



January 1990
Volume 5
Number 1

*Libertarian
Party*

NEWS

The Cold War Is Over!

Peace, Liberty, and the Free Market Are Lighting a Warming World

LP Is First and Only Party To Move Ahead Of the Flood of Events in Eastern Europe

While the Democrats and the Republicans vainly try just to keep up with the pro-freedom tide in Eastern Europe, the Libertarian Party has surged far ahead to take a position that puts it on a cutting edge *ahead* of those events.

Traditional politicians, right and left, keep mumbling "what's going to happen next?" and trying to put themselves in comfortable compromise positions. The LP, meantime, has declared, through a resolution of its executive committee, that the cold war seems dead and that the way to get ahead of the events is simply to withdraw promptly from NATO and get on with a world of open borders and free trade.

Text of the historically powerful statement is:

Resolution on the Cold War & Europe

Whereas the United States and its NATO allies and the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies have been hostile antagonists since 1948, and this mutual hostility is known as the Cold War;

Whereas whatever its causes and whoever was at fault at any one time, the Cold War is over now;

Whereas indications that it is over include:

The recent INF treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union;

The Polish government's decision to reduce its military forces by two divisions

and to reduce the strength of its remaining divisions;

Reductions by the Soviet Union in its armored forces in Eastern Europe; and

Most recently and dramatically, the decision of East German officials to allow East Germans to leave the country at any checkpoint along its border including those in the Berlin Wall.

Therefore be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the national Libertarian Party:

That the United States should withdraw from NATO and withdraw its forces from Europe;

That the United States government should remove its barriers that currently block American companies and individuals from trading with and investing in

Eastern Europe, but that no taxpayers' money in the form of foreign aid from the United States government should go to Eastern Europe;

That the United States government should not seek to prevent the peaceful reunification of Germany;

That the Libertarian Party congratulates the peoples of Poland, Hungary, and East Germany for their largely bloodless overthrow of the dominion over them of Stalin's empire;

That the Libertarian Party hopes that the peoples of Eastern Europe deepen and strengthen the rights they have recently won back by adopting in full the libertarian ideals of liberty of speech and the press, freedom of religion, private property, and freedom of enterprise.

Record Budget

A record-breaking annual budget of nearly \$500,000 was adopted by the Libertarian Party National Committee at its San Diego meeting in early December.

The party enters 1990 with no debt, record levels of income, and a positive aggressive stance.

The 1990 budget expanded party revenues by some \$160,000 over the budget adopted a year ago and funded a number of outreach activities cut in 1988 due to a lack of income.

The Outreach Committee, headed by Toni Black, was given money to develop more literature, more projects, and an LP campus program. To date about 75 campus groups have been active in the distribution of literature and in starting "Young Libertarians" on campuses.

The Outreach Committee was also given the task of beginning a project on the compulsory census to be taken this year. Members of the LP will be receiving a mailing on this exciting new project soon.

NatCom Meeting: Outreach and NEWS

By Steve Fielder

The Libertarian National Committee convened for its first post-convention business meeting in San Diego December 2-3. Committee attendance was perfect.

Dave Nolan, Chair of the Advertising Development Committee, presented a series of print media ads using the tag line "Libertarian Party - Defender of Freedom." The sobriquet typified the new aggressive spirit of the LNC.

Two television ads, one general and one with an anti-tax theme, are to be completed in the near future. The LNC appropriated \$5,000 to test market the new TV ads in a small media market as soon as they are available.

LNC discussion throughout the week-end focused on improving membership and affiliate party services and expanding outreach programs for the coming year. The Libertarian Party NEWS, published bi-monthly in recent years, will begin publishing monthly, effective this issue.

Mary Gingell, Chair of the Affiliate Parties Committee, presented a plan to fund the position of a full-time LP Field Coordinator. Although the job description is still under review, the Field Coordinator will directly assist state parties in the areas of organization and recruitment.

Don Ernsberger's ambitious campus outreach program and Steve Dasbach's proven Campaign '90 candidate forums were also approved by the LNC. The Media Relations Committee, chaired by Gary Johnson, was fully funded to continue the employment of Tonie Nathan as a full time media consultant for the party.

National Director Nick Dunbar announced the employment of Marc Montoni, a third full time employee on the headquarters staff. Montoni is a former chair of the Virginia LP and editor of "Virginia Liberty."

The most surprising development was a determined effort on the part of NatCom members to rewrite the maze of standing LNC Resolutions governing the conduct of party business. Steve Dasbach and Cliff

Thies led enthusiastic efforts to prune the accumulated impedimenta amassed over the years as the result of political infighting.

"After five years of self-searching and reconstruction, the nation's strongest third party feels it again is on the political march."

- The Washington Times, 12/11/89

The Eighties

Pages 6&7

California Dreamin'

Page 9

About the NEWS...

By Karl Hess

Since March, 1986, 22 issues of the Libertarian Party NEWS have been dispatched on a regular schedule to its subscribers inside and outside of the party. No big deal for most publishers. Not bad for the party.

Now we are shifting to a monthly publication schedule of eight-page, rather than 12-page, issues. This will actually give us four *more* pages over each two-month period but the monthly schedule will help us remain more timely than ever—except, of course, for the post office. We mail under a third class permit which, believe it or not, gives local post delivery people almost total, arbitrary control over when or even if they deliver the paper.

That, coupled with a mailing from one of the largest and most hectic postal centers on the east coast and a slowly disclosed problem with our printer's own mailing department, meant that several issues never even reached the high zip codes on the west coast.

We have fired the printer and got a new one and we have switched to a post office that shows every sign of benefitting from all the managerial advantages of small scale organization.

This change to monthly publication gives a chance to review what we've learned over the past years.

The first advice we got, prior to issue No. 1, was that the Libertarian Party NEWS should be exclusively a booster sheet, printing as many members' names and pictures as possible with little if any attention to serious matters and *none at all to controversial matters or to non-party actions.*

That advice has been largely ignored. Libertarians, of all people, should be able to consider controversy without descending to combat. Libertarians also know that the party is just part of the libertarian movement and not the movement itself. Our continuing contacts, through the NEWS and the collegial International Society for Individual Liberty, with libertarians across the world has been inspiring and valuable, reversing an unfortunate former isolationism.

And the NEWS has steadily increased

its coverage of individual and group accomplishments, not as boosterism or ego stroking, but as solid information from which we all can learn and from which we can adapt local applications and avoid errors, which the editors feel are as important to know about as successes.

More persistent has been the official purveyor of a party line, rather like Pravda in the recent past. The idea of a sturdy federation of self-responsible affiliate parties does not seem to appeal to everyone.

Wonderfully, however, at just the point where the allure of power and centralization usually appears is exactly where the devotion to decentralization and locally responsible organization seems strongest. National Chair Dave Walter has spoken often of the need to put power back into state organizations, and national committee meetings, buffered by frequent phone meetings, have become work sessions more than inquisitions and denunciatoria. Mary Gingell's full-throttle operation of the Affiliate Parties Committee has stirred a spirit of cooperation and communication all across the country.

During presidential campaigns and nominating conventions, of course, there is more need for central themes and coverage and the NEWS always has gladly turned its pages over to those purposes. Yet even there, libertarians are now sadly aware that there can be too much central authority, as when the person characterized as the most brilliant political strategist of all used absolute campaign authority to run up an alleged six-figure misappropriation of funds which is still under police investigation.

The LP and its newspaper do not need more restrictive rules and rigidity to keep people from even coming in to visit us. We need to appeal to, literally, millions of people who find somewhere in our platform and our program at least *something* they cannot find with the older parties.

That's our editorial policy. And with your support, we'll now be putting it into practice every thirty days. You, in the meantime, will be putting it into practice every day, conversation by conversation, neighbor by neighbor, person by person, wherever and whenever you can.

Viewpoint

Rockwell Resigns—Cites "Pathetic Standing"

Lew Rockwell, a former National Committee member, has resigned from the Libertarian Party, citing "the party's chaotic finances, tiny membership, boring and self-serving publications, role as a haven for bankrupts and bunko artists, and pathetic standing with the American people." National Director Nick Dunbar confirmed that Rockwell's resignation had been received at the national office.

In an open letter identified as a paid advertisement, Rockwell claimed the support of a number of former party activists for his action. The list included Burt Blumert, Mike Holmes, Paul Jacob, Honey Lanham, Alan Lind-

say, Matt Monroe, and Murray Rothbard. Jacob has disavowed the letter.

The LP is current on all of its obligations, and, according to Dunbar, has approximately \$25,000 in the bank. Party membership has been growing at the rate of three percent per month since the Philadelphia convention.

Rockwell's pejorative "bunko artists" is an apparent reference to the Nadia Hayes affair. Hayes, a former employee of Ron Paul & Associates, is under investigation by the Nassau Bay (TX) Police Department for misappropriating funds from the Libertarian Party's Ballot Access Committee during the Ron Paul campaign.

Old Nationalities Shape Eastern Europe Today

By Steve Fielder

The problems of eastern Europe will not be wholly solved by the end of Soviet hegemony and one party rule. Present day Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia were born in the ashes of World War I, conceived by the selective application of Woodrow Wilson's theories of self-determination and mid-wived by the collective fear by the victorious Great Powers of the spread of communist revolution. Although Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania predated World War I, their boundaries too were altered by the Treaty of Versailles in ways not entirely rational.

In the period between the World Wars, unrest engendered by gerrymandering national boundaries in eastern Europe hindered economic development and undermined emerging democratic institutions. Hungary and Poland were only too willing to accede to the occupation of Czech Sudetenland by Germany in October 1938 in exchange for their own slices of Czechoslovakia. Germany was later able to sidestep its guarantee of Czechoslovak sovereignty when Slovakia seceded from Czechoslovakia in March 1939. In the same period, war between Hungary and Rumania was narrowly averted only by German

mediation awarding much of present day Rumanian Transylvania to Hungary.

As the yoke of communist domination lifts from the peoples of eastern Europe, the suppressed demand for freer markets and greater personal liberties will swell; so too, will long suppressed nationalistic fervor and expansionistic aspirations. The Slovaks, Croats, Slovenes and Montenegrins of eastern Europe may all demand independence following the example of the Estonians, Letts, Lithuanians, and Moldavians within the Soviet Union; central governments, even freely elected ones, can be relied upon to resist. Poland will jealously oppose any possible return of the historically German provinces of Silesia and Pomerania while reasserting its own claim for territory annexed by the Soviet Union following World War II. Tension is already mounting in Hungary concerning the treatment of the substantial Hungarian minority in Rumania.

As changes course eastern Europe, libertarians must be prepared to address these issues with well considered and workable strategies. Here, surely, is a fertile proving ground for libertarianism; but libertarianism will never have a fair chance to succeed until the old nationalities question is finally resolved.

Libertarian Party NEWS

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Libertarian Party Surging into the 1990s

By Dave Walter
LP National Chair

1990 dawns on a resurgent Libertarian Party! Our contributing, dues-paying membership is up by more than 10 percent since the big convention on Labor Day weekend. Having put the party on a firm financial footing during 1989, the leadership now has the wherewithal to reach out—through direct mail, campus literature tables, and advertising—to libertarian-leaning individuals.

The outreach activities conducted by the national party need to be augmented by those of state and local parties, plus, of course, individual members. Individuals have a bigger role to play than is commonly thought. Many members seem content to leave membership recruitment to some membership committee or the Washington headquarters. Yet, if each member only recruited one new member in the course of the year, the party would double in size.

Where do we find people to recruit? Many potential new members can be found in those one-issue groups that share the

Libertarian position on their issue. As a bonus, their members are already oriented toward activism. On the other hand, they may already be devoting as much time as they care to to activism—and, like most Americans, probably apply principles of liberty inconsistently. For instance, the pro-choice activist may see nothing wrong with forcing women to go unemployed because employers can't pay a minimum wage at the government's mandated level. Or a gun rights activist backs keeping

adult films out of the hands of consenting customers. Still, people in these groups are far more likely to be potential libertarians than couch potatoes.

Recruiting new members is not the only function of the party. More important is affecting the debate on social, economic, and political issues. We need to be injecting libertarian ideas into the debate in order to move the culture in the direction of individual rights and individual responsibilities. While joining in to support pro-

choice, or tax revolt, or peace issues is important, we have to recognize that there are other larger, and more financially able, groups already leading the fight. The media attention is already on them and any effort by libertarians is going to look like me-tooism. And any resources we can bring to most major issues is unlikely to make much of a difference. We are the allies of these groups but our troops and treasure are not critical to winning the debate.

continued on page 8

We Need

The Libertarian Party NEWS needs and wants your contributions and suggestions in regard to:

- Stories of successful Libertarian Party activities, large or small.
- Actions, events, or campaigns that brought in new members.
- Oppressive laws blocked or repealed by Libertarian Party activism.
- Individual libertarians, party members or not, whose work for liberty should be recognized.
- Examples of productive cooperation between Libertarian Party and non-party groups or individuals.
- Examples of productive public relations efforts.
- Anything that you think other libertarians should know about.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS JANUARY 1, 1990.

Now that we are publishing the NEWS monthly, the copy deadline for each issue will be the first day of the preceding month (i.e., January 1 is the deadline for the February issue, which will be printed and mailed the third week in January; February 1 is the deadline for the March issue; and so on).

IS ABORTION AGGRESSION?

Libertarian arguments against abortion and for parental obligation. Literature packet, \$3. (For information only, please send SASE.)

Libertarians for Life

13424 Hathaway Drive, #18
Wheaton, MD 20906, 301/460-4141
Doris Gordon, National Coordinator

"Fact and Fiction From
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—Roy A. Childs, Jr.,
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—Mark Skousen
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Coming in Liberty:

The Case Against Extreme Isolationism — Stephen Cox argues that knee-jerk isolationism is for jerks.

The Cheesing of America — Futurist Lawrence Ludlow foresees the next great war for America: the war against killer cheese.

The Last "Good" War? — Sheldon Richman shows that the World War II was as depraved as any previous war, and how moralistic "rationalism" has led to its white-washing.

Pozner the Poseur — Richard Kostelanetz visits Phil Donahue's favorite communist in his Moscow apartment, and finds there is more to the Soviet PR specialist than meets the eye.

Humanity vs Nature — John Hospers explores two popular views of how to treat animals, and shows how one refutes the other—and the winner is *not* the "animal rights" position.

Liberty

In Defense of
Jim Bakker and
Zsa Zsa

January 1990 Vol. 3, No. 3 \$4.00 (see page 5)

What it means The Death of Socialism what it means

— Also —

The Greenhouse Effect: Myth or Danger?

by Patrick J. Michaels

Ayn Rand and Objectivism

Barbara Branden speaks frankly about life within the Rand circle, what is living and what is dead in the philosophy of Objectivism, and her ex-husband's intimate memoir about his affair with Rand.

How Rockefeller Soaked the Poor:
We're Still Paying Today

by Richard Kostelanetz

Plus: Sheldon Richman on the Ugliness of World War II;
Karl Hess defends Elitism; Murray Rothbard on Punching Out Senators;
David Bernstein on Kids' TV; Andrew Roller on Adults' TV

"Above all things: Liberty!" — John Selden

ing list of everyone concerned with the problems, as well as the possibilities of liberty."

—Karl Hess

The Top of the List!

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Seminar 1 Is Spreading

By Marshall Fritz

I take a simple view. We need more libertarians. And I stay simple: If these ideas are as good as we think they are, then our job is to get people to look at them with an open mind.

That's why we invented Seminar 1. It develops one new libertarian for every ten hours of volunteer labor. Imagine the number of new libertarians in your city if just you and one other had been leading Seminar 1s for the last two years!

The hard part to learn is to keep your mouth shut and not argue with your guests.

Can anybody lead a Seminar 1?

Just about anybody. The hard part to learn is to keep your mouth shut and not argue with your guests.

Do new libertarians get active?

You bet they do! Let's look at two examples.

Dave and Margaret Dawson remember when being LP state chair in Wyoming was a pretty lonely proposition. So Dave started leading Seminar 1s.

His eight seminars produced 28 new libertarians. Four served on his executive committee. Six ran for office. One was elected to the Casper City Council.

Ken Bisson has a similar story. He remembers the 1986 election when he was the only libertarian in Stueben County, Indiana, and the LP candidate for Secretary of State got 32 votes countywide.

So Ken led three Seminar 1s that produced ten new libertarians. When he decided to run for the state house, he asked them to become his campaign committee. Seven agreed, and the rest is in the libertarian history books: Ken received 1,202 votes, 14.9 percent in his county in a three-way race.

What are the total results so far?

So far 59 seminar leaders in 26 states and one Canadian province have conducted 94 seminars producing 309 new libertarians from 382 graduates. Eighty percent success!

How does Seminar 1 work?

On the surface, it's simple: Five or six non-libertarians meet weekly with a libertarian, usually over lunch or dessert. The non-libertarians read three chapters per week of David Bergland's "Libertarianism in One Lesson," marking exclamation points and question marks to reflect their reaction to the ideas. These markings form the topics for each week's discussion.

At the fifth meeting, the libertarian gives the final exam: Everybody writes a short definition of libertarianism. Then the libertarian says, "If you agree with the principles embodied in your definition, please sign your name on your piece of paper." Eighty percent do! Then he/she says, "Congratulations on having become a libertarian."

How do you find the people to invite?

We help all new seminar leaders build a list of up to 100 people to invite. You get ideas from the 100-page training manual and from your peers on your weekly keep-on-track teleconference.

Your list might include 20 of your own acquaintances, friends, and relatives; 20 suggestions from libertarian friends; 20

people who wrote letters to the editor; 20 inquiries to your local LP; and 20 assorted semi-VIPs such as association directors, journalists, and TV and radio management.

How do you get them to attend?

As part of your Leader's Kit, you receive 100 high quality invitations. You address them and mail them to your prospects. Then about two weeks later you do the hard part: You make a "reverse RSVP phone call" to about 30 of the people.

It's actually not too hard, since the invitation does the selling: "Hi, Jim. Did

you get the invitation to the seminar I'm doing on Tuesday mornings? [pause] Well, are you tempted and may I count on you having breakfast with us on the 20th?"

Of the 30 you call, ten will say yes, seven or eight will attend, and five or six will pay you \$25 to learn more about libertarianism. That's right—you get paid to help them learn about libertarianism. Seminar 1 is a libertarian volunteer activity that pays for itself!

How do you get them to become libertarians?

You don't, really. You just keep your mouth shut and don't argue. They sell themselves on the ideas. You just provide an easy way for them to evaluate our ideas with an open mind.

How much does the training cost?

The first installment is \$100. For this starter fee, you get all the materials and training you need to run your first seminar. And you get ten weekly half-hour training teleconferences. These help you stay on track and beat procrastination.

How do you overcome procrastination?

This Spring, we'll be starting 100 seminars the week of March 26. Starting February 11, you'll start your formal training. Every week you'll dial our teleconference machine from your office or home. You'll report your progress for the week, and listen to the other new leaders report their progress.

We've done 220 teleconferences. The concept is proven. It zaps procrastination because you know you'll be reporting to your peers.

How do I get started?

Call George Schwappach and ask for your Leader's Kit. He's our Director of Seminars. Reach him at 614-766-3644 (days), or 614-291-2021 (home), or fax him at 614-766-3605. Your kit will be shipped immediately.

What if I have questions?

Great—then attend a "Just find out" teleconference in January, 1990. You'll be in good company with other libertarians from Hilo to Hoboken, from Houston to the sea, all getting their questions answered so they can make the decision too. Call George for a reservation.

Marshall Fritz is President of the Advocates for Self-Government, a tax-exempt libertarian outreach organization. The Advocates specialize in providing tools and training for outreach-oriented libertarians.

Take the Challenge

The national Libertarian Party will be having a membership contest from February 1, 1990 through April 30, 1990.

The theme of the contest is "Take the Challenge."

The goal of the contest is for state LP organizations to increase the contributing LP national members by 1,000 by April 30.

Prizes will be awarded to the state LP organizations who collect the most

memberships during the contest. There will be three categories for winners: the state organizations with the highest 1) increase in members (raw numbers); 2) percentage of growth in members (comparing membership numbers before and after the contest); and 3) percentage of growth according to the population of the state.

Contest rules will be sent to state chairs and membership chairs on January 1, 1990.

Membership at All-Time High

By Karen Allard

There is great news!

The membership of the national Libertarian Party is at an all-time high. As of December 8, 1989, there are 7,907 members in the contributing category or above.

With the help of an active membership committee, a membership plan was established and presented to the NatCom on December 2-3. The plan included increasing incentives for state LP organizations who collect national LP membership dues; adoption of a "treat our members as customers" attitude; and mailing membership packets to national members annually. The NatCom members were recep-

tive to the new ideas.

After much discussion and some changes, the following plan was accepted: a 50/50 membership dues and LP NEWS subscription split for states who collect this money from their state members (a procedure on how to do this split will be sent to state chairs); annual membership packets will be sent to members (contents of the packet to be determined by the membership committee); and a membership card with no expiration date will be sent to all who have signed the LP oath.

With these new changes—and more to come—I am confident the LP will grow. And don't forget, help the LP by becoming a contributing member today!

POLITICAL CLOTHING

HAVE YOU READ YOUR CONSTITUTION LATELY?

FINISH THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

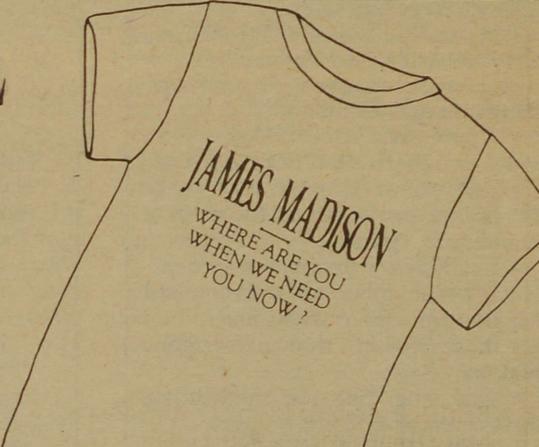
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With All It's Faults, If They Are Such, Because I Think A General Government Necessary For Us. And There Is No Form Of Government But What May Be A Blessing, If Well Administered; And I Believe Farther, That This Is Likely To Be Well Administered For A Course Of Years, And Can Only End In Despotism, As Other Forms Have Done Before It, When The People Shall Become So Corrupted As To Need Despotic Government, Being Incapable Of Any Other."

Benjamin Franklin, 1787, His Final Speech In The Federal Convention

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Private Charity Preached and Practiced in Utah

Eight members of the Libertarian Party living in Salt Lake City, Utah, led by state LP vice chair Kaylin Robinson, "practice what they preach" when it comes to private charity. This group feeds hundreds of hungry people through their personal food bank activities. The group, which has no formal name, contracts with a local supermarket to scavenge its dumpster twice a day, seven days a week.

The libertarians climb right into the dumpster, to sort out the amazing amount of perfectly edible but no longer shelf-attractive food routinely disposed of by large markets. Entering into the charitable spirit of the operation, the markets themselves are now reported as being much more careful about the way they toss out the food. Store policy requires that it go into the dumpster but gives latitude for placing it in neatly or carelessly.

The libertarians are regular contributors to Salt Lake City's "Under the Viaduct Project," another example of spontaneous charitable order at work. The project began when one woman, Jenny, showed up one morning underneath the Fourth Street Viaduct, in Salt Lake City, with a camp stove and some groceries, and started cooking breakfast for the homeless people congregated in the area. Every Sunday morning, Jenny is there and so are other people who just show up, without bureau-

crats organizing them. They bring bread, eggs, milk, cereal, butter, bacon, potatoes—everything necessary to feed people a balanced, nutritious meal.

As word spread about the activity, the bureaucrats found out and, typically, threatened Jenny with legal action because she didn't have a Health Department permit. The ensuing bad publicity was too much for the bureaucrats, however, and they gave up the fight. Kaylin Robinson's LP group takes food to the Viaduct project and to a shelter for homeless families so that mothers with toddlers won't have to walk across railroad tracks to get to the Viaduct.

Other libertarian assistance has gone to people with temporary problems due to unemployment, and to others suffering difficulty because of state harassment or violence.

Salt Lake City did not have a housing problem until the city's Redevelopment Agency closed a number of low-cost hotels (\$30-a-week rents). Zoning, planning, and health bureaucracies pressured another tier of housing, causing many \$150-a-month apartments to close down. All of the low income housing was replaced by upscale development and parking lots, while the former tenants were tossed into the streets.

After a homeless man froze to death



within a few blocks of the city's central Temple Square, a "public-private" partnership quickly financed a homeless shelter to warehouse the people displaced by the city's policies of stealing the poor man's lamb to feed the rich man's appetite. It is a cruel compassion that tells a 19-year old mother with two kids under the age of four, she is better off in a homeless shelter than in her own apartment.

Salt Lake City is also home to another group of homeless people who refuse to become regimented dependents of the homeless system. One Utah Libertarian finds mattresses that are being thrown away and leaves them in places where these people can find them. One that was left under a freeway overpass was quickly converted into what appeared to be a small, neatly arranged camp by one enterprising individual.

Salt Lake City doesn't like such inde-

pendent minds and in January sent the Salt Lake City police to attack these hidden dwellings and burn out the transients. Which the police did—right in the middle of a sub-zero chill factor snowbound northern Utah winter—burning blankets, coats, and sleeping bags. What you wouldn't do to a dog, these creeps did to defenseless men and women.

Defending the defenseless, feeding the hungry—all this is good karma for libertarians. We know why the economy is distorted and it is no surprise that the poor are displaced in favor of those with political power. Talk to the homeless and you find people who want to work. But, to get a job these days requires two forms of government ID, and minimum wage laws are designed for these people—to keep them out of the job market in favor of a "safety net." And it is really some safety net—police with torches.

Operating a casual food bank is easy. Just collect food and give it away to hungry people. If you don't know any hungry people personally, call a food bank. They have plenty. If you feel real adventurous, talk to a supermarket about browsing their dumpster on a regular basis. "Gleaning the edges of the fields" brought up to the 20th century—people to people, meeting human needs, in spite of bureaucratic muddleheadedness.

This announcement is under no circumstances to be construed as anything but a solicitation for libertarians to buy an improved way of presenting their ideas and bring new people to the movement.

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We are pleased to announce the successful completion of 95 seminars, producing 309 new libertarians since the inception of the Seminar 1 program. The following libertarians are to be congratulated. Listed after each name are the number of seminars completed, the number of new libertarians, and the number of those libertarians who have gone on to lead their own seminar:

British Columbia

Mary Anne Nylen 1, 4, 0
Kurt Pokrandt 1, 4, 0

Arizona

Robert Clapp 1, 6, 0

California

Steve Alexander 1, 4, 1
David Bergland 1, 4, 0
Tom Dominy 1, 2, 0
Marshall Fritz 7, 18 0
John Inks 1, 2, 0
Ken Kaplan 1, 1, 0
Bro. Jim Lorenz 1, 6, 0
Richard Martin 1, 6, 0
Bruce McKay 1, 4, 0
Virgil Swearingen 1 6 0
John Tuttle 1, 3, 0
Perry Willis 1, 3, 0

Kansas

David Moffet 1,2,0

Alabama

Jimmy Blake 1, 5, 0
Bob Chapuis 1, 4, 0
Steve Smith 1, 3, 0

Colorado

Dan Nibbelink 1, 4, 0
Vernon Smith 1, 1, 0

Connecticut

Tom Ross, 1, 3, 0

Delaware

Bill Morris 1, 2, 0

Florida

Rex Curry 3, 8, 0
Dan Garrett 1, 2, 0
Bill Watkinson 1, 3, 0

Georgia

Carole Ann Rand 3, 8, 0
Sharon Smith 1, 1, 0

Iowa

Ben Olson 2, 8, 0

Illinois

Karen Klomp 1, 3, 0

Indiana

Ken Bisson 5, 17 0

Maryland

Jim Voris 1, 1, 0

New Hampshire

Rick Schneider 1, 3, 0

New Jersey

Ken Kaplan 1, 2, 0

Michigan

Jon Addiss 2, 6, 0
Ben Bachrach 1, 2, 0
Stan Gentry 1, 3, 0
Bill Johnson 1, 2, 0
Andy Little 1, 3, 0
Mark Sellers 1, 4, 0
Steve Silver 2, 7, 0

New York

Steve Becker 1, 4, 0

Ohio

Marjorie Davies 1, 2, 0
George Schwappach 6 17 0
Gary Sweeney 1, 3, 0

Oregon

Bill Atkins 1, 4, 0

Pennsylvania

Bruce Adams 1, 1, 0
Dennis Frank 2, 7, 0
Henry Haller 1, 1, 0

South Dakota

Jim Kass 1, 1, 0

Texas

Tom Glass 1, 5, 0
Hal Hansen 1, 2, 0
Jim Robinson 3, 10 1

Virginia

Jim Hankey 2, 9, 0

Vermont

Bob Conlon 1, 3, 0
Ed McGuire 1, 4, 0

Washington

Ted Ross 2, 7, 0
Mary Jo Swedenburg 3 19 0

Wisconsin

Kay Rouse 1, 4, 0

Wyoming

Dave Dawson 8, 28 0

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The Clark Campaign

High visibility, dissemination of libertarian philosophy

The Reagan Elections

Libertarian rhetoric, but no follow-through

Government Scandals/ Public Disenchantment

Iran-Contragate, HUD, lowest voter turnout

Libertarian International Founded

Libertarians organize worldwide

Freedom Movement Worldwide

China, Soviet Union, East Germany, etc.

Proliferation of Libertarian Groups/Ideas

Cato, Heartland, Frazer, privatization, etc.

Recognition of Libertarians

Buchanan, Louw, Kendall, etc.

The Drug War

LP speaks out against loss of Individual Rights

Party Attracts New Blood

Paul, Means, membership at all-time high

Party Organization/ Grassroots Building

Local candidate victories growing rapidly

The Eighties: A Time for Growing Up

By Randy Langhenry

The Libertarian Party grew up in the 1980s.

Having been born in the Seventies, in its second decade the LP went through what might be considered its adolescent period—growing certainly, but at the same time often being awkward and clumsy. Just as a young person learns and matures during his or her teens, the LP discovered

a lot about itself during the 1980s and now appears to be ready to reach its full potential during this new decade.

In the 1980s, the LP made an early name for itself with Ed Clark's 1980 presidential campaign. Because of a "windfall"—actually the generosity of one man, David Koch, the vice-presidential candidate—the LP was able to gain high visibility through television commercials. The result was an exciting and encouraging vote tally.

While externally the results were optimistic, internally the LP faced a stark reality. As the "easy money" source dried up a year or two later, the party found itself expecting results but not being able to pay the cost, much as a teenager learns to deal with the termination of a parental allowance. Many members became pessimistic and dejected, and the party floundered. At about the same time a split within the party caused severe damage

that is only now being overcome.

Ronald Reagan's election in 1980, and subsequent re-election in 1984, with its "libertarian rhetoric," changed the political philosophy of the nation. And although Reagan never carried through with his reduction of government, privatization, and decentralization promises, the American people began to accept these ideas as not only feasible, but proper.

At the same time, government showed its true colors with such unforgettable episodes as Iran-Contra and the HUD scandals. The American people showed their disenchantment with "politics as usual" by staying away from the voting booths in record numbers.

Libertarian oriented think-tanks began popping up across the country, and their influence continued to grow. Along with the Reason Foundation, libertarian groups developed such as the Cato, Manhattan, Heartland, Fraser, and von Mises Institutes, as well as many others.

Libertarian organizations outside the Libertarian Party began to make significant contributions to the movement. Libertarian International, now combined with the Society for Individual Liberty, held its first meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1982 and continued to grow and build its reputation throughout the Eighties. The Free Press Association led the way toward new professional groups with decidedly libertarian leanings.

On college campuses, the libertarian movement flourished. Not only did the number of student libertarian groups steadily climb, but more and more college professors, especially in the field of economics, also came to the front. James M. Buchanan, professor at George Mason University, in accepting his Nobel Prize for Economic Science in 1986, even stated that he was not a conservative but a "libertarian."

Libertarian publications also made an impact during the 1980s. *Liberty* debuted in August 1987 and quickly gained a reputation as one of the leading libertarian periodicals, while *Reason* continued its influential position in the publishing field. State party newsletters, like New Hampshire's, expanded and became more professional.

Throughout the 1980s, the Libertarian Party fielded a steadily increasing number of candidates in federal, state, and local elections. Although the results at the

national level were, at times, disappointing, state and local candidates did very well. In Alaska in the early 1980s, Dick Randolph, Ken Fanning, and Andre Marrou were elected to the state house. Marrou became the party's vice-presidential candidate in 1988, while Randolph switched to the Republican Party and was soundly defeated in his subsequent attempts to seek state office.

In the latter 1980s, new "converts" to libertarianism were attracted to the party, including Ron Paul, the LP's 1988 presidential candidate, and Russell Means, former American Indian Movement activist. Some who in the past were called liberals or hard-line conservatives, and shunned by the party, were now being welcomed with open arms. The so-called "purity squad" was being replaced by realists and optimists who understood that if the party's principles were virtuous, they would be accepted by new members rather than the new members changing the party's principles.

The mass movement by individuals around the globe toward freedom, and the collapse of communism, may have been the most exciting developments for libertarians. While communist governments continued to hold on to what power they controlled, the people living under those regimes spoke out loudly and clearly for reforms toward a freer society. The freedom movement's effect on the Libertarian Party—and the LP's effect on the movement—could be significant in the 1990s.

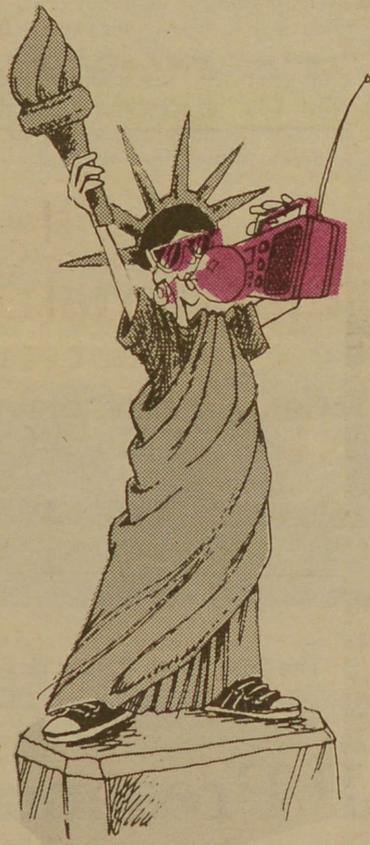
All in all, the new decade looks bright for the Libertarian Party and libertarianism in general. The trend around the world is toward more individual freedom, and libertarians have not only the opportunity, but the obligation, to lead the way.



The Seventies

Opposite Page

The items on the opposite page were compiled by the LP NEWS editors through conversations with a number of long-time Libertarian Party and non-party activists, including David Bergland, Andre Marrou, Dave Walter, Jim Turney, Tonie Nathan, and Walter Block. Each person offered their own ideas of the major events of the decade, and the editors chose those particular highlights which seemed to be mentioned most often. The listings are in no particular order and are not meant to be a definitive review, but rather a brief overview, of libertarianism during the last ten years. RL



The Eighties



The Nineties

Big Water Libertarians Sweep Town Elections

By Gerald M. King

It was a clean sweep for Big Water, Utah's, Libertarian Party candidates in November's municipal election.

Mayor Alex Joseph led the ticket, being returned to office by a two-to-one margin of victory over his Democrat and independent opponents. Re-elected by similar margins were Libertarian city council members Emily Beers and Janet DeJardo.

The electorate of Utah's newest town, chartered in 1984, voted overwhelmingly to "Stay the Course" and continue exclusive control of its government by Libertarians. Big Water is the only incorporated municipality in the nation under Libertarian leadership. Alex Joseph was first elected mayor in 1983 and subsequently re-elected in 1985. Joseph says his philosophy has been: "Stay out of debt, leave people alone, and let them spend their own money on their property."

Big Water is located on the Utah-Arizona state line. It is about six miles west of Lake Powell, a 190 mile-long, man-made lake on the Colorado River.

Big Water is sometimes referred to by residents as the "West Bank Uprising." It is the only demonstration community for the libertarian approach to government in existence. Big Water is demonstrating the success of a two-pronged attack on the issues of personal freedom and limited

government. First of all, by having a libertarian-oriented municipality, the residents have been freed from oppressive restrictions imposed by the county government on unincorporated areas, thus promoting economic development. Secondly, through the town government, the residents now have a tool to oppose federal government interference. The federal government owns over 80 percent of Kane County, where Big Water is located, and much of the land incorporated within the town's six square miles is owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

According to Alex Joseph, "Libertarian politics in Big Water is not a theory or an intellectual conversation. It is a practice and a reality. Reality had a vote in Big Water and it simply carried the day. The electorate has accepted our administration and the idea they like best is least government. The government here is very inactive and that has been very good for the promotion of the town. The population has tripled. The assessed value of Big Water property went from \$270,000 to over six million dollars during my administration."

"The people who come here and vote Libertarian are not libertarian activists, they're people...traditional Democrats, traditional Republicans, traditional apathetic electorate. We had a 95 percent turnout. The highest turnout in the state

for an off-year municipal election. Turnout statewide for off-year municipal elections normally runs about 30 percent. The people of Big Water turned out en masse to reject a takeover attempt."

Big Water's success hinges greatly upon the concept of authentic community as an alternative to government. According to Joseph, "We've held the line on town expenses. Our budget today is about the same as it was five years ago, even though our population has tripled. We have a lot of volunteerism to get things done. We don't have any property taxes, so we don't have the money to generate a bureaucracy with."

There are some things which a municipality can do little about, regardless of local libertarian sentiments. Joseph explains, "We have zoning, which probably wouldn't be a libertarian thing, but without zoning the people here could not finance their homes because you cannot get a mortgage on unzoned property. It's not just banks, it's the VA and FHA. We're meeting what's required to go forward and stay within the libertarian profile. So we've got zoning and we've got the Utah Code. What are you going to do about that? We try to be as open as we can with our zoning policies and give people lots of time to make changes if they are making a good faith effort. Our jurisdiction is limited to class B misdemeanors and below, so we don't address issues like legalization of

drugs or abortion because they are not within our prerogative. We do as much as we can to stay out of people's hair and we don't have a burdensome tax so people can spend their own money on their own property. That's probably what has encouraged the economic improvements in Big Water."

Concerning his future in politics, Joseph says, "I'm trying to get out of politics. I'm not running for mayor next time. I don't have any state aspirations or national aspirations. I am very active on the state level, but I don't attend national functions because I'm too busy to go intellectualize. I've got real work to do. Locally, I campaigned for Ron Paul and Big Water is the only town in the United States where Ron was elected President. I travelled with Andre Marrou for some campaign appearances with him. Andre is an extraordinary individual and I enjoyed campaigning with him."

Joseph says that he would "encourage everybody who would consider listing Big Water as their residence for the 1990 census to do so." A large census showing would provide Big Water with the right to apply for a city charter, thus broadening the town's jurisdiction. Claiming Big Water as your residence, in spirit if not in body, is a great way to protest government invasion of privacy and to help America's leading libertarian community.

Surging into the 1990s

continued from page 3

We need to look for areas where libertarian participation can make a difference, can ignite a debate around whether it is proper for government to take some interventionist action. I'm reminded of the humorous observation that some groups are so broadminded they give equal time to both sides of the same side. In other words, there are dozens and dozens of ostensibly non-partisan organizations that happily allow internal struggles over which gang gets to divide which tax plunder. Such groups—Kiwans, AARP, consumer protection societies, neighborhood betterment associations, etc.—frequently take positions on issues that don't represent a "Republican" or "Democrat" position. In fact, registered members of both parties coexist comfortably and work together on getting their group behind certain interventionist legislation. What these "mainstream" service and business and fraternal groups need is *factionalism* led by libertarian members. They need some of their own members to stand up and work to turn the group away from advocating more handouts for senior citizens, more tax-funded parking lots for the business community, more zoning laws to keep out the low-cost housing developers. Such groups can ignore the Libertarian Party's position on such matters, but they can hardly ignore such positions when they are taken by their own members. Each LP member should consider joining at least one such group—in accordance with your profession, interests, religion, etc.—and speaking up whenever there is some move to get behind a position antithetical to individual liberty. It may be a lonely position to take, but I bet you will find other members who feel the same way you do but had kept quiet because they couldn't articulate their opposition. Instead of a united front demanding that such and such be

done by the government, the group becomes split. The minority of libertarians has been heard, another side of the issue has been put forth for discussion and analysis, and any media coverage of the group's action can contain the libertarian minority's opposition. As a side benefit, the majority is going to be slowed down because their focus changes due to the internal "threat" that's developed. (One moment considering how factionalism contributed to a less effective LP in the past decade should be convincing.)

Libertarians need to be active in the LP and in the real world. Many of the most important debates take place in arenas where the LP cannot yet perform. But, as individuals, admission to these arenas is relatively easy. Let's get libertarianism out of our parlours and our own meetings and into the rest of society where it is so sorely needed.

LP of Vermont Major Party—Again

By Ed McGuire

For the third time in five years the Libertarian Party of Vermont has completed all the requirements for major party status in their state. After Barbara Wicker gained over five percent again in her 1989 race, all the LPV had to do was organize in 15 or more towns.

In September 1989, organization caucuses were held in 21 towns. A large measure of the credit for this best-ever showing goes to David Dana and David Atkinson for their efforts. They were able to convince libertarians in several towns to attempt to hold a caucus meeting and most of these were successful.



NEWS photo by Carol Moore

The Libertarian Party's pro-choice message was clearly displayed at a November rally in Washington, DC.

LP Presence at DC Rally

By Toni Black

Thousands of people now know that the Libertarian Party is "pro-choice on everything" thanks to a small band of activists with a big banner.

The party's message was highly visible at the November 12, 1989, Pro-Choice Mobilization in Washington, DC. The six by thirty foot banner was strategically located between the Washington Monument and the Reflecting Pool, the high traffic route to the rally.

About 25 libertarians, from babes in arms to the decidedly middle-aged, came from as far north as New York and as far south as South Carolina to provide a party presence at the rally. They distributed a flyer quoting the LP platform on abortion rights, the World's Smallest Political Quiz, Liberty Today, and other party brochures to a largely receptive crowd.

Many non-party participants were impressed by the banner and photographed

or videotaped it. The LP will be part of their permanent memories of the event. Several banner bearers were interviewed, taking the message further.

"I'm glad the party is here," several passersby said, continuing with "I'm a member from..." (including one French Libertarian). Others stated, "I've been wanting to get in touch with you," and even "I want to start a student chapter."

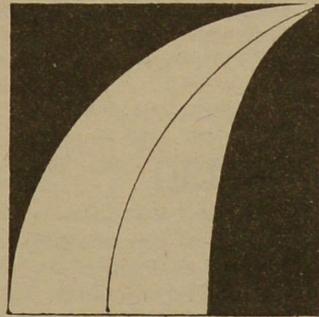
One man paused to say, "I used to agree with you guys on just about everything except drugs. Now I see you are right about that, too. This war on drugs is ridiculous."

Linda Morrison initiated the idea of having a visible Libertarian Party presence at the Pro-Choice rally and Don Ernsberger took charge of the banner project. Headquarters staff members, Nick Dunbar and MeMe King, provided invaluable support. District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland activists were the heart of the crew.

California Plans for the 1990s—and Beyond

California's current strategic plan can be an example and inspiration for all of us. In this issue of the NEWS we are presenting the nuts and bolts structure of the plan. The framework it provides seems adaptable to most state parties. Its frank warning of pitfalls may be as useful as its positive aspects.

In a subsequent issue of the NEWS the social-political theoretical background, on which the party is counting, will be detailed.



The Libertarian Party is solidly established as the third largest party in California, but must mount a major registration drive to stay on the ballot. The party is energetic, and its members are committed and active. It is well poised for major expansion over the next 10 to 15 years.

Strengths

1. High coverage of the party in major population centers.
2. A good organizational history with virtually no division or rancor.
3. A solid organizational structure and base upon which to build.
4. Intelligent, committed membership.
5. Strong ideological commitment.
6. The Libertarian Party is the only party with a positive alternative to big, high-spending intrusive government.
7. The ability to offer economic benefits by way of radically reduced or totally eliminated taxes and substantially lower mortgages.

Weaknesses

1. The inactivity of many existing members.
2. A small membership base and small size of the party.
3. Only a small number of action-oriented people within the party.
4. Little money, and limited money-raising ability.
5. The appearance of a lack of empathy for the downtrodden.
6. Lack of a clear message that non-members have been hearing.
7. Requirement for a major long-term effort for the party to be successful.
8. A limited monetary incentive for those active in the party.
9. Vulnerability to persecution by various federal or local government agencies.

Prospects

The party is in an excellent condition to achieve most or all of its objectives during [a 20 year] planning horizon. It obviously will take a major and highly energetic effort to do this, but prospects are very good that they can be achieved. The following external circumstances may materially improve our prospects for major expansion:

1. The chance of a major economic decline.
2. The chance of rapid inflation or hyper-inflation, which would create enormous turmoil and dissatisfaction.
3. Growing government incompetence and impotence, and the awareness of this fact by the electorate.
4. The passing of a paternal pacifying spokesman for less government (Reagan), with no replacement.
5. Possible schism within the two major parties.
6. Our growing ability to spread the message about the government and what it is doing to the people.
7. The real and exciting possibility of building coalitions with other disaffected groups.

Goals and Objectives

(These goals and objectives are obviously extremely ambitious and difficult. Even if we accomplish only a fraction of them, we will still have been highly successful.)

- Maintain far and away the strongest Libertarian state and local party organization in the country.

1. Maintain at least double the number of members of the next largest state party.
2. Maintain the highest percentage of Libertarian registration, for any state (the percentage is calculated by dividing the Libertarian registration by the total voter registration for the state).
3. Develop and maintain county or regional central committees in all counties, by December 31, 1992.
4. Develop precinct organizations in the strongest ten regions throughout the state by December 31, 1994.

- Build and maintain a strong defense capability against attack from external threats to the party and individual members.

1. Build a cadre of lawyers to provide legal defense. To the extent practical, these lawyers should donate their time while working with a minimum paid legal staff.
2. Develop a capability to detect and interdict harrasing or threatening entities.

- Win important state, mayoral, county, supervisorial, and other local positions.

- Win control of the state senate by the year 2002, according to [a regular phased] buildup schedule (there are 40 senators).

- Win the Governorship in 2002.

- Develop an active program to recruit and proselytize the following groups to the Libertarian Party:

Primary/Immediate Targets

Gun enthusiasts
Motorcyclists
Scientists
Pro-choice supporters
Real estate developers
Real estate and apartment owners
Tax protest groups
John Birchers
Hard money advocates
Members of NORML
Celebrities (such as David Letterman, Orson Bean, Raquel Welch, George Will, William Buckley).
ACLU members
Gay community members
New citizens

Secondary Groups

Small business people
Amnesty International

Groups for Later Development

Peace movement
Anti-nuclear movement
Nature Conservancy
Audubon Society
Alternate medicine providers
Sanctuary movement

- Develop a long-term program to attract well-qualified current libertarian candidates and those with strong libertarian sympathies. Recruit a full slate of candidates for 1990. Press a lawsuit to nominate by convention, and to organize our party by our own rules.

- Develop an organizational structure for the party as it would look on December 31, 1994, 1999, and 2004.

- Develop a comprehensive long-term program to attract new libertarian activists to the party.

1. Develop a campus development organization to recruit student libertarians.
2. Develop a speakers bureau.

- Develop a comprehensive long-term program to attract voting coalitions and voters from the existing Demopublican party.

- Develop a comprehensive program to attract eligible voters who are not sympathetic to the Demopublicans, but who may be to the Libertarian Party.

- Develop a list of economic benefits that can be offered to the electorate, along with a program for communicating this.

- Develop a major comprehensive and long-term program for communicating to various audiences the libertarian message and the program.

- Develop a simplified libertarian action program for presentation to potential libertarian members and voters, consisting of between five and ten issues.

- Develop a program to organize and activate areas of the state where the party currently has minimal representation.

Pitfalls to Avoid

- The loss of ideals of a libertarian society by the bureaucratization of the party and its structure.

- Perversion of libertarian ideals by the quest for power. ("Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.")

- Takeover of the party by non-libertarian groups who wish to pursue their own non-libertarian agenda.

- Excessive criticism of our own members for perceived or actual failings.

- The requirement and test of "ideological purity," as defined by whoever happens to be doing the judging.

- The demand for an all or nothing approach to the achievement of libertarian goals and ideals, as opposed to an ideologically-driven but practical and pragmatic progress toward the goals as fast and as far as circumstances allow.

A Dixville Notch Strategy

By Jim McClarin

Following the 1980 presidential election, one libertarian voiced the opinion that the biggest mistake made by the 1980 Libertarian campaign was in not "moving a libertarian family of twelve" to the tiny town of Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, which casts the first-in-the-nation vote beginning promptly at the stroke of midnight, election eve.

That wistful scheme would have paid off in blanket radio and TV news coverage for the first eight or nine hours of election day, perhaps influencing another million soft or undecided voters to join the Libertarian rebellion at the polls.

Election day 1988 found me driving back from the midnight vote at Dixville Notch, where I had spent a day campaigning for Ron Paul before the election. In the wee hours I flipped from one station to another on my radio to catch newscasts. Without fail, each one mentioned the vote results in Dixville Notch, where George Bush won in a landslide. This continued until mid-morning when the first exit polls provided fresh election news.

Had our 1988 nominee, Ron Paul, received only four votes in Dixville Notch, he would have topped Michael Dukakis, and gotten more national

publicity during the next nine hours because of that small feat than he garnered during the preceding year and a half of campaigning. Sadly, not even the lone Dixville Notch voter that voted for Ed Clark in 1980 could spare a vote for Dr. Paul in 1988.

For 1992, it seemed obvious—Libertarians would have to get an early start to score in Dixville Notch.

Thus it was that I recently wrote a check for 21 *Reason* magazine subscriptions—one for each family in Dixville Notch. Let them read the libertarian flavored *Reason* for a year, I figured. Then begin exposing them to local party news.

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire has a sharp, effective outreach program these days, and a year from now may look better yet. With public attitudes on drugs and defense leaning further toward the libertarian position, and increasing calls for new taxes by state Republicans, our party's image could be at an all-time high by early 1991, helping our cause substantially in Dixville Notch.

Jim McClarin, temporarily in California, is a member of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire. He also heads the Walter Williams Boosters, organized "to promote Walter Williams' influence and to spread his ideas."

New Hampshire

Peruvian Path

The U.S. Libertarian Party should clearly understand the immense political significance of the probable election of a Libertarian as leader of Peru. If Mario Vargas Llosa is elected president, and he faithfully follows libertarian principles in office, then the international consequences will be very great.

Why? A great percentage of the cocaine produced in the world comes from the eastern region of Peru, in the Amazon Basin. Currently, the Indian population growing this crop deals with middle men in Colombia and the infamous cocaine cartel. This peasant farming population is also largely under the political jurisdiction of the "Shining Path," which is a Maoist group in Peru, and the violent competitors to democratic government and Llosa in particular. Some have reported that the "Shining Path" obtains the bulk of its operating funds from their role as middle men with the Colombian smugglers.

Libertarian principles of property rights and freedom are as precious to coca growers as they are to any human beings. Llosa will need to include these people in his government if it is to establish order and sufficient stability for the Peruvian economy to pull out of its economic mess. Since a libertarian government would allow these peasants to grow coca openly and trade it in a free market (within Peru), Llosa has an opportunity to pull the economic base out from under the "Shining Path." This fact may account for the incredible violence and intimidation this group is exercising on the Peruvian population to "monkey-wrench" the elections in advance.

In short, election of a Libertarian in Peru, together with a legalized production of coca, will both stabilize the Peruvian economy and its political process. This, in turn, will produce the necessary basis for the economy to begin to mend and grow.

I am extremely inspired by events in Peru. I am also very moved by the bravery of Llosa; he is either crazy or incredibly committed to the principles of Liberty to run in an election where death and assassination is so common. Libertarians in the U.S. should support this courageous man in 1990 by keeping our government from screwing theirs up.

John Bergamini
Wilkes-Barre, PA



No Aid

I thought that Libertarians were against all foreign aid, so I cannot understand why Israel was ever brought up at the convention because that problem will take care of itself. Israel should get the same aid as everyone else—none.

Ronald W. O'Quinn
Collegedale, TN

Petitions

I would like to see emphasis placed on repealing and changing laws. If efforts to do this proved successful, we will have gained credibility and created a better political environment for our future winners.

My suggestion is to circulate petitions. One such petition would repeal the private express statutes, privatize the United States Postal Service, and use the proceeds to reduce the national debt. (Par-

ticularly timely, since the postal rates are expected to increase again, soon.)

Another petition would ease the ballot access requirements for third parties and place on every ballot, a "NONE OF THE ABOVE" listing. (I hardly think our bureaucrats could come up with a believable justification for denying Americans that which Russians have.) It is my belief, that many non-voters would register to vote N.O.T.A. Needless to say, a petition to repeal all laws not pertaining to the use of force or fraud, would be preferable, but I don't think the American people are ready for that much freedom.

Grace Payton, Treasurer
LP of Hillsborough County, FL

Boosters

I appreciated mention of my Walter Williams Boosters (LP NEWS, Nov/Dec) effort, but must correct the impression that the Boosters has Walter Williams' presidential nomination as one of its goals. I would personally like to see this development, as would many libertarians, and success by the Boosters could possibly influence Dr. Williams relative to it. However, the purpose of the Boosters is merely to promote Williams' influence upon the marketplace of ideas, thereby influencing the political system under which we live.

Without question, Williams has moved more Americans in a libertarian direction through his writings than all previous libertarian presidential nominees combined. But the Boosters has no intention of letting him rest on these laurels. A large portion (25 percent) of the electorate will have heard of Walter Williams by January 1, 1991, if the Boosters meets its goal.

Jim McClarin
Cool, CA

Armed Liberty

There is not one current gun-control law, of which there are many, that proves this method works. In fact, this control may be harmful: consider Washington, DC, with the highest murder rate per capita in the nation. Handguns are virtually banned there. Patrick Purdy, of Stockton, California, infamy, passed a 15-day waiting period to buy a Taurus 9-mm pistol the day before that tragedy. Machine guns have been heavily regulated since 1934, but there has been no stop in crimes committed with machine guns.

Legitimate use of firearms such as hunting and shooting competitions are merely a side effect of our right to keep them. Firearms, military or otherwise, are the method in which the people retain the power. We use them to defend ourselves from both criminal and civil oppressors.

Americans are divided on this issue, and some gun owners are ready for compromise. We must not, for any erosion of our rights is sure to continue. Ask the people of Germany in the 1940's how they felt about gun control, if you can find one who survived. Ask the people of Soviet Georgia whose registered sporting firearms were seized in April of this year.

Letters to the Editors

LP NEWS

P.O. Box 173

Kearneysville, WV 25430



The politicians writing and supporting this legislation are afraid of an armed general populace. They should be, for what else will keep them from stripping away other rights? Hitler, Stalin, and Castro were experts on gun control. Open your eyes and see what company some of your elected officials keep.

Jonathan D. Nordby
Palmer Lake, CO



Cannons

Doesn't anyone involved in these gun control debates know anything about the history of the amendment involved?

What triggered the American Revolution? The government of America heard that private American citizens actually had their own cannons at Concord. Not just handguns, but cannons! The people at Concord thought the government had some nerve trying to take their cannons.

At war's end, Concord was remembered and it was stated flatly in the Bill of Rights that the people had the right to form a militia. The militia wasn't the National Guard. The militia was formed to fight the National Guard. The National Guard is a collection of troops paid by, and loyal to, the government. The militia was local volunteers formed to fight such government paid troops.

And the militia, private citizens—unpaid by government—were to have exactly what they fought for at Concord, the right to have the same weapons as the government in order to keep the government in line...that includes AK-47s, flamethrowers, bazookas, and anything else the government has.

Walt Karwicki II
Chair, Central Pennsylvania LP

The Oath

John N. McGuire III complains about having to sign the non-aggression oath in order to join the party. He says he is being "forced" to do this. He is not. An offer is being made: sign the oath and pay your dues and we will let you join the party. He doesn't have to join if he doesn't want to, but if he does, the oath is part of the price of admission, and always has been, and this has always been made clear to prospective members in advance.

An offer of trade says, "Do as I ask and I will give you a value that you do not yet rightfully enjoy." Force is very different. It says, "If you do not do as I ask, I will take away a value that you do now rightfully enjoy."

Also, the oath does not reflect only "a small portion of the libertarian philosophy." It is the libertarian philosophy. The rejection of the initiation of force is the defining characteristic of a libertarian. Without throwing down the moral chal-

lenge of the oath, we are left with only vague slogans that you could just as well hear at any Republican rally.

Fred Cookinham
Brooklyn, NY

Czar

"Drug Czar" William Bennett's drug war plan is against our Bill of Rights and supports several ideas in the Communist Manifesto.

1. Amendment VIII of our Bill of Rights specifically states: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted." The czar's idea to impose a \$10,000 fine for drug use other than alcohol and nicotine is obviously an excessive fine, and will only benefit lawyers who can then charge higher fees, due to the higher penalty.

2. "The confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels"—by Karl Marx in *The Communist Manifesto*. Czar Bennett fully supports the "Zero Tolerance Law," along with Communist Karl Marx. But, Amendment V of our Bill of Rights states: "...nor shall private property be taken without just compensation."

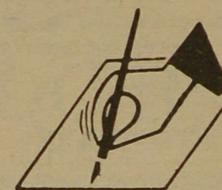
Communism is on the rise in America, and they are using the artificial "drug crises" and "drug war" to emotionally distract Americans, as the people's freedom is destroyed. Meantime, the drug alcohol is used to control and brain damage the people, as in every other communist-socialist country in the world.

John N. Maguire III
Myrtle Beach, SC

PACs

We need a Political Action Committee to support local campaigns. If we can raise \$3 million for a presidential campaign, can't we raise \$1 million to spend on local races every year? For \$50,000 we would have had more visibility in the New York City market (10 percent of the country) than Ron Paul had in 1988 anywhere. With that kind of visibility our candidate for Council President (the number two position) could have polled 10 percent, the unpopular Democratic incumbent was running unopposed.

John Karr
Secretary, LP of New York



Puritans

D.M. Fowle's defense of the Puritans in his letter (LP NEWS, Sept/Oct 1989) is well taken, but somewhat limited. The problem is that among the Puritans can be counted some of history's most libertarian leaders as well as some of history's greatest oppressors.

The Puritans began as "reformers" of the Church of England in the late 1500's and eventually established separate churches. Since the Church of England was the "official" church, there were repeated attempts to interfere with the rights of the Puritans to practice their religion as they saw fit. This led to two differing responses. One group wanted to take over the Church of England and purify it of its "popish" tendencies and eliminate impiety. The second group called for religious

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Letters to the Editors

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freedom and only sought to be left alone.

This division came to a head with the English Civil War. The victorious Oliver Cromwell imposed a highly restrictive social system during the eleven year period of the Commonwealth which was called the "Society of Saints." There was an attempt to impose Puritan religious attitudes about everything from drinking and dancing to punishing people for "Blasphemy." Cromwell tried to eliminate Catholicism in Ireland by force, and he is still called "Bloody Cromwell" there. Once Cromwell died, his policies were so unpopular that the monarchy was restored with virtually no opposition.

Massachusetts colony was never as bad as it was under Cromwell, but as Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* makes clear, it was a fairly oppressive place. (Many people became fed up with Massachusetts and formed a community in what is now Rhode Island, which would produce a far more liberal tradition.)

At the same time, there was another group of Puritans called the Levelers who wanted to eliminate all political differences between classes. There are historians who believe they were the first libertarians. It is from this wing of the Puritans that ideas were presented which a couple of decades later would be systematized by John Locke.

Later, outgrowths of this wing of the Puritans would produce the Quakers and the various Dissenter groups including the Unitarians and Universalists.

Libertarians owe a great deal to these early advocates of religious tolerance and individual rights who were often Puritans. Their adherence to property rights and promotion of the "protestant work ethic" was important.

At the same time, the heirs of Cromwell continue to plague us, and I suspect that it is them that Mencken blasted.

George L. O'Brien
San Francisco, CA



U.S.S.R.

As we watch with amazement the U.S.S.R. and the eastern bloc nations change on almost a daily basis. We have hope for a free world and the current moves in this direction astound us. But let us ponder for a moment where all this is headed.

At this point the U.S. with its pseudo-free market may provide a model for the soviet republics and their satellites and the direction they appear to be heading. Not that we are going to soon have a second U.S., just that this "version of freedom" seems to be the most viable in the world today. Couple this with the development of the European Economic Community and what do we have? Is the stage being set for a one world government? I doubt that this situation fits our view of freedom.

The people of the U.S.S.R. and the eastern bloc nations have the momentum and are questioning the very basis by which they have lived for some 70 years. We are likely to find them more receptive to new ideas than our own countrymen. The people

of the U.S. long ago quit questioning and now accept the status quo as freedom.

We, as libertarians, should support the move towards freedom in the U.S.S.R. and its satellites not only in rhetoric but in deed. I call upon our libertarian leadership to explore ways to communicate the true ideas of freedom to the people of the U.S.S.R. One way would be to send literature to the U.S.S.R. as has been done with Poland. But, we should do it on a larger scale. The literature of libertarianism that is largely wasted on the American people just might, at this time, be better used by the people of the U.S.S.R.

Dick Dickinson
Chair, LP of Kentucky

Missed by That Much

Here are the results of the Corte Madera Town Council race held November 7, 1989 (Corte Madera is in Marin County, California):

Alan Airoidi-1,333; N. Richardson-1,286; Ben Wolff-857; Greta Bickford-831; and Lucy Schukin-382. The first three were elected. The incumbents were Airoidi and Schukin. Bickford is a Libertarian. What makes the 27 vote loss (representing about two percent of the people that voted) even more daunting is that Schukin withdrew from the race, but filed her paper to do so a day late, so she remained on the ballot. Since she and Bickford were the only women, it is very likely that Bickford would have won if Schukin had been able to officially withdraw.

Bickford has a good shot at being elected by the council to the Planning Commission, which will provide a good springboard for her to run again in two years.

Scott Lieberman
Corte Madera, CA

Registration in Kansas

There is one action of protest you can take in Kansas and stay within the electoral process. You can go to the courthouse and change your voting registration from Republican or unaffiliated to Libertarian. You can't vote Libertarian in November but you can register that way. You can indicate your support for the Libertarian demands for less government. The only reason you can even register Libertarian is a result of our successful federal court case.

Such change in your registration will not affect your right to vote in November, but it will forbid your voting in either primary. If you are already an independent or a non-voter in your party's primary, you can make your protest loud and clear at no loss to you. Just as there is no test to qualify as a Democrat, likewise there is no examination to declare as Libertarian. Also, registration can be done by mail; merely telephone the county clerk and she will mail you the forms.

As you know, one percent of the people of East Germany, voting with their feet, brought down the government. Ten thousand (one percent of all Kansas voters) changing registration for this reason can speak as loudly. Changing your registration to Libertarian is the last and only way you have left to protest big government and high taxes without getting bloody.

Doug Merritt
Atchison, Kansas

Ten Tips on Writing Letters to the Editor

By Don Feder

The most widely-read section of any newspaper isn't the editorials, political columns, or sports pages. No, it's letters to the editor. That's because the man on the street would rather hear the views of other readers than the ruminations of an exalted, syndicated columnist. Letters to the editor provide an excellent vehicle for reaching a wide audience with pro-capitalist arguments.

What to write about? Typically letters to the editor are counter arguments—rebuttals to editorials, political columns, or other letters. On the other hand, letters can also offer praise and support for positions we agree with. If a writer criticizes the postal monopoly, you can bet that post office employees will raise holy hell. Why not offer the writer assistance (particularly by raising supportive arguments not covered in his piece)?

Make your response as timely as possible. If you wait several weeks to write your letter, the subject will be old news and your missive won't be published. It's best to mail your communication within two or three days after publication of the article you're responding to.

The length of your letter is an important consideration. Generally, shorter pieces are more likely to be published (and to escape drastic editing). I would recommend a maximum of two hundred words, unless you know that the paper regularly publishes longer pieces.

Here are some stylistic considerations:

1. State the argument you're rebutting, or responding to, as briefly as possible, in the letter's introduction. Don't give a lengthy rehash; it's a waste of valuable space and boring to boot.

2. Stick to a single subject. Deal with one issue per letter.

3. Don't be shrill or abusive. Editors tend to discard letters containing personal attacks. Even though you're dying to call Jesse Jackson a preachy parasite, stifle the urge.

4. Your letter should be logically organized. First a brief recitation of the argument you're opposing, followed by a statement of your own position. Then present your evidence. Close with a short restatement of your position or a pithy comment ("Jimmy Breslin says possession of firearms should be limited to law enforcement officials. I say when only the police have guns, the police state is just around the corner").

5. Use facts, figures, and expert testimony whenever possible. This raises

your letters above the "sez you, sez me" category. For instance: "Anthony Lewis calls for taxing the rich as a way to balance the budget. Is he aware of the fact that if we confiscated the entire income of the top wage earners in this country (those with marginal tax rates above 50 percent), this would run the federal government for exactly eight days?" Readers respect the opinions of people with special knowledge or expertise. Use expert testimony to bolster your case ("George Will claims we need the draft to defend America. But General Edward C. Meyer, Army Chief of Staff, recently stated . . .").

6. Proofread your letter carefully for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar. Newspapers will usually edit to correct these mistakes, but your piece is more likely to be

published if it's "clean" to begin with. Read your letter to a friend, for objective input. A letter shouldn't be mailed the same day it's written. Write, proofread, and edit the piece. Then put it aside until the next day. Rereading your letter in a fresh light often helps you to spot errors in reasoning, stilted language, and the like.

7. Try to view the letter from a reader's perspective. Will the arguments make sense to someone without a special background on this issue? Did you use technical terms not familiar to the average reader? Do your arguments "make sense" to those not already committed?

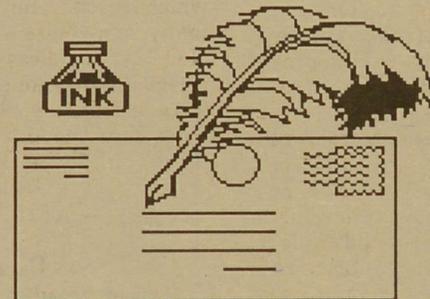
8. Should your letter be typed? Definitely! Use a typewriter which leaves a clean, sharp impression. Double or triple-space the letter on white, 8 and a half by 11 inch paper.

9. Letters should be signed and include your address and phone number. Most newspapers won't publish anonymous letters. Also, editors like to check a letter's authenticity, prior to publication. So don't be surprised if someone contacts you to verify that you are the author of the communication.

10. Direct your missives to "Letters to the Editor," at the paper. Although it's doubtful a paper will publish one of your letters each week (unless they're desperate for copy), one a month certainly isn't too much. Don't be discouraged if a letter isn't published. The editor may have received more responses on that issue than he feels he can handle.

Lastly, a truism: The more you write, the more you'll be published.

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First Tuesday Each Month:

LP/Ayn Rand Society of Central Pennsylvania, 7 pm, Granfallons Restaurant, York, PA

April 6-8, 1990:

Illinois LP Convention, Midway Motor Lodge, Elk Grove, IL; 708-475-0391

April 6-8, 1990:

Wisconsin LP Convention; 414-241-4364

May 1990:

Colorado LP Convention, Ft. Collins, CO; 303-837-9393

August 28-September 1, 1991:

"Liberty Triumphant," LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Chicago Marriott, Chicago, IL; 708-475-0391

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