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The Illinois Libertarian

VOL. 4 NO. 7

JULY 1978

Prizes for Top Petitioners

The vote of the people of California that made Proposition 13 a reality is without a doubt the most visible recent sign of the wave of tax protests sweeping the nation. Examples of dissatisfaction can be found in many of the 50 states, sometimes in isolated, local groups, sometimes in well-organized, well-publicized formal movements.

Illinois's tax protest effort, supported by the Libertarian Party, is one of the best organized, most active groups in the country. This group, National Taxpayers United, headed by James L. Tobin, has become more and more visible in recent months. Newspapers and television have given widespread coverage to events such as the April tax protest at the Main Post Office. That event and others were supported by Libertarian Party members.

That people are getting fed up with the overburden of taxes is clear from their actions. Over and over again the mandate comes from the people: "Cut our taxes!"

All that sentiment adds up to a great deal of momentum for Libertarian candidates on the ballot for the 1980 elections. Here in the summer of '78, November 1980 may seem far away. But we cannot take advantage of voters' heightened awareness unless we work now to get our candidates on the ballot.

What does that mean? It means that by the end of July we need between 40,000 and 50,000 signatures on petitions in order to get recognition in Springfield.

Libertarians are out in force, working hard to gather enough signatures, but at the current rate of collection, this goal may not be achieved. We might not even get on the ballot.

So that a crisis of those proportions can be averted, the Libertarian Party has

announced a schedule of prizes to be awarded to outstanding petitioners. First prize, for the volunteer who gathers the greatest number of valid names anywhere in the state, will be an all-expense-paid round trip by air to the 1978 National Libertarian Convention, September 1-3, in Boston. This includes air fare, hotel room, and registration for all convention events with the chance to meet Libertarians from many different state chapters. Second prizes, awarded to those gathering more than 1,500 signatures, will be roundtrip air fares to the Convention. In addition, all those gathering more than 500 names will receive the convention package, consisting of registration for all events. Petitioners who gather more than 200 signatures will receive a one year subscription to LIBERTARIAN REVIEW.

The Art of Petitioning

By STEVE NELSON

The June SCC meeting revealed much good news: the 1978 Libertarian candidates have been well received at their appearances. Proposition 13's success and the Illinois Tax Revolt help the Libertarian Party because people are angry about taxes and attracted to the libertarian position and our candidates. The advance printing is finished. And, the party and all the committees are operating in the black because financing is coming along.

There is only one fly in the ointment, but it's a big one. We need about 40,000+ signatures.

Let's see what's involved. First, you equip yourself with a clipboard, a cheap ballpoint pen, a handful of New Political Times or Tweedle-Dee/Tweedle-Dum handouts, and copies of the petition form required by the state. Party headquarters has already mailed these to all LPI members and you can

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Schlesinger 'Proposes' Laissez-Faire

BY J. M. COBB
ECONOMIC REPORTER

The National Energy Plan proposed by President Carter in April, 1976 has not yet emerged from Congress. But, when it does, it will be considerably watered down from his original proposals.

First, there is a complex "phased de-control" of natural gas prices (which have been controlled since 1954). These controls significantly contributed to the natural gas shortages in some parts of the country in the winters of 1971-72 and 1976-77. Second, the Crude Oil Equalization Tax proposal, which raise domestic crude's cost to refiners to the \$14.00 world price (without allowing the oil producing companies any additional revenue), seems to be dead in the Senate. This would have been the largest single tax increase in U.S. history. Also, the various tax penalties for large cars have been scrapped.

The National Energy Planners, however, are gearing up for a rematch. The Department of Energy, under James Schlesinger, is mandated by law to propose a new national energy plan every two years--the next one in April 1979. There is no doubt that energy will become more expensive in the future and that we will run out of some kinds of fuel. This would be the ordinary free market process to reflect scarcity and make substitutes seem economical to users. Most readers are aware that whale oil, the major source of lighting 150 years ago, was replaced by kerosene when it became scarce. This won't happen without a "national" plan, the planners say.

Yet, why do we need a "national" energy plan? Everyone engages in personal planning; every successful business plans for the future. A major justification for property rights is that planning for resource allocation can be rational only if an assurance exists that the resources will still be under your control at the future time when you need them.

The reason that Carter and so many Congressmen want a "national" energy plan is not because there will soon be an energy crisis, but because our Government-dominated society provides them with an opportunity to reward some people and punish others by means of controls.

As proof that we really don't need a "national" energy plan, and as further proof that the libertarian solution would be the most morally correct position, let me quote two statements by the notable James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Energy. The first, found in the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution, May 21, 1977 states:

"The tool of politics (which frequently becomes its objective) is to extract resources from the general taxpayer with minimum offense

and to distribute proceeds among innumerable claimants in such a way as to maximize support at the polls."

"The classical laissez-faire response to the energy situation I have briefly outlined would be to allow the market to set the prices of oil and natural gas. Thus, the true value of energy would become apparent to all. As a result, attitudes toward energy would change, and people would begin to use it efficiently, and with greater respect for its value.

"As the price continued to rise, other forms of energy would become more competitive with oil and natural gas. In this way the marketplace would gradually phase out these fuels, replacing them with coal, nuclear power, and, ultimately, with sources such as solar energy, which are virtually inexhaustible.

"True, Adam Smith's 'invisible hand' would probably accomplish these economic goals rather efficiently. However, this classical economic process, ideal though it may be for allocating resources, is not the most effective arbiter of social and political interests."

There is no doubt in his mind that the free market would solve the energy supply problem, but those "social and political interests" require something else. The second statement was published ten years ago, before he became a powerful man and joined forces with Richard Nixon and then Jimmy Carter. In a 1968 article in the Journal of Law & Economics he told us what those "social and political interests" require.

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Campaign Dinner

The next campaign dinner will be Monday, July 24, 7:00 PM, Red Star Inn, Irving Park Road and Kennedy Expressway. It will be our usual Red Star feast for \$10. You can cut the price to only \$5 by bringing two completed petitions. Bring more completed petitions than anyone else and win the prize--your dinner FREE!

After dinner our speaker will be Grant Ford, possible candidate for alderman from a lake-front ward. Ford who is editor of GAY LIFE magazine, will discuss the political needs of gays in Chicago. A question period will follow the talk, which will start at 8:30.

To ensure sufficient space and enough food at dinner, you're requested to send your reservations and \$10 per person to Libertarian Party, Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690. You may phone in your reservation at (312) 248-2249.

The Register-Mail

Galesburg, Ill. — Tuesday, August 29, 1978

Comment and review

One petition campaign missed

Amid all the hoopla attending Gov. James R. Thompson's petition drive to place his tax-limit proposition on the November ballot, there was lost the news of another, successful petition campaign.

Although you would have searched in vain for a dispatch out of Springfield Aug. 12, it was on that day that the State Board of Elections certified the Libertarian Party candidates for a place on the ballot; their 34,000 valid signatures having been filed Aug. 7 and having gone unchallenged.

"So what," you say, "34,000 signatures in a state that numbers its voters — dead and alive — in the millions are not likely to make much difference."

To some extent that is correct. We have been taught that there are but two "great" political parties and that it is on this premise that our democracy survives.

That, of course, is balderdash (the post polite word for it). There have almost always been more than two parties in this country and, on occasion, the mavericks have held the balance of power. And, while two loose coalitions called political parties, do share power in the United States, their claims to greatness daily are refuted.

The Libertarians claim to be "the party of principle." This probably dooms them to perpetual minority status, principle not being a

popular political virtue these days.

In a society seemingly hell-bent for more and more regulation and more and more collectivism, the weird and almost unnoticed Libertarians advocate more and more individual freedom and individual responsibility.

They harbor the silly notion that man is a rational being and, given the opportunity, is quite likely to act in his own self-interest without much guidance from the elite, elected or not.

The Libertarian Party platform holds that the only way to really reduce taxes is to reduce spending, and the only way the state can reduce spending is to get out of people's lives. A free economy, it says, is the only proven way to a sound economy. Deficits and government controls produce funny money and distorted (black) markets.

Libertarians also subscribe to the belief that brotherly love can neither be advanced by legislation nor by judicial dictate; that you cannot have a crime without a victim; that national defense is a legitimate, constitutional concern of the federal government, but interfering in the affairs of other nations is not. They also maintain that the state's schools are, by and large, a fraud perpetrated against their consumers (the students) and a not-so-polite means of plundering the taxpayer.

The party's platform is, of course, much more comprehensive. It would be worthy of any thinking person's consideration, even if it did not contain this little quixotic gem: That the ballot, in the listing for each office, offer the choice, "None of the above." Libertarians believe such a choice would improve voter participation immeasurably.

Libertarian candidates Bruce Green and Georgia Shields are up against some tough odds in trying to become, respectively, our next U.S. Senator and next Governor. But placing their names on the ballot deserves every bit as much recognition as the placing on the ballot of a proposition without means of enactment. Perhaps it deserves more. — Glenn Eberhardt, Managing Editor

The Register-Mail

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(Sacramento Co.)
Union
(Cir. D. 95,061)
(Cir. Sun. 94,143)

Are the people ready for Ed Clark?

Ed Clark is a 48-year-old anti-trust lawyer from Los Angeles running for governor as an Independent-Libertarian.

You expect a kook.

Ed Clark is a soft-spoken man of conviction with ideas that criss-cross Republican-Democratic party lines and approach the public mood more directly than anything else in generations.

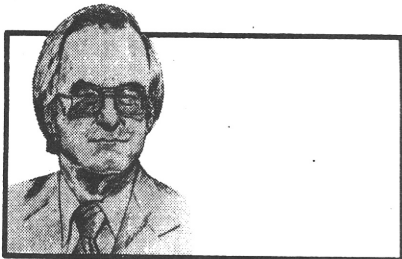
HE AND HIS people collected 183,000 signatures to get him on the ballot against Democratic Gov. Brown and Republican Evelle J. Younger.

"I think I'm a legitimate candidate and I'll receive a substantial number of votes," he said. "The Libertarian Party candidate got 60,000 votes in 1974 with a write-in candidate and no campaign."

The Libertarian Party was founded in an apartment in suburban Denver in 1971 by an advertising copy writer. At the moment the party is pushing philosophy.

"LIBERTARIANS BELIEVE that an individual should be able to live his or her own life in any way they want so long as they don't interfere by force or fraud with the equal right of others to live their lives as they want.

"Eventually we look for a completely voluntary society. The sole function of



Don Hoenshell

government is to defend the rights of individuals."

The party, he said, has organizations in all 50 states and in Guam and Puerto Rico and added that "we are going to elect some people this year" among the 250 candidates who have made ballots across the country.

"I view 1984 or 1988 as the year when we're really going to make a run at the presidency," he said. "We've already established ourselves as the legitimate third party."

LIBERTARIANS, he said, are fighting for many of the ideals both major parties have offered but never delivered—less government, economic freedom, civil liberties and individual rights.

OK, you're running for governor and what would you do in California?

Well, Proposition 13 was only a first step. He would offer a \$500 tax cut to all tenants giving them relief equal to that granted homeowners. The landlords could keep the tax break 13 granted.

Fine, but if everybody could live as he or she wanted, what about the welfare recipient who is into idleness regardless of his ability to provide for himself?

CLARK'S IDEA IS that this person is taking his living by fraud as a "recipient of charity rather than the holder of a right," and would be required to work. Private charities would keep him in oatmeal.

Under Ed Clark's government, there would be a one-third cut in the state sales tax to provide relief for low-income people, a full indexing of the income tax.

There would be an \$800 tax credit for parents who send their children to private schools. Now they pay twice, property taxes to support public schools and the tuition and other costs of private schools.

It was widely reported that Clark is in favor of prostitution, drug abuse including heroin, homosexuality and other moral deprivations which violate criminal laws.

WHAT HE FAVORS is taking them out of the system of justice as victimless crimes, leaving the jurisdiction over these problems with society's institutions, starting with the family.

Attempts to enforce the law against victimless crimes have turned out to be futile, he said. Having acknowledged failure, law enforcement would have more time and resources to put down crime that renders victims unable to pursue their right to happiness.

Clark said that 20 to 30 percent of the crimes against property are committed by a small number of people with expensive drug habits. And the poor living in poor neighborhoods are more likely the victims than not.

HE CONCLUDES that the performances of the Republicans and Democrats have turned off millions of people in the United States.

"I think we've got something new and different to say and I believe people are ready for something new and different," he said.

No kook is Clark.

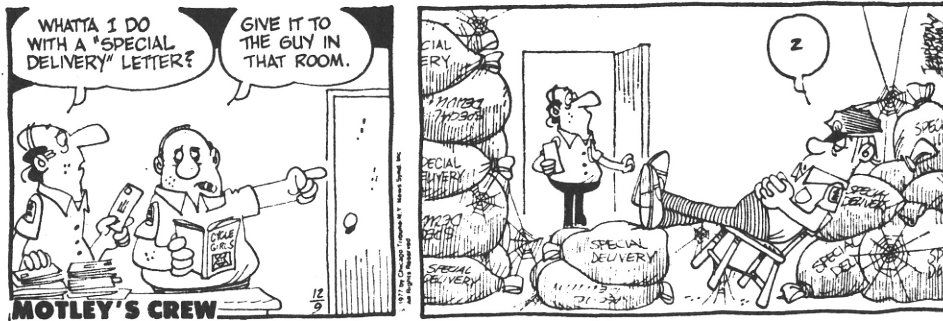
Don Hoenshell is editor of *The Sacramento Union*.

The Post Office--Millions for Subsidy but Not One Cent for Efficiency

BY HOWARD MCCONNELL

Perhaps no institution in our muddled mixed economy reflects the failure of government run agencies as well as the U.S. Postal Service. We are now confronted with a first-class raise in rates that will affect millions of mail users, and less obvious increases in parcel post and third-class mailings will have their consequences in the price increases on goods and services using mail deliveries. What is pathetic about the increase is that it is but the tip of a monstrous deficit that the post office runs every year, and the attempt to "privatize" the institution has not resulted in freedom from congressional handouts. Granted, a \$400 million a year mail subsidy appears to be small compared to budget allocations of megabucks, but the postal service has a gimmick going for it that is seldom found in private endeavors.

It outlaws the competition.



Any student of Economics 101 learns the difference between a "natural" and "fiat" monopoly. The natural monopoly is a function of unit cost/productive capacity, in which the price of the good or service is so low that entry into the market is discouraged. Fiat monopoly is a function of law by which the State prohibits competition by threats of fine, penalty, and imprisonment. The exclusive franchise, the favored route, the territorial allocation are means of business distributive techniques. But no business can padlock the doors of the competition with a writ simply because the competition wants to produce in that market--unless the government has full investiture in that market.

A tiny clause in our Constitution giving the government the right to establish a "postal service" and to maintain post roads was the entry into the economy. Since 1789, no institution has been used as an excuse for encroachment more widely than the mails, from the construction of canals, then roads, then railroads, and finally air routes. The fattest subsidies of all are dispensed to those carriers of mail sacks, which account for about 50 percent of long-haul delivery. The argument that this subsidy of airlines was necessary for that industry's growth is specious: had any air carrier been allowed to pick up and deliver mail at a price it could establish in the competitive market, we would have accelerated the growth of airmail service, but the government bottlenecked the operation from both ends. Government determined which airline would get the contract after it had failed miserably in an attempt to use the military services to carry the mails in the twenties, and it maintained a stranglehold on the operation by preventing air services from establishing their own courier agencies.

Bulk handling of mail appears to be a complex operation. It is complex, but only because the legal constraints make it so. We have the technology for "instant letter" or facsimile reproduction available to us now, but again, no one will produce the hardware required for the mass market while facing the government's refusal to allow competitive systems on the market. This obvious restraint of trade is not protested by the liberals. Conservatives cite the efficiency of the U.S. Postal Service as compared to Italy or Spain: but no one states the real reason for defending the outworn monolith: that is, the patronage facilities for giving jobs to loyal workers if they can walk a mail route or (perhaps) read a zip code. No industry rallies to defend itself like the postal agencies, both labor and management being in full agreement. If anything even smells like competition, sue the devil out of it. The postal unions lately have become very vicious, working over neighborhood messenger services in the courts so that legal defense fees make the profit margins untenable.

PETITIONING from page 1

get copies by phoning or writing. Having gotten these things, you head for the nearest high-traffic location. "High-traffic," in this case, does not mean automobile traffic, but rather pedestrian traffic: train stations, supermarkets, movie lines--any place there's a stream of people. You then start asking these people to sign your petition (more on this later). About a fifth of them will sign.

After each form is signed by twenty-five people, you must complete the statement at the bottom of the form, track down a notary public (most people go to their bank) and sign the form in the notary public's presence. Then you mail the forms to party headquarters, or bring them to the monthly dinners in the hope of getting a swell feed on the house. The people working at headquarters count the signatures, bind the forms, and haul them off to Springfield on the appointed day. If there are enough signatures--about 40,000--no one will challenge the petition, and our candidates will go on the ballot. If there are fewer signatures other parties may find it attractive to challenge and the signatures will then be examined one by one and checked against the registration rolls. At least ten percent will be ruled illegible; an unknown but sizable number won't correspond to the rolls, and some more will be lost to signature matching. The legal minimum is 25,000 and 24,999 won't do.

It should be noted that the U.S. Labor Party has proclaimed its determination to keep "fascist" parties (they probably mean any competing party) off the ballot by challenging whenever possible.

But what about asking people? This seems to be a problem with many Libertarians--they have no difficulty approaching their acquaintances, but the thought of just barging up and facing a total stranger makes them nervous. Well...it's like swimming; the first plunge is the hardest. You can make matters easy for yourself by commencing operations in a place--and a community--that is familiar to you. If you know the social "ground rules" and are sure you know them, that first petition is much easier. Later on, you may well get a kick out of the fact that petitioning provides an excuse for visiting strange communities. But do it the easy way the first time.

So there you are--you've got your clipboard, pen and forms; you've dressed in a mildly conservative way (by the standards of the community you're working) and here comes your first prospect. You hold your clipboard so the prospect can see it--it keeps you from being taken for a hooker or a rapist--but you also hold it so he or she can't read it (curiosity is a powerful thing). You ask, "Excuse me, but are you a registered voter in Illinois?" Negative responses rate an immediate "Thank you" as you turn to the next person.

For a positive response, turn the clipboard toward your prospect and ask, "May I please have your signature on a petition so that the Libertarian (emphasize LIBERTARIAN for name recognition) Party's candidates can be on the ballot in November?" If they are reluctant, remind them that they are not joining or voting but just saying we should have the same chance as other parties. A negative response rates a "Thank you" anyway.

About a third of the signers will sign at this point with remarks to the effect that everyone should be on the ballot; don't say anything, just hand over the pen. Ten or fifteen percent want assurances they won't get mailings, which they won't (maybe they should, but they won't). A few people want assurances they won't "get in trouble." Again remind them that they are not voting for us or supporting us but allowing us to appear on the ballot in November.

Finally, about half the signers want to know what the party stands for. In DuPage county, the answer goes something like, "We're the minimum government party; our state candidates are pledged to reduce the state budget 25 percent and end the state income tax." This answer won't get the schoolteacher's signature of course, but most DuPagans are mainly seeking assurance that we're not a socialist party. In other areas answer "We're the civil liberties party; prosecution of victimless crimes should be stopped." The idea is to develop one short answer that catches the most signatures in the area while staying entirely truthful.

Last and most delightful, about one person in two hundred will say, "Libertarian Party--sure, I'll sign!" These are the people who voted Libertarian the last time; be NICE to them! If you have copies of the New Political Times or other campaign material they're usually happy to have it. If you don't have it, be sure to mention Georgia Shields or Bruce Green to them.

How can you tell if you've got it all together? We've found that a pretty good petitioner will run a long-term average of about twenty signatures an hour. This is up about 20 percent from 1976; nobody knows why for sure. If you have ideal conditions, you can go over thirty, but those conditions don't usually last for more than a few hours. If you are running under fifteen signatures (long-term again), you'd do well to change your location. If you're running more than about six refusals per signature (long-term still again; it's nothing to have twenty refusals in a row) you'd better experiment with your approach.

To summarize, even a beginner can get one hundred-plus signatures in one Saturday outside the local supermarket. If every LPI member spent two Saturdays petitioning, we would be finished. We'd be on the ballot with plenty of signatures to spare and wouldn't have to spend precious campaign funds on professional petitioners. And we would have taken a long step toward carrying Illinois.

The Tax Revolt After Jarvis-Gann

BY RICHARD SUTER

On June 6, the people of California took a giant step toward freeing themselves from government's yoke: a two-to-one victory for the Jarvis-Gann constitutional amendment slashing real estate taxes and putting limits on new taxes in California. The initial effect of Jarvis-Gann will be to cut the average California real estate tax bill by 57 percent.

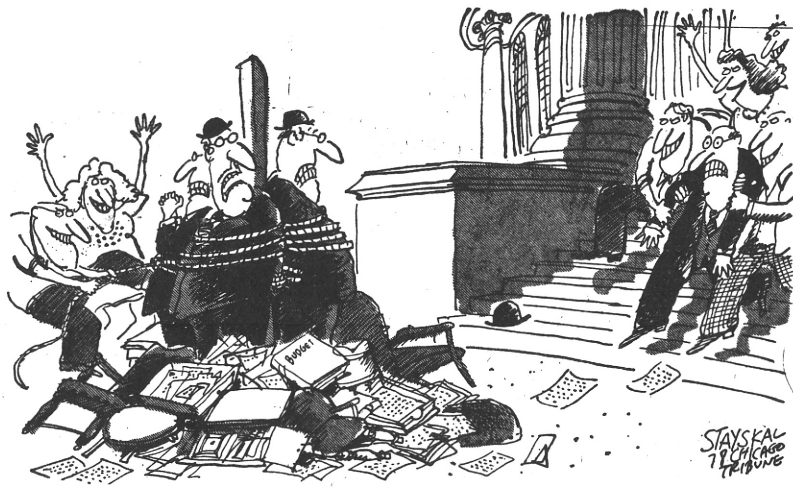
You've got to cheer when one important crime wave is wiped out in one swoop. But maybe there can be two cheers if the spending cuts are handled with a touch of class.

The voters of California made their demand for lower taxes loud and clear. A two-to-one upset for lower taxes is a most emphatic statement about anything in this half of the twentieth century. Even more wonderment comes from an election day survey that indicated more than half of the government employees voted for the tax cut; apparently taking a chance of losing their job rather than the sure bet of losing their homes to cloud nine taxation.

It seems that the people mandated lower taxes, but again maybe they really didn't. Trends don't move in straight lines: that goes for public opinion, the stock market, roads, and planes too; things are never as simple as straight ahead. Proof of the waves came in a Gallup Poll a week ago showing that only 37 percent of voters favored tax cuts leading led to reductions in "essential government services."

What the people perceive as "essential" changes, too. Ten years ago nearly everyone thought public school were essential government services. Now wealthy people are all but boycotting government schools, and poor people are jumping at the first opportunity to do the same. On Chicago's West Side, an extremely low-income area, the Catholic elementary schools are bursting with students while the churches next door stand empty. Obviously, even poor parents, as soon as they have a few extra dollars, get their offspring out of the government school and into the nearest private school they can find. Apparently, learning to read and write is more appealing these days.

"IF PROPOSITION 13
HAS POLITICIANS WORRIED ABOUT
THE TAXPAYERS REVOLT,
WAIT'LL THEY HEAR ABOUT THIS!"



By some tallies, essential government services include: police, fire department, sewers, public libraries, courts, jails, water, roads, and a few other assorted tasks. Down the road, people may eventually decide that these services aren't essential either. But we're not down the road; it's 1978. I suppose we should be happy with more than a 50 percent cut in the crime rate that Jarvis-Gann provided. Do we really expect total victory so few years after every young American male had a forced Asian duty?

Setting the moral case aside; taxes are incentives not to produce. If we want to enjoy the highest standard of living possible, we do not want anything to stand in the way of production. Any cut in taxes will bring increased production. But it's not only taxes that inhibit production, it's how the government spends the taxes.

Before World War II, taxes provided those "essential" government services that people were still concerned about. The taxes impeded production and reduced everybody's standard of living, but it was a one shot deal; though bad, most people found the situation tolerable.

TAX REVOLT from page 5

Since World War II, however, taxes have been a double-edged sword to reduce production. First the tax: an incentive not to produce. Second, tax spending has increasingly taken the form of regulation of everything; from mice to nuclear energy. It's the double-whammy effect.

The double whammy has brought the United States and other major industrial world economies to a virtual halt. Productivity has virtually stopped increasing because of slack investment in new, modernized plants and equipment.

Now that we have a chance to end the double whammy, let's do it. The bureaucrats want to cut so-called "essential" government services. The voters have committed a no-no and must be punished. Libertarians should be active in local politics to get the message across loud and clear: First we must show that politicians can restrict their own machine before cutting essential services. No one is going to feel any effect if the regulators get cut; the inspectors, central planners, and other payrollers whose job descriptions we can't even find. These are clearly non-essential government employees. The message to the politicians must be to cut obviously non-essential services. As they don't, Libertarians must lead the people to throw the politicians out of office at the next election.

Second, Libertarians must campaign so that "essential" government services can be put on a free market. Our principles must be understood so that we can prevent politicians from promoting more taxes to pay for these services all over again. If there are people who think there are some essential government services; so be it. Just have the needing public office call a news conference telling of the need. Since it's a real need (obviously) voluntary contributions will flood in, probably far exceeding what the tax collector ever demanded.

The essential element of the taxpayer's revolt is that it is showing the people that they've been lied to again. Taxes can be cut by 50 percent and more, and the people won't even notice. Then if Libertarians have done their jobs, we can cut the other half of the tax bill, getting rid of almost all the rest of non-essential government services.

The second hurrah for the current tax revolt can be accomplished only if Libertarians make the effort to become outspoken leaders in local political affairs. Just a few principled Libertarian voices can make the difference. There are a few Libertarians in Illinois who have made a difference. Every individual's participation is important in determining public opinion.

POST-OFFICE from page 3

Examination of any large-volume post office will inform the most naive individual in the world what constitutes the major problem with mail. It is labor: Hand operations constitute this industry to an extent that the immensity of payroll could raise the price of a first-class letter to at least a quarter. Labor to read the address. Labor to face a letter, that is, turn it so the address faces up. Labor to read the address. Labor to pigeonhole its destination. Labor to bundle. Labor to carry to transport points.

Then, on the other end, labor to unbundle. Labor to fine-sort. Labor to route-divide. And finally, labor to drop it in your box. Each of these steps requires a discriminative capacity of human perception, and with all the operations performed on one piece of mail, it is a wonder it arrives at all. Could it be automated? Of course. Would it decrease unit costs and maximize efficiency? You bet. Will we see these innovations take place?

Are you kidding? Labor equals payroll equals votes. Senator Snerdly got his job through the efforts of the precinct worker, who is now leaning against his sorting stool playing with your mail, ready to sacrifice his all to prevent any machine from taking his job. The fact that these "inside" people could be used to assist in delivery, which keeps dwindling in frequency and efficiency, would offend the letter carriers who have their own fiefdom to protect.

So you pay. Every year, the subsidy grows larger, the price of the stamp becomes greater, and the service entrenches itself even deeper. Thoughts of centralizing delivery such as a greater P.O. Box concentration, or P.O. Boxes in secondary stations meet classic "stonewalling" at the administration level. The Post Office is the last place in the world for innovations, and unless the entire structure of this particularly avaricious monopoly is broken where it really counts--in the legislation that allows them to be subsidized and prohibit competition--we will be subject to even greater inefficiencies and ineptness in the simple task of communication.

SCHLESINGER from page 2

There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the name of the game is Rip-Off. We have to cry "foul" if the chief national energy planner is willing to admit in a newspaper interview that the free market would solve the problem efficiently but that his Administration is prepared to perpetuate or to worsen the problem--so that they can maximize support at the polls. Why should anyone give this government support? You tell me the qualitative difference between Jimmy Carter and Idi Amin!

As the old folksong says, the one will rob you with a six-gun and the other with a fountain pen.

Consumer Fraud

A Cleveland radio announcer has reported a case of a dissatisfied consumer who feels he has been cheated on an insurance policy. He gives the following reasons:

-The policy was originally purchased by his parents. When they discovered it was fraudulent, they were too embarrassed to do anything about it.

-When it came time for him to assume the payments, he was told there were no similar policies available.

-After his parents had paid into the policy for 18 years, and he had paid for another 12 years, he found that the policy had no cash value.

-From time to time he is required to increase his payments for supposed increases in benefits...whether he wants them or not.

-His parents both died and received no benefits from the policy. If the man himself

died now, the policy would pay nothing because he has no family and no right to name another beneficiary.

-The institution holding his policy has not shown a profit since its inception; nor has it invested any money to pay policy holders in the future. Recently it has publicly admitted to being near bankruptcy.

-The institution will not allow him to change his policy or to drop it and use his money to buy a better policy elsewhere.

-The text of the policy is two volumes long and contains more than 800 pages. In order to get a copy of it he would have to pay \$2.50.

If you think this man is being cheated, you are right. But he is not the only one--- you probably have the same policy yourself. It is called "Old Age Survivors and Disability Insurance," commonly called SOCIAL SECURITY.

from The Ohio Libertarian Newsletter

Fair Time

Fun, frolic, and fantasy!
Live out your wildest dreams.
Find out what it's like on the other side of a booth at the fair. Learn a new approach to taking petition signatures. Work with libertarian candidates. Answer questions about libertarian principles. Come on in and work at a county fair.

The fairs will be a tremendous boost to our petition efforts. Printed balloons and other various surprises will be used to lure fairgoers to our booths. Then our illustrious candidates will aid you in explaining basic Libertarian principles, and overwhelm the fairgoers with rational alternatives to government.

Don't miss your chance to participate in front line action. All fair dates are listed in the box for you to clip out and save. Use the schedule to make plans to come and work at any of the county fairs.

County fairs provide a large, grassroots audience for philosophical ideas. The average cost of each fair booth is approximately \$250, which includes the cost of the booth, space rental, transportation of the booth, and supplies. But to succeed we must have dedicated volunteers and enough money to cover the costs. The investment in time and money is small compared to the potential growth in local support.

If you are able to volunteer your services, let us know by calling or writing to the campaign headquarters in Chicago. If you'd like to help out with fair costs, donations can also be sent to the campaign headquarters, at 2745 N. Clark, Chicago, Illinois 60614. The phone is 312/248-2249.

So make plans to work at the fair and prepare yourself for the fun.

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF LIBERTARIAN FAIR BOOTHS	
LaSALLE COUNTY at OTTAWA JULY 24-27	McLEAN COUNTY at BLOOMINGTON AUGUST 1-5
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY at EAST MOLINE JULY 25-29	KANE COUNTY at ST. CHARLES AUGUST 1-6
LAKE COUNTY at GRAYSLAKE JULY 27-30	McHENRY COUNTY at WOODSTOCK AUGUST 2-6

& news & notes

The LP will have booths set up at several gun shows during July and August. On July 15 and 16 the show will be sponsored by the Sauk Trail Gun Club, and will be at the fair grounds in Princeton. The Elgin Gun Club is sponsor of the show on July 16, to be held in Elgin. If you can help by working at the LP booth for either of these shows, please call Ken Sturzenacker at Chicago headquarters, 248-2249. Petitioners are especially welcome!

Sign up to work in a fair booth today. Don't wait until too late and all the choice dates are taken. Call 312/248-2249 and let us know when you would like to be a fair volunteer.

National Taxpayers United of Illinois is now trying to raise funds for this summer's campaign against Cook County property taxes. Send contributions to National Taxpayers United, 5048 West Augusta Blvd., Chicago, IL 60651

On Sunday, July 16 at 2:00 PM, Dr. James Dunkel will host the July SCC meeting, to be held at his office, 1806 S. Alpine, Rockford. It's near the Route 20 exit off I90. If you need further instructions, call his office at (815) 398-0304.

An analysis of IRS Commissioner Jerome Kurtz' recent speech defining a "religion" acceptable to the IRS is available from the Free Church of America, P.O. Box 303, Lombard, IL 60148. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for reply: any contribution would be appreciated.

Volunteers are desperately needed to work both days and evenings at the Libertarian Campaign Headquarters. If you are available to work, please contact Jeff Friedman at headquarters by writing 2745 N. Clark, Chicago, Illinois, 60614. Or call 312/248-2249.

NOTA's July meeting will be a picnic at Ravinia, Saturday, July 22. Meet in front of the Murray Theater at 6 PM or look for the group on the lawn. Potluck picnic before the concert. Lawn admission to the park is \$4.00. Call Bonnie Kaplan at (312) 647-8684 if you can bring some refreshments to the picnic.

Correction: In last month's issue we incorrectly cited a publisher of two books and omitted mention of another book. The sentences should have read "... A New Dawn For America and Jimmy Carter's Betrayal of the South, published by Green Hill, and Essays on Hayek, published jointly by New York University and Hillsdale College Press." We apologize to all concerned.

The Illinois Libertarian is looking for a cartoonist to illustrate political articles. If you would like to volunteer your talent, call Mike Ray at (312) 274-3149 or Mike Hepple at Libertarian Party Headquarters (312) 248-2249.

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 LP., its officers, or the editor, Eleanor McConnell. Articles should be submitted to the editor, The Illinois Libertarian; membership and other inquiries should be submitted to the LPI, Postal Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690.