

FREE LIBERTARIAN

newsletter of the Free Libertarian Party

FLP TAX DEMO: MEDIA SMASH UNDERNEATH THE GOLDINGATE SUPPORT THE FRED FUND!

FLP CONVENTION: MAY 12-13

Fred
Cook-
inham,
editor

May
1979

On Monday, April 16, FLP members demonstrated outside the IRS office at 120 Church st., NYC. Jesse Cardillo was the protest spokesperson. Over 500 FLP/NTU flyers were distributed in a short time, and the passersby were very, very friendly-- even though the crowd was largely ethnic, and even though this is NYC, I didn't hear one person accuse us of being heartless toward the poor. I did hear many obviously not rich people complain bitterly about paying taxes and not being satisfied with the efficiency of the gov't's use of their money.

The media was much in evidence. Before the demo, I was interviewed on the phone by WHN and WNBC. At the demo was a crew from one of the big TV stations, a crew from the Spanish language TV station, inquiring about us (and I wasn't expecting a sort of... no, I won't say it), a reporter from UPI, and one from the Fordham U. radio station.

We had a big "dollar bill", about 4 ft long, and a sign explaining how 42% of your dollar goes for taxes. (Although I'm told that it's up to 53% by the latest estimate). Signs were carried, and, to top it all off, we each burned a 1040 form, posing for a picture being shot by a War Resisters League member. (There were 5 of us and about as many of the WRL protesting taxes at the same time.) We could have gotten rid of thousands of flyers if we had had them. But I'm sure that there will be even worse taxes to protest next year, so we'll have plenty of opportunity to spread our views to an increasingly angry populace.

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Just because we aren't printing letters in the newsletter doesn't mean we don't want to get letters from y'all. If you could write and give us names and addresses of prospective members, we'd appreciate it. Every new member you bring in means that much less of the financial burden of the FLP you will have to carry. We have representatives in 46 of New York's 62 counties now, but not all of them are really active members. I'd like to have someone to spread our literature in each and every county, and a total membership of one thousand by election day 1980. They are out there, and YOU are going to help me find them. -editor

THE FRED FUND

Last year, I could have shown you tombs that were livelier than the FLP office. Not anymore. In addition to an increasing number of volunteers on Tuesday night (Open House Night-- y'all come!) there is a torrent of new activities being masterminded from the office: the anti-draft movement of SLS, the April 16 tax demo (op cit), recruitment ads in NYU & Columbia papers, handing out literature, talking to the media, the gargantuan task of updating and computerizing the mailing list, answering inquiries, and so on. FLP Secretary Fred Cookinham has therefore made the following offer, on an experimental basis: Starting on Monday, March 12, he has manned the office, 9-5, Monday thru Friday, while asking by phone for contributions from FLP members to compensate him @ \$90 per week. Fred, now in his 6th week at the office, is asking for one-time pledges until the State Con on May 12, when he will begin asking for quarterly pledges. We will then see how long the arrangement can be maintained. If there is enough money out there, we can have a full-time worker indefinitely. (and \$90/week is a bargain basement price.) For instance, if 90 people could give \$1 per week, that would do it, and we now have 91 FLP members paid up for 1979, mostly overlapping with the 257 National members in New York State.

Some surprising things have happened. Fred was luckily in the office to take calls from all three affiliated TV stations the week of the SLS press conference announcing the new anti-draft movement, which, in impact, will, I think, be this year's Prop 13. He has given 4 radio interviews over the phone, and assisted a writer doing a Penthouse article on the draft.

"I'm not only doing FLP work," says Fred, "but the office is becoming a center for allied groups as well. Wilbur Wong and I are handling meetings or information for the National LP, the Committee to Establish the Gold Standard, Americans for Constitutional Taxation, SLS, YLA, Landlord-Tenant Coalition, and the Namibian People's Liberation Front."

The WHAT??

"On Tuesday, 3/20, I got a call from a Mr. K.H. Conradie, president of the Namibian People's Liberation Front, at the Beverly hotel. To condense my subsequent visit there and hours of phone conversations between myself, Conradie, Chris Hocker at National LP, and others, Conradie wants to find someone to invest \$5,000 in a photographics firm being started by himself and a Mr. Ben Pillay, head of the quasi-libertarian Christian Democratic Party. Some of their profits will support their new party, which will be a merger of those two, to be called the Libertarian Party of Namibia. The results from the last election show that it will be strong enough to counter the Marxist SWAPO-- South West Africa People's Organization. Namibia, a territory twice the size of California, with 852,000 people, is at the very pivot of the world-hegemony struggles of the Empires of Washington and Moscow. What a coup for us little libertarians to be able to steal one of the big boys' key marbles right out from under their noses! What a master stroke for the LP and its presidential hopefuls to be able to announce that our foreign policy of peace and freedom is already being carried out abroad privately, with our help in this matter, and we haven't even been elected yet! And it hasn't cost the taxpayers a cent! (Makes you wonder what we need the departments of State and Defence for)"

"I told Mr. Conradie that I would spread the word. I wrote to Koch, MacBride and REASON, and last Saturday I got a call from Bob Poole, who wants to do a story on this for REASON. He and others want to get

*****LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION*****

_____ COMBINATION STATE AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: I enclose \$15.00 to pay for a combination one year membership in the Free Libertarian Party of New York and the national Libertarian Party. I am in substantial agreement with the statement of principles and objectives of the Free Libertarian Party as set forth below and I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

signature date

_____ STATE MEMBERSHIP ONLY: I enclose \$5.00 to pay for a one year membership in the Free Libertarian Party of New York. I am in substantial agreement with the statement of principles and objectives of the Free Libertarian Party as set forth below.

signature date

_____ NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY: I enclose \$10.00 to pay for a one year membership in the national Libertarian Party. I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

signature date

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY and mail to;
Free Libertarian party, 15 West 38th St., New York, NY, 10018

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ County _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Office) _____

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

The Free Libertarian Party is a political organization which has as its primary objective the extension of individual freedom to its furthest limits. To that end the Party affirms the following principles:

1. That each individual possesses the inalienable right to life and liberty and to justly acquired property.
2. That no person or institution, public or private, has the right to initiate the use of physical force against another.
3. That all individuals are entitled to choose their own life styles as long as they do not forcibly impose their values on others.
4. That the only moral basis of politics is the preservation and protection of individual rights.
5. That the voluntary exchange of goods and services is fundamental to any socio-economic system which provides for the harmonious integration of divergent value systems.

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APRIL 19, 1979

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Cattaraugus

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ROCHESTER REPORT: 51 people turned out to hear David Friedman... Tax demo got aired on all 4 TV stations, plus good article in major area paper...RIT & Eisenhower College plan anti-draft demo May 1...W. Allan Wallis of UR to speak on Tyranny of Special Interests-May 4, 6:30, Lost & Found Tavern, 104 Platt st, Roch.- 716-624-4188 reservations. Hunscher visits Rochester May 7.

THE GOLDINGATE SCANDAL

New York City Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin is in trouble. First it was the New York City fiscal crisis. Goldin was first elected Comptroller in 1973, beating the noble and heroic Free Libertarian candidate (who garnered a whopping $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the vote).

Revenge was swift. By 1975 the Big Apple was on the ropes. The SEC has since charged that Goldin, whom one reporter has dubbed "the liberal Nixon", misled investors about the city's precarious financial condition and now the FBI is also in on the investigation.

The latest Goldin caper is the Bus Stop shelter scam.

At first glance the whole thing looks legit. A private company, Bus Stop Shelters, Inc., was awarded an exclusive three-year contract to build shelters in New York City for passengers waiting at bus stops for city-run buses. The company's revenue came, not from taxpayers but from advertisers who bought ad space on the modern metal and glass conveniences. After three years, the company built nearly 400 of these shelters but its performance fell short of expectations and its contract was not renewed.

A new contract was signed, after competitive bidding, with a different company, Convenience & Safety Corporation. Private companies providing a city service at no cost to taxpayers? Very libertarian, eh!

Not so fast. The new company is enmeshed in a complex web of financial ties involving the staff

of Comptroller Goldin and a couple of his cronies in the State Legislature, one of whom worked behind the scenes for C&S while his law firm legally represented Bus Stop, its competitor. Another city official approved changes in the competitive bidding requirements and then left public office to work for C&S, the only company able to meet the new requirements.

The Goldin boy himself took an uncanny interest in the case, releasing an audit unfavorable to the first company just in time to affect the vote by the city's Board of Estimate on the franchise. The audit, denounced by outsiders as hasty and slipshod, was done by former Goldin campaign workers who are not professional auditors. The whole thing has become a hot issue in New York and may soon reverberate in other places. C&S has made overtures to local governments in Newark, New Jersey and Houston, Texas.

All of which has made me think twice about contracts between private companies and local governments. Of course, if the city government were more decentralized, and each of the five boroughs (counties) in New York City were allowed to award its own contract this might never have happened. Also, if the bus companies (and even the streets) were privately owned...

And then there is another consideration. If, in 1973, New York City voters had cast their ballots for the Free Libertarian candidate... What do you mean can I handle the arithmetic? I went to parochial school in New York, remember. (ed. note--as you have guessed, that candidate was Tom himself)

--by Tom Avery

these Namibian libertarians together with those involved with setting up a space freeport in the equatorial regions. (See latest REASON) Now, if there hadn't happened to be someone in the office to answer the phone that morning...^A

And that's not to mention the fellow from Brazil who dropped in yesterday, who wants to start a libertarian party, or at least a Cato-like institute, in that country... well, the point is that a full-time office with a full-time staff has no end of uses."

You see, no one likes to talk to a tape recorder, so people tend not to leave messages for us when we're out. Also, things just don't get done promptly, or don't get done at all, when people only come in on weekends or in the evening, at erratic intervals, and with a high turn over from year to year. (We're doing archeology in the office-- one person will start a project, then disappear to California or somewhere, and the next year someone else will do the same thing, and disappear; burn out or whatever, and so on, each leaving a half-finished project behind in the office.) Finally, there is the fact that the presidential campaign has already begun, and it is silly to have a party with the aspirations that we have, in a presidential year, in New York City for God's sake, and for which we have been shelling out about \$150 a month for six years (I shudder to think what phone calls we missed in that time) , and not have someone in the office full-time using it!

We've been very easy on ourselves in terms of dues-- the Alaska LP gets \$25/ year from members, and has twice as many as we do, with 1/45 our population. New York City is the Capital of the Twentieth Century world, and it needs a full-time LP. HOW ABOUT IT?

-- by Gary Greenberg

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