

JAN 2 6 1979

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 13-14 JANUARY 1979

SHOWBOAT HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Members present:

David Bergland, Chairman
 Mary Louise Hanson, Vice-Chairwoman
 Sylvia Sanders, Secretary
 Paul S. Allen, Treasurer
 Chris Hocker, National Director
 Edward E. Clark, Member-at-large
 Jim Clarkson, M-a-1 (elected 14 Jan.)
 Edward H. Crane, III, M-a-1
 Carol Cunningham, M-a-1
 John Hilberg, M-a-1
 Charles G. Koch, M-a-1
 Dick Randolph, M-a-1

Murray N. Rothbard, M-a-1
 Tonie Nathan, Region 1
 Williamson Evers, Region 2
 Bill Webster, Region 2
 John Mason, Region 3
 Rick White, Region 3
 Ben L. Olson, Region 4
 William J. Howell, Region 5
 Tom Laurent, Region 5
 Bernie Losching, Region 6
 Steve Mariotti, Region 6
 Jeffrey Smith, Region 9
 Nathan Curland, Region 10

Members absent:

Dr. S. Dallas Cooley, Region 7

James U. Blanchard, III, Reg. 8
 Michael Fieschko, Region 9

1. OPENING: The regular meeting of the National Committee of the Libertarian Party held in Las Vegas, Nevada on 13-14 January 1979 was called to order by Chairman Bergland at 3:15 p.m. on 13 January. The 13 January session was scheduled for non-action items and discussion only, with substantive business reserved for 14 January. Items were added to the agenda. On motion of Sanders, the minutes of the 4 September 1978 meeting were adopted as reported. Bergland and Sanders urged members to review the compiled resolutions handed out at the previous meeting.
2. NOMINATIONS FOR NAT COM: Nominations for the vacant at-large seat on the Nat Com were opened. Nominees were: Steve Sparling of California and Jim Clarkson of Georgia, who had been nominated at the September meeting; Ray Cunningham of Connecticut, nominated by Hilberg; and John Grayson of Nevada, nominated by Howell. Each candidate spoke briefly. Election was scheduled for the following day. Hilberg's motion to elect the new Nat Com member by secret ballot passed. White asked to be recorded as requesting a roll call vote; Howell asked to be recorded as requesting a secret ballot.
3. NOMINATIONS FOR PLATFORM COMMITTEE: Nominations of 38 applicants for the ten Platform Committee positions to be filled by the Nat Com were recorded. Much discussion of the method for electing Platform Committee members followed. Evers' suggestion to elect the chair of the committee first passed. Mason's motion to defer a decision on the procedure until tomorrow passed, but was then reconsidered. Clark's motion to begin tomorrow's meeting at 9 a.m. instead of 9:30 passed. Hanson's motion, based on Smith's prior suggestion, to have each Nat Com member vote for up to nine applicants (after choosing the chair), rank the results, and choose the first nine who fulfill the large/small state requirements, passed.

LP NAT COM, 13-14 JAN 79

Howell's motion to require a majority approval of the Nat Com for each Platform Committee member elected passed. On motions by Evers and Sanders, each Platform Committee applicant (not including Nat Com members) or spokesperson was allowed one minute to speak.

4. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS: Nominations of 23 applicants for the ten-member Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee were recorded. It was agreed to use the same procedure in electing the Constitution Committee as in electing the Platform Committee. On motion of Howell, each applicant or spokesperson was allowed one minute to speak. Crane's motion requiring retyped lists to be used as ballots passed.
 5. REGIONAL REPORTS: It was agreed to omit Regional Representatives' reports. (A report on election results by state is available.)
 6. NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Crane presented a status report showing 33 states without ^{add} newsletters. He recommended that National Headquarters ^{"regularly"} prepare a four-page newsletter with space for the individual states' news and membership coupons, and send camera-ready copy to any state willing to participate. This recommendation was adopted.
- Hocker agreed to make information available on how to apply for the non-profit (2.8 cents) postage rate now available for LP mailings.
7. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN: Bergland emphasized that we should start organizing now for the 1980 Presidential campaign, and suggested liasons between the Nat Com and any forming campaign committes.
 8. NEIL SMITH PROPOSALS: L. Neil Smith of Colorado addressed the Nat Com on two proposals: (1) the establishment of a "shadow cabinet" of LP spokespersons on various subjects to give continuous response to current events, provide division of labor in researching issues, and allow more money to be spent on the campaign; and (2) winning the support of futurists by calling for the sale of NASA and abrogation of the U.N. treaty forbidding private space exploration. He also emphasized the importance of a utopian, optimistic approach, as outlined in previous speeches and letters.
 9. ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Cunningham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. the following day.
 10. RECONVENING: The meeting of the Nat Com was reconvened by Bergland at 9:20 a.m. on Sunday, 14 January. Additions and changes were made in the agenda.
 11. VOLUNTARY FUNDING REPORT: Fieschko, who was to have a report on the issue of voluntary funding for elected officials' salaries, was absent. Randolph reported that some legal and financial research had been done, and that the option of a "blind trust" seemed impossible due to finance disclosure laws. Clark and Howell suggested that Randolph get assistance in drafting a bill to change this law. Randolph stated that he would be reporting regularly to the Nat Com

LP NAT COM, 13-14 JAN 79

on the progress of this and other issues. Fieschko was requested to present his report to the Nat Com.

12. ELECTION OF AT-LARGE MEMBER: Nominations for the vacant at-large seat on the Nat Com were closed, and Jim Clarkson was elected.
13. AFFILIATIONS: The following motion by Sanders passed: "The Nat Com hereby grants formal approval, for the purpose of recording such approval in the minutes, of the following affiliate parties, which have been acting affiliates without the technical approval of the Nat Com being previously recorded in the minutes: California, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Delaware, District of Columbia, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota and Mississippi."

Affiliation petitions from state parties in Maine (on motion of Curland) and Rhode Island (on motion of Howell) were approved.

14. YES ON 23: Hanson's motion to take consideration of Nolan's "Yes on 23" proposal from the table passed. The resolution as proposed read: "WHEREAS we as Libertarians believe that all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, without surrendering to government confiscation, and WHEREAS taxation is nothing more than legalized theft, and WHEREAS the Libertarian Party's national platform specifically calls for repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. . . IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the National Committee of the Libertarian Party that we declare our support for the nationwide "YES ON 23" petition drive now being conducted on behalf of House Joint Resolution 23 (popularly known as the Liberty Amendment) and urge all state and local Libertarian Party organizations to participate in said petition drive wherever possible and appropriate." Crane's motion to delete the last part of the last sentence, beginning with "(popularly known," passed. Howell moved to amend by adding, "while condemning the misrepresentation of and the fraudulent literature issued by the committee in support of the proposal." Hanson deferred to Nolan for discussion. Olson moved the previous question, and Howell's amendment failed. After more discussion, the resolution as amended passed, with Howell and Olson recorded voting "no."

15. SECRETARY'S REPORT: A written Secretary's Annual Report for 1978 was submitted.
16. MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Clarkson was nominated by Olson, and elected, as Membership Chair, to assist Hocker in maintaining membership records, implementing renewals and otherwise encouraging membership. Crane suggested soliciting all state LP mailing lists; Hanson suggested finding a method to make it easy for states to send in their lists and updates.
17. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PROJECTS: Hocker reported on:
 - A) Publications: The Publications Committee is currently reviewing the booklet on environmental problems by Bob Smith and a fact sheet

LP NAT COM, 13-14 JAN 79

on nuclear power by Jay Hilgartner. Bill Burt's Local Problems: Libertarian Solutions is now in final form, available for \$3.75 each and as an incentive for \$20 or over memberships. A planned project is to distribute Local Problems as widely as possible.

B) YLA: There are currently around 500 people receiving the YLA newsletter, of whom about 40 are active on campus. Plans are to work with Students for a Libertarian Society until the 1980 election activity begins.

C) Political Action Workshops: Eight workshops for 40-60 activists each are planned for 1979; the charge to participants will be \$10, which should almost cover expenses. (A separate written report is available.)

D) 800#: The incoming WATS line has been discontinued. It probably didn't pay for itself (cost=\$350/month), but should be worth trying again during the 1980 campaign.

E) News/Events: News releases are now scheduled for frequent, regular release. In addition, major research papers (done largely by Jay Hilgartner) are scheduled to be released about quarterly. Hocker asked for suggestions on research topics and on other media event ideas. Bergland suggested using talent on the Nat Com; Sanders suggested sending appropriate releases to state media coordinators.

F) Other: Bergland suggested, and Olson moved, that the flyer New Political Times be updated to show 1978 election results; the motion passed. Evers asked for clarification on the membership/fundraising letter that was to have been sent out by Richard Suter in the fall. Hocker reported that it had not gone out, but that he was compensating with a mailing to the core list of 6000. Hanson remarked that our current computer service was inadequate, and offered to work on the problem. (A separate written report on 1978 projects--mailings, magazine network advertising and ballot drives--is available.)

18. TREASURER'S REPORT: Allen presented a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 1978; a cash accounting of 1978 Revenue by Source; and a report of 1978 Expenditures, Projected vs. Actual. He noted that the Salary Review Committee, consisting of himself as chair plus Olson and Cunningham, suggested a raise in salary from \$750 to \$825 per month for Jay Hilgartner, as incorporated in the new budget. Koch requested a Profit and Loss Statement in future reports. Hanson suggested using accrual basis figures in future reports.
19. PLATFORM COMMITTEE ELECTION: Nominations for the chair of the Platform Committee were: Joan Kennedy Taylor (by Sanders), Dallas Cooley (by Hanson), Ed Crane (by Clark), Joe Cobb (by Nathan) and Richard Kenney (by Hilberg). Randolph's motion to close nominations passed. The candidates were discussed briefly, and it was the consensus of the Nat Com that a plurality would be necessary for election. On the first ballot, Taylor and Crane tied; on the second

LP NAT COM, 13-14 JAN 79

ballot Taylor (Massachusetts) was elected. Crane then withdrew from consideration for the Platform Committee. On the first ballot for the remaining nine positions, the following eight were elected with the support of a majority of the Nat Com: Murray Rothbard (California), Bill Evers (California), Dallas Cooley (Virginia), Tom Palmer (Maryland), Jule Herbert (Alabama), Richard Kenney (Washington), L. Neil Smith (Colorado), and David Theroux (California). In a runoff vote among the next four candidates, Sheldon Richman (Delaware) won majority support on the second ballot. Nathan's motion to choose alternates passed, and Mason's motion to name Patrick Lilly (Colorado), Carl Whitson (Alaska) and Jeff Friedman (Rhode Island), in that order, passed.

20. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE ELECTION: Nominations for the chair of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee were: Ben Olson (by Evers), who declined; Bill Howell (by Olson); Jim Clarkson (by Curland), who declined; Rick White (by Crane), who declined; Vivian Baures (by Hilberg); Sally Mason (by Evers), who declined. Randolph's motion to close nominations passed, and Howell (Texas) was elected as chair. Six people received majority Nat Com support on the first ballot for the remaining nine positions on the Constitution Committee: Jim Clarkson (Georgia), Ben Olson (Iowa), Rick White (Nevada), Sally Mason (Colorado), Bob Lehman (California) and Mike Hall (California). In a runoff election among the next nine candidates, Frank Horn (Wisconsin), Ben Olds (Alaska) and David Long (Illinois) were elected on the first ballot. It was decided by majority vote not to select alternates.
21. FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ray Cunningham outlined plans for 1979 fundraising: A "Success in '79" effort, similar to last year's, is planned for February and March. Last year's project raised nearly \$80,000, including matching funds; matching funds up to \$50,000 are available again this year. Changes in the '79 effort will include: (1) approaching large contributors face-to-face, perhaps at regional luncheon meetings, with a well-prepared presentation, and (2) having regional coordinators for the telethon portion. Several other direct mail solicitations (approximately one every six weeks) are planned. (A separate written schedule is available.) Developing a potential contributors' list is a high priority.
22. BUDGET: A proposed 1979 Budget was offered by Allen and Hocker, with the amendment of adding \$8400 for rent, for a total budget of \$180,250. (It was noted that contributions for rent are exempt from FEC regulations.) Allen urged a formal budget planning committee be formed; Bergland suggested that the Constitution Committee might work on assigning this responsibility. Bergland also mentioned that he would be attending a conference on Political Action Committees and their contributions. After more clarifications, Evers' motion to close debate passed, and the 1979 Budget was adopted.
23. PLATFORM: After a suspension of the rules, Olson moved to appoint Ed Crane presiding officer of the 1979 Convention during Platform debates. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

LP NAT COM, 13-14 JAN 79

24. 50 IN 80: Crane deferred to Michael Emerling, who reported that fundraising (selling T-shirts) was underway for the project, that he and Jim Burns had written two drafts for fundraising letters, and that he would have a proposal on recruiting petitioners for the next Nat Com meeting.

Crane reported on the research done: 35 states have a good chance of being on the ballot in 1980; ten have a fair chance (will take hard work and luck), and five have a poor chance (will take changes in the law or immense amounts of money). A state-by-state review of ballot status followed. (A separate written report is available.) Crane urged that petition drives be done as soon as possible; we could have 20 states on the ballot by January 1980. State coordinators are needed. Hocker emphasized the importance of getting states to quantify and pledge what they can do, so that National Headquarters can plan. Bergland offered Crane and his committee the Nat Com's thanks.

25. MAILING LIST COMMITTEE: Bergland will appoint three members in addition to himself and Hocker to serve on the Mailing List Committee. Evers suggested himself, Cooley and Allen. Olson suggested White.
26. 1979 CONVENTION UPDATE: Crane reported that the Convention Committee had met with the L.A. County LP Central Committee and discussed plans. He presented a written report, including a proposed theme, "Toward a Three Party System," to tie the LP into the "real world" of major party politics. Major speakers would be chosen on that basis. Scheduling and other details are being planned.

Olson offered a suggestion to emphasize the utopian and future-oriented nature of libertarianism more, and to have a panel of futurists discuss the topic. Relatedly, Hilberg announced the creation of the Prometheus Award (to be given to the most significant work of speculative fiction depicting libertarianism), and expressed the hope that the first annual award could be presented at the Convention. He also suggested trying to find a different Convention theme, as our goal is a free future, not a three party system. After more discussion, a motion suggested by Cunningham, that all input should be made directly to the Convention Committee, and that they have the authority to decide on the program, failed. After more discussion, Evers moved to conduct a straw poll on the question of whether to include a futurist panel on the program. After more discussion, Olson's motion to close debate passed, and the futurist panel received majority support. White moved to conduct a straw poll on the broader issue of emphasizing more utopian, futurist and enthusiasm-arousing/show biz factors in general. After more discussion, Evers' motion to close debate passed, and it was voted not to take the straw poll.

Hanson suggested that time be set aside for state chairs or their designates to meet with the National Director during the Convention.

LP NAT COM, 13-14 JAN 79

Mason moved that the Nat Com endorse the Convention Committee's report as appropriate in theme and general context. Howell's motion to table Mason's motion passed. People were urged to submit any ideas to the Convention Committee quickly.

27. NEXT MEETING: Hanson moved that the next Nat Com meeting be held May 19-20 in Raleigh, N.C., in conjunction with a Region 7 gathering. After discussion, Evers' motion to close debate passed, and Hanson's motion passed.
28. ASSISTANCE TO STATE PARTIES: Sanders offered to begin work on implementing an earlier resolution on assistance to state parties, particularly the smaller ones, and invited anyone interested to work with her.
29. ADJOURNMENT: Mason's motion to adjourn carried at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Sanders

Sylvia Sanders, Secretary

ADDENDA

RESOLUTION: The following was adopted at the 14 Jan 79 meeting; please add it to your list of compiled resolutions:

A 12. WHEREAS we as Libertarians believe that all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, without surrendering to government confiscation, and
WHEREAS taxation is nothing more than legalized theft, and
WHEREAS the Libertarian Party's national platform specifically calls for repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. .
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the National Committee of the Libertarian Party that we declare our support for the nationwide "YES ON 23" petition drive now being conducted on behalf of House Joint Resolution 23. (1/14/79:14)

GREEN SHEET CHANGES: The following changes were noted in the new (January, 1979) Green Sheet:

New Member-at-large:
Jim Clarkson
(see listing under Georgia)

Bill Webster:
office phone currently same as
home phone

Carol Cunningham
new office phone=(203) 447-3154

Colorado Chair Loran Gayton:
new address and phone:
P. O. Box 22617
Denver, CO 80222
(303) 778-1701

Dick Randolph
address from Jan. to June:
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK