NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

FEBRUARY '88

VICTORY!!!

Reverend Jimmy Clifton came in first in a five-way race for three seats on the Village Board of Addison, Michigan. This was a partisan race with Rev. Clifton out-polling two Republicans and two Democrats. This brings to over 80, the list of elected and appointed Libertarians serving in over 22 states.

Congratulations Rev. Clifton and Michigan Libertarians!!! I think we are going to see more of this all over the country this year.

LEWIS TRIAL

Jim Lewis, our 1984 Vice-Presidential candidate, was convicted at his February trial of 3 counts of willful failure to file with the IRS. Jim will be sentenced on April 6th.

PAUL IN THE NEWS

Ron Paul has been active in the media lately, appearing on William Buckley's "Firing Line" and on CNN's "Crossfire". Ron was also mentioned in an article about the presidential candidates campaigning on college campuses that ran in the March issue of "Newsweek On Campus".

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This will be the last issue of "Liberty Pledge News" as you will receive in its place "The Activist Network News". We hope you'll enjoy this new premium and would appreciate your comments in this regard.

To Libertarian candidate, least government is best

By Robert Di Veroli
Tribune Staff Writer

If the Libertarian Party had a motto it would probably be: "Government — leave me alone," says former Texas congressman Ron Paul, the party's 1988 presidential candidate. Libertarian Party members believe, as did Thomas Jefferson, that the government is best that governs least. Government in this country, however, has become meddlesome at home and abroad, Paul said.

Paul took part in his party's 15th annual statewide convention at the Kona Kai Club on Shelter Island. The four-day convention ends today.

"We think the market ought to be left alone and we think we ought to leave foreign governments alone, so, yes, that's a pretty good motto," Paul said in an interview.

Paul, 52, an obstetrician, was a Republican congressman from Texas from 1976 to 1984 and joined the Libertarian Party in February 1987.

Libertarians believe government should be primarily an umpire that settles disputes and guarantees the rights of its citizens. It should not assume the role of a father constantly seeking to take care of his children, Paul said.

"We emphasize the right of the individual to live his life as he chooses, free of interference by government or anyone else, but if somebody violates my rights I need help in settling the problem and that's where government comes in," Paul said.

"I don't want to live in an uncivilized world where if somebody steals my property I have to take my gun and settle the dispute. That's the government's job." A major Libertarian Party goal is repeal of the federal income tax, a measure Paul said grew out of the need to fund welfare at home and perceived American interests abroad. The result of the income tax has produced bigger and bigger government and saddled the country with deficit financing and a mounting public debt.

The dilemma, however, is that while many Americans now realize this, they have also become addicted to government "goodies," Paul said. "People become dependent on government, and politicians like passing out all that wealth," Paul said.

The Libertarian Party's biggest task is convincing the American people they really don't need big government as much as they think, Paul said.

Besides doing away with income taxes, Libertarians would like to close out U.S. military outposts throughout the world; withdraw from the United Nations and NATO, ban forced jury duty and military conscription.

The Liberty Pledge News is produced monthly for members of the National Libertarian Party's Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to State Party Chairs and National Committee members in appreciation of their contributions and to make available information on Headquarters activities and Libertarians in the news. Clippings and other items of interest are greatly appreciated.

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Can we be of help? Want to raise your pledge? Call 1-800-682-1776.
Maverick candidate stay with the pack

In the world of political reality, every U.S. presidential election has its share of well-defined Republican, Democrat and "dooom"-end candidates. But the bizarre political events of the past year have blurred those definitions to such a degree that the mainstream candidates are looking like mavericks, and the mavericks are running respectable campaigns.

**ANALYSIS**

Gary Hart's in again, out again antics, Pat Robertson's transformation from preacher to candidate and the rise of a muck-mash of political unknowns is strong proof that, in 1988, we must think the unthinkable. It is in that spirit that this writer is proposing a four-ticket for the 1988 presidential election.

And that is where Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul fits in. Unlike the host of other "dooom"-end presidential candidates, Florida state Rep. Claude Kirk — who's running a surrogates presidential campaign for Chrysler Corporation chairman Lee Iacocca — is not exactly a radical libertarian. Instead, he's a moderate conservative, albeit a constitutional extremist Lyndon LaRouche, Paul is trying to show that unconventional methods are the only solution to the nation's problems.

The Libertarian Party is a fighting the political scene. The party, founded in 1971 with the goal of providing minimal government with individual rights superior to government policies, boasts about 1.5 million members. The party's candidates have received more than 10 percent of the vote in recent elections.

The 52-year-old former Florida congressman from Texas is running on a platform of less government and more individual freedoms. What that translates into, however, could shock even some of the staunchest libertarians. For example, he's proposed that welfare and Social Security be scrapped.

"We have to explain that the road we're taking will collapse. Instead of me being defensive, the politicians in Congress need to defend their system," said Paul as he campaigned in Texas last week.

Paul said as president he would eliminate income taxes, cut most of the government and pull the U.S. out of all foreign countries so it could protect this country.

"The purpose of government is to insure that you have a right to live your life, you have a right to pursue your happiness and you have a right to keep what you earn," he said.

Welfare systems should be abolished because individuals have the right to decide if they will help others, he said.

Ron Paul, Libertarian candidate

The Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul speaks to a packed crowd in Greensville News tour.

By Jennifer Miller

The Libertarian Party presidential candidate said Thursday he will go on电视 "no matter what happens," that while he doesn't expect victory in the November election, he will continue to fight because he wants to force government officials to come to grips with the political ideas.

Don Paul, a former congressman, runs on a platform of less government and more individual freedoms.

"We're not predicting victory in '88, but we'll get there," Paul said.

Paul, a physician who served four terms in Congress, said the Libertarian Party defends the principle of individual liberty. People should basically be left alone, he said, but they have no right to initiate aggressions against anyone. He also said associations, both economic and personal, should be voluntary.

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Also, candidates from either major party tend to move toward the other side while in office, Paul said.

President Ronald Reagan, for example, ran on a platform of cutting government spending, Paul said. Yet, under the Reagan administration the national debt has skyrocketed, he said.

Libertarians are divided on the question of abortion, Paul said. He said he believes a fetus is a life, so no one, not even the mother, has the right to interfere with it.

"There isn't a legal barrier," he said. "There are a lot of moral arguments. But the重点 is, we're not against the idea of abortion. It's just not a way to solve the problem."
Libertarian Marrou seeks vice presidency

Candidate: Bring all U.S. troops home

By Jay Bhattacharya
Staff writer

Andre Marrou, the Libertarian Party's 1988 vice presidential candidate, in a Sunday interview here called for a non-interventionist foreign policy and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from all foreign commitments, including Japan and Western Europe.

Marrou's stance echoes a traditional Libertarian platform that emphasizes decreased government involvement in nearly every aspect of American life.

Arguing that "individual freedom and civil liberties gain directly" from a minimization of government interference, Marrou said he advocates free trade, a reduction in governmental bureaucracy and the abolition of the income tax.

"The troops serve no purpose in foreign countries. They should be called back to defend America," he said. "U.S. troops (in Western Europe) can't defend (West) Germany against a Soviet attack. We must ask the fundamental question: What are our troops for? We must have them to defend this country, and for no other reason."

"Eliminating U.S. military presence abroad "would save over $200 billion," Marrou said, and would be a significant step toward a balanced budget.

According to Marrou, events in other countries should not be important in determining U.S. policy. Regarding the Persian Gulf, for example, Marrou asks, "Why are our ships defending an area that provides us with only 4 percent of our oil, while the Alaska pipeline, which gives us 25 percent of it, is left open...to terrorist attack?"

While Marrou said he believes that the United States should continue to draw oil from the Gulf, he said he recommends that those nations (such as Japan) that draw the majority of their oil from the region provide its defense.

Marrou's platform contains other controversial defense policies, including a reduction in the total number of American nuclear warheads from 35,000 to 5000.

"There are too many warheads now, and there is no way to deliver them all to the Soviet Union. We don't have the delivery systems (to support our warheads). Just having them around serves no purpose."

Marrou's position on issues such as social security and welfare follow that of the Libertarian Party.

"Government (welfare and social security) programs waste a large portion of money allotted to them on useless bureaucracies," he said.

"Private charities are best equipped to deal with the problems of homelessness and poverty because they don't waste money on excess administration," Marrou said.

The current government actually inhibits private organizations from helping the homeless, Marrou said. For example, zoning laws prevent the establishment of shelters for the homeless in many cities, he said.

To combat the national budget deficit, "the government should stop replacing bureaucrats who leave their jobs," Marrou said, adding that recalling troops from abroad will also help reduce the national debt.

Marrou said he also advocates eliminating public education, a drastic step toward reducing government spending. Public education is poorer in quality and more costly than private schooling, he said.

He further argued that education should not be mandatory. "People should have a choice" in whether they want to have an education, Marrou said, adding that he expected most people to choose to go to school.

Marrou suggested that the government subsidize the educations of those who cannot afford private schooling.

If a communist threat looms, the case for action should be presented for Congress to decide, Paul said. He said the Reagan administration's support of the Contras fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua is an example of unwarranted U.S. government intrusion in another nation's affairs and is also inconsistent with its policy of making economic aid available to Soviet-bloc nations.

"We like to think that we've brought back the whole philosophy of freedom and put it back together again. In the 20th century, the conservatives and liberals each took half of it and we've had chaos ever since."

Paul said that despite a relatively small campaign budget of $600,000 for the presidential campaign, party members believe the Libertarian credo will advance. Libertarian candidates will be on the November ballot in all 50 states this year, he said.

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