

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

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The Illinois Libertarian

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The Green-ing of Illinois

The Bruce Green for U.S. Senate campaign starts off with a bang this month when Bruce hosts an all-day campaign picnic at his home Saturday, May 27.

The campaign has already started. More than 6,000 letters have gone to other pilots in the ten-county Chicago area, telling them of Bruce's campaign and inviting them to meet him at the campaign picnic. In his letter, Bruce attacked the mass of regulation that throttles the airline industry at most levels, and he drew parallels to the trucking and railroad industries as examples of how devastating government economic power can be.

During the next few months, Bruce will be spending most days touring downstate cities and towns, taking his campaign to anyone and everyone who is willing to listen. If you want to invite Bruce to speak to your friends in your home, or to your club or group, or to shake hands outside a factory gate in your town, please notify Ken Sturzenacker at 312/ 528-6946 to set up a schedule.

AS FOR THE PICNIC, it's an all-day affair at Bruce's home along Illinois route 31, a mile south of South Elgin or five miles north of St. Charles, on the east side of the road. You can find the place by the sign out front.

Tickets are just \$20, and whether you attend or not, make you eligible for one of three door prizes. The top prize is worth more than \$400! We're also giving three prizes for the individuals who sell the most tickets: \$100 top prize, \$50 second, and \$25 third.

The picnic starts early...and Bruce says it will end by firelight long after the stars come out. Bruce has room for several hundred people, so bring your family, friends, neighbors and anyone you know who is interested in what Libertarians are doing this year.

We'll have games from volleyball to horseshoes, canoeing along the Fox River, and private excursions into the 400 acres of forest preserve behind Bruce's home. We'll have all kinds of food...and we may even roast a pig for dinner.

It's bound to be a great way to start a campaign! And remember, your tickets are good for a door prize whether you can make it or not---so order tickets for the entire family today!

HQ OPENS MAY 7

OFFICIAL LPI CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

JOIN US SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, AT 1PM

IN A CHAMPAGNE TOAST TO THE OPENING OF
THE OFFICIAL 1978 LIBERTARIAN CAMPAIGN

HEADQUARTERS, THE OFFICE IS IN SUITE
200 OF THE CLARK-DIVERSEY BUILDING AT

2745 N. CLARK ST, CHICAGO...IN THE

HEART OF THE CITY'S BUSIEST, MOST IN-

DEPENDENT AND POLITICALLY AWARE NEIGH-
BORHOOD. COME TOAST OUR NEW CAMPAIGN

HOME, SPEND A FEW MOMENTS TO WISH US

WELL IN THE SIX MONTHS AHEAD,

CENSORSHIP IS CENSORSHIP

JAMES EDMINSTER

Recently an event took place in Canada that ought to be appalling to libertarians everywhere. A police raid closed down a gay/feminist publication in Toronto. Gay Life, Chicago's newspaper for gays received a letter covering the event. Grant Ford, publisher of Gay Life, has graciously allowed the letter to be reprinted in the Illinois Libertarian. Both the event itself and a libertarian lesson learned by a non-libertarian group should be of interest to the readers of the Illinois Libertarian.

"FEMINISTS FIGHTING PORNO FIGHT FREEDOM OF SPEECH"

"Dear Friends,

"On December 30, 1977, one of the most highly regarded gay/feminist publications in the world was raided and effectively closed down by the police. The Body Politic, which is run by a collective of gay feminist socialists in Toronto, was the target of a sudden police raid. Several collective members were arrested and charged with "the use of the mails for ... transmitting anything that is obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous." Although any reasonable person would know that it would only be necessary for the police to seize one copy of the issue in question, the police carted away 12 crates of the Body Politic's possessions, including the complete subscription list, manuscripts, correspondence, and in general all the papers it takes to run a magazine. Also seized were the papers and all the books printed and offered for sale by the Pink Triangle Press, which publishes books of gay interest. Body Politic and Pink Triangle Press are effectively crippled...

"...we would like to point out a simple moral lesson from this event. In the last few years, more and more feminist and lesbian groups in the U.S. and Canada have been involved with censorship and anti-pornography campaigns. In most cases, this has centered on opposition to pornographic materials that glorify violence against women, such as the movie "Snuff." What many of these women fail to realize is that their support of censorship only lends fuel to the enemies of feminism and gayness. Even the stupidest of prosecutors, police, or anti-porn campaigners realizes that serious gay and feminist publications and books pose a much greater threat to their traditional view of society and family than does the hardest of hard-core porn. An issue of Body Politic or a publication from a feminist press such as Diana press will spread more new ideas, influence more people, cause more action for gay liberation and feminism than any number of showings of the movie "Snuff" will inspire violence. For this reason, the target of nominal anti-pornography campaigns is bound to be political writings that support sexual freedom. Such was the case in Toronto.

THE TARGET OF ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY CAMPAIGNS IS BOUND TO BE POLITICAL WRITINGS THAT SUPPORT SEXUAL FREEDOM. SUCH WAS THE CASE IN TORONTO, WHERE THE POLICE USED THE ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS TO CLOSE DOWN THE BODY POLITIC.

We are sure there is as much "pornography" in Toronto as any other city, yet the police used the anti-obscenity laws to close down a political magazine whose appeal to prurient interest would be hard to find, unless somebody out there is getting off on scholarly book reviews or news reports of police raids on gay bars, the usual content of Body Politic. The specific article for which Body Politic was cited was an interview with three men who have been sexually involved with boys. The tone and intent of the article was clearly stated to be an unbiased inquiry into the nature of people involved in this type of sexual activity. The purpose was clearly to educate readers. The Body Politic is a self-examining publication that has been so free of sexism or erotica that it can publish an article on that subject without sensationalism. The police were able to home in on that article at a time when "child pornography" is a topic of great interest and crusades, and use it as an excuse for censorship of everything Body Politic stands for.

"A search through recent feminist, lesbian, and gay publications will show many examples of communities where feminists and lesbians have actively participated in censorship campaigns, particularly in regard to the movie "Snuff." ... Our crusading enemies, the Anita Bryants and her nasty followers, make no distinction between pornographic and feminist or gay liberation publications. They know which of these are greater threats to their ideas of how humans should behave sexually. They will gleefully censor everything they can get their hands on. The only thing that stops them are other citizens who fight to defend the rights of freedom of press and free speech. Yet, what are some of the lesbian and feminist groups, such as the one in Rochester, doing? They are aligning themselves with the book-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

"FIGHTING PORN FIGHTS FREEDOM OF SPEECH" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

burners, under the mistaken impression that only the types of pornography the feminists object to will be censored. Once allowed and supported, there is NO end to censorship. Who will appoint the censors, and who will judge what is censurable? Does anyone think that the mayor of Rochester will appoint a censorship committee consisting of lesbians? Perhaps when the gay and feminist publications are all closed down, will that same group of women go around sticking little pieces of paper on the locked doors of the gay and lesbian publication's offices that say, "This Offends Women?" The movie "Snuff" is undoubtedly objectionable, a lot of books and movies are objectionable, but censorship--the end to a free press and freedom of speech--is the most obscene, most violent against women, children and men, most objectionable of all pornography. We appeal to the people in the U.S., Canada, and the world to cease all participation in any kind of censorship campaign. You are cutting our throats."

The Bloomington Gay Rights Coalition, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.



Curious Capital Gains Controversy

BY GEORGE O'BRIEN

Jimmy Carter and House Ways and Means Committee chairman Al Ullman are upset. The cause of their dismay is the proposal of Wisconsin Rep. William Steiger to lower the tax rate on capital gains. He may succeed.

Capital gains are profits made on the sale of investments (machinery, buildings, stocks, bonds, commodities, etc.). If these items are held for a long enough period (currently one year), they are taxed at a lower rate than ordinary income. And there is some question whether there is really a "profit" at all, once inflation is taken into account. This provision has been attacked by the "redistributionists" for a long time. They claim rich people are using it as a means to reduce their taxes--obviously an anti-social activity, since we all know about our "duty" to be robbed with a smile. It's patriotic and all that.

The fuss is being created because Rep. Steiger has suggested that the taxing of capital gains be retruned to the rate it was in 1968. In 1969 Tricky Dick Nixon increased the rates and slapped a "minimum tax" on gains over a certain amount. So while the value of the capital gains provision remained, its effect was dramatically reduced.

One would assume that the higher rate would mean the tax boys would really be raking it in. Not so. In 1968 the taxes on capital gains amounted to \$7.2 billion. In 1969 it amounted to \$4.8 billion. Today, after 8 years of massive inflation, the IRS storm troopers are barely getting what they took in in 1968. "Curiouser and curiouser," quoth Alice.

What never occurred to the welfare-looter types was that the tax increases would reduce investment in high-risk areas. Why gamble on a big profit when you can't keep it?

Steiger's proposal to cut capital gains taxes hit like a bombshell. To the great dismay of Ullmann and the dregs at Peanut Palace, Steiger has the votes. Ullmann has been doing his best to stall. One of the most fascinating aspects of the debate on this proposal has been the unique coalitions involved. Joining the National Chamber of Commerce in favor of it has been Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley, a black liberal Democrat who sees it as a boost for the young electronics firms in his area. Black bankers and energy people see the Steiger proposal as a boon to rising new enterprises (the only kind blacks really run). Meanwhile, the Business Roundtable and the National Association of Manufacturers have been silent, and are edging toward joining Ralph Nader and Jimmy Carter against the Steiger proposal. Established economic interests do not relish competition with upstarts. They prefer monstrosities such as the Domestic International Sales Corporation, an export subsidy scheme that only multi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

LIBERTARIANS MARCH FOR ERA

"We must end governmental violation of women's rights as a step toward ending governmental violations of everyone's rights," proclaimed Marji Kohls, Libertarian Party candidate for Lt. Governor. Marji was speaking at the April 29 March and Rally for the E.R.A., where thousands of people and hundreds of diverse groups showed support for the amendment. Libertarian participation was organized by Merrilyn Sweet, recently appointed chair of the Illinois chapter of the Association of Libertarian Feminists (ALF). The group of libertarians carried signs and banners, handed out LPI literature, and gathered petition signatures to get the LPI on the ballot this November.

"E.R.A. is a step toward eliminating legal restrictions on women's and men's scope of action. It is not a scheme to impose quotas or any other kind of regimentation," noted Kohls, "for we women have put up with that kind of sexist paternalism long enough."



NEW WAVE

BY KEN STURZENACKER

WANTED: SURFERS
Individuals willing to ride available waves and make the most of them, individuals with courage to challenge big waves. No experience necessary, will teach. Hundreds of positions open NOW. Contact: LPI campaign headquarters, 2745 N. Clark St. Chicago.

Illinois Libertarians are nearly 2,000 miles from the surfing waters of Southern California, but the political tide running on the west coast now will sweep inland as far as the Prairie State....with a little help from each one of us.

Unless you've been hibernating away from Chicago's winter and its Yukon spring, you know that the number one topic almost everywhere in the news media these days is taxes. The CBS Evening News has just completed a three-part series on the "Backlash of the Middle Class." CBS used a tape of our property tax protests last summer as a major portion of its third report, along with tape of tax protests from Massachusetts to Texas to California. "Newsweek" magazine recently devoted a cover story entitled "Burned up over taxes" to the growing protest against taxation and government spending. And in recent days, NBC's Tom Snyder has spoken often about the "false evils" of the three-martini lunch and the "true devils" of government: shoddy bureaucracy, wasteful spending, counterproductive regulation and contradictory agency goals.

Locally, our annual tax protest at the Main Post Office got more media attention this year than it has ever gotten before....enough so that more than five million people heard or read about our demonstration and our position.

We are beginning to have a major impact on how the general public looks at government, and we are making ourselves felt in an organized, systematic manner for the first time. It is no surprise that the most vocal tax protests are coming from the very states where Libertarians have been active and visible the longest.

Libertarians are becoming very successful at convincing the non-libertarian that government is more foten the problem than the solution. To that extent, we have conducted effective political campaigns, and we have done it with absolutely no compromise of libertarian principle.

The more than one million people who signed petitions to put the Jarvis-Gann tax initiative on the California primary ballot June 6th probably know very little about underlying Libertarian philosophy. What they do know is that their taxes are far too high and getting higher--and the want a change.

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California has the largest and most active Libertarian Party in the nation, and California is where the voters are most loudly determined to ease their tax burden. If the Jarvis-Gann Initiative is approved, it will slash some 7 BILLION from the state's revenue each year. Even if Jarvis-Gann fails, California voters are almost certain to approve another tax cut proposal of \$1.4 BILLION.

The smaller tax cut referendum was rushed through the legislature and signed by California governor Jerry Brown, in a desperate attempt to mollify taxpayers and defeat the larger Jarvis-Gann tax referendum. The politicians in California are running scared, and they are compromising in our direction!

As angry as California taxpayers are, we in Illinois have even more good reasons to be angry: Illinois has more elected officials than any other state, its state officials are the fourth highest paid in the nation, and governor Thompson has endorsed recommendations that may make them the best paid. Cook County has more units of local government, that is, more taxing units, than any other county in the nation...making Cook County the most over-governed county in America. And in only one city with a public bus system are the bus drivers better paid than the ones here in Chicago.



The point is, it is becoming increasingly obvious that thousands of Americans are really screaming about their taxes for the first time, and are prepared to do something to lower taxes and cut spending. We libertarians have had the answers all along: now is the time to be busy making certain everyone else learns them.

That task is much more easy than it might appear. Campaign organizations concentrate on reaching as many people as possible at one time; individuals can concentrate most of their efforts on other individuals.

The LPI and the campaign committee frequently ask you to renew your membership, contribute to the campaign, attend a dinner and petition for signatures to get on the ballot. All of those items are very important, but they ignore the dozens of ways you can be a valuable part of the effort to make others aware of both libertarians themselves and Libertarian ideas.

If you hope to attract attention to a Libertarian campaign, you have to decide you are willing to make yourself visible...and active. We have absolutely no hope of changing anything if all of the people who believe our ideas are good are equally convinced the seven or nine or fifteen of us who are active have no chance of winning elections. If we appear resigned to obscurity, the rest of the world will quickly accept our resignation.

So now, Sturzenacker's guide to easy ways to adopt a high political profile without half trying:

- 1 - Display bumper stickers on your car, put posters in the windows of your home or apartment, carry a basic piece of LPI campaign literature and be willing to hand them out, and wear campaign buttons. We are not Democrats or Republicans, and we will have to fight for every bit of name recognition we can get.
2. Okay, so now you've been recognized, and you want to be heard. Make certain you know simple, basic responses to most of the questions you are most likely to get from a stranger about who Libertarians are and what we believe. Give them a basic piece of literature.
3. Get the name and address of the stranger, and assure the person you will arrange to get them more information if they want it. Then send us that name and address. We've got a basic information packet, and we've got the people to follow up on inquiries. Have you got a bunch of friends who might be interested, people to discuss LP positions with? We want to know who they are.

4 - Write to the editor of your local newspaper. Comment on editorials from a Libertarian viewpoint. Do not go into fits of rage, simply use a good libertarian principle to defeat the other person's argument. You or someone else in your local LP group is capable of speaking well enough to do editorial replies on your local radio and/or TV stations. 70% of the people in this nation get ALL their news from radio and TV: it is far too valuable a tool for us to not use because we're afraid we "don't know how." Go do it: the potential results far outweigh any of the possible fears and risks you might have. Call in to radio talk shows and express your opinion.

5 - Write to your state legislators and your Congressman. Fill out and return their questionnaires from a strict libertarian point of view. Make certain you tell them you want to know how they vote on bills that are of particular interest to you. (You'll be amazed at how brazen most of them are in trying to lead you to believe they vote the way you want on every issue....and how easy it is to see through their lies!) Again, be certain that you tell them you are interested in maximum freedom for the individual....and that you intend to work against their reelection if they continue to support non-libertarian positions.

6 - Now it gets a bit tougher: take an active part in your community, attend government meetings, and speak up! Let them know you're out there, and let them know you have no intention of joining the "silent majority." Pick and choose your fights well; there are far more local governments than you can fight successfully on your own. Do you have children in public schools? Fine, school taxes take between 50-80 per cent of your property tax bill. So PTA and school board meetings may be the place for you to get involved. The amount of "waste" you're likely to find will amaze you. You can't fight it until you know about it.... and you can be sure they aren't going to tell you.

7 - Of course, all the other political work is also important: contribute money and your time, call your friends and invite them to your home to meet a candidate, come to the campaign office and work as a volunteer at least once a week, gather signatures so we can finish the petition drive early.

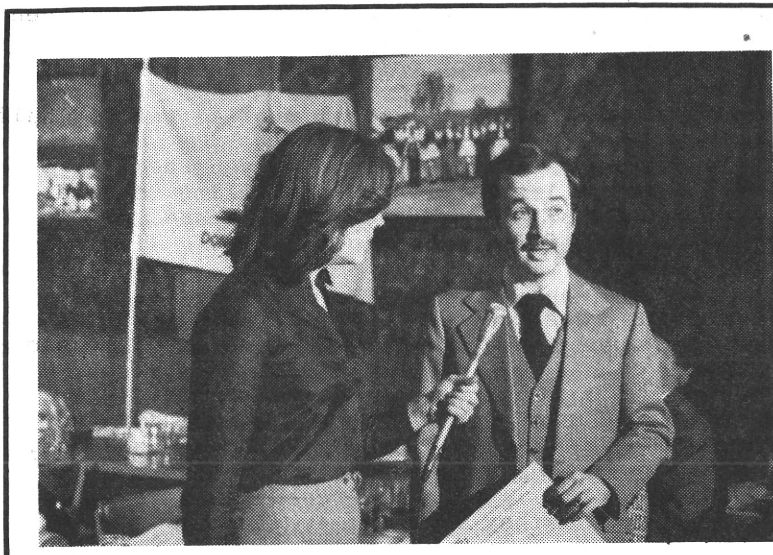
Campaigns provide a magnificent opportunity to reach tens of thousands of people with Libertarian principles, ideas and solutions. You can be certain governments are not about to return our freedoms to us; there is no such thing as free freedom.

The wave is moving, building and gaining strength. You have a choice this election year: you can get on that wave and ride, making the wave work for you as far as you want to go, or you can ignore it until it crashes over you. Get involved; you'll like it at the crest!

CAPITAL GAINS TAX REFORM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

nationals with legions of lawyers can figure out to use.

The final irony is that Steiger's proposal may pass, not because it will lift part of the burden off struggling entrepreneurs, not because it will help minority business, not because it will be a major boost to our capital-starved economy. But rather, it may pass only because the positive effects it will have on the economy will increase tax revenues. In spite of that chilling thought, it is an encouraging event.



April 17th scores of angry taxpayers gathered before the Main post office building in Chicago to voice their disgust with taxes.

Prior to the protest, a number of protesters gathered at a banquet to hear talks by Jim Tobin of National Taxpayers United, seen at left talking with a television reporter, Ken Sturzenacker of LPI, State Senator Mark Rhoads, and a rather cowed representative from the Governor's office also spoke.

A Radical Perspective

GEORGE O'BRIEN (BELOW), EDITOR OF THE ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN FOR A YEAR, WILL BE LEAVING CHICAGO TO WORK FOR A NEW ORGANIZATION IN SAN FRANCISCO ENTITLED, "STUDENTS FOR A LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY." HIS PARTING COMMENTS ARE PRINTED BELOW.

The Libertarian movement is the greatest hope the world has for ever attaining a world of peace and freedom. Only when there is a large, articulate and committed group of hard-core libertarians will any serious reduction in state power be possible. The recruiting, training, and organizing of the hard core must be the number one priority of the Libertarian movement. Yet unfortunately it is not.

Far too many activities have been designed to gain "media recognition" and electoral influence, as opposed to serious attempts to enlarge the hard core. Efforts are concentrated on reaching various political constituencies such as the suburban middle class, gun owners, etc., in order to gain votes and raise money. But little is done to consolidate these gains by converting these people into hard core libertarians.

Part of the reason for this may lie in the conviction of many movement leaders that a large percentage of the population is already basically libertarian. This theory suggests that all the movement needs to do is become "credible" as a political vehicle, and millions of people will flock to our banner. Thus they gear their appeal to people who are typically not activist types.

The realfact of the matter is that a great preponderance of the population has accepted the collectivist, anti-individualist tenants of modrn statism to a large degree. Given the more than 100 year-old trend toward statism, 12 years of educational brainwashing by a compulsory school system, the constant parroting of "patriotic" slogans by the mass media, and the typical anti-capitalist mentality of many of the intellectual leaders, does it make sense to think five-minute commercials are going to lead millions of people to become consistent libertarians? My experience indicates otherwise. If it does not lead to a major increase in the hard core, an activity is worthless.

It is necessary to appeal to uncommon people. The people who become opinion leaders are uncommon people. They are better educated, more well read, and more active politically and socially than most people. It is these people who write the books and articles, dominate the content of the mass media, teach in the schools and colleges, lead clubs and organizations, start their own businesses, and generally are the people others tend to follow. Unless the libertarian movement can attract opinion leaders, and successfully recruit large numbers of them, then we haven't got a prayer.

One of the best places to reach potential opinion leaders is on college campuses. While only a small percentage of the population goes to college, a very large percentage of the opinion leaders go to college.

These are the people who will dominate political thought in the years to come. Libertarians can appeal to young people, and provide the foundation for serious political change in the future.

General public awareness of Libertarianism is desireable, but without a solid core of grass-roots activists there will be little progress toward freedom. Developing the hard core is hard work. It is not as ego-gratifying as flashy headlines and media coverage, but it is the most crucial step toward reaching our goal--real freedom for everyone.



& news & notes

GRAND OPENING: LIBERTARIAN HQ MAY 7. Clark and Diversey is one of the busiest corners in Chicago--at all hours of the night and day. On the second floor of the 2745 N. Clark St. Building, just above the "Astro Restaurant," the Libertarian Party of Illinois has rented its very own office. We are celebrating this occasion with a party starting 1:00 pm. There will be plenty of champagne and other delights to make this memorable occasion fittingly frolicsome.



DOMINIC ARMENTANO (above) spoke before the Economic Education and Research Forum (EERF) in April on the subject of anti-trust laws.



SCC MEETING FOR MAY will be held in the glorious surroundings of our new campaign headquarters, Sunday, May 21. Topics for action include the election of a new newsletter editor, petitioning outings, local club representatives, and more. Meeting is at 2:00 PM.

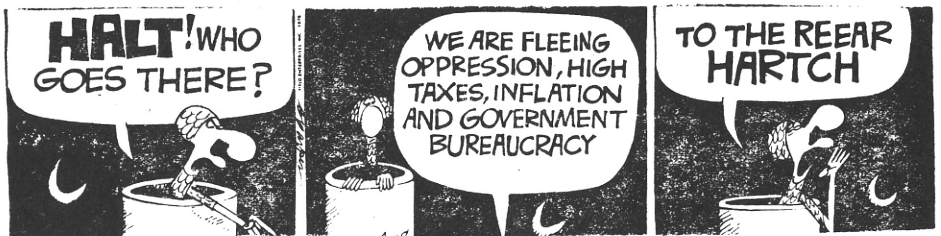
ECONOMY VS. POLITICS. In late April the Pentagon announced plans to close or curtail 19 military bases throughout the country. Several of the bases are in Illinois, leading to cries of outrage from the Congressmen allegedly representing the districts the bases are in. Indeed, Rep. Phil Crane, the self-styled taxpayer's friend, has been particularly vocal in his criticism of these spending cutbacks. Perhaps he fears a Russian invasion of Libertyville.

However, if Carter's attempt to end the dam and waterway projects is any indication, there won't be many bases eliminated. The vested interests who benefit from Federal projects are in a better position to lobby strenuously than those who want to cut spending. Bases will ultimately be kept on the basis of political rather than military or economic considerations.

Proof of this is seen when one realizes that the only major base in Illinois left untouched is a base in the 23rd District, represented by Democrat Melvin Price--who just happens to be Chairman of the Armed Services Committee!



LIBERTARIANS FOR GAY RIGHTS meets May 21 at 5:00 pm at 736 Briar Place, Chicago. These meetings are cozy, informal rap sessions between gays and straights, libertarians and non-libertarians. LGR meets the third Sunday of every month at the same address.



NEW LIBERTARIAN FILM! The new film about the libertarian movement, "For A New Liberty," will be shown at LPI headquarters, 2745 N. Clark, on Tuesday evening May 23. The film, produced by Libertarian Review, features prominent libertarians such as F.A. Hayek, Roger MacBride, Murray Rothbard, Roy Childs, Ed Crane, and many more. Also included are prominent non-libertarian figures commenting on the movement, such as Eugene McCarthy, Senator William Proxmire, and John Marks. The screening will begin at 7:30 pm; admission is \$2 to cover the costs of film and projector rental. This is the "Midwest Premier" of "For a New Liberty," so be sure not to miss it May 23!



MILTON MUELLER is leaving for California, where he has been hired as Executive Director of Students for a Libertarian Society (SLS). He will be in Chicago until mid-June. Milton, who has been publisher of The Illinois Libertarian for 2 years, is actively soliciting new people to take over the work on the newsletter.



NEWSLETTER STAFF: Milton Mueller, Publisher; George O'Brien, editor; Michael Ray, Photography and layout

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