

Libertarian Penn

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Military Draft Revisited, Part 2

Last issue I went over the constitutional safeguard which, if interpreted literally, prohibits the imposition of involuntary servitude upon anyone in the United States except a convicted criminal. This issue, I will get into some specifics with a few quotes:

Senator John Stennis (D - MS)

"I'm concerned—and this is not 'I told you so'—but this volunteer military is a bothersome matter."

And:

"...we're going to have to have a selective service bill put back on the books in the course of some few years where we'll be assured of enough talent and dedication ??? to go around..."

Senator Sam Nunn (D - GA):

"I want to put our bureaucracy back to work to see what our options are for switching away from the 'all-volunteer-force' concept."

According to a January 25 article in the Washington Post, "Under the plan, 20-year-olds would participate in an annual lottery to determine in what order they would be called if war came. The system would be run by reservists attached to 66 regional offices rather than draft boards comprised of local citizens."

This talk of a new draft law, ostensibly to beef-up NATO forces to gird for an attack by Warsaw Pact forces, serves to justify this attack upon the XIII Amendment. Essentially, 20-year-old-American men are to be drafted to fight and die in Western Europe to preserve a way of life that Europeans seem to feel is worth saving only if somebody else will shoulder part of the bill.

We can see from this that the violation of individual rights made possible by flagrantly ignoring the XIIIth Amendment are intimately intertwined with the denial by government of our right to dispose of justly acquired property (i.e., wages,) as we see fit. Property rights are a human right, and help to secure other human rights as well.

The call-to-arms is being heralded primarily by conservatives, but the shape of the proposed new draft may be changed to assure its passage by Congress. Now, how to get the liberals to go along? The answer is compulsory national service. In addition to the wholesale violation of the rights of 20-year-olds that c.n.s. would produce, it would impose a back-breaking \$50 billion liability on taxpayers just to pay their salaries, assuming that the government is going to observe its own minimum wage laws.

If you are less than 20 years old, or care about someone who is, the time to act is now. Of course, if you look upon dying in some foreign foxhole or carrying bed pans as some kind of golden opportunity, just sit back to see if your going to win big in Uncle Sam's Lottery!

I would suggest that you write Senators John Stennis, Sam Nunn, Howard Baker, Dewey Bartlett, John Heinz & Richard Schweiker to let them know how you feel. Send them to: Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

—Bill Lewis
Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the course of our all-out effort to increase membership we came up with an idea. You will notice that you are receiving 2 copies of the Penn this month. One is for you. Please give the other copie to a friend and persuade him/her to join! You'll notice also that a membership form is included.

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Notes & Asides

The LPP is growing by leaps and bounds, and we've reached the point where we could save a lot of time by computerizing our mailing list. If you are in a position where you can donate computer time and know-how to your favorite political organization, give state headquarters a call (717) 792-1750 and we'll discuss details. The list isn't big by computer standards (probably under 500 names) but we could save a lot of person-hours if someone out there could help us out.

The remaining members of the defunct Central PA Chapter of the LPP plus some new faces got together in January for an evening of socialization (the social, not the socialist kind). If anyone out there is still driving around trying to find Lark Circle, the Chairperson apologizes for the details which weren't on the map.

If you would like to host/hostess a cocktail/beer/lemonade party for other libertarians in your area, state headquarters can probably suggest some people in your area who might be interested. Don't feel you have to have a real business meeting the first time out; get to know each other and have some fun first!

- Millie Bankert of Gettysburg will be speaking to a group of students at Shippensburg State College...
- State Chairpeople and SIL execs are discussing the possibility of a regional conference/seminar to be held in Philadelphia this spring (in conjunction with the LPP Convention among other things). Anyone in Philly who would be willing to help with the planning of such an event, please let us know.

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