York

MAY QUESTION: Libertarian society’s virtues?

Ask Libertarians why they are politically active, and some will answer with a litany of government abuses they are fighting against. Others, however, will list what they are fighting for. A society where voluntarism has replaced coercion; a flowering of private charity; better business opportunities; a nation at peace; and so on. With that positive spirit in mind, think about the “perfect” Libertarian society (whatever your personal definition is) you’d like to live in and sell us. What will be the single best thing about a Libertarian America? In other words, what is the hoped-for “pay-off” that keeps you active in the Libertarian movement?

— Deadline: April 5, 1999

APRIL QUESTION: The Death Penalty?

From A to Z, the Libertarian Party platform tackles every imaginable political topic. Almost. Conceivably its absence is one major “hot button” issue: The death penalty, on which the LP takes no official position. Why? Because it’s one of those rare issues where there is no obvious Libertarian position. Some Libertarians favor the death penalty, arguing that it is the only fitting punishment for some crimes, such as murder. Other Libertarians oppose it, arguing that it puts too much power in the hands of the government.

— QUESTION: Should the LP take a position on the death penalty? If so, should we be for it, against it, or something else? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

— Deadline: March 5, 1999

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won’t be tallied. Enter just once per month.

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HEMEMAIL

Continued from Page 23

support for Libertarian morality rests on the same quicksand that supports Republican morality: The Bible. Many “religious” people are good citizens, not making religion a major part of their political and economic views. However, religion, by its nature, promotes altruistic morality. Get religion as a foundation. Large-scale expansion of the LP, not by Libertarians, but by “Christian Libertarians,” will undermine the LP’s long-range goal — assuming that goal is a free society, not simply winning elections.

A true Libertarian, such as John Taylor Gatto, says, “Let justice be done, even though heaven falls.”

— JACK GARDNER, Austin, Texas

Atheist-Libertarians?

I found Greg Cunningham’s essay on his “conversion” to Libertarianism very interesting; but I fail to understand “hyphenated” libertarians would be a Christian-Libertarian. The first Libertarians I met back in the seventies were almost all atheist, but they did not call themselves atheist-Libertarians. Although an atheist myself, I don’t think I would care to join if they did. In a Libertarian society, government neither promotes nor forbids religious beliefs or lacks thereof.

At a Christian-Libertarian meeting, are there signs saying Asian hate isists or whatever also welcome?

— HELEN WEAVER, Westland, Michigan

Left-field solutions

Perhaps the page one article on the “Libertarian Utopia” really is a gag (LP News, January 1999). Then again, maybe it isn’t. When it comes to life, there is no Utopia, only tradeoffs. One person’s Utopia is another person’s Hell.

The idea of private money is just one of the articles’ absurdities. The LP has used much ink to complain against the baseless “fiat” money printed by the government. Now we’re supposed to replace it with useless fiat money printed by everyone and his dog? The example given of private coupons, redeemable for specific goods or services (hardly representative of universally accepted legal tender. Having to be familiar with the financial reliability of a jillion money printers is Utopian.)

Can’t get real. The LP has a hard enough time being taken seriously even with its more reasonable ideas. Exposing obviously flawed, left-field “solutions” isn’t going to help.

— DON WACKER

Isaaqah, Washington

■ Editor’s note: “Libertarianism’s Stealthy Triumph” was not a detailed blueprint of a Libertarian future, but was, instead, a list of some of the promising ways that libertarian-style ideas have made headway into our present culture.

The phrase, “Libertarian utopia,” was meant in an ironic (not literal) way. As LP National Chairman David Bergland has stated so memorably, “Utopia is not an option.”

Libertarians can (and do) debate how large government should be, and this article attempted to add to this discussion by pointing out that in an increasingly secular society, people are already creating alternatives to government services. We can only assume that in a (non-utopian) Libertarian future, many of these private alternatives would continue to exist and flourish.

“When it comes to life, there is no Utopia, only tradeoffs.”

— RANDY BRYAN

Gadsden, Alabama

■ Editor’s note: Actually, not a single one of the respondents in that Pulse column added Paul (the Congressman from Texas), who would make a big impact by bringing a lot of Republicans into the fold while alerting Democrats that their party is not the one for true social freedom.

Unlike populists Perot or Jesse “The Body” Ventura, our own candidate Paul Revere has a plan and a true slogan of freedom on their lips that could not be entirely ignored by the media — since there are libertarian deficits in both parties.

— AARON CLEMMENS

Las Vegas, Nevada

President Penn

The LP can learn a lot from Jesse Ventura’s successful gubernatorial campaign. Namely, that a dynamic personality can encourage a hell of a lot of politics (without meaning to). It doesn’t mean form without substance; you need brains to be a Navy SEAL.)

So how about a run for the White House along these lines? Run on the LP ticket, with a Libertarian as your running mate. I believe this would be a very interesting campaign. However, he would have to be a very different person than the usual candidate who is not only wildly popular among younger demographic groups, but who is a demonstrably outspoken advocate for First Amendment rights. Give him a partner who, although he never speaks while within his public persona, nevertheless has more personality than the entire Clinton administration combined and (I believe) a fellow of the Cato Institute. Put them on the...
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The ‘problem’ of urban sprawl

Continued from Page 22
Each, in fact, is best at delivering the quality of life most desired by those who choose it.

My life growing up in a small town could have come straight from a Norman Rockwell painting. In the mornings as I walked to school, I passed a steady stream of men carrying lunch buckets heading for a paper mill. Doors were unlocked and kids roamed the neighborhood almost unsupervised. During summer evenings we would play kick-the-can in the street while our parents sat on the front porch and talked with neighbors.

Requires a city
At the age of 18, I decided work in a paper mill wasn’t for me. So I headed to the Big City to find my first real job, and start a career in the think tank business. It may take a village to raise a child, but it requires a city to give birth to a school and a University. The University of Chicago and organizations such as The Heartland Institute.

By the age of 34, I found to dislike the noise, crime, and grid of city living. Diane and I left the city to those young enough or old enough to sleep through the nighttime police sirens, car alarms, and mysterious loud noises (guns shots? cars?). In suburbia we found peace, quiet, and access to amenities, such as tennis courts and walking paths, that we now value more than the good restaurants and night clubs.

I am struck by how my lifestyle choices have determined the places I’ve lived, and how those places, in turn, have served the peculiar needs of each lifestyle. Why, I wonder, would anyone want to deny people the same choices I was able to make?

The growth management debate may sound arcane or of little interest to most people, but in fact it touches on an enormous range of public policies affecting virtually every aspect of our lives. Growth management policies aim to influence where we live and work, how we travel from place to place, whether elected officials or unelected bureaucrats will decide important planning issues, and the character of local communities.

At the heart of the debate over growth management is not whether growth should be managed, but how it is managed and by whom. In most parts of the country, the path of growth was traditionally left to the private sector. Individual home buyers, developers, and business executives drove most decisions about where new neighborhoods would be born and a business would be located. Elected local officials participated in the process by using zoning powers, their control over the public infrastructure, and their power of eminent domain.

We should not assume that giving government more authority is the solution to whatever problems are produced by urban expansion. Indeed, the problems often attributed to unplanned growth are more often the result of prevailing government policies that distort market processes which would otherwise lead to win-win situations.

- Joseph L. Bast is President of the Heartland Institute. This article first appeared in the September/October 1998 issue of the Heartland Institute’s Intellectual Ammunition.

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Would you like to work at the Libertarian National headquarters in Washington, DC? We’re looking for a Customer Service Representative (CSR) to fill a new job. We need someone with good general communication skills and a solid grounding in LP issues and activities, moderate data entry skills, organizational ability, and ability to work in a team environment. Sales experience helpful. Specific tasks would include:

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Help develop prospects into members: Implement and monitor inquiry follow-up programs. Develop new members into renewing members: Implement and monitor new member follow-up programs. Sensitivity to member needs is critical in this area. We depend on our CSR to identify weak spots in our member relations and make recommendations that will improve member relations.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 31, 1999
  Second Amendment Awareness Day. Michigan State University campus, East Lansing. Sponsored by the MSU Libertarians. Speakers include Larry Pratt (President), Gun Owners of America. For information, call Rob Zimmerman at (517) 355-0388. E-mail: zimmer60@pilot.msu.edu.

- April 10-11, 1999
  Minnesota LP Convention. Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Past President), Tom Palmer (Cato Institute) and Gene Ciesewski (Liberty Council). For information, call (800) 788-2660. E-mail: Southpaw2@aol.com.

- April 10-11, 1999
  Alabama LP Convention. Ramada Inn East, Montgomery. TBA. For information, call Charles Russell at (334) 279-6750 or (888) 638-1775. E-mail: libertycks@earblink.net.

- April 17, 1999
  Massachusetts LP Convention. Renaissance-Bedford Hotel, Bedford. Speaker: Gene Burns (radio talk show host). Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Jacob Hornberger (Past President), and Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru). For information, call Elaine Berchin at (508) 634-9684. E-mail: eberchin61@ma.org.

- April 23-25, 1999
  New York LP Convention. Best Western MacArthur Hotel, Medford (Long Island). Speakers include Robert James Bidmon (Director of Special Projects, Objectivist Institute) and Michael Tucker (Cato Institute). For information, call Jeff Russell at (518) 371-5361. E-mail: JRuss1776@aol.com.

- April 23-25, 1999
  North Carolina LP Convention. Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Asheville. Speakers include Mark Tuniewicz (Libertarian National Committee Treasurer). For information, call Candi Copas at (919) 644-1194. E-mail: convention@lpnc.org. Website: http://convention.lpnc.org.

- April 23-25, 1999
  Colorado LP Convention. Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Denver. Speakers include Nathaniel Branden (author of Judgment Day: My Years with Ayn Rand), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of Healing Our World), and Barbara Goughaw. For information, call (303) 639-5320. E-mail: BetteRose@aol.com.

- April 24-25, 1999
  Arizona LP Convention. Sheraton Tucson Hotel, Tucson. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Past President), and Vin Suprunowicz (syndicated columnist). For information, contact Frank or Kent Van Cleave: (602) 248-8583. E-mail: kvc@compuserve.com.

- May 1, 1999
  Iowa LP Convention. Ft. Des Moines Hotel, Des Moines. Speakers include Steve Givot (LNC member) and Bob Smith (LP of Minnesota). For information, contact Mark Nelson at (319) 344-0013. E-mail: DMNinktvla@aol.com.

- May 1-2, 1999
  Michigan LP Convention. Location and speakers TBA. For information, contact Pat Collins at (248) 542-6885. E-mail: HBRLCollins@aol.com.

- May 14-16, 1999
  Kansas LP & Missouri LP Convention. Embassy Suites Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, Kansas. Speakers include Ron Paul (1988 LP presidential candidate), Daniel Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager), Vin Suprunowicz (syndicated columnist), Bob Corkins (Kansas Public Policy Institute), and Tim Slagle (Libertarian comedian). For more information, contact Hugh Emerson at hemen01@trib.net. Website: www.geocities.com/-molp/conv lively.pdf.
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Roger Parmenter, Labor Minister, New Zealand

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 6, 1999**
  **Delaware LP Convention**, Wayside Inn, Smyrna. Speakers include Daniel Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager), Janice Presser (State Chair, LP of New Jersey), Mark Tuniewicz (National LP Treasurer), and Jack Dalton & Jim Larsen (elected Delaware Libertarians). For information, call (302) 834-3596. E-mail: bradct@delanet.com. Website: www.de.lp.org.

- **March 13-14, 1999**
  **1999 Freedom Rally**, Sheraton Hotel, Newport Beach, California. Sponsored by Freedom Law School and the LP of Orange County. Speakers include Shelley Davis (author *Unbridled Power*), former Congressman George Hansen, and Bill Conklin (tax expert). For information, call (714) 838-2896.

- **March 13-14, 1999**
  **Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar**, Dallas, Texas. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director) and Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

- **March 18-21, 1999**
  **Pennsylvania LP Convention**, Pittsburgh Holiday Inn Airport, Pittsburgh. Speakers include Julian Heeklen (campus marijuana “smoke outs”), Anita Hoge (Save Our Schools), Felix Livingston, Ph.D (FEE), Dimitri Vassilaros (talk radio host), and Sharon Harris (Advocates for Self-Government). For information, contact Chuck Gilch at (724) 935-4937. E-mail: ckg@usaor.net.

- **March 20-21, 1999**
  **Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar**, Columbia, South Carolina. Speakers include Bill Winter (LP Communications Director) and Michael Cloud (campaign expert). For information/registration, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

- **March 27, 1999**
  **New Jersey LP Convention**, National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, East Windsor. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Tanya Kangas (NORML), Elizabeth Macdon (Libertarian attorney), and Michael Buonociristiano. For information: chair@njlp.org. Website: www.lp.njlp.org.

- **March 27, 1999**

- **March 28, 1999**
  **Nebraska LP Convention**, Four Points Hotel, Omaha. Events include election of officers and activity planning session. For information, contact Andrew Sullivan at thetroubles@hotmail.com. Website: www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/S002/latest.html.

For additional Upcoming Events, see page 26.