Tax Protest Day Coming

Dear Monthly Pledger,

Oh, I’m learning the wonders of volunteers. What would we do without them! The National LP Office simply could not complete the work assigned to us were it not for the time and skills that our volunteers add.

We sent a letter to local Libertarians asking for their help and they’ve really responded, but even before that we’ve had area people coming by the office and pitching in. In fact, we’ve had volunteers from Michigan, Oregon and Pennsylvania as well.

In just the last ten days, we’ve logged 50 volunteer person-hours. I want to take this opportunity to thank our great volunteers and also to let you know that we’re working to be efficient and productive with our limited manpower and resources.

Tax Protest Day is fast approaching and I’m wondering what sort of theme we should have this year. Taxes are always an issue, but we have to capitalize on them. We need to find a way to capture the feelings of frustration that Americans have on April 15th.

We’ll need your input and support again this year to make Tax Protest Day a success. This type of event, like Volunteer Day, can gain us positive media and public attention as well as allowing our candidates a chance to speak on the issue. I hope you’ll get involved in your area.

Speaking of Volunteer Day, I’ve included a few articles from the activities in over 25 places. This event, not conceived of until late October, was a big success thanks to some super activists and the positive feedback that comes from doing something nice. We made our point. Next year will be even better... what with Ron Paul in the White House declaring it a national holiday.

On the back page of this issue of Liberty Pledge News, you’ll find an article on the Jim Lewis trial. Jim, who you probably know was the Libertarian candidate for Vice-President in 1984, is on trial for willful failure to file with the IRS. Jim is a great spokesman and boy does he have something to say! We at the National Office wish him all the best.

By the way, our ole buddies at the IRS have a new regulation which requires us to "conspicuously" inform anyone solicited for a contribution that the gift is not tax deductible. Now let’s work to inform the politicians and bureaucrats that it won’t be long before we don’t have to worry about tax deductions because we will have little, if any, taxation.

Yours for liberty,

Paul Jacob
National Director
End of hated draft

Tomorrow marks the 15th anniversary of the all-volunteer Army. At Army recruitment centers around the country, birthday cakes (with 15 candles) will be presented to recruiters in this historic celebration of “Volunteer Day.”

Consider the symbolic aspects of this libertarian celebration: the replacement of the hated and coercive military draft with voluntary enlistments.

Go back to early 1973. Picture a divided people, torn apart by a costly and unpopular war, forced upon our citizens by lying and unthinking political leaders; all made possible by a harsh form of slavery — the military draft.

Our country needs a strong military to protect it from those who would threaten the individual liberty of each free man and woman. And it's happening today — without force, without coercion.

LEO Z. ALMAN
Squirrel Hill
(The writer is Policy Committee chairman of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania.)

Wednesday, January 27, 1988

All-Volunteer Observing 15th

Editor, The Opelika-Auburn News:

I would like to remind the readers of the Opelika-Auburn News that the all voluntary military service in the United States is celebrating its 15th birthday today. We, as a country, witnessed the failure of using a military draft during the Vietnam War. The draft combines the worse of a lottery with slavery of the individual. Long live the all-volunteer military service.

One remaining remanent of the draft is draft registration, which is still on the books but which everyone agrees (except the draft registration bureaucrats) is a complete failure and of no military value. President Reagan ran in 1980 on a platform that denounced the draft as being against the values that this country and of no military value. President Reagan in 1980 on a platform that denounced the draft as being against the values that this country was founded on. With his utter failure to meet most if not all his campaign promises, such as controlling government spending, balancing the budget, and in general to “get government off our backs,” it is still in his power to make good on his promise to end draft registration in this his last year as President.

Happy Birthday America

Sincerely yours,
Mark Thornton
Secretary
Lee County Libertarian Party

By JOHN S. TONELLO

CORTLAND — Fifteen years ago Wednesday, President Richard Nixon officially ended the armed services draft, and to celebrate, Libertarians around the country delivered cakes to local recruiters.

Paul Jacob, president of the National Libertarian Party, said party members in about 50 cities across the country delivered cakes or other thanks to express their approval of the volunteer ranks.

“It’s a way to say thanks and give a cheer for the volunteer army,” Jacob said from his Washington office.

In Cortland, Libertarian Dottie Brokaw brought a cake and other refreshments to the recruiters at the Cortland office, said party member and Air Force recruiter Mark W. Burns.

Brokaw, a member of the National Libertarian Party, cuts a cake she brought Wednesday to the military recruitment office in Cortland to hail the 1973 change to an all-volunteer military. Staff Sgt. Buck Campbell, the Air Force recruiter is at right.

This Takes the Cake
Libertarians Pay Thank-You Visits to Recruiters

Syracuse Post-Standard Jan. 28, 1988

“Freedom is better than force.”

In 1980, Jacob refused to register for the draft and remained underground, traveling around the country to spread his ideas, he said. In 1984, however, he decided to resurface. Federal Bureau of Investigation agents knocked on his door in Little Rock, Ark., later that year, and Jacob ended up spending five months in jail.

The Libertarian Party is against big government and supports non-violent politics, Jacob said, but it favors a volunteer army because it reflects the public interest.

“We’re less apt to fight a ‘bad’ war such as Vietnam with volunteers,” he said.

Sgt. Mark W. Burns at the Cortland office, said the volunteer service is an “unqualified success.”

“It’s working so well the Defense Department is upping the quality of recruits,” he said.

Burns said his Cortland office fills its annual recruiting goals three months ahead of schedule because of plentiful volunteers.

In 1973, when Nixon canceled the draft, it ended an era of draftcard burning and war protest. That atmosphere has changed, Burns noted.

Andrew M. Patterson, 18, a Cortland High School student, plans to go for testing next week, and said he hopes to join the army for a six-year stint.

“I want to earn money for college,” Patterson said. “And I want to join for the excitement.”
Ron Paul sees his Libertarian candidacy for president in the same light as John Anderson's campaign as an independent in 1980 — an option for people tired of the political status quo.

The former Texas congressman made his switch from the Republican Party to the Libertarian Party last year because much of the GOP's conservative rhetoric sounded good, but it wasn't being acted on, he said.

Paul, 52, was on a campaign swing through Florida on Thursday, trying to drum up support to get about 80,000 signatures to have his name put on the November ballot in Florida. An obstetrician by profession, Paul served in Congress from 1976 to 1984 as a Republican representing part of Houston — including Johnson Space Center.

The Libertarian Party, which boasts 1.5 million members nationwide, has a civil liberties platform more akin to liberals and an economics policy similar to Reaganomics. The party's beliefs include minimal government, private ownership and wide-scale freedoms.

On virtually all issues, Paul and his party believe big government does more damage than good.

Following are Paul's stands on several issues:

- Space spending: Privatization of space for commercial purposes is desirable, but some government money should be spent to "defend" space. "We should have a knowledge of space for defensive reasons."

- Defense: The United States should stop defending foreign countries and bring all its overseas troops home. No funding for the contras and the end of Selective Service registration are included in Paul's stands.

In addition, only the minimum amount of nuclear weapons necessary for the country's protection should be maintained, he said.

- The economy: The minimum wage should be abolished because it contributes to unemployment, Paul said. His theory: If merchants have to pay someone $3.35 an hour, they might not hire as many people as they would if they could pay less.

Government spending should be slashed dramatically and the federal income tax eliminated. The government's procedure of buying on credit through the Federal Reserve Bank also should be eliminated.

- Welfare: Social Security should be phased out and catastrophic insurance offered through private insurance companies. Government-subsidized medical and education benefits should be eliminated.

"When government steps in, things get much worse. Once government subsidizes, the prices get higher."

Marrou's name isn't quite up there with Jefferson's and Henry's, but he is hoping to make himself better known by traveling around the country, spreading his party's ideology and picking up some contributions along the way.

On Thursday, he took his campaign to the Capitol and the High School in the Community in New Haven. He was scheduled to hit New Hampshire and Vermont later in the week.

"If Thomas Jefferson came back now, he would be appalled at the size of government," said Marrou, 49, a former Alaska state representative. "I think we are going to do a lot better (in the November election) than anyone thinks we are. We are the only party that takes a firm stand on anything."

That the party takes firm stands may be an understatement. Among other things, Marrou and his running mate, presidential candidate Ron Paul, favor abolition of taxes, military drafts, Medicare, Social Security and anything else that "emphasizes and maximizes government instead of emphasizing and maximizing individual freedoms," he said.

Marrou walked through the Capitol with James Lewis of Old Saybrook, the Libertarians' 1984 vice presidential candidate. Marrou, a real estate broker who lived in Massachusetts for 17 years, wore a gold pin made up of a screw going through the letters IRS.

(Cont. next page)
Unconventional candidate ready to battle Kostmayer

By SEAN LEBOFSKY
Staff Writer

Don Ernsberger likely will be the most unconventional opponent U.S. Rep. Peter Kostmayer, D-8th, will face this year.

The 49-year-old teacher of philosophy and humanities at Council Rock High School in Newtown will announce his candidacy on Jan. 20, saying he wants "to raise the issues that Democrats and Republicans are not real thrilled about facing.

"I don't fit into the normal mold of a normal politician. I don't expect to win because I will be running as an independent candidate, but, if I did, I certainly wouldn't mind taking a seat in Congress."" Ernsberger doesn't want to be accused of hiding his past, which includes being a draft dodger during the Vietnam War.

"I consciously avoided being drafted, and I am proud of it. I am not bragging about it — but I am being very honest because I thought the war was wrong," he said.

He likes to slip back into the '60s every once in while so he picks up his 12-string acoustic guitar and plays some folk music by Bob Dylan, Harry Chapin, James Taylor, or Peter, Paul and Mary.

He likes folk songs with philosophical ideas but also can bang out the Rolling Stones on his electric guitar when he's in the mood.

Ernsberger is not concerned with name recognition or spending hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"I would like to provide Bucks County with an independent congressman whose task it is to provide new and innovative ideas," he said. "A congressman's job is not to go to Washington, D.C. with a tin cup and beg for money. All of my ideas will not be adopted, but at least they will have a chance."

Among those ideas are a plan to balance the budget.

Ernsberger, who has a master's degree and doctorate credit in American economic history, he says he knows where to slice federal programs.

Some examples include cutting the federal highways program from $18 billion to $5 billion; cutting the Army Corps of Engineers projects, which he calls a pork barrel for many congressmen, from $23 billion to $10 billion; and cutting the defense budget by $40 billion.

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