

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS
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TAX PROTEST APRIL 17, 1978

The taxpayers are up in arms. Reeling from incredible property tax hikes due to reassessment, a staggering Social Security tax hike, the devastating impact of tax-inflation as cost of living increases drive them into higher and higher brackets, and the sickening new RTA fuel tax increase; the taxpayers are mad! Hordes of incensed taxpayers will be showing their disgust for state expropriation of their property by rallying in front of the main Post Office Building at 433 W. Van Buren on Monday, April 17, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Be there!

THE PACKAGE DEAL: *Fraud on the Taxpayer*

BY GEORGE O'BRIEN

Anti-Tax Dinner

A DINNER AND RALLY WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE PROTEST AT THE PARTHENON RESTAURANT, 314 S. HALSTED, FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 PM, DINNER IS \$5. SPEAKERS INCLUDE JIM TOBIN, LEADER OF THE NORTH SHORE TAX STRIKE; MARK RHOADS, A CONSERVATIVE CONGRESSMAN WHO IS INTRODUCING A TAXPAYERS RELIEF BILL INTO THE STATE LEGISLATURE; AND--TENTATIVELY--MR. JARVIS OF CALIFORNIA, WHO IS LEADING THE PETITION DRIVE FOR PROPERTY TAX LIMITATION IN CALIFORNIA.

Apologists for state expropriation and confiscation of the earnings of citizens (typically called taxes) often defend this larceny on the grounds that "You can't get something for nothing." The something they refer to invariably consists of a long list of "essential" government services: police, the courts, the jails, garbage collection, public education, national defense, rent subsidies, mosquito abatement, interstate highways, public transportation, postal service, parks, and national support of the arts (including everything from fellowships for composers to Chicago's Bat Column). They lump all these projects together, point to them, and tell us, "Without taxes, none of this would be possible." Looking at some of the idiocies they've perpetrated, many of us would shout "AMEN!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Government Help for Workers:NO BARGAIN

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BY GEORGE O'BRIEN

Old myths die hard. No myth has died harder than the conviction that without such government interference as the minimum wage, the National Labor Relations Act, etc., the "workers" would be returned to "sweat shop" conditions at 25¢ an hour. The real fact of the matter is that government does little for the workers, and hurts them far more.

Today, blue collar workers are spending 40 to 45% of their real incomes in taxes. Often they are shocked to discover that they are "the other guy" from whom income is to be "redistributed." Every pay raise throws them into higher tax brackets, so they find themselves losing against inflation. More and more wives who would not be on the job market are being forced to work to make ends meet. They are taxed to send their children to bad schools; if they try to move to another neighborhood they get hit with higher taxes and are accused of racism.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the main effects of government labor law and taxing procedures is to displace low skill and minority workers. Whatever apparent gains are made by such monopolistic actions are in turn taxed away. As these policies create a permanent unemployed, unemployable, "under class", the social fabric of the neighborhoods is destroyed; everyone pays a terrible price in welfare programs and urban decay.

The tragedy of this is that it was all so unnecessary. As an economy grows and matures, industry will inevitably bid up the wage rate. Various sorts of labor/management cooperative mechanisms will develop to handle grievances and the like (the Japanese developed a sort of paternalistic corporation which virtually guarantees a livelihood to its workers through retirement). In any case the fear of 19th century sweatshops is quite unfounded.

Ultimately workers bear the same burdens as all other citizens of the costs of taxation, wasted resources through regulation, misallocated resources through controls, and the oppressive effects of a controlled society. Increasingly, workers are beginning to realize they've been had!

PACKAGE DEAL (cont. from page one)

The real issue lies in their clever package deal--the way they imply that because government should protect us from force it should also put food in our mouths. If you want police, they say, you must also accept massive income redistribution. If you want postal service, you must also pay for highways. If you want parks, you must also take foreign military bases. If you want safety in the streets, you must also take drug laws (laws which, it has been shown, promote crime in the streets).

Liberals and Conservatives alike lack any solution to the problem of expanding government due to this package deal. Both groups, in fact, are guilty of nurturing it. One Congressman says to another, "You vote for my new dam and I'll vote for your military spending bill." Yet another says, "You vote for my new drug controls and I'll vote for your cultural endowment." Regardless of the issues, members of neither faction would choose to reduce the size and scope of government power for fear their favorite projects would be among those lost.

Libertarians alone provide a real alternative to log rolling. The solution is to have each individual pay for only the services they want. Many services such as mail delivery, arbitration of contracts, fire protection, garbage pickup, sewage disposal, schools, and the like could be more efficiently provided by private firms. Tax credits for contributions for hospitals, schools, parks, charity, and even national defense could be a step toward the total elimination of compulsory payments (taxes) altogether.

The most critical element of this "unbundling" of the package deal is that worthless and destructive programs cannot be hidden from destruction under the heels of public wrath. Without the package deal, taxpayers need no longer fear cuts in popular programs when taxes are reduced or bond issues defeated.

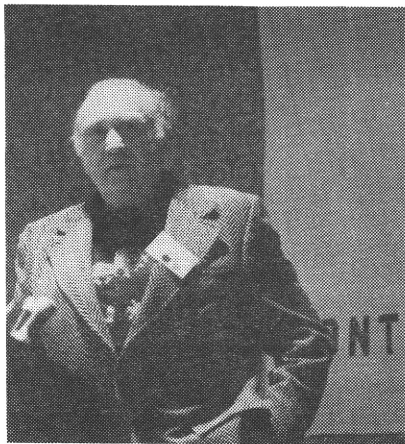
The key to ending the rape of the taxpayer is to end the package deal. It is time the Liberals and Conservatives own up to the sham they are responsible for and unbundle the package.

Constructive Dialogue of Political Heavyweights

The panel discussion between Roy Childs and Sidney Lens at the State Convention in March was an historic event. For once, there was a real attempt at communication between a decentralist leftist and a Libertarian. If the Libertarian Party is to succeed in its crucial task of bringing together the libertarian elements of both Right and Left, such dialogues are absolutely necessary.



ROY CHILDS



SIDNEY LENS

Language remains a major barrier in this quest, but it is truly exciting to see both sides attempting to go beyond the established political rhetoric to overcome this barrier. As the language barrier was reduced a bit, so were some of the preconceptions.

Sidney Lens is a serious thinker (see the book review on p. 6). He is greatly concerned with the problems caused by nation-states. He is very concerned about the threat of a nuclear war, and is not so naive as to think there is any simple way of avoiding one. Mr. Lens is well aware of how far the State has gone in attacking our civil liberties, and is an astute critic of the unholy alliance of Big Business and Big Government. He has some idea of the debilitating effects of the government "education" system.

In the process of the discussion, Lens learned that libertarians are also concerned about these issues. He was surprised to learn that libertarians see nothing wrong with "worker" owned and operated companies, although we are skeptical of how many workers would actually want to be involved in running factories. He appeared to be rather surprised at how radical we are in areas such as government schools and our timetable for "withering away the State"—a goal he expressed support for several times.

Clearly, much was learned on both sides, although the gap remains rather large. In particular, Lens's call for "non-statist" international control of nuclear weapons appeared to most libertarians to be a non sequiter. There are serious methodological differences which show up in the area of economics. Yet even here, some ground was broken, most notably when Lens insisted that socialists are "not against free markets," but see the market as "the basis for planning." Roy Childs made a very provocative contribution to the discussion at this point, when he pointed out that the logic of worker-controlled factories could lead to a "stock market," with workers who were not interested in running a factory selling their share in it to someone else.

One can only hope that this dialogue can continue with people as sincere and open as Roy Childs and Sidney Lens. (A recording of the panel was made, and certain portions of the panel were videotaped. For information, contact Milton Mueller (312)525-6231.

I WOULDN'T GET TOO EXCITED ABOUT THIS TALK OF TAX CUTS. IT'S RATHER LIKE A HOLDUP MAN OFFERING YOU CAB FARE HOME AFTERWARDS.

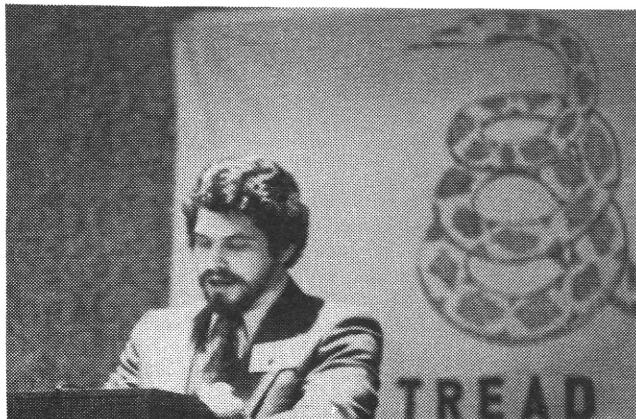
--ARNOLD GLASCOW

Mind Expanding 78 Convention

By ELEANOR MCCONNELL

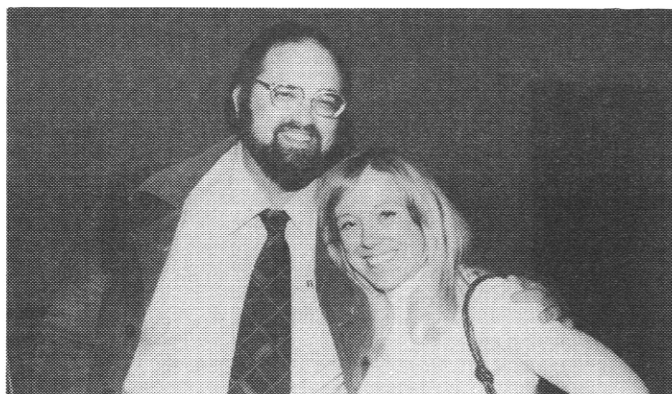
Two methods of intellectual growth are available to those of us who seek it. First, we can concentrate on one topic or idea and examine it in depth. Alternatively, we can look at that idea or concept from a new perspective or angle. The 1978 Libertarian Convention used both approaches to study the achievement of individual freedom.

The activities of lobbyists in Washington constitute a gray area for many Libertarians and for good reason. Lobbyists are only after one thing--to gather more power to themselves. Right? Wrong! Alan Bock, Director of Libertarian Advocate, explained the type of lobbying that can be done to foster political freedom--to gain support for repeal of oppressive laws, to build opposition to the passage of new laws, and to unite those who are in general opposition to power blocs. Bock's optimistic outlook about the future of these political activities was an appropriate opening to the convention.



ALAN BOCK

The Childs-Lens panel on the corporate state sparked lively discussion, as Sidney Lens presented a critical view of current economic activities of government and raised some possibilities for alternatives. The massive U.S. defense complex in particular was singled out as a target. Lens, representing the view of the Left, offered the economic system of Yugoslavia as a model. In that system, he stated, all workers have an equal vote in the financial, marketing, and production decisions of the factories or other organizations in which they are employed. No wealth can be amassed or inherited. His statement, "Property is Theft!" brought co-panelist Roy Childs to his feet. Childs, Editor of Libertarian Review, quickly identified Len's logical fallacy, indicating that without the concept of property, the idea of theft has no validity. The question period, which at times approached hostility, was kept in line by the moderating influence of Childs.



ROY CHILDS AND MARJI KOHLS

By late Saturday afternoon the group was ready for the calm, relaxed assurance of Karl Hess, the next speaker. Hess's plea for smallness in politics and business was refreshing, even if it seemed a bit archaic to some. The lifestyle offered by social communities and small economic partnerships is a far cry from the overwhelmingly large corporations that dominate today's political and economic scene. More personal freedom is possible, Hess insists, outside of the influence of those monoliths. Hess is an activist whose own economic activities are sharply limited by the IRS. Nonetheless, he refuses to let that agency break his spirit. He is an active campaigner for alternative lifestyles. If at some future date the computer programmers of the world unite, we would guess they'd find their natural leader in Hess (look for Alida Jatisch to be a prime mover there!).



KARL HESS

Dinner and a rowdy musical evening with Barcelona Red, a jazz-rock quartet, was a welcome contrast to the day's mind expansion. A highlight of the evening was a disco demonstration by Toni Nathan and Roy Childs.



CHARLOTTE ADELMANN



MARIE KUDA

Sunday morning after breakfast an outstanding panel, composed of Tonie Nathan, Charlotte Adelmann, and Marie Kuda, examined feminist areas that affect all political human beings. Nathan reviewed events at the International Women's Year Convention in Houston, which she attended as a representative of the Association of Libertarian Feminists. Noting that the major thrust of INY-1978 was passage of ERA, she outlined some relationships between that amendment and the lifting of all limitations of political and personal freedom. Adelmann, a Chicago lawyer who has handled many divorce and property settlement cases, defined the new Illinois laws relating to divorce reform. Although she took no political stance, she offered reasons for getting politics out of the bedrooms of consenting adults. Kuda, Director of Womanpress, is an active participant in Gay Rights activities. As she related a few personal experiences to those in the audience, she advocated similar treatment under the law for gay people and straights, including the legalization of same-sex marriages. The diverging views of panelists were evident as each described what she saw as appropriate responses of government to the problems that had been raised. The question of Libertarian responsibility to promote social as well as political change remained unanswered as the panel ended. Clearly this is an issue to be discussed in the future.

Jim Clarkson provided a "how-to" lesson on political activism close to home with his entertaining slide show on fighting taxes. The show was a documentary-style description of a successful anti-tax campaign staged by a few dedicated activists in Rome, Georgia. The lessons learned in this struggle to resist taxation will need to be carried around the country if the Libertarian Party is to grow beyond a few major cities.



JIM CLARKSON

A less formal, but equally sobering, note was struck by Roy Childs as he summarized the history of drug laws. Government control of certain substances has led to the concentration of power in the hands of a few government agencies. Medical evidence can be offered to refute the claim that many drugs, including heroin, are as harmful as the public has been led to believe. In addition, the obvious rise in price due to controls has led to an increase in theft by users to obtain their supply. Reform in laws is essential.

The two-day convention brought together a colorful variety of people of all ages and many persuasions. The communication of ideas and enthusiasm produced an entertaining, exciting, and enlightening weekend.



"However, if Line 54B is less than 9 per cent greater than Line 62A, your refund already has been eaten up by inflation."

THE FUTILE CRUSADE by Sid Lens

REVIEWED BY MILTON MUELLER

The Futile Crusade by Sidney Lens is a brilliant dissection of "anti-communism" as the basis for an interventionist foreign policy. Many Americans--and a few libertarians--are seduced by the rhetoric of anti-communism, since communism is admittedly the bloody anti-thesis of libertarianism. But this book shows with excruciating detail how the American people's legitimate dislike of totalitarianism has been exploited and manipulated to increase the power of the government, create a huge military/industrial complex, and suppress civil liberties. As in Orwell's 1984, the threat of a foreign enemy is used by government for its own aggrandisement.

The history of anti-communism as the basis of our foreign policy is a tragic one (even in 1964, when it was published). Yet we can see the same silly mistakes being repeated today. With example after example, Lens relentlessly demonstrates how the U.S. government has compromised liberty and justice in the crassest manner for the purely negative goal of "containing communism." In the process, the U.S. has sold out the very ideals on which this nation rests.

A 1962 quotation from Barry Goldwater in the book reveals how severely anti-communism compromises freedom. "Victory over communism," writes Goldwater, "must be the dominant proximate goal of American foreign policy. Peace is a worthy objective, but if we must choose between peace and keeping the communists out of West Berlin, then we must fight. Freedom, in the sense of self-determination, is a worthy objective, but if granting self-determination for the Algerian rebels entails sweeping that area into the Sino-Soviet orbit, then Algerian freedom must be postponed. Justice is a worthy objective, but if justice for Bantus (South African blacks) entails driving the South African government away from the West, then the Bantus must be prepared to carry their identification cards yet a while longer. Prosperity is a worthy objective, but if producing higher living standards gets in the way of producing sufficient weapons to be able to resist communist aggression, then material sacrifices and denials will have to be made."

Peace, freedom, justice and prosperity--the very things libertarians value most should be sacrificed for the sake of anti-communism, according to Goldwater. Yet as Lens goes on to demonstrate, the policy of anti-communism not only weakens our own freedom and prosperity, but strengthens the appeal of communism.

Lens shows that the breakup of the old colonial powers after World War II created a surge of nationalist revolutions against the exploitive colonial rulers. "When (the former President of the University of North Carolina) arrived in Indonesia in 1947 to mediate the dispute between the Netherlands and the nationalists, college students everywhere pleaded with im to lecture on the American revolution of 1775. In the streets of Saigon, Indochina, at about the same time, young men were plastering the walls with slogans from the American Declaration of Independence. ...Thousands of leaders who hated British, French and Dutch imperialism believed that 'the United States is different.' A decade later this goodwill was gone. Disillusionment with America was as severe as it once was with Britain or France. American influence receded; communist influence advanced."

"IN THE STREETS OF SAIGON, ...YOUNG MEN WERE PLASTERING THE WALLS WITH SLOGANS FROM THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,"

Why did this happen? Because the local communists supported and worked for these national liberation movements--and the U.S. either ignored them or tried to crush them. "...therein lies the weakness of the United States--it was either indifferent to nationalism, bewildered by it, or hostile to it when there was a danger that communists might become its leaders. In Asia, as in Europe, America edged closer to the power elite; and when the colonial power elite had fallen, it allied itself with native power elites."

The American-supported dictator has become such a cliché that our awareness of its tragic meaning has become somewhat blunted. Consider: the United States of America, the (relatively) freest country on earth, the country with the most explicitly libertarian heritage has, because of interventionist foreign policy, become the bulwark of some of the world's most reactionary, corrupt and unlibertarian regimes. In so doing, we have forced nationalist uprisings into the hands of the communists.

As Lens puts it, "In Asia, Latin America, North Africa, and to a limited extent, Black Africa, nationalism is made up of a spectrum of political doctrine ranging from religious and conservative nationalism to various branches of socialism, communism, and in some

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

by Milton Mueller

Under my inspired chairmanship, the LPI managed somehow to elect new officers and adopt several important constitutional amendments. And we almost finished on time.

Ken Sturzenacker was elected Party Chair by a resounding vote of 26 for him and 10 for None of the Above. We expect to publish an article of his introducing you to his new regime in an upcoming issue of the Illinois Libertarian. Another newcomer to the agonies and ecstasy of being an officer is J. Richard Dema, who was elected Secretary by a vote of 32 to 4 for NOTA. Wayne Openlander, by a vote of 31 to 5, is now our Party Treasurer, and I hope he can find something in the Party to Treasure. Finally, the teeming multitudes at the Convention elected me to the Judicial Committee by the near unanimous vote of 35 to 1. Rumor has it that the lone dissenter was a misanthropic FBI agent who has managed to worm his way onto our mailing list. George O'Brien was re-elected by a vote of 31 to 5.

As for the constitutional amendments, all but one passed. The proposal to replace the officer of Secretary with an "Executive Director" bit the dust. There was some lengthy haggling over whether to make the Executive Director elected or appointed, and over whether the new office would take too much authority away from the Chairperson.

All the other proposed amendments were passed, some in amended form, some as they were proposed originally. New guidelines for the mailing list were adopted, and the relationship between the Party and political committees defined.

A provision prohibiting the Party from endorsing any candidate of another political party was passed overwhelmingly (are you listening, Massachusetts LP?). Also passed was a requirement that party officers not be an officer of another political party or an officer of an anti-libertarian political organization. The purpose of the LPI was amended to read: "to implement the goals specified by the Libertarian Party platform."

Members will receive a copy of the revised constitution as soon as possible.

THE FUTILE CRUSADE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

cases Trotskyism. ...in China and Indochina communism emerged predominant (among the nationalist coalition) because those who sincerely believed in nationalism had no other palce to go." The major reason they had nowhere else to go was the U.S. penchant for the status quo, brought about by our need for pliant rulers willing to support U.S. military bases.

Lens also documents how the foreign crusade harms domestic freedom. The wartime controls of 1940-45 were stringent enough--workers were not allowed to change jobs at will, employers could not invest where they wanted, and the economy was rationed. Yet many of these departues from the American tradition were not removed after the war, due to the alleged threat of communism--the draft, huge military expenditures, etc. The Smith Act, which made membership in certain organizations illegal, was retained. The Internal Security Act required communist organizations to register with the Attorney General and turn over their membership lists. Trial by legislative committee became common during the McCarthy era. It was during this period that the President assumed the power to send troops to war without the consent of Congress--a clear violation of the Constitution. It was also at this time that executive secrecy and government lying became practices accepted as "necessary." These were sharp breaks with American libertarian tradition, yet they remained unquestioned until the crisis of the Vietnam war and the fall of the Nixon administration. Finally, the CIA and its secret budget were created, a wartime agency held over into peacetime and made permanent. As Lens states, "since we are only in a 'half-war,' or Cold War, we stand midpoint between the values of individualism and those of the garrison state, continuing to manifest characteristics of the former, but yeilding to the demands of the latter. In this Cold War, the central government inevitably assumes more power over its citizens."

While libertarians have severe differences with Sidney Lens on free market issues, this book is required reading for anyone wishing to understand the nneed for non-interventionist foreign policy. His preference for socialist governments does not prevent him from criticizing communist oppression, and economics is incidental to the theme of The Futile Crusade anyway. That militarism and foreign adventurism work against freedom is a point Lens makes forcefully and in more detail than most libertarian writing on the subject.

NEWSLETTER STAFF: MILTON MUELLER, PUBLISHER GEORGE O'BRIEN, EDITOR

ELEANOR MCCONNELL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR MIKE RAY, LAYOUT AND PHOTOS BILL KERR, TYPING

& news & notes

TAXPAYERS REFUSE TO PAY AND "CHEAT" IN GREATER NUMBERS. Bob Wiedrich of the Chicago Tribune reports that the IRS estimated it is losing \$15.4 billion due to tax evaders and resisters. The Department of Commerce and private economists estimate the amounts to be much higher. Every year more and more people are deciding that cutting out "the government" is the only way to make ends meet. As Wiedrich notes: "Ram the tax burden down the throats of Americans even further. Maintain the fashionable pace of government fiscal irresponsibility. And pretty soon, many more Americans will plunge into the subterranean economy as artful tax dodgers." However, Wiedrich bemoans the alleged fact that tax "cheaters" will eventually "start cheating on many other things." A true conservative--obeying the law is more important than morality.



EERF LUNCHEON Wednesday, April 12 will feature Dominick Armentano, a libertarian economist whose work has appeared in Reason. Mr. Armentano will discuss anti-trust laws. The luncheon will be held in the Wabash Room (3rd floor) of the Palmer House at 11:30. The price is \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members of EERF. Call 736-9734 for reservations.



A QUIZ MACHINE which, on the basis of eight questions, rates the answerer as socialist, conservative, or libertarian, will soon be available for use at county fair booths and literature tables. For use of the machine, and help in setting up a booth, contact Mike Hepple at (312) 736-9734.



LIBERTARIANS FOR GAY RIGHTS April 16, 5:00. Meeting at 736 Briar Place, Chicago. These meetings are cozy, informal rap sessions between gays and straights, libertarians and non-libertarians. For additional information, call (312) 925-1111. (LGR meets the third Sunday of each month at the same address.)



"LOCAL CONTROL" THEME OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE. "Education for Change III" will feature Preston Wilcox, Joel Spring (who has done some research for the Institute of Humane Studies) Jonathan Kozol, and others. There will also be films, workshops, and literature tables from many organizations. The LPI is planning to run a booth. The program will be held May 13 and 14 on the campus of DePaul University

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE



"A taxpayers' revolt could be serious . . . there's a lot of them out there, you know."

2324 North Seminary, Chgo. The price is \$3.00 a day. For information call (312) 728-4030.



AT LONG LAST the L.P.I. will have an office/campaign headquarters (hindquarters?) While the arrangement is not definite yet, we will probably be moving into a second floor office at Clark and Diversey. If you have old office furniture you don't need, we can use it. We will also need libertarian posters; and we have plans to make a large banner to face out the window and attract attention. Contact Milton Mueller at 525-6231 if you can help. We need lots of money to pay the rent, by the way.



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO MILITARY TAXES! Senator Ron Dellums and Mark Hatfield are sponsoring a bill that would permit a citizen conscientiously opposed to war to "direct toward peace-related activities that portion of his or her taxes which would otherwise be used for military expenditures." The money would go to a "World Peace Tax Fund" which presumably would seek ways to resolve conflicts "without the use of force." Libertarians can't get too excited about this, because it's still taxation and it's still compulsory. But at least it is a step toward recognition of the individual's right to control the way his money is used.

The Illinois Libertarian is published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Subscription included with annual membership in the Libertarian Party of Illinois: \$25/sustaining; \$10/regular; \$8/student. Subscription for non-members: \$8/year. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of LPI, its officers, or the editor, George O'Brien. Articles should be submitted to the editor, The Illinois Libertarian; membership and other inquiries should be submitted to the L.P.I., Postal Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690.