

FLP NEWS

Number 11

October 1984

Bergland-Lewis on New York Ballot

by Tom Lowy

David Bergland and Jim Lewis, the Libertarian Party Presidential ticket, won the strategically important 6th position on the New York State ballot, after a hard, "almost all-volunteer" petition drive. Bill McMillen, FLP State Ballot Drive Coordinator, announced this important Party victory on Friday evening, Sept. 21st, the final day on which a challenge to the petitions could be made. The Party filed 23,863 signatures of registered New York voters.

The FLP filed the Bergland-Lewis petitions on Tuesday, Sept. 18th, after a gruelling weekend processing marathon in Albany. Party members from around the state spent the better part of two days checking and rechecking more than 1,200 individual petition sheets. These sheets were then sorted and bound by Congressional District and a final total reached.

On the filing day, the Party learned that four other parties had also filed--all socialist of one stripe or another--and that a lottery would be held to determine each party's position on the ballot. The FLP's number was drawn first and our position on the 6th ballot line assured. This means that the Bergland-Lewis ticket will be the first choice available to voters after Reagan and Mondale. (The Liberal, Conservative and Right-to-Life parties are not backing independent candidates.) 1984 marks the third campaign in a row that the FLP has won the 6th position.

Over 20,000 of the signatures filed were obtained by the FLP's "all-volunteer" petition drive launched on Aug. 7th. About 3,000 signatures were also obtained in the closing days of the drive by paid petitioners hired under the direction of Marshall Fritz, LP National Ballot Drive Coordinator. It is estimated that the Party's "all-volunteer" effort saved the FLP as much as \$10,000 in petition drive related costs. While the 23,863 signatures filed in Albany fell short of the Party's goal of 40,000, it did surpass the state requirement of 20,000.

The New York City Chapter turned in the most signatures--about 9,000 (including those of Marshall Fritz's team). The Genesee Region/Rochester Chapter was the only chapter to

surpass its goal with 5,800 signatures. The Capitol District/Albany Chapter had 2,400. The Central New York/Cortland Chapter produced 2,200. The chapters and county organizations of the Hudson Valley turned in over 2,000. The Southern Tier/Binghamton Chapter submitted about 800. The balance came from smaller chapters and individuals around the state.

Rochester activist, Dave Hosely, took top honors for the most signatures obtained by one person--3,300. Dave's great performance won him "tickets-for-two" for the 1985 FLP State Convention Banquet. Brooklyn activist, Frank Schwartz, was runner-up with 2,500 signatures. The New York City Chapter awarded Frank a ticket to a fund-raising brunch for David Bergland, scheduled for Sept. 23rd.

In addition to qualifying the Bergland-Lewis ticket, three local candidates also achieved ballot status for the election. Wanda Hudak of Endwell succeeded in her petition drive for Broome County Supervisor. Dave Hosely and fellow Rochester activist, Steve Becker, qualified in their races for 130th Senate District and 59th Assembly District, respectively. All other local candidates unfortunately were unsuccessful in their petition drives.

With the petition drive successfully concluded, the Party will now be gearing up for the campaign itself. On to Nov. 6th!



THE BURDEN OF BIG BROTHER

GOVERNMENT

BY JAMES A. LEWIS
VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE OF THE
LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Orwell's 1984 has come to symbolize the growth of totalitarian government. Written 36 years ago, the book was meant to serve as a warning about how powerful government eventually destroys freedom.

Now that 1984 is here, there is renewed interest in the book and the threat posed by big government. And it is a good time to evaluate the eroded condition of our civil liberties.

As a Libertarian, I am concerned that many people do not realize that social freedom goes hand in hand with economic freedom. And I am convinced that all freedom--social and economic--is directly threatened by the growth of government.

Civil liberties cannot be divorced from economic liberty. Freedom of the press is meaningless, if government can use regulations to control the prices and profits of publishers or to ban others from getting into the business. What is the state of press freedom in any locality when local government can grant monopolies to cable television companies?

RIGHT TO BE MOBILE

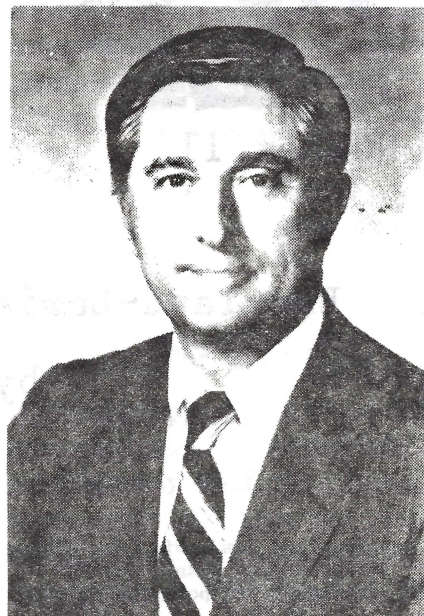
Take as another example the right to be mobile. While we all have this right, government is making sure that it becomes so expensive to be mobile that none of us can afford to exercise it. Taxes account for over 50 percent of the price of a gallon of gasoline. Drivers must be licensed by the state, all cars must be registered and inspected. Cheaper foreign imports are being pushed out by the government in favor of more expensive domestic vehicles. Every year the government finds new ways to make it economically more difficult to travel. Technically the freedom to travel is still here, but the ability to travel is rapidly diminishing, especially for the poor.

And it is the poor in this country who feel the burden of Big Brother the most. The welfare state has regulated, controlled, watched and harassed them. Where they live, with whom they live, what they eat, etc., are all monitored. That is the price of the government dole. Like animals in a zoo they are watched by professional social trainers and that is the price they pay for a few handouts from the government.

But is big government the friend of the poor? No. It is government that uses its power to keep cheaper foreign imports from reaching the consumer. Who is hurt most by higher prices? The poor. It is government that uses dairy supports and "payment in kind" programs for farmers to drive the price of food higher and higher.

It is government that educates the poor in government schools and after 12 years of the most expensive social program in history turns them out to the job market as functional illiterates. After this government training they have to find jobs when they have no marketable skills.

The only hope they have of learning skills is to find a low-paying job and work their way up. As their training increases their value to the employer increases. But government has stepped in and prevented even this. Minimum wage laws require salaries that are often higher than the worth of the skills of the employee. Add government mandated benefits like social security and unemployment insurance to the minimum wage, and an employee



James Lewis, 1984 Libertarian candidate for Vice President

must be worth at least \$5.00 an hour before he can be hired. But the skills taught in our inner city schools aren't worth that much, so those young people remain unemployed.

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

Not too long ago four women ministers in my home state of Connecticut tried to address this problem. They raised the funds to start a taxi company in New Haven that would hire the hard-core unemployed. Eventually, the drivers would own the company. The program never got off the ground. The government had given a monopoly to another taxi company, one that was bankrupt and mismanaged. This was done in the name of the "common good," but the result was that a workable program to help the poor, one that didn't use tax monies, was stopped dead.

There are thousands more examples of why a free economy is necessary for a free society. These examples serve as a reminder that social freedom is intimately tied to economic freedom. 1984 can serve as a time of reevaluation and as a time of recommitment to the principles of liberty on which our country was founded.

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Campaign '84: Political Tools

by Jim McKeown

The Placer County Election Win!

(In the previous issue of FLP News, the first part of an interview between Jim McKeown, Libertarian Party National Coordinator of Campaign '84, and several Libertarian activists from Placer County, Calif., was published. The interview focused on the June 1984 election victory of the Placer County LP and what Libertarians around the country can learn from this victory. In the election, Tahoe, Calif., businessman, Erik Henrikson, won a County Supervisor's seat with over 15,000 votes. This is the second part of the interview and involves David Scholl, a professional political consultant that worked for the Placer County campaign.)

Campaign '84: They say when you heard about the slate of Libertarians running in Placer County, you quickly picked up on the opportunity to offer your professional consulting services. What first caught your interest in these races?

Scholl: Philosophy. I've been a small "l" libertarian since the mid-60s. The chance of having a slate of Libertarians elected to the majority on a local government board was very intriguing.

Campaign '84: After meeting with the "cast of characters," what made you think they could win?

Scholl: The enthusiasm that they had. The fact that they had done some preliminary organization--an Executive Director for the party, fulltime regular meetings, several members of the party active in taxpayers' organizations. One candidate seemed to have fairly good business community financial contacts. Another one, Erik Henrikson, was a life-long resident of his district and a very likeable person. They were well-spoken. They didn't look anything but "establishment."

Campaign '84: What was the most significant difference of opinion within the campaign concerning strategy or tactics, and how was it resolved?

Scholl: That was one very good thing about the candidates. They allowed me to handle the strategy and tactics. The problems we had in the campaign were the amount of time the candidates had available to do campaigning and fundraising.

Any Libertarian running for office should realize this: As far as stance on the issues, it's up to the candidate; but as far as strategy, tactics and when things have to be done, the candidate should keep himself completely out of it and leave it up to the staff--assuming that he has a staff that he realizes is competent and they know what they're doing. If he hasn't got a staff like that, he should get rid of them and get people in who he does have confidence in.

I personally wouldn't get involved in a campaign where the candidate is constantly coming up and saying: "Oh, I want to do this or I want to do that. I need this. I want to put an ad in this thing. Let's do this kind of radio spot." If you have candidates doing that, it just gets so confusing and so erratic that the chances of winning are very slim.

Campaign '84: What type of critical information did you need to organize this campaign and where did you get it from?

Scholl: That's very simple. You get it from the county clerk's office. I got past voting records from the county--how they voted on various ballot initiatives, district by district, how votes went for incumbents in the past, voter registration. You can see what a candidate's base of support was. The voter registration list is on computer tape. Although the party is given a set of voter registration lists on paper, the lists are not very useful for direct mail or targeting for telephoning. The tape is useful and it's less than a \$100 expense.

continued on page 7

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Regional Reports

by Tom Lowy

Binghamton / Broome County

Wanda Hudak, Vice Chair of the Southern Tier Chapter, easily qualified for her race for Broome County Supervisor after petitioners obtained some 2,800 signatures from county voters. Her campaign got off with a bang on Thursday, Sept. 21, when she debated her Republican and Democrat opponents at a League of Women Voters debate. The event was widely covered by the media, including live TV coverage by Telepress Today, a Gannett-owned cable broadcasting company. (The Chapter has a 60-minute segment of the debate on video. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy can do so by sending a blank tape to the chapter along with enough funds to cover shipping costs. Call 607-723-3689 for more information.) Wanda has also been invited to address a board dinner of the CSEA, a labor union representing the county's 2,700 employees.

Cortland / Central N.Y.

Dottie-Lou Brokaw, Central N.Y. Chapter Chair, reports that she, Jim Lewis and two other chapter activists visited Columbus Circle in downtown Syracuse on Tuesday, August 21, to campaign and petition for the Bergland-Lewis ticket. The visit turned into a media event covered by 3 TV stations, 4 radio stations and 2 newspapers. The campaigners hung a "Bergland-Lewis" banner in the Circle. All four were dressed in red, white and blue. Jim Lewis moved among the local citizenry shaking hands and discussing his candidacy, while the others asked people to sign Jim's petition....Several chapter activists also visited the New York State Fair in Syracuse during late-August and petitioned for the LP Presidential ticket.

Schoharie County

Bob Hills, Chairman of the Schoharie County FLP Organizing Committee, reports the group is moving ahead with its plans to become a chartered FLP chapter. The Schoharie libertarians are planning a Fall convention where they hope to lay the basis for a Party chapter. Their immediate objective is to recruit at least 10 members, which is the minimum membership requirement for a chapter....Jim Lewis made a campaign stop in Cobleskill on Aug. 25. He spoke from the steps of the historic Hotel Augustan, after being introduced by the mayor of Cobleskill, Leon Wilson. Jim's visit was widely covered in the local press. Reports were carried in the Cobleskill Times-Journal, the Schenectady Gazette, the Oneonta Daily Star and the Mountain Eagle. Radio station WSCM also carried a report on the visit....The Committee now has a telephone answering machine: (607) 234-4238. Bob Hills, the Committee Chair, is no novice to politics. He was previously Board of Supervisors Clerk and County Auditor in Schoharie County.

Rochester

Seventeen Rochester Libertarians organized a 4th of July street demonstration and parade in downtown Rochester to protest taxes and Big Government. It was the Chapter's first organized parade. John Sproul, a Chapter activist, reported that it will probably become an annual Rochester event. The demonstration drew press coverage, including a story in the Democrat and Chronicle headline "A Meandering March in the Rain for Liberty." The Libertarian marchers gathered in Rochester's Manhattan Square for what the local press described as a bit of "guerilla theater." Famous quotes from the American Revolution were read by different marchers. Alan Burris, author of A Liberty Primer and Vice Chair of the Genesee Region Chapter, took the opportunity offered by the press coverage to blast New York's bottle return and mandatory seat belt laws, which he described as "outrageous invasions." Burris warned New Yorkers to beware of "getting used to a steady loss of liberty"....John Sproul also reported that the Chapter held a very successful picnic at Ellison Park on July 21. Between 30 and 40 people enjoyed the festivities. The Chapter reports that the Bergland-Lewis petition drive was successfully concluded and that 5,800 signatures were obtained. Local candidates, Dave Hosely and Steve Becker, also qualified for their respective State Senate and Assembly District races.

Schoharie County FLP Plans Convention

The Schoharie County FLP Organizing Committee is seeking enough members to gain an FLP Chapter charter. Robert P. Hills, Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill, is the Committee Chair. A late October county convention is being planned. The date and location is still to be selected. Schoharie County residents may contact Hills at (607) 234-4238 for convention plans. The Times-Journal, Gazette and radio station WSCM have been carrying convention announcements.



FLP State Committee at Buffalo meeting in July. From left: Bill McMillen, Tom Lowy, Fred Cookinham, Joe Piekarski, Dawn Davis, Don Davis, Margaret Piasecki, Dottie-Lou Brokaw, Dean Grimes and John Francis.

(This report on a recent visit by Jim Lewis, Libertarian Party candidate for Vice President, to the village of Cobleskill in Schoharie County appeared in the Oneonta Daily Star, August 25th. The reporter is Kim Hummel.)



Liberty's champion visits

By Kim Hummel

COBLESKILL — A local organizing committee for the Free Libertarian Party announced that its candidate for vice president, Jim Lewis, will campaign in Cobleskill this afternoon.

It is believed to be the first time any vice presidential candidate has journeyed through Cobleskill since 1900.

All of which seems rather refreshing even though Lewis and running mate David Bergland, presidential candidate, don't stand a chance of winning this fall.

They won't make it because the Libertarian Party, founded in 1971, remains a minor political party with limited national backing, no widespread press coverage and nothing close to the kind of exposure that goes along with becoming U.S. president.

But you have to give them credit for trying in an age when most people shun political office and active roles in local government.

Imagine Lewis, salesman for a national book binding company, going door to door in Cobleskill as part of his one (and probably only) campaign sweep through upstate New York's Capital District.

The very idea of any national candidate touring through Cobleskill with its 7,500 residents (including college students) in a region of New York that's between Oneonta and Binghamton to the west and Albany to the east — is absurd.



James Lewis

When national candidates want to visit the so-called typical American small town, they go to Iowa.

When they want to view the effects of poverty and unemployment, they go to New York City or Detroit. If they desire to link themselves to dairymen, they do so in Wisconsin. When the issue is foreign trade and grain shipments, the candidates will appear in the grain belt of the Midwest.

For a national candidate to even make it to Albany is highly unusual. And yet the very idea of some Lib-



David Bergland

ertarian tramping his way through Cobleskill is somehow appealing.

It seems like such a vast departure from the daily media bombardments about the Democrats and Republicans, Ferraro and Mondale, Reagan and Bush. Those campaigns, like a waterwheel, seem like they're traveling in a circle, trapped by their framework into dullness.

Geraldine Ferraro for a brief time inspired new flavor, like a distinctive spice in the political stew. She outshone everyone else; she held the nation's attention.

But now, enmeshed in a sticky con-

trovery over questionable family finances, Mrs. Ferraro's gleam is tarnished, and the endless talk and chatter seems like that of any other campaign.

Republicans added nothing worthy of excitement during their predictable Dallas convention of the past week. Like good little soldiers they obeyed party doctrine and did exactly what they were expected to do.

Libertarians do not align themselves in any way with either of the major political parties. They stand squarely against the establishment. They advocate a return to individual liberty unhampered by government, regulation and taxation.

"Libertarianism is the philosophy of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution," Bergland wrote in a prepared piece. "Most people, most of the time, deal with each other on the libertarian basis of mutual respect. Two groups don't: criminals and government."

Libertarians advocate limited government, no foreign military involvement and no military draft in peace or war, a free trade market, elimination of regulatory agencies and victimless crime laws, voluntary education.

The party uses the slogan: "We're working for freedom, because freedom works."

Those beliefs won't make it to Washington, D.C. this fall.

But they did, for a moment, touch upon Cobleskill.

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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 around the state are writing letters to the editors of their local newspapers. The FLP News has been featuring a "letter of the month" in recent issues. This month, three letters are being featured: one by John Sproul, Rochester activist; another by Statin Island member, Philomene DiGiacomo; and the third by Harvey Sobel of Manhattan. Keep up the good work! And keep sending us your published letters.)

More Letters

A hidden tax on the public

REP. BARBER CONABLE made a very insightful comment on *Good Morning, America* (June 21): "What we tax is what we spend, not what we tax." He meant that whatever way the deficit (spending in excess of visible taxes, fees and other income) is financed, the result is an indirect or hidden tax on the public.

If the deficit is borrowed, it competes with private borrowers for the money available to be lent, which drives up interest rates artificially high. Everyone who buys a house, car, etc. with a loan winds up paying this "hidden tax." If more paper money is printed, the result is inflation, and since there is usually a time lag until pay catches up with the increased cost of living, most of us pay this "hidden tax." If Congress passes a tax "reform" bill without balancing its own budget each year it is being hypocritical.

JOHN C. SPROUL, Rochester
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle
June 27, 1984



John Sproul talking with Ed Clark at Rochester NatCom meeting, July 1984.

Book burners don't threaten freedom

In his column in the Sept. 2 *Advance*, James Brady sees a threat to freedom of speech in the current trend toward book-burning.

He seems to confuse the act of book-burning by individuals with that same act by governments. When a government orders book-burning and punishment for the possession of certain books, then men's rights are indeed violated. But the self-appointed book-burner does not violate anyone's rights; he merely exercises his own right to free speech.

Some years ago, flag-burning became a common act of protest against government policies. The courts decided that flag-burning, although reprehensible to most of us, was symbolic speech, protected by the First Amendment. Book-burning also is symbolic speech.

In the American way, we have both self-appointed writers and self-appointed critics. The

Freedom is real issue in air bag controversy

To the editor: Your Perspective column debating mandatory passive restraints (BI, Aug. 6) unfortunately failed to discuss the major underlying issue—should we be turning over our freedoms to government.

Our Founding Fathers established a nation where each individual would be free to pursue his or her own life, liberty or property provided he or she did not interfere with other individuals' life, liberty or property. Government's role was limited to protecting these freedoms.

Today, government is no longer our protector. Rather, it is fast becoming our enslaver. Little by little, we have been passing laws that limit our freedom and

give more power to the state.

Many of these laws, like automatic restraints and New York's mandatory seat belt law, are well-meaning, but the cost of these laws is increased state power and less personal freedom.

As a driver, I voluntarily use my seat belt, and as an automobile consumer, I would voluntarily pay more for added safety. But as a libertarian, I find the use of government coercion forcing me to buckle up and buy cars with passive restraints an invasion of my personal freedoms and another step down the road to serfdom.

Harvey Sobel
New York

Business Insurance, Aug. 20, 1984

writer is free to write whatever he wishes and the critic is free to criticize and even to burn a book as a sign of his disapproval. Freedom of speech is for everybody, not only for writers.

Book-burners cannot deprive us of any books that we want to read. After a book is burned, that book continues to live in many other copies, just as our flag still lives after one flag has been burned.

It is censorship by government that we must fear and resist. For instance, our

government is able to express its approval or its disapproval of certain writers and dramatists by the endowment of grants to some and denial of grants to others. A potential danger to free expression is also presented by monopolistic publishing companies and news media. They do not burn books, but they can consign any writer to oblivion simply by ignoring him.

Let us not be disturbed by the self-appointed book-burners playing their silly games. The real danger to freedom lies elsewhere.

PHILOMENE DIGIACOMO
West Brighton

Statin Island Advance
Sept. 12, 1984

Campaign '84: Your voter opinion survey produced some very interesting results, such as showing that Erik--who has no previous public visibility--had better name recognition throughout the county than the incumbent did. What other things were discovered with this survey?

Scholl: Well, we discovered that people were kind of ambivalent on land use issues. They agreed very heavily with the statement that "government has too much control over what people can do with their own land," but they'd turn around and say: "We shouldn't repeal land use controls, because we need to maintain our rural life style"--directly contradictory.

We did find out that they were strongly in favor of Proposition 13, the tax cut initiative that passed in 1978. They thought the County Board of Supervisors was doing a fairly good job, which showed that we had a few problems there in being able to persuade them otherwise. To the question, "The old county courthouse should be restored, even at a cost of \$3 million in tax money?" the response was very surprising. About 70% of the people agreed with the statement--either "agreed" or "agreed strongly" to spending the money on the courthouse. So we knew we should keep away from that issue.

We also found out that Libertarians were fairly well known--65% or so--but only a few had an opinion on it. Around 20% had an opinion and the majority of those were unfavorable. What was surprising was that the "unfavorables" included older Republicans and female, liberal Democrats.

The survey also gave us a breakdown by age, sex and length of time they had lived in the county, on various issues. On the tax and the property rights issues, we found that the people who had lived here the longest and were the most likely to vote, were most strongly "free market." So even though the poll showed that it was a "wash" on that issue, the people who were likely to vote and could be persuaded to vote for us, agreed with our view on that issue.

Campaign '84: How was your 40-question poll designed, administered and evaluated?

Scholl: It's a lot more difficult than people might imagine, not doing what's called a head-to-head poll where you say, "Do you favor Walter Mondale, Ronald Reagan or David Bergland?", and you get percentages. That doesn't help you a bit, especially in local races.

What you have to do is find out how people--by various groups--feel on the issues, and what specific wording will persuade them to vote your way. That's why we asked several questions on the land use issue. We found that people agreed with us when it was worded one way, but disagreed when it was worded another. In designing the questions, you have to get a general feel for the county. I looked through past issues of the newspaper. I looked at the voting record of the county in the past, looked at several issues that were kind of "hot" recently, talked with various activists--not just Libertarians, but conservatives and anti-tax activists.

Before I came on the campaign, it had already been announced that there would be a Libertarian slate. People didn't like the idea of a slate, because it would be a small group trying to take over the county. So what we had to do was form another organization called the Placer Taxpayers Coalition. The organization was set up just about a week before we took our poll--and with no publicity or anything else. By the time we had taken the poll, the Coalition had a 70% name recognition and almost all of those were favorable. So we knew we had the right name for the organization.

People really enjoy answering polls. The first question we always ask is: "What do you personally think is the most important problem in your local community?" It's an open-ended question and one thing we found out from that was that there was a high percentage of people who mentioned roads--that the road system was in terrible shape.

(to be continued)

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