

# Minnesota Libertarian

The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota

## Discover freedom on April 18

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota's annual state convention is coming up on April 18 at the Mystic Lake Casino/Hotel.

Pre-registrations are ahead of last year's convention. Harry Browne is our keystone speaker, along with Ed Contoski, founding member of the LPMN and author; Byron Dale, monetary expert and LPSD candidate for US Senate; and Duane Korum, Certified Financial Planner and ethanol boondoggle expert.  
(Please turn to page 2)



March 16 Give It ALL Back Rally #1 Minnesotans demanding their \$4 billion dollar tax over-payment be returned to them.

## Give It ALL Back

By Charles Test

When the "call to arms" was issued by talk radio show host Jason Lewis, the Libertarian Party of Minnesota grabbed the banner and attacked. At a March 16 "Give It ALL Back" Rally an estimated 500 regular working people shouted at the Legislature and Governor Carlson to GIVE IT ALL BACK! The crowd demanded the return of the \$4 billion dollars Minnesotans have been overcharged by their \$11 billion dollar per year government. Libertarian signs and Give It ALL Back signs stretched across the entire expanse of the Capitol steps and down to the sidewalk.

The Libertarian rally was promoted by a small

team. Jason Lewis and Joe Soucheray of KSTP-Radio helped spread the word on their shows. The LP of MN set their fax and e-mail lists to work. Activist Catherine Huisman also set her network into action. It worked... and a lot better than the February 23 Republican rally that promoted their radio commercials which espoused their intention to 'give your money back to you.' That rally was poorly attended and half of the audience consisted of legislators or staff. In contrast, there were few, if any, professional politicians in the Libertarian Party sponsored rally.

We had a great lineup including speakers from the Republican Party,

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### Future Libertarian sponsored rallies:

- Give It ALL Back Rallies #3 & 4 on the State Capitol steps  
Monday March 30, 5 PM and Saturday April 4 at 2 PM
- LPMN Tax Protest MPLS Main Post Office April 15, 5 PM
- LPMN State Convention Sat. April 18 Mystic Lake Casino/Hotel
- Freedom Day at the Capitol in St. Paul Fri. May 1, 10 AM

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday March 30, 1998 5 PM  
Give It ALL Back Rally #3 on the Capitol steps
- Saturday April 4, 1998 2 PM  
Give It ALL Back Rally #4 on the Capitol steps
- Wednesday April 15, 1998 5 PM  
Annual Income Tax Protest at Main Minneapolis Post Office
- Saturday April 18, 1998 Registration starts at noon  
Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention
- Friday May 1, 1998 10 AM - 2 PM  
Freedom Day on the Minnesota Capitol Mall
- Thursday July 2-5, 1998  
Libertarian Party National Convention in Washington, DC
- Tuesday July 7-21, 1998  
Ballot access petitioning
- Thursday August 27-Labor Day  
Minnesota State Fair

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIR

Once again I'm sorry for the long stretches between newsletters. There's so much going on that it gets postponed or late breaking news happens. For example our successful rallies at the Capitol March 16 and 23. Here's what's been happening.



**Charles Test**

January brought the beginnings of the LPMN's legislative agenda. We decided to suggest model legislation in addition to following and testifying about existing bills. We researched and received some model legislation from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Some of our model bills are outlined on page 8 of this newsletter.

On the 27th of January David Horowitz spoke at the Center of the American Experiment. He reminded the audience that we have to fight for freedom because the forces of collectivism consider it a "war."

In February I got to go to two high schools with LPMN Treasurer Mike McCarty. Mike has a great speech about 'how many people does it takes before it's not stealing?' There were interesting contrasts in the two schools. One was in Forrest Lake and the other South Minneapolis. The Forrest Lake students were concerned about whether society or individuals should be responsible for intoxicated relatives. In Minneapolis some students believed that their Grandparents would die in the streets if Social Security was transformed into privately controlled money. They had no faith in themselves or others to help the needy, only "compassion-

ate" government stood between life or death for millions of Americans. I also noticed that the Forrest Lake students each had books. At South High I didn't notice any text books and a few students ate their lunch during our presentation. Things have changed since my school days.

Super LPMN volunteer Ed Ness, from Akeley, volunteered a week of his time to the LPMN. He helped Forrest Wilkinson at the Capitol, made phone calls, and labeled thousands of NAT-LP pamphlets with LPMN address labels.

March brought caucuses. Since the LPMN is not yet a major party in Minnesota, we don't have to caucus. However, the Reform Party of MN invited people from all political parties to come and caucus with them. We took them up on it.

The LPMN distributed resolutions supporting our campaign finance reforms, good government reforms and ballot access reforms to the caucus attendees. They were generally welcomed and many of our resolutions got passed on to the Reform Party of MN's state convention on June 6, 1998. Libertarians were also elected delegates to the Reform Party of MN's state convention. The Reform Party of MN is still looking for more delegates. If you're interested in being one, please contact me.

Now the excitement is our series of Libertarian Party of Minnesota sponsored Give It ALL Back Rallies. Our first one was a great success and we have three more planned on March 23, March 30, and April 4. Rally #1 made the front page of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* Metro section on March 17. We're getting Republicans calling us seeking a venue. It seems that economically-conservative Republicans have a lot of difficulties with the tax and spend habits of "moderate" Republicans and their state leadership. Libertarians are helping Republicans do the right thing. It's not getting lost

on the elected officials or the voting public. When you want taxes and spending cut, call the Libertarians. You can depend on them. Like Harry Browne says, "it's a great time to be a Libertarian."

March 19 brought anti-racial preference leader Ward Connerly to the Center of the American Experiment. He gave a great talk on how government preferences for race, sex, ethnicity, national origin... hurt the "recipients" of the preferences and society in general.

I got to ask Mr. Connerly a question. I said the LPMN has model legislation to ban state imposed preferences along the lines of California's Civil Rights Initiative. I also stated that the Libertarian Party was encouraging Americans to boycott the racial type check-boxes on the Year 2000 U.S. Census. Mr. Connerly said he'd be first in line to support our boycott.

March 23 was our second Give It ALL Back Rally. A crowd of about 500 again, but different people. Our speakers included Pat Gromek, Richard Iffert, Kurt Olson of the Twin City Republican Association saying nice things about the LP. Dick Borrell, Alan Quist - Republican candidates for Governor. I'm happy to report LPMN member Frank Germann announced his candidacy for Governor too. Bill Wenmark of Citizens for Choice in Health Care spoke, along with Rep. Kevin Knight, Rep. Steve Sviggum and LPMN candidate Rich Osness MN 27B. All four TV stations covered our rally. Channels 5 and 11 had live feeds. We've also got talk radio calling us for interviews. People notice you when you take the lead.

See you at one of our Give It ALL Back Rallies March 30 and April 4, our annual April 15 Tax Protest, our LPMN State Convention April 18, or Freedom Day at the Capitol May 1. ■

### Give It ALL Back Rally *Continued from page 1*

Reform Party, Libertarian Party and others.

Republican speakers started off the rally; MN Senator Dick Day, followed by MN Rep. Steve Sviggum, MN Rep. Henry Todd Van Dellen, MN Rep. Kevin Knight, MN Senator Gen Olson, and MN Rep. Bill Haas.

The Republicans spoke about how the Democrats want to spend all of our money and don't want to give back much of the tax over-payment. They didn't mention their disappointment at some of their colleagues' votes.

Cedric Scofield of the Reform Party stated that the Reform Party, "asks taxpayers to join with them in calling on the legislature and the Governor to return the \$4 billion surplus tax revenue, and to 'remember in November.'"

Darrell McKigney of the Taxpayers League of MN reminded that the current tax over-payment is equal to over \$400 for every man, woman and child in Minnesota. This is the sixth surplus in a row. The DFL strongly opposes tax cuts, the Republicans support tax cuts. Yet 28 Republicans voted for the mega bonding bill. The people are not being heard and need to unite to be heard. Dan Pilla, the tax expert really roused up the crowd with some of his government abuse stories.

Then Charles Test, LP of MN Chair, addressed the audience. He pointed out that the *Minneapolis Star/Tribune* had just

reported that the Republicans helped to pass the record-setting Minnesota capital improvement bonding bills recently. 28 of 64 Republicans voted AGAINST their leadership and voted FOR a whole lot of new spending. That's a whopping 44% of all MN House Republicans. In the MN Senate, 5 of 24 Republicans voted for new spending... 21% of them.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reported that on Monday, February 23, House Republican leader Steve Sviggum said Republicans wanted to "give your money back to you," at the Republican "Give Back Some of Your Money Rally." However, minutes later, 22 of 24 (92%) of MN Senate Republicans joined the DFL in voting another \$45 million in spending for road construction, hiring more state troopers, and transportation, plus \$7 million for more crime stuff. Hard to return the tax over-payment after you spend it folks.

Republicans at the federal level are no better, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. With a Republican majority in Congress, the Senate Transportation Bill is 38% bigger than six years ago, even though inflation is only 3%/year. GOP Senators show no interest in repealing President Clinton's 1993 4.3¢ gas tax hike either, even though most of them voted against it when Clinton proposed it. With all of this "make up for lost time" spending, they're ignoring their OWN spending caps.

Instead they choose to "social-engineer" us by coercing the states into lowering the 0.08% blood alcohol level for drunk driving laws. This is in addition to all of their other federal black-mail of "do-this-or-you-won't-get-federal-taxpayer-highway-funds". Republicans appear to be as addicted to OPM (other peoples' money) as the Democrats and as committed to continuing the "nanny-state."

The Republican majority has gone on a spending spree since taking power. Taxes have gone up. Spending has gone up. Regulation has gone up.

By some people's measure, Republican majority spending, taxation and regulation has gone up FASTER than under the Democrats. So much for Republicans working for smaller, limited government.

LP of MN candidate MN House 27B Rich Osness spoke next. He said that Minnesotans deserve both a tax rebate and a tax cut. He called for for a 100% tax rebate and a tax cut equal to the current surplus. Osness was followed by LP of MN US House 6 candidate Eric Johnson. Long time Libertarian Party member and past candidate Frank Germann was the final speaker. He told the crowd some of his experiences working for the government for 31 years. Germann is a retired civil engineer who has worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and several other government agencies. ■

# Help needed:

**Candidates for U.S. Congress and Minnesota offices. We also encourage you to seek appointed office in your community. It's a great way to get involved and to learn the ropes.**

## Volunteers needed

Quick response protesters.

State-wide ballot access petition  
petitioners July 7-21, 1998

### Contact your LPMN candidates:

Frank Germann for Governor fgermann@juno.com	612 455-0967
Ruth Mason for Attorney General	612 631-2737
Bob Odden Minneapolis for State Auditor	612 721-7649
Mike Neitzel of St. Paul for US Congress 4	612 487-9763
Eric M. Johnson of Lakeland for US Congress 6 75624.100@compuserve.com	612 436-8183
Larry Fuhol of Isanti for US Congress 8	612 444-9008
Rich Osness of Austin for MN House 27B	507 433-5734
Rob Babione for New Prague City Council	612 758-3708

# Under their thumb: New fingerprinting laws threaten freedom

WASHINGTON, DC —

Fingerprinting isn't just for criminals any more.

Thanks to Congress, 1998 may be the year that YOU will be fingerprinted — simply for the privilege of renewing your drivers license, the Libertarian Party warned today.

Already five states — California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, and Texas — require thumb prints as a condition of granting a drivers license. And many other state governments are expected to follow suit in 1998 because pilot programs authorized in the 1996 Defense Department funding bill are now taking effect.

"Americans should give a unanimous thumbs-down to this new law," said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party chairman. "If we don't, your next trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles may resemble a booking on NYPD Blue:

You'll be photographed and fingerprinted for the 'crime' of wanting to drive your own car."

One possible danger of the new law: The federal government could collect the fingerprints and add them to the massive database at the FBI Fingerprint Center in West Virginia — which now processes 14 million fingerprint identification requests a year. Congress already collects similar information to track deadbeat dads, prevent the hiring of illegal aliens, and other purposes.

"The government wants to fingerprint law-abiding citizens, just in case they commit a crime," Dasbach said. "But why not just require every American to post bail or hire an attorney in advance, just in case they commit a crime?"

"Politicians always find lofty motives, such as protecting children or fighting crime, to write more laws. But in the end it's ordinary

Americans — not criminals — who pay the price."

The federal government's new pilot program pays state governments to create fingerprinted drivers licenses as part of a nationwide experiment to test various types of tamper-proof "identity papers" for citizens.

"Fortunately, the new fingerprint law is being vociferously opposed by a wide array of Americans," Dasbach said. Gun-rights groups are concerned about weapons confiscation; the ACLU warns that politicians will have 'an irresistible temptation to use the data for government surveillance;' and some religious groups equate putting their fingerprint on their licenses with the "mark of the beast" prophesied in the book of Revelation.

"But you don't have to be a prophet to predict that the government will always demand just one

more piece of information — and then one more, and one more," said Dasbach, who pointed out that originally, drivers licenses didn't even require photos. Now many states require Social Security numbers as well.

"But why should we trust the same politicians who routinely misuse FBI and IRS files? Caving in to their latest demands will only whet their appetite for more," he said.

In fact, Dasbach pointed out that in order to crack down on illegal immigration, the government has also authorized pilot programs for a tamper-proof national ID card, complete with "biometric identifiers" such as voice analyzers and retina scanners to track every American as they enter and exit the borders from Canada and Mexico.

"Even more outrageous is the way the fingerprint pilot program was passed," Dasbach said. Politicians,

afraid of a public backlash over a "national ID card," tacked the tiny provision onto page 650 of the mammoth Defense Department funding bill, which they knew would pass overwhelmingly.

"In other words, the

**"The government wants to fingerprint law-abiding citizens, just in case they commit a crime," Dasbach said. "But why not just require every American to post bail or hire an attorney in advance, just in case they commit a crime?"**

same politicians who are busy demanding your fingerprints attempted to erase their own fingerprints from this bill," he said. "And no wonder. This law gives them the power to make us all suspects in crimes they haven't even invented yet."

Nationally, more than

1,000 state and federal laws now authorize the gathering of fingerprints for purposes ranging from hiring lottery workers, janitors, day-care providers, nursing-home workers, and even tow truck drivers.

That's a trend that must be reversed, said Dasbach.

"One of the protections that we have against invasive government power is its inability to keep track of us in every single thing we do. A drivers license that can serve as a national ID card, coupled with computerized databases, raises the frightening prospect of bureaucrats tracking us like products in a grocery store," he said.

"But instead of accumulating more personal data, the government should start destroying it — and stop treating law-abiding Americans like common criminals." ■

# Silliest federal regulation? NHTSA mandates seatbelts on golf carts

WASHINGTON, DC —

What's next: Airbags for zambonis? Seatbelts for steamrollers?

That's what Libertarians are asking after the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced last week that it will start requiring seatbelts, windshields, turn signals, and rearview mirrors on golf carts.

Golf carts? Yes, golf carts.

"Are crash test dummies writing these regulations now?" asked Steve Dasbach, the chairman of the Libertarian Party. "Or are federal bureaucrats just

running out of things to regulate?"

NHTSA bureaucrats announced that they will start enforcing the new regulation — called Standard No. 100 — this spring. The agency will reclassify many golf carts as "low-speed vehicles" and mandate an estimated \$400 to \$1,000 worth of safety features.

"This is a typical case of government bureaucrats protecting us from a so-called problem that doesn't exist — and mandating an expensive solution that we have to pay for," said Dasbach.

Standard No. 100 will cover all golf carts with a top speed of 25 mph. It will

primarily affect the slow-moving "golf carts" used by senior citizens in retirement communities — but might also include some golf carts used on golf courses.

Are golf carts a safety hazard?

Even NHTSA had to admit they're not: The agency was unable to find any evidence that the slow-moving vehicles are dangerous. In fact, officials from several towns that allow golf carts in traffic testified that they could recall only one golf cart accident — and it was caused by a joyriding teenager.

"Let's face it: There is

no national crisis caused by senior citizens hot-rodding around at 20 miles per hour in golf carts," said Dasbach. "The only crisis we have is too many federal bureaucrats looking for excuses to expand their regulatory empires."

Dasbach said the Libertarian Party planned to speak out against the new regulations in early 1997 when the NHTSA was first considering them — but "we were afraid people would think we were making this up," he said.

"After all, who would believe the federal government would do something as ridiculous as require rearview mirrors and seat-

belts on golf carts?" asked Dasbach. "No wonder so many Americans think the federal government is a joke!"

But there's a serious side to the issue, too, he said.

"Libertarians oppose these new regulations because they're not needed — but also because they might make these environmentally friendly vehicles too expensive for many people," he said.

"Keep in mind, these are electrically powered, low-emission vehicles, used by many people instead of cars. So what does the government do? It boosts the price of golf carts

by as much as 25% by mandating useless safety equipment. The result? Golf carts might be priced out of the reach of many people — so more people will use more automobiles and cause more pollution."

The only question now, said Dasbach is: "What will government bureaucrats mandate next: Seatbelts on sleds? Rearview mirrors on riding lawn-mowers? Parking brakes on skateboards?"

"When it comes to creating foolish and expensive regulations, NHTSA bureaucrats are unsafe at any speed." ■

# Medicare expansion: It's Hillary Clinton's "Energizer Bunny"

WASHINGTON, DC —

When it comes to taking over the U.S. health-care system, Hillary Clinton is like the Energizer Bunny, the Libertarian Party says: She just keeps going. And going. And going.

The latest example? President Bill Clinton's new plan to entice three million more Americans to join the government's Medicare program — a program that's expected to be bankrupt by 2010.

"You can call this plan Hillary's Revenge," said Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach. "Four years after we put the brakes on Hillary's health-care takeover, she's back for another chunk of our health-care dollar. Like the Energizer Bunny, she just keeps on going."

"Step by incremental step, she has been quietly

and methodically imposing socialized medicine on the American people."

Just look at the record, said Dasbach. In the past two years:

\* Congress passed the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, which allows the federal government to micromanage private companies' health-care coverage.

\* Congress passed KiddyCare, a \$24 billion entitlement for children.

\* Now President Clinton wants to expand Medicare to include the "near elderly."

"The government already spends a staggering 42% of every health-care dollar," Dasbach said. "And now Bill and Hillary Clinton are going after the other 58%."

**"This plan will bring more people under the authority of government medicine — further reducing the freedom of doctors and patients," said Dasbach. "Law by law, dollar by dollar, mandate by mandate, we're losing control over our health care decisions. When it comes to socialized medicine, Hillary Clinton has lost a battle, but she's winning the war."**

Clinton's new plan will make three million people, aged 55 to 64, eligible to join the Medicare program — the largest expansion in the program's 31-year history. Government officials claimed the plan is revenue-neutral, but simultaneously admitted it will cost up to \$3 billion over

five years.

But it's not just the higher cost that prompts the Libertarian Party to oppose the plan, said Dasbach. The new program is a bad idea because...

\* The Medicare program is already at the edge of bankruptcy. Medicare Part A starts deficit spending in 2004. Medicare Part B goes bankrupt in 2010. And by 2025, the program will be engulfed in a tidal wave of red ink, thanks to the retirement of baby boomers.

"It's cruel and immoral to entice elderly Americans into a program that will fail them when they need it most," said Dasbach. "We should be talking about how to end Medicare — not how to expand it."

\* The Medicare program is

riddled with fraud. In July 1997, federal auditors estimated that \$23 billion was wasted by Medicare because of fraud or mistakes — or one dollar out of every seven spent.

"Why should we waste another dollar on a program that's already losing \$43,750 a minute in fraud?" asked Dasbach.

\* The new program will drive up taxes for everyone, because it will lure the sickest and most costly patients, who will be eager to take advantage of Uncle Sam's generosity.

"Despite Clinton's promises, this program will be a financial fiasco for American taxpayers," predicted Dasbach. "Medicare recipients already spend \$5 for every \$1 they pay in taxes. This program will attract more people spend-

ing more tax dollars. And it will make private companies less likely to offer retirement health benefits — since the federal government will pick up the tab anyway. In the end, we will all pay."

\* And finally, the program will further extend the government's power over the health-care market.

"This plan will bring more people under the authority of government medicine — further reducing the freedom of doctors and patients," said Dasbach. "Law by law, dollar by dollar, mandate by mandate, we're losing control over our health care decisions. When it comes to socialized medicine, Hillary Clinton has lost a battle, but she's winning the war." ■

# Freedom of association and dis-association

By Ken Iverson

Spring cleaning these days can take on a new meaning: cleaning out bank accounts. With another income tax deadline upon us, the injustice of our tax system again comes to mind. Mainstreamers and socialists insist that our federal income tax system is perfectly justified, since it was instituted by elected officials who had the mandate of the people. Actually it was instituted, despite its unconstitutionality, by office holders from another era, who were elected to uphold the constitution. Today we suffer from what that system has become.

A mandate implies unanimity. Elected officials generally have no right to use the term "mandate"

since there is almost always a dissenting segment of voters. But as with the lamb and two wolves voting on lunch, democracy is far from perfect. It is only workable within a constituted framework of respect for the natural rights of person and property.

In the free market arena, however, a mandate occurs with each transaction. Both parties receive that for which they voted. This marketplace of free association need not have the consent of others, providing no outside infringement has occurred. Given this inertness, associations of any kind are allowed. Consider, as an example, a housing alliance between property owners, such as a townhome association. This covenant applies only to the members of this private organization. The nat-

ural right to private property gives each member the common law basis to enter into and maintain ties to the association. Since the association's inception the same has been true, whether one or more owners belonged. There is never a need for dues-collecting henchmen, as taxation would require. This user fee system works by voluntary cooperation.

As such, the owners have the right to restrict personal conduct on their collective property, which might include common areas, such as a swimming pool and tennis court. Perhaps personal conduct is one of the reasons they elected to enter into the pact. They may decide whether advertising is to be allowed on the common bulletin board, whether alcohol will be permitted

near the pool, or whether fire arms are allowed on the premises. The joint decisions made constitute the bylaws of the association, even if some of the bylaws resemble affronts to the Bill of Rights! All have been voluntarily agreed upon.

Retailers and other employers apply similar

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rules in their respective transactions. For instance, no firearms or hard drugs are typically allowed on the premises of business establishments. Generally, when it comes to private property, the owners retain the right to establish rules of conduct. Those who transact at the location of business agree to "associate" with one another in a generally prescribed manner.

An incorporated city or larger entity could conceivably become an "association" by unanimous vote, though a highly unlikely scenario. Naturally, smaller groups are more likely than larger to agree to a set of common rules by which to live. And only voluntary associations can justifiably establish, within their own realm, gun control, drug control, environmental edicts, and

other sociopolitical experiments, none of which have any rightful place in the whole of society. People that believe such restrictions do have their rightful place over society as a whole should get together with like-minded people instead of pushing their "wisdom" on everyone.

Statists try to apply universal "mandates" to society in countless ways. They don't care who gets hurt, or whose natural rights have been violated. Yet so far, statists are winners in the tax "mandate." Until we repeal unconstitutional laws such as the income tax, we will remain willing, yet suffering participants. ■

# Of "income inequality", envy and a thirst for power

By Joel Krogen

The start of a new year has brought renewed cries from the left about the insidiousness of income inequality. The middle class is disappearing, and that is cause for alarm.

What we won't hear is that most people who leave the middle class do so because of upward mobility.

According to the Cato Institute, from 1970 to 1990 the population earning more than \$50,000 (in constant 1990 dollars) grew from 24 percent to 32 percent. Such a statistic is something to be celebrated, not lamented.

It is not a bad thing for someone to succeed. This is the land of opportunity where people can rise as high as their talents and hard work will take them.

Income inequality naturally increases during

good economic times and decreases during recessions. Economic prosperity means people earn more money, and it takes a higher amount to be in the top one percent or top 10 percent of wage earners. That does not preclude the lower wage earners from increasing their income.

**The argument that the income gap is growing and needs to be dealt with is based upon envy and the need for power.**

The self-described guardians of the poor ought to encourage their constituency to emulate those who have achieved success so that they, too, can share in the bounty the United States has to offer.

Instead, the attempt to foster resentment toward "the rich" is what drives the income gap argument. There are three points on

this issue that need to be considered.

First, why is the emphasis on tearing down "the rich" instead of promoting prosperity for all? A favorite argument by redistributionists is that "the rich get richer while the poor get poorer."

Such an argument assumes a zero-sum economy in which there is a finite amount of money to be split among all citizens.

That is a specious argument. If it were true, the U.S. would not have the lowest unemployment rate in 25 years while having the largest population in the history of the country. The economic pie gets bigger each time a new business starts or when additional employees are hired. That is the beauty of capitalism.

Second, it is impossible for someone to get rich by taking away from the poor. If someone is poor, there is

nothing to take from them.

Third, just who are "the rich?" Someone who makes \$30,000? \$50,000? \$1,000,000? The term is tossed about with impunity. That is how proponents of transfer payments demagogue issues without having to identify the enemy. The elitists would have a problem explaining how they can castigate wealth while being in the top income bracket.

The argument that the income gap is growing and needs to be dealt with is based upon envy and the need for power.

People who amass wealth are not winners of life's lottery, as Representative Dick Gephardt, the likely opponent of Al Gore for the Democratic nomination for president in 2000 and a veteran of class warfare, would have us believe. They are people who, for the most part, started with

very little and worked harder and longer than most people are willing to work. Deferred gratification is a way of life for them.

The catalyst for today's liberalism is redistribution of wealth. Without it, there can be no control over the masses. There would be no hand-outs with which they can garner votes.

Every proposal to increase taxes and spending is attributed to the necessity to close the income gap. However, history provides no evidence to support the notion that more government will lift people out of poverty. What can be shown is that the increasing appetite of the government hurts everyone.

During the 1980s Congress imposed a luxury tax on big-ticket items such as yachts, jewelry, etc., in the belief that more rev-

enue would be collected from "the rich" to be redistributed to the poor.

It didn't work that way. "The rich" simply stopped buying the luxury items, and the boat-building industry took a big hit. Thousands of employees were out of work because there was no demand for the products they made. The saviors of the poor increased the income gap to the detriment of low- and middle-income Americans.

There is nothing wrong with an income gap when all income groups are moving up. The shrinking of the middle class is a good sign when its cause is more people moving into higher income groups. Government needs to minimize its intervention into the lives of the people so they can realize their full potential and enjoy all America has to offer. ■

# Even with 5,000 PR flacks, Americans still distrust the government

WASHINGTON, DC —

Trust in government is on the upswing. So why are Libertarians cheering?

Because despite a jump in public confidence since 1994, only 34% of Americans trust the federal government, according to a new survey.

"This means that two-thirds of Americans still don't trust the federal government — despite a booming economy and 5,000 full-time PR flacks on the payroll in Washington, DC," said Steve Dabach, the Libertarian Party's national chairman.

"Politicians may be overjoyed that they aren't as distrusted as they used to be. But only in

Washington could a 66% disapproval rating be hailed as good news," he said.

According to a study of 4,000 voters released this week by the Pew Research Center, 66% of the country doesn't trust the government to "do the right thing most of the time." That's an improvement over 1994, when a whopping 79% distrusted the federal government.

"When two out of every three Americans distrust their government, politicians ought to be hiding in shame, not running for re-election," said Dabach.

What accounts for the upturn in trust — as modest as it may be? Probably

the booming economy, suggested Dabach.

"People with cash in their pockets and a secure job tend to be content," he noted. "But the economy is thriving despite the politicians, not because of them. Let's not forget that this year's massive \$1.73 trillion

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federal budget has loaded Americans with the largest tax burden in history."

Another contributing

factor in the mini-surge in trust could be the army of public relations bureaucrats whose job it is to "sell" the virtues of the federal government, said Dabach.

"Most people don't realize it, but the federal government runs one of the largest, ongoing public relations campaigns in the world — and we're paying for it," he said.

In fact, according to a study by the General Accounting Office, there are almost 5,000 taxpayer-financed public relations employees on the federal payroll.

Their job? "To spend our tax money to convince us that the politicians are doing a good job spending

our tax money, so they can raise our taxes and spend more of our money," said Dabach. "Obviously, they're not doing a very good job, since two-thirds of Americans distrust the product they're selling — but what do you expect from government workers?"

## Other poll findings:

\* 68% of Americans are "frustrated or angry" with government, and only 29% said they were "basically content."

\* 55% said most elected officials are not trustworthy.

\* 74% rate government performance as fair or poor overall.

Although polls vary, Dabach noted, one thing is constant: The larger government gets, the less Americans trust it.

"Twenty-five years ago, 70% of Americans reported having a lot of confidence in the federal government," he said. "That number is nearly reversed today, and no wonder. Americans don't need polls to realize that we're being forced to pay politicians who lie to us, IRS agents who harass us, bureaucrats who regulate us — and government PR agents who tell us how much we should like it." ■

# Elected and appointed MN Libertarians

## David Buelow, School board member

By Larry Hubner

Waubun libertarian school board member David Buelow has a longing.

He wishes someone would compile a guide, "How to be a Libertarian school board member." He thinks it would be rather helpful considering his current state of affairs and the feeling of being torn between providing a solid education and spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

What to do?

"I have a sick feeling each time I vote to approve an expenditure of taxpayer money," said Buelow, 52. "The sad thing is the feeling lessens each time I do it. The concept of being on a "public" school board and spending taxpayers' involuntary given money is difficult to live with.

"My intentions of trying to make sure my children receive a good education gives me a deeper understanding of how good intentions can lead to bad law." That, he says, is where a good guide would come in handy.

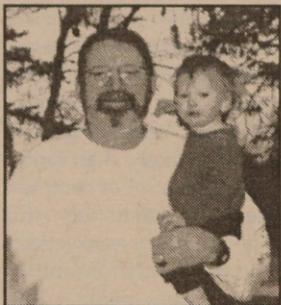
Buelow was elected to the school board of Independent School District #435 in May of 1997. It's also known as the Waubun, Ogema, White Earth Community Schools.

A non partisan election, he didn't run on the Libertarian ticket. Still, he recalls handing out a half-dozen copies of Harry Browne's book during the last presidential election and he says some community members identify him as a Libertarian member.

He was motivated to seek a school board position because he felt taxpayers weren't getting much bang for their buck. "The fact that we are spending a lot of taxpayers' money and seem to be poorly educating our chil-

dren was, and is, an issue."

Other factors also influenced his decision to run. "First, only 43% of our 8th graders passed the Minnesota Basic Standards reading test and only 64% passed the basic mathematics test.



David Buelow  
and daughter

"Shortly thereafter I was told by my son's teacher that he did not know basic math facts he should have been taught in a prior grade, but his math scores were better than average in that grade. I tried to get a parent group started but to no avail. So, I decided to run for office."

Once on the "insides" of government, he began questioning the attitude that poor children and reservation children (the district is on the reservation) are expected to do poorly in school.

His challenges to the establishment are keeping other board members up at nights. "I guess my main accomplishment to date has been to make the school board meetings more exciting, and some to last past midnight."

One of the issues keeping board members up late is an intriguing one for Buelow. He says the board is grappling with how to implement state mandated graduation standards into the curriculum when many children can't pass the state's basic reading and math standard tests.

"Another (issue) is how to catch up on deferred maintenance, repairs and upgrades to our buildings because of two failed bond issues that

the taxpayers were unwilling to pass."

Buelow also observes that government is "much more bureaucratic and slow moving" than he imagined. He's also discovering that as a board member he has less authority than he assumed. "In many ways (school boards) are ruled by unelected persons at another level of government."

Buelow has been a libertarian since the early 1970s and confesses he never intended to run for public office.

So what changed? He said concern for his children's education provided the impetus to run. He and his wife, Anne, felt their only other option was home schooling for their children, ages 2, 8, and 9, since a private school isn't located in the area.

The *Minnesota Libertarian* asked Buelow for some advice on running for office.

His response: "Go to the public meetings and get to know those who have been elected and what they do. Learn as much as possible about what they do and develop what you think the community would want done differently.

"I went to every board meeting when I decided it was possible I might run for office. Then when I went to speak to the community... they knew I was concerned. It was evident (the public) liked someone who was willing to try and solve problems and not just someone running for office."

Buelow says he became a member of the Libertarian Party because of its position on limited government and its respect of individual rights. "Being drafted at 19 to fight in a war in a country I knew nothing about, for reasons I didn't understand then, or now, gave me a great love for liberty." ■

## Larry Fuhol, Planning commissioner

By Larry Hubner

After a fiesty run at Congressman Jim Oberstar's job in 1996, Libertarian Larry Fuhol has set his guns on a less lofty ambition that still allows for him to shape government with his values.

That doesn't mean Fuhol isn't still aiming to take Oberstar's job. He is. But for now he's content to shape government as a Planning Commissioner on the Istanti Town Planning Commission.

Fuhol, 42, was appointed to the Planning Commission in October by the Isanti City Council. There is no time limit term on the position.

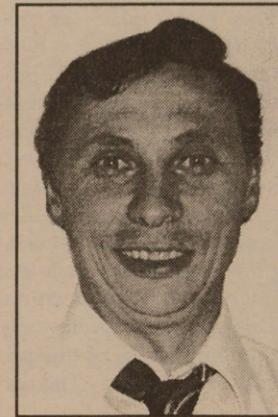
As a commissioner, he ferrets out the intricacies of separating industry from retail and commercial from residential, all the while maintaining a libertarian focus, which he doesn't hide from view. "They know I'm a Libertarian. I'm well-known throughout the county."

He sees the post's visibility as a next-time campaign asset: "It helps me out in my campaign for U.S. Congress," a lesson he believes is important for other libertarians seeking office: maintain visibility.

So far, Fuhol has had his libertarian values rangled already and intends to dig in his heels on the Planning Commission. A local movement is afoot to move more of the farm area surrounding Isanti from

county to city jurisdiction. Fuhol said local farmers are concerned, and rightly so.

Farmers, he says, are worried over the more restrictive permit and building environment of the city. Things are just fine the way



Larry Fuhol

they are, farmers contend. They like being able to put up a pole shed now and then; and they enjoy the less restrictive building permit system of the county.

Fuhol has been able to hold other commissioners at bay, who favor moving farmers under the watchful eye of city government. Unfortunately, he projects a 6-1 vote against farmers when the smoke clears.

"They don't need any more government in their lives," he said. "When you live out in the county here, you don't want any more government."

The farm issue has been his largest value-based battle to date. Contrasting his present role to his run at the feder-

al level, Fuhol characterized his commissioner role as that of "being more in touch with the people and becoming more involved in the day-to-day administration of government." Primarily, he focuses on zoning and growth, staples of free market expression.

"What I try to do is let the other people know we shouldn't be so restrictive on allowing industry in," Fuhol said.

What lessons can Fuhol pass on to other libertarians wanting to run?

"I just started realizing how controlling government is. I didn't want to sit home and complain." His advice: Get involved. He said the time he put into the campaign was well worth the effort.

In his Congressional race, he said that the Democrat and Republican who ran against him, still respected his positions. "They knew what I stood for."

Still, he conceded, common misconceptions persist about the Libertarian Party. The most common, he said, was the belief that it is a one-issue political party. "People believed the only thing we stood for was drugs," a reference to the Party's stance that drugs should be legalized.

But, as Fuhol and many others know, the foundation of the Libertarian Party is liberty for all. ■

## Ideas for school board members

By Colin Wilkinson

I see 3 main tasks for ANY school board member. They are:

1. Physical Plant Management and maintenance,

2. Curriculum Review and performance oversight, and

3. Responding to State and Federal Government mandates. We in the LPMN need to help office holders do these tasks in the MOST Libertarian way possible.

Some details;

A. Plant maintenance: (Waubun has defeated 2 bond issues so a tight bud-

get is necessary.)

1. Repair and renovate: adopt Habitat for Humanity tactics, have concerned locals donate time and materials for what can be done. Several schools have been wired for computers by volunteers.

2. Take a space audit, many schools have under used space that perhaps can be adapted/refitted for teaching space.

B. Curriculum:

1. The three r's, well grounded basics, require them to be able to do basic arithmetic functions in there heads. When I grew

up my fellow students and I could do the multiplication tables up to 25 x 25 by the 6th grade.

2. Monitor the school library purchase list and ADD libertarian titles, have the LPMN donate some like, *Facts not Fear*. LPMN has bibliographies available.

3. Talk to parents, faculty and kids about what the GOAL is, which is Learned Young People!

C. Mandates. Ignore them until you cash the funding check, then stretch it all out of shape to meet real local needs. It is easier to ask forgiveness than permission. ■

### Candidate Checklist:

-Identify the office you want to run for.

-Contact the LP of MN executive committee for an official endorsement.

-Contact the Secretary of State for a copy of the Minnesota Campaign Manual.

-Check your local library for books about how to run a campaign.

-Find volunteers to help you with petitioning and campaigning.

**Minnesota needs you to run.  
Be a LP candidate in '98!**

## Eric Johnson, Park commissioner

By Larry Hubner

Minnesota libertarian Eric Johnson wasn't about to let the Lake St. Croix Beach have a blast at his expense and that's how he got involved in politics.

Several summers ago he discovered the city had made plans to install a civil defense siren on an easement adjacent to his property. "Naturally, I didn't want it next to my house, so I investigated how they determined how it should be placed there," he said.

Doing some digging, he discovered that the council project leader had used an unscaled map to determine placement.

"I attended the next

council meeting showing them the error, and succeeded in having the siren placed next to the city hall,"



Eric M. Johnson

Johnson explained. "I came to the conclusion that if someone in authority can screw up something as sim-

ple as that, what else are they messing up?"

"I felt someone should keep an eye on things to ensure no obvious blunders are made."

That incident, coupled with an interest in boat mooring jurisdiction and administration, led to his present position.

Johnson, 36, recently accepted a position as a commissioner for the city of St. Croix Beach Park Commission. He accepted the position after serving as an alternate in the same capacity for about a year-and-a-half.

Park Commission members, he says, consider and make recommendations on matters affecting management, development

and planning of city parks. "The city of St. Croix Beach has one of the nicest swimming beaches on the St. Croix River, which gets very busy during the summer.

"The Park Commission is instrumental in seeing that the beach is operated efficiently and in a fair manner, balancing the interests of residents adjacent to the beach area with the public using the beach."

So far, he says, he hasn't been able to put his libertarian "stamp" on the Park Commission, but that hasn't stopped him from speaking up when he thought government spending was unnecessary.

As an alternate, he wasn't able to cast a vote

after the Park Commission applied for a Minnesota DNR matching grant, however his was the sole voice set against the spend-spend-spend mentality of local government.

The Commission was seeking to improve the picnic grounds adjacent to the swimming beach. "Some things about the project bothered me. While a few improvements would be justified, I didn't see a pressing need for a pavilion or a basketball court on the empty lot.

"At the time, I wasn't able to discern my specific objections to the project. Later, it dawned on me that the matching grant was a sort of corporate welfare, only in this case it was from

the state to a local government. This grant encouraged greater public spending for unnecessary projects while masking the total cost."

Does Johnson have a different perspective on government now that he's on the inside looking out?

"Not really," he answers. "While the commissioners can be very conscientious about keeping costs down and doing what is best for the community, they can get caught up in the common misperception of getting something for nothing from the state or federal government." ■

## Maynard Meyer, City council-member

By Larry Hubner

Madison City Council member Maynard Meyer, 45, brings a libertarian viewpoint to the council table that's, well, unbridled.

"I told my fellow board members from 'day one' that I am in government to get rid of it. We have passed next to no new ordinances since I got on board and we are trying to get rid of some of the old ones."

Meyer says the key for local government is to enforce the existing ordinances, not seek new ones. "If cities would enforce the ordinances they already have and forget about passing anything new, that would be a step in the right direction."

As an example, he cites

a complainant requesting a new ordinance banning the playing of loud car stereos. But why is a new ordinance needed?

"We already have a public nuisance ordinance that applies, use that one. One of our police officers recently took a teenager to court for annoying everyone with a car stereo using the existing ordinance and the judge fined the jerk a few hundred bucks."

Meyer, who literally speaks in exclamation points emphatically adds, "We don't need new ordinances. We need people in the judicial system who have the guts to enforce what we have."

While that sort of forceful opinion won't win him the key to the Democrat's washroom, it does win him points with the people who count, his

constituents. "One of my most gratifying moments occurred when a local constituent told me she wished she could give me a big hug when I questioned the city's ridiculous zoning ordinance on the height of fences.

"She wished to erect a six-foot tall fence on her property. And I mean way back on her property. The city ordinance allowed for a maximum of 48 inches."

"How stupid is that?"

Meyer said his constituent offered photographic proof that the fence would not cause any problems for anyone.

Turning philosophical Meyer asks, "Do we stick to our guns and defend an outdated ordinance?"

The council granted the zoning variance. "Case

closed," said Meyer.

His influence has extended into the city's legal affairs. "I have told the city attorney more than once that it is my view that his job is to tell the council how something can be done, rather than to tell us why it can't.



Maynard Meyer

"I'm not sure that message has settled into his way of doing things."

Meyer is no stranger to

local politics or the horrors of an oppressive government. He served on the school board for nine years before beginning his stint on the council. He is the part owner of the local radio station and a movie theater. He says he's been personally audited by the IRS and inspected by the FCC. "I am much disturbed by the direction of the USA," he adds.

He also serves as coordinator of the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce.

Of his time spent on the school board, he feels local boards could be eliminated because of the vast state influence. Local school boards have very little say as to what actually happens. The state tells you what to do and then gives you no money to do it. Education is in need of

reform."

He says he's happy the "diversity" plan -- an effort to get schools to address each ethnic group separately -- failed at the state level. "I will be even happier when someone figures out how to get the state out of education.

"Vouchers? Go for it!"

Advice to other libertarian-minded people thinking of running for public office? "Just do it," he says. "Get involved in your community and try to explain to your friends why you are different, but better than everyone else when it comes to your political views."

Summing up, he says, "I thoroughly enjoy life in rural Minnesota. Don't let the government screw it up." ■

## Paul Streeter, Charter commissioner

By Larry Hubner

You might say that 43-year-old Paul Streeter has signed on as secretary of the Minnetonka Charter Commission.

About four years ago he volunteered to sit on the Charter Commission and this year was elected secretary. "This involves practically no work at all," he says of his secretarial role. "Because the meetings are taped by the city attorney and a staff person working for the city types up the meeting minutes, and as secretary, I sign the meeting minutes."

Streeter came to find himself in this position after calling to volunteer to help out...in some way. "They told me that there was an opening on the charter commission at that time, so I sat in on one of their meetings, and decided to join."

At the time he joined, the city's attorney had just finished a review of the city charter and changed a substantial portion of outdated material. "Many things in our charter had to change because state laws had changed, and the charter hadn't been changed to go along with state law. So, for the first year or so, we met every month, for a couple of hours or so."

Changing the city charter brought back libertarian memories. "Talking about changing the city charter reminds me our of platform debates. We use parliamentary procedure and argue a little bit about the exact wording."

"That pace, though, has slowed," he says, "as few issues have surfaced since then. The charter commission now meets about once or twice a year."

So just what is a city charter?

"It's something like the constitution of the city," Streeter explains. "It basically says what the city government is allowed to do, and how the business of the city has to be run."

To change the city's charter, someone types and submits the change to the city attorney or a member of the charter commission. Streeter's commission reviews the suggestion and makes a recommendation to the city council to deny or approve. The city council makes the final approval or denial.

Speaking frankly, Streeter concedes that the charter commission hasn't been involved in issues that involve libertarian concerns, but that doesn't dissuade him from voicing opinions on spending and limiting government.

"The other charter commission members do not know I am a libertarian, but then, our city government is non-partisan, so I don't know if they are Democrats or Republicans either."

So where's the pay off if you can't address issues from a libertarian perspective?

"It gets you into contact with the political people who run the city. We meet with people from the city council on a fairly regular basis. On occasion, someone like the city manager will ask to meet with us just to ask about an idea before they present something to the whole city."

"It is a good way to start your involvement in city politics," says Streeter, who sums up with, "It's an easy way to get into the inner circle." ■

## LP MN internet listserver

### Purposes:

**minnlib-announce:**

**Libertarian announcements**

**minnlib-discuss:**

**Lively libertarian discussion**

**To subscribe to this list, send email to [majordomo@esosoft.com](mailto:majordomo@esosoft.com)**

**with only the words**

**subscribe minnlib-announce**

**or**

**subscribe minnlib-discuss**

**in the body,**

**or use the subscribe/unsubscribe**

**form at <http://www.lpmn.org/emaillists/subscribe.html>.**

**NEED HELP?**

**Contact Brent Jass at:**

**[bwjass@cris.com](mailto:bwjass@cris.com)**

# LPMN lobby report

By Forrest Wilkinson, LPMN staff lobbyist

I write this while the Minnesota Legislature feverishly debates feedlots, bike trails, ethanol subsidies and metal studs on snowmobiles. \$11 billion a year is a lot to spend and requires much discussion.

So much thoughtful discussion that three special sessions were required to fit it all in since last May. This session some of the hot items are stadium funding and Twins purchase, feedlot moratorium, education funding, light rail transit, personal watercraft bans, tobacco bans, USS Des Moines mooring, logging and BONDAGE (deferred taxes).

I have been deployed from Sherpa & Gerckhas to

represent the Libertarian Party of Minnesota for the 1997/98 Legislative session. This is a unique assignment, normally a client asks that a bill or two be followed or maybe an issue of interest. The Libertarian Party of Minnesota (LPMN) is interested in all bills and every issue. I'll do my best; over 7,200 bills have been introduced this year alone.

During this session we have followed the Twins/stadium issue from its special session to today, testifying all the way. With the house up for election it was difficult for them to carry this corporate welfare bill, especially with the added heat provided by the LPMN. The bill is not dead in the Senate, watch Senator Dean Johnson's tax

committee).

Ed Ness, Libertarian member from Akeley was given a 3 day crash course in the machinery of Minnesota government. He will make a wonderful contribution to the efforts of Sherpas & Gerckhas and the LPMN.

Richard Osnes, Libertarian candidate for Minnesota House District 27, testified before the House Environmental and Agriculture, Finance Committee, concerning ethanol subsidies.

The LPMN has dominated all attempts at crowd theater on the Capitol steps. Next Monday the teachers/MEA crowd will meet the resident LPMN picketers when they attempt to demand more money from the Minnesota taxpayers.

LPMN party Chair Charles Test spoke before the House Government Operations Committee against the .08 from .10 DUI



Forrest Wilkinson

threshold. He spoke convincingly of unintended consequences, limited resources and Federal bully tactics. He also testified before the House Tax

Committee, concerning (DFL) Phyllis "Carrie Nation" Khan's tobacco bill; banning smoking in bars ala California; raises tobacco taxes again and bans some billboard advertising.

I have also spoke to many legislators outside of committee on many issues. Everyone agrees with us, somewhere, (there's a Dean Martin song in there somewhere).

Throughout this discussion is the overriding fact that there is a \$4 billion dollar State surplus; and salivating statist ready to buy votes. There is much wailing and gnashing of teeth from those demanding a tax cut. They will continue to wait into 1999.

The State of Minnesota has overtaxed its' citizens

by over 20 percent, spent the surplus and proposed a \$1 billion dollar bonding package that will probably be signed by this Republican Governor. This irresponsible and immoral behavior will continue to enable a bloated and out of control, bureaucratic tax monster to maintain its addiction to O.P.M. (Other Peoples Money).

We have also created a short term agenda and have put it in language for authorship by House/Senate. I will continue to search for authors to these. (Some of our proposed model legislation is outlined below.) ■

## Libertarian Party supported model legislation for Minnesota

### Campaign Finance Reforms

#### 1. Paycheck Protection Act supporting affirmative informed consent

Requires labor organizations, employers, firms, school districts, and private or municipal corporations to establish separate funds for political purposes, establishes registration and disclosure requirements for each political fund, establishes some criminal provisions governing a labor organization's, employer's, firm's, school district's, and private or municipal corporation's political activities. It also prohibits employees from authorizing automatic payroll deductions for contributions to a labor organization's, employer's, firm's, school district's, and private or municipal corporation's political committee or fund except through an explicit, signed statement, renewed annually.

#### 2. Prohibition of Negative Check-Off Act supporting affirmative informed consent

The Prohibition of Negative Check-Off Act delineates the enforcement of financial arrangements that are not entered into by the payer. The Act declares that non-voluntary payments and negative check-off plans are void as against public policy.

#### 3. Right to Know Payroll Form for Minnesota employees and officials

Revise the code to include on the payroll earnings statement of each state official or employee paid by warrant of the State Auditor the state employer costs incurred in employing that official or employee.

### General Good Government Reforms

#### 4. Require the FULL complete reading of all bills in their entirety before voting on them for the Minnesota Legislature, unanimous consent would be prohibited.

Require the FULL, complete reading of each House or Senate file, to the entire chamber of origination of the file, at some point during the process, before voting on passage of the bill.

**This act can not be waived by unanimous consent.**

#### 5. Super-Majority Act for the Minnesota Legislature to raise taxes or fees

Super-majority requirements are based on the premise that tax increases fuel excessive government spending. Therefore, to more effectively control the budgetary process, the ability to raise taxes or enact new taxes should be made as politically difficult as possible, require broad consensus, and be held to a high standard of accountability. This Act calls for a constitutional provision requiring all tax and license fee impositions and increases to be approved by two-thirds of all members of each House. It provides for an exemption if there are insufficient revenues to pay interest on the state's debt.

#### 6. Adoption of a Common Law Act

The Adoption of Common Law Act clarifies that when a state Legislature adopted the common law of England or the state's territorial or colonial court at the time of statehood and then delegated to the courts the power to develop that body of law

in accord with the interests and public policy of the state, the legislative intent was to provide the courts with laws of reference until and unless the Legislature enacted rules to either complement or replace the com-



LPMN member Ed Ness, Rich Osnes candidate MN 27B and LPMN staff lobbyist Forrest Wilkinson prepare to testify in front of a legislative committee.

mon law. The Act reaffirms that, except for any causes of action that were specifically granted constitutional protection at the time of statehood, the Legislature may alter or abrogate any pre-statehood or post-statehood common law causes of action.

#### 7. Resolution Requesting Congress of the United States to Enact Legislation that Requires Congress to Specify the Constitutional Authority for the Enactment of Laws

A resolution for the purpose of petitioning the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that requires Congress to specify the constitutional authority for the enactment of law; prohibits federal agency rules or regulations from preempting or otherwise interfering with state or local powers without express statutory authority; and requires a list of factual findings, establishing a substantial nexus between the regulatory effect of the proposed law and inter-

state commerce if Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, of the Constitution is identified as the Constitutional provision granting authority to Congress for its proposed law.

#### 8. Declaration of

#### Sovereignty reaffirming the sovereignty of the states and of the people

This resolution is for the purpose of reaffirming the sovereignty of the states and of the people, and proposing principles by which the sovereignty of the states and of the people may be restored to their original intention under the U.S. Constitution.

#### 9. Accountability in Government Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Resolution

A resolution for the purpose of petitioning Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution for submission to the states to prohibit the federal government from imposing: regulatory mandates on the states or their political subdivisions; unfunded mandates on state and local governments; and spending conditions that are unrelated to the actual expenditures of funds allocated by Congress.

### Ballot Access Reforms

#### 1. Extension of the ballot access petitioning period to 30 days BEFORE the filing deadline.

(1/10 of 1%) of the number of voters in the last election in that Senate district or 500 signatures, whichever is less.

For the MN House 0.1% (1/10 of 1%) of the number of voters in the last election in that House district or 250 signatures, whichever is less.

With respect to a Federal election for the office of President, Vice President, or Senator, such petition has a number of signatures of persons qualified to vote for such office equal to 0.1% (1/10 of 1%) of the number of persons who voted in the most recent previous Federal election for such office in the State, or 2,000 signatures, whichever is less.

With respect to a Federal election for the office of U.S. Representative, such petition has a number of signatures of persons qualified to vote for such office equal to 0.1% (1/10 of 1%) of the number of persons who voted in the most recent previous Federal election for such office in the State, or 1,000 signatures, whichever is less.

#### 2. Requiring both Major and Minor party candidates to collect the minimum number of ballot access petition signatures required for each office. (Major parties are exempt from petitioning. They may pay a filing fee in lieu of petitioning.)

#### 3. Changing ballot access petition signature requirements to conform closer to Ron Paul's Voter Freedom Act of 1997 H.R. 2477.

(See Ron Paul bill Voter Freedom Act of 1997 (H.R. 2477))  
To enforce the guarantees of the first, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States by prohibiting certain devices used to deny the right to participate in certain elections. To match state law with federal law: petitioners for state legislative office would have to gather 0.1% (1/10 of 1%) of the number of voters in the last election in that legislative district. For the MN Senate 0.1%

#### 4. Re-instatement of the Minnesota Fusion Act, CHAPTER No. 419 S.F. No. 2720.

(relating to elections; permitting simultaneous candidacy for nomination by major and minor parties with their consent under certain conditions...)

#### 5. Requiring any candidate on the ballot and taking public funds, for state office, to debate all the other candidates on the ballot for that office. (See Rep. Ron Paul's federal legislation H.R. 2478.) ■

# The more things change . . .

By Harry Browne

No one can reliably predict our economic or political future, because actual events will depend on what millions of different people decide to do.

And yet some political events seem almost certain to occur — or not occur — in 1998 . . .

1. Neither the flat tax nor the sales tax will be enacted.

By the time the politicians exempt all their friends and keep low-income people off the tax rolls, it will be necessary for the single rate (for either tax) to be 25% or more to raise enough money to finance today's big government. That won't fly politically, and so no tax reform is likely to make it even to the floor of Congress for a vote. Every politician can

blame the lack of reform on his opponents — making this an issue that benefits everyone but the taxpayer.

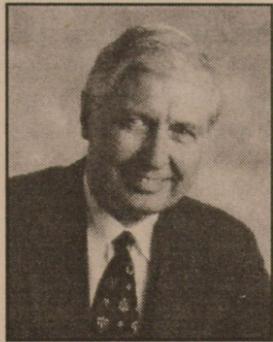
2. The IRS won't be reformed in any meaningful way.

IRS abuses are an exciting campaign issue, but no one in Washington honestly wants to change the system. The government can't raise nearly \$2 trillion a year without an abusive, intimidating, take-no-prisoners, tax-collection agency. And no politician wants to reduce the amount to be collected, because that means reducing the size of government and — hence — his own power.

3. Campaign finance "reform" will make it even easier for incumbents to get reelected.

The supposed reforms of the 1970s created enormous

handicaps for Congressional challengers. It became much harder for them to raise money and get their messages to voters, while incumbents continued to get free publicity because of their offices. Thus began the era of automatic reelection of incum-



Harry Browne

bents.

4. There will be no surplus in the 1999 budget.

Higher-than-expected revenues suggest there

might be a surplus in the 1999 budget (to be enacted this year). But don't hold your breath. If your Congressman looks tired, it's because he's been lying awake nights trying to decide how to squander that surplus. Bill Clinton wants more spending programs for children — and to acquire even more public lands to be cared for by the folks who decimated Yellowstone Park. The Republicans want more money for highways, law enforcement, and some meaningless-but-noisy tax cuts. The two parties will have to negotiate their differences; the most likely outcome will be to pass everyone's proposal.

5. Nothing will be done about the supposed threat of global warming.

Despite the intense lobbying by President

Clinton, Vice-president Gore, scientists on the government dole, alternative-fuel companies that would profit from new regulations, and plastic surgeons posing as climate scientists, there will be no new controls on carbon dioxide emissions. Your car and air-conditioning are safe for one more year.

6. President Clinton will survive all the political scandals surrounding his administration.

No matter what you might think of his morals or politics, he may be the slickest politician ever to slide down Pennsylvania Avenue. Even if a videotape surfaces showing him with a bundle of checks and missing files in one arm and a woman of ill repute on the other, he'll continue to slip through the net.

7. Whichever party wins Congress this year, government will continue to get bigger.

I know this isn't an earth-shaking insight, but every forecaster is entitled to one easy prediction.

My conclusion: 1998 should be a year with no substantial changes in political direction — a year in which U.S. politicians enhance their powers and incumbency, and government continues to grow. In other words, a year much like 1997.

And 1996, and 1995, and 1994. ■

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## Why Clinton's morals seem important

By Harry Browne

Q. Why do people care about the private behavior of a president or any political candidate?

A. Because it seems to be the only area in which one politician differs from another.

If there were significant differences among politicians — differences that affected our lives materially — we would focus on those differences and their private behavior would be irrelevant.

If Bill Clinton had reduced government to a fraction of its present size, making it possible to repeal the income tax and replace it with nothing, we might be distressed that he's sexu-

ally obsessed, but we wouldn't dream of trading him for a business-as-usual opponent.

If he had freed us from the Ponzi scheme called Social Security, we probably would look the other way when his hand is caught in the cookie jar.

If he had put a stop to the insane War on Drugs, freeing American cities from the criminal gangs financed with black-market drug profits, we might not even mind that he seems to be a congenital liar.

But he hasn't done anything to get government out of our lives. Nor has the Republican Congress. And since neither party offers to improve our lives significantly, we really have no self-interest in favoring one over the other. So we choose up

sides based on such things as character and morals — even though Ronald Reagan, a man of apparent good character, did no more to get government out of our lives than Bill Clinton, an obvious rogue.

Do you think there's an important difference between the two parties? Consider one example: Clinton proposed to take a health-care system made sick by 30 years of government intervention and make it even sicker with a massive makeover. The Republicans fought it, defeated it, gained control of Congress, and proceeded to enact the Clinton plan piece by piece.

On issue after issue — raising the minimum wage, censoring the Internet, bailing out Mexico, and on and on — the Republicans and

Democrats argue strenuously and then copy each other. Republican Congressmen accuse Clinton of stealing their ideas, even as they plagiarize all the pork-barrel policies of the Democratic Congress.

With no real difference between them, the two parties taunt each other like children, probe for weaknesses, and try to catch each other in contradictions — looking to put some points on the scoreboard and win the next election.

Meanwhile government gets bigger, more expensive, more intrusive, more destructive, and more dangerous.

The two parties have become so hopelessly corrupted by power and the perks of governing that our only hope is a third party

still too young, healthy, and principled to be infected by their dishonesty and political extortion.

So I'm pleased that the Libertarian Party is growing rapidly in size and resources — and may even be a major force for much smaller government by the 2000 elections.

**On issue after issue — raising the minimum wage, censoring the Internet, bailing out Mexico, and on and on — the Republicans and Democrats argue strenuously and then copy each other.**

Until then we're reduced to watching the politicians trying to score points at each other's expense — and wondering

whether the latest Clinton scandal was caused by genuine misbehavior or by politics.

Tell me honestly, does it really matter which is the case?

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## Ballot access bill hearing

Congressman Ron Paul's ballot access bills get first committee hearing on February 26.

WASHINGTON, DC —

Two bills that would force the U.S. to become as democratic as Russia and South Africa will get their first public hearing on Thursday when Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) testifies about his ballot access reform legislation to the House Oversight Committee.

"These bills are campaign reform on steroids," said Ron Crickenberger, the national director of the Libertarian Party, which has launched a nationwide lobbying campaign to promote the two bills.

"Congressman Paul's legislation will help end America's embarrassing

political discrimination, and throw the political system open for real competition — just like they've done in Russia and South Africa."

Paul will testify on February 26 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm in Room 1310 of the Longworth House Office Building. Libertarian Party representatives will also be on hand to submit written testimony to the committee.

Paul's bills will end the political discrimination that requires third parties to gather millions of signatures just to get on the ballot to run against the two Incumbency Parties, said Crickenberger.

"If you start a new political party in America and run a full slate of candidates for federal and state offices, you need over 3.5 million signatures just to

get on the ballot," he noted. "By contrast, a new party formed in Russia needs only 100,000 signatures, and a new party in South Africa needs only 10,000."

"Isn't it deplorable when Russia and South Africa can boast of greater democracy than the United States?"

Paul's bills would end that disparity, Crickenberger said.

\* HR 2477, the Voter Freedom Act, requires states to establish fair, uniform, and non-discriminatory standards for candidates for president, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate. It would reduce the number of petition signatures required to get third-party presidential candidates on the ballot to 100,000 from the current 700,000.

\* HR 2478, the Debate Freedom Act, prohibits presidential candidates who accept federal matching funds from ducking debates with qualified third-party candidates.

"Our message to the House Oversight Committee will be simple," said Crickenberger. "We will tell them: Tear down this wall! Support Congressman Paul's bills, and tear down this ballot access wall that discriminates against voters because of their political beliefs."

And make no mistake about it, said Crickenberger: Ballot access barriers are political discrimination, and the campaign to overturn them is rapidly becoming the civil rights battle of the '90s."

"The government can't discriminate against candidates on the basis of sex or

race — but it can discriminate on the basis of political affiliation," he said. "That's why Republicans and Democrats are able to pass laws to force their third-party competitors to spend their time, energy, and money asking the public for signatures — instead of telling voters about their ideas."

"The good news is that, as third parties become more popular, the older parties are having a harder time justifying such restrictive laws," said Crickenberger.

"According to polls, 100 million Americans support the idea of a third major political party in America," he said. "And about 10 million Americans voted for third-party presidential candidates in 1996. Americans seem to realize that a fresh infusion of

competition would be just as healthy for the political system as it is for the commercial marketplace."

"Paul's bills would be a major step towards creating a more competitive political system," he said — "and erasing the embarrassing stain of political discrimination from America's election process."

"Voting and running for office are fundamental rights, and the government should treat every American equally, regardless of race, creed, sex — or political party," said Crickenberger. "Third parties are tired of sitting at the back of the electoral bus, and we demand the right to free and fair elections...just like in Russia and South Africa." ■

**Weekly  
TV  
Show  
LIBERTY**

Libertarian Party of MN's 1/2 hour cable access show on Metro Cable Network (MCN) Channel 6. Weekly on Sundays at 11:30 AM (repeated at 4:00 PM on Sundays).

**Libertarian World Wide Web Sites:**

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's World Wide Web (WWW) Home Page is at:

<http://www.lpmn.org>

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's listserv:

**minnlib-announce@esosoft.com**

National Libertarian Party World Wide Web site:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/>

Online Libertarian Party News:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lpn/>

Libertarian State Party Information:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lp-aff.html>

Online Libertarian Party Platform:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/platform/>

World's Smallest Political Quiz:  
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**Libertarian Party of Minnesota  
upcoming events**

April 15, 1998 Annual Income Tax Protest at the Main Minneapolis Post Office

**April 18, 1998**

**Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention**

**Freedom Day May 1, 1998 Minnesota Capitol**

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

July 2-5, 1998

Libertarian Party National Convention in Wash, DC

**July 7-21, 1998**

**Ballot access petitioning**

July -August 1998 County fairs

August 1998 Cedarfest in Minneapolis

August 27-Labor Day 1998 Minnesota State Fair

**Do Libertarians believe the  
FDA and the EPA?**

By **Bob Smith**

Usually, the Libertarian Party views *any* position by the Federal Drug Administration or the Environmental Protection Agency with great suspicion. With the knowledge that these agencies have used junk science and pure deception to increase their bureaucratic power, and that they have cost the lives of thousands of Americans in doing so, the LP has attacked them repeatedly.

We pride ourselves on taking strong, logical, honest positions, even if those positions may not coincide with mainstream opinion, and even if those positions cost us support or votes.

How can it be, then, that the LP has actually given aid and support to one of the FDA's *most* strident campaigns, seeming to not even question the veracity of FDA claims that are being used to violate the individual rights of at least one-fourth of all Americans.

**Yes... make no mistake... I am saying that we, as a party, have a HUGE BLIND SPOT that has allowed us to take a position opposed to honest science, opposed to individual rights, and opposed to the truth.**

In fairness to the LP, most Americans accept our position on this issue as being *common knowledge*, a given, unquestionable... the truth.

The issue is Tobacco Smoking.

Before you turn away, assuming that this is a non-issue, or an issue only of importance to those few who still smoke and refuse to show consideration for the health of the rest of humanity... please read on,

and be open-minded enough to **examine your premises.**

We all "know" that smoking is harmful to your health... few smokers will even argue against that. We've been taught that for the past 40 years. We've heard it from the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association. It's taught in school from Kindergarten on. The FDA and the Surgeon General claim some 470,000 deaths each year directly due to cigarette smoking, and, recently, have claimed that 53,000 non-smokers die each year from secondhand smoke. Billions of dollars have been spent attacking cigarette smoking as a filthy, nauseating, dangerous addiction that affects *all* of us, especially children, and even unborn children of smoking mothers.

It's not possible to reverse 40 years of acceptance in a single article, or even a large research volume. The best effect I can hope to have is to cause you to *doubt* what you probably consider as unimpeachable truth. I would not have even *that* hope if I weren't writing to libertarians.

*Here are some questions for you to ponder:*

Has it occurred to you that the anti-smoking campaign sounds like other *w i t c h - h u n t s*? Can you believe that the FDA, EPA, and Surgeon General are *capable* of lies and deception?

*Let me add some odd, related facts:*

Since 1950, lung cancer has gone up 262%, an increase that is obviously not related to cigarette smoking, because over the same period the number of people smoking cigarettes

dropped from 50% to 25%.

The U.S. ranks 17th in life span. In every one of the 16 countries with longer life spans, tobacco consumption is higher than in the U.S.



**Bob Smith**

The Greeks have the highest per capita tobacco consumption and one of the lowest rates of lung cancer.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics published a national health survey taken in 1989-90. To much surprise, it revealed that, generally, the health of smokers is better than that of many former or non-smokers.

The lung cancer rate among Japanese males is less than one-third the rate among US White males, even though they smoke more.

Native Americans smoke more than the general population but suffer from less cancer and, in particular, less lung cancer.

Despite hundreds of experiments, some of which were shockingly brutal, nobody has been able to induce a *single* cancer in lab animals by exposing them to ordinary tobacco products or smoke.

Smokers who are inhalers have a lower rate of lung cancer than non-inhalers.

*(continued next page 11)*

**Cable access systems running LIBERTY**

**Metro Cable Network Ch. 6: Sundays 11:30 AM & 4 PM**

**St. Paul: Mondays 9 PM & Saturdays 10:30 AM**

**Stillwater: Wednesdays 7 PM & Fridays 10 PM**

**Minneapolis: Channel 33 (Check local listings)**

**Richfield-Edina-Eden Prairie: (Check local listings)**

**Austin/Albert Lea: (Check local listings)**

**Cloquet-Carlton: (Check local listings)**

**Cottage Grove: (Check local listings)**

**Duluth: (Check local listings)**

**Madison: (Check local listings)**

## Trust the FDA and EPA?!

(continued from page 11)

A 1976 study of British doctors, whose daily cigarette consumption dropped from 9.1 in 1951 to 3.6 in 1971, actually had a 31% increase in lung cancer risk.

### Let's talk a little about the EPA... the real force behind the anti-smoking campaign:

Quotes from *The Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress*, reviewing the EPA report on environmental tobacco smoke:

"It is possible that very few or even no deaths can be attributed to ETS." (page 55)

"The dose response trends reviewed by the EPA are 'not definitive' and even at the highest exposure levels, the reported risks are 'subject to uncertainty.'" (page 2)

"It is clear that misclassification and recall bias plague ETS epidemiology studies." (page 45)

"Smoker misclassification could explain all the measured risk even at high exposure levels...." (pages 40, 41)

The EPA's 1993 report on second-hand smoke, which classified tobacco as a class-A carcinogen and estimated that 3,000 non-smokers die each year from lung cancer, was based on 11 spousal smoking studies.

They completely ignored the largest U.S. case-control study that was sponsored by the National Cancer Institute at the time, which reported no increased risk for overall exposure to spousal smoking.

To arrive at their desired conclusion, the EPA relaxed the usual statistical confidence interval used by epidemiologists from 95 percent to 90 percent, which doubled the chances of being wrong.

According to a *Congressional Research Service* report in May, 1994, "The statistical evidence does not support a conclusion that there are substantial health effects of passive smoking."

### As further evidence of the EPA's efficacy:

While the EPA has attributed 5,000 lung cancer deaths a year to radioactive radon gas seeping up from the earth into houses, the epidemiological studies on household radon tend to show that houses with higher levels of the gas have lower levels of lung cancer.

"There is no doubt in my

mind that the Challenger disaster was caused by asbestos paranoia." *Malcolm Ross, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey, one of the world's leading experts on asbestos, Detroit News, March 1, 1990.*

The EPA's total ban on asbestos, implemented in 1989, was predicted and feared by the Fuller O'Brien Company, that had previously supplied NASA with asbestos-containing putty to seal the O-Rings, simply stopped making it. NASA was forced to use a substitute manufactured by Randolph Products of Carlstadt, NJ. The substitute putty failed to protect the shuttle's O-Rings from hot gases passing through the booster joint, and the Challenger explosion of 1986 was a direct result of this failure. The EPA ban was overturned in 1991 by a court decision that the EPA had "insufficient evidence."

"The EPA is in the process of destroying the credibility of the Federal government."

Physicist Philip H. Abelson, recipient of the 1992 Public Welfare Medal, the highest honor given by the National Academy of Sciences.

**By now, you may be saying... so what? Even if there is NO risk, smoking is still an ugly habit. It will cost nothing but inconvenience for those who refuse to quit smoking, and they're outnumbered by a 75% majority.**

I won't plead the case for smoker's rights.

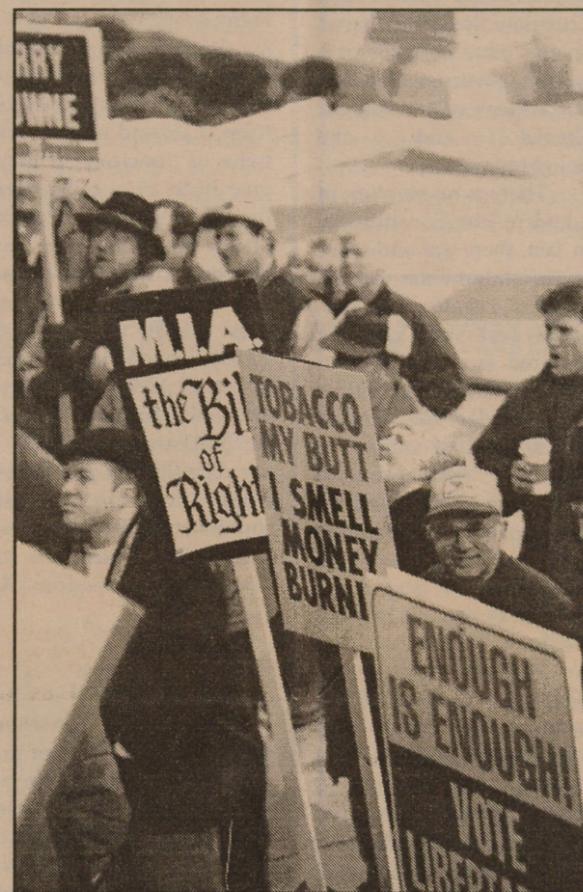
I won't even plead for the right of building owners to be able to smoke in the buildings they own (office buildings, restaurants, bars, or any other "public" building... soon to be "any building regularly entered by 10 or more individuals at least one day per week").

I won't plead for the tobacco companies being bullied into saying what the anti-smokers want to hear, and into monstrous cash settlements for doing something that still remains perfectly legal and subsidized (while the President and Congress fight over how to spend the extra \$15 Billion each year).

I will ask you to consider why, if there is proof that smoking causes cancer and heart disease, the persecutors seem to need admissions of guilt from the manufacturers? Do you recall that tactic from the Inquisition or the Witch-tri-

als?

I will ask you to consider the effects, on scientists and physicians, of the anti-smoking war, like those of the radical environmental movement. The EPA, the FDA, the Surgeon General, and many large government-funded agencies have created an atmosphere in which junk science is encouraged and subsidized, and good scientific inquiry is discouraged, penalized, demonized or completely ignored. The EPA has ignored dozens of studies that don't fit their cause, and grossly distorted those that can be twisted to support their desires.



Additional comments on the tobacco shake-down by Give It ALL Back Rally #1 attendees

I will ask you to consider that the real causes of health problems are not even being sought after, because these organizations have already decreed that cigarette smoking is the cause. Research is being funded to support the anti-smoking war, and other research is sent a-beggin' for funding.

**Are you thinking now that... sometimes the ends justify the means? Smoking is still a bad addiction? It has no value to anyone... we'll all be better off when it's gone?**

Throughout the years, studies have been conducted that showed evidence of an inverse relationship between smoking and the risk of contracting Alzheimer's disease. In fact, most studies show that the more one smokes, the lower the risk level. But there are those in the medical and scientific community who would rather ignore these important

findings than face hateful attacks by stating publicly that there might actually be benefits to smoking tobacco. Marijuana, maybe, but surely not tobacco?

A number of epidemiological studies have reported that smokers suffer fewer cases than non-smokers of the progressive brain disorder, Parkinson's disease. The same has been found for the inflammatory gut disease ulcerative colitis. Smoking also appears to protect against rheumatoid arthritis, some cancers and other conditions.

Parkinson's affects more than 1 million Americans, including

according to articles in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, in 1981 and 1983. The American government's first Health and Nutrition Examination Survey has found that osteoarthritis is five times less likely to occur among heavy smokers than non-smokers.

"Smoking improves human information processing. Higher nicotine cigarettes produce greater improvements [in information processing] than low-nicotine cigarettes."

Many scientists believe these studies open important avenues for research that could reveal the mechanisms of these diseases and new treatments. But strong evidence also exists that, because of the stigma now attached to smoking, researchers, funding bodies and drugs companies have failed to follow up these leads.

Does the war against smoking just involve those who still smoke cigarettes? Is it a minor issue? Is it an issue that non-smokers should continue to ignore? Is it an issue that smokers should feel guilty about? Is it an issue that Libertarians need to rethink and take a strong position on? Is it right for the LP to support the EPA's position?

In conclusion, let's look at just a very few provisions of the proposed Attorney General/Tobacco Industry Settlement, all of which is based on reducing cigarette smoking among teenagers, and all of which is based on the false claims of these power-hungry federal agencies.

The Settlement makes every State, every distributor, every retailer responsible for a reduction in smoking by teens, and will make tobacco companies pay severe financial penalties if all of these measures don't work. Never mind that 40 years of anti-smoking propaganda has caused more teens to smoke. Never mind that teens have always tended toward those things forbidden by adults.

Native American tribal sovereignty has no meaning to this settlement. For the settlement, Indian nations will be treated as States and held to the same enforcement, taxation, and reporting requirements.

The next paragraph, taken verbatim from the Settlement text, clearly

illustrates the seriousness of the War on Smoking. As far as I am aware, this surpasses any extremity of the anti-drug or environmentalist mania.

**Please read it carefully, and consider the implications.**

"In addition, the parties recognize that certain provisions of the consent decrees and the agreement may require them to act (or refrain from acting) in a manner that they might otherwise claim would violate the federal or state constitutions. They will therefore in the consent decrees expressly waive any claim that the provisions of the consent decrees or the agreement violate the federal or state constitutions. The consent decrees will also state that if a provision of the Act covered by the decrees is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the provision remains an enforceable term of the consent decrees."

Are Libertarians going to continue to accept this massive hoax that has been pounded into our heads for 40 years in government schools... that comes from agencies we know have consistently falsified information? Are we going to stand by silently while cigarettes become yet another prohibition? Former Surgeon General Koop has proudly predicted that smoking parents will be subject to criminal penalties.

There are 60 million Americans who still smoke, banished to fewer and fewer places, paying more in taxes than on product, to watch their own tax money spent shaming them in government ads.

**Could the Libertarian Party, by simply standing up for scientific truth and individual freedom, perhaps become a rallying point and a home for 60 million beleaguered smokers? ■**

For those of you who want more information, here are some Web sites to get you started.

FORCES...

<http://forces.org/forces-1.htm>

"In Defense of Smokers", by Larry Colby...

<http://www.lcolby.com>

Tipsmith's Guide to Government and to research on specific issues...

<http://www.tip-smith.com/resource.html>

# The Bible Is Anti-Libertarian

By August Berkshire

Although an article in the Oct./Dec. 1997 *Minnesota Libertarian* claims that

"True Christians are Libertarians," a closer examination of Christianity and the Bible upon which it is based could easily lead one to the opposite conclusion. In fact, the Bible is one of the least Libertarian documents I have ever read.

The hallmarks of Libertarianism include tolerance and justice. This is at odds with the Bible, which advocates intolerance and injustice toward many groups.

Women are supposed to look upon their husbands as their masters (Gen. 3.16) and women are twice as "unclean" if they give birth to a girl rather than a boy (Lev. 12.2-5). Slaves are admonished to be obedient to their masters (Eph. 6.5). Gay men (Lev. 20.13), witches (Ex. 22.18), disobedient sons (Deut. 21.18-21), and non-virginal brides (Deut. 22.13-21) are to be killed.

The Biblical god is the most intolerant, unjust murderer of all, as exemplified by The Flood, The 10 Plagues, and Sodom & Gomorrah.

Libertarians advocate free speech and freedom of religion. Christianity has certainly made use of this principle through its evangelism. However, the Bible is not so tolerant when it comes to others trying to evangelize its adherents: such people should be killed (Deut. 13, 6-10).

Making sacrifices to other gods deserves the death penalty (Ex. 22.20). And, through a parable, Jesus implies that, "those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them — bring them here and kill them in front of me" (Luke 19.27 NIV).

According to the Bible, Jews are considered enemies of the gospel unless they convert to Christianity (Rom. 11.28). This, and the notion that Jews are "Christ-killers," has led Christians to persecute

Jews for centuries.

Since the Bible fails in the areas of social tolerance and justice, let us examine its views on economics.

Jesus states that to truly be one of his followers, you should "sell your possessions and give to the poor" (Matt. 19.21 NIV). And, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth" (Matt. 6.19 NIV). And, of course, there is the well-known reference about how difficult it is for a rich man to get into heaven (Matt. 19.23).

How, then, are Christians supposed to live? In the Middle East, they could not have "lived off the land." Since the Bible forbids stealing, the only alternative would be a life of begging. Although Libertarian principles would not forbid such a free exchange of money or goods, they hardly encourage it.

A Biblical story which has had economic implications is the tale of Cain and Abel. After Cain has killed Abel, God asks Cain where his brother is. Cain replies, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4.9). Historically, the Christian response to this question has been that we are indeed responsible for the welfare of others. This "responsibility" has led directly to the welfare state. It is no surprise that Christianity, socialism, and democracy have been united to form the basis for many European political parties.

Thus, the Bible is not a very good guide for Libertarian economic principles. What about politics, then?

Historically, the Christian ideal and goal has always been for a theocracy, not necessarily democratic, and with little concern for the rights of non-Christians. Examples include: the Roman Emperor Theodosius (379-395 C.E.) making Christianity the official state religion (and persecuting pagan sects), the Inquisitions, and the Holy Roman Empire (962-1806 C.E.).

In the New World, European Christian settlers and missionaries continued this tradition of attempting to establish a theocracy. Their effort to subjugate Native Americans is one of unbelievable atrocity. And among themselves they often implemented such laws as mandatory imprisonment for failure to attend church on Sundays. The Salem witch trials displayed the extremes and dangers of a Christian theocracy (even today, there are still Christian "blue laws" on the books in almost every state).

It is no wonder, then, that the founders of the United States eschewed a Christian theocracy based on the Bible in favor of a secular government based upon ideas of the ancient Greeks and the Enlightenment.

There is no mention of a god in our Constitution. In fact, there are anti-theocratic statements. Article VI, Sec. 3 states, "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." And, of course, the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The Separation of State and Church is not a Christian ideal.

Thus in social, judicial, economic, and political realms the Bible and Christianity in general fall short of the Libertarian ideal. Of course, not all Christians would subscribe to the characteristics outlined above, and some may even go so far as to consider themselves Libertarians. If so, then their Libertarianism must be based primarily upon their own convictions. They cannot look towards the Bible or their religion for much support. ■

*The author currently serves on the Board of Directors of Minnesota Atheists. August Berkshire 522 20th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55454 338-4548*

# Ken Iverson responds

By Ken Iverson  
To August Berkshire

Although an article in the Oct./Dec. 1997 *Minnesota Libertarian* claims that:

"True Christians are Libertarians," a closer examination of Christianity and the Bible upon which it is based could easily lead one to the opposite conclusion. In fact, the Bible is one of the least Libertarian documents I have ever read.

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The Biblical god is the most intolerant, unjust murderer of all, as exemplified by The Flood, The 10 Plagues, and Sodom & Gomorrah.

**Ken: Good points. The slavery paraphrase is one interpretation, another being that working for an employer requires following instructions. To be sure, God is an abolitionist. The remaining passages are from the Old Testament, a divine document, the purpose of which is to provide an account of the deterministic mission of providing a lineage out of which Jesus Christ would eventually come. It is difficult to accept ancient Jewish law as being divinely inspired without understanding the purpose of exacting a burden of perfection upon God's chosen people. Ancient Hebrew law was unique and strict, but had a purpose for its time. Christianity replaces this**

with the spiritual direction of the Holy Spirit, the third head of the Holy Trinity. Christian libertarians accept the historical account of the Old Testament but live much more by the New Testament. Unlike His Jewish ancestors, Jesus Christ lived by libertarian truths.

Libertarians advocate free speech and freedom of religion. Christianity has certainly made use of this principle through its evangelism. However, the Bible is not so tolerant when it comes to others trying to evangelize its adherents: such people should be killed (Deut. 13, 6-10).

Making sacrifices to other gods deserves the death penalty (Ex. 22.20). And, through a parable, Jesus implies that, "those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them - bring them here and kill them in front of me." (Luke 19.27 NIV).

**Ken: The key word is "parable", which is a story in the third person. Jesus advocated helping people in need, not killing them.**

According to the Bible, Jews are considered enemies of the gospel unless they convert to Christianity (Rom. 11.28). This, and the notion that Jews are "Christ-killers," has led Christians to persecute Jews for centuries.

**Ken: True Christians don't persecute Jews or anyone else.**

Since the Bible fails in the areas of social tolerance and justice, let us examine its views on economics.

Jesus states that to truly be one of his followers, you should "sell your possessions and give to the poor" (Matt. 19.21 NIV). And, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth." (Matt. 6.19 NIV). And, of course, there is the well-known reference about how difficult it is for a rich man to get into heaven (Matt. 19.23).

**Ken: Under a Libertarian government, who is to help the needy if not istian theocracy. (Even today, there are still Christian "blue laws" on the books in almost every state.)**

It is no wonder, then, that the founders of the United States eschewed a Christian theocracy based on the Bible in favor of a secular government based upon ideas of the ancient Greeks and the Enlightenment.

**Ken: Amen.**

There is no mention of a god in our Constitution. In fact, there are anti-theocratic statements. Article VI, Sec. 3 states, "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." And, of course, the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The Separation of State and Church is not a Christian ideal.

**Ken: Agreed. It is a "true Christian" ideal.**

Thus in social, judicial, economic, and political realms the Bible and Christianity in general fall short of the Libertarian ideal. Of course, not all Christians would subscribe to the characteristics outlined above, and some may even go so far as to consider themselves Libertarians. If so, then their Libertarianism must be based primarily upon their own convictions. They cannot look towards the Bible or their religion for much support.

**Ken: True Christian libertarians are definitely out there, and do see a solid connection between advocating libertarianism and personally volunteering to help those truly in need. At the risk of sounding redundant, libertarians follow libertarian principles, which is the only litmus test required. ■**

# Study circle on election reform and proportional representation.

From Tony Solgard

Small parties are regularly denied representation in American legislative bodies. But it doesn't have to be that way. Many countries use voting systems which allow small parties

to win representation in proportion to their support from the voters.

A study circle is forming to look at voting system alternatives and how we can bring them to Minnesota. Libertarian Party members and friends are invited to participate.

FairVote Minnesota, an election reform advocacy group, is the sponsor.

Participants will read and discuss "Real Choices/New Voices," a book by Douglas J. Amy which clearly dissects the problems with the winner-take-all election system

commonly used in this country. The book goes beyond criticism to offering alternative election systems used in nearly all major democracies and which hold promise for bringing meaningful reform to American elections as well.

The study circle will

meet four consecutive Tuesdays from April 21 to May 12 from 7 PM to 9 PM. Each session will be held at the Matthews/Seward Neighborhood Center in Minneapolis located at East 24th Street and 28th Avenue South.

There is no fee to par-

ticipate in the study circle. However, pre-registration is required no later than April 18. ■

For more information, contact David Shove at 636-5672 or by e-mail at shove001@maroon.tc.umn.edu

## Are Libertarians liberal or conservative?

Libertarians are neither. Unlike liberals or conservatives, Libertarians advocate a high degree of both personal and economic You might think of it this way: Libertarians "borrow" from both sides to come up with a logical whole.

For example, Libertarians agree with conservatives-on the need for freedom in economic matters; in favor of lowering taxes, slashing bureaucratic regulation of business, and charitable-rather than government-welfare.

But Libertarians also agree with liberals on tolerance in personal matters-in favor of people's right to choose their own personal habits and life-styles. ■

# Wasteful ethanol subsidies pit neighbor against neighbor

By Rich Osness

I own a business in one of the communities that is most affected by the state and federal ethanol subsidy program. I am concerned about the negative effects this is having and will continue to have on our rural economies. In addition, I have other much more serious concerns.

In May, of 1996, the Minnesota Legislative Audit Commission asked the Legislative Auditor to evaluate the costs and benefits of ethanol fuel production and subsidies. In February, of 1997, the report was completed and made available.

Even though the source of almost all of the material used to compile the report came from those with an interest in continuing a subsidized ethanol program in Minnesota, the report came to two conclusions. The claimed environmental benefits of ethanol blended fuel were

at best unsubstantiated or nonexistent. It is risky to continue to invest tax dollars in the ethanol industry as it exists in Minnesota because under current or any likely future market conditions it cannot survive without the existing federal and state ethanol subsidies.

Again, it should be noted that these conclusions were reached even though the information used in compiling the report came from sources heavily biased in favor of ethanol subsidies.

This alone should be enough to halt any further expansion of Minnesota's ethanol subsidies. In fact, it should be enough to cause the Legislature to search for an honorable way to end the program.

But there is much more. There are issues the report either didn't address or did not address adequately.

Subsidizing any business causes harm to other businesses that have to

compete with the subsidized business for capital, employees, goods and services. This is an obvious economic cost that was not addressed adequately in the report by the Legislative Auditor.

This cost is born most heavily by the businesses in the rural community that must compete with the subsidized competition that is helped by their increased tax burden. In the end this can only hurt our rural economies.

Most of the plants that have been built in Minnesota because of the state ethanol program are not economically viable without both the state and federal subsidy. It is likely that the federal subsidy will be phased out. This will result in the closure of these plants if the state subsidy is not tripled or quadrupled.

If the state subsidy is ended after ten years as promised by the backers of this subsidy program,

many, if not all, of these plants will close.

One of the claimed goals of this program is to increase the price of corn. If

**Subsidizing any business causes harm to other businesses that have to compete with the subsidized business for capital, employees, goods and services. This is an obvious economic cost that was not addressed adequately in the report by the Legislative Auditor.**

the price of corn increases it will require even greater subsidies to make these plants viable.

One of the claimed benefits of plant ownership by a cooperative of farmers is that if corn prices do rise the farmer-owners can subsidize the plant by selling

their corn to the cooperative at below market prices. But one of the goals is to increase the price received by farmers for their corn. This is an excellent example of attempting to lift oneself up by one's own bootstraps.

This brings me to the final and most serious problem with the ethanol subsidy program.

I became involved with several supporters of this program when I wrote a column about ethanol subsidies, in general, that appeared in the Austin and Albert Lea newspapers. These supporters ranged from the head of a major department of the Minnesota state government to a board member of a local ethanol cooperative.

The responses that were made to this column displayed a great deal of naiveté (if the responders were innocent dupes of others), incompetence on a grand scale (if they were knowledgeable but still

believed what they said) or a deliberate attempt to deceive.

If the supporters of ethanol subsidies are naive, we, the citizens of this state with the leadership of the legislature need to urge them to reexamine the data that they use to support their conclusions. They can then discover that they were in fact duped by others that were either less intelligent or honest.

If they are incompetent, why are they responsible for so many millions of dollars of state funds?

There is of course the last possibility. Assuming deliberate dishonesty as the first possibility would be unkind, but in the absence of the other two explanations it is the only explanation that would fit.

This is the greatest danger of this particular subsidy program. It may be destroying the ethics of our state government. ■

# Feedlot legislation sends jobs to Iowa and hogs to Minnesota

By Rich Osness

I own and operate a professional photo lab in Austin, Minnesota. Although my business would be one of the least affected by the proposed feedlot moratorium, I am concerned about the negative effect it would have on the quality of life and environment of my community and this state.

The nature and substance of the recent and current discussion about livestock feedlots needs to be addressed. Much of the debate is characterized by emotion rather than facts.

**Today the majority of those hog farmers that supply Hormel Foods are not in Minnesota. That's right. Minnesota exports most of the corn grown in the state and then imports the hogs after they have consumed the grain.**

While I am not an expert on the livestock industry, I grew up on a farm raising cattle and hogs. I am an avid outdoorsman and I am very concerned about the environment. My business has involved working with small town merchants, who are dependent upon the rural economy, across the U.S. for twenty-five years.

For these reasons, perhaps I am better qualified than many to view this issue dispassionately.

I must add that through the photo industry I do have some experience with environmental regulation and the unintended harm that can be caused by well meaning regulations.

My home community of Mower County depends upon hog feedlots, from the farmers who grow the grain to the workers at Hormel Foods and Quality Pork Processors. The vast majority of jobs in Mower County depend at least partially if not totally upon that plant and the hog farmers who supply it.

Today the majority of those hog farmers that supply Hormel Foods are not in Minnesota. That's right. Minnesota exports most of the corn grown in the state and then imports the hogs after they have consumed the grain.

The economy in Minnesota and Mower County is good, but it could be much better. There is an opportunity to make both those grain farmers and that processing plant more profitable by raising more hogs closer to both the plant and the grain farmers. Every hog raised closer to the source of the grain and the processing plant means more and better paying jobs in both Minnesota and Mower County.

The larger confinement hog operations that would be necessary to consume all of the now exported grain and supply that plant are precisely the ones that would be restricted by the proposed regulations.



Rich Osness

You have been told that these feedlots are harmful to the economy and the environment, that they destroy our rural communities and our quality of life. As a main street economist and former livestock producer who now spends as much time as I can hunting and fishing farm and rangeland in many of our states, I know that just the opposite is true.

Concentrating the livestock does concentrate the manure and odors. In a modern hog confinement building this means that the waste can be safely managed and the odors controlled far better than in numerous smaller pasture operations. Confining the

hogs in buildings is actually far better for the environment than raising them in pastures which results in increased soil erosion and more waste entering our surface water.

This is not to say that smaller pasture operations are bad for the environment. Typically they are few enough and isolated enough that the environmental harm they cause does not extend beyond their property lines. Only if we attempted to raise enough livestock in this manner to consume all of our grain and supply all of our processing plants would it cause severe environmental problems. The point is that with modern technology we CAN raise this much livestock WITHOUT harming the environment.

Larger operations provide fewer jobs per head of livestock raised because they are more efficient. These are higher paying jobs that provide a better quality of life in our rural communities without taxpayer paid subsidies.

A small but vocal minority of the rural population will tell you that the smaller producers are more efficient and economically viable but they must have subsidies to survive and compete with the larger producers. This makes no sense. By definition an economically viable business

does not need subsidies. Furthermore, subsidizing a business that is not economically viable harms every other business in the area, including my photo lab. This hurts the economy of rural Minnesota.

Mower County has a feedlot ordinance in effect that, while not without problems, allows our more efficient producers to expand without causing harm to the environment. This is because it has been created by the people most directly affected and is being enforced by people who are responsive to those affected.

**What regulations may be thought necessary can best be implemented and enforced at the county level. These are the people familiar with the issues and most affected.**

Other counties could use Mower County's experience to enact similar ordinances with improvements to suit their own special circumstances. We could learn from each other's mistakes. This is not as easy to do with statewide regulations.

To summarize, all of the proposed regulations and subsidies would hurt our rural and statewide economy by restricting and taxing our most efficient

producers. Our environment would be worse because the most environmentally benign operations would be limited or even eliminated.

What regulations may be thought necessary can best be implemented and enforced at the county level. These are the people familiar with the issues and most affected.

Even the GEIS would harm our economy by wasting tax dollars and human resources to study something that should already be obvious.

With all of the bills that come before the legislature it is not possible for every legislator to become completely familiar with every issue. There is much conflicting information and testimony. Please consider that the preceding statement comes from someone with no direct interest in the livestock industry. I am simply a rural citizen with an interest in the economic health of my community and an interest in the well being of our environment.

One last observation, I am writing this in the office of my business, a few blocks from the largest permitted feedlot in Mower County. This feedlot is within the city limits of Austin. They are good neighbors.

It can be done without further state regulations. ■

## What's a Libertarian?

To put it simply, Libertarians believe that you have the right to live your life as you wish, without the government interfering - as long as you don't violate the rights of others. Politically, this means Libertarians favor rolling back the size and cost of government, and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices.

## Letters from readers

TO THE EDITOR:

The appearance of an advertisement on page 15 of the Oct./December 1997 Libertarian for Daniel J. Pilla's book, IRS, TAXES and the Beast, and long observation of Pilla's activities relative to the "income" tax impel me to make the following public statement:

Dan Pilla is doing a disservice to the freedom movement by advising people to cooperate with the IRS in order to get some tax advantages, and the Minnesota Libertarian is aiding that disservice by allowing Pilla to promote his book(s) in its pages. (However, I do not question the Newspaper's or Pilla's right to advertise his wares.)

Pilla knows very well that the "income" tax on the wages earned by Americans in the United States is entirely illegal and unconstitutional. In my opinion, he is a "quisling" (one who traitorously assists an enemy power to invade his country -- the Winston Dictionary 1946

College Edition) who makes money and buys his freedom from prison -by DILUTING the efforts of true libertarians who have resisted the IRS and the federal government to the point of shedding blood (as Gordon and Yorrie Kahl, and Arthur Kirk), or imprisonment (as in my case and Kevin Rowlee for example). Had Pilla lived at the time of the Boston Tea Party, he would have written books and made speeches urging the colonists to collaborate with the British tax laws and to try to find loopholes to make the taxes a bit lower.

Pilla is not a man of principle; he is a man of compromise.

He is, in effect, an unpaid agent of the IRS within the tax protest movement and should be identified as such. ■

Wilhelm E. Schmitt  
December 23, 1997

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## Response

**Response from Bill Winter, Communications Director for the Libertarian Party in Washington, DC**

That may be his opinion, but it is NOT the official opinion of the Libertarian Party. Nowhere in our Platform does it state that income taxes are illegal or unconstitutional. It says we don't like them, and that we want to abolish that tax, but makes no historical, legal, or constitutional arguments about their validity. This may make the "tax protest movement" mad, but the Libertarian Party is not the "tax protest movement" -- we're the "let's work through the political process to eliminate as many taxes as we can" movement. ■

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## Don't blame drugs

**By Eric Olson**

(This letter to the Editor was published in the Minneapolis Star/Tribune February 6, 1998)

While I can sympathize with the grief Steven Christenson is feeling over the murder of his son Josh, I can't simply "blame drugs" as he does. As a society, it is important that we blame the actual culprit, the "War On Drugs."

Josh would be alive today if drugs were legal. He wouldn't have had a massive "drug debt" -- which is probably why he was killed -- because legalized drugs would be much less expensive. Also, his creditor would have been a

legal businessman, not an illegal gangster, who could have attempted to collect on his unpaid debt through the civil court system. His addiction would probably have been dealt with in a much more intense and humane manner, if drugs were legal, so he may have had no debt or desire to continue using drugs. He wouldn't have had to go to a risky part of town and attempt to purchase (hopefully) untainted drugs from strangers. Although other factors probably contributed to Josh's death, it is painfully obvious that it wasn't the drugs themselves but the "War On Drugs" that killed him.

It is easier for the par-

ent of any wayward child to place the blame for the child's problems anywhere but on the "very wonderful, lovable; one of the nicest" kids around, but that doesn't help society, or the parents, face the facts. The fact is that your child made poor choices, over and over again, and that our society's "War On Drugs" is the reason those choices turned out to be deadly. I certainly hope we make the necessary changes before we let more of our children die. ■

Eric Olson  
Minneapolis, MN  
(Eric Olson was the LPMN's 1998 candidate for Governor)

### Libertarians in action

**Tax reduction:**

The Libertarian Party was instrumental in repealing the income tax in Alaska, and Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire were leaders in the fight to roll back higher business taxes.

**Choice in education:** The Libertarian Party has vigorously fought for free market reform in education to increase educational opportunities for all children. We've worked for referendums and sponsored legislation to return tax money to parents so they can choose the best school for their children-instead of being at the mercy of failing government schools.



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## New feudalism in America

**From Ken Nebel**

This excerpt is the concluding statements in a little pamphlet titled: The Decline of Property Rights and Freedom in America: The Destruction of Our Founders' Intent for the U.S. Constitution

**By Mike Coffman**

**Summary of a new Feudalism in America**

In the many supporting documents used to frame and write both the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, our Founding Fathers repeatedly asserted that liberty is governed by natural laws and that mankind is endowed with certain unalienable rights from our creator. Among these are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Key to these unalienable rights and freedom is property rights. Our founders warned that without the God given right to own and use land unencumbered by government interference, America would begin to revert back to the evil feudal/ruler form of governance from which America had just fought a revolutionary war to gain her freedom. In this form of government all power is held by the highest levels of government with the people having the least power and freedom. The rights of

the government are superior to the rights of its citizens.

The foundation of this evil form of government is land control; he who controls the land (and water) controls the people. If a person cannot own unencumbered land to grow crops, conduct business, or build a home to shelter their family, they are at the mercy of those who do control the land. Tyranny is the inevitable result. All other freedoms in our Bill of Rights depend on property rights constrained only by the common law concepts of nuisance and harm.

Thomas Jefferson and our Founders established our US Constitution around what he called the *people's law*. Power within the People's Law is held by the local people and their unalienable right to own and use property. That power is *conditionally apportioned* to various levels of government, first to local government, then to state government, and finally to the federal government. The federal government has the least power of all. Within each level of government, all government agents will be directly accountable to the people over whom they had jurisdiction. Once the power reverts back to the federal level, the government will become, as Jefferson warned, "as venal and oppressive as the one from which we have just separat-

ed."

The cause of this shift to tyranny has been the incorrect assumption in recent years that property owners, communities and states will not voluntarily protect the environment and public values. Consequently, prevailing wisdom held that laws and regulations had to be developed to force them to do what is right. Ironically, the common law nuisance and-harm limitations to property rights has historically prevented serious harm to private land. It is the PUBLIC DOMAIN (water, air and land) that has suffered the most environmental damage due to the "law of the commons." No one "owned" the water and air, so no one was responsible. Had states used the nuisance and harm provisions of common law to prevent air and water pollution, the avalanche of federal law and the creation of the much maligned EPA would not have been necessary.

Unalienable rights limit the power of the state to use private property for the public good without "just compensation." In turn, common law nuisance and harm provisions limit the rights of a property owner to harm their neighbor. Therefore, if an activity or use of property clearly causes harm to a neighbor by causing harm to the environment, the property owner must pay the costs of mitigation or restoration.

These activities can be established in regulatory statutes where the regulators are accountable to those within their jurisdiction. However, if a regulation benefits the larger (i.e. a public good) without a clear and definable harm, any reduction of property value must be compensated according to the 5th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. Finally, if an activity or use does not cause a definable harm by itself, but does when added to all similar activities or uses preceding it, both the property owner and society should share the cost of diminished property value. Society must bear responsibility because it contributed to the problem as much as the proposed activities or use of the current property owner. Partial compensation according to the 5th Amendment should be required.

Tragically, the warnings of Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton and other founders have gone unheeded in Congress and some state legislatures. The overly ambitious and incredibly powerful environmental and public interest lobbies have brought influence and pressure against Congress and state legislatures to provide agencies with far ranging powers that isolated them from any accountability to the community they regulate. The cost of providing for the "public good" falls

disproportionately on a few property owners who often have their life savings tied up in their land. Additionally, by creating these overarching laws and giving agencies incredible authority, powers historically belonging to states, counties and towns have been usurped by the federal government. Even for those laws that are supposedly equitable in their application, the laws and regulations are often so vague that the regulators have awesome powers to apply the regulations "selectively", and can be used to intimidate, harass, fine and even imprison specific individuals who do not agree with the regulator. Such laws are common among the police states of the world. Many of the federal laws passed since 1970 allow federal agencies to bypass any accountability to the citizens over whom the agency has jurisdiction. A neo-feudal structure is being established which has had predictable repercussions.

Every one of the fundamental truths of freedom exalted by our founding fathers are violated in the present structure of many federal laws and regulations. A growing tyranny and civil unrest is the result. Contrary to prevailing wisdom, the growing controversies and civil unrest are fundamentally not about safety, environmental protection, zoning,

planning, or how much development. All of these can be important and beneficial if done within the original Constitutional framework envisioned and provided by our founding fathers. Rather, the growing tensions are the result of the abolishment of property rights and (the demise of) government of, by and for the people.

We often forget the true dimensions of Jefferson's words when quoting the first few lines of the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these Rights, governments are instituted among men, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED."

We have a clear choice before us. We can choose freedom or feudalism. Congress must begin the process to reverse this evil trend. Failure to do so will result in increasing tyranny, civil unrest and the destruction of over 200 years of freedom -- taking with it the light and hope of the world provided by the greatest nation on earth. ■



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by Daniel J. Pilla

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

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

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

Mark your PERSONAL score on the left and your ECONOMIC score on the right. See example: 20% Personal and 10% Economic. For example: M. Thatcher, right; F.D. Roosevelt, left; Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson, top; Stalin and Hitler, bottom.

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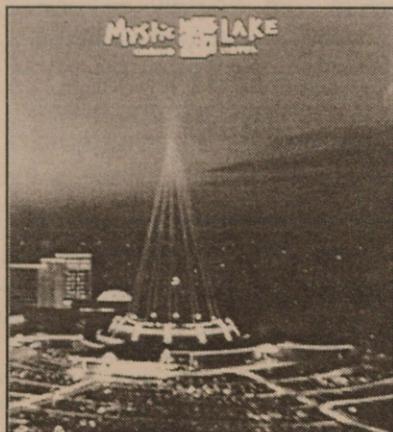


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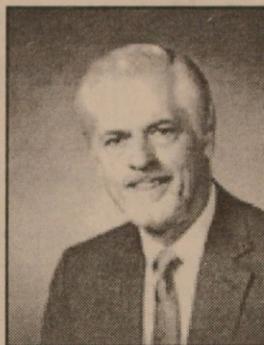
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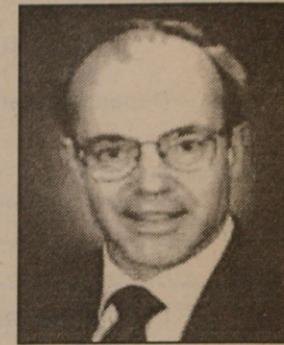
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You'll discover that the Libertarian Party of Minnesota led the fight against tax funding of a stadium, and is active on many other issues. You'll learn how YOU can become an important part of a movement that can return us to personal freedom and constitutional government.

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