

Libertarian Party

NEWS

Feb. 1993 Vol. 8, No. 2

SPECIAL 8-PAGE SECTION: The 1992 LP National Platform

The Debate Begins

- Fallout from NatCom actions
- Platform changes addressed

By RANDY LANGHENRY

On Dec. 14, just hours after the LP national committee meeting in Las Vegas came to a close, the fallout from the committee's actions began to be felt.

Steve Alexander, long-time LP activist and national committee member, as well as a member of the Marrou/Lord campaign committee, resigned from the LP national committee. Alexander, in a brief letter to national chair Mary Gingell, stated that he would "not be part of a political organization that repudiates the non-initiation of force pledge and the Libertarian Party platform."

Former national committee member George O'Brien has replaced Alexander on the committee. O'Brien was an alternate member from Region 2.

**Related stories
on pages 2, 9, and 10**

Alexander's resignation came as a result of a national committee vote to endorse a set of goals that was offered to the committee by a group of activists who had met in Atlanta prior to the national meeting. (Details of the goals and voting appeared in the January NEWS.)

The proposals to revamp the LP national platform and to eliminate the membership "oath," which appear to be the most controversial portions of the "goals," will clearly be topics of discussion between now and the national convention. *see Debate on page 3*

Don Gorman

NH caucus leader knows how to get things done in legislature

By LIZ SMITH

State Rep. Don Gorman is one of two new Libertarians in the New Hampshire House—but he's no stranger to the state legislature.

Gorman served two terms in the mid-'70s as a Republican. Now, he's the Libertarian delegation leader. So, while many other newly elected representatives are undergoing orientation and finding their way around the State House, Gorman has been leading the LPNH delegation in a fight for recognition.

"I don't mean to toot my own horn," he said, "but there are about 100 members of the House that get things done. When I served in the '70s I was one of those active members. We've been in some very heavy-duty type negotiations with the [House] speaker as to what they will do to recognize Libertarians."

But the battle ended successfully, Gorman said, when the speaker decided to recognize the Libertarians as an official delegation. As delegation leader, Gorman was appointed to the Rules Committee, a very important committee which helps set basic House operating procedure. And, in a more symbolic achievement, he will also get a special license plate identifying him as the Libertarian caucus leader. "It's a tremendous boost to the LP," Gorman said.

As delegation leader, he will also have the right to confer with the speaker and recommend committee placements. Going immediately for the most influential panels, Gorman asked for one seat each on Appropriations, Ways and Means, Judiciary, and Public Works. "We've turned them upside down," he said, clearly enjoying the thought. "We Libertarians have really rattled the House."

Gorman traces his switch from the Republican Party back about seven years, when he heard about Libertarianism from Paul Brown, a longtime LPNH activist and a 1992 candidate



Photo by Jim McClarin

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY CAUCUS - Don Gorman, left, is the leader of the new Libertarian caucus in the New Hampshire state house. The other elected Libertarians are, from left to right, Finlay Rothhaus, Andy Borsa, and Calvin Warburton.

for State Senate in Raymond.

He definitely liked what he heard about the Libertarian Party, he said. "In general they have the best approach toward government. Presently there is too much government doing what government should not be doing."

Now that he is an elected Libertarian official, Gorman said he is looking forward to seeing a full range of Libertarian issues on the House agenda this term.

"Basically, the [LPNH Executive Board] submitted a list of requests for legislation," he said. "We'll either file it ourselves, or if it's already filed, we'll be in a position to co-sponsor it. The bottom line is that the entire slate of Libertarian requests for legislation has been filed."

Asked which issues he thinks he might focus on, Gorman

“

We Libertarians have really rattled the House.

”

said, "I can probably speak well on just about all of them. But I tend to do a lot of research first. I will probably pick and choose. It's a good position for the Libertarian delegation to take. You can't bowl everyone over alone. I might pick an *see Gorman on page 7*

The LP is . . .

Members *and* principles combine to make LP

I noticed an interesting bumpersticker this morning on the way to work. It read:

I'm the NRA

"What does it mean?" I pondered. In particular, what does it mean to the NRA member who has proudly displayed it on the back of his Jeep?

Maybe it means that the NRA is only what its members make of it. Perhaps it means that the NRA wouldn't exist without its members. Maybe it means that the NRA does what its members want it to do. Or perhaps it means that the strength of the NRA is the size of its membership.

Probably, for the owner of the Jeep, it just means that he or she is proud to be an NRA member.

I toyed briefly with the idea of using a similar slogan for a Libertarian Party bumpersticker, but somehow "I'm the LP" just didn't sound right to me.

Thinking about the NRA sticker, I came up with the image of the NRA membership as a huge mass of humanity, all of whom had a common idea that they liked or approved of using firearms for sport, but not much else in common.

This is certainly not the kind of image I have of the Libertarian Party, that of a single-issue constituency that otherwise goes its own way. But what IS the Libertarian Party?

Well, it certainly is our membership, rich



From the Chair

Mary Gingell
National Chair

in diversity, from all walks of life, from all professions—teachers, nurses, truck drivers, bankers, lawyers, engineers, scholars, accountants, doctors, actors, house painters, real estate brokers, computer professionals, and business executives, to name just a few. Rich, poor, middle class—a true cross-section of our society.

The LP is made up of people who associate with each other for a more basic reason than that we all happen to like one particular type of sport. People who share our basic vision of a free society, share the understanding that the government causes many more problems than it solves, and share a dedication to getting that government out of all our lives.

In a sense the Libertarian Party is a combination of our membership AND our principles. Take either one away, and we wouldn't have the LP.

Our principles make a nice philosophical tract, but without active, energetic, creative, dedicated members to work toward implementing those principles, they remain a lovely but sterile abstraction.

Yet, keep the people, and take away their common, binding principles, and we have an amorphous group, unconnected by anything except perhaps discontent with the way things are, without a clear focus of how things could be better and how we can all work toward achieving that improvement.

The LP is the Libertarian *Party* because of our growing, active, enthusiastic membership (our paid membership grew over 24 percent in the past year alone!); it is the *Libertarian Party* because of our shared principles. We need to hold on to both, to grow our membership and to keep our principles strong, in order to remain a valuable, clear alternative to the older parties.

We didn't really need that new bumpersticker anyway. Every national LP member has just received or will soon receive a mailing which includes a bumpersticker that reads: "Libertarian Party 1-800-682-1776." Put it on your car. Let the world know that you are proud to be associated with the Libertarian Party.

I can't claim that "I'm the LP." But that's okay, because I don't want to. I *am* proud of the fact that *we*, all of us, with our common vision, *are* the Libertarian Party.

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With this issue of the NEWS we open up the debate on the form and process of developing our platform, decisions that will be decided by the delegates to our 1993 Na-

tional Convention over Labor Day Weekend in Salt Lake City. We have featured two articles this month, one supporting our existing platform format and process, and the second supporting a different format and process. Next month we will feature articles discussing the membership certification.

I urge you to read these articles carefully, and discuss them with your fellow Libertarians. If at all possible, become a delegate, attend the convention, and be part of the LP by participating in these crucial decisions.

Remember, your state gets to send a certain number of delegates to the convention based on membership figures as of Feb. 28. So make sure your membership is current and that those friends and relatives you've been talking to about the LP join with us by Feb. 28. Memberships must be received in the national office or postmarked by Feb. 28 to count toward delegate allocation.

One last thought. We have received several letters recently in which members told us that they could not contribute to the LP because they had contributed to Project 51-'96. Project 51-'96 is NOT an LP project, and the Libertarian Party itself has budgeted \$100,000 to do every ballot drive we can do in 1993 that will insure us ballot status for our 1996 presidential ticket. We intend to repeat our 1992 50-state success for 1996 as efficiently as possible by starting right now. We need your generous contributions to this effort. Thank you for your support!

the "TRUTH"

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Doris Gordon, National Coordinator

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News, Letters, Art, Photos, or Advertising

Libertarian Party NEWS

P.O. Box 780, Winchester, VA 22604

703-662-3691

CompuServe: 71610,3614; Fax: Call to arrange

Subscriptions or Address Changes

Libertarian Party HQ

1528 Pennsylvania Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20003

202-543-1988

Publisher

Solstice, Inc., P.O. Box 780

Winchester, VA 22604

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Debate

continued from page 1

tion in September.

Already, however, it is clear that the proposals and the method of bringing these proposals to the national committee are causing tension within the party.

Alexander, in a posting to the LPUS computer discussion forum, wrote that the "actions of the Libertarians who met in Atlanta are fracturing and factioning the party."

Alexander also noted, "The work we had hoped to do in 1993 as a united team will suffer. There will be hurt feelings, perhaps for years to come."

Steve Givot, national committee member, Marrou/Lord campaign committee member, and an attendee at the Atlanta meeting, wrote on the same computer forum that he was "saddened that Steve Alexander felt it necessary to resign. Frankly, however, I think the basis of Steve's resignation, as expressed in his letter, is incorrect."

Givot went on to explain that in his opinion the national committee "did not vote to repudiate the non-initiation of force pledge and the Libertarian Party platform."

What the national committee did, according to Givot, "was to make a policy statement—to take an advocacy position vis-a-vis these two changes."

This month the NEWS begins to address the recent proposals with a discussion of the platform issue. On page 9, Bill Evers and Steve Dasbach have set down their feelings

on retaining or revamping the national platform. Next month the NEWS will ask two members to address the "oath" issue, as well as follow up with other ideas about the platform.

Changes in the platform will require action by the delegates to the national convention in Salt Lake City in September. A more detailed explanation of the complicated procedure required to change the platform at the convention appears on page 9.

In addition, a complete version of the 1992 LP Platform appears as a special eight-page pull-out section of this issue. The NEWS believes members and subscribers should

have a copy of the platform in order to better understand the discussion and to formulate their own opinions.

Members should not confuse the oath with the platform or the Statement of Principles.

The "oath" is the single sentence, beginning "I hereby certify . . .", which appears on the national membership form. You can find it on the coupon at the bottom of page 4.

The Statement of Principle is a part of the national platform, and can be found in the special platform section of this issue.

The national LP has also instituted a new

service on its 900-number. On page 9 of this issue, readers will find a survey question dealing with the proposed platform changes. To register your opinion on this debate, you can call the 900-number and vote "yes" or "no" on this month's question. Please do not send your votes to the NEWS, as only responses to the 900-number will be counted in the survey results. Those results will be reported in the April issue of the NEWS, so call and register your vote early.

The NEWS will make every attempt to focus the debate in the next few months on the issue at hand—the proper path for the Libertarian Party to take to advance liberty.

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—Sherry Ingram, Yale University, seminar participant

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Affiliate Activities

State parties get down to work: campaigns, signature drives

California

Gene Burns' syndicated libertarian radio talk show can now be heard on KST, 650-AM, in Sacramento.

Indiana

Five LP candidates have already started petitioning for a ballot spot in the 1994 elections. The candidates are: **Dr. Barbara Bourland**, U.S. Senate; **Steve Dillon**, Secretary of State; **Julie K. Hauptmann**, State Auditor; **Steve Dasbach**, State Treasurer; **Nadine Dillon**, Clerk of the Courts.

Massachusetts

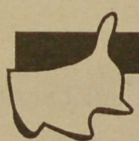
The state party is recruiting candidates for 1994. Along with winning some races, the party also has the goal of obtaining major party status for the LP. **Leslie Hope** is the coordinator for the candidate recruitment committee.

Minnesota

Fred Hewitt, **Paul Streeter**, and **Peter Wilson** recently spoke to students about libertarianism at the high school, junior high school, and university levels respectively. **Rich Kleinow** addressed the Fridley Rotary Club.

New Hampshire

The state party has started a new outreach effort dubbed "Project Hang Ten." Every state party member has been sent a packet of 10 posters headlined, "Did You Vote For



National pulse

News from the states

Miriam Luce? and each member has been asked to place the posters on bulletin boards in libraries, grocery stores, laundromats, etc. The posters invite people to contact the state party for more information. The effort is designed to reach the 20,000 people who voted for LP gubernatorial candidate Luce. The project is being coordinated by former state chair **Bill Winter**.

North Carolina

Although **Scott McLaughlin**, LP candidate for governor, received over 103,000 votes in November, the state party lost ballot status. Now the party has to collect nearly 52,000 signatures to gain ballot status for the 1994 and 1996 elections.

Ohio

The state party has set goals for the next two years. Some of those goals are: to double paid membership; to run at least 20 candidates in 1994; to increase the number of active campus affiliates and to begin formation of high school groups; and to take legal and/or legislative action to ease Ohio's restrictions on party ballot access.

Pennsylvania

Former LP national chair **Dave Walter** has been named chairman of the Government Affairs Council of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry. CCCBI represents 10 affiliated local Chambers of Commerce, with 3,000 members employing tens of thousands of workers.

International

The International Society for Individual

Liberty (ISIL) shipped over a quarter of a million outreach pamphlets to student chapters and libertarian political and community groups around the country last year.

A Spanish-language edition of the popular outreach pamphlet "Libertarianism: The Path to Peace, Prosperity, and Freedom," by **Jarret B. Wollstein**, is now available from ISIL. For more information write ISIL, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102, or call 415-864-0952.

WI GOP leader joins LP

Former Wisconsin Young Republican state chairman **Gene A. Cisewski** quit the Republican Party on Oct. 26, 1992, and joined the Libertarian Party.

In a formal announcement in the historic senate parlor of Wisconsin's state capitol building, Cisewski was joined by LP presidential candidate **Andre Marrou**, LP of Wisconsin chair **Ron Emery**, and reporters from state television, radio, and newspapers.

"The Democrats' commitment to government regulation to protect us from ourselves, taxes to redistribute what's produced, and social engineering to make us love one another doesn't work. The Republicans, who have a lot of closet libertarian thinkers, have never offered a balanced federal budget and have actually become moderate Democrats on economic issues. In the meantime, the Republican Party is

being taken over by Christian 'soldiers' who would further restrict freedom in the name of family values," Cisewski said.

Cisewski served as a vice chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin state executive committee, as the Young Republican state chair in 1985, and held numerous other positions in the Republican Party.

"I'm in this for the long haul," he said. "I see the Libertarian Party being a national force in the next eight to 12 years. We need to keep our eye on the philosophy of freedom but we need to focus our energies on building a party organization, creating a step-by-step plan to implement liberty in plain terms that average people can comprehend. And most important, we need to start scoring bigger at the polls. We have to get candidates on all partisan ballot slots and we need to target our resources to races with potential victories."

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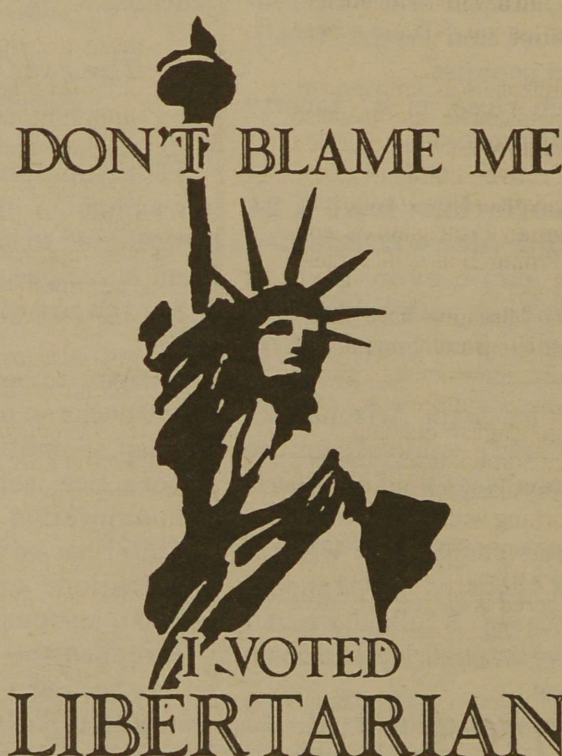
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Sign 'em up

State parties vie for Lehman Membership Award

By CAROLYN TREYNOR

The push is on—the final push by each state LP in the race to get new members and to win the coveted Robert E. Lehman Memorial Membership Award.

Membership tallies in each state at the end of June are the basis for the awards which will be made at the upcoming LP national convention in Salt Lake City.

The awards, made possible by the Lehman Membership Endowment, are presented biennially to the two state organizations having achieved the largest membership growth during the past two years. The cash prizes are awarded to one small state organization and one large state organization according to a formula which takes into account both the increase in raw membership and the percentage increase in membership, so that both small and large parties have a fair chance of winning. Previous years' winners were Pennsylvania, Utah, Ohio, and Maine.

Competition for this year's award is fierce, with the national LP already show-

ing an overall increase of about 2,000 members in the past year. As a result of the recent presidential election and inquiries made to the national LP's 800-telephone number, we now have about 100,000 (yep, that's right—100,000!) prospects. National is following up on each caller with literature aimed at recruitment. This includes an information packet, two issues of the NEWS, and a series of prospecting letters.

The Lehman Membership Endowment was established in 1989 by Jack Dean, Sam Treynor, and Carolyn Treynor in memory of Bob Lehman whose great passion in life was the growth of the Libertarian Party. The purpose of the endowment is to recognize outstanding Libertarian membership recruitment activities through awards to deserving individuals and organizations.

The endowment is funded by Libertar-

ians and other friends of Bob Lehman who honor his memory and dedication to libertarianism with financial contributions. To date, over 40 people are members of the Founders Circle. If you would like to become a founder, send your contribution to The Lehman Membership Endowment, 2806 Ridgedale Dr., Kingwood, TX 77345.

And to all state Libertarian parties, good luck!

Gorman

continued from page 1

issue—maybe the majority agrees with it—then come charging over the hills!"

"But don't expect what you're doing to convert everybody overnight. We're going to need a willingness to compromise, to work with other parties, as long as it's not in direct conflict with Libertarian principles. When you have to dig in your heels and take a stand, you do."

Besides his past political experience, Gorman also brings 29 years of living in New Hampshire—and a wide range of personal activities—to his job as State representative.

His range of interests is impressive: Gorman has a pilot's license, and has also logged 67 parachute jumps. He is a SCUBA instructor, a Red Cross-certified life guard instructor, the president of New Hampshire Association of Chimney Professionals, and the chairman of Zoning Board of Adjustment in Deerfield.

He and his wife Marianne have three children, all grown. He proudly noted that his wife is a widely renowned folk dance teacher, and that the two of them are very involved in Scottish/English dancing.

Finally, in his spare time, Gorman teaches a weekly swimming class for adult aquaphobics. "After working with these people, whenever I hear someone say, 'I can't do it,' I just have to roll my eyes," he laughed.

This article appeared in the January issue of *Libertarian Lines*, the newsletter of the LPNH, P.O. Box 669, Windham, NH 03087.

Benson results from TN race

Scott Benson, LP candidate for U.S. House in Tennessee, received 5,952 votes in the November election. This total was 3 percent of the vote. The NEWS inadvertently omitted Benson's results in the January NEWS.

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You don't have to wait for the FDA to "approve" of new memory and intelligence enhancing therapies. For your personal use, you can obtain therapies that can:

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The Life Extension Foundation has compiled the sources, the doctors and the information to enable Americans to obtain life extension therapies from around the world. These drugs have been safely used in France, Germany and other countries for years, but until now, have been denied to Americans.

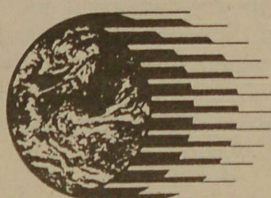
Europeans are using these drugs to improve their mental condition to unprecedented levels. Now Americans can gain access to advanced life extension therapies such as **Piracetam**, **Centrophenoxine**, **human growth hormone**, and a new memory-enhancing product that is *four times* more effective than **Hydergine**.

As a member of **The Life Extension Foundation**, you will learn about the scientific basis for using these life-enhancing therapies, their side effects, and how you can get them!

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Catching on

Industry and academia touting Libertarian ideas

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty). Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Issue: Bowing to the special interests

According to *The Washington Post* columnist David Broder, "The status quo forces in this nation are formidable—and are powerfully organized to thwart change." Broder says, "The goal of these groups is not to increase national wealth but to claim a larger share of the pie for themselves and their members. As they assert their claims, they impede the society's ability to make needed policy changes and economic shifts, so growth slows and government becomes ever less responsive." While no Libertarian, Broder's solution certainly begs of electing Libertarians: "It will take a president with a radical reform program, backed by a Congress of like-minded fellow-partisans, to break the bonds of 'demosclerosis'."

David Broder's column in The Chicago Tribune, Sept. 27, 1992 (Submitted by Alan Perlman)

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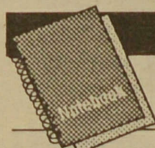
A case is being fought in Washington, DC, now to determine if Taalib-Dan Abdul Uqdah, a black entrepreneur, will have to close his hair-braiding salon unless he and his employees take a nine-month cosmetology course and obtain a license. It should be noted that the cosmetology course doesn't teach the "corn-row" hair braiding technique that is his salon's sole service. ABC's "20/20" got a competitor to admit that Uqdah was being harassed because he was a threat to other salons. "20/20's" John Stossel concluded, "Licensing boards tend to be dominated by people who are already in that business, and their rules can end up hurting more people than they protect." Uqdah adds, "Bureaucrats are trying to kill the entrepreneurial spirit. Petty rules and restrictions are limiting opportunity in every city in America."

[Note: The DC City Council repealed this law in December.]

Wall Street Journal editorial, Aug. 14, 1992. (Submitted by Chris Witzky)

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As changing economic needs and government regulation have driven more and more coal mining companies out of the business, the remaining members have had to shoulder a heavier burden of retirees' medical benefits. According to *Forbes* magazine, "Worried about their obligations, the remaining Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) members changed the formula by which they contributed to one of the two funds in the plan. This formula turned out to be inadequate to meet the annual needs of the retirees and their dependents." Rather than work out the problem privately, the



Activist Notebook

Dave Walter
Editor

BCOA and the mineworkers turned to Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV). Mindful of his constituents, Rockefeller dipped into his family's fortune (heh, heh, just kidding)—attached a rider to the energy bill which required any company ever in the coal mining business to start paying into the fund. "Is it fair to sock one group of people for a bad deal that another group willingly perpetuated for years?" asked *Forbes*. Even pork-barreling Rep. Jake Pickle (D-TX) lamented. "It is as if we (Congress) are a street gang mugging an innocent passerby and justifying it by saying that our family and friends are hungry."

Forbes, Dec. 21, 1992.

Issue: Privatizing government services

The news media continue to pour forth stories of government waste, even if the news somehow eludes the editorial page writers. In a major article, "Subway Robbery," *Forbes* writer Jerry Flint recently showed why tax-strapped New Yorkers should be backing privatization of government services.

"A token seller makes \$33,000 . . . for breaking a \$20 bill. This isn't rocket scientist work. A bank teller handles much more complicated transactions and gets \$18,000 a year with little job security (and) is taxed to pay people who earn nearly double what they do and do not work as hard. There are 3,837 of these token sellers, pulling down an average of \$40,690 a head (pay, plus benefits), for a total of \$156 million. Any modern, automatic system selling tickets . . . and they've been available for years in subway systems from San Francisco to Washington . . . could easily cut \$100 million of the wage bill by modernizing the token selling system."

"This is a story about New York, but it's also about most goods and services provided by the government, any government: they tend to be grossly overpriced and grossly inefficient. It's what happens when citizens look to the government to solve their problems instead of dealing with them through the marketplace."

Forbes, Nov. 9, 1992.

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Some cities are learning: "(A) study of street sweeping performed for the city revealed that privatization of the sweeping saved the city \$1 million annually, while providing an excellent level of service," wrote Sharpe James, Democratic mayor of Newark, NJ.

Stephen Goldsmith, Republican mayor of Indianapolis, wrote, "We put the maintenance of a small section of the city's streets up for competition. When our Department of Transportation found out that it would have to compete, it borrowed a page from the private sector and did activity-based costing. It learned that its mix of equipment and labor was inefficient. With the full cooperation of the local union, the department determined that it could fill chuckholes with four workers instead of eight, and one truck instead of two."

Recent articles in Wall Street Journal.

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While arguing that many government services should be privatized, we should also remember that many were private in the past, and that government takeover had vast and unforeseen (at least by non-libertarians) negative consequences. A case in point is how federal housing programs have driven out private investment and, according to William Tucker, author of "The Excluded Americans: Homelessness and Housing Policies," "actually hindered upward mobility among the poor."

Tucker says, "Becoming a landlord has historically been the best opportunity that many lower-middle-class people ever encounter for building capital. It is, in fact, the most widely practiced small business in America. Yet the vast federal effort has undercut this avenue to success. In old-time tenements, the ambitious poor regularly moved up the ladder by becoming landlords to other poor people; but in the projects, everyone is a tenant and no one can ever become a landlord. Because the government has usurped this opportunity, millions of poor people remain trapped in poverty."

William Tucker, Insight, Nov. 2, 1992.

Issue: American values

Not all opinion leaders have given in to the greedy pursuit of other people's property. The editor of *American Machinist*, George Weimer, decries those who think "prosperity falls from trees." He recently asked fellow businessmen to remember that "This country is the hope of the world. Our friends around the globe know this more than do many of our fellow citizens. We need to change that. We need to redirect the social and economic debate that has captured the imagination of the people for so many years. We need to turn the attention of the American people away from who gets what to who MAKES what. We were once the envy of the nations of the world, not only because of personal freedom, but also because of stupendous production. America was once the world's envy, not only because of its heroic defense of freedom but also because of its respect for business and labor. Once we were the leader in all the industries of the future; now we lead the world in indebtedness, movies, and low-quality education."

Industry Week, Oct. 19, 1992.

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Mickey Kaus, a contributing editor to *Newsweek* and a senior editor of the *New Republic*, says the time has come for Democrats to stop claiming that welfare reform is a code word for racism. "Black Americans resent welfare mothers just as much as white Americans. They live closer to the welfare culture; because of that they redouble their efforts to separate themselves from it. People don't like welfare because they don't like welfare, and they're quite right not to like welfare. I think Democrats have tremendous potential for winning back both white and black voters whom they've lost if they show that they've woken up to that sensible point."

Insight, Oct. 5, 1992

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The existence of a permanent underclass, forever entitled to live off the taxpayers, is a consequence of certain values adopted by many caring folks. These values have been challenged by Clifford F. Thies, associate professor of economics at the University of Baltimore:

"Today, income is no longer dependent

on work, nor is assistance based on charity. There is no distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor. There is no effort to provide the proper incentives. But this should be no surprise. By its nature, government is unable to do much more than dish out money to people who meet the standards set by the application process, regardless of their intent or prospects. Pressure group politics, moreover, has turned a permanent income combined with perpetual laziness into a civil right. The state insures these 'rights' through minimum wage legislation, social insurance, and wealth redistribution. To the extent it is valued at all as a matter of social policy, work is considered merely a means toward the end of income. Little or no value is attached to freedom of contract or the dignity of labor. Government welfare has encouraged the worst vices of the poor, turning even able-bodied people into drifters, alcoholics, drug addicts, beggars, and thieves."

Free Market, Oct. 1992.

Issue: Economic impact of governmental regulation

Nation's Business recently asked its readers to respond to various questions about the burden of governmental regulation. The result: "93 percent of business people believe the burdens of government rules could be lessened without hurting society." Only 3 percent said that federal regulations affect their business "not at all." Ninety-one percent agreed that Congress should "pass a pending bill to require that proposed new laws and regulations be accompanied by analyses of their likely economic impact."

Nation's Business, Sept. 1992.

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While American businessmen decry the burden of regulation, America apparently still enjoys an advantage. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, American service industries are more productive than competitors in Europe and Japan. *U.S. News & World Report* says McKinsey concluded "America's advantage is largely due to the absence of government regulations that hinder competition by fixing prices, blocking layoffs, or protecting traditional 'mom and pop' shops." If Americans want to maintain this competitive advantage and keep more Americans gainfully employed, then the trend should be AWAY from government regulation.

U.S. News & World Report, Oct. 26, 1992.

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When airlines were still regulated in 1978, there were 400 complaints per 10,000 airline passengers, according to the Department of Transportation (DOT). In 1991, the deregulated airlines registered less than 200 complaints per 10,000 passengers with the DOT. Still, voices keep being raised in favor of re-regulating the airlines. Julian L. Simon, a business teacher at the University of Maryland, recently completed a study for Washington University's Center for the Study of American Business. He analyzed government data and concluded that "deregulation has improved airline service, as well as lowered prices and improved safety. We should resist calls to re-regulate, because the only gainers would be those in the airline industry who prefer not to have stiff competition."

Wall Street Journal, Oct. 14, 1992.

Retain or Revise?

Debate on national platform begins with two views

Retain the current platform format

By BILL EVERS

Re-reading the Libertarian Party platform is always an exhilarating experience for me. It is so complete, so consistent, and so principled. I support it. I endorse it. I have run for public office on it without embarrassment. I'm always prepared to improve it through modification—but we don't need to alter it drastically or scrap it.

Our party platform is the foundation on which much of the activity of our party rests. It provides needed detail when political campaigns or internal education get into the wide array of controversial issues in American politics.

Our platform (24 pages) sets forth our stance on the many public-policy issues of the times. It is comparable in length, breadth of coverage, and detail to the Republican and Democratic party platforms (71 and 16 pages respectively), but is far more principled.

Some Possible Problems

Problem: Some say our platform isn't very selective. It doesn't provide candidates with a list of issues to focus on nor does it tell voters which few issues we think are salient.

Solution: True, our platform does not tell our candidates which issues to emphasize and how to promote them. The candidates decide that for themselves. The national Libertarian Party does have a program which lays out the issues and interim proposals that the national party as an organization is emphasizing. If they wish, candidates may choose to take the program as a ready-to-wear set of issues to emphasize.

Problem: Some say our platform isn't very effective as a hand-out.

Solution: Our platform is not intended as a street flyer to be handed out to passers-by. Political activity provides many opportunities for candidates, local parties, and campaigns to make their own leaflets, brochures, and advertisements. Our platform is an integrated arrangement of policy proposals, not a substitute for day-to-day campaign materials.

Problem: Candidates or party representatives sometimes find themselves uncomfortable with a particular stance in our platform.

Solution: If the person thinks libertarian principle was wrongly applied in the platform, he or she can explain that and then later work at the national convention to modify the platform.

Problem: Some people find that they are not familiar with some of the issues addressed in our platform.

Solution: Specific issues get addressed in our platform because people care about them: either some prominent individual or group is advocating a policy change, or a governmental body has *already* made a law or regulation.

Our platform is a convenient catalog of issues that LP candidates and spokespersons should familiarize themselves with. Candidates can't be expected to know everything, of course, and should always offer to find out the answer when asked about something they are not familiar with.

If candidates discuss with other Libertarians those issues with which they are not already familiar or if they read some of the literature on public policy, candidates can become sufficiently knowledgeable.

A candidate who can talk only about a set of "top ten" issues, or his or her own pet issue, will appear unprepared for office and uncaring on other issues that often are the more

see Evers on page 10

Proposed changes

Change platform criteria to be:

- maximum of 10 topical planks
- 2-4 year perspective
- Transitional proposals consistent with libertarian philosophy and the Statement of Principles
- Presented in a positive, solution-oriented manner so that it helps rather than hurts LP candidates
- Start from scratch at each convention
- Majority delegate approval

Change procedures

The national platform can be revised only at a national convention, according to the LP national bylaws and convention rules.

At the present time, the convention rules state that "at non-Presidential nominating conventions only deletions [to the platform] may be considered." The rules also state that the "current Platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. At Regular Conventions, the existing Platform may be amended. Additional planks, or additions to planks, must be approved by 2/3 vote. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote."

The national bylaws also state that the Statement of Principles is a part of the platform, and that it "may be amended only by a vote of 7/8 of all registered delegates at a Regular Convention."

However, the convention rules and the bylaws (except for the requirement of a 7/8 vote to amend the Statement of Principles) "may be amended by a 2/3 vote at a Regular Convention."

Therefore, at the upcoming convention:

A simple majority could delete any (or all) of the planks of the current platform, except for the Statement of Principles.

A vote of 2/3 could suspend or amend the convention rules to also permit adoption of new planks at this convention, allowing the adoption of a platform meeting the proposed criteria without changing the bylaws.

Or, a vote of 2/3 could amend the bylaws to require that the platform meet the proposed criteria, or to specify the means of adopting the platform.

Although a 7/8 vote would be required to change or eliminate the Statement of Principles, by a 2/3 vote the bylaws could be amended to say that it is no longer considered part of the platform.

Your opinion?

By calling 1-900-4-LIBERTY, you can voice your opinion on the platform issue. The cost is \$1.95 per minute, billed to your phone. You should be prepared to give your name, membership ID number, and your 'yes' or 'no' vote when you call. Names and ID numbers will be used only to check the integrity of the system and will be destroyed immediately after tabulation of the votes. It is the policy of the LP that these names will not be made available to any individuals or organizations either inside or outside the party.

Do not send your votes to the NEWS—mail votes will not be counted. Results will be reported in the April NEWS.

This month's question is:

Should the Libertarian Party change its platform to meet the new proposed criteria?

Revise the current platform format

By STEVE DASBACH

As Libertarians, we share a vision for the future of a society where individual rights are respected and protected. That vision is affirmed by our Statement of Principles. According to our bylaws, "The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles..." and "The Party Platform shall include... the Statement of Principles and the implementation of those principles in the form of planks."

To judge how well the current LP platform is meeting the needs of our party and determine whether significant change is needed, we have to consider the mission of the LP and how our platform can help (or hinder) us in achieving that mission.

Our status as a political party makes us unique in the libertarian movement. As a political party, we can advance liberty in ways that no other libertarian organization can. As expressed in the mission statement adopted by the Libertarian National Committee in December, "The mission of the LP is to move public policy in a libertarian direction by electing candidates of the LP to public office."

Is our current platform an asset or a liability? Consider the following:

- We don't include the platform in media kits.
- We don't send the platform to people who ask for general information about the LP.
- We don't even send the platform to people who JOIN the LP.

For most of the people reading this article, the copy of the platform included in this issue of the NEWS will be the first time they have ever had the opportunity to read our entire platform, short of ordering a copy from the national headquarters. A platform which we are reluctant to provide to the media, the general public, and our party membership is a liability.

A few months ago, I asked the former chairman of one of our strongest state parties to describe how they deal with the national platform. If asked for a copy of their platform, they send their state platform. If the person insists on something from the national LP, they send the LP program. They NEVER provide the national platform. A platform that our state affiliates don't use is a liability.

Columnists, reporters, and our major-party opposition use the platform to attack us, using our own words (often out of context) to maintain our public image as a "fringe" party. Even our friends in the media, those who share our basic principles, label our platform "unrealistic" and "utopian" and thus consider our candidates "unelectable".

Our platform should be an asset to the LP and our candidates, not a liability. It should be a document that we send with pride to the media, the general public, and our members. It should provide a strong foundation for our candidates, particularly those seeking federal office. It should help us accomplish our mission.

As described in last month's NEWS, the LNC approved a number of goals. Image Goal #1 contained the following section which proposed changes in our platform:

- Change platform criteria to be:
- Maximum of 10 topical planks
- 2-4 year perspective

see Dasbach on page 10

Evers

continued from page 9

important ones for individual voters.

Problem: Some people believe that the platform puts off newcomers to the party.

Solution: This is not a problem caused by our platform. Our party does need a better approach to welcoming and educating newcomers.

Unlike the Libertarian Party, other groups have fully developed programs for welcoming and educating newcomers. These groups respect newcomers and value them highly as individuals seeking greater knowledge. We Libertarians need to welcome newcomers with open arms, and we need ladders of development that let newcomers become over time more experienced and knowledgeable activists.

Problem: Some people believe our platform doesn't have enough interim or transitional proposals.

Solution: The existing process of modifying our platform allows for interim proposals. In fact, the platform used to contain many interim proposals that were deemed consistent with our goals. Past national conventions removed these interim proposals, in part, because they proved too internally divisive. These old interim proposals or new ones could be put back in if the national convention delegates so desire.

Solutions That Will Not Work

Giving Up a Platform. Liquidating the platform will not work for two important reasons.

First, people will still ask us questions about current issues. Even without a platform, people will ask about what the LP presidential or congressional candidate is saying. If you say, "I just don't know," or "We don't have a platform," or "Everybody has his or her own view," you look stupid, and you make the LP into the second Know-Nothing Party in American history.

Second, the entire Libertarian Party will lose out on the extraordinary internal education that takes place at national conventions when the activists in attendance discuss and debate on how to apply libertarian principle to current issues and changing developments.

Keeping a Platform, but Making It Incomplete, Indefinite, or Flexible. The attendees at a national convention could say, in effect, we're tired of having a principled and full-fledged platform. We are still a private enterprise party, they might say, but we repudiate our past insistence on principled consistency and thorough coverage of the issues.

Now, they might say, with a flexible platform, we can nominate any candidate whose views have some sort of "family resemblance" to the views of other LP candidates. For example, again hypothetically, we would encourage and welcome a candidate who said, "I support private enterprise and civil liberties but in particular:

(1) I favor a welfare-state safety net for the poor.

(2) I oppose legalizing drugs, except marijuana under carefully controlled circumstances.

(3) I favor U.S. military intervention in Somalia, former Yugoslavia, Panama, and the Persian Gulf.

(4) I favor well-crafted government regulations to protect the human environment and do not believe that property rights and social pressure by themselves can do the job.

(5) I favor allowing abortion only in cases of rape, incest, serious deformity, or threat to the life of the mother.

(6) I favor a value-added tax."

Today such a "moderate" candidate could not get nominated by the Libertarian Party. But repudiation of the current platform could easily lead to this hypothetical scenario becoming reality.

If it becomes reality, we give up presenting the public with an unashamed, bold, consistent libertarian option. Indeed, the lines between the Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian parties will become so fuzzed by such a change that there will be little point in keeping the LP alive as a separate entity.

Having a Brand-New Platform Each Convention. In the Republican and Democratic parties, the presidential nominee usually has a guarantee of rubber-stamp adoption of whatever platform the nominee wants.

The Libertarian Party is different. Because the LP aims at a consistent application of principle in its platform, the delegates argue

carefully over the wording of all parts of the platform.

In order to have our platform cover the wide array of issues that the Democrats and Republicans cover and to allow the LP delegates sufficient time to deliberate on proposed additions, deletions, and modifications, we have a cumulative platform. That is, we add to, delete from, or modify our previous platform. This is time-tested and makes good sense, given the fact that we are a party of unchanging principle whose members and delegates take the content of the platform seriously.

The platform debates on the convention floor may seem quibbling at times or entangled in parliamentary procedure at other times, but in fact beneath this distracting noise, a glorious truth-seeking process is going on.

The convention delegates are itemizing the many grievances of a public tyrannized by Big Government, and they are framing alternative Libertarian solutions to social problems. The delegates have a noble responsibility: building a shared vision of a Libertarian future. Let's not rob them of this important work.

Bill Evers is Northern California vice chair of the Libertarian Party of California. He has been a Libertarian candidate and campaign manager in campaigns at all levels of American politics.

Dasbach

continued from page 9

• Transitional proposals consistent with libertarian philosophy and the Statement of Principles

• Presented in a positive, solution-oriented manner so that it helps rather than hurts LP candidates

- Start from scratch each convention
- Majority delegate approval."

(Note: the LNC was split on this section, 10 votes in favor to 7 against.)

One of the reasons our platform is a liability instead of an asset is that it really isn't a platform, as that term is used outside the LP. People expect a platform to address their immediate concerns and to describe what the party's candidates would do about those concerns if elected. They aren't looking for a comprehensive platform detailing positions on every conceivable issue.

It is vital that our platform be consistent with our Statement of Principles. However, we should change our focus to how those principles can be applied to issues of concern to the voters (topical planks) and how those concerns could be addressed during the candidate's term of office (2-4 year perspective). A platform that presents positive solutions to current problems, consistent with our principles, is a platform that will help, rather than hurt our candidates.

To successfully create and approve such a platform, we need to change the way we develop it. Currently, the existing platform becomes the basis of the new platform. Proposed changes are submitted to the platform committee, which meets just before the convention. The committee presents a series of proposed changes to the delegates, who debate, amend, and then vote. Once all of the proposals from the committee have been

dealt with, proposals from the floor of the convention are in order. However, there is rarely any time left to consider such proposals.

Delegates come to the convention having no idea of what proposals they will consider. As might be expected, most proposals are to add language covering new issues. Virtually none of the existing language is reconsidered by the delegates. Just as government continues to pass new laws without repealing any of the old ones, our platform covers more and more issues every year. Since 1976, our platform has more than doubled in length.

By starting from scratch each convention, we can ensure that our platform illustrates our principles with issues that are of current interest to voters. C-SPAN viewers will hear debate about how Libertarians would address the major issues of the day, instead of isolated changes to existing language. This debate should give viewers a clearer idea of what we stand for, and result in more calls to our 800-number.

Perhaps most importantly, such a procedure lends itself to discussion of proposed planks by the membership well in advance of the convention. Instead of a platform developed and modified by a small elite, we can begin to involve all members of the LP in the development of our platform. This proposal has already generated more internal discussion about our platform than usually occurs during the entire pre-convention period.

To help keep the platform focused on issues of current concern, and to ensure time for adequate debate, we proposed a limit on the number of planks. Of course, a single plank could address a number of related issues, helping to ensure that those issues

are considered in context. For example, a single plank could address crime, violence, the war on drugs, and gun control. Another could address issues of individual choice and responsibility.

As important as it is to understand what is being proposed, it is equally important to understand what isn't being proposed. We are not suggesting that we avoid controversial issues. Issues such as the war on drugs, gun control, and national health care are issues of concern to voters. We should address such issues in our platform, even though our positions may not be supported by most Americans. This is definitely NOT a proposal to water down our platform, or to hide our principles. It IS a proposal to focus our platform on those applications of our principles that could realistically be implemented over the next few years and that address issues of concern to voters.

We can have a platform that helps, rather than hinders our candidates. We can have a platform that we are proud to give to the media, to the general public, and to our members. We can have a platform that shows that our principles work in the real world, as well as being morally right.

Ultimately, this issue will be decided by the delegates to our national convention, as it should be. Whatever their decision, I believe this debate will build a stronger LP, with a better platform. I have confidence that any platform approved by our convention will be a Libertarian one; one that all of us can support.

Steve Dasbach is the vice chair of the national Libertarian Party.

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WE DON'T COMPROMISE !



“Hit ‘em Where They Ain’t”

By Jim Burns

with Scott Kjar

I. Winning and Losing

We're not gonna win the presidency in 1996. Trust me. Okay, so that's not exactly a news flash. Still, now may be a good time to stop and think about exactly what we mean when we say "win."

Take the recent presidential elections as an example. Bill Clinton won. George Bush lost. Yet Bush also WON! Bush won the popular vote in several states, and actually succeeded in denying to Clinton an outright popular mandate. In fact, when Clinton won, he had fewer total votes than Michael Dukakis had in 1988, and Dukakis was branded a big loser. Thus, winning and losing seem to be relative things.

As Libertarians, we've learned to take our wins in small doses. Very small doses. Eleven votes in Dixville Notch was wonderful, but the next day, we were still nowhere. At best, Andre Marrou's little victory there provided a momentary blip on the political radar screen. What we need to do is achieve a win that will last more than 15 minutes — a win that will have an impact on the outcome!

II. “Hit ‘em Where They Ain’t”

The Democrats and Republicans spend a lot of time during the primary election season going to many states. They visit Iowa for the caucuses, and New Hampshire for the primaries. They visit the South, and even spend a little time here in the Western states. However, when the general election season comes along, they focus their efforts in a fairly small number of states. You will see the Republicans and Democrats in New York, California, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Illinois, and a handful of other states. You WON'T see them very often in Alaska, North Dakota, Nevada, and the other low-population states.

Thus, I suggest that we focus our presidential attack on a single state: New Hampshire. Think about this for a minute. If we put the bulk of our presidential resources into a single state, we could not only have an impact on that race, WE COULD WIN IT!

When you think about Dixville Notch, you must remember something: EVERY CANDIDATE MET EVERY VOTER! That's right, all 33 voters in Dixville Notch met not only Andre Marrou but also George Bush, Pat Buchanan, Bill Clinton, Paul Tsongas, Douglas Wilder, Tom Harkin, and whoever else was still in

the race back then. What happened surprised everyone but us — put a Libertarian on a level playing field with Republicans and Democrats, and we win.

Now imagine if our candidates for president and vice president spent the bulk of their time and money in New Hampshire. There aren't that many people in New Hampshire. Our candidates could meet all of them! We could do to the entire state what we did to Dixville Notch.

We could maintain a steady stream of TV commercials, radio spots and newspaper ads to keep our candidates names in front of the voters. We could have our candidates holding functions all over the state on a daily basis, meeting the citizens, addressing their problems, and articulating in complete detail the Libertarian philosophy.

You see, right there is one of the biggest problems we have. Libertarianism makes sense once you think about it. ONCE YOU THINK ABOUT IT. Unfortunately, what little coverage we do get is limited to 6 second sound bites. You can't sum up 5,000 years of philosophy in a 6 second sound bite.

We need the chance to articulate our philosophy in greater detail. Show the doubters that our ideas not only can work, but that they will work. Reinforce the ideas again and again, so that people can start to see the entire picture. Let's face it, no matter what our books say about learning Libertarianism in One Lesson, it takes longer than that to really grasp the philosophy in its entirety. It requires some thought, and some good answers to important questions. By having our candidates there, repeatedly filling in the pieces of the puzzle, people can see the big picture, instead of just a fragment here and a fragment there. When the voters start to say, "What about ...?" we'll be ready to answer the questions, not just with short answers, but with thorough, well-reasoned, and well-articulated answers.

III. Why New Hampshire?

I have specifically chosen New Hampshire for several reasons. First of all, the citizens there are politically sophisticated. Every four years, every candidate troops into New Hampshire, hoping to win their first-in-the-nation primary, and thus be anointed the front-runner. Thus, nearly everyone in New Hampshire has met a major political candidate, and lots of New Hampshire residents can even boast of having future presidents over to the house for dinner and a chat. The Libertarian message plays extremely well

to a sophisticated audience. At the same time, New Hampshire is proud of its role in colonial America. New Hampshire sent many proud young men and women to battle against British tyranny and statism, and it still carries that pride today. That's Libertarian pride — after all, the revolutionary war was a Libertarian challenge, and WE WON IT!

Second, its demographics are good for our goals. The state is fairly small in population; at the same time, it is fairly small in area. Thus, the population is somewhat contained, making it possible to reach everyone fairly easily. (Compare it, for example, to my home state Nevada, which has about the same population, but has a huge land area. Getting from place to place in Nevada requires several days worth of preparation, plane tickets, housing, and so on. Getting from place to place in New Hampshire requires you to get in the car and go there.) Likewise, this reduces the number of media markets. A large state like California has several major markets, each of which is expensive. A quick thought of New York or Florida brings to mind a dozen media markets, each separate and exclusive from the others. In New Hampshire, the media market is much smaller. There are fewer TV stations we would need to run commercials on, fewer newspapers in which to buy ads, and fewer radio stations where we would need spots. In short, New Hampshire gives us the most bang for our buck.

A third reason to select New Hampshire is the recent success of the party there. This year alone, the state has succeeded in electing 4 Libertarians to the state House of Representatives, far more than the LP in any other state. (Actually, we have had 4 State Representatives in Alaska, but not all at the same time.) They have succeeded in taking elected members of other parties and convincing them to switch, and they have succeeded in elections in which the Republicans and Democrats vowed to stop them. The New Hampshire LP is a party on the move, and is clearly a leader that we should all look toward in the future.

Fourth, New Hampshire is a great vacation spot, if you go at the right time! If all of the Libertarians in the country chose to take their vacations in New Hampshire in 1996, and spend a couple of days there volunteering for the campaign, we could have steady stream of thousands of volunteers each and every day. (Hey, the Republicans and Democrats ALWAYS bus in hundreds of people to New Hampshire for the primary season, AND THAT'S

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THE WINTER! We want to go there during the Summer and Fall! We're much smarter than they are! Why can't we do the same thing for the General Election season?)

IV. Will This Really Work? And So What If It Does?

Now think for a minute about the outcome. With a major effort in New Hampshire by the LP candidates, we could win the state! Granted, winning New Hampshire only gives us 4 electoral votes. Still, a win is a win, and we would get national coverage for it. On election night, when the TV networks fill in all the colors on their maps indicating which party won which state, we would get a color! Since New Hampshire is on the East Coast, its returns are counted early, and reported early. Exit polls from New Hampshire would be broadcast all day long, increasing our last-day election reporting.

Likewise, if it's a close race, those four electoral votes may become important. If there's one thing the news media hates, it's being wrong. Every time someone shows the photo of Harry Truman with the banner headline "Dewey Beats Truman," the news media flinch. They HATE being wrong about a projection like that. If we really succeed, they won't be able to ignore us — we'll be winning! If the national race is close enough that every electoral vote counts, then that's all the more reason for the media to recognize and report on our role in taking the race right to the wire.

Of course, we aren't talking about ignoring other states. Obviously, every state is important, and we will campaign in every state. After all, our presidential candidate does help us to get media attention wherever the candidate goes. However, the bulk of the money should go toward the New Hampshire campaign, with additional money spent elsewhere in support of party activities, but not on the presidential race. Likewise, given a choice between spending an extra couple of days in some other state, and perhaps only improving the outcome there by a fraction of a percent, or spending the same time in New Hampshire and possibly winning, the choice is clear.

New Hampshire in '96!

Note: If you like this idea, and would like to show your support, please write to Jim Burns, PO Box 3752, North Las Vegas, NV 89030-3752.

Dave and the amazing fiberglass dumpling

It's time for Those Amazing Canadians, the popular feature wherein we examine the activities of our friendly neighbors to the North and secretly wonder if they are mixing their prescription medications again.

As you may recall, when last we checked in on the Canadians, some of them were in a court of law in Ottawa, trying to induce a python to crawl into a toilet. At the time we thought this was unusual, but we now realize that luring snakes into commodes during judicial proceedings is fairly NORMAL, by Canadian standards. We base this statement

on several news items we received from alert reader Marylu Walters, who lives in Alberta, which is one of Canada's provinces (the other one is "Bernice").

These news items, from The Edmonton Journal, concern the small Alberta town of Glendon, where there is a local food item called the "pyrogy," which is a kind of dumpling that can be stuffed with various foods such as cheese or sauerkraut. Pyrogys are very popular in Glendon, a fact that gave the mayor, Johnnie Doonanco, an idea. See if you can guess what his idea was.



On the light side

Dave Barry
Columnist

(Pause while you think up a pyrogy-related idea.)

OK. Did you guess that Mr. Doonanco wanted to market an electric pyrogy-maker? Or hold a pageant to crown the Pyrogy Queen? WRONG. That kind of limited thinking shows why you're stuck with whatever dead-end hairball job you have, while Johnnie Doonanco is mayor of Glendon.

His idea was—we are not making this up—to build THE WORLD'S LARGEST FIBERGLASS PYROGY. And he did it, too, by raising 62,000 Canadian dollars via private donations and a grant from the province government, which knows a shrewd investment opportunity when it sees one. According to the Journal, the giant pyrogy is "almost nine metres high" and "weighs roughly 2,700 kilograms." Converting these figures from the Metric System to the Normal Human System . . . let's see, move the decimal over and divide by the cosine . . . we see that this is a large pyrogy. There's a color photograph of it in the Journal: It looks sort of like a mammoth white leech, except that the designers put it on the tines of a huge upright steel fork, so that onlookers would realize that it is in fact a tasty food item.

The purpose of the pyrogy, of course, is to attract tourists. "Hey, Marge!" potential tourists as far away as Mobile, AL, are probably remarking at this very moment. "There's a giant fiberglass dumpling up in rural Canada! Pack your suitcase!" Such is the power of this type of attraction.

And that explains another Journal news item that Marylu Walters sent us. This one concerns the small Canadian town of Andrew, which recently, with the help of a provincial tourism grant, installed—get ready—the world's largest fiberglass duck. The Journal says it has a wingspan of 7.2 meters and weighs "one tonne," which is how you spell "one ton" in metric. The story quotes town manager Albert Holubowich as saying that the residents chose the duck as their symbol because Andrew is near a duck sanctuary.

"It was either the duck or a chicken," he

says, "but a chicken has no connection or bearing to the village."

We certainly agree with that. A giant chicken would be ridiculous. But what we're concerned about is this: Suppose some tourists happen to find themselves exactly halfway between Andrew and Glendon. One side of them would be attracted by the giant duck, and the other side would be attracted by the giant pyrogy, and they could literally explode right there on the spot, causing severe damage to the wheat crop. We hate to bring this up, but if we didn't, we'd have to get a real job.

And there's another recent Canadian development we feel you should know about. Many alert readers have sent us an Associated Press report that begins as follows (we are still not making this up):

"VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Female snails in certain polluted coastal harbors have been turning into males and growing penises, a researcher says. Snails undergoing the change, which some scientists think is caused by tin-based contaminants in the water, have been found almost everywhere University of Victoria biologist Derek Ellis and his colleagues looked for them."

We're sure this alarming development is wreaking havoc in the snail community. A guy comes home from a hard day of sliming around, hoping to have an intimate moment with his mate, but when she finally takes off her shell . . . YIKES!

We hope the Canadian authorities are doing something about this. Their most likely move, of course, would be to build the world's largest fiberglass snail organ. You'd go up to see it, right? We thought so. Don't drink the water.

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IS DR. RUWART THE NEXT AYN RAND?

Photo courtesy of the Kalamazoo Gazette



"...with her new book *HEALING OUR WORLD: THE OTHER PIECE OF THE PUZZLE*, Dr. Ruwart is well on her way to becoming the Ayn Rand of the '90s. —Andre Marrou, 1992 Libertarian Party nominee for President

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"Continuing her *UNITY* theme, Dr. Ruwart heals the rift between spirituality and libertarianism, taking the movement a giant step forward.—Roger Gary, former Texas State Chair

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Quote of the Month

This month's quote comes from Gerry Schneider, of Kensington, MD, who writes a weekly Libertarian column for his local newspaper:

"Giving government more money to spend wisely is like giving drinks to alcoholics to cure alcoholism. It does not work!"

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LP cites voting irregularities

LP National Chair Mary Gingell expressed concern recently about several reports of voting irregularities in the 1992 general election:

- In Nevada, election returns for a Libertarian candidate for state senator, Tamara Clark, changed significantly after a computer breakdown on election night.

- In Maryland, several Libertarians (including former National Director Nick Dunbar) were told on Election Day that their names were not on the list of registered voters.

- In Texas, the name of a Libertarian candidate for county commissioner, Brenda Anderson, was not on the absentee ballots.

"I am shocked and outraged about the voting irregularities that denied Libertarians their right to vote and robbed Libertarian candidates of some of the votes they earned," Gingell declared.

"Libertarian candidates deserve a level playing field. Vote fraud cannot be tolerated," she said.

"We are taking legal action where appropriate. We will not let our opponents steal elections," she added. "We will not roll over and play dead. The price of liberty is still eternal vigilance."

In Nevada, Tamara Clark, the candidate for state senator, has filed a challenge to the election, demanding a hearing before the Nevada legislature, which convened on Jan. 18. The legislators may recount the votes or may refuse to certify the election and order a new one be held.

Clark has demanded the release of election information, such as absentee voter request lists, to determine if fraudulent absentee ballots were cast on behalf of individuals not registered to vote.

In Maryland, several Libertarians in Prince Georges County were told on Election Day that their names were not on the list of registered voters. Some of them were able to vote, after hassles of up to two hours. Others were turned away, unable to exercise their right to vote.

In Texas, Brenda Anderson, the candidate for county commissioner in Denton County, has filed a lawsuit seeking to void the election. This is because of several violations of the state election code, primarily the exclusion of her name from several thousand absentee ballots.

"Even with these kinds of hurdles to overcome, the Libertarian Party remains America's third largest party and the leading nationwide alternative to the failed two-party system," Gingell observed.

Can you believe this stuff?

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-SC) wanted to honor Charles Pinckney, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, reports the December 1992 Reader's Digest. So Hollings inserted language into a National Park Service (NPS) bill that provided \$705,000 for turning a house and 28 acres of land once owned by Pinckney near Charleston, SC, into a National Historic Site to honor Pinckney.

But a Park Service survey found that Pinckney didn't build the house, never lived in it, and didn't even own the property when it was built. The money was spent anyway.



Outrage!

To date, the NPS has lavished more than \$400,000 on renovating the house. The Charles Pinckney National Historic Site was scheduled to open last month, with an annual operating budget of \$300,000.

California farmers have been ordered to destroy millions of pounds of peaches and nectarines because the fruit was slightly smaller than federal standards and could undermine profits from larger fruit.

Dan Gerwin, of Gerwin Farming, the world's largest peach, nectarine, and plum growers, estimated that about 500 million pounds of peaches and nectarines statewide will be dumped and left to rot.

(Submitted by John Funcannon of Rapid City, SD)

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- **"The New Class Goes to Washington"** — Bestselling author *Doug Casey* appraises his former college classmate, Bill Clinton, and the people behind him.

- **"Where To Go"** — Suppose your state has just increased taxes, again. Isn't there some place where taxes are low? There sure is! *Liberty* tells you where to go to cut your state and local taxes by as much as 75%. Plus a state-by-state analysis of taxes.

Liberty

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Send to: *Liberty*, Dept. NE, PO Box 1167, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Letters

Mistakes, support, suggestions, encouragement, and more

Oops

I have just received my first issue (Dec. 1992) and have read the newsletter from front to back. I find it very refreshing to read the Libertarian Party NEWS. I enjoy seeing a different viewpoint without the same stale message that Americans are tired of hearing.

I wish to point out a mistake. In the pie chart that shows the distribution of presidential votes among alternative candidates, three candidates are shown with the same vote totals. This would seem to be a highly unlikely occurrence. In addition, a half percent is missing from the chart which I assume to be for others not named.

Michael F. Linder
Edgewood, MD

Ed. Note: Thanks for the comments. We did make a mistake on the pie chart. The correct totals for the three candidates should have been: LaRouche: 25,688; Daniels: 25,404; Warren: 27,464.

Clint

Clint Eastwood for president. He'll make your day—yours. Vote for a man who won't take any nonsense from anyone. With an attitude that counts. Bullwhip in one hand, .45 in the other, he'll whip Congress into shape.

Vote Libertarian. Vote Clint Eastwood in 1996.

Hey, at least it might make a good movie! What do you say Clint? Give it a go! I'll vote for you.

Logan Quinn
St. Paul, MN

WSPQ

In reply to Hal Dunn (Nov. 1992 NEWS): A postcard-size version of the World's Smallest Political Quiz is available from the Advocates for Self-Government (ASG), which owns the rights to the quiz, invented by David Nolan.

ASG is located at 3955 Pleasantdale Rd., #106-A, Atlanta, GA 30340; phone 1-800-932-1776.

The Advocates for Self-Government is a non-profit educational organization, 501(c)(3). Our purpose is to present the freedom philosophy honestly and persuasively to opinion-makers so that they can encounter, evaluate, and when ready, embrace the ideals of self-government.

Kirk Applegate
Columbus, OH

Guess Who?

Try to guess who said all these radical libertarian words:

"In this country, it's impossible for you to be aligned with either party . . . Because both parties are criminal."

"When you take your case to Washington, DC, you're taking it to the criminal who's responsible; it's like running from the wolf to the fox."

"You don't have anybody putting blocks in your path but people who are part of the government."

"Washington has become too corrupt. Uncle Sam has become bankrupt."

"You and I in America are faced not with a segregationist conspiracy, we're faced



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

with a government conspiracy."

These are all the words of Malcolm X.
Jeff Jared
San Francisco, CA

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

"We are where we are because of us. A lot of people don't want to accept that. After 500 years, you cannot blame anyone but yourselves, and I think it's extremely important for students to understand that . . . A lot of black folks are still waiting for white folks to help them. White folks can't even help themselves, let alone help somebody else . . . We are where we are because of us, and we have to be committed and accept responsibility to do for ourselves."

This paragraph is taken from the *Boston Globe*, Nov. 18, 1992, quoting Dr. Betty Shabazz, wife of the late Malcolm X. Dr. Shabazz was speaking to students at Harvard University.

Dr. Shabazz sounds like a Libertarian spokesperson!

Peter Baker
Barnet, VT

Secession

As a resident of southwestern Kansas and a Libertarian, I think the events taking place in this area would be of interest to other Libertarians. Southwest Kansas is rich in agricultural and petroleum resources. We generate a lot of income for the state, but because of our low population base, we are ignored on many levels by the state. For years we've been unfairly taxed without adequate representation.

After many frustrating years of non-productive work in Topeka, a very determined group has instigated a secession movement. This group, led by public officials and professionals, conducted a constitutional convention Sept. 12, 1992, in Ulysses, KS.

Threats of legal action are now coming from Topeka. Stay tuned!

Logan Smith
Liberal, KS

Suggestions

After 20 years of effort we are still not doing well. My suggestions follow:

1. Do we suffer Libertarian Narcissism, an enchantment with and an addiction to our own rectitude? Have you ever enjoyed speaking with anyone who was totally convinced he was right? In the interest of persuasion, should we project this smug certainty? Hayek has spoken of the damage done by the assumption of knowledge in the absence thereof. Our opposition does not know how to solve the problems and the damage they do is largely a function of their assumption that they do know how.

Let us be tentative in our proposals.

2. Attend to our natural constituency—the working poor. While the comfortable and non-working poor explore the federal bosom for their free lunch, the working poor are taxed while they create the hamburgers, shoes, and other stuff of life. Here, the vectors of concern and strategy merge. The emotive force inherent in portraying the pain of working poor is real and we should use it and use it honestly.

3. The LP is small enough to permit direct selection of our candidates. Following nominations and the circulation of statements in the NEWS, ALL LP members could vote with a mail ballot. Participation, dummy!

4. If we can't get a real candidate, let's do NOTA and run no one at the presidential level.

Stanley Wolf
DeLancey, NY

Weighted Suffrage

Each voter does not contribute the same amount in taxes, so why should every vote be equal? The votes should be weighted according to how much income tax the voter pays! This "weighted suffrage" would result in fairer representation and less cheating on income tax returns.

It would make election fraud more difficult, since registration could take place as tax returns are filed. The actual voting could also be expedited in the same computerized system, which would eliminate many unnecessary election workers.

The best part is that the people who pay the most for the government get the most say on how the money is spent. The middle class pays most of the taxes, and the middle class would tend to support those who would reduce the size and scope of government, freeing up the private sector. The increased role of the marketplace would narrow the gap between rich and poor, and promote peace worldwide.

Dave Polewka
Seven Hills, OH

Don't Get Down

As someone who voted for the Marrou/Lord presidential ticket, I too was disappointed the 1992 Libertarian presidential vote totals were not much greater. However, I would strongly recommend the LP staff not to be tremendously discouraged over the election results for the following reasons.

First, there was a suppression of LP presidential activities by the national news media throughout the campaign.

Second, Ross Perot's candidacy hurt the LP. Unfortunately, the American people are attracted to individuals who have financial power.

Third, there is a noticeable number of voters who are disgusted with the workings of the government (as evidence by the vote totals for Perot). Hence, if the pattern continues (and one must believe that it will with the Democrats and Republicans in charge) the time is likely to be ripe for a third party. Consequently, Libertarian efforts cannot stop now . . .

John B. Noone, Jr.

Hurray!

Hurray for the Libertarians! I'm one of you and I know it. I was very excited to get my copy of *Liberty Today* and consider myself a Libertarian. I know many other people who are Libertarians, they just don't know it.

I am a 31-year-old college student, training to become a history teacher. I'm very interested in becoming active in the party in whatever way I could be most useful.

Keep plugging because you have more support than you think.

Christopher Galusha
Brockport, NY

FDP

Just read the German magazine *Der Spiegel* and came across a most interesting piece. The FDP (Freie Demokratische Partei) seems about to go libertarian. The FDP is not a "crackpot" party, but a respected entity on the German political scene.

To me, it's great news; I wanted for so long a breakthrough in Germany. This might be it.

Helmut Fritz Prochnow
Spring Hill, FL

Free Enterprise Amendment

Several weeks ago I received an information packet from your office. Your recommended reading list included one of my favorite science fiction authors—James P. Hogan. I believe his novel "Mirror Maze" contains an important model for the future of the Libertarian Party.

In "Mirror Maze" Hogan sees the millennium year 2,000 being the year a new political party called The Constitutionists pushes for a constitutional amendment separating economics and state like the First Amendment's separation of church and state. I find this idea inspiring.

We need an amendment guaranteeing the freedom of enterprise, replicating the freedom of belief, expression, assembly, and religion contained in the first. Just as government cannot now establish an official religion, why should it be able to establish an official (public sector) economy? If freedom of thought can be assured, why not freedom of productive action as well?

My friend Robert Bakhaus calls our needed initiative the Free Enterprise Amendment . . .

Let us act now to ensure that the millennium before us will be a libertarian one, that it will see a rebirth of freedom and unlimited prosperity.

[For more information, write Friends of The Free Enterprise Amendment, P.O. Box 22930, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.]

Robert Stevens
Santa Barbara, CA

Drug Force

Many libertarians believe that the limited role of legitimate government (protecting people from force and fraud) requires decriminalization of drugs. I somewhat agreed in the past, but I always had deep inarticulate reservations.

An experience with several people who see *Letters* on page 15

Letters

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had become addicted to cocaine caused me to fine-tune my thoughts. As a result, I have developed the firm belief that the sale of an addictive drug is an act of force and fraud.

Cocaine, for example, is a weapon used by sophisticated thugs. Victims are defrauded into the initial "hook" use, which is so effective that the drug is often given to novices for free; dealers intentionally misrepresent the risks, and they do not disclose their intent to drain every dollar the user has or can steal. The cocaine dealer then relies upon chemical addiction to force his victim to give him money and keep giving it until there is no more.

Decriminalization of both drug use and the sale of non-addictive drugs would probably solve the bulk of the problem by eliminating the huge profit margins and by making available non-addictive alternatives for those who are so inclined. But as long as sellers of addictive drugs use fraud and forceful chemical mind control to obtain money from addicts, the libertarian philosophy permits government to take reasonable steps to protect the victims from the sellers.

Paul Troy Wright
Marietta, GA

School Choice

"What do you tell a poor black mother, whose children face a dangerous, patently dysfunctional public school? How can you deny her the power to send her children to, say, Verbum Dei—a safe, college-preparatory Catholic high school in Watts?" I paraphrase TV journalist Cokie Roberts, as she raised the issue of "parental choice in education" to the major Democratic candidates in a New Hampshire debate.

The questions revealed a key truth about race relations in America: The public schools are the most critical element of our modern plantation system, the welfare state. Inner-city children are the innocent victims of bad schools. Their likely prospects: Third World jobs, welfare, and crime. Their mothers are helpless witnesses.

The answers, uncomfortably spoken by each Democrat, revealed a key fact about the politics of race relations in America: Gov. Clinton and the other Democrats stood up for black Americans' right to choose another education service, just not the power to choose another education service. The government, they insisted, had to keep that monopoly power.

Black Americans have no problem choosing freedom: 86 percent favor parental choice. (Source: Gallup Poll, reported in The Wall Street Journal, Sept. 21, 1992)

So when will the Democrats stop their arrogant opposition to the overwhelming democratic will of black America? When will they let the people leave their (the Democrats') plantation?

Mike Binkley
Los Angeles, CA

Response to the Chair

"From the Chair" (Jan. 1993 NEWS) presented questions to be answered in deciding whether the oath and Platform proposals should be adopted. I believe that the questions proposed by Mary Gingell may not be the right ones.

Mary asks whether these changes are "necessary" or whether they will "just drive away" activists. Necessity is not the correct standard to judge proposals. The appropriate

standard is whether the benefits of adoption outweigh the costs.

Mary asks whether "a team of candidates who are ashamed to have in writing what their party stands for ever hope to convince others of these ideas . . . ?" I have heard no suggestion that our candidates are "ashamed" to have our views in writing. What I have heard, and have experienced, is that our current Platform—which superficially covers 61 topics in 23 pages, fails to emphasize the public's most important issues, and fails to deal with them in sufficient detail—leaves voters and media with the sense that we are not in

touch with voter concerns or the reality of how to effect change.

As we debate these proposals over the coming months, let us focus on whether each proposal provides more benefits to the LP than whatever costs it may have. Let us be responsive to what each side of the debate is saying, rather than our fears about what we are afraid they might mean. If we do this, we will have the best possible basis for success in reaching a decision in Salt Lake City.

Steve Givot
At-Large Member, LNC
Barrington Hills, IL

In Memorium

Long-time LP member Anthony H. Gleason of Westfield, NJ, died in late 1992. Gleason joined the national LP in 1980 and was a strong supporter of the party.

Deborah J. Anderson, an active LP member from Celina, OH, was killed in an automobile accident late last year.

Walter Darson, of Lake Zurich, IL, died last year. Darson was never a member of the LP, but he was one at heart, and a friend of LP members.

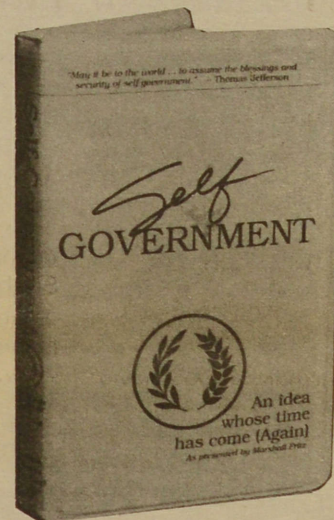
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Starring Marshall Fritz, this high-quality video explains the ideas of liberty clearly, succinctly, honestly. The viewer finds himself nodding his head, his excitement rising: This makes sense!



Short enough to be viewed in one sitting, the video answers these crucial questions:

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- Where do libertarians fit on the political map -- left-wing, right-wing, or do we need a better map?
- How do people benefit when libertarian ideas are adopted? Will you be better off? Will the poor?
- Where is the evidence that these ideas are practical? Is there proof these ideas work in the real world?

Lend this video to friends. Or invite folks over for an "evening of ideas" and show it. You can count on a spontaneous and animated discussion.

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Platform debate

The debate over retaining or revising the current format of the national LP Platform begins with this issue of the NEWS. Along with a discussion of the platform and a look at the proposed changes, a special 8-page insert of the 1992 national platform is included.

After reading the NEWS, you can make your feelings known in several ways. The Liberty Hotline, 1-900-4-LIBERTY, now has an opinion question concerning the platform debate. See page 9 for details on this new feature.

You may also wish to write the NEWS and express your opinion. We have already received many articles and letters on this subject, so please keep your comments short and to the point. Next month the NEWS will follow up the platform debate, as well as open up discussion of the "oath."

Upcoming Events

Sept. 2-5, 1993:

Libertarian Party National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT; for more information write: MGP, P.O. Box 526175, Salt Lake City, UT 84152.

**Let us know early about your upcoming event,
and we will announce it in the NEWS.**

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