

FREE LIBERTARIAN

newsletter of the Free Libertarian Party

FRED COOKINHAM Editor

MARCH 1979

STATE CONVENTION MAY 12-13

Roger MacBride To Be Keynote Speaker

DINNER CLUB DEBUT

Emerling Talk Is Well Received

More On NYC Subway System

Michael Emerling, author, lecturer, candidate for office and manager or functionary in 33 campaigns, gave a talk at the Laissez-faire Bookstore on Jan. 30 on how to convince, recruit and involve new libertarians-- as well he might: he is said to have won over 500 people to libertarianism.

Mike reviewed time-tested techniques for tantalizing total strangers with tidbits of libertarian thought designed to interest them rather than turn them off. He also covered successful ways of persuading people to contribute money. Psychological insights, quotes from Nathaniel Branden and Albert Ellis, and applications of principles of self-esteem punctuated the talk, with a noticeable impact on the audience. Projecting political persuasiveness begins, Mike pointed out, with confidence in one's own judgement, politically and generally.

The event (it hardly seems fair to call this one-man show a mere "lecture") was attended by 35 people; some old faces, some new. Rest assured the new ones have now been solicited for membership. One said she'd join right there.

Don Hauptman handled the publicity, and Bernadette Rahill was in charge of the food, a buffet dinner. The next dinner club will be held early in April, and if it is as successful as this one was, they will be held once a month thereafter.

NASSAU COUNTY--- STEVE SCHNEIDER, BELLMORE, JAN. 16--- Tonight, a new year began for liberty in Nassau co. The hard core of Nassau libertarians met to map out strategy for 1979. Richard (Dick) Savadel, former candidate for county executive, accepted the Chairpersonship of the county. At his suggestion, we decided to hold meetings the last Thursday of every month, in a central location on neutral ground, since prospective converts to our cause might be hesitant to cross a threshold of libertarianism. We discussed campaign prospects for the upcoming elections, and there is a strong possibility that we will be running a candidate(s) for mayor and/or councilman at large for the city of Glen Cove. The meeting ended with a lively discussion of the casting for the Atlas Shrugged movie.

Focus On The Issues by Tom Avery

THE SUBWAY "SYSTEM"

Untangling the threads of private and governmental responsibility for the current problems of the New York City subway system is a herculean task. To begin with, information is hard to find. But a brief look at the history of the subways is necessary to any understanding of the subject.

Construction began on the first subway line in March of 1900. A private firm, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company (IRT) contracted with the city government to build and operate the underground line. The city retained ownership of the subway and was paid a percentage of the company's profits. The subsidized construction was completed in October of 1904. The passenger fare on the IRT line was 5¢.

Over the next several years the IRT line expanded its service beyond Manhattan to include service to the Bronx and Brooklyn. A second company, the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company (BRT) opened a competing line which was later reorganized as the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit (BMT) line.

Because of contractual agreements with the city, the IRT line was prevented from raising its fare, despite increased costs. The BMT had to maintain its nickel fare in order to compete with the IRT. Both companies suffered financially and the IRT went bankrupt before the end of the depression.

In 1932, a third subway system was opened: the only one of the three to be municipally owned and operated from the beginning. Since it was completely de-

pendent on the city government, it was (naturally) named the "Independent" System (later called the IND). In 1940, the city took over and consolidated all three systems.

Shortages during the Second World War prevented new construction and fuel shortages drove many New Yorkers out of automobiles into the subways, increasing subway revenues. In 1945, the system had a large surplus. With the wisdom that only government-run businesses have, the system went into deficit in less than three years and had to raise the fare to 10¢. Five years later the fare was raised again, this time to 15¢. Subway riders had to wait until 1966 for the next fare increase, but were amply rewarded for their patience. The fare was increased four times in 10 years and now stands at 50¢. Unchanged for 44 years, the fare is now 10 times what it was when the city took it over--an increase more than twice that due to inflation.

In a recent poll, commuters complained that the subways are noisy and that crime in the subways is completely out of hand. The fare is too high, the stations are dirty, the trains are overcrowded--add the complaints together and you get a picture of dissatisfied customers that would put any private company out of business. For the time being, New Yorkers can be secure in the knowledge that the New York City subway system is not in the hands of greedy capitalists who want to make money. Instead we are protected by a concerned government whose leaders ride to work above ground.

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

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

signature _____ date _____

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

signature _____ date _____

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

signature _____ date _____

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

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ County _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Office) _____

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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

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

National Committee Meeting

The National Committee met January 13 and 14 in Las Vegas, Nevada, to approve and prepare for 1979's busy agenda. As the first order of business, Jim Clarkson of Georgia was elected to the At-large vacancy on the committee. Members of two important committees-- Platform and Constitution, By-laws and Rules-- were also selected.

Considerable attention was focused on three topics of concern in 1979: budget, ballot drives, and the 1979 Presidential nominating convention.

A budget of around \$180,000 was approved, which included general office expenses (about half) plus items for ballot drives, advertising, workshops, direct mail, internal communication and public outreach. Please bear in mind that the LP budget is not a "budget" in the usual sense, but is instead a projection of what funds are likely to be raised and how they are likely to be spent. As with any organization of this kind, the LP's "budget" is determined by how much support we can attract. As a comparison, the LP raised and spent around \$160,000 in 1978; this of course does not count state and local fundraising efforts.

Ballot drives: the "50 in 80" committee submitted a detailed analysis of each state's ballot requirement, together with recommendations as to when to start and whether National support is needed. A surprisingly large number of state LP's can start their ballot drives in 1979, after our convention.

We could go into 1980 with 10-20 states already qualified, which would be 10-20 more than we had in 1976, and would virtually guarantee a minimum of 40 states where the LP can qualify. In fact, if the ballot laws change in Maryland and Georgia-- and there are indications that they will-- then all 50 states plus DC are not out of reach.

Convention: A proposal from the convention committee was discussed at length regarding the format of the 1979 convention at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, Sept. 6-9. The proposal emphasized skills, issues, and practical politics, with an overall theme of "Toward a Three-Party System!" Ideas and suggestions for the convention may be directed here or at Ed Crane, 1620 Montgomery st., San Francisco, CA, 94111.

FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY
15 WEST 38th Street
New York, NY
10018
212-354-0292

The FLP annual state convention will take place on the week-end of May 12-13, in Albany Co. We will convene at the Turf Inn on Wolf road in Colonie (518-458-7250). Roger MacBride, our 1976 presidential standard bearer, has been scheduled as the banquet speaker. This year's convention plans call for a change in format from past years. This time out we are splitting the convention into two parts, Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday portion will cover all the party business. The Saturday portion will be a major event featuring some of the nation's top libertarian speakers. It is hoped that the Saturday event will be 1979's outstanding Eastcoast social-educational event.

The work sessions and other activities on Sunday will be free of charge. The Saturday session will have a package cost, including the banquet. Saturday's activities are designed to enable people to keep costs down by eliminating the need to stay in a hotel overnight, if you don't want to attend the business session. Similarly, if you only want to attend the business session, it will only cost you transportation expenses. Those wishing to stay overnight can stay at the motel (although even less expensive crash space is being planned). Convention business this year will include the selection of state officers, national presidential convention delegates, and a member of the national platform committee. *****

NEWS NOTES--- The New Jersey LP will hold its annual convention on Feb. 16-17, at Beacon Manor, Route 35, Point Pleasant Beach. The convention program will include workshops with John Holt, Irwin Schiff and Gary Greenberg. There will be a debate on abortion. Irwin Schiff will also be the banquet speaker. For ticket information write: NJLP, box 56, Tenafly, NJ, or call Mitch Feldman at 201-783-6246.

The LP received over 1.25 million votes in the 1978 elections.

The hottest political fad consists of state legislatures calling for a constitutional convention to endorse the National Taxpayers Union's plans for a balanced budget and tax limitations.

The SEC has announced that they will not prosecute former NYC mayor Abe Beame and city Comptroller Harrison Goldin for their apparent criminal violations concerning NYC financial disclosures.

Beame was one of the first major northern politicians to endorse Jimmy "Send Big Shot Crooks To Jail" Carter---

Have you seen the recent Doonesbury cartoons lampooning "The Liberal Cult: Threat from the Left" and their mysterious leader, Teddy, who exercises powerful control over the minds of his followers?

Nicole Bergland, wife of VP candidate David (and LP chair), will be in NYC this summer and wishes to know of any midtown apts. that she might rent or sit for two weeks. Nicole would also like to buy "I love NY" t-shirts. Contact her at: 854 Bear Creek, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626.

Anyone wishing to buy a mint condition, 1st edition Atlas Shrugged with dust cover, contact Fred Cookinham at FLP office or at home, 636-5628.