

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle



February 1998

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HR 2477 gets first co-sponsor

Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) has picked up the first co-sponsor for his pair of ballot access reform bills, which were introduced in the U.S. House last year.

U.S. Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-OH) has signed on as a co-sponsor to HR 2477 and HR 2478, according to published reports in *Insight* magazine.

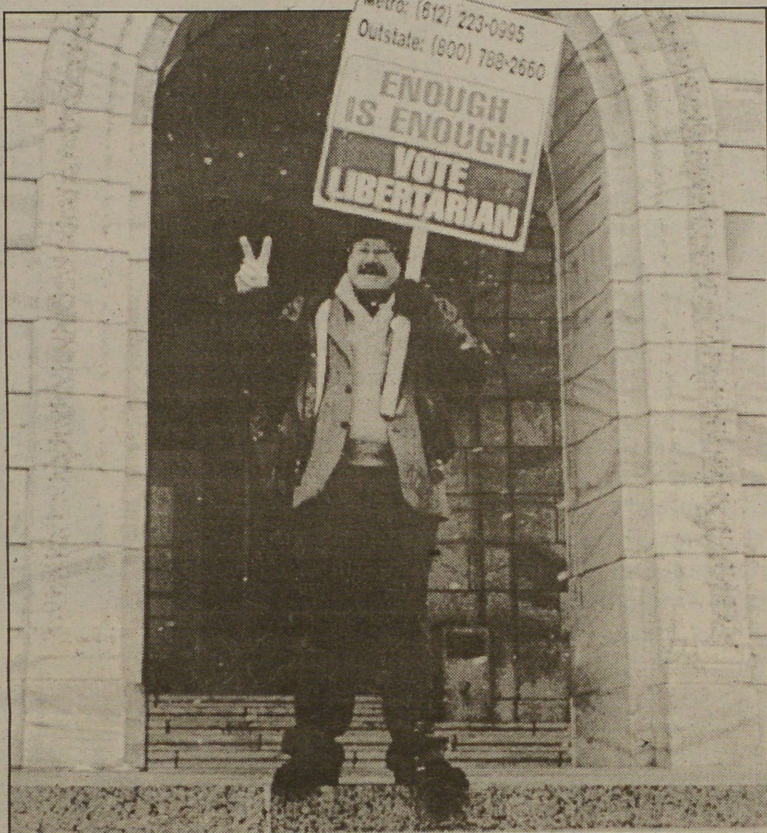
And Paul's press secretary, Michael Sullivan, said several other members of Congress have been "asking for more information" about the bills — apparently because of calls and letters from Libertarian constituents.

"Each [Congressman] said: My constituents are asking about [the bills]," said Sullivan. "It's definitely the result of real people in the real world expressing interest to their Congressmen about this legislation."

The two bills, filed in September, would reduce ballot access barriers for third parties — and have been the subject of a nationwide lobbying effort by Libertarian Party members.

Sullivan said that lobbying will have to continue, if the two

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Libertarians gear up for stadium tax fight, Round 2

How determined are Minnesota Libertarians to squash a multi-million dollar, tax-financed sports stadium?

So determined that they're willing to brave the cold to keep a vigil on the politicians who were considering the proposal late last year — as LP member Colin Wilkerson is shown doing.

Now, the Minnesota LP is already gearing up for Round Two of the fight, which State Chair Charles Test expects to begin in late January.

Despite the fact that Minneapolis voters passed a referendum by a 70% to 30% margin in November 1997 — requiring approval by voters before the city government spends any money on a new sports facility — Test said another stadium bill will be introduced this year. And when the proposal comes back, Test said, "The LPMN will be out there again. Our staff lobbyist is getting ready to go to work again."

National Committee affirms goals for '98

Ballot independence and Internet domination highlight Libertarian Party's "strategic thrusts"

Membership parity with the older parties, ballot access "independence," campaign competitiveness, and Internet dominance — those are the party's strategic thrusts for 1998, affirmed by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) at its quarterly meeting in December.

The LNC approved a \$2.7 million budget for the party for 1998, which supported four major goals proposed by LP National Chairman Steve Dasbach.

"These strategic thrusts represent major investments of resources over an extended period of time to accomplish our primary political mission," he said — which is to become the majority political party in the U.S.

Dasbach said the party's political strategy, reflected in the 1998 budget, is built around the following strategic thrusts:

Ballot Independence:

"If our goal is to be the majority political party, we must be able to readily field candidates for any level of political office,"

said Dasbach. "Our affiliate parties must have the ability to readily place candidates on the ballot for all offices — without outside assistance."

Currently, fewer than 15 states should require any national financial assistance to place the LP's 2000 presidential ticket on the ballot, he said. However, many states currently require assistance to run significant numbers of candidates for other offices.

Membership Parity:

"At the beginning of 1996, both the DNC and RNC each had about 400,000 members — i.e. contributors," said Dasbach. "Since we are unlikely to match the Democrats and Republicans in special-interest PAC contributions, we must have more individual contributors."

To achieve that goal, the party must boost its direct-mail recruitment efforts, he said: "[In 1998], we must dramatically expand the number of lists that we

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The influence of "Atlas Shrugged"

From shrugs to fascination: The impact of Atlas on Libertarians

And the winner is: *Atlas Shrugged*, by Ayn Rand. But not everyone agrees.

Atlas Shrugged is the book more LP News readers said "influenced their journey to Libertarianism" than any other, according to the results of "The Pulse" survey reported in last month's issue. Almost one in seven — just over 14% — picked

Rand's magnum opus.

It's not surprising: *Atlas Shrugged* was chosen as the second most influential book of all time in a 1991 survey by the Library of Congress, and the 40th anniversary of its publication was recently celebrated with a gala bash in Washington, DC, by the Cato Institute and the Institute for Objectivist Studies.

But that appreciation for Rand isn't unanimous among Libertarians.

LP News recently asked several prominent Libertarian Party members: What influence did *Atlas Shrugged* have on your life and politics?

The answers may surprise you. According to the responses,

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Ayn Rand

The influence of "Atlas Shrugged"

Continued from Page 1

the novel's impact fluctuated wildly among LP members — with responses ranging from "It convinced me to join the party" to "I never read it" to "I found Rand to be overbearing."

Here's what they said:

Atlas Shrugged grabbed me by the throat and made me examine everything I'd ever believed or assumed. It blew away the socialist smog — and gave me new eyes to see. Without Ayn Rand I would not be in the Libertarian Party.

— **MICHAEL CLOUD**

Creator of the "Art of Political Persuasion" audiotapes

I don't know that she had no influence on me — but I've never read any of her books.

— **TIM KERN**

Radio talk show host, the American Freedom Network

I registered Libertarian as a college student in Boston within a month or so of reading *Atlas Shrugged*. Though I now see the profound differences between Objectivism and Libertarianism, I never would have gotten involved in our movement without her contributions.

— **MARK TUNIEWICZ**

Member, Libertarian National Committee

I first read *Atlas Shrugged* in 1962, between my freshman and sophomore years at MIT, having read *The Fountainhead* earlier that year. I found the book fascinating — albeit overlong —

"It struck a chord..."

It was just over 40 years ago that Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* was published — and American politics has never been the same.

In October 1957, Random House issued the 1,168-page novel that was, in the words of the Cato Institute, "at once a love story, a thriller, and a saga about the collapse of a nation." It also presented "a full philosophy of life, from the nature of man and reality to the nature of knowledge, from a doctrine of good and evil to the morality of a free society..." wrote the Future of Freedom Foundation's Sheldon Richman.

Atlas Shrugged was an immediate sensation, generating both rapturous praise and scathing critical attacks for the Russian-born Rand (1905-1982). It went on to sell more than five million copies, and still sells 300,000 copies a year.

"It struck a chord with millions of readers," explained the Cato Institute at the 40th anniversary of the novel's publication, held in Washington, DC, on October 4th, 1997. And, reported the *Washington Post*, the novel "launched two generations of passionate supporters, furious detractors, and untold late-night debates."

More importantly, *Atlas Shrugged* "became the inspiration for the modern libertarian movement," continued the *Post* — and helped set the philosophical stage for the rise of the Libertarian Party. Yes, there are differences — some profound — between libertarian political philosophy and Rand's Objectivism, but without *Atlas Shrugged*, early libertarians "might never have found those ideas, and each other," recounted David Nolan, one of the principal founders of the Libertarian Party.

as it expressed beliefs I already held, but far more clearly and cogently than I had ever seen them presented before.

Would there be a Libertarian Party today if Ayn Rand hadn't written *Atlas Shrugged*? Probably not... at least not in the form that we now know it. Rand kept individualist ideas alive in an era when most culture-makers had all but abandoned them. If it were not for her, and for Robert Heinlein, those of us who grew up in the '50s and '60s might never have found those ideas, and each other.

— **DAVID NOLAN**

Founder, Libertarian Party

Ayn Rand did not have the impact on me she had on most Libertarians.

I read *Atlas Shrugged* when I was in high school. I have only a very vague memory of the book. The only things that stuck are something about an architect that seemed to be modeled after Frank Lloyd Wright. (Or was that the *Fountainhead*? I can never keep the two straight!).

And that her exhaustive preaching of her philosophy was so overbearing that it was by far my most memorable impression I was left with.

— **CARLA HOWELL**

State Chair, LP of Massachusetts

Atlas Shrugged embodies Ayn Rand's objectivist doctrine. It praises the beneficial effect on society of utterly unfettered superior people.

Ironically, her doctrine has attracted many inferior people who lack the ability to attain superiority. Instead, they expound unrealistically about Objectivism. They seem to want virtually no government at all, and to favor an unbridled victory-for-the-fittest society. Such Objectivism has tainted the Libertarian Party. The influence of *Atlas Shrugged* has kept us from becoming a mass party.

— **CHRIS COSTANZO**

State Chair, LP of Vermont

Perhaps rare among Libertarians, I never found Rand particularly interesting. Actually, she always seemed rather mean-spirited. I became a Libertarian because of the Libertarians, and not because of Rand's writings.

— **BILL FARLEY**

Director of Communications, *Playboy* magazine

I tried to read Ayn Rand as a teenager, but found it slow going. Instead, Robert Heinlein was the major Libertarian influence in my life.

Much later, after I had been a member of the Libertarian

Party for more than a decade, I read *The Fountainhead*. I was very impressed, and went on to read *Atlas Shrugged*. I felt that *Atlas Shrugged* was full of important insights, but it fell apart, for me, in its final third. The characterization and dialogue got so overblown I could hardly finish it.

— **PERRY WILLIS**

Past LP National Director

My very first exposure to the freedom philosophy was when I saw the movie *The Fountainhead* in 1973. When I read *Atlas Shrugged* a few years later, I was thunderstruck. Although I am a Christian, Rand's individualist views reinforced my libertarian convictions.

— **JACOB G. HORNBERGER**

President, Future of Freedom Foundation

Rand had no influence on my becoming a Libertarian. I didn't read *Atlas Shrugged* until sometime in the mid-eighties, more than a decade after I discovered that I was a Libertarian instead of a liberal. I did enjoy the book, though.

— **STEVE DASBACH**

Libertarian Party National Chair

An ad in *Reason* magazine for the first national Libertarian conference [in 1972] invited readers to "beautiful John Galt country," an obvious invitation to Objectivists, so I went. Once there, I insisted on writing a statement denouncing altruism (in Randian fashion), to be included in the LP Statement of Principles. (The LP is probably the only political party that specifies this.)

Rand is the most influential woman of this century. Her ability to dissect philosophical ideas, clarify them, and integrate them into an artistic framework is the key to her influence.

— **TONIE NATHAN**

1976 Libertarian Party Vice Presidential candidate

Atlas Shrugged had a powerful impact on me. Within a month I joined the Libertarian Party and within six months Stanford University fired me for protesting a new alcohol and drug policy forced on them by the federal government.

While I still value Rand, I believe she has a darker side. My friends say that she made me arrogant and argumentative. I've come to realize that Rand did not appreciate the benefits of diversity even though she had impor-

tant insights into other aspects of human interaction.

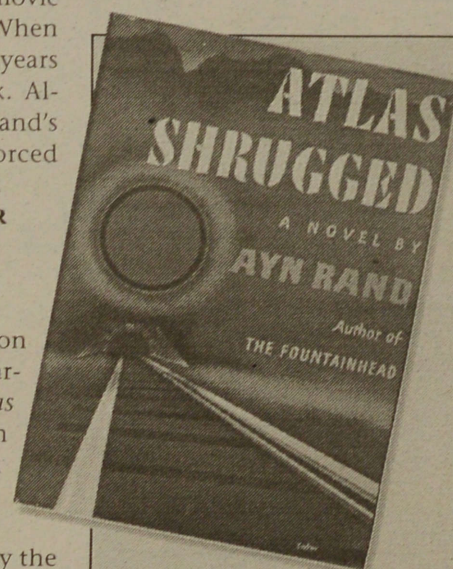
— **STUART REGES**

Past LP National Director

In 1971 I saw a newspaper ad which read, "Who Is John Galt? If you know, call..." Responding led to a gathering of about 50 people who had read Rand and wanted to "start something." Someone had a copy of the brand new Libertarian Party Platform. I helped found the LP of Georgia and have been active in the movement ever since.

— **SHARON HARRIS**

President, Advocates for Self-Government



What's next for Ayn Rand?

What does the future hold for Rand? Like Tupac Shakur, she seems busier in death than in life. Here are some of the upcoming projects involving the legacy of Rand:

■ According to the *Freedom Network News*, the cable network Showtime will present a dramatization of *The Passion of Ayn Rand*, the best-selling biography by one-time Rand confidant Barbara Branden. The movie is reportedly scheduled for early 1998.

■ Another version of Branden's biography is heading for the British stage — with Academy Award-winning actress Anne Bancroft cast to play Rand. If successful in London, the play could move to Broadway, reported *Freedom Network News*.

■ John Agliarolo, the chairman of the United Medical Corporation, has purchased the rights to *Atlas Shrugged*, and hopes to produce a film or TV miniseries, reported the *Washington Post*. Target date: The 50th anniversary of the novel — 2007.

LP NEWS

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EDITOR:

Bill Winter

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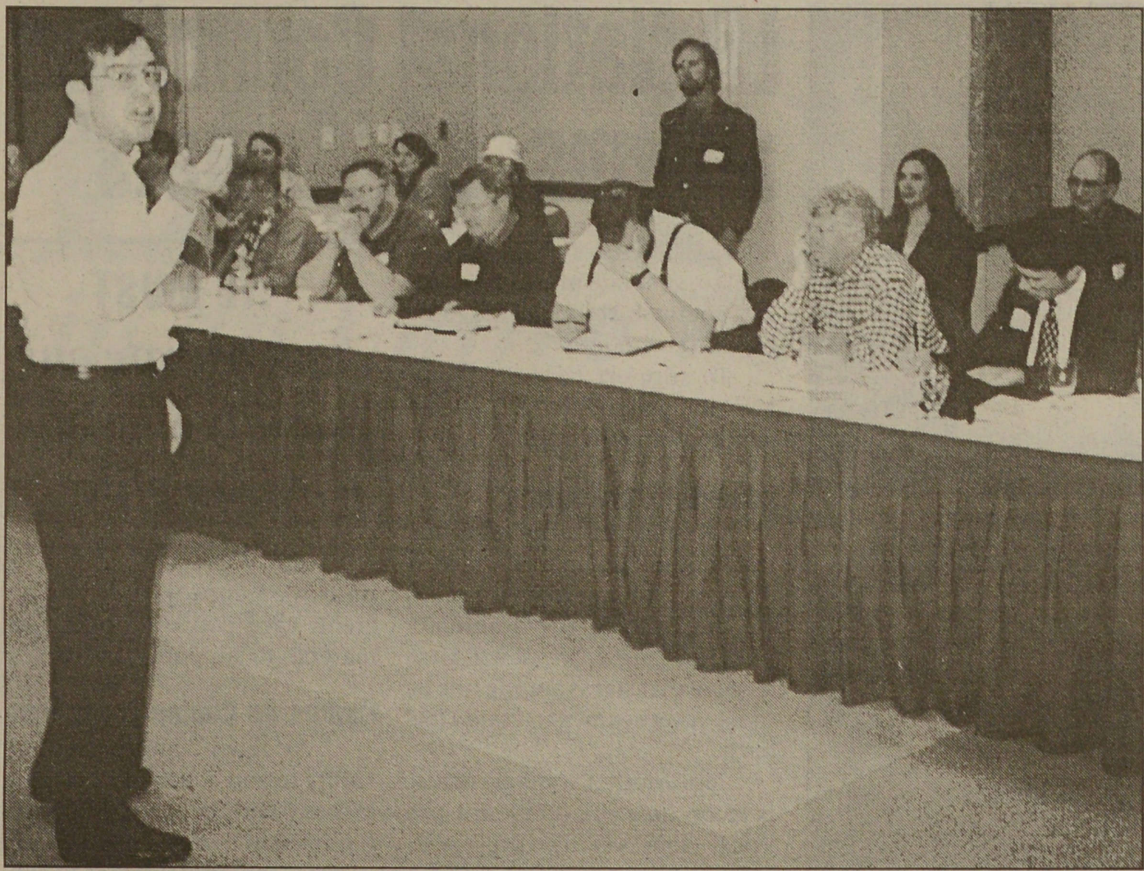
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Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994



Successful wrap-up in Atlanta

Michael Cloud explains — for the last time at a Success '97 leadership seminar — “How to Raise \$2,500 in Seven Days.” About 80 people attended the event in Atlanta, Georgia, over the weekend of January 10th and 11th. It was the last of a year-long, nationwide series of party-building and campaigning workshops conducted by the national LP.

“It was absolutely the best how-to political seminar I have attended in 15 years,” said attendee Scott Kjar, a member of the Alabama LP executive committee. “I took notes, made plans, and am already planning to launch some of the activities and utilize some of the ideas proposed at the conference.”

Texas LP surpasses ‘major’ parties with Congressional candidate filing

The Libertarian Party of Texas has filed candidates in 29 of that state’s 30 Congressional districts for the 1998 election — which is more candidates than either the Republicans or Democrats are running.

“The Libertarian Party will offer the only alternative to the status quo in many Congressional districts,” said Texas LP State Chair Jay Manifold. “Eight million Texans will have a choice of Congressperson at the polls this November only because of the Libertarian candidates.”

The only U.S. House seat in Texas the Libertarians did not challenge was the 14th Congressional District, against Congressman Ron Paul, the Libertarian Party’s candidate for President in 1988, said Manifold.

The status quo

By contrast, the Republican Party did not file candidates in six districts, and the Democrats did not file candidates in five districts — which shows, said Manifold, “how important maintaining the status quo is to the two major parties. They’re not even trying to rock the boat.”

**IN MANY SEATS,
Republicans or
Democrats didn’t
file candidates.**

Manifold admitted that, at first, he wasn’t sure he supported the strategy of recruiting candidates for federal-level races.

“I didn’t feel that great about the emphasis on Congressional candidates,” he said, “until I read today’s *Dallas Morning News* [and found out that] in 12 districts, 40% of the total, either the Democrats or the Republicans did not file a candidate. As far as I know, we will thus be in two-way races in all those districts.”

In Washington, D.C., Libertarian Party National Director Ron Crickenberger said the extensive Congressional slate in Texas was part of a national strategy to field candidates in a majority of Congressional districts — running at least 218 candidates.

“Texas has gone a long way

toward helping to achieve our nationwide goals for candidate recruitment for ‘98,” he said.

In addition the LP of Texas also filed candidates to run for all the non-judicial statewide races — including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Agriculture Commissioner, Attorney General, State Comptroller of Public Accounts, Land Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner, and four spots on the state Supreme Court.

Ballot access bills get first co-sponsor

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bills are to have a chance of picking up more co-sponsors — or getting scheduled for a committee hearing.

“The single most important thing people can do is call or write their Congressman!” he said. “Every Congressman wants to be re-elected, and when they get calls and letters from constituents, they begin to take notice.”

HR 2477— the Voter Freedom Act of 1997 — would re-

NH Libertarian files anti-zoning question

Andover voters will decide in March whether to repeal zoning laws and abolish zoning board

Declaring that zoning laws are “not consistent with personal responsibility and economic liberty,” a New Hampshire Libertarian has collected enough signatures to put a zoning-repeal question on the ballot at his next town meeting.

LP member Howard Wilson collected 107 signatures on a petition to abolish zoning in Andover, a small town in central N.H. The question will be debated and voted on at the town meeting in March 1998.

“When private ownership of land is controlled by a [governmental] regulatory body, private ownership has been voided,” he said.

Wilson’s petition would eliminate the town’s zoning laws in their entirety and abolish the Zoning Board.

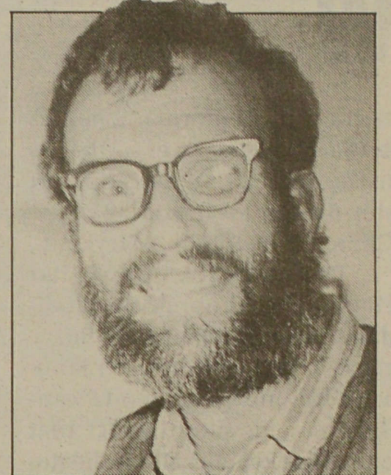
Wilson, a former member of the Andover Board of Selectmen, is planning a letters-to-the-editor campaign and a postcard mailing to rally support for his zoning-abolition crusade — and to turn out the town’s anti-zoning constituency at the meeting.

However, he admitted that it’s still a long shot to get the proposal passed.

“Those who signed [the petition] were happy to see that it was being submitted” — but he will have to wait for “more feedback” to get a sense about where a majority of town voters stand on the issue, he said.

The 107 signatures Wilson collected were from people, he speculated, who had “been abused by the zoning process.”

Wilson said he, personally, had not suffered any particular abuse from the Zoning Board —



■ Howard Wilson: With zoning, “your economic rights have been trampled.”

but did admit to being frustrated by restrictions on his land which forced him to build his home 100 feet back from the road. His principal opposition to zoning, he said, was philosophical.

Mother, may I?

“The Zoning Board — with its ‘Mother, may I?’ premise — is not consistent with personal responsibility and economic liberty,” he argued. “Both your civil rights and your economic rights have been trampled in an effort to plan your life.”

For all those reasons, Wilson said he wants zoning abolished — and hopes that he can generate a good turn-out at the town meeting to do just that.

“I do not know of any town that has succeeded in repealing zoning,” he acknowledged — but said his petition would “force the issue, and get the people who attend the town meeting to think, and maybe question the issue involved.”

quire states to establish “fair and uniform ballot-access standards” for candidates seeking federal office. At the presidential level, the bill would reduce ballot access requirements by approximately 85%.

HR 2478—the Debate Freedom Act of 1997 — would prohibit presidential candidates who accept taxpayer-provided matching funds from participating in debates that exclude candidates qualified for the ballot in at least 40 states. Candidates who

take part in such debates would be forced to return the money to the Treasury.

■ **What you can do:** Call the Congressional switchboard at (202) 225-3121 or (202) 224-3121 and ask for the offices of the member of Congress from your district.

Ask for their commitment to co-sponsor HR 2477 and HR 2478. Tell them it’s time to level the playing field for third-party candidates.

For CA candidates, help is like a prayer

LP candidates achieve "prayer parity"

Who says Libertarian Party candidates don't have a prayer?

In a special Congressional election in California, Libertarians *did* have a prayer — thanks to the heavenly supplications of the Briggs Memorial Baptist Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

The congregation at that church prayed for all six candidates in a special, open-primary election that was held on January 13th, including two LP candidates — despite the fact that one of the Republican candidates urged them, "don't bother with the Libertarians," said Tim Tutt, an associate pastor at the church.

And because of that non-partisan prayer policy, LP candidates Robert Bakhaus and Todd Rosenberger received the same weekly dose of prayers as their three Republican and one Democratic challengers.

The prayers seemed to help Bakhaus more: As the leading LP vote-getter, he now moves on to the general election.

But how did Libertarian candidates get included in a plea for divine intervention — from all

the way across the country?

It started last year, explained Tutt, when about 25 Baptist churches started a Congressional Prayer Support Ministry. Each church selected one member of Congress for whom to pray.

"[Members of Congress] need as much help as they can get — because the demands of their job are a little harder than everyone else," said Tutt.

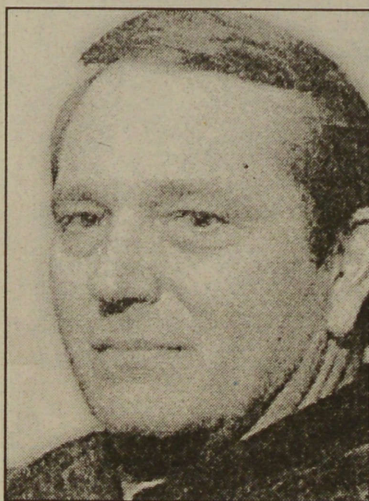
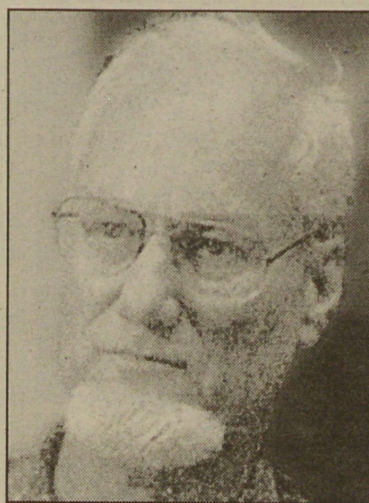
Good decisions

So the churches started a regular weekly series of "non-partisan" prayers for members of Congress to have the "wisdom to make good decisions."

The Briggs Memorial Baptist Church selected U.S. Representative Walter Capps from California's 22nd Congressional District. They prayed for Capps each week, until he unexpectedly died in late 1997.

With no Congressman to pray for anymore, said Tutt, the church decided to pray for the candidates who were running to fill the vacant seat.

When Tutt contacted one of the GOP candidates he discov-



■ California LP candidates Robert Bakhaus (top) and Todd Rosenberger: "Don't bother with the Libertarians," said one Republican.

ered that two LP candidates were also in the race.

But to his surprise, he discovered that Republicans apparently don't think Libertarians are worth praying for.

"Don't bother with the Libertarians," Tutt was urged by the GOP candidate — advice he declined to take, he said, because "I thought, that's not fair."

Besides, "it was a good chance for us to be non-partisan," he said. "I think that's what Christianity's all about."

LP National Director Ron Crickenberger said the party appreciated the church's prayers.

"We're winning more and more local races," he said. "But in Congressional races, Libertarians still need all the help we can get — Heavenly or otherwise."

CORREX

■ In the December 1997 issue of *LP News*, in the "From the Chair" column, Steve Dasbach erroneously stated that LP membership declined in the year following the 1988 presidential election. In fact, membership did fall in 1985 and 1993, but *increased* in 1989, while Dave Walter was National Chair.

LP National Committee affirms '98 'thrusts'

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mail to, generate more inquiries, and increase the percentage of inquiries who join."

To support that goal, the LNC budgeted \$400,000 for direct mail prospecting.

Internet Dominance:

"Neither the Democrats nor Republicans are 'market-leaders' in every voter segment. Before we can become the dominant political party, we must first achieve that status among one or more voter segments," said Dasbach.

"So, another strategic thrust is to become the dominant political party among voters who use the Internet as a source for political information," he said.

Why focus on the Internet? "Because several national polls have documented the libertarian leanings of people on the Internet," he said. "Also, we already generate a sizable number of inquiries from the Internet, and we demonstrated strength during the 1996 elections."

To help accomplish this, the LNC approved enhancements to the party's WWW site, including

"WE MUST demonstrate our ability to win partisan office."

improved appearance, online credit card contributions, and material to support activists.

Campaign Competitiveness:

"We must demonstrate our ability to win contested, partisan offices," said Dasbach. "But, with our present membership base, it is extraordinarily difficult to win such races."

To increase the LP's odds, he said, "Where winning isn't yet a realistic option, we need to encourage our candidates to use their campaigns to build our support, increasing our chances of winning in the future."

The LNC met over the weekend of December 13th and 14th, 1997. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7th and 8th, also in Washington, DC.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Political Affairs Position

The national Libertarian Party headquarters is planning to add an important political affairs position to the team in Washington DC.

This challenging full-time position will require a politically savvy, team player, applicant with excellent communication skills, strong attention to detail, good interpersonal skills, and the ability to steer diverse projects to completion in a fast-paced office. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a commitment to Libertarian political action, and a track record of political and/or professional success.

The ideal applicant will have strong computer skills and a working knowledge of spreadsheets; have

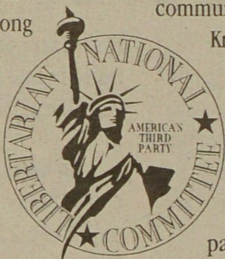
experience on winning campaigns (whether Libertarian or other party); and experience on Libertarian campaigns as well. Duties will include candidate recruitment and training, assistance on ballot access, maintenance of candidate and elected Libertarians list, and ongoing communication with candidates.

Knowledge of fundraising a plus.

If you are interested in playing a major role in the Libertarian movement, this is your chance to be a vital part of the LP's team in

Washington DC. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to:

Ron Crickenberger, National Director
The Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20037



POSITION AVAILABLE

Office Manager & Corporate Accountant

The Libertarian Party is seeking an individual to serve as Office Manager and Corporate Accountant. This individual will work in the LP's Washington DC national headquarters, and be in charge of the administrative and bookkeeping functions for the office, under the supervision of the National Director.

The ideal candidate will possess excellent office managerial skills; have an accounting degree or significant accounting experience; a high comfort level working in a computer intensive environment; the ability to juggle many projects simultaneously in a fast-paced office; good time management practices; ability to delegate; concern for and attention to detail; and an ability to meet deadlines. The individual must have

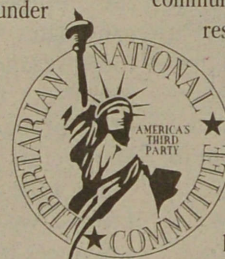
experience in accounts payable, cash flow management, budgeting, financial statement preparation, and employee tax filings. Experience in non-profit management an advantage.

Specific duties will include supervision of administrative staff, communication and problem resolution with state parties and LP members, bookkeeping, and preparation of managerial reports.

Anticipated starting date is March 1st, or as soon as possible thereafter.

If you are interested, please send a cover letter outlining your interest, your resume, three references we may call, and your salary requirements to:

Ron Crickenberger, National Director
Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20037



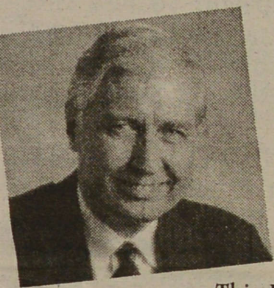
How to LIVE FREE in an Unfree World

FREEDOM IS LIVING YOUR LIFE THE WAY YOU WANT TO LIVE IT. And since 1973, many discerning individuals have become free to live as they choose. Their secret? Harry Browne's *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World*! This book will show how you can be free too—living the life you choose.

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— **ROBERT KEPHART**

"Two libertarian books changed my life, *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand and *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World* by Harry Browne."

— **MICHAEL CLOUD**

"The greatest gifts are given by the truly selfish—by those who find and follow their loves no matter what. From this man's love of freedom, then, has come this book, a gift of power and of joy for whoever yearns to be free."

— **RICHARD BACH**, *Author of Jonathan Livingston Seagull & Illusions*

Sound principles in human thought and action are timeless. The individualist principles contained in this book are as powerful now as in 1973, when the book was first published. Here is the titanium armor and shield for your personal liberty—providing you the clarity of mind and purpose needed to build the life you desire.

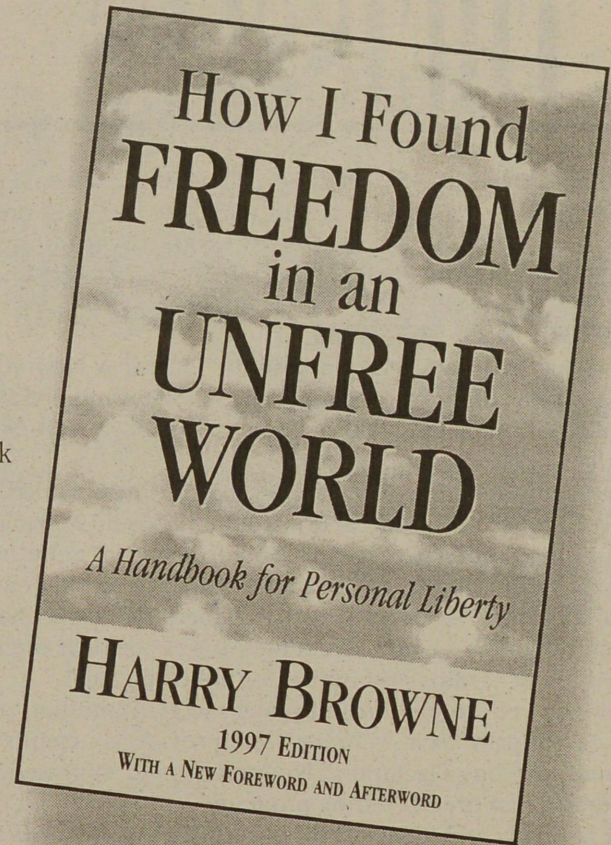
Browne aptly points out, "There is so much you can have—and it will be yours to keep, to cherish, and enjoy without guilt or insecurity. You won't be dependent upon your ability to "hold things together," you'll be enjoying what is easily and firmly yours."

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THE ISSUES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

The mother of all subsidies

Do you work in a "lactation-friendly" office? A New York Congresswoman thinks you should, so she wants the federal government to regulate — and subsidize — breast-feeding in the workplace.

The Breast-Feeding Promotion and Protection Act, filed by U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in January, would also make breast-feeding a protected activity under federal civil rights law.

"Taxpayer-funded breast-feeding is truly the mother of all political subsidies," said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party chairman. "Only Congress could take something as personal and intimate as breast-feeding and milk it for political gain."

Maloney's bill would force employers to grant mothers one hour a day of paid leave to breast-feed; provide tax credits to employers who buy "lactation" equipment; and increase taxpayer funding for breast-feeding programs.

But new laws aren't necessary because many companies are actually eager to accommodate new mothers, argued Dasbach.

"Corporations like Aetna, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and CNN provide special nursing rooms, for example," he said. "On the other hand, those private companies who alienate new mothers — or any other productive workers — will pay the price with lost profits. There's no reason for the government to order them to do what they're already doing anyway."

Under their thumb: Fingerprinting in 1998

Fingerprinting isn't just for criminals any more. Thanks to Congress, 1998 may be the year that you will be fingerprinted — simply because you renewed your drivers license. Already five states — California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, and Texas — require thumbprints before granting a drivers license. And many other state governments are expected to follow suit this year because pilot programs authorized in the 1996 Defense Department funding bill are now taking effect.

"Americans should give a unanimous thumbs-down to this new law," said Dasbach.

The federal government's new program pays states to create fingerprinted drivers licenses as part of an experiment to test various types of tamper-proof "identity papers" for citizens.

Fortunately, the new fingerprint law is being vociferously opposed by a wide array of Americans, Dasbach said: Gun-rights groups; the ACLU; and religious groups who compare it to the "mark of the beast" prophesied in Revelations.

"But you don't have to be a prophet to predict that the government will always demand just one more piece of information — and then one more, and one more."

The silliest federal regulation ever?

What's next: Airbags for zambonis? Seatbelts for steam-rollers? That's what Libertarians are asking after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced that it will start requiring seatbelts, windshields, turn signals, and rearview mirrors on golf carts.

"Are crash test dummies writing these regulations now?" asked Dasbach. "Or are federal bureaucrats just running out of things to regulate?"

NHTSA bureaucrats will start enforcing the new regulation — called Standard No. 100 — this spring. The agency will reclassify many golf carts as "low-speed vehicles" and mandate an estimated \$400 to \$1,000 worth of safety features.

Are golf carts a safety hazard? Even the NHTSA had to admit they're not: In fact, officials from several towns that allow golf carts in traffic testified that they could recall only one golf cart accident — and it was caused by a joyriding teenager.

"There is no national crisis caused by senior citizens hot-rodding around at 20 miles per hour in golf carts," said Dasbach. "The only crisis we have is too many federal bureaucrats looking for excuses to expand their regulatory empires."

Thanks to LP efforts, land-grab gets public vote in Kansas City

A Kansas City Libertarian has "quarterbacked" a successful campaign to allow city residents to vote on a massive eminent-domain land-grab plan — and is now fighting against a \$1 million advertising campaign in the final days leading up to the February 3rd vote.

However, LP member Grant Stouffer says the odds are "about 50/50" that voters will reject a bid by the KC city government to evict 60 downtown businesses, seize that property under eminent domain law, and turn the land over to a wealthy corporation to build a new entertainment complex.

Shadow government

"We're fighting what I call the shadow government," he said. "The developers, lawyers, big construction companies, big banks, PR firms — they all use eminent domain to seize property and businesses, and use our tax money to pay for it."

The KC government wants to allow Centertainment Corporation to build a 33-theater en-

"EMINENT DOMAIN is the preferred method of stealing property."

tertainment complex in the downtown area — and finance it through the sale of \$310 million in Neighborhood Improvement Bonds (NIB), which will be repaid through taxes.

Stouffer described it as "a private scheme to use our taxes to subsidize this uneconomical development and destroy 60 sound businesses."

That's why Stouffer has been fighting the plan since last year — and had hoped to get it rejected by the City Council.

However, the KC politicians enthusiastically endorsed the plan in August 1997, so Stouffer organized an effort to collect 36,000 signatures to put the question before the voters, using

professional petitioners recommended to him by the national LP headquarters.

"Without the help of the national LP and libertarian petitioners, we would not have gotten on the ballot," he said.

The petitioning succeeded, even though the politicians "tried to stop us," said Stouffer. "They filed a lawsuit against us; they claimed we were forging signatures. But we made it."

Now, said Stouffer, the challenge is to explain to the voters why the land-grab is a bad idea — and to do so in the face of a \$1 million advertising onslaught by the plan's proponents.

Mega-bucks

Why the mega-bucks advertising campaign? Because Missouri Libertarians have a solid track record when it comes to turning back tax hikes, said Stouffer.

"The LP of Missouri has defeated over \$2 billion in tax issues since 1988," he said. "The pro-tax people have figured out that they need expensive public relations to defeat us. [That's why] they're spending \$1 million," he said.

The danger, he said, is that proponents will bring so much "money to bear on advertising in this election they will overwhelm us."

To fight this, Stouffer and other land-grab opponents are waging a low-tech campaign with a budget of about \$60,000 — a campaign that includes bumperstickers, radio ads, appearances on talk radio, and letters-to-the-editor.

And if they can raise enough money, Stouffer said his group will run their own TV commercial: Showing the developers as "pigs slopping at the trough — the taxpayers' trough."

■ What you can do:

To prevent this kind of thing from happening elsewhere, Stouffer has formed an organization called Eminent Domain NOT!

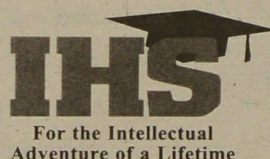
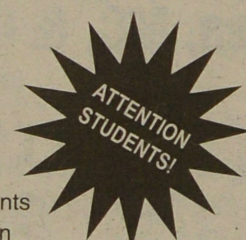
"This is a national scam," he said. "[Eminent domain] is the preferred method of stealing property by the rich and connected."

For information or to contribute, call Stouffer at (816) 561-3596. Or write him at: P.O. Box 32731, Kansas City, MO 64171.

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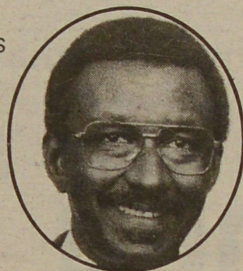
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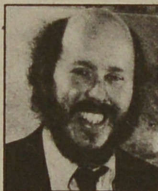


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TALKINGPOINTS

Grading Congress, flying scared, and checking your victim status

We're all victims

When the list of "victims" defined under various civil rights acts was completed in 1991, some 80% of all Americans (everyone but white males under 40, not disabled, and not on welfare or SSI disability) were classified as "minorities." It has become such a statistical joke that most citizens, including many of the "disabled," have finally become angered.

— **MARTIN L. GROSS**

The End of Sanity,
Avon Books (1997)

Acting locally

[The American Association of Retired Persons' telephone survey of 1,500 Americans at the end of 1996 found] only 28% believe the federal government can be relied upon "to do what's right" most or all the time.

More people—48%—report confidence in local government, but only 27% are active in political parties or election campaigns.

But that doesn't make Americans a bunch of apathetic hermits. The AARP survey found that on average each American belongs to four groups, including churches, clubs, professional, and civic organizations. Many people, 44%, said they volunteered services to the community through organizations in 1996.

— **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

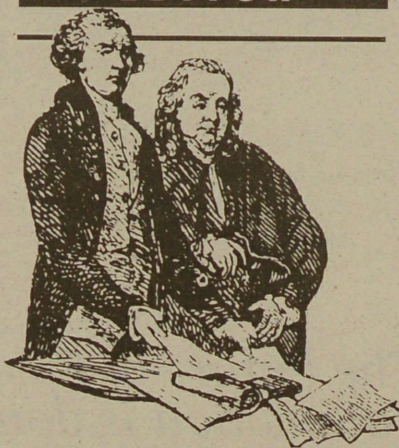
December 18th, 1997

Bill of Rights Day

December 15 was the 206th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights. This should be one of the most honored civic days on the American calendar. [But] a 1991 poll commissioned by the American Bar Association found that only 33% of Americans surveyed knew what the Bill of Rights was. A Gallup poll found that 70% of respondents did not know what the First Amendment was. If a citizen does not know his rights, then, for all practical purposes in his disputes with government officials, he does not have them.

At the least, people could celebrate the anniversary of the Bill of Rights ratification by sitting and quietly reading the original Bill of Rights. Recognizing the anniversary of the Bill of

MARC BEAUCHAMP
EDITOR



A SURVEY FOUND
that only 33% of Americans knew what the Bill of Rights was.

Rights could encourage a whole different attitude on the relation of the citizen to the state — in contrast to the annual Washington celebration of the anniversary of FDR's signing of the Social Security Act, which should be marked annually by the rattling of tens of millions of tin cups.

Celebrating the Bill of Rights Day is a superb idea — as long as not a single government employee gets another paid holiday in the bargain. Americans need to return to the principles of the Founding Fathers in order to understand the abuses of contemporary governments — and to learn how to put government back in its place.

— **JAMES BOVARD**

The Washington Times
December 21, 1997

Do regulators save us?

Some brands of hanging icicle lights present a risk of electric shock. In a press release, the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced that retailers were recalling these lights "in cooperation" with the Commission. Newspapers put it on page one. The Commission wanted us to believe that it saved us from roasting on an open wire.

Is it true? Not in the slightest. The problem was first discovered by a private safety testing group — Underwriters Laboratories, which has been writing safety standards long before the regulatory state was born. The original tip-off was a phony UL symbol that appeared on certain brands of these lights. Some shady operator had tried to fob off unsafe lights as UL-approved. Retailers and distributors practically insist that any electric equipment be certified by UL. And manufacturers pay a fee for the cost of testing.

UL announced the problem back on October 28, nearly a month and a half before the government decided to call in the TV cameras to take credit. By the time the government butted in on the deal, the lights were off the shelves.

The lesson? We can trust Underwriters Laboratories, a private regulator; it exists within the framework of the market economy and its standards of safety are reasonable and scientific. But we can't trust government to do anything but horn in, take credit for things it doesn't do, and smear private enterprise in the process.

The lesson is that the market does a great job of regulating itself. It's the government that operates without oversight.

— **LLEWELLYN H. ROCKWELL**

Ludwig von Mises Institute
Washington Times,
December 21, 1997

The brass ring

When socialism as a system and an idea collapsed at the end of the Eighties, those who yearn to control other people's lives — politicians and regulators — lost no time in finding another brass ring to power. They found environmentalism. They found counterfeit science, researchers driven by government grants, and faux meteorologists to promote them on television. Woe to the global economy.

— **K.E. GRUBBS JR.**

World Trade magazine
December 1997

What revolution?

Has this Congress, in 1997 — three years after the so-called

"Conservative Revolution" — done anything to cut the spending and cut the number of unconstitutional agencies?

No, not one. Perhaps it would not have been so bad if Congress only had moved to stop the growth of these agencies, if it was not going to all-out abolish them. But this Congress has increased the funding for almost all of the federal boondoggles; the pornographic National Endowment of the Arts, the Department of (mis)Education, and the bureaucrats at the EPA, all saw budget increases.

Even worse, Congress gave more money to the IRS — the most corrupt and hated of the federal agencies. Americans say they want to get rid of the IRS, but the Republican Congress has given the IRS money to do more of their same old tricks. In fact, the Congress gave the IRS \$700 million over last year!

— **REP. RON PAUL (R-TX)**

Texas Straight Talk,
December 1, 1997

Air bags versus choice

Beginning in mid-January 1998, you can get a retrofitted on-off switch [for your car's air bag] if you certify to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that you fall into one of four "approved" risk categories. Once NHTSA gets your paperwork (OMB Form No. 2127-0588), it will send you a permission slip, and then you can do what you should have been able to do long ago.

Contrast all this with the situation we'd have if there were no air bag mandate. There would still be a sizable market for air bags; the fact that unmandated side-impact bags are beginning to appear in some luxury cars demonstrates that many people want these devices. Others don't, of course, and they would be served as well; air bags, with or without switches, would be standard equipment on some models, optional on others, and perhaps unavailable on still others. This is the situation for anti-lock

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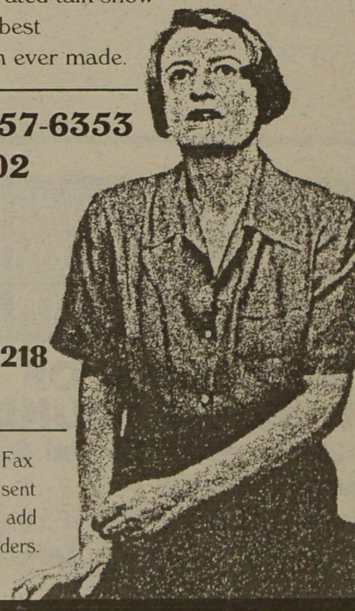
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brakes, another unmandated safety device.

The real issue is not deactivation but the mandate itself. The next time you see an air bag, remember: switches or not, it's still not a choice; it's a mandate.

— **SAM KAZMAN,**
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Update, November 1997

Safety that kills

The reaction to the explosion of Flight 800 nicely illustrates the way public policy is made in Washington: (1) Pick a problem — terrorism, hate crime, drug abuse, electronic indecency. (2) Transform it into a crisis, preferably with the help of a dramatic event. (3) Propose a solution. (4) Implement it quickly, without regard to unintended consequences. (5) Repeat.

Unlike the FBI and the NTSB, President Clinton and Congress simply assumed that Flight 800 was downed by a terrorist bomb. Shortly after the explosion, Clinton ordered several changes in airport security procedures, including ID checks and queries about luggage. He appointed a commission. Within a month, most of its recommendations were implemented by Congress.

Economist Robert W. Hahn of the American Enterprise Institute has shown [all this anti-ter-

rorist activity] carries a hefty price tag. In addition to about \$400 million in taxpayers' money allocated by Congress, he counted billions of dollars imposed on airlines and passengers.

Delays resulting from the changes already implemented represent something like \$9 billion a year. New baggage screening devices and full matching of passengers to luggage will cost \$4 billion or so.

Hahn made the generous assumption that the security changes will prevent all sabotage of U.S. airliners — saving, on average, 37 lives a year. Considering only the costs of the measures already in place, each life saved would cost \$200 million.

Because of delays and higher costs, some travelers who would have flown will instead choose to drive, a riskier mode of transportation. Hahn estimated this shift will result in 60 extra deaths a year. In other words, the security changes will probably lead to a net increase in fatalities.

— **JACOB SULLUM**
www.reason.com
January 19, 1997

■ Send "Talking Points" contributions to Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church VA, 22043. E-mail: mbeauch@ix.netcom.com

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Colorado LP's letter sparks media flurry

Recruitment letter pays unexpected dividends

Republican leaders want it stamped: "Return to Sender." But Colorado Libertarians are delighted with the early response to a membership recruitment letter which they sent to thousands of registered Republicans in the town of Lakewood about a month ago.

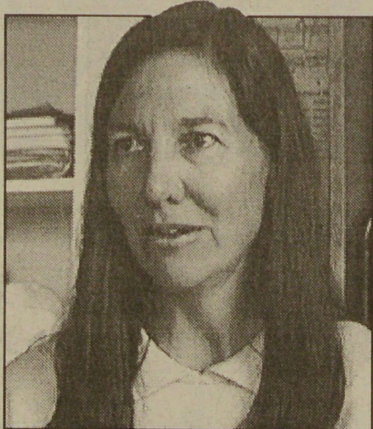
The letter generated a flurry of media attention for the LP — and prompted the GOP mayor of the town to publicly disagree with the statement: "The more government you have, the less freedom . . . you have."

The Colorado LP sent the letter to 5,000 "disgruntled" Republicans — making it their "most aggressive direct-mail recruiting campaign ever," said Colorado LP State Chair Sandra Johnson.

Obscenely expensive

The letter, which was signed by Johnson, blasted GOP mayor Linda Morton for her support of a \$16 billion mass-transit system — an "obscenely expensive Big Government project usually associated with Democrats."

And it invited Republicans to join "America's Party of Principle, the Libertarian Party — the only political party that steadfastly stands for smaller, limited government, and lower taxes."



■ Sandra Johnson: "Join the Party of Principle."

It's too soon to predict how many members the letter will recruit, said Johnson, but the publicity results are impressive.

The media fallout included appearances on KNUS radio, and articles in the *Denver Post* and the *Jefferson Sentinel*.

In that latter newspaper, Mayor Morton said she disagreed with the Libertarian premise that more government equals less freedom, and explained that "those who feel they are Republicans, are Republicans."

"It is as if [the reporter] deliberately selected quotes to prove my points" about the lack of principles among Republicans, said Johnson.

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Survey says: Ex-GOPers lead ranks of LP members

If you were a Republican before joining the LP, welcome to the club: You make up the single largest group of current party members.

But refugees from the GOP are slightly outnumbered by the combined total of former independents and individuals who "always considered themselves libertarian," says a survey of Libertarian Party members taken last year.

According to almost 1,000 LP members who responded to a mail questionnaire in late 1997, 39.72% of current party members are former Republicans, while 20.12% have "always" been libertarian and 19.61% are former political independents.

"IT'S EASIER TO find a tolerant Republican than an economically literate Democrat."

Trailing behind were former Democrats (8.15%), individuals who had no previous interest in politics (3.2%), and people from "other" or mixed political backgrounds (9.18%).

Party officers said the results were interesting — but not very surprising.

"I was a little surprised by how strong the Republican representation was, but it makes sense in hindsight," said Perry Willis, a past national director and now a consultant on LP membership-building projects. "In the final analysis it's easier to find a socially tolerant Republican than it is to find an economically literate Democrat."

LP National Director Ron Crickenberger speculated that the number of ex-Republicans was fueled by the failure of the GOP to shrink government.

"The numbers were not very surprising," he said. "The Republicans have been espousing smaller government rhetoric. Yet they have increased the size of the federal government at an even faster rate than the Democrats. With that kind of hypocrisy by their leaders, it's no wonder that Republicans are deserting their party in droves."

Won't change

While the results of the survey will help fine-tune LP recruitment efforts, they won't change any of the party's fundamental strategies, said Willis.

"This survey doesn't do much to direct our recruitment efforts," he said. "Only testing can do that. But it gives us a preview of what we're likely to find in our testing. The great problem for the future will be to recruit more Democrats, but since this will require greater effort, we must first concentrate on recruiting easier people — Republicans. By concentrating on Republicans today we can gain the resources to recruit Democrats tomorrow."

And national chairman Steve Dasbach said the survey confirmed one of the party's current recruitment strategies.

"The number I found most interesting was the 20% of members who have *always* been libertarian," he said. "It reinforces our strategy of 'discovery before persuasion' — that there are lots of natural libertarians out there, and we've just got to find them."

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POLITICAL NEWS

Tuniewicz announces for Treasurer

Libertarian National Committee member Mark A. Tuniewicz has announced that he is running for the office of Treasurer for the national Libertarian Party—promising party members "straight answers to straight questions" about the party's finances.

"Our members deserve to know that their money is being spent in a prudent manner," he said. "As we move the party forward in a more professional manner, the budgeting, cash forecasting, and internal control functions all become more crucial. If elected, I pledge to be the most active Treasurer in party history, working hard to set a new standard."

Tuniewicz is currently the Region 6 Representative for the LNC; a member of the LP of Michigan's Executive Committee; and was elected twice as State Chair of the LP of New Hampshire. He also served in public office as a Conservation Commissioner in Milford, NH. He currently lives with his wife Karin in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Professionally, Tuniewicz is a commercial credit executive. He has a degree in Finance and has 14 years of experience in budgeting, financial statement analysis, accounting systems, and cash forecasting.

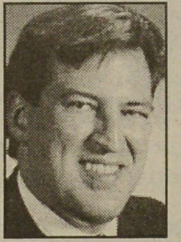
Tuniewicz said he is running as an "independent" candidate for Treasurer — not affiliated with any slate or candidate for National Chairman.

"I promise to work well with your choice for National Chair and the LNC," he said. "But I believe the Treasurer must be independent, so that the information passed on throughout the party can be viewed as credible and unbiased."

Tuniewicz's candidacy has won endorsements from LP of Connecticut State Chair Carl Vasser, head of the Libertarian Campaign Consultants Association Barbara Goushaw, and LP of Michigan State Chair Tim O'Brien.

The election for Treasurer takes place at the Libertarian National Convention in July 1998, in Washington, DC.

For more information about the Tuniewicz campaign, call: (248) 650-0793. E-mail: nhliberty@aol.



■ Mark Tuniewicz pledges "to be the most active Treasurer."

Jim Burns launches 2000 presidential bid

Jim Burns, a past State Chair of the LP of Nevada and five-time candidate for public office, has announced that he is seeking the LP's 2000 presidential nomination.

If he wins the party's nomination, Burns said he would employ a "hit 'em where they ain't" strategy in the general election.

"The idea is to outspend and run a better campaign than the Democrat and Republican [presidential candidate] in at least one state," he said. "If we run a better campaign than our opponents, we can win there. And if we win — or even give the appearance that we can win — the national media must pay attention [which] will increase our vote totals everywhere."

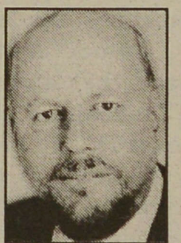
Burns, 51, has been an LP member since 1973. He has run for Congress twice; for mayor of Las Vegas once; and for State Assembly once.

His campaign will focus on three major issues:

- Social Security, which is "fraud on the largest scale."
- Abolishing the IRS, which "cannot continue to exist if we are to have a free society."
- Ending Drug Prohibition, which produces "much more harm than good."

The party's presidential candidate will be nominated at the national convention in Los Angeles, in July 2000.

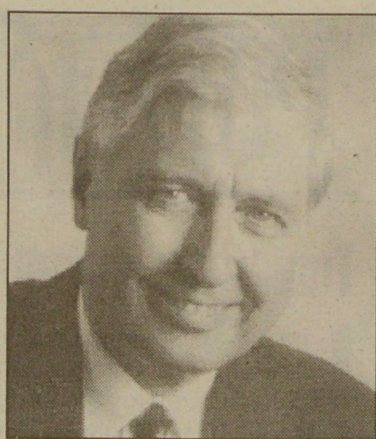
For information about the Jim Burns for President campaign, call: (702) 642-4165. Or write: P.O. Box 30157, North Las Vegas, NV 89036



■ Jim Burns: Will use the "Hit 'em where they ain't strategy."



■ Jacob Hornberger, President, Future of Freedom Foundation



■ Harry Browne, 1996 LP presidential candidate



■ Shelley Davis, author of *Unbridled Power*, an IRS exposé



■ Barbara Goushaw, Libertarian campaign manager



■ Sharon Harris, Advocates for Self-Government

Speaker line-up takes shape for Convention '98



Non-partisan humor at Convention '98

Do Libertarians have a sense of humor? You'll get an opportunity to find out when the Capitol Steps bring their unique brand of musical comedy to the Libertarian Party's 1998 National Convention. The Capitol Steps, Washington DC's preeminent political satirists, will perform on Thursday, July 2nd—and have promised "tri-partisan" humor.

Former Capitol Hill staffers with a talent for singing and satire, the Capitol Steps have become a "must-see" for visitors to the nation's capital, and have appeared on numerous national TV and radio programs.

In doing so, they have won praise from all corners. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, they feature "sharp-edged political humor." The *Washington Post* called them "high energy political satire." And the *Boston Globe* praised their "up-to-the-minute parodies of political shenanigans."

Interested in campaigning? Privatizing Social Security? Becoming a more effective Libertarian communicator?

Whatever your interest, there should be a speaker for you at the 1998 LP National Convention, said Kris Williams, one of the convention organizers.

"We wanted to have something for everybody, whether you're looking for issues, nuts-and-bolts politics, or just an entertaining speech," he said.

A partial list of convention speakers has been announced—with more, including several "big name" speakers, to be announced in the coming months, he said. Currently scheduled speakers include:

Jacob Hornberger: The president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, he gave the electrifying Keynote Address at the party's 1996 convention.

Barbara Goushaw: Head of the Libertarian Campaign Managers Association in Michigan and campaign manager for Jon Coon's U.S. Senate race (1994).

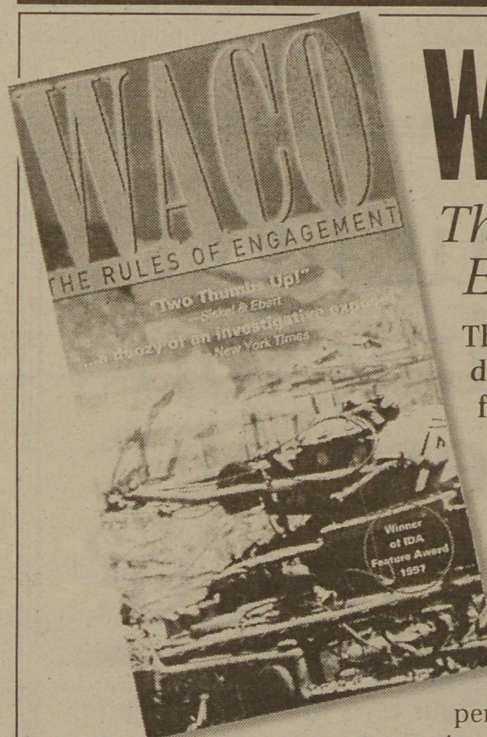
Shelley Davis: After seven years as the IRS's historian, she blew the whistle on the feared agency with her book, *Unbridled Power*.

Harry Browne: The Libertarian Party's 1996 candidate for president, best-selling author of 10 books (including *Why Govern-*

ment Doesn't Work), public speaker, and world-renowned investment advisor.

Michael Tanner: Director

of Health & Welfare Studies at the Cato Institute, and one of the nation's leading experts on privatizing Social Security.



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■ "Painstaking, powerful, and incendiary." — *Boston Globe*

■ "Two thumbs up!" — *Siskel & Ebert TV show*.

■ "A doozy of an investigative expose!" — *New York Times*

■ "Terrifyingly persuasive." — *Los Angeles Times*

■ "A convincing, devastating, argument." — *Village Voice*

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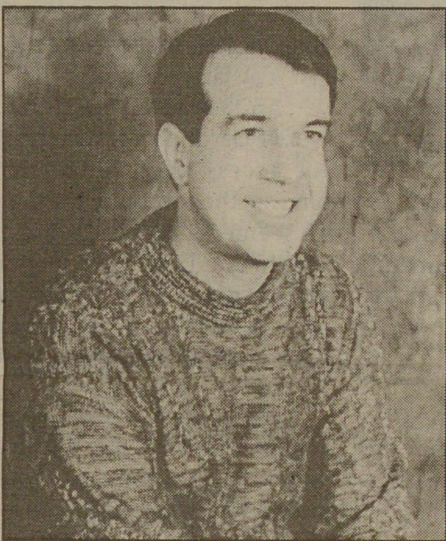
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MICHAEL CLOUD

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Confirmed Speakers



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In 1997, he took on the Supreme Court—and won. Representing himself, Chandler overturned a law requiring candidate drug testing.

Convention Events

As a delegate, you will:

- Craft the new LP '98 Platform.
- Vote on the LP's leadership for the next two years.
- Hear fascinating speakers.
- Mingle with fellow LP activists from all over the USA.

Quick: Save money before prices go up again in April!

Convention '98 prices have gone up — but you can still take advantage of the best prices of the '90s.

If you register before April 1st, 1998, you can attend the convention for lower prices than were charged for the party's 1991, 1993, or 1996 conventions:

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(Individual event tickets are available.)

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US Airways has been designated as the official carrier for the Libertarian Party's 1998 National Convention, and will offer exclusive low fares for attendees:

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■ An extra 5% discount: Ticket 60 days or more prior to departure.

All rules and restrictions must be met. Not combinable with other discounts or promotions. Valid from June 28th to July 8th, 1998.

To obtain these discounts, you or your travel agent must call US Airways' Meeting & Convention Reservation Office: (800) 334-8644 (8:00 am - 9:00 pm EST). Refer to Gold File No. 176 101 07.

Convention Details

DATE

July 2 - 5, 1998. (Thursday - Sunday.)

LOCATION

The Sheraton Washington Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road (near Connecticut Avenue), Washington DC.

EVENTS

- Election of party officers
- Election of the National Committee
- LP Platform debate and changes
- Major speakers (see list to left)
- Huge vendor & exhibitor area
- Candidate training sessions
- Gala banquet & awards
- The Capitol Steps (Entertainment)

LODGING

Special discount room prices of only \$105 per night (single or double) are available at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. Please call the hotel directly to make your reservation. Tell them that you are attending the LP's Convention '98. For special group rates, make your reservation no later than May 29, 1998! (Room rate does not include DC's 13% sales tax or \$1.50 a night occupancy tax). For reservations, call: (800) 325-3535 or (202) 328-2000.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration cancellations received before January 31st, 1998, will be accepted with no penalty. Cancellations received between February 1st and May 1st will be refunded with a 50% processing fee. Cancellations received after May 2nd will not be refunded. All refunds issued after the Convention.

MORE INFORMATION?

For more information or questions:

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AFFILIATE NEWS

Ferreting out freedom and 'annoying' laws

■ Alabama

It took an abrupt political U-turn by the governor — but Libertarian candidate **John Sophocleus** will be on the ballot for a special January 20th election for State Representative.

Responding to mounting pressure from Libertarians, Governor Fob James reversed himself and overturned an illegal, early petitioning deadline for the election. As a result, Sophocleus, an economics professor at Auburn University, had enough time to gather the signatures required to appear on the ballot.

"It appears that a little bit of tree shaking actually bore some fruit," said campaign manager **Scott Kjar**, following a series of high-level meetings with state officials — including the attorney general — to press their case.

But the ballot access battle isn't over, Kjar said: "We still had to gather a stack of signatures just to get the same ballot access rights that Democrats and Republicans automatically get. This legal double-standard is one of the first things John will change once he is elected."

■ California

Like many Libertarians, former State Chair **Pat Wright** has a pet issue: Ferret legalization. And like many Libertarians, he's an activist on his issue.

Wright, the head of Ferrets Anonymous, organized a march through the streets of San Diego on January 1st to demand the legalization of the furry, short-legged creatures, which are banned in California and Hawaii.

Wright led a group of 50 people on a "Ferret Freedom Walk" in which some owners walked or carried their pets in defiance of the law. Others — apparently afraid of being ferreted out by authorities — left their pets at home and "walked" empty leashes to symbolize the prohibition on the animals.

"I applaud all of you for your courage in coming out, and especially for bringing your fer-



■ With snow and ice storms blanketing much of the country, it's difficult to remember that just a few short months ago, Libertarians could bask in the warm sun during outreach events. Shown here: Don Cormier of the LP of Santa Clara County, California, relaxes at an Operation Politically Homeless booth at the San Jose outdoor South of First & Market Association Festival in late autumn. His reward for a day's work: 25 prospect names.

rets," Wright told the crowd. He said that lobbying efforts to legalize ferrets would continue — even though a bill to decriminalize the animals was stalled in a State Senate committee.

■ California

Businesses which are forced to collect taxes should be reimbursed by the government for their time and effort, say Placer County Libertarians.

So they're launching a state ballot initiative campaign to permit businesses to keep 10% of the sales taxes that they collect for the state government. The so-called "Stop Slavery" initiative will require 433,000 voter signatures to get on the 1998 ballot.

"The 13th Amendment was passed to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude," said LP organizer **Robert Page**. "So why should business owners be forced to be involuntary tax collectors for the government?"

Page acknowledged that 10% isn't enough to fairly compensate business owners, but said at least it will partly end the "involuntary servitude government demands of business owners."

■ California

A Libertarian group has denounced the growing imposition of curfews across the USA — which allow the government to decide "how young Americans

should spend their time."

In 276 American cities, "the government has made hanging out a crime," charged LP member **Dave Doctor** on December 1st. Doctor, the head of the San Diego-based Campaign to Repeal the Curfew, cited a recent study by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which found that a shocking 80% of the 347 cities surveyed imposed juvenile curfews.

Doctor said that most juvenile curfews contain so many exceptions — for working or going out with parents, for example — that they essentially force teenagers to adopt "government-approved lifestyles."

■ Maine

Libertarians have joined a campaign to support a "right to die bill" that will be considered by the Maine Legislature this year.

The Death with Dignity Act would allow terminally ill people to end their lives while providing safeguards for informed consent.

More than 60% of Americans support the right to doctor-assisted suicide, but many state legislatures — including Maine's — simply ignore that fact, said LP state Chair **Richard Eaton**.

"This legislation would establish firmly in law that a terminally ill person has the right to decide to end his or her life in a humane and dignified man-

ner," reported the *Maine Libertarian* newsletter. "But [we] have to be willing to put in a little effort to fight for this right."

■ New Hampshire

Nashua Libertarians won a partial victory when they forced the mayor to put a \$32.5 million bridge project to a public vote — but ended up losing the hard-fought election.

"The mayor fought us tooth and nail to keep this off the ballot," said LP member **Jack Shimek**, whose Ban the Bridge Committee used a combination of protests and legal action to draw attention to the controversial construction project.

Unfortunately, he said, the measure passed by 56% to 44% on November 4th, 1997.

Shimek said Libertarians opposed the bridge project because it was "a match made in heaven for the wealthy and for politically well-connected developers."

But despite the loss at the ballot box, Shimek said, "We're proud of our efforts. This whole episode could still result in the recall of the mayor."

■ New Jersey

If you ever find yourself in Franklin, N.J., don't do anything annoying. You could be thrown in jail for 90 days, fined \$1,000 — or both.

That's because the town has

an ordinance that prohibits "any matter, thing, condition or act which is or may become an annoyance or interfere with the comfort or well-being of the inhabitants of this municipality."

But a Libertarian — who argues that "over-broad ordinances have absolutely no place in Franklin Township's code" — is working to change that.

And LP member **John Paff's** lobbying has been so successful that the town is now reviewing the ordinance in response to his complaint that the language is so vague that it is "a trap for the innocent that leaves the citizen at the mercy of its enforcers."

The mayor conceded that Paff "has a valid concern," and said the law may be rewritten.

■ North Carolina

Libertarians worked hard to get an LP member appointed to a state ballot access reform commission — in an effort to end the shenanigans that occurred in the last legislative session.

An LP-backed bill to reform North Carolina's restrictive ballot access laws — which are among the worst in the nation — seemed headed toward passage in late 1997 when it became bogged down with "unfavorable provisions" and never came to a vote, said **Candi Copas**, the state LP's ballot access coordinator.

Copas persuaded the sponsors to "clean up" the bill and reconsider it during the next session. Then she asked House and Senate leaders to appoint her to the commission charged with researching new legislation — and recently received word that she had been accepted.

As a commission member, "I will not only work on current ballot access issues, but all election law reforms that have been proposed," said Copas.

■ Oregon

A group of Mexican election officials on a U.S. tour wanted to learn more about third-party politics in America — so they dropped in on the Libertarian Party in Portland for a visit on September 22nd.

The delegation, hosted by the prestigious World Affairs Council, made a series of visits to state and county election boards, but the LP was the only third party they visited, said state LP Communications Director **David Vessell**.

In addition to discussing the

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role of third parties in America, said Vessell, the visitors also had questions about the LP Platform.

"The Mexican officials seemed to agree with the LP on drug legalization, but they were mortified at our stance on campaign finance reform — a reflection, perhaps, of the cruel realities of Mexican politics," he said.

■ South Carolina

Three talented high school students are \$850 richer — thanks to their ability to write a libertarian essay answering the question: "What does 'Don't Tread on Me' mean to you?"

The three students were the winners of a contest sponsored by the state Libertarian Party, and shared the \$850 cash prize.

The contest was open to every high school student in the state and "was a great opportunity for students to express their love of liberty — and to win some cash by doing so," said LP State Chair **Rodney Travis**.

The prizes were awarded on December 15th, 1997, to coincide with the 206th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

The winners were Timothy Semon, (Columbia); Ronnie Ridgeway, (Swansea); and Jacob Miller, (Central).

■ Tennessee

It's official: The LP — that's LP as in Liberty Penguin — really is cool.

Sales of the popular Penguin logo, which appears on lapel pins and Coolie cups advertised in LP News, topped 1,000 last year.

The logo is the creation of Libertarian graphic artist **Ann Cason**, who works for an advertising agency in Bean Station, Tennessee.

Cason, who calls the milestone "one small step for the Liberty Penguin and one giant step for liberty," said she has fielded orders from as far away as Sweden and the Netherlands, as well as from 42 states.

But the penguin is more than just a money-making enterprise: Cason is campaigning to make the penguin the official symbol of the Libertarian Party, replacing the Statue of Liberty.

"The Democrats have the donkey, the symbol of stubbornness," she said. "Republicans have the elephant, a symbol that best represents trampling rights. What do we have? A statue. Penguins are cute. They're cool. Who doesn't like penguins?"

■ Utah

Libertarians kicked off the New Year by persuading a third Utah-based talk radio host to join the party — on the air.

On New Year's Day morning, Pepper Stevens of KWUN challenged LP State Chair **Jim Dexter** to come on the air and "prove the Libertarian Party has the right ideas." Dexter accepted, and over the next two hours fielded a variety of "tough questions" from host and callers alike. As the show ended, Pepper took out his checkbook and joined the LP, and encouraged listeners to do the same.

"The Libertarian Party of Utah continues to conquer the

airwaves, one microphone at a time," Dexter said.

Stevens joins two other Utah hosts who have joined the LP: Kay Henry of KWUN and Jim Kirkwood of KTKK.

■ Utah

A press conference at the state capitol on November 4th not only struck a blow for proportional representation — it also garnered coverage in two major daily newspapers.

With representatives from other third parties, LP State Chair **Jim Dexter** denounced the way that the Utah legislature had "rigged" election laws, and encouraged lawmakers to reform the current "winner-take-all" election system.

"Our democracy has become stagnant because we have allowed a two-party monopoly to stifle the free marketplace of ideas," he said. "Why is Utah government divided into two political parties when the people of Utah are not?"

Dexter also called on the media to inform voters about alternative voting systems, and said that reforms in "Ireland, Mexico and the Ukraine show that the U.S. is becoming a museum of democracy rather than a laboratory."

The press conference sparked coverage for the LP in the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Daily Chronicle*.

■ Vermont

"Free" speech costs \$30 inside the Vermont State House — and the state Libertarian Party is publicly protesting both the cost

and the principle.

The Gun Owners of Vermont were charged \$30 in January for a "filing and lobbying fee" required to meet with politicians about a new bill to protect the privacy of gun owners.

Libertarian Party member **Ed Cutler**, who also heads the gun group, denounced the "unmitigated arrogance" of legislators for requiring the fee.

"We believe that the right to contact the Legislature is fundamental to our democracy, and we object strenuously to any attempt to hinder that right or to generate revenue from it," he said. "The Vermont Libertarian Party hereby goes on record to condemn the exaction of fees and burdensome bureaucratic requirements on citizen groups for the privilege of contacting the legislature."

Election '97 wins up to 39

The number of LP members elected to public office in the November 1997 election continues to creep inexorably upward, with five late winners added to the total. The final count of Election '97 victories now stands at 39, including:

■ Barry M. Carnahan, Constable, (Jefferson County, PA).

■ Christopher Zabala, Inspector of Elections (Norristown, PA).

■ John W. Mest, Judge of Elections (Bechtelsville, PA).

■ Christopher Davis, Constable (Lancaster County, PA).

■ Kathy Smith, Canon-McMillam School Board Member (Allegheny, Pennsylvania).

The Libertarian Party

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■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. "Reader friendly" LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

■ **1996 Libertarian Party Platform.** 24 pages; 2-color (red & black). "Official" party positions (updated at the 1996 National Convention) on individual rights, the economy, taxation, poverty, & other political issues. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$50 per 100

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting outreach geared specifically for gun owners, explaining our 100% pro-gun position. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why (and how) government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95 (includes \$2 s/h charge)

■ **Enough Is Enough/Vote Libertarian Yard Sign.** Great for campaigns — or anytime! 2-color (red & blue) 24" x 18", on sturdy foam-board. **Cost:** \$8.00 each

■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights 1971-1996) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy. **Cost:** \$1 each

Miscellaneous Items

■ **Windbreaker.** Blue, with LP logo & party name. Available in M, L, XL. (Please specify.) **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** Back in stock! (Blue & red — big 15" x 3.25" size)

■ **Don't Blame Me . . . I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-682-1776** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." **Cost:** \$40 each

Tools for Campaigning

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP ads. **Cost:** \$3 for set

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (Not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

Buttons (Cost: \$1 each or 75¢ for 5 or more)

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

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By Mail: (And make checks payable to) **Libertarian Party**
2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100 • Washington, DC 20037

By Phone: Call: (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221

By Fax: (202) 333-0072

Send a Liberty Valentine This Year!

Do you love liberty? February 14th is Valentine's Day. This year, why not send a "valentine" from the Libertarian Party to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers?

Yes, you can share your heartfelt love of liberty by spreading the word about the Libertarian Party — the only political party that remains true to America's heritage of personal liberty and responsibility!

Give them a bouquet of brochures to explain how the LP will reduce taxes and protect their family budget. Instead of jewels, present them with an attractive Libertarian button. Or hand out copies of *Libertarianism In One Lesson* — the ultimate "love poem" to the Founding Father's vision of a free nation.

This Valentine's Day, show your passion for liberty by sharing the good news about the Libertarian Party!

Booklet

■ **LP Special Report.** 20 pages, blue & black ink. Comprehensive introduction, detailing the benefits of a Libertarian society. With membership form/envelope.

Cost: Sample: \$1.00 or \$50 for 100

Yard Sign

■ **"Enough is Enough /Vote Libertarian"** on sturdy foamboard. 24" x 18", red & blue.

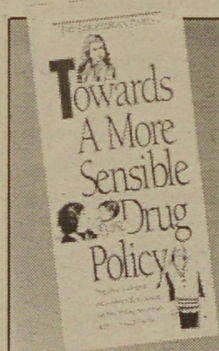
Cost: \$8 each.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



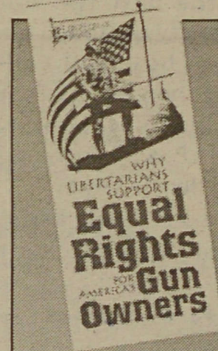
■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible and workable alternative to the government's dangerous "War on Drugs."

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



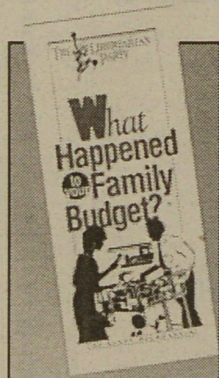
■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains the Libertarian Party's strong pro-Second Amendment position for general audience.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



■ **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). Outlines how the Libertarian Party would drastically reduce taxes and government spending.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



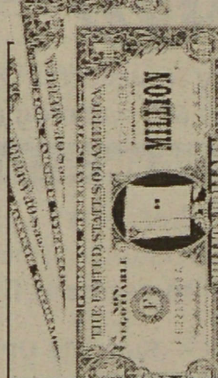
■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how government impoverishes the "typical" family through taxes and inflation.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's 5-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties and the public.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



■ **"Million Dollar Bill."** Green ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive Federal spending. Perfect for Tax Day outreach efforts.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$5 for 100

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Indicate the quantity you wish to order below.

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add 15% for Post Office box deliveries. **Federal law** requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Ready-to-use Literature

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_____	Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
_____	Brochure: "Is This/New Political Party?"
_____	Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____	Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____	Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"
_____	Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____	Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"
_____	Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____	Tax Day Flyer: \$1,000,000 Bill
_____	2-page LP history/2-page bibliography. (Package.)
_____	World's Smallest Political Quiz
_____	America's Libertarian Heritage booklet
_____	Why Government Doesn't Work book
_____	1996 LP Platform
_____	1995 LP Program
_____	Booklet: "Special Report"

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_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL
 _____ LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
 _____ "Liberty" Teddy Bear

Tools for Campaigning

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 _____ Statue of Liberty logo master
 _____ Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

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Smoking showdown looms in Mesa, AZ

Libertarian pushes for city referendum on USA's "most restrictive" smoking law

How tough is the "most restrictive anti-smoking law in the nation?"

It's so tough that in Mesa, Arizona, it is illegal to smoke in "conference rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms, auditoriums, cafeterias, lunchrooms, employees' lounges, restrooms, hallways, stairways, and elevators."

But it doesn't stop there. You also can't smoke outside — near entrances to buildings, at bus stops, or while waiting in line at a movie. And you're forbidden to smoke in public parks or golf courses — unless you're alone.

You also face a \$2,500 fine if you're caught smoking in restaurants, stadiums, amphitheaters, in bathrooms in public housing — or almost any location that is considered a "public place."

Mesa police even advertise a phone number to call to "complain about someone smoking" in public areas.

That's why *American Spectator* magazine dubbed Mesa "the anti-smoking capital of the Western world" — and that's why Libertarian Party member Kat Gallant has collected enough petition signatures to put a referendum on the town ballot in March to repeal the law.

They'll fight back

"Americans will be Americans," explained Gallant. "You can only push them so far, and they'll fight back."

Mesa became Ground Zero in the battle over smoking in 1996, when city residents passed a bill to ban most public smok-



■ Kat Gallant: Americans "are adamant about their freedom. You can only push them so far, then they'll fight back."

ing — a vote that was reportedly heavily influenced by non-smoking Mormons.

But Mesa residents must have been surprised at the "unintended consequences" of the ban: Restaurants and bars have closed because of lack of business, and bingo receipts at the local Moose Lodge — used to buy Christmas toys for poor children — are down by 60%.

"Both the city and [private] businesses lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue — destroying the economy," said Gallant. "Several mom-and-pops [stores] lost their business with no compensation."

"The Mesa City Council hired a research firm to study the [city] economy to see what effect, if any, the ban had created. The findings were so devastating that the City Council voted not to publish the finding," she said.

So Gallant gathered 7,500 signatures to put another referendum up to a vote — to allow businesses "to make the choice of being smoking or non-smoking."

Now her American Freedom Committee is lobbying residents to overturn the ban — and "send [politicians] a message."

The new initiative isn't about smoking, she said: "It's about choice, and believing that Americans are smart enough to make their own decisions — without the government telling us what to do."

■ Editor's note: Kat Gallant was last covered in *LP News* in September 1997, when her horses were seized by the West Virginia state government near the end of her "freedom ride" across America. The case has not gone to trial, and Gallant has filed a motion to dismiss.

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New Advocates WWW site displays famous libertarians

Want to hang out with some libertarian celebrities? You can at a new World Wide Web site created by the Advocates for Self-Government, which showcases "Libertarian Celebrities & VIPs," according to Advocates' president Sharon Harris.

"This impressive list of libertarians shows that libertarianism is coming of age," Harris said. "The fact that such well-known people have declared themselves libertarian lends even more credibility to our movement."

The site includes such notables as Clint Eastwood, Kurt Russell, Milton Friedman, Russell Means, Penn & Teller, Nathaniel Branden, Neal Peart, and John Larouquette.

"The criteria used is that these celebrities have publicly

declared themselves libertarian," said Harris. "When you click on a name, you get a photo, biographical information, and libertarian quotes from the person."

The celebrities page can be found at the Advocates Web site — www.self-gov.org — which also includes the interactive World's Smallest Political Quiz, said Harris.

The Advocates for Self-Government is a non-partisan libertarian educational organization based in Cartersville, Georgia.

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More UPCOMING EVENTS

■ April 17-19, 1998

Illinois LP Convention, Ramada Inn Hotel Woodfield, Palatine. Speakers include Murray Sabrin and David Boaz. Contact Kathy Kelley at (815) 874-6345, or Mike Ginsberg (847) 776-8747. E-mail: lpi@mcs.com. World Wide Web: <http://www.mcs.com/~lpi/>.

■ April 18, 1998

Minnesota LP Convention, Mystic Lake Hotel, Prior Lake. Speaker: Harry Browne. For information, call: (612) 874-8531.

■ April 24-26, 1998

Colorado LP State Convention, Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Denver. Speakers include talk show host Gene Burns, Bumper Hornberger, Richard Boddie, and Michael Cloud. For information, call (303) 837-9393 or (800) 211-5214.

■ April 24-26, 1998

Ohio LP Convention, Plaza Hotel in downtown Akron. Speakers TBA. For information, contact Chet Sutherland at (330) 928-3256 or Bob Neumann at (330) 666-5159.

■ May 9, 1998

West Virginia LP Convention, Holiday Inn Charleston House, Charleston. Speakers include National LP Chairman Steve Dasbach, Jacob Hornberger, author Dr. Mary Ruwart, Wallace Johnson, and James W. Lark, III. For information call John Brown at (800) 950-3421.

■ July 1, 1998

Future of Freedom Foundation special summer meeting of the Vienna Coffee Club at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. Keynote speaker: Walter E. Williams. Topic: "The Role of Government In a Free Society." Moderator: Jacob Hornberger, FFF president. Panelists include James Bovard, author of *Lost Rights*. For information, call: (703) 934-6101



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Newport, RI 02840-1728
401-848-9733
rilee@wsii.com

South Carolina Chair

Rodney Travis
27 Andrew St.
N. Charleston, SC 29418
803-552-9991
rtravis@awod.com

South Carolina HQ

P.O. Box 50643
Columbia, SC 29250
803-254-3204 (messages)

South Dakota Chair

Nathan A. Barton
PO Box 3471
Rapid City, SD 57709
605-348-9461 (h)
605-342-9250 (o)
605-394-7246 (fax)
SDLiberty@juno.com

South Dakota HQ

P.O. Box 9341
Rapid City, SD 57709

Tennessee Chair

Scott Benson
5116 Brittany Drive
Old Hickory, TN 37138-1250
615-758-5906 (h)

Tennessee HQ

P.O. Box 8154
Hermitage, TN 37076-8154
615-773-7090 (inquiries)
615-773-7090 (fax)

Texas Chair

Jay D. Manifold
P.O. Box 140577
Irving, TX 75014
972-252-9854 (h)
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Texas HQ

P.O. Box 56426
Houston, TX 77256
512-467-1776
800-422-1776

Utah Chair

Jim Dexter
5718 S. Dynasty Oaks
Bennion, UT 84118-2675
801-963-1028 (h)
801-968-8133 (fax)
JimDex@inconnect.com

Utah HQ

P.O. Box 526025
Salt Lake City, UT 84152-6025
800-280-7900

Vermont Chair

Christopher Costanzo
RR 1, Box 74
Randolph, VT 05060
802-234-6908
secur@sover.net

Vermont HQ

P.O. Box 5475
Burlington VT 05402-5475

Virginia Chair

Dana Johansen
2601 Wagon Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22303-2613
703-960-9120
vetodj@cais.com

Virginia HQ

P.O. Box 28263
Richmond, VA 23228-0263
800-619-1776

Washington Chair

Mary Maas
1608 NE Parker Road
Coupeville, WA 98239-9591
360-678-0277 (h)
chair@lpws.org

Washington HQ

P.O. Box 20732
Seattle, WA 98102
800-353-1776
206-747-6881 (fax)

West Virginia Chair

John Brown
54 Cedar Drive
Hurricane WV 25526-9220
304-757-3821 (h)
800-950-3421 (o)
jkbrown@citynet.net

West Virginia HQ

P.O. Box 75423
Charleston, WV 25375
304-343-LPWV (inquiries)
800-524-LPWV (inquiries)

Wisconsin Chair

Jim Mueller
7820 Caribou Court
Verona, WI 53593-9615
608-829-2913 (h)
jjmueller@execpe.com

Wisconsin HQ

P.O. Box 20815
Greenfield WI 53220-0815
800-236-9236

Wyoming Chair

Steve Richardson
2362 Glendale Ave.
Casper, WY 82601
307-

THE FORUM

Don't lose sight of the target

The best way to use our limited resources to advance liberty

As Libertarian activists, we face countless ways we could use our time, energy, and money to further the cause. So I think it's important to step back occasionally and evaluate how we use our limited resources.

That evaluation begins by asking how we hope to achieve a libertarian society within our lifetimes. I think most of us would answer, "Build a Libertarian Party strong enough to win elections and implement a Libertarian program."

Reaching that objective imposes two tasks on us as party members: (1) supporting the recruitment efforts of the national and local Libertarian Parties; (2) doing whatever we can to increase public awareness of what Libertarians offer.

There are endless demands on our limited time and money: fight this tyrannical bill, educate that group of people, put up these signs, support those events. How do we choose among them? I think the twin tasks provide a guide: Will a proposed project either increase the party membership or increase public awareness of what Libertarians offer?

Distinctively Libertarian

In my opinion, no Libertarian should waste his time running for office unless he defines himself as a Libertarian and offers a distinctively Libertarian platform. Campaigns are pointless if they don't spell out specific Libertarian proposals and label them as such. They're pointless even if the candidate gets elected — because a candidate afraid of being too Libertarian when running will be just as afraid as an office-holder worrying about re-election. But even a losing campaign that's overtly Libertarian will attract new members and increase public knowledge that Libertarians offer superior proposals.

In the same way, there's little to be gained by writing an article or a letter to a newspaper, or by giving a political speech, unless you identify a distinctively Libertarian principle or solution, and label it as "Libertarian." Otherwise, what have you achieved? Nothing, except to register one more vote on one side of one is-

sue — such as opposing a stadium subsidy or a gun-control law. Such votes are drops in the bucket, but presenting and labeling a distinctively Libertarian approach adds to the public understanding that there's a

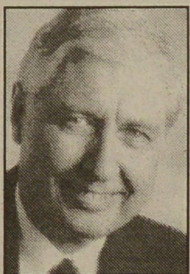
political philosophy superior to conservatism or liberalism — and a party that offers more than the Republicans or Democrats.

And what is a "distinctively Libertarian" platform, principle, or solution? I think the definition is simple: One that no Republican or Democratic politician would feel comfortable advocating. That to me is the test.

If we don't discriminate when allocating our resources, we have little chance to succeed. And political success must be the object. Otherwise, why are we bothering with all this?

Perhaps success seems pretty remote right now. But I wouldn't be involved in the LP if I thought there was no hope. I want to see a much freer country within 10 years — so I can enjoy it for at least a couple of decades before I die. And I believe such a goal, while not assured, is certainly possible.

I believe we can elect a Libertarian President by 2004 and a Libertarian Congress by 2006 —



By Harry Browne

LP Presidential Candidate, 1996

and by 2007 reduce the federal government to a fraction of today's size, repeal the income tax completely, free Social Security from the politicians, end the insane War on Drugs, and much more. And if that happens, competition for the most productive people would cause state and city governments to reduce their size and taxes. Foreign governments would be under pressure to follow suit — to prevent money and productive people from flowing to America.

All this is possible because we have the most powerful message imaginable. We must recognize the power in that message and proclaim to everyone unashamedly, "We want to set you free — free to use every dollar you earn, free to control your children's education, free to run your own life."

Transmit the message

But a powerful message isn't enough. We also must have the means to transmit the message to every voter. And that requires building party membership, while making the public aware of our distinctively Libertarian proposals.

We must be able to show every voter in America a clear-cut choice: between the present situation and a country in which the individual is no longer taxed, regulated, and bullied to death. If the choice is presented properly (and we will continue to improve our ways of presenting it), I believe a majority of Americans will choose our side.

The futility of voting Republican

There are a number of people who are sympathetic to liberty but who have not joined the libertarian movement for "practical" reasons.

"Libertarians have no realistic chance of winning," they say. "They are idealistic but impractical. I am supporting liberty in a more practical way by voting Republican. I support liberty, but I oppose the Libertarian Party."

Such people are actually naive. They fail to understand the

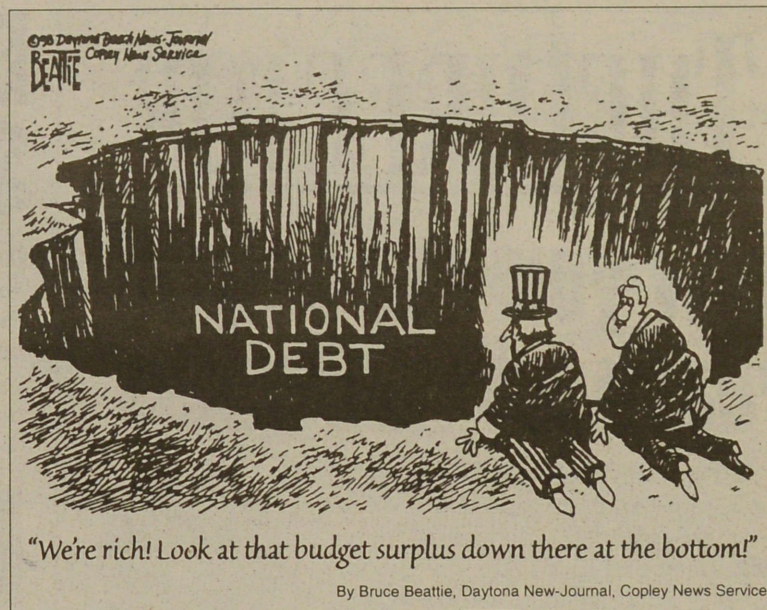
nature of a permanent political party, and they are blind to history.

The first thing that has to be understood is that political movements (that is, movements, not parties) are limited in time. The



By Howard S. Katz

See FUTILITY Page 22



Big government as a Road Runner cartoon

Ever watch Road Runner cartoons? They explain the secret of government.

Roadrunner is the Free Market. Roadrunner moves fast and fends for himself. He's self-reliant. An individualist. He doesn't interfere with others. He's free ... as a bird.

Wile E. Coyote is Big Government. Wile E. Coyote wants to live off the Roadrunner.

Acme Products are Big Government programs.

Every episode, Wile E. Coyote unveils a brilliant new Acme Product to get the Roadrunner. Acme Products have great blueprints and schematics and seem foolproof.

Every episode, the brilliant new Acme Product fails, smashes, crashes, explodes, careens, short-circuits, jams, and collapses. Wile E. Coyote is folded, spindled, mutilated, and crushed by the Acme Product — usually after the hapless coyote falls half a mile into a ravine.

Wile E. Coyote is hopelessly optimistic that the next Acme

Product will get the Roadrunner — in spite of the fact that every Acme Product ever built has failed to get the bird.

Acme Products makes huge profits selling these unworkable products to a Coyote too dumb to notice that he never gets the Roadrunner — and always gets smashed by the new Acme Product.

Wile E. Coyote is spending a fortune buying the next Acme Product. A tax-funded fortune. For an Acme Product and Coyote that will fail and fall on us.

Eludes and evades

Meanwhile, the Roadrunner eludes and evades, outruns and outsmarts Wile E. Coyote and the new Acme Product.

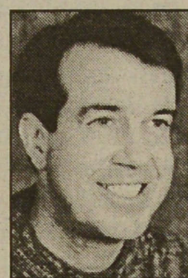
If the Coyote realized that Acme doesn't work, he might stop wasting our money ... and maybe even stop bugging the Roadrunner.

The folks working at Acme could do something productive.

The Roadrunner could run farther and faster.

The Roadrunner will never be safe until he permanently shuts down Acme Products — and demands that Wile E. Coyote keeps his hands off Roadrunners.

Next time someone proposes a new government program, next time someone calls for continuing to support a government program, remember Wile E. Coyote, label it "Acme Products" and answer ... "Beep-Beep."



By Michael Cloud

From THE DIRECTOR

How you can help us reach our '98 goals

Last year was a record-breaking one for Libertarian Party candidates. We ran more candidates, they raised more money, and they had more victories than ever before in an odd-year election.

Will you help 1998 be *the* record year for Libertarian candidates?

We hope to break three records:

- Run over 1,000 candidates.
- Run LP candidates in a majority of Congressional seats; at least 218.
- Have more victories than our '97 record of 36.

We've also set the goals of:

- Electing a state legislator solely on the Libertarian ballot line. We've done this only three times, in Alaska in the early '80s.

- Having at least 100 candidates who raise \$10,000.

In 1996 we ran over 850 candidates. For '98, we're off to a great start to beat that number. Texas has filed over 50 candidates for office — with more local candidates expected. California has over 100 candidates filed. Massachusetts has a goal of 100 candidates. Missouri has a goal of 80 candidates. Georgia is running a full slate of 13 statewide candidates. And Colorado plans to challenge a majority of seats in the state legislature.

With more candidates comes *more* exposure for Libertarian ideas, *more* money to spread the message, and most importantly, *more* Libertarians in office.

Will you be a part of Libertarian victory in '98? Will you be one of our 1,000 candidates?

We attempted to run 218 Congressional candidates in '96, but only got 179 to the ballot. An earlier-than-usual deadline in California and redistricting in Texas helped thwart the plan. But this year we have 29 candidates filed for Congress in Texas, versus five that got to the ballot in '96. California has filed 42. That's nearly a third of the national goal from the first two states.

No third party has challenged a majority of Congressional seats in 80 years, but we have a real chance this year.

Our record 36 victories in '97 came from candidates who ran for entry-level political offices. These local officials will be the "farm team" for the LP — gaining experience in office, and developing a support base to lead them to victories in higher office later.

What should you run for? That depends on what you are best suited for, and what you are most interested in. The LP has long debated whether it is best to run top-of-the-ticket, high-visibility campaigns, or to run lower-level campaigns where the chance to win is greater.

These are not mutually exclusive strategies. Campaigns at all levels have the ability to grow the party and move public policy in a Libertarian direction. Plus, our past history shows that the more candidates a state runs, the higher the average vote totals for all our candidates. There is a synergy that occurs when we run many candidates for all levels of office.

And keep in mind the real reason for you to run as a Libertarian candidate in '98. Breaking numerical records is nice, but it's not the real goal. It's only a means to an end.

The *real* reason is to help bring about a freer life for ourselves and our children. You will be a part of the political force that helps restore our heritage of individual liberty.

Will you be a Libertarian candidate in 1998?

For more information on becoming a candidate, or for our candidate support package, contact National Political Director Ron Crickenberger at (202) 333-0008, Ext. 227, or via e-mail at RonCrickenberger@compuserve.com.



By Ron Crickenberger
LP National Director

Even a bad investor can beat Social Security (here's proof)

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, LP News will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

LIBERTARIAN Solutions

By Christine Murphy Silk

I had a discussion with a friend about the recent proposals to allow individuals to divert part of their Social Security taxes into private investments.

"The problem is that most people, including me, don't know much about financial planning," said my friend, echoing one of the oft-heard arguments against privatization. "Social Security isn't great, but at least I'm better off with it than I'd be if I made stupid investments and lost my money."

My friend's comment prompted me to do some back-of-the-envelope calculations to see just how bad an investor you can be — and *still* beat Social Security.

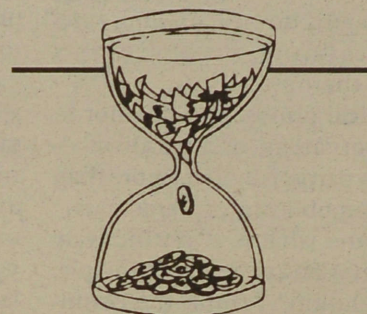
\$610 a month

Let's suppose that, like my friend, you're 32 and you've paid \$46,788 into the Social Security fund. According to the Social Security Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement, you can expect to receive \$610 per month when you are eligible for full benefits at age 67.

To make the calculations simpler, let's pretend Uncle Sam has excused you from paying another penny into Social Security for the rest of your life and has returned to you the \$46,788.

Now you want to invest it. You're not hip to the latest hot stock tips, so you opt for a more conservative approach and a more conservative return. Easy

enough: You put the \$46,788 in a basic tax-deferred retirement account that invests in 30-year government bonds at a yield of 7% compounded — a yield at which they've been hovering recently, but one that is well below their 7.87% average yield for the last 10 years. When you turn 67 in 35 years, your \$46,788 will have grown to almost \$499,536. If you then invested the



HOW BAD AN investor can you be and still beat Social Security?

\$499,536 at 6%, say, by maintaining it in an annuitized retirement account, you could leave the principal untouched and you could withdraw \$2,498 per month in interest alone. That is more than four times the amount you'd receive from Social Security.

It isn't just a lack of investment savvy that makes privati-

zation a bad idea, some people argue, it's that many people are gullible. They'd make downright stupid investments and lose money.

Still, the question remains: How bad an investor can you be and still beat Social Security? *Very bad.*

Suppose you gave two-thirds of your original lump sum to a nice man who promised to make lots of money for you in copper futures. He called yesterday to tell you he's sorry, but he lost every penny of the \$31,192 you gave him.

Unsophisticated way

Now you're left with \$15,596. Can you invest this amount in a relatively unsophisticated way and still beat Social Security?

Yes. Just put the \$15,596 into the same tax-deferred retirement account mentioned earlier. At 7%, your \$15,596 would grow to almost \$166,512 by the time you reach 67. If you then invested the \$166,512 at 6% in an annuitized retirement account, you could withdraw \$833 per month in interest alone without touching the principal. This is still \$223 a month more than what Social Security says you can expect to receive.

I showed these calculations to my friend. "Wow!" he said. "I'd be better off investing my retirement savings myself, even if I'm not the smartest investor around."

Let's hope the folks in Washington come to the same conclusion . . . before it's too late.

Christine Murphy Silk is a marketing consultant in Los Angeles. Her e-mail address is CMSilk@aol.com.

THE MAILBOX

How about \$200,000?

There are two interesting footnotes to the \$100,000 hush-money offer I got from the San Diego downtown establishment not to speak out against the convention center taxpayer financing plan. ("\$100K? No thanks!" January 1998 LP News.)

First, they denied the offer, apparently forgetting that they had given me a copy of the proffered contract to take away from the meeting.

Then, when the headlines hit, embarrassing them to no end, their response was "Well, how about \$200,000?"

The lesson is that our opponents are not rocket scientists. They just don't get it.

— **RICHARD RIDER**
San Diego, California

Getting personal

I missed the mention of a Seattle personal ad politely suggesting that Libertarians need

not respond to a woman's solicitation for a companion. In the January issue of LP News, Tracey Rosenberg said that she received several responses to her personal ad from people who called themselves "Libertarian." That is good news; it would be a shame if our belief in personal responsibility and freedom precluded us from participating in the dating scene.

Frankly, I am flattered at the Seattle ad. I am not in the market — as I am sure my wife would

THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 20

not approve — but I am gratified that the “woman on the street” probably has some notion about what it means to be a Libertarian or she would not have written that in her ad.

Long before this gained public notice I had already written — in my head — the closing line to my personal ad: “Union members, radical feminists, and victims need not respond.”

— **JOHN M. TYSON**
Olympia, Washington

Fish-free liberty?

Two letters in the last issue caught my attention (January 1998, *LP News*). Both were in reply to a letter by Grant Kuhns in the November 1997 issue. The letters were titled “Smoke-free liberty” and “Coffee-free liberty.”

I can understand why some odors and substances in the air would be offensive — or even harmful — to certain people. When I go to the supermarket, I spend as little time as possible in the area where fish are sold. I’d almost rather go to Hell than smell the stuff. Others have told me that they feel the same way.

Now, is my distaste for seafood a just reason for asking our lawmakers to ban fish from the supermarkets? Of course not. Not even if I were allergic to fish. Those who go into business do so to make money; and the only way to do that legitimately is to provide people with something they are willing to pay for.

For example, if a person allows smoking at his place of business and his patrons object to that, they will stay away. On the other hand, if allowing smoking attracts customers, he is wise to do that. But those who make our laws have no right to tell the owner what to allow or disallow. Those who don’t like smoke have the option to put up with it or find other employment or places to trade.

I agree that those who find smoking annoying or harmful are unfortunate; but misfortune is a fact of life, and all of us have our share of it. If we willingly accommodate such people, we have done a good thing; but be-

ing required to do so is evil.

Don Ellis [“Coffee-free liberty”] is right on the money when he says that “the dynamic free market is the only mechanism . . . that can give us all the choices we value.”

My wife and I are non-smokers. We do not allow smoking in our home. That is an option we do exercise.

— **BILL WILLIFORD**
Houston, Texas

Solving smoking

Donna Rickard and Grant Kuhns (*LP News*, November 1997 and January 1998) apparently fail to understand that Libertarians’ “laissez faire attitude” is the only route to solving the smoking issue. Only through free-market demand will the tobacco companies be pressured into making a smokeless cigarette. A prototype was considered a few years ago and then dropped, the

**“LAISSEZ FAIRE
is the only way
to solve the
smoking issue.”**

last time the tobacco industry was trying to improve its image. Perhaps the current round of lawsuits will convince them to try again.

I am a non-smoker who lives and works with smokers, and I deal with second-hand smoke every day. Is it difficult and unfair? Sure. But government cannot solve this problem, just as it can’t solve so many others.

— **JAY MCINTYRE**
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Making choices

I became deeply saddened after reading Donna Rickard’s rejection of Libertarianism when it came to smoking [*LP News*, January 1998]. She asserts, “People have the right to smoke, but they don’t have the right to force their habit onto those of us wise enough to abstain. I applaud the government telling people to take it outside.” This jargon is no different than we hear of anyone lobbying Congress for something. I should be able to do what I want, but things won’t work out nicely unless someone keeps you from doing the things I don’t like.

I am very befuddled by her comment that smokers “force”

people to breathe smoke. If smokers are tying someone down to a chair and breathing smoke in their face, that’s force. However, no one forces a non-smoker to maintain a job with several smokers. If you don’t like the smoke, no one is “forcing” you to stay; find a new job. The only force occurring now is the wrathful force of government.

As a non-smoker who despises smoke, I choose not to work in a smoke-filled environment (I’ve even quit jobs because of this) and I don’t frequent places where a lot of smoke is in the air. I am happy and content with my choices. I only wish Ms. Rickard would make choices instead of calling the government for help.

— **S. TRAVIS RAINES**
Morgantown, West Virginia

Reducing choices?

The Oregon LP should not be seeking proportional representation (*Affiliate News*, December 1997 *LP News*). One of the great things about the United States’ political process is that the voters can vote for the [individual] candidate. Under the system as it exists now, people can run as independents sans party. One is serving in the U.S. Congress. That is freedom of choice.

In addition, we need to ask ourselves if proportional representation will help or hurt the party. Oftentimes when people vote for one of our candidates it is because they trust that person as an individual. Many people (whether we wish to admit it or not) think of the LP as a group of extremists. By disallowing them to vote for a candidate they may trust and [forcing them to] vote for a party they don’t understand, we may scare away votes.

The Oregon LP should spend its time on campaigns that do more for liberty than reducing the choices of the electorate.

— **DAN CATCHPOLE**
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Make that 642,001

I read in *LP News* [December 1997] that 642,000 people have been arrested for marijuana possession during 1996.

Now, I understand that

See **MAILBOX** Page 22

LP Online Guide

Libertarian Party:

<http://www.lp.org/>

Libertarian Party News:

<http://www.lp.org/lpn/>

Libertarian Party Affiliates:

<http://www.lp.org/lp-aff.html>

Libertarian Party Platform:

<http://www.lp.org/platform/>

THE PULSE

Matching funds: Yes, no, maybe

Should Libertarian candidates accept state or federal matching funds from the government to run their campaigns? It’s an issue that divides Libertarians — as evidenced by the fact that this Pulse survey generated far more responses (and more *passionate* responses) than any previous question.

It also yielded sharply divided results, with no single answer winning a majority. The “No” faction won a plurality, with 39.4% of respondents arguing that matching funds violate LP principles, or are a bad move strategically. But, close behind them, 33% of Libertarians were in the “Yes” camp, maintaining that matching funds were needed to level the playing field, or were a method of reclaiming taxes.

Another 18.2% said LP candidates should accept the money — but *only* if they return it to the taxpayers, or give it to charity, or some similar give-back program. And 9.1% said that candidates should “sometimes” take the money, or gave no clear answer. Here are some of the most interesting responses, representing the spectrum of viewpoints:

■ **YES.** Libertarians who are serious about winning office should accept these. Those who merely want to make a statement should not.

— **DON HINKLE**, Green Village, New Jersey

■ **NO.** It is against Libertarian principles and it is one of the few irrefutable ways we can distinguish ourselves from the Republicrats. We turn down the money; they take it.

— **MARK ANTIEAU**, Alpharetta, Georgia

■ **SOMETIMES.** We shouldn’t take matching funds unless there’s a concrete reason to do so, like getting in debates, for example. And we should explain why we accept the funds when we do, and reiterate that we will abolish them if elected, and thus truly “level the playing field.”

— **JAY MCINTYRE**, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

■ **YES, BUT RETURN IT TO TAXPAYERS.** I think that the Libertarian Party should accept Federal matching funds, but distribute the money randomly back to American taxpayers in a highly visible manner.

— **TIMOTHY CROWLEY**, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania

■ **YES.** Of course Libertarian Party candidates should accept matching funds. Matching funds are part of the current system of electing candidates. We must operate within this system, as repugnant as it is, if we ever expect to win elections. When we win enough elections, we can then create our own system whereby we abolish matching funds and the taxes that fund them.

— **AUGUST SALEMI**, Atascadero, California

■ **YES, BUT USE THEM FOR ADVERTISING.** All such funds should be used for advertising that ridicules the entire concept of matching funds. We must become less dogmatic and more creative in using the existing system to expose its flaws.

— **BRIAN GOMEZ**, Cleveland, Ohio

■ **NO.** Accepting public funds means we are just another branch of the Big Government Party: the Demopublicitarians.

— **WILLIAM MAINS**, Hinsdale, Illinois

■ **YES.** The government takes our taxes. We should try to get back whatever we can — as long as we continue to tell everyone who will listen that if elected we will eliminate taxes, eliminate spending, and eliminate this program.

— **RONALD K. WISHART**, Englishtown, New Jersey

■ **NO.** We can never be criticized for refusing matching funds. We can always be criticized for accepting them.

— **JON KALB**, Pleasanton, California

See **THE PULSE** Page 22

ABORTION AND RIGHTS:

APPLYING LIBERTARIAN PRINCIPLES CORRECTLY

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THE PULSE

Continued from Page 21

■ **SOMETIMES.** I have no inherent, philosophical objection to taking matching funds. The question (in each individual case) is: Is it worth it?

— **TIM O'BRIEN**, Dearborn, Michigan

■ **NO.** Only an idiot would put himself in the ridiculous position of accepting a subsidy he proposes eliminating.

— **ROBERT F. SHUFORD**, Indianapolis, Indiana

■ **NO.** I don't believe in welfare for corporations, for individuals and especially for politicians. Libertarian candidates who choose to accept matching funds have, by that one act, displayed sufficient questionable judgment that they can't be trusted to run a campaign that is consistent with our goals.

— **KRIS WILLIAMS**, Arlington, Virginia

■ **YES.** If we refuse to take the funds available, then our candidates are fighting for our cause with one hand tied behind their backs.

— **COLIN F. SEWARDS**, Mansfield, Texas

■ **YES, BUT RETURN IT TO TAXPAYERS.** To honor our principle that people have a right to what they earn, we are obligated to take the funds and return the money to those who paid it out. Those who show a tax-paid receipt by a given date after the election get an equal amount of the money back as a tax refund from the Libertarian Party.

— **EDWARD A. GRAHAM**, Springfield, Virginia

■ **NO.** This is a subsidy, and when you accept subsidies, you are taking more out of the Treasury than you are putting in. Accepting matching funds creates an extra burden for taxpayers, all for the candidates' privileges.

— **KEITH M. DONAT**, Shaker Heights, Ohio

■ **YES.** It is very important to stay with one's principles, but we must sometimes compromise our principles for the greater good. If accepting matching funds will help launch Libertarians into high offices, it seems a small price to pay.

— **PATRICK A. SHELDON**, Clarence, New York

April Question

Yes, yes, we all know there are no "silver bullets" to Libertarian Party success. But . . . we all fantasize about that one great presidential candidate who could seize the attention of the media and voters — and catapult the LP into national prominence. **QUESTION:** Who is your "dream candidate" — the person you would *most* like to see run for president as a Libertarian in the year 2000? (Ideally, it should be someone who has expressed support for libertarian ideas, but it can be someone you think we could convert.) And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** April 5, 1998

March Question

It's no secret that most Libertarians are not too fond of politics . . . or politicians. But every Libertarian seems to have *one* particular politician who particularly irks them. **QUESTION:** What *one* politician (local, state, or national) do you most dislike, disdain, or scorn? And why? (Please keep your answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** February 5, 1998

Pulse Entry Guidelines

Include your name; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month. Send responses:

■ **E-mail:** 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Include "Pulse" in the subject line.)

■ **Fax:** (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse)

■ **Mail:** Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

THE MAILBOX

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when someone admits, for example, to having committed a murder 20 years ago, that person is immediately arrested and charged, and an investigation begun.

If this is done for murder, why not for such a terrible crime as marijuana possession? Shouldn't arrest be the result for a person who not only admits to this crime, but jokes and boasts about it on national TV?

I anxiously await the news of President Clinton's arrest.

— **PAUL BONNEAU**
Beaverton, Oregon

Goals 2000

The year 2000 is going to be a Presidential election year. I think that the Libertarian Party should set some goals. These

goals should include running candidates in as many races as possible.

At the national level, the Libertarian Party should run candidates in a majority of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate races. At the state level, the Libertarian Party should run candidates in a majority of the races in all state legislatures.

This should be the goal for 2000. If the Libertarian Party is able to achieve this very difficult goal, then the press might take notice.

— **DAVID M. DAVIS**
Ames, Iowa

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Libertarian Party has set the goal of running at least 218 candidates for the U.S. House (and 1,000 candidates at all levels) in the 1998 elections.*

The futility of voting Republican

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U.S. history were founded around movements. For example, the Democratic-Republican Party was founded to oppose the first Bank of the U.S. When that movement succeeded, the party ceased to exist.

Then, in the 1830s, Martin van Buren created the first permanent political party, the Democratic Party. When it achieved its issue (abolition of the second Bank of the U.S.), it did not dissolve.

This created a revolution in American politics: It created politicians who thought of themselves as career-politicians — and these career-politicians found that they needed issues. Every issue generated campaign donations and volunteers. If the issue succeeded, then the donations and volunteers dried up. If a politician was successful in implementing enough of his issues, he got voted out of office.

The Perot example

A good example of this is Ross Perot. Perot ran for President in 1992 based on the balanced budget. He only got 19% of the vote. But he so scared the major parties that they started to move rapidly toward a balanced budget, and today the budget is almost in balance. What is the result? Perot's vote dropped to 6% in 1996. Perot has lost his issue and today stands no chance.

Compare this with the Republicans. Since 1960, Republi-

"LIBERTARIAN supporters of the Republican Party are the worst enemies that liberty has."

cans have stood for a balanced budget. But every single Republican president (Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Bush) increased the deficit. This only seems to increase the dedication of the Republican faithful. They continue to give money and time, in part, because they are horrified by the size of the deficit.

If any Republican president had actually balanced the budget, his supporters would have drifted away. And he would have been defeated in the next election. So the politician betrays his promises (and blames somebody else) so he can rally his supporters for the next campaign.

Reagan was an expert at this. He ran on a quasi-libertarian platform. He immediately betrayed all of the libertarian aspects of his program and successfully blamed this on the Democrats. Then he ran for re-election to "complete" his program. The faithful bought it all the way.

The conclusion is very

Leadership role

Now is the time to take a leadership role in affirming the right of the people to acquire, keep, and protect their property. This is an inalienable right — not some kind of privilege "given" at the whim of some government bureaucrat, who can give it or take it away.

Government does not create private property. Government should sell all property it has acquired, from the Pentagon down to the smallest rural post office, and lease it back, paying annual rent. The purchase money would soon pay off the national (and local) debt.

No more bonds — government should pay as you go.

Let this year and the coming century [celebrate] the inalienable right to acquire, use, keep, enjoy and dispose of everyone's private property, without interference from government whatsoever.

— **PETER D. BOGART**
Incline Village, Nevada

simple: Career-politicians *cannot* keep their campaign promises. If they do so, they lose their support. In addition, they are constantly engaged in the tactic of undercutting their opponents' support by giving these opponents what they want. Franklin D. Roosevelt took away much of Norman Thomas' support in the 1930s by adopting much of the Socialist platform. Thomas said, "He stole my platform."

Good but naive

Therefore, the libertarian supporters of the Republican Party are the worst enemies that liberty has. They are good people; but they are naive. They are doomed to keep voting for Republican candidates; they are doomed to be betrayed by their champions; and they are doomed to keep believing the lies which these "champions" invent to escape blame.

The Libertarian Party, unlike the Democratic or Republican parties, is not a permanent political organization. It places adherence to principle above getting elected. The more votes it gets the greater likelihood that a career-politician will "steal" its platform.

Then liberty will be legalized, the permanent parties will discover new issues over which to fight, and America will, once again, be the land of the free.

Howard S. Katz is a Libertarian Party member in Massachusetts.

LP INFO

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Ron Crickenberger

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

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HEADQUARTERS STAFF

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Tonya Hamilton
Dollie Parker

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
Telephone: (202) 333-0008
Fax: (202) 333-0072
New Member Info: (800) 682-1776
Office Hours: M-F, 9 am to 5 pm

NATIONAL CHAIR

Steve Dasbach
4523 Morning Wind Place
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
(219) 432-7145 ♦ DasbachS@aol.com

LP NEWS

2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
News: (202) 333-0008, Ext. 226
Advertising: (202) 333-0008, Ext. 231
(202) 333-0072 (fax)
73163.3063@CompuServe.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14-16, 1998

California LP Convention, Hyatt Regency-Los Angeles Hotel. Speakers include LP National Chairman Steve Dasbach, Gene Burns, Dr. John Hospers, Ed Clark, Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), and talk show host Larry Elders. For information call (562) 428-8113. Or via e-mail: LauraMcf@aol.com

February 20-22, 1998

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Marriott Hotel, Harrisburg. For information, call (717) 292-6028

February 21-22, 1998

Florida LP State Convention & Business Meeting, Orlando North Hilton Hotel, Orlando. Speakers include Harry Browne and Marshall Fritz. For information, contact Ralph Swanson at (800) 478-0555.

February 21-22, 1998

Oklahoma LP Convention, Tulsa. Guest Speaker: Marshall Fritz. For information, call Lynn Atherton-Bloxham at (918) 583-7921, or e-mail at airdock@telepath.com.

February 21, 1998

Massachusetts LP Convention, Sheraton Needham Hotel, Needham. Speakers include radio talk show host David Brudnoy, Michael Cloud, and Barbara Anderson of Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government. For information, call (888)

672-6698 (from New England or New York), or (781) 273-3760 (outside the region).

March 14-15, 1998

New York LP Convention, Poughkeepsie Sheraton Civic Center Hotel. Speakers TBA. For information, call Audrey Capozzi at (516) 286-7631, or e-mail at audgeo@aol.com.

March 15, 1998

New Jersey LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Somerset. Speakers TBA. For information, call (800) 201-NJLP. Outside New Jersey, call (201) 656-1776.

March 21, 1998

Tennessee LP Convention, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Nashville. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger and 1996 presidential candidate Harry Browne. For information call (615) 773-7090.

April 4, 1998

Maine LP Convention, South Portland Marriott. Speakers TBA. For information, call Mark Cenci at (201) 780-1776.

July 2-5, 1998

Libertarian Party National Convention, Washington, DC. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jacob Hornberger, Michael Tanner, and IRS whistle-blower Shelley Davis. Performers include "The Capitol Steps." For information call (202) 234-3880.

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Watergate Office Building
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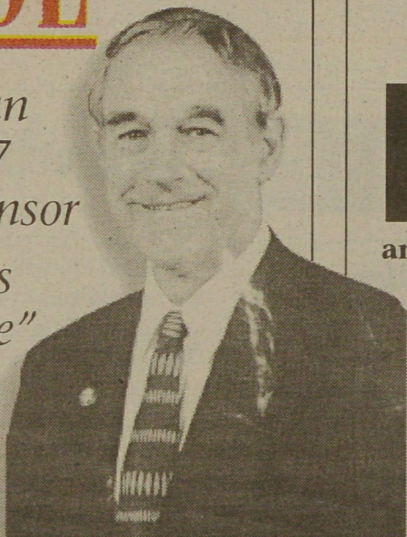
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INSIDE

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■ **PAGE 11** The way we were (before we joined the LP)



FIRSTWORD

David Gillespie, author of *Politics at the Periphery: Third Parties in Two-Party America*, explains that the primary role of the third party has been to popularize ideas before the major parties are ready to address them. But he says the time for a larger role for third parties has come, and cites a Maricopa Research, Inc. poll which found that more than 60% of Americans would like to see a new political party. Current indicators point to an American electorate that is disgruntled despite a peaceful and economically prosperous decade.

Gillespie says it is healthy for the nation to look for alternatives. "The two parties are saying the same things. Here we have a horse-and-buggy [political] system that doesn't fit participatory democracy in the 21st century." — TIFFANY DANITZ, *Insight* magazine (Washington, DC),