“Atlas Shrugged” Shelved

Citing the lack of material in its thousand-plus pages, NBC has quietly shelved plans to make Ayn Rand’s “Atlas Shrugged” into an eight-hour television series. Fred Silverman, the man brought to NBC to revive the network’s ratings (and the man that brought us the unforgettable entertainment drama “Charlie’s Angels”), has apparently decided not to air the Rand-approved Sterling Silliphant screenplay, originally scheduled to air in the fall of 1980.

Because of the potentially incredible gains that could be realized by the Libertarian Party if the airing coincided with its 1980 Presidential Campaign, an organization has been formed to pressure NBC to reconsider its plans. Richard Saum, Chairman of the Committee to Save Atlas Shrugged (87 Maldard Avenue, Goleta, CA 93017, (805) 967-9446), urges all libertarians and readers of Ayn Rand to write directly to:
Fred Silverman
National Broadcasting Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

If you ever wanted to say “Thank You, Ayn Rand,” now is your chance. Maybe your last chance.

Governor Vetoes Censorship Bill

A controversial censorship bill was situated on Governor Dick Lamm’s desk and the calls, letters, and telegrams kept pouring in.

The measure, SB 450, would have prohibited display and sale of “sexually explicit” materials. Typically, however, why should the state intrude into the private lives of its citizens? It’s time to stand up and say: “No!”

Members of the Colorado Libertarian Party, Young Americans for Freedom, and Students for a Libertarian Society held a public rally on the Auraria campus May 1 to protest proposals to reinstitute the draft. The rally was part of a nationwide series of protests in major cities co-ordinating SLS.

About fifty people clustered around the front steps of St. Capeta’s church at the edge of the campus for the noon rally. Loran Gayton of YAF, who had set up the PA equipment and literature tables spoke to the crowd as it gathered, emphasizing the drafting of everyone, including women, and the lack of student deterrents as features of most of the existing proposals for renewed conscription. SLS’s special draft supplement issue of Liberty was available, as well as copies of the May issue of Libertarian Review, which focused most of its content on the new draft threat.

The featured speaker was Karl Hess, making the last of several appearances in the Denver area after his well-received address to the CLP convention in Central City the previous weekend. Hess urged his listeners to resist the new draft without compromise, pointing out its key role in a militaristic, colonial foreign policy. He suggested requests for tires and information under the

Loran Gayton argues forcefully for the anti-draft position at the May 1 Auraria Draft Protest. John Mason, CLP State Chair, and Karl Hess are in the background preparing to address the crowd. (Rocky Mountain News photograph)
The measure, SB 450, would have prohibited display and sale of "sexually explicit" materials to minors. The bill was described as not affecting sales to adults.

Bookstores and civil libertarians, however, pressed Lamm to veto the bill. They argued that the bill would effectively ban the sale of such things as legitimate art books to children, subject booksellers to harassment, and in the end sales of books meant specifically for children.

Pro-censorship groups campaigned hard for Lamm's signature because they claimed the bill was necessary to prevent children from pornography and that it did not endanger "legitimate" literature.

The bill presented a ticklish political problem for Lamm, but he had hinted that he might be leaning toward a Solomon-like decision to veto the measure, avoiding constitutional problems, while at the same time informally persuading book and magazine dealers to keep sexual literature out of children's hands.

And he did.

While forcing "voluntary" compliance with government "guidelines" under the threat of more direct coercion has become a standard tactic of all control minds interests, libertarians, writers, and readers can breathe at least a temporary sigh of relief. But probably only temporarily.

"You Are What You Read"

In a recent survey, California Libertarian Party members were asked to indicate which of some 20 well-known libertarian works they had read.

The choices listed included writings by every major libertarian thinker, as well as some less-known writers. And of the 20 choices listed, only five had been read by more than 50% of the survey respondents.

The five winners?

- Atlas Shrugged, by Ayn Rand (75%)
- A New Dawn for America, by Roger MacBride (62%)
- The Virtue of Selfishness, by Ayn Rand (59%)
- the 1978 LP Platform (56%)
- And The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress, by Robert Heinlein (52%)

In surprising contrast, less than 9% of the 100 plus respondents had read John Hospers' Libertarianism, and only 4% had read Murray Rothbard's For A New Liberty.

Vietnam War. He expressed optimism about the prospects of stopping the return of the draft.

There was good media coverage, as local TV stations sent camera crews to film the event. A lot of attention centered on the heated exchange which took place between Chairman Mason and an unidentified supporter of conscription who showed up. His argument that individuals owed something to the State was poorly received and intelligently refuted by Mason. Later, Hess also cautioned listeners against accepting this argument.

The day before the rally, a House subcommittee passed one of the draft bills, which would renew compulsory registration of 18 year olds. Six other bills are also winding their way through Congressional paperwork, all imposing slightly different forms of conscription. SLS has announced that there will be more demonstrations to marshall public opinion against the return of the draft. All libertarians are encouraged to attend these rallies and to encourage others to do so.

To help prevent the reinstatement of the draft, cut out and circulate the petition below. When it is completed, mail it to President Carter, The White House, Washington, D.C. If possible, make copies and send them to your Senators and your Congressman.

To: President Carter, Members of Congress

We, the undersigned, hereby state our unequivocal opposition to enactment of any kind of conscription or "National Service" system, whether for military or social purposes, and to any registration system designed to facilitate such programs. Involuntary servitude, in any guise, is no more than slavery—and as such is incompatible with the values of a free society.

Name

Address

Age

PAGE ONE
Today's Logic
Claim Your Losses

Thrift losses are deductible. And inflation is theft.

One of the instructions on the income tax returns provided that certain losses can be deducted. It says, on page 17, "You may be able to deduct all or part of each loss caused by theft, vandalism, fire," etc.

You enter the amount of the loss on line 25 of your 1040.

Let's suppose you had $10,000 in a savings account on January 1, 1978. And that you didn't withdraw any money during the year. And that 5% or $500.00 was added as interest during the year. So your balance on December 31, 1978 was $10,500.00.

IRS wants you to pay taxes on the $500.00 interest. But why?

According to the United States government, as stated in their Consumer Price Index (CPI), it took $181.50 on January 1, 1978, to buy what $100.00 would have bought in 1967.

And, again according to the CPI, it took $202.90 on January 1, 1979, to buy the equivalent amount of goods and services.

To get the value of your dollars you divide 1.00 by the CPI.

The value of your dollars on January 1, 1978, was slightly over 55c. On January 1, 1979, they were only worth slightly over 49c. Their value had decreased by 10.55%.

How much was your loss?

In the example above where you had $10,000.00 on deposit during the entire year, multiply that amount by 10.55%. Your loss amounted to $1,055.00. That amount was actually stolen from you by inflation.

Since thrift losses are deductible, why couldn't you claim, as a deduction, whatever you lost by inflation?

Who stole your money? What can you do about it?

They Search Trash, Don't They?

The Carter Administration has drafted a governing charter for the Federal Bureau of Investigation that imposes new restrictions on the bureau's employment of controversial investigative techniques.

The proposed charter, the first in the FBI's history, spells out the duties and powers of the bureau. It specifically requires the FBI to observe constitutional rights, and establishes safeguards against unchecked harassment, break-ins and other abuses.

At the same time, however, it authorizes illegal actions and expands FBI access to private, confidential information. It sanctions use of mail surveillance, trash searches, and recruitment of journalists as informants. It also exempts information about informants from the disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

In an expansion of FBI powers that is sure to provoke opposition from civil libertarians, the charter gives the bureau access to third party records, such as credit and insurance documents, through the use of "investigative demand." In other words, the charter permits access that doesn't require a grand jury subpoena.

Our trash today, tomorrow our homes?

The ongoing conspiracy against Liberty is a coalition of those who are afraid it won't work and those who are afraid it will.

Against the Grain
And Speaking of Searches...

It's now possible for anyone to cobble up a fully operative handgun from "space-age" plastic, rubber bands, and a few bits of ceramic. Such a weapon won't shoot very hard or very far, nor sustain many repeated shots, but it will protect you from a mugger, rapist, or burglar—or help you hijack an on their big iron birds—that, or you don't fly to Cleveland.

The important point is that refusal of service is the only way the private parties may legitimately wield. If they find a gun on your person, they can ask you to check it with the attendants. If they find, say, drugs, it's none up—god, your breath'd knock a skunk off a dumpster! Now bend over and squat. No, I'm not kidding—spread those cheeks! This won't hurt—much!"
firing, but it’ll protect you from a muggers, racketeer, or burglar—or help you hijack an airplane.

I mention this not as an underground gunsmithing tip, nor as a plea for stricter gun control (if you knew me better, it wouldn’t even cross your mind), but as a warning: the easy days are over for the libertarian conscience.

Until now, some of us could coaxily avoid the touchy issue of “airport security.” (I’ve been advised my concern here is “silly”—possibly damaging to the LP’s “image.”) It’s painless, after all, and only morally intrusive. Step through the arches, let the bored, sloppy, second-rate rent-a-cop wave her wand around under your armpits, collect your irradiated purse or briefcase, your camera with its freshly logged Ektachrome, your sack lunch glowing softly in the twilit, and move on. Down on the concourse, then run back because you forgot to retrieve your keys and pocket change from the little plastic bucket.

It’s even sort of morbidly interesting—the first hundred times—and keeps us safe from all those terrorists and lunatics, doesn’t it? Doesn’t it?

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The Chicago Procedure calls for a semi-naked hand probing your rectum (to make sure there’s no .45 stuck up there), and then the same fingers, unwashed, exploring your vagina (if you have one) for additional contraband. There’s probably a tiny percentage of the public who’ll enjoy this—and a substantial number of parasitic creeps who’ll love being paid to do it.

Given present superstitions concerning the overriding necessity and legitimacy of airport searches, and given the invention of electronically undetectable weapons, this is what you’ll go through whenever you “Fly the Friendly Skies.”

Now if you still believe my preoccupation with this matter is “silly” or bad PR, you can pretend you didn’t read this—hell, you’ve been ignoring a blatant violation of individual rights and personal privacy pretty well so far.

But if you don’t look forward to having some unsanitary bureaucratic digit shoved up your crevices in the near future—and the instant any searches were permitted, this scenario became inevitable—then support my efforts to make airport security a major issue.
Stopping the Income Tax Juggernaut
by Patrick L. Lilly

Now that everyone's gotten over the trauma of filing an income tax return and our Congresspeople are all busy posturing over balancing the federal budget, what's really happening on the income tax front?

Well, nothing. Or more precisely, more of the same. While Washington is a buzz with talk of how much tax revenue to raise and which programs should be cut, we can hardly afford not to notice that no one in the Congress has proposed to reduce the power or jurisdiction of the IRS one jot. And despite the scale of the damage which the income tax does to the economy, the real evil of it is not quantitative at all—it is in the nature of the processes which it permits and, indeed, necessitates.

The income tax and the people who collect it are, first of all, a violation of privacy on a truly colossal scale. The manifestation of this in the law is the numerous civil penalties to which one may be subjected even if he or she has paid all the taxes the government demands. The IRS has more information about you than anyone else, and any move to deny them that information is met with as much sternness as an attempt to escape monetary taxation. The IRS simply must have this information to go on collecting the income tax. If we sentimentally require that some level of "fairness" be achieved too, the collection of information from and about everyone becomes more unavoidable.

The income tax subverts our whole system of law and reverses the proper relationship between the individual and the State. A comparison of the procedures followed in federal tax courts and any other court quickly verifies this. The people who wrote out our tax laws figured—quite correctly—that the defendant would have to be assumed guilty and required to prove his innocence and that tax collectors would have to be allowed to seize first and explain later or the tax laws could not certainly be enforced. If people charged with tax evasion or some other violation of tax laws were accorded the same protections that the Constitution says, criminal defendants should be accorded, they would be able to vote with their feet, and many of them would, leaving the government without its cut of their profits and the principle of forced collection of money.

This really has to change if progress is to be made. It is long past time not only to slow down, but to stop and dismantle the income tax juggernaut. And to do so, we must argue only from principle, never from utilitarianism. The "Laffer curve" argument that federal tax rates should be cut in order to increase federal revenues is a pernicious cancer to the tax-resistance movement. Calls for "tax relief," which reduces the amount of current taxes while leaving the taxing apparatus in place, may be even more dangerous; in the long run, "Relief" is simply not enough. Further, reductions in one group's taxes usually are swiftly followed by searches for someone to tax more in order to "make up" the "lost" revenue.

Libertarians must become more visible and vocal among organized tax protesters. This will facilitate shifting the tone of the debate from protest against the amount of taxes collected to protest against the methods by which they are collected and the principle of taxation as theft. Conservative tax cut rhetoric sounds good, but won't get the IRS off our backs. If the momentum of the current "tax revolt" is to come to anything other than a more complicated budget process, we must start pushing now to popularize the only goal worth the long-term effort: removal of the income tax. We must keep that goal always in sight, reducing the scope of the IRS's authority at the same time that we reduce the amount of money it collects in taxes. Libertarians are the natural leaders in this drive.
Are You Ready For reason?

Only one national magazine has the audacity to suggest that:

* Air travel might actually be safer without the Federal Aviation Administration
* Depoliticizing the West Bank—by converting it to a free trade zone—could bring peace to the Middle East
* The FCC exercises a particularly dangerous form of censorship, in violation of the First Amendment
* Demonopolizing education—e.g., via tax credits—offers the best hope of reconverting our schools to institutions of learning

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PAGE THREE
1979 Colorado Libertas

Convention Impressions by Pat Donohue

On April 28 and 29 in Central City, over 120 Libertarians, while politicking and drinking beer, elected delegates to the 1979 Presidential Nominating Convention, conducted state party business, viewed the World Premiere of Dave Nolan's brilliant M. L. O’Drum, and experienced Karl Hess—what more could anyone ask! Bless you, Jan Prince, for putting together the best state convention we've ever had. We even made some money!

The Belvidere Theatre was the perfect setting—right out of the Old West, complete with Central's mayor (appropriately attired in jeans, cowboy boots and hat) welcoming the CLP to his city. Remember, it was Gilpin County that yielded Roger MacBride the largest percentage in the 1976 campaign. From there, conventioners headed down the street to the Teller House and Central City Opera House for a look into the past. We felt in awe of the achievements of those early pioneers and miners who lived like libertarians.

Back to the Belvidere for a press conference with LP presidential contenders, Bill Hunscher and Ed Clark, moderated by M. L. Hanson. Each spoke for ten to fifteen minutes about their decisions to run for the nomination and outlined some of the important issues each would address if nominated. A period of questions and answers from the press and the convention floor dealt with issues of concern such as abortion, nuclear energy, and tax cuts.

After a short break for more beer, the 1978 CLP Campaigns were analyzed. M. L. Hanson, who ran a statewide campaign for Treasurer of Colorado, reviewed the pluses and minuses of her campaign. She emphasized the importance of a statewide race to the CLP, offering tips on maximizing media exposure and where to invest resources for the largest return. She also shared a few humorous anecdotes about life on the campaign trail.

Jim Phelps, running for the statehouse as a tax protestor, began as a lineholder, but ended with the campaign for State Senate to spending about $500 on small ads. He garnered about 1700 votes, which translated to 6% of the votes cast in his race.

Neil Smith ran for the statehouse against Ron Strake, then Speaker of the House. He was a two-way race and Neil ran openly as an anarchist. He avoided wearing a tie (does he always?) and emphasized radical utopianism, focusing on his vision of a libertarian future. Smith reported that media response was good and that his candidacy and the LP was taken seriously. In addition, audience reception at public forums was positive, so much so that other candidates appearing with Neil promised him their votes as well. Neil spent a total of $44 and received about 2000 votes (13%), good results for an active lineholder.

After a beer for everyone there, the convention was treated to an old fashioned M. L. O’Drum entitled “They Done Her Wrong.”

Hess Urges Personal Autonomy

The feature address at the Colorado Libertarian Convention in Central City was given by Karl Hess, a unique person and perhaps the most unqualitatively iconoclastic activist in the libertarian movement. His talk, for all that it was delivered in his very reserved, unexcited style, was probably the most passionate and persuasive of a weekend full of speeches.

Hess did not start by informing the audience about his unique background. Although in bits and pieces he recounted numerous significant events of his recent life, there must have been many in that audience with little or no prior knowledge of his development from being Barry Goldwater’s principal speech writer to becoming a full-scale tax resister, a practicing anarchist and the author of several books on how others can do it, too. But it didn’t matter. He launched directly into his subject matter—personal liberty, what is, and how to use it.

When Hess started to talk in his calm, uncluttered voice, many people were still chattering and milling about. Three minutes later, when he had made one or two of his first points, a distinct attentive silence pervaded the room, broken only by his voice.

He said that “in a way people do things voluntarily is acceptable, partly because “free people do things better than mere employees,” whom he classes as at least partly non-free. And he is, by any accounting, a true activist. He said that “it is not enough to hold an opinion.” He exhorted his listeners to do whatever they were good at, but to start working in “the non-State part of the world—the black market.” Turning to offer some qualified praise for political action, he noted that “the strength of the Libertarian Party is happily divided between people with opinions about the world and people with knowledge about it.

Hess was interrupted numerous times in the course of his hour-plus address by enthusiastic, spontaneous applause. Whether it was illustrating his social philosophy with anecdotes about working as a welder in Washington D.C. (in spite of union rules) or lampooning President Carter (“the people who are supposed to be running the universe are dummies”), his fervor, honesty, and dedication came through. Perhaps the most enthusiastic response from the audience came when Hess urged “absolutely no compromise” on the draft. In calm
I support Ed Clark and want to help him become the Libertarian Party Presidential nominee!

Enclosed is my contribution of ____________________________

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City ____________________________ State __ Zip __

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Committee to Nominate Clark for President, Daniel Weiner, Treasurer
A copy of our report is on file with and available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

(Paid For By Colorado Libertarians For Clark)
Liberatarian Party Convention

Yet another beer break and back to more serious business. National Committee Member-at-Large Carol Cunningham introduced Ed Clark, one of the two candidates for the LP Presidential Nomination. He recounted his campaign for Governor of California in 1978, and after discussing “How Far We’ve Come” since 1971, he presented his campaign plans should he win the LP nomination for President. He also addressed what he feels the Party as a whole needs to do in 1980. National Committee Regional Representative Rick White of Nevada introduced the other LP contender, Bill Hunscher, who spoke about his organizing of the New Hampshire LP. He presented his plans for the Presidential campaign, and also addressed the problems he thought the LP would face in 1980. Again, both men fielded questions from the floor, addressing abortion, drugs, and differences in campaign style and strategy. Throughout the day and evening both were available for one-on-one questions and small group discussions.

Another break for beer (why not?—after all, we’re in Central City!), dinner, and hot political conversations, and back to the Belvidere for the movies, Libra and Incredible Bread Machine. The evening proceeded with a talk by anarchist and neighborhood activist, Karl Hess. His focus was on the eternal fight for Liberty at all costs, ending with a lively discussion fueled by questions from the floor. He was also available throughout the evening for individual questions and small group debates.

Sunday’s agenda consisted of the Colorado Libertarian Party’s business meeting, which included a review of last year’s achievements. New officers were elected: John Mason, as State Chair, whose objective for this year is to establish greater party visibility by establishing an office and staff; Dave Nolan, as Campaigns Director, who pledged a two year commitment and will work for 10,000 ballot signatures by April 1980; saving spring and summer for local candidates; Dick Estelman, as Membership Director, who promises an accurate, computerized membership list with an active affiliate and fellow traveler list, and pledges to make all membership mailings self.

Bill Hunscher, M.L. Hanson, and Ed Clark at Press Conference

Clark, Hunscher Address Convention

Both announced contenders for the 1980 Libertarian Presidential nomination, Ed Clark and Bill Hunscher, spoke to the Colorado LP’s 1979 convention in Central City, April 28 and 29, and both generated considerable interest.

The two appeared together on the stage of the Belvidere Theater in a joint press conference moderated by LP National Vice-Chair Mary Louise Hanson. A lot of the questions came from CLP members and observers, since the press was largely concentrating on the Rocky Flats anti-nuclear demonstration, which was held the same weekend. But, despite the attenuated press coverage, the questions began to bring out the differences in style and philosophical emphasis between the two candidates.

Both candidates talked about inflation as a top priority issue, about topping the ranks of non-voters for support at the polls, and about the need for spirited resistance to the draft.

Hunscher repeatedly tied his comments on specific issues to the tone of his foreign policy proposals. He said that fiscal issues should be attacked from the expenditure side, giving a balanced budget a somewhat lessened priority. He spoke with particular fervor about re-opening the borders of the United States and “getting the economic pie growing again” so that immigration will pose no problems. He proposes a full-time, on-the-road campaign from the day the national convention ends in order to maximize media coverage of the LP ticket. He could be trimmed off the present federal budget in four years, with a whopping $40 billion coming from Department of Defense expenditures. His campaign plans center on picking three or four key issues to give the press and the media a comprehensive, consistent view of libertarian philosophy and progressively building the campaign up as it proceeds. Whereas Hunscher proposes to enter the New Hampshire Democratic primary, Clark wants to pepper the airwaves with LP spots as the other parties maneuver through their primaries to get press attention and push the three-party idea.

Colorado’s seventeen delegates to the nominating convention in September will have a pleasant dilemma. Either Clark or Hunscher will make a credible and talented
CLP Delegates to the 1979 Presidential Nominating Convention

Dave Nolan (Delegation Chair)
1818 South Jasmine
Denver, Colorado 80224
(H) 759-2244

Douglas Nusbaum
967 Marion #1
Denver, Colorado 80218
831-7294

David Goodrich
1002 East 17th Avenue #301
Denver, Colorado 80218
831-8887

Patrick Lilly
314 Elmwood Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907
599-7993

Suzanne Conlon
314 Elmwood Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907
599-7993

Janice Prince
1241 Pennsylvania #1
Denver, Colorado 80203
837-1983

Cynthia Molson-Smith
626 S. Meldrum
 Ft. Collins, Colorado 80521
(H) 484-6824

L. Neil Smith
626 S. Meldrum
 Ft. Collins, Colorado 80521
(H) 484-6824

Gary Harrison
4680 South Wright Way
Morrison, Colorado 80465
979-6417

Patricia A. Donohue
85 Odgen #22
Denver, Colorado 80218
(H) 733-3143
(O) 629-5168

Wainwright Dawson
Box U
Aspen, Colorado 81611
925-6288 6794

Sally Mason
168 S. Emerson Street
Denver, Colorado 80209
(H) 733-5916
(O) 794-1500 375

John Bryant
56 South Monroe
Denver, Colorado 80209
321-6892

Bert Weiner
1080 York
Denver, Colorado 80206
333-3933

Dick Eshelman
2225 Buchtel Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80210
733-4006

M. L. Hanson
1175 Vine
Denver, Colorado 80206
(H) 321-7928
(O) 893-2211

John Mason
168 South Emerson
Denver, Colorado 80209
733-5916

Alternates

Gale A. Norton
950 Clarkson #21
Denver, Colorado 80218
(H) 839-6418

Margaret (Peg) Wright
Route 1, Box 37
Conifer, Colorado 80433

James W. Phelps
Route 7, Box 126C
Evergreen, Colorado 80439

Nita Hodgson
1320 Norwood
Boulder, Colorado 80302
441-0172

David B. Wood
101 W. Williams Street
Superior, Colorado 80027
(H) 494-4221
(O) 494-3322

G. Drake Jacobs
Box 4962
Aspen, Colorado 81611
(H&O) 925-8447
(D) 925-1500

Alice Beene
1612 Ridgeway
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906
634-1073

Loran Gayton
556 South Grant
Denver, Colorado 80209
722-3740

Colorado's seventeen delegates to the nominating convention in September will have a pleasant dilemma. Either Clark or Hunscher will make a credible and talented Presidential candidate. Clark appeared to have picked up more delegate support at the Colorado convention than Hunscher, but it's still anybody's race. A delegates' caucus will be held in July which may reduce the number who are still uncommitted.

The Clark campaign can be contacted at 800 n Hesperia Avenue, Reseda, CA 91235 and the Hunscher campaign in Milford, NH 03055.

Bill Hunscher and Karl Hess in lively discussion with Convention participants

PAGE FIVE
A Bad Law, Imposed Under False Pretenses

The 55-mph Limit: A Hideous Hoax
by David F. Nolan

Five years ago, the Federal Government forced a 55 mph speed limit on America. It was done by threatening to withhold Federal highway funds from states which did not enact the new, lower limit; the funds in question, of course, were stolen from the people in those various states through taxation in the first place.

All in all, a typical Big Government "coerce and control" trip. Take the people's money, and then agree to give some of it back if they do what you tell them.

The reason given for this blatant usurpation of local autonomy was the then-extend gasoline shortage. "The 55 mph limit will save gas," bleated the Feds. "We must all slow down to stretch our precious fuel supplies."

Never mind that the fuel shortage had been caused by the government itself, through foreign meddling and disruption of the free market process. Never mind that billions of dollars had been spent to build highways designed for 70 mph travel. And never mind that most cars on the road were also designed for 70 mph cruising. The new rule was imposed.

Unfortunately, the promised fuel savings did not materialize. About a year after the new limit went into effect, the Department of Transportation admitted—with some embarrassment—that according to their best calculations, the resultant reduction in fuel consumption was about one percent... less than could be saved simply by having everyone increase the pressure in their tires by two or three pounds.

And so, with the new data in hand, did our fearless leaders do the right thing and junk the 55 mph limit? Hardly. Instead, they came up with a new justification.

"Well," said the safetycrats, "the lower speed limit may not save gas... but it does save lives." And at first glance, the figures seem to support that claim.

In 1973, the last year of the 70 mph speed limit, there were approximately 55,000 traffic fatalities; in the years 1974-76, the first three years the lower limit was imposed, the average number of traffic fatalities was about 46,000.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, leading defender of the 55 mph limit, claims that one-half of the 9,000 fatality reduction can be credited to the lowered highway speed limit. Not an insignificant saving—4,500 lives.

The NHTSA figures, however, conveniently ignore several facts which tend to weaken their claim considerably. A thoroughly researched article by Rich Taylor, published in Car & Driver magazine (May, 1978) covers these other factors in some detail; space permits only a brief summary of his findings here.

Taylor first notes that the rules for determining the "body count" were changed from 1973 to 1974, by shortening the cutoff date for inclusion from one year after the accident to one month. This change alone reduces the fatality total by better than 2,000 lives.

He next points out that prior to 1974 the government's own figures show 66% of the fatal accidents occurring at speeds under 55 mph in any case—so at most, 40% of the 7,000 odd reduction in 1974 and beyond can be credited to the lower limit. This brings the number of lives saved down to under 3,000 annually.

Another 1,500 of the reduced total were pedestrians, he then notes, obviously not beneficiaries of lower highway speeds.

This leaves a saving of about 1,500 lives which might reasonably be credited to the 55 mph limit. Until you take into account the fact that later-model cars are more crush-worthy, that they are equipped with seatbelts, and so on and so forth.

Taylor's article concludes that in reality there is no reason to credit the 55 mph limit with saving any lives at all. (If you're skeptical, look it up in the library and analyze his figures for yourself.)

And even if you accept the government's estimate that it saves 4,500 lives annually, it's still a bad tradeoff.

According to Professor Charles A. Law, a member of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, writing in Newsweek, the costs of the 55 mph limit far outweigh the benefits even if you allow that it does save 4,500 lives.

The reason, simply enough, is that the 55 mph limit causes us to lose 2.7 billion person-hours of time each year, and time has value—about $6 billion in this case. Law points out that the lost-time cost of the 55 mph limit works out to about $1.3 million per life saved—and there are lots of ways to save lives far more cost-effectively.

Putting it another way, he calculates that Americans spend an extra 102 years riding around in their cars for each life saved—if, in fact, the lower limit is saving lives at all.

Since the average remaining life expectancy of people who die in traffic accidents is well under 102 years—probably about one-third of that amount—it becomes evident that the lower speed limit actually wastes our lives, rather than saving them.

So... the 55 mph speed limit doesn't save gas, doesn't save lives, and costs us $6 billion a year in lost time. What can we do about it?

A good start would be to write your state legislators, Congressman, and Senators urging them to repeal the damn thing. Feel free to quote any or all of the facts and figures cited here.

However, in an era of government-induced fuel shortages, it is less than likely that our rulers will listen to reason. They need a scapegoat—and we, the people, are it. The 55 mph limit is a great propaganda weapon, a way to prove that they're "doing something" and thus not likely to be repealed until we get some Libertarians in
featured speakers, Liberty Night at Disneyland, a gala banquet and much, much more! Thousands of libertarians will be meeting at the magnificent Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel September 6-9, 1979, to lay

Registration information and complete details on the convention will be available in May. For information about state LP conventions or group travel arrangements to the national convention, write to
Libertarian Party
1516 P Street NW
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20005

911 Tapes Everything

A Colorado Springs crisis telephone service has discovered, accidentally, that the El Paso County 911 emergency phone service records all incoming calls, even after they are transferred to another agency. They also trace calls in which suicide is mentioned and dispatch police to the scene.

Terros, a private crisis hot line, has complained about the practice because they promise their callers confidentiality without traces or recordings. Until recently, Terros had been receiving calls patched through from 911. The arrangement has been suspended because the 911 bureaucracy refuses to amend their policy of taping everything and Terros wishes to protect the privacy of their callers.

Since Terros wants to receive the calls, however, further negotiation or court action is possible. The Terros Board of Directors has asked the ACLU for assistance. Board member Charles Malcolmson reports that the number of calls which should go to Terros but which go first to 911 will probably increase in the future, and Terros doesn't wish to be replaced by 911, a public agency.

"If we had 911's promotional budget, it would be no problem," he says.
From the Chair by John Mason
Preparing for 1980

In 1976, when I became active in the Libertarian Party, Roger MacBride was running for President, a handful of people were trying to get him on the ballot in Colorado, and nobody had the time, energy, or money to run for office themselves. As the campaign progressed through that year and more people got involved, membership, donations, and the general level of activity and excitement increased phenomenally. And the same thing was happening all over the country. By 1978, surely a banner year for the LP, the results of that campaign were obvious. Over 250 Libertarians ran for office last fall, Ed Clark got twice as many votes for Governor of California as MacBride did for President, and the results were consistently at least three times better than before. We were making great and unprecedented strides.

And now comes the 1980 Presidential Campaign. Blessed with two well-qualified and experienced candidates, we will be nominating our candidate in Los Angeles in September. Without a doubt, the 1979 convention will be the largest gathering of Libertarians in history. We are expecting thousands, and they will return to their home states to immediately begin petitioning for ballot status. With the momentum we have now, our candidate will be on the ballot in all 50 states, 40, but in 45, 47, or just maybe, in all 50 states. The LP will be establishing itself in everybody's eyes as the third party. And we better be ready.

In Colorado, we have been preparing for 1980 since completing our state campaigns last fall. The CLP has had a successful membership drive, established what I consider to be the finest newspaper in the Libertarian Party, held its largest and most successful State Convention ever, put together a large and active delegation for the National Convention, and elected a slate of officers committed to making 1980 the success it promises to be.

In the planning process right now are numerous projects that will be necessary for an impressive 1980 campaign. Dave Nolan is beginning work on the petition drive which he hopes to start this fall and complete by April, leaving the summer open for getting our local candidates on the ballot. Preliminary discussions are underway as to when, how, and where to run for the 1980 CLP state and local races.

In 1980, Dick Estelman is computerizing our mailing list. For more sophisticated use in the campaigns, Larry Pickensbrock is developing a more useful accounting system and investigating possible fund-raising projects. M. L. Hanson is organizing the Liberty staff (up to four pages to eight pages in two issues isn't easy) and plans are to be publishing monthly, some time in 1980. Finally, plans are underway to establish a permanent office and paid staff, with a target date for full operation of January 1980. Fund-raising for this project has already started.

If you are interested in any level of activity to help us prepare for the Presidential Campaign year, please call me at 734-5916, or come to one of the meetings published in the newsletter. If 1976 is any indication, and with the start we have now, next year will be the most exciting and rewarding yet for the Libertarian Party. We're moving toward a three party system now. In 1980, let's establish it.

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Movie Review: Libra
by Patrick L. Lilly

The much-touted libertarian movement film "Libra" had its Colorado premiere April 28 in Central City, at the state Libertarian convention. It was one of the low points. The film is the work of World Research Inc., the same think tank that several years ago produced the "Incredible Bongo Band" occupant complaining of debating elementary economics, while this colony got itself going and swinging around the globe in peace and contentment, selling their power (we're never told to whom), apparently quite free of the dictates of any government, even if the government is the same one that produced the film.

National Committee Report
by John Mason National Committee Region 3 Representative

The quarterly Libertarian Party National Committee Meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on May 5 and 6, in conjunction with a Regional Conference sponsored by the NCLP. The conference was attended by well over 100 LP members from the region, and featured the LP Presidential candidates, workshops, panel discussion on the Future of the LP (which included Neil Smith, Rick White, Bill Evers, and Murray Rothbard), and Ed Crane as the banquet speaker. Regional Conferences, under the guidance of National Vice Chair M. L. Hanson and National Director Chris Hocker, have become an integral part of National Committee meetings and are consistently successful and exciting.

Committee business, which took place over two days, consisted of reports from the Regional Reps on state activities (mostly made by M. L. Hanson, with Region 3 Representative Rick White and myself supporting it). However, after a motion to reconsider was made by Rick White, Childs was reinstated. While the arguments for Randolph (that as the first Libertarian candidate to win a major electoral office, he would be a more appropriate speaker) were impressive, the committee apparently felt that Randolph's current favorite status would be inappropriate for a keynote speaker.

In another controversial matter, the National Committee Meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on May 5 and 6, in conjunction with a Regional Conference sponsored by the NCLP. The conference was attended by well over 100 LP members from the region, and featured the LP Presidential candidates, workshops, panel discussion on the Future of the LP (which included Neil Smith, Rick White, Bill Evers, and Murray Rothbard), and Ed Crane as the banquet speaker. Regional Conferences, under the guidance of National Vice Chair M. L. Hanson and National Director Chris Hocker, have become an integral part of National Committee meetings and are consistently successful and exciting.

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The film is the work of World Research Inc., the same think tank that several years ago produced the "Incredible Bread Machine" film. But despite the better technical production quality of the new film, including the services of Gerard K. O'Neill as a consultant on space hardware, Libra is clumsy and hokey in trying to get its message across.

The rather thin plot concerns an orbiting space colony of free marketeers (Libra) with their own economy and culture set up, who sell microwave solar power to the energy-starved earth, while the International Planning Commission tries to (1) embarrass them on TV, and (2) tax them. But the free marketeers deliver boring monologues about rudimentary aspects of economic theory and the Commission and its minions are stereotypically cloddish and malign villains. As a result, most of the scenes which are supposed to be powerful come off as being laughably unconvincing.

The services of a good science fiction writer, for instance, might have given the viewer some credence idea of how we could have arrived at a situation wherein, in 2003, the tyrannical IPC can turn off all the heat in New York office buildings (about which the film is silent, even though it's clear that the energy is being sold to other countries). As a result, the film fails on 80% of its face and the whole thing shrieks "corporate propaganda".

Amidst the over-acted scenes of grown adults who supposedly have business decisions to make plodding through high-school-level libertarian theory, there's supposed to have been—and could have been—a real message. The whole film should be re-done. As it is, it may well offend and turn off more people than it enlightens.

Committee business, which took place over two days, consisted of reports from the Regional Reps on state activities (mostly encouraging), reports from various committees, and a couple of controversial items. Among the most controversial was a move to change the National Convention Keynote Speaker. The Naranom has assumed more and more direct responsibility for the Convention programs, and while considering Ed Crane's convention report, it was moved to replace Roy Childs as keynote speaker with Dick Randolph, recently elected State Representative in Alaska. The motion was

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Libertarian Sci-Fi

Announcement was recently made of the establishment of an annual award for the best science fiction of a Libertarian character. The first Prometheus Award of $2500 in gold will be made at the 1979 Libertarian Party Convention in Los Angeles in September.

Sponsored by a group of well-known Libertarian activists, including award committee Chairman L. Neil Smith of Fort Collins, the award this year will be for works published in 1978. Smith has stressed that the candidates must favor both civil liberties and economic freedom. The Prometheus Award Committee, which includes science fiction novelists such as Smith and Robert Anton Wilson, has exempted their own work from consideration.

Award Announced

The committee will accept nominations through July. Contributions to help defray costs are being accepted, and a newsletter is available. For more information, contact Neil Smith at 626 South Meldrum, Fort Collins, CO 80521, (303) 484-6824. The Prometheus Award Committee has no official connection with the Libertarian Party.

Hunscher Campaign Reorganized

Michael Emerling resigned as Campaign Manager for Bill Hunscher on May 12. The Hunscher campaign cited "professional reasons" for the resignation. Illinois LP activist Ken Sturzemacker, previously media coordinator for Hunscher, will take over as manager of the campaign.

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As an additional incentive, all pledges of $5.00 or more per month will receive — absolutely free of charge — a “calling card” ad in the Colorado Liberty.

We need your help now to prepare for 1980. Remember it is only fiat currency.

L.J. Piekenbrock
Financial Director
Colorado Libertarian Party

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