

# FLP NEWS

Number 12

December 1984

## The Conclusion of Campaign '84 !

by Tom Lowy

Campaign '84, the Libertarian Party's election year effort that featured the Bergland-Lewis Presidential ticket, as well as hundreds of candidates running for federal, state and local offices around the country, concluded on Nov. 6th with mixed results. The vote for David Bergland and Jim Lewis proved disappointing when compared with the 1980 vote for the Clark-Koch ticket. However, the party's local candidates significantly outpolled the national ticket, three of them winning election in the process. Two state parties also won permanent ballot status.

An exact vote total for Bergland and Lewis is not yet available. However, Jim McKeown, National Coordinator of Campaign '84, has projected a total of about 300,000 votes based on an election night survey of election districts in different regions of the country. A wire service report two days after election day gave the Libertarian ticket 239,000 votes, but McKeown believes that this is too low and that the actual total will be closer to the 300,000 mark.

Whatever the case, the vote came as a disappointment to many libertarians in view of the 921,000 votes cast for Ed Clark and David Koch. It must be kept in mind, however, that the 1984 Presidential campaign lacked the funding of the 1980 race. The most recent figures for the Bergland campaign are in the neighborhood of \$1 million, while the Clark campaign spent at least three times as much money, to a great extent due to the generosity of David Koch, Clark's running mate.

The significantly reduced budget affected the campaign in many ways. The Bergland-Lewis ticket was only on 38 state ballots, plus the District of Columbia. In contrast, Clark and Koch appeared on all 50 state ballots. The

lack of funds also meant the absence of the kind of media presence that the Clark campaign was able to create. While the Bergland campaign was able to run a number of 30-second spot ads on such TV cables as CNN and WTBS, prime-time major network advertising was out of the question. Obviously, the party cannot expect a vote result comparable to or greater than the Clark vote if funds are not available for major media advertising.

Bergland's vote in New York State is also unavailable at the present time. A poll-watching network, put together state-wide and covering some 300 election districts indicates that the ticket received between 15,000 and 20,000 votes. (Complete election results will be published in the next issue of the FLP NEWS.)

In contrast to the party's Presidential vote, there is much to cheer about over the results of our local races around the country. According to the Nov. 8 issue of USA TODAY, which published results of many Libertarian races, the party's local candidates consistently outpolled the Presidential ticket. For example, the results of 89 Congressional races showed Libertarians winning over a quarter of a million votes. Many of these candidates won 2-4% of the total vote, while one, Michael Yauch, won 15% in California's 22nd C.D.

The vote total on 12 libertarian Senate races came to about 150,000. Steve Givot's campaign against Charles Percy in Illinois resulted in 58,000 votes, about 2% of the total. In South Carolina, Steve Davis won about 3% of the vote, as compared to Ed Clark's 0.6% in-1980.



## Club Discrimination: An Editorial Reply

by John Chodes

On the state and local level, results were even better, and three candidates won election. Andre Marrau of Alaska was elected to the state legislature in a 3-way race that included the Republican incumbent. In California, Tom Tryon was elected as a County Supervisor in Calaveras County. His margin of victory was 1 vote. In Montana, J.R. Myers was elected to the Cascade County Local Government Review Commission.

Another very significant win for Libertarians also happened in Alaska, when voters passed a transportation deregulation initiative by a vote of 60% to 40%. The Alaska LP had sponsored and strongly backed the initiative and deserves congratulations for a major victory.

Two state parties, the Vermont LP and the Montana LP, won permanent ballot status by receiving at least 5% of the vote in a statewide election.

In the three local races in New York, Wanda Hudak's campaign for Broome County Supervisor produced the best result, over 1,600 votes, or almost 2% of the total cast. Wanda outpolled David Bergland, who received 190 votes in Broome County, as well as Ed Clark who received 969 countywide votes in 1980. In the Rochester area, Dave Hoesly and Steve Becker received about 1% of the vote in their races for the State Assembly and State Senate. (Complete reports on these campaigns will appear in the next issue of FLP NEWS.)

What is clear about the results of Campaign '84 is that the impact of the party's local races was significantly greater than that of the national race. Local races are easier to organize and far less expensive to run. Moreover, a well-run local race receives a lot of publicity. Wanda Hudak's campaign expenses came to about \$1000; she received over 8 times the local vote for Bergland; and she was extensively covered by the local press and broadcast media. If local races around the country can achieve these results and recruit new membership as well, then the conclusion is obvious: for now, local races are a more important barometer of Libertarian success than the Presidential race. In this sense, Campaign '84 was a real success and should be seen as the basis for building a stronger Libertarian movement at the grassroots level of American politics.

Channel Four would like to use the power of the government to eliminate discrimination in private clubs in New York. That may sound benign, but there are hidden implications. Public discrimination is one thing, but by bringing our personal associations under the watchful eye of the law, we are essentially giving the Mayor the right to tell us whom we can or cannot relate to. Once given that opportunity, the law will twist our personal relations to conform to public policy. You don't have to be a Libertarian to see the consequences. If Ed Koch doesn't like our friends, we could be fined or thrown in jail. With that kind of license, the Mayor could make decisions about whether he approved of my sexual or religious associations, or just about anything else. That's a dictatorship, and it's a world away from businesses that won't hire minorities.

(This editorial reply was broadcast by WNBC-TV, Channel 4, New York City, on July 11, 1984.)

## Want to be a Candidate For Office?

by John Francis

Becoming an effective candidate requires planning and foresight. Are you currently on some local school board, zoning commission, planning commission, etc.? If not, then you should be. It is a way to make yourself known, to establish contacts, become familiar with the issues, and formulate your own program for reform.

Are you a member of a major party, i.e., are you registered as a Democrat or a Republican. If not, then you will miss all the exposure you can receive as a primary candidate of the respective party. In addition you will have foregone many opportunities to meet 'connected' people who will be interested in you and your plans.

Would your candidacy benefit from a name change? If there is a local taxpayer issue perhaps you could be the candidate for an ad hoc taxpayer's group. Names like taxpayer are well received by the public, conjure up positive image, and have a history that goes with them.

Are you running to fill out a ballot line or are you serious? Being a third party candidate requires that you run time after time for various offices in your area.

Think about these things and discuss your ideas when next you meet with your local chapter.

The time is now to start planning for 1986.



# Campaign '84: Political Tools

by Jim McKeown

## The Placer County Win!

(In the previous two issues of FLP News, the first two instalments of an interview between Jim McKeown, Libertarian Party National coordinator of Campaign '84, and several Libertarian activists from Placer County, Calif., were published. The interview focuses on the June 1984 election win of Erik Henrikson, a Placer County Libertarian. The Tahoe, Calif., businessman won a County Supervisor's seat with over 15,000 votes. This concluding instalment features David Scholl, a professional political consultant that worked on Henrikson's campaign, and Jim McClarin, Executive Director of the Placer County LP.)

Campaign '84: Did you prepare a written game-plan for the entire campaign?

Scholl: Yes, but not in the way you're thinking of. I did not sit down and say: "Well, here's a 50 page report!" What I did do was sit down and prepare a calendar and budget, and then a volunteer requirement. The schedule includes when each step of the campaign should begin and how long it takes for each phase of each activity. For instance for direct mail, I had down what day we had to get the computer tape, when we had to get it to the computer house, when the labels had to be ready, when the graphics had to be done and so on. Every step of this had to be put down on the calendar and I always give myself a lot of leeway. You find out when the absolute deadline is and then you put it two weeks before that.

Campaign '84: The \$20,000 you spent on this effort went specifically for what?

Scholl: Almost all of it went into direct mail, plus some telephoning. The computer work that we did came to about \$2,000. Most of the rest went into printing, mail preparation and postage cost. That's about it. We didn't spend anything on radio or newspaper ads. Very little on signs - not even \$100. The telephones were volunteered by people.

Campaign '84: Your original budget was \$36,000. Where would you have spent the other \$16,000?

Scholl: I had about \$1,500 scheduled for radio spots. I also had \$1,000 or \$1,500 for newspaper ads to be run near the end of the campaign. An additional \$7,000 would have gone for specific, targeted mailings to all 'pure' Democrat households and another to Democrats under the age of 35. Then we

would have had what we call "town letters": people in key communities, where we knew we could swing votes, writing to people just in those communities. \$4,000 would have gone to professional polling. An additional \$2,000 would have been used for what are called "socials." We'd have socials all throughout the county and send out invitations to everybody in neighboring precincts, with follow-up notes and telephone calls. I would have also brought in a phone-bank.

Campaign '84: What other results do you think would have been produced with this additional spending?

Scholl: First, Erik Henrikson would have won by a larger margin. Also, I'm confident that we would have gotten Allen Fink into the run-off. I don't think that we would have gotten so close that we would have scared the pants off people. As it was, he got 39% of the vote. I think each one of the candidates could have gotten 6% more.

Campaign '84: You didn't use doorbelling and only about 1,000 to 1,500 of the 73,000 county voters were contacted by telephone in the last week of the campaign. Aren't these techniques essential to winning campaigns?

Scholl: They're not absolutely essential, but they are very useful. The problem was we didn't have enough volunteers to do what needed to be done and the candidates simply couldn't spare more time. Candidates doing doorbelling is not as effective as you might think. In other races that I've done, we purposely had the candidate go to one precinct, and not to another that is adjacent to it, but where the demographics are identical. The results between the 2 precincts was less than 1%. So the candidate going door-to-door made about a one percent difference. Telephoning is the best of the two techniques. With telephoning you can reach more people, more quickly, and you can also target it to registered voters, instead of trying to hit every household. If you have people who are good on the telephone, it's definitely the best way to go.

Campaign '84: News reports just after the election indicated only 162 of the county's 450 registered Libertarians voted in a race where our candidate won by only 170 votes. What efforts were made to get libertarians to the polls?

McClarin: I intended to make more of an effort. However, the direct mail project just went right down to the wire and I just

...continued next page

didn't have time to crank out a local newsletter for the month of June. That would have been our big get-out-the-vote pitch. We also could have done phone calling to libertarians. However, they don't vote in as high a percentage as the two major parties. I think that this is partially because we attract people who are so jaded on the present system that they don't even like to vote anymore. If a Placer County registered Libertarian was not a consistent voter, then he or she would have been removed from our targeted voter files.

Campaign '84: Is there anything you should have done in the campaign, but didn't?

McClarin: We should have been pushing real hard on our phone calling effort. We had volunteers on the phones. What we should have been doing was checking to see how many calls they had made, letting them know we were interested in them making more calls. We found out that some of the volunteers that were working on it stopped on the Saturday before the end of the campaign. We should have had phone calls made up to election eve—if not on the day of the election itself. If we had more people calling, and got the mail out a little earlier, we might have gotten another candidate in.

Campaign '84: You've seen many Libertarian campaigns over the years. Now that you've been involved in such a big win, what do you think is the most common mistake Libertarians make in their political efforts?

McClarin: Libertarian campaign literature is not professional enough. I've seen literature, which even though it may have been expensive, was not laid-out well and had terrible photographs of the candidates. Photographs are tremendously important. As distasteful it is to think about, many voters say to themselves, "Oh, he looks like a nice man, or she looks like a responsible woman that I'd like to have in office," and they vote on that basis. We need to appeal to the values that are there. We can't try to raise

everybody up to the level of rational discourse. Erik did have a professional photographer take studio portraits and the other 2 candidates did not. This may have been a factor, but maybe we had more to work with in Erik. He had about 72 photos taken.

I've seen a lot of Libertarians, and this goes for myself too, who believe that by smiling in a campaign photo, they somehow are destroying their serious image. They want to be a serious candidate, but I think that a serious candidate smiles in a campaign photo, because that attracts voters.

I think there is a lot of rethinking which needs to go on for Libertarians to get into local office in large numbers—and that of course is going to be an important stepping stone to higher office.

Scholl: I don't really consider the election a "big win." I knew it was something that was possible. Libertarians make the mistake of thinking they have to run for partisan races and make themselves stand out as being radicals promoting ideas that are completely off the mainstream in order to promote their philosophy.

In order to promote Libertarian ideas—to make them government policy—you've got to win elections. You've got to get people into office and then start implementing it. Local elections are the easiest ones to win. It is possible to literally take over various local communities—the socialists have been doing it for years here in California.

The mistake that Libertarian candidates make is thinking that they can't win. They think that what they should be doing is making a big splash and trying to push people into looking at problems from a Libertarian perspective. In other words, as Libertarians we're saying "we're going to run on our issues, the things that concern us." Then they do it in what is usually a very aggressive manner. Instead, we should be addressing the voters' concerns with the Libertarian approach to solving their problems.

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## Regional Reports

### Westchester/Putnam Counties

On Sept. 20, David Bergland visited White Plains and spoke before a meeting of the Westchester/Putnam Chapter. During the course of the meeting, Bergland was interviewed by radio station WFAS, as well as a reporter from the local Gannett newspaper chain. All nine local Gannett newspapers subsequently published a substantial report on Bergland's campaign.... In a major step towards developing more extensive local political outreach, the chapter has appointed 10 Election District Chairpersons (precinct captains), each of whom is respon-

sible for contact work in his or her E.D. Their first effort was the distribution of "Bergland for President" campaign materials by mail or hand delivery. Between 2000 and 2500 flyers were placed in the hands of local registered voters as a result. The chapter intends to increase the number of precinct captains and to make this an on-going part of their local activity.... The chapter donated \$400 to the 1984 FLP petition drive to help cover the cost of paid petitioners. Mark Schoenfeld, Chapter Chair, reports that the Westchester/Putnam libertarians will hold their annual convention in mid-December. For further information, call 914-946-0520.

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## Looking For Goals

by John Francis

The theme of the November 10 State Committee meeting was to forge goals for the next two years.

While reports from various sub-committees were a major part of the meeting as were election results, there was still plenty of time to discuss what FLP wants to accomplish in 1985 and in 1986.

A clear theme emerging from the various discussions was that the FLP needs much more local activism so that local candidates can be fielded.

Topics that were addressed and which need the input of all members were as follows:

1. In determining whether or not to run a gubernatorial candidate, what criteria should we use?
2. Since any increase in activism must come from increased membership, how best can we do this?
3. What are the characteristics of 'winnable' races?
4. How can the state party influence the national party so that there is congruency in all our efforts?
5. Can we work with other candidates from other parties? Can we run in major party primaries? Can we form ad hoc protest groups and field candidates? All of these dealt with the issue of developing political strategies to have our ideas before the public.

Our state convention in May will address these problems and present plans that we will go ahead with. Now is the time to make plans for the 1985 election, if there is one in your area.

## Acid Rain: An Editorial Reply

by John Chodes

In a recent editorial, Channel 7 promoted the idea of making the Federal Government responsible for controlling acid rain, nationwide. On the surface that sounds reasonable, but there are ugly implications that make the medicine worse than the disease. To achieve this goal, segments of industry in every state would be ruled by Washington bureaucrats. That would give them dictatorial powers, and the stringent controls would contribute to unemployment and higher prices. But worst of all, when the air was cleaned, government's iron grip over our lives wouldn't be loosened.

Libertarians believe that there is another way to have clean air while we preserve our freedom. Anyone harmed has the right to sue the polluter in front of a jury, not a bureaucrat. A big damage award will curb a polluter faster than all the manipulating laws in the world. In this way, big brother would be kept away from us.

(This editorial reply was broadcast on Aug. 9 and 10 by WABC-TV, Channel 7, New York City.)

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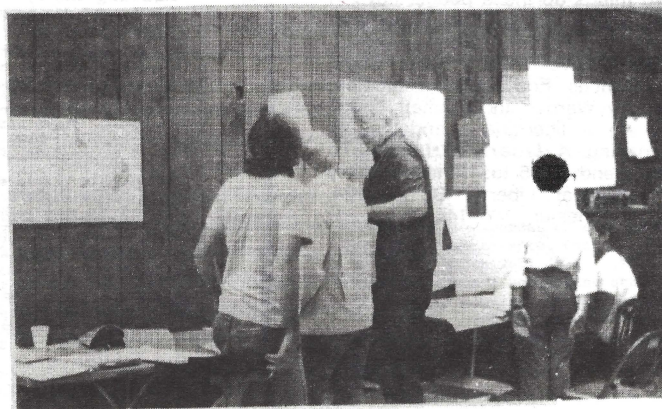
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# Issues For Your Campaign

by John Francis

This column will begin a series devoted to issues that you can use in your campaign in 1985 and/or 1986. The issues will be statewide, but can, it is hoped, have local appeal.

Always a good issue is education. What can a libertarian fight for in New York State that voters will listen to? Local control over various matters in education is of voter concern. These include curriculum which does not meet the needs of the community, children having to go to neighborhood schools when better schools exist elsewhere, the high cost of busing and the lack of evidence that it provides any sound educational benefits, some form of vouchers, greater teacher/parent control over what goes on in the schools, etc.

At one time or another one of the above issues surfaces as a concern to the community. President Reagan has made much of the sorry state of the public school system. Gov. Cuomo has pledged a more than 600 million dollar increase in the state education budget for this year. Clearly, politicians are sensitive to this issue.

The trap on this issue is that more money is still seen as the cure-all. Teacher unions, while they want many of the things parents want, always side with those who will deliver money. You must stress quality of curricula, citizen responsibility over bureaucratic responsibility, local autonomy over state and national, etc.

Another hurdle is that on paper New York State has about the best school curriculum ON PAPER. Do not stress the

amount of credits required for graduation, or the amount of money spent by the state per student, or the resources of BOCES, etc.

DO STRESS the need for greater academic preparation (or vocational) per class. The idea is not to have more classes, but to make each class work better. The taxpayers are already spending enough. The quality must go up.

DO Stress parent support for teachers

when they are concerned about school discipline, about parent support for their efforts in the home, about their concern for educational innovation and curriculum development, their concern for making education more professional.

As you can see education is an issue that is always timely and one in which every libertarian has a stake and a plan to make things better. The State Board of Regents provides a great deal of information to parent groups which can be of use to you, i.e., statistics. They also hold hearings periodically around the state which you should plan to attend. In addition, if you are a parent, you should attend PTA meetings and, if possible, become a board member. If you are not a parent with children currently in school, there are many other local committees that touch upon education.

ANY FLP MEMBER IS INVITED TO WRITE A COLUMN SUCH AS THIS ABOUT SOME POLITICAL ISSUE THAT LOCAL CANDIDATES THROUGHOUT THE STATE CAN USE IN THEIR CANDIDACY. SEND YOUR ARTICLE TO FLP HEADQUARTERS, 225 LAFAYETTE STREET, NY, NY 10012.

What two things do these people have in common: Ed Clark, Roger MacBride, Peter Breggin, Jennifer Roback, Dean Ahmad, Donald Cochran, Dave Walter, Alicia Clark, Howie Rich, Frances Eddy, Dick Randolph, Mike Dyer, Dagny Warner and Emmett Elrod? Answer: They are all libertarians, and they all recommend reading *A Liberty Primer*. To join this group, send \$7.95 to: Genesee Valley Society for Individual Liberty, Box 10224, Drawer CFLP, Rochester, NY 14610

## Raising Money for your Chapter

The FLP State Committee recently adopted a policy that will allow chapters to raise money by enrolling lapsed members back into membership. The State Office maintains lapsed members on the mailing list for six months after their membership expires. Three attempts are made to get these members to renew. After that, they are placed in an inactive file.

The State Office is sending chapters lists of these former members so that a local effort can be made to enroll them once again in the party. Chapters will receive a bonus payment for each such enrollment. For a membership that expired 6 to 12 months ago, the bonus is \$5. For those that expired over a year ago, the bonus is \$10. Please make every effort to bring these lapsed members back into the party. The national campaign gives us the opportunity to do this.



(Many FLP members and supporters around New York State have been writing letters to the editors of their local newspapers. A letter to the editor of a newspaper or magazine is an excellent way to promote the libertarian point of view on current issues. This issue of FLP News features seven letters published recently. The authors of these letters are: Guy Riggs, Dutchess Co. FLP; Bob Hills, Schoharie Co. FLP Chair; George Wager, Albany Co. FLP; Tom Hazard, Cortland Co. FLP Chair; John Sproul, Rochester FLP; Gary Carlson, Yates Co. FLP Chair; and Don Davis, Capital District FLP Chair. Congratulations to these libertarian activists. Keep writing and keep sending us your published letters!)

## Dangerous addiction

TO THE EDITOR:

Every four years we get the chance to start kicking the most costly and dangerous habit we have, our addiction to government. The cause of this "government abuse" is the rosy delusion that it can solve problems better than responsible citizens. But what's the only thing government can do that we can't? Use physical force legally to restrict liberty and expropriate property and that is all.

As Reagan and Mondale talk about all the things they are going to do, ask this question: Who will be restrained and/or taxed to get the job done? Government abusers always think it will be someone else. Detoxified citizens, however, have learned the hard way that everyone suffers in the long run.

David Bergland, the Libertarian candidate for president, wants us to reduce our dependence on government drastically and rely on it for protection only — of the individual if victimized and of the nation if invaded. For everything else he wants to make it possible for us to rely more and more on ourselves within our own communities, eventually eliminating the 90 percent of our government that is worse than useless. Help stop government abuse. Vote for David Bergland for president and join the rest of us in the Libertarian Halfway House.

Poughkeepsie Journal

GUY W. RIGGS  
Poughkeepsie

10/12/84

## Third party has answer

Editor, Times-Journal:

Your Sept. 19 editorial "Seeking answers" astutely identifies a prime symptom (deficit) of one of America's biggest problems (fiscal), and then correctly identifies one of its major causes (government spending).

You correctly point out that neither President Reagan nor Mr. Mondale addresses the real issue and add that you would "like to see one of the candidates — it doesn't matter which one — come out with a comprehensive program that would cut government spending and apply that cut money to the deficit." Bravo!

Despite the fact that many Americans feel as you and I, most will either join millions of other disgusted citizens and not vote at all, or will waste their vote in a Reagan landslide or a Mondale slaughter. As in all recent presidential elections, a minority will choose the winner. In the newscast of 1984, this is called "majority rule."

There is an alternative. In just 12 years, the Free Libertarian Party has become a serious threat to pork-barrel politicians and the legions of bureaucrats they employ to write, read, amend, rewrite, print and file away forever the paperwork of their so-called "services." Other bureaucrats ponder how to cut red tape and then buy \$354 scissors to cut it the long way.

David Bergland offers a simple but comprehensive plan to cut government spending and put the nation onto a sound fiscal basis: eliminate most of government. Four years ago, Mr. Reagan saw the validity of the premise and promised reduced government. Voters bought it, but of course found Mr. Reagan's promise to be hollow. Mr. Bergland's promise is not hollow.

Cobleskill Times Journal

9/26/84

Libertarians long ago recognized that taxation is theft and government has no moral right to steal your money and squander it on programs you wouldn't voluntarily support yourself. Worse, vast sums of the money confiscated by the Reagans and Mondales is never seen by the recipients of the so-called "services." Bureaucrats fester and multiply amid government programs, grow fat on one-quarter or more of every stolen tax dollar, and perpetuate the power of status-quo politicians.

The solution, of course, is near-abolition of government and return to a truly free-market economy. We really do not need most government programs, regulations and meddling. The "services" of government merely pander to the two biggest special interests of all—big government and big bureaucracy. The services which we do need would certainly be provided by private entrepreneurs in a free-market economy.

We recognize the legitimate function of government to be protection of people from violence and aggression. We see the biggest aggressor as government itself. Can you even imagine the thousands of your dollars wasted just on printing silly laws which require you to buckle your belt and put on a helmet? After stealing as much of our money as they dare and using it to steal our liberty, conventional politicians borrow vast sums more, inflate the economy and mortgage our children's children. And they tell us they need more regulations and more taxes to solve the problems? The real answer, of course, is to stop government spending, stop government borrowing and stop printing worthless money.

David Bergland, the Free Libertarian candidate for president, is the only candidate with a sensible program to cut government spending and restore your liberty. A vote for either Reagan or Mondale is worse than a waste. It is a vote for slow economic suicide by fiscal starvation of the people, and a major threat to your liberty.

ROBERT P. HILLS

## 'Vote for freedom'

To the editor:

Do you vote for (1) from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs, or (2) freedom? How much ability does one (wo)man have? Can he or should he be a physician, pugilist or poet? Who should decide — individuals via free market or government via coercion? How much does one (wo)man need? A mansion or a house, a limousine or a compact, steak or hamburger?

Who should decide — individuals via free market and private philanthropy or government via coercion? How much does government need? Whatever its ability to confiscate and more. Government does not create wealth, it steals it. Government does not create individual rights, it's supposed to protect them. According to St. Augustine, "Without justice, what are kingdoms but great bands of robbers?"

Bastiat coined two types of plunder: illegal (theft) and legal (socialism). Legal positivism cloaks the plunder of your rights and wealth; a deception designed to promote the so-called common good through concealed coercion: inflation, taxes, regulations, subsidies and conscription. Governments can and have sacrificed millions of individuals for the common good, as evidenced by 20th century pogroms, World War I, World War II, numerous other wars and eventually, greater wars.

You will soon have the ability to decide whether you need Big Brother (Republicans) to think for you, to steal for and from you, or to be your keeper. Keep yourself and help your brother. Vote for freedom in November. Vote for Bergland/Lewis, Libertarian presidential/vice-presidential candidates.

GEORGE R. WAGER  
Menands

Albany County Coordinator  
Bergland/Lewis Campaign

Knickerbocker News 10/12/84



# 'Something Is Wrong'...

To the Editor:

Let us revisit Grenada for a moment.

This writer had written several letters in the paper concerning the "liberation" of Grenada some months ago. A couple responses were put in later from people who supported the invasion on the grounds of restoring democracy. However, little has been devoted since to how the Americans administered Grenada when the fighting was over - and what they left behind.

The issue is NOT how that record compares with that of Prime Minister Bishop (the marxist who overthrew former Primer Minister Eric Gairy in a bloody coup), but how it measures up to America's ideals.

The fact is that after the American forces took over the island after the October invasion, they set up an administration that held political prisoners under harsh conditions without charge and violated other human rights.

The American occupation force compiled computer lists of Grenadians suspected of being "security risks." Some 1,000 Grenadian citizens were interrogated during the first couple weeks after the invasion. Many residents were arrested without warrants and held for more than 24 hours. Some prisoners were placed in 8 by 8 crates, which prompted Amnesty International to ask the U.S. to respond to charges that some Grenadians were being held for political reasons and in ways that were "cruel, inhumane, and degrading". Of course, the Reagan

administration never responded to the charge of political detainment, but DID admit to the use of the crates. Some prisoners were kept up to 48 hours in them. The American Friends Service Committee also found civil rights violations in connection with the arrests of 40 people who were involved in the overthrow.

One need not approve of the murderous coup, nor of the Bishop government, to see that something is wrong here. The American record of liberation in the Caribbean and Central America is less than inspiring. When the marines pulled out of Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic more than half a century ago, they were replaced in each case by long and nasty dictatorships, for which the U.S. is blamed. American support to this day for oppressive governments, such as those of Haiti, South Korea, the Phillipines, and Guatemala (to name only a few) gives the lie to Reagan's claim that the mission in Grenada was to protect democracy.

We can only hope that the government the U.S. has set in place in Grenada will not ultimately become the very sort of regime that the administration was seeking to displace. But even if it does, it apparently will not hurt Reagan. The "Teflon Factor" will insulate him even from the abuse of power.

Sincerely,  
Thomas H. Hazard  
Cortland County  
Chairman of the  
Libertarian Party

The Cortland Standard

## Offering a choice

THE Conservative Party and the Libertarian Party have many similar views on individual responsibility and economic policy, but differ substantially on views about civil liberties and military intervention.

One big drawback of the Conservative Party, however, is practical. They are organized only in New York state, which means they do not run or endorse candidates in the other 49 states. Their potential for causing a change in public policy is limited.

A good case in point is this year's presidential race. The Conservatives will endorse the Republican (Reagan) while the Libertarians put up their own nationwide candidate (David Bergland). What would the Conservatives do if the Republican were a liberal like Nelson Rockefeller (who, after all, was their *raison d'être* for being in the first place)? Sit it out or put up their own presidential candidate running in just one state?

By comparison, the Libertarian Party is organized in all 50 states, and is already the third largest party in the nation. About 30 of its candidates have already been elected to various offices all across the country. A vote for local Libertarian candidates Dave Hooley (130th Assembly) and Dr. Steve Becker (53rd state Senate) will help build the foundation for future Libertarian Party growth in Rochester.

JOHN C. SPROUL, Rochester

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

10/10/84

## Wooing 'The Vote'

To the editor:

The inability of Congress to approve funds for a new fiscal year is an excellent indicator of the status of American government.

As is often the case, the problem comes down to which programs will be funded to what extent. Programs provide congressmen with the fuel to woo the votes of particular groups, and scores of non-fiscal amendments are added in a hurried effort to exploit the urgency of the fiscal problem.

Like children in a sandbox, our congressmen cannot agree on which amendments to approve: the unspoken issue of swaying voters takes first priority, with many differing viewpoints.

In the end, our children become scavengers quarreling over carrion. What new special interest spending programs and regulations will pave the campaign trail this year?

Be they Democrat or Republican, politicians are alike in making The Vote their first priority. We must consider alternatives. I submit that most government programs and regulations are unnecessary and no more efficient than those costly government hammers and coffee machines.

One alternative is massive reduction in government as advocated by the Free Libertarian Party and its presidential candidate, David Bergland. We should realize too, that among the by-products of much less government are much less taxation and regulation, and much more liberty.

DONALD DAVIS  
Chairman, Capital District  
Free Libertarian Party  
Scotia

## Libertarian explained

To the editor:

The Great Seat Belt Debate goes on. R. K. Hull makes a comprehensive if somewhat sloppy analysis of the social damage inflicted by those who are against this law. (Times, Oct. 19).

Hull uses the term "highway libertarian," however, and this requires the administration of some education.

I am a libertarian. It is my political party and my personal philosophy. Here is libertarianism in one phrase: The sovereign right to choose and the total responsibility for the choices.

Seat belts save lives. Only fools argue that. Seat belts are not the problem; they are symptomatic of the problem of state control over our lives. The problem is a very same laundry list of state controls (disability, welfare, Medicare, Social Security) by which R. K. Hull seeks to justify his position.

I challenge him or anyone else to answer this somewhat drawn-out question. If the only purpose of the seat belt law is to reduce highway death and injury, then why not pass a law that every vehicle must be made of quarter-inch diamond plate, have a top speed of 35 mph and require all occupants to wear crash helmets.

Injuries would be reduced to virtually zero and it would still be much better than walking. Why don't we do this for our own good? Or would this be considered harassment by the state?

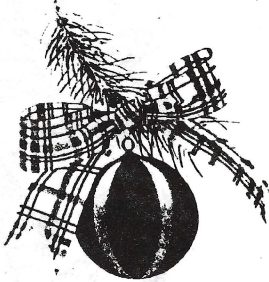
GARY L. CARLSON  
Yates County Chair  
NYS Free Libertarian Party  
RD 1  
Bluff Point

Finger Lakes Times 10/24/84



## Orange County

Carl Svensson, Orange County Chair, reports that the chapter has spearheaded the formation of a group called "The Committee for Reason and Academic Excellence." The immediate objective of the Committee is to mobilize opposition to a Board of Education proposal to spend \$2.3 million on an indoor swimming pool at a local public school. Carl has been elected Chairman of the Committee, which consists of some 20 local residents. The Committee has charged that the real costs of the pool, including interest charges, will come to \$5 million and that local property taxes will rise about \$54 per home during the first year alone. According to a report in the Nov. 9 issue of the Times Herald Record, the Committee believes that "the money spent on an indoor pool building would be better used to meet other educational needs such as higher salaries for teachers, better curriculum development and for acquiring additional microcomputers for classroom instruction." The Committee has also pointed out that a swimming pool is already available to the public for a fee at a local Howard Johnson Motel. A Dec. 12 referendum is set on the pool question and the Committee will be working for its defeat.



## Schoharie

The Schoharie County FLP Organizing Committee reports that they have decided to become the "Schoharie County Free Libertarian Club" until such time as they have enough members to be chartered as an official chapter of the party. The "Club" was formed at their Oct. 15 meeting. Bob Hills was elected President; Al Wagner, Vice President; and Tom Slater, Secretary. Les Hendrix continues to function as house "go-fer." Club by-laws were adopted and the group is now registered with the State Board of Elections as a political committee.... The Schoharie libertarians ended the Presidential campaign with a flourish. 17 one-minute spot ads were run on radio station WSCM during the weekend prior to election day. Also, following a month-long ad series in Community TV Guide, the Club bought full-page or large ads on six of seven consecutive pages that featured election-eve, prime-time TV listings. The Club also mailed a "Vote Bergland for President" appeal, signed by four Club members, plus David Bergland and Jim Lewis, to 250 registered voters in five election districts. Total campaign spending for the Club came to \$500. The Bergland-Lewis ticket received 72 votes in Schoharie County--about 0.6% of the votes cast countywide... The Club's telephone answering machine is not yet in service, but should be soon. The previous issue of FLP News carried an incorrect area code. The correct number is: 518-234-4238.

## New York City

The New York City Chapter has begun publishing a monthly newsletter called the "Big Apple Libertarian." Jon Carriel is the Editor. The newsletter is being mailed to the chapter's entire mailing list. The chapter views the local newsletter as an outreach tool that it hopes will help build membership in the city party.... The chapter has also begun to hold regular business meetings, the first of which was on Nov. 15. This meeting featured an election report by Tom Lowy and a general discussion of the city party's goals for 1985. A Membership Recruitment Committee was appointed and will be using telemarketing techniques to recruit new membership.... On Oct. 1, the chapter began holding a series of outreach workshops at the party's state office in Manhattan. A number of libertarian video films have been shown, including "The Incredible Bread Machine" and "The Poverty Trap." (These films are available to all FLP county organizations. Call 212-226-6483 for details.) Several new members have already been recruited as a result of these workshops. Consequently, the workshops will continue through the winter months and will hopefully be held in boroughs outside of Manhattan as well.... An election-night poll watching network was put together by the City chapter. Nearly 100 election districts were covered by 30 poll watchers. The Bergland vote in these districts was 145, about 2/3 of the 1980 Clark vote.... Fred Cookinham, City Chair, debated a socialist, Dr. James Chapin, at Packer Collegiate School in Brooklyn, Oct. 24. Tom Lowy spoke before a N.Y. Young Republican Club Forum on Oct. 20.... The New York City Chapter of Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns (LGLC) was present at the "First International March for Lesbian and Gay Freedom," Sept. 30, at the United Nations. LGLC literature was given to the marchers. The LGLC chapter also held a forum on Oct. 23 on Ayn Rand and the Objectivist Movement.... Congratulations to Philomene Di Giacomo of Staten Island for receiving the "Letter of the Month" award from the Staten Island Advance for her letter on "book burners." (reprinted in the Oct. issue of FLP News).

## Binghamton/Broome County

Linda Jowett, Broome County FLP Chair, reports that the Wanda Hudak campaign came to a successful conclusion with an election-night rally at "The Lodge" in Endicott. A poll watching network covered about 100 election districts and reported the results to the Hudak Campaign Committee that evening. Wanda received over 1600 votes--about 2% of those cast--in her race for Broome County Supervisor. She out-pollled David Bergland about 8 to 1 and received about 700 more votes than Ed Clark did in 1980. Her campaign concluded with a series of radio ads that augmented the publicity she had already received in the press. Her campaign expenses came to around \$1000, or about 63¢ per vote. Congratulations to Wanda for a job well done.... The Broome County libertarians are now eyeing other local races for 1985, including the Binghamton mayoralty... A campaign roast was held on Nov. 16 at the Brothers II restaurant in Binghamton and unconfirmed reports have it that no one left uncooked.

## FLP DIRECTORY

### State Officers:

John Francis	State Chair	212/376-9269
Dottie-Lou Brokaw	Vice Chair	607/753-9176
Bill McMillen	Vice Chair	518/371-2366
Bill Stocker	Treasurer	516/883-1892
Dawn Davis	Secretary	518/399-1293
Fred Cookinham	At-Large	212/627-6973
Reed Halstead	At-Large	914/761-1174
Margaret Piasecki	At-Large	518/758-6377
Chuck Steber	At-Large	518/399-9539
George Wager	At-Large	518/462-7543

### Chapter/County Leaders

Alex Knight	Buffalo	716/824-0584
Bill Stocker	Nassau	516/883-1892
Linda Jowett	Binghamton	607/723-3689
Bob Straub	Suffolk	516/422-0147
Mark Schonfeld	Westchester	914/946-2323
Don Davis	Albany	518/399-1293
Dave Hoesly	Rochester	716/671-8821
Dottie-Lou Brokaw	Central NY	607/753-9176
Dale Tierney	Plattsburg	518/563-0440
Fred Cookinham	New York City	212/627-6973
Arthur Svensson	Orange	914/744-3698
David Miller	Genesee	716/768-8330
Tom Hazard	Cortland	607/756-6585
Steve Jones	Dutchess	914/471-2344
Eric DelGiacco	Otsego	607/286-9401
Gary Carlson	Yates	315/536-3052
Robert Hills	Schoharie	518/234-4238
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Rosemary Pringle	Oswego	315/593-3800

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Tom Lowy  
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### Copy Deadline:

January 15th for the  
February, 1985 issue.

Send copy to:  
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(212)226-6483



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**225 Lafayette Street**

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**New York, NY 10012**

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