

FLP NEWS

Number 10

August-September 1984

New York Ballot Drive Enters Home Stretch! Big push Planned for Final Week!

by Tom Lowy

The all-volunteer New York State Ballot Access Drive to place the Libertarian Party Presidential ticket on the New York ballot this November is moving into the homestretch. The drive is slated to end on Wednesday, September 5th, if enough signatures are on hand to guarantee that David Bergland and Jim Lewis will have ballot status.

In a recently released statement, Bill McMillen, FLP State Ballot Drive Coordinator, urged local coordinators and the party membership not to slacken up in the final days of the drive. "Our goal is 40,000 plus signatures," he said. "While the legal requirement is 20,000 we need enough extra to discourage any challenge, and to withstand a challenge if made." Bill reported that over 50,000 signatures were collected during the Ed Clark ballot drive in 1980 and about 46,000 during the Northrup campaign for Governor in 1982.

If all goes as planned, Chapter and county coordinators will bring their Bergland-Lewis petitions to Albany on Friday, September 7th, for a working celebration of the successful petition drive. The petitions will be processed and assembled over the weekend and a final count

made. The Ballot Drive Committee will be at the doors of the State Board of Elections on Tuesday morning, September 11th, to file the petitions. If no other parties file on the 11th, the FLP will secure the 6th line on the ballot. If other parties do file on that day, positions will be chosen by lottery.

Bill McMillen also reported that the FLP State Committee decided at its July 29th meeting in Buffalo to sponsor a prize to the person getting the most signatures during the petition drive. The winner will receive tickets-for-two for the 1985 State Convention banquet.

For those who think they can guess the total number of signatures that will be filed in Albany for the Bergland-Lewis ticket, a "pool" has been set up. Simply mail your prediction, along with a \$5.00 entry fee, to: FLP, 225 Lafayette Street, Room 911, New York, NY 10012. (See enclosed flyer.) You may send as many entries as you wish--\$5.00 each of course. The winner--the person who comes closest to the actual number--will receive half of the total of all entry fees received. The FLP will keep the other half for campaign expenses. The winner will be announced in the next issue of FLP News.

Libertarian Party predicts 'win' this fall

By PATRICK L. KNUDSEN
Times-Union

(The following report appeared in the Rochester Times-Union, Friday, July 27th. The National Committee (NatCom) of the Libertarian Party met in Rochester July 28-29 to review the party's work, particularly the nationwide ballot drive.)

A Ronald Reagan landslide in November could mean lots of votes for the nation's 13-year-old Libertarian Party, according to Ed Clark, the party's 1980 presidential candidate.

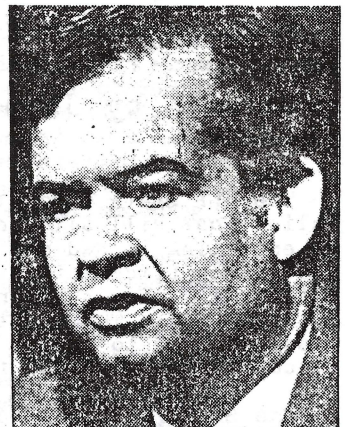
"People are more likely to vote for idealistic parties when the race is not close," Clark said in an interview last night at the Marriott Thruway Hotel in Henrietta.

"Winning for us doesn't mean getting more votes than the other candidates," Clark said last night. "We're trying to build a party."

Clark is here for a meeting of the National Committee of the Libertarian Party, starting today at the Marriott Thruway, 5257 West Henrietta Road. It is the first time the committee has held a national convention here.

Thirty-three national representatives and about 100 local Libertarians are expected to attend the convention.

Clark predicted that with the U.S. economy running strong, Reagan will have an easy win — and that voters, knowing the election won't be close, will be more willing to risk their votes on the Libertarians, who favor individualism, sharply reduced taxes and a much smaller federal government.



"Winning for us doesn't mean getting more votes than the other candidates. . . . We're trying to build a party."

Ed Clark,

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Libertarian Party predicting election 'win' this fall

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He said that if the party can grow enough in the next several years, it could be a major force in the 1990s.

Clark will be the main speaker at the convention's banquet tomorrow night. He said he will describe the party's opportunity to gain voters this year and will stress the importance of ballot drives and advertising.

The party, with about 30,000 dues-paying members nationally and 100 locally, has about 30 representatives who have been elected to city council or mayoral posts nationwide. It holds no state legislature or congressional seats.

Nevertheless, Clark says Libertarians have gained strength since the party was formed in 1971. The party's 1972 presidential candidate, John Hospers, won only about 5,000 votes nationally. In 1976, Libertarian Roger Lea MacBride won about 371,000 votes.

Clark took 920,000 votes nationally in 1980 and believes that another 1 million votes went to Reagan because of his "Libertarian rhetoric": cutting taxes and reducing the size of the federal government.

Clark won 4,335 votes in Monroe County.

Libertarians chose their presidential and vice presidential candidates — David Bergland, 48, a lawyer from Costa Mesa, Calif., and Jim Lewis, 50, a businessman from Old Saybrook, Conn. — in September 1979 to get an early start on the race.

THE BERGLAND-LEWIS ticket has qualified for a place on the ballot in 25 states, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The first day for signing nominating petitions in New York is Aug. 7.

Party members also will announce their two candidates for New York state offices tomorrow night.

Running for the 130th District state Assembly seat will be David D. Hoesly, 41, of 971 Maple Drive, Webster, an engineer for the Xerox Corp. He will run against incumbent Louise M. Slaughter. D-Fairport, and County Legislator Donald S. Milton, R-Penfield.

Seeking the 53rd District state Sen-

ate seat will be Steven G.T. Becker, 30, an optometrist who lives at 2173 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield. He will vie for the post against incumbent John D. Perry, D-Brighton, and Dorothy B. Wadsworth, a Republican from Brighton.

CLARK SAID the party's strength lies in its popular themes, such as lower taxes, eliminating draft registration and allowing tuition tax credits for people sending children to private schools.

Libertarians, he said, always have stood for those causes and can build on them as long as the Republican and Democratic parties don't.

He said, for example, that even though Reagan supports tuition tax credits, the president wants them only for middle-class parents and only for their own children.

The Libertarian approach, Clark said, would allow anyone to receive a tax credit for sending any children to private schools.

"If I could, I would send six black kids to a lily-white private school in Pasadena," said Clark, 54, a Los Angeles attorney. "It would be good for the kids and good for the school."

If the major parties absorb these popular themes, Libertarians will be left with only their less popular programs, such as legalizing drugs and phasing out Social Security, he said.

LIBERTARIANS BELIEVE that in a free capitalist market, meaning much less federal regulation and lower taxes, individual income would double, the economy would soar and most people now unemployed would be able to find jobs.

The few remaining people who could not work — those who are severely handicapped, for example — could be supported through voluntary charity, Clark said. "How can we trust the government to be benevolent if we can't trust ourselves to be benevolent?" Clark asked. "I think governments are lower, more stupid and more immoral."

"They say, pay enough taxes and we'll eliminate poverty, pay enough taxes and we'll eliminate cancer," he said. "They tell you that no one will die if you pay enough taxes."

"Utopia only exists through compulsion," Clark said. He offered mainland China as an example, saying the Communist government there wants to take care of all its citizens but can do so only by severely restricting personal freedom — such as dictating that each couple can have only one child.

PARTY MEMBERS oppose most forms of government intervention in individuals' personal lives, including New York's recently passed seat-belt law.

"It's a classic example of a victimless crime," said Becker, the state Senate candidate. "The government has no

business getting involved in those."

Libertarians also stand against initiating force under any circumstances except self-defense, said W. Alan Burris, 54, of 7 E. Jefferson Circle, Pittsford. Burris is local Libertarian and author of a book, published last August, called *A Liberty Primer*, which describes Libertarian beliefs.

Hoesly, the Assembly candidate, said both Democrats and Republicans stand for more government and higher taxes. Only Libertarians are against those.

Said Hoesly: "There isn't any practical difference between Reagan and Mondale."

Campaign '84: Political Tools by Jim McKeown

The Placer County Election Win!

(In the previous issue of *FLP News*, it was reported that a Libertarian candidate had been elected to the Board of Supervisors in Placer County, Calif. Erik Henrikson of Tahoe, Calif., received more than 15,000 votes. The Placer County Libertarians involved in the campaign were interviewed in July by Jim McKeown, the Libertarian Party Campaign '84 National Coordinator. Excerpts of the interview were recently made available as a tool to help other Libertarians involved in election campaigns. Jim McKeown lives in Binghamton, N.Y., and is an activist within the FLP, as well National Coordinator of Campaign '84.

(Jim interviewed five people: Allen L. Fink, an independent business contractor from Auburn, Calif., who took 17.1% of the vote for 3rd District Supervisor in a 7-way race; Bruce A. Daniel, a dental surgeon from Loomis, Calif., and Placer County LP Chair, who won 38.5% of the vote for 4th District Supervisor in a 2-way race; Eric Henrikson, an excavation contractor from Tahoe, Calif., who was elected 5th District Supervisor with 50.3% of the vote in a 2-way race; James McClarin, the Executive Director of the Placer County LP and Campaign Manager; and David J. Scholl of Fairfield, Calif., a professional political consultant working with the Placer County campaign.)

Campaign '84: Jim, you were a 1980 Libertarian congressional candidate in a 3-way race and spent a sizable amount of money—\$11,000—getting about 6% of the vote. What did you do differently in your management of this campaign?

McClarin: We got lots of media coverage, but we knew that was not the key. People are not elected in the media....

Perhaps one in four households that you leave literature in will actually vote in that race....(By) targeting those voters who are likely to vote and eliminating voter groupings that are unsympathetic...you can save a tremendous amount. That's where we saved our money. We could have mailed out maybe one-and-a-half mailings if we had not targeted voters, whereas, we were able to mail out three.

...continued next page

Raising Money for Your Chapter

by John Francis

The FLP State Committee recently adopted a policy that will allow chapters to raise money by enrolling lapsed members back into membership. The State Office maintains lapsed members on the mailing list for six months after their membership expires. Three attempts are made to get these members to renew. After that, they are placed in an inactive file.

The State Office is sending chapters lists of these former members so that a local effort can be made to enroll them once again in the party. Chapters will receive a bonus payment for each such enrollment. For a membership that expired 6 to 12 months ago, the bonus is \$5. For those that expired over a year ago, the bonus is \$10. Please make every effort to bring these lapsed members back into the party. The national campaign gives us the opportunity to do this.

The Placer County Election Win! ...continued

In the final 5 days of the campaign we mailed our first piece out Wednesday--before the Tuesday election...our next one went out on Thursday, our next one went out on Friday, so we really cut it close. We would have liked to have mailed them on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but it just didn't work out that way. We didn't have the money in hand (and) we weren't going to write a check for the money we didn't have... As a result, some of the voters around the county did not get theirs until election day, or after election day. Most of them apparently did get...into the voters' hands by election day, but we might have gotten another candidate-- Allen Fink in the Third District--into the run-off, had everyone gotten theirs in enough time to make up their minds.

I think that many voters make up their minds on the weekend before the election. Once they've made up their minds they don't want to change it, regardless of what comes in the mail; so it would have been helpful if we could have gotten them out, say, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

One thing which I've never seen in a Libertarian campaign is the use of red tags--"campaign mail tags"--which are put on the bags of bulk mail. That gives them a priority handling. The Post Office has learned that they don't want important politicians rattling their cage, if mail gets out into the voters' hands late.

Campaign '84: How were each of the candidates recruited?

Daniel: After discussing the idea with our Placer County Central Committee Vice Chair, and now the Northern California Vice Chair, Dennis Schlumpf, about a year ago, I concluded that we had to set in motion a plan to recruit an executive director.

This was how Jim McClarin came on board last October....He has been so very effective in our phenomenal growth....I feel that our success is a direct result of voluntary leadership, coupled with a fulltime professional....The volunteer provides the enthusiasm, the philosophy, the direction and the elements that make growth important to people. But I think the professional provides the continuity, the depth of coverage and helps in secondary organizational depth. This is absolutely critical. In my years as a Libertarian activist, I found that this is one of our greatest problems.

About the same time--in July of last year--as the plans were laid for an executive director, I became aware that here in Placer County 3 of 5 Supervisors were going to be up for re-election this June. So I visualized the possibility of a Libertarian takeover of the county, because 3 out of 5 seats would give us a majority.

It was in February, I think, I read an article by David Scholl in the California newsletter, The Activist, that interested me in a campaign professional for the supervisorial races. So I asked Jim McClarin to contact him and put together a meeting, which we did...and this resulted in the campaign that finally developed.

As Chairman of the party in Placer County, I think it is incumbent upon me--and other chairmen of the party--to be constantly aware of all the elective offices that are coming up, whether they're local non-partisan races, or state races, or even federal and national races, and to be constantly on the look out to find good Libertarian candidates, and those who perhaps are not Libertarians but can be persuaded to become active in our goal.

Now here's where our Executive Director comes in. Allen Fink got together with Jim McClarin of his own volition in a sense. Allen had written to the Executive Secretary of the state party. We finally got wind of his curiosity and I directed Jim McClarin to sit down with him. They got together for about 3 hours or so and Allen said, "I'm a Libertarian. I didn't know it all the time!" So he joined the party and then I called him as soon as I found out how excited he was about it and said, "Hey, would you be a candidate?" and he said, "I sure would!"--and we went from there.

I had some good feelings about (potential) candidates, but several people turned me down before I was finally able to get myself--for one--and Allen Fink. The area I was having problems with was up in the Tahoe area, which is about 100 miles away and over the top of the Sierras. In calling there, I talked with Dennis Schlumpf, who directed me to this dentist, who directed me to Erik. But I would have continued--until the time ran out--looking for candidates, had I not been successful there.

The advice I have for any county chairman in the country would be: keep in mind who's running; what offices are coming up; who is available; and try to key people into those positions. Go to the election offices and find out what the requirements are and make sure time does not pass out of sight and that opportunities are not lost. Keep in mind that even though we'd like to think that people are committed to the ideas of liberty, it takes a certain amount of persistence by those who have responsibility to keep them moving along in the direction we'd like them to (go). Keep in mind, also, that virtually every candidate that we persuade is also a volunteer, and sometimes the enthusiasm wanes and it's important for people who have this position in the party to keep that enthusiasm built-up and moving forward, because we know that our goal is good, and it is just, and it is right--this is something for all of us to work very diligently for.

(to be continued)

NatCom Helps Kick Off Petition Drive

by John Francis

On July 28 and 29, the Libertarian Party National Committee (NatCom) held a business meeting in Rochester. The event coincided with the FLP's "All-Volunteer" petition drive to place David Bergland on the New York State ballot this fall.

Highlighting the two-day event was a banquet dinner featuring Ed Clark, the party's 1980 Presidential candidate, as speaker. His theme was the LP's chances this fall.

The most important part of the weekend meeting was, of course, the NatCom agenda. Most of the business involved committee reports on the Bergland campaign, various ballot drives, legal suits involving ballot drives, finances, etc.

Unfortunately, it appears that four states (Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts and Texas) will not have the Bergland-Lewis ticket on the ballot this fall. Several other states are struggling against serious obstacles, but the party is doing everything it can to overcome these. This includes borrowing \$40,000 to pay people to petition in some of these close states.

On a more positive note, the party is raising about \$25,000 a month to help pay its expenses. This is the average for the past seven months.

At the Sunday morning session, Steve Delisio of Alaska asked NatCom members to take a fresh look at the goals of NatCom and the party, and to determine the needs of the libertarian movement. A lengthy discussion followed. It concluded with a resolution by John Francis, New York State Chair and NatCom representative, calling for a mailed questionnaire to all state chairs and NatCom members to determine how they see the party's goals and future direction. This survey will be distributed, tabulated and analyzed before the next NatCom meeting scheduled for mid-December. The results of the survey will be on the agenda for discussion and action.

Many FLP members from the Rochester Chapter and elsewhere around the state attended the NatCom meeting and saw first-hand how the party's national business is handled. Those attending included eight State Committee members.

No report of this meeting would be complete without special thanks to John Sproul of the Rochester Chapter who arranged for this important event.

Paul Kunberger, NatCom member from Regi (Dist. of Columbia, Maryland and W. Vir speaking at the Rochester meeting, star

LAISSEZ FAIRE

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- Clip & mail the coupon to the FLP, 225 Lafayette Street, Room 911, New York, NY 10012.
- Enclose a \$5.00 entry fee.
- Enter as many times as you wish (\$5.00 for each entry).
- The winner--the person coming closest to the actual number--will receive half of the pool.
- The other half will help the FLP in Campaign '84.
- Hint: The FLP goal is 40,000 signatures.

FLP "Petition Pool"

My guess is that the total number of signatures filed in Albany for David Bergland and Jim Lewis will be:

Name: (print) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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ing.

State Committee members at Buffalo meeting. From left: Bill McMillen, Albany; Tom Lowy, NYC; Fred Cookinham, NYC; Joe Piekarski, Buffalo; Dawn Davis, Albany; Don Davis, Albany; Margaret Piasiecki, Albany; Dottie-Lou Brokaw, Cortland; Dean Grimes, Binghamton; and John Francis, State Chair,

YES!

I want to help the Bergland-Lewis Campaign.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

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Petitioning at the State Fair

Several FLP members and supporters will be petitioning for the Bergland-Lewis ticket at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. The Fair runs from August 24 - September 3. If anyone wishes to join in this petitioning, call Dottie-Lou Brokaw at 607-753-9176. Arrangements can be made to spend the night in Cortland and travel to Syracuse with the local petitioners the following day.

REGIONAL REPORTS

by Tom Lowy

Westchester-Putnam Chapter

Howard Lebowitz, Vice Chair of the Westchester-Putnam Chapter, has entered the race for the 87th Assembly District. A "Committee to Elect Howard D. Lebowitz" has been organized to plan Howard's campaign, which covers the city of White Plains. Contributions may be mailed to the Committee: P.O. Box 3, Pleasantville, NY 10570....The Chapter held a successful pre-campaign picnic at the Mt. Kisco home of Reed Halsted. Jim Lewis, the Libertarian Party Vice Presidential candidate, and Tom Ross, Lewis' campaign manager, were guests at the affair. Jim was interviewed extensively by a Gannett Newspapers reporter. A story appeared in the July 23rd issue of Gannett's nine Westchester papers. Jim was quoted as saying: "Quite simply, I believe that you own your own life and body and what you do with it is your business, as long as you let me do the same. The function of government is to allow both of us to do that"....Final plans for the Chapter's ballot drive were made at the picnic. The Chapter goal for the Bergland-Lewis ticket is 3000 signatures.

Binghamton

The Binghamton Libertarians held a petition drive kick-off party and workshop on Monday, August 6th. The Binghamton Chapter is petitioning for both the Bergland-Lewis ticket and the Wanda Hudak campaign. Their signature goal for Bergland-Lewis is 2000....The Hudak campaign for Broome County Executive is picking up steam as the petition drive nears an end. The candidate is scheduled to speak at a League of Women Voters meeting on Thursday, September 20th. A fund-raiser is planned for Friday, September 21st. For more details, call "Friends to Elect Wanda Hudak", 607-724-5602.

Dutchess County

Steve Jones, Chapter Chair of the Dutchess County FLP, is the party's candidate for the 96th Assembly District. A campaign committee has been put together to coordinate the petition drive and other campaign activities. Steve lives in the city of Poughkeepsie, which makes up the greater part of the 96th A.D. His campaign is focusing on several issues of local concern, including repeal of the MTA tax, which forces upstate people to finance the New York City bus and subway system. He is also calling for repeal of the mandatory seat belt law and laws that restrict the places in which wine can be sold. Steve reports that he is telling people that "government is doing things it shouldn't be doing"....The Dutchess County Chapter has planned a vigorous Bergland-Lewis petition drive. Their goal: 2500 signatures.

New York City

The New York City Chapter held an enthusiastic petition-drive kick-off rally and workshop on Monday evening, August 6th, at the State Headquarters in Manhattan. About 30 Libertarians attended. Over 9,000 signatures were pledged during the course of the rally. The Bergland-Lewis petition goal for the New York City membership is 10,000. Fred Cookinham, the City Chair, expressed confidence that the goal would be reached....The workshop focused on showing everyone the techniques of petitioning. Fred reminded everyone to have the person sign his or her name just as it appears on the voters rolls. He recommends that petitioners write in the person's address to guarantee legibility....Four local candidates were present at the rally: Bob Falk (27th Senate District); George Carmody (26th Senate District); Dave Kahn (17th Congressional District); and Tom Lowy (15th Congressional District).

Central New York

The Central New York Chapter held a petition drive kick-off picnic in Cortland on Sunday, August 4th. Dottie-Lou Brokaw, Chapter Chair, reports that several new people attended and expressed interest in helping with the petition drive. The Chapter's signature goal for the Bergland-Lewis ticket is 3,000. Several of the Central New York members plan to petition at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. The Fair runs from August 24th to September 3rd. If any other FLPers would like to join in this petitioning, call Dottie-Lou at 607-753-9176. Overnight accommodations are available in Cortland.

Ulster County

Ulster County Libertarians gathered at the Port Ewen home of Sandi and Eugene Keller on Monday, August 6th, for a petition drive kick-off party. A booth has been rented at the Ulster County Fair in New Paltz and will be used for petitioning and outreach....Mike North was unable to put together a sufficient organization for his planned campaign for Congress and has withdrawn his candidacy. Mike reports, however, that his supporters plan to work for the Bergland-Lewis ticket.

Buffalo

The Buffalo Chapter hosted the FLP State Committee for its pre-petition drive meeting on Sunday, July 29th. The meeting was held at the home of Joe Piekarski. The Buffalo Libertarians will be petitioning for the Bergland-Lewis ticket. Their signature goal is 3,000.

Voting on a Loan

About a month before the July meeting of the LP National Committee, NatCom members were asked by the national leadership to vote on a proposition to have the party borrow \$40,000. The money was to be used to pay petition expenses in several faltering ballot drives.

As your representative on NatCom, I voted against the proposal. The specter of borrowing after several years of paying off previous debt seemed foolhardy. Many attribute the problems that the LP is now facing to the enormous energy required to eliminate that debt. The result was that many other important areas of party work were neglected.

The decision we must make is between long-term and short-term goals. Since the money to be borrowed was earmarked for use in states that had only a minimal chance at achieving ballot status this year (these states, in fact, did not), I believe my decision to vote "no" was the better choice.

Seven other NatCom members also voted "no." Only two were officially counted though, since mailing and other delays caused the other "no" votes to arrive too late.

The borrowing proposal passed by a vote of 18 - 3. As of August 1, the party has only been able to borrow \$16,000 of the authorized \$40,000.

Schoharie Libertarians Organize!

On July 30th, the Schoharie County FLP Organizing Committee was established "for the purposes of organizing a Schoharie County branch of the Free Libertarian Party." The Committee has declared its support for "the principles and ideals of the party" and the party's candidates and campaigns for public office.

Meeting in the Cobleskill home of Lester Hendrix, the Committee laid plans for petition work for the Bergland-Lewis ticket. Organizing, fundraising, publicity and educational activities were also discussed. Robert Hills of Mineral Springs was elected Chair of the Committee.

A public meeting is tentatively set for September 14th. Libertarians in the Schoharie County area are urged to contact the Organizing Committee and take an active part in the 1984 campaign. Write or call: Robert Hills, Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill, NY 12043 (518-234-4238).

Fundraising Calendar

Binghamton, Sunday, Oct. 21, "All That Jazz!" at the Music Box. For information, call (607) 724-5602.

New York City, local candidates fundraiser planned for mid-September at Manhattan location. For information call (212) 226-6483.

Letter of the Month

Many FLP members around the state are writing letters to the editors of their local newspapers. The FLP NEWS will feature a "Letter of the Month" each issue. Please send us your published letters. The featured letter for this issue is by Dave Hoesly of Webster, NY. Dave is the Chair of the Rochester FLP Chapter and is a candidate for the 130th Assembly district. He is also co-director of the Chapter's "Letters to the Editor" project, an effort that has resulted in over 300 published letters during the past year.

The letter appearing below was published in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on July 30, 1984.

Instead of what?

YOUR editorial (July 12) lauded government grants being used "to stimulate commercial, residential or industrial development," but never examined what would have happened with that money had the government not confiscated it from those who earned it!

The question, "Instead of what?" is being asked all across America by Libertarian presidential candidate David Bergland, as he challenges the notion of statist (be they of the conservative or liberal persuasion) that the government allocates capital more efficiently than does the free market.

Changing prices in a free market transmit information about what consumers want to have produced. so, when government interrupts that process (by taking out about half of the wealth being created by producers), allocations are made to politically expedient ends rather than to the ends consumers would have chosen, and the market operates at vastly reduced efficiency.

But the argument doesn't hinge on only efficiency — fundamentally it's a matter of morality. How do these government bureaucrats get the moral right to forcibly expropriate you and me? Since you and I have no right to rob a third person, clearly we cannot delegate such a non-existent right to a group of individuals calling themselves "government."

Whether it's thugs mugging a little old lady, or whether it's a draft board sending a young man off to die in a foxhole, or whether it's 51 percent (of the few who vote) sanctioning pocket-picking by the tax men in Rochester, Albany and Washington — those who advocate the initiation of force are morally guilty of interfering with the pursuit of happiness of those people who simply want to be left alone to live their own lives.

DAVID D. HOESLY, Webster

The writer is chairman of the Genesee Region Chapter, Libertarian Party.

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