



Be heard

Big LP turnout urged at hearings

The LP national headquarters moved into high gear this month to ensure a good Libertarian turnout at a series of government downsizing public hearings around the country.

"We're encouraging our state parties and individual members to take full advantage of this opportunity," said Bill Winter, LP director of communications. "It's a chance to be involved in real world politics and to impress, and possibly influence, the U.S. Congress."

The hearings are being sponsored by the Congressional Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, which contacted the national Libertarian Party in late June and asked for help to create a government that is "smaller, more responsible, and more fiscally accountable." The goal of the committee's hearings: To discover "downsizing" success stories that can be applied to the federal government.

"The Libertarian Party certainly endorses the goal of downsizing government, so we agreed to assist the committee," said Winter. "Of course, we don't trust the Republicans to really shrink the size of government—they never have and probably never will. But this is a chance for us to encourage them to fulfill their promises. And, more impor-

tantly, these hearing will provide a public forum for Libertarian ideas. It's an opportunity we don't want to pass up."

There are four hearings scheduled in October:

- Friday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Thomas Jefferson High School, The Little Theater, 4248 South 288th St., Auburn, WA.
- Saturday, Oct. 7, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Long Beach City Council Chambers, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA.
- Monday, Oct. 9, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at TVI-525 Buena Vista Drive, Albuquerque, NM.
- Friday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Charlotte-Mecklenberg Government Center, 600 East 4th St., Charlotte, NC.

"We want a good turnout at these hearings," stressed Winter. "A solid turnout of Libertarians will impress the committee with our grassroots organizing clout—and will make it more likely they turn to us for help again in the future."

Winter said the general public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings. According to committee Chairman William Clinger (R-PA), "The hearings will provide an opportunity for the American people to share their ideas on reconstituting government through an open mike forum."

The committee also is scheduling "expert witnesses" to see **Turnout** on page 8

FDA hears straight talk

How many Libertarians have a chance to stand before an audience of Food and Drug Administration bureaucrats and tell them that their jobs should be turned over to private industry?

LP member Dr. Paul Smith had that opportunity on July 31 in Portland, OR, as a guest speaker at the annual convention of the Western Association of Federal Drug Officials—and his speech was so warmly received that he's been invited back tentatively next year.

"The reaction was definitely positive," said Smith about his speech, which focused on "what the [FDA] might do differently," from a free market perspective.

"Using the Ransberger Pivot (a technique for defusing hostility and opening minds) as the main basis for my speech, I emphasized [to them] that we all want safe drugs and nutritious foods, and your mission to ensure these is very important. I pointed out, though, that their alliance with government—which as Lord Acton stated, 'Is not eloquence, is not reason, but is power'—ultimately thwarts [the FDA's] mission because no matter how cleverly you disguise it, behind every edict you issue, every action you take, and every request you make lies the 'gun' you have been given by the government. And scientific inquiry, which is necessary to answer the important questions about your mission, cannot proceed at gunpoint."

Smith said he got his biggest laugh when he compared the FDA to the mythical chimera "which has the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent. Likewise, the FDA has lions in its leadership who roar loudly to provide the requisite noise to keep funding coming, the body of goats—or more precisely, scapegoats—who do all the work, and who are in turn wagged by that serpentine tail, Congress."

And that, said Smith, is the real problem with the FDA. "Its only real 'customer' is Congress. Contrast

see **FDA** on page 2

Court rated

Inconsistent toward individual liberty

This past year's U.S. Supreme Court session brought a number of major decisions concerning both personal liberty and economic freedom. There were both victories and defeats for the libertarian point of view.

Overall, the court took the libertarian position in six of the eight key economic freedom votes (a four-year high for the court) but fell to 50 percent on personal liberty questions (a four-year low). The new analysis done by LP National Committee member Don Ernsberger reviews the 16 key court decisions made in the recent session and evaluates each justice based upon a "Nolan Chart" perspective.

Among the important positive decisions of the court were the following:

- Ruled against racial quotas for government contracts and education;
- Struck down school zone gun controls rested upon the interstate commerce clause;
- Expanded commercial free speech and political free speech;
- Upheld the "knock and announce" principle under the Fourth Amendment;
- Defended freedom of association.

The dangerous new decisions that threaten liberty included the following:

- Upheld RICO and sentencing guideline rules;
- Upheld random drug testing of public school student athletes;
- Eroded church-state separation rules;
- Weakened Fourth Amendment protections.

The 1994-1995 Supreme Court session saw two ideological clusters emerge within the court. One group including Justices Stevens, Souter, Breyer, and Ginsburg staked out a liberal voting record with an average of 36 percent in the cases for economic freedom while averaging 60 percent in the area of pro-personal liberty.

The other group generally favored economic rights



U.S. Supreme Court 1994-95

**Personal liberty cases:
50% pro liberty (4/8)**

**Economic freedom cases:
75% pro liberty (6/8)**

(averaging 75 percent) and voted moderately on the personal liberty scale (four out of eight cases pro-personal liberty). This represents several movements over past years.

Justices Kennedy and O'Connor were usually the swing vote on close cases. Both justices moved toward a more conservative stance in this session. But the biggest movement is the change of Justice Souter from a moderate libertarian two sessions ago into a traditional liberal in this past year's voting. Justices Thomas and Scalia continued to show strong economic freedom votes, but moderated their personal liberty voting patterns toward a more libertarian bent.

see **Court rated** on page 11

Lord wins victory against 'War on Drugs'

Libertarian attorney Nancy Lord achieved a major victory against the "War on Drugs" last month, winning the acquittal of three men of felony charges of illegally cultivating marijuana.

In a closely watched court case in Madera County, CA, Lord successfully defended the men by appealing to the jury's "sense of justice and conscience."

The case involved three defendants arrested by a sheriff's deputy after planting sterile cannabis seeds as a protest against laws prohibiting the cultivation of industrial hemp. "Their actions were clearly a protest, and acknowledged by all involved as such," said Lord.

Lord said she faced a hostile judge during the trial, but "the tactics of the court backfired on the judge and prosecutor."

Lord explained, "I tried to introduce back-

ground information as to the basis of the protest: That hemp is a viable, environmentally friendly agricultural product, cultivated around the world for industrial uses, and that the Drug Enforcement Agency's attitude towards industrial hemp is irrational. But the judge refused to allow any information into the trial about the industrial uses and advantages of hemp. All rulings supported the prosecution."

Despite this, "The jury rose to the occasion," said Lord. "The jury, apparently sensing that they were not getting all the infor-

mation, was clearly insulted by the high-handed attitude of the judge and prosecutor, and moved to acquit the three defendants."

The victory—which saved the defendants from a three-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine—proved that "liberty and justice can happen one jury at a time," said Lord.

Lord, the 1992 Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate, has won a number of important court cases against the DEA and the FDA.

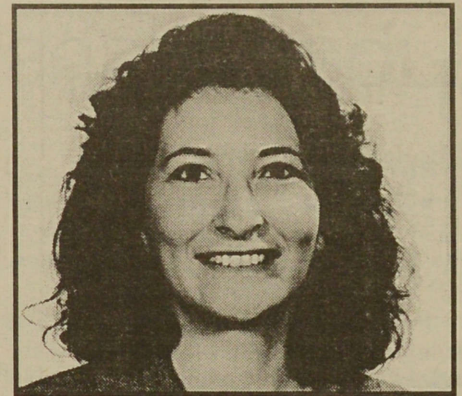


Photo flip

Two photographs on pages 8 and 9 in the September NEWS were inadvertently switched by our printer. The NEWS apologizes for the error.

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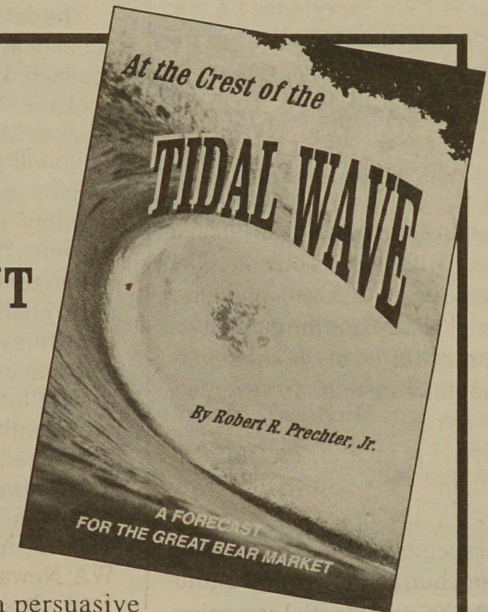
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Affiliates

Libertarians harassed during outreach in OH, SC

California

► **Tom Kohlhepp** of Stockton is a candidate in a special election for state assembly. For more information on his campaign, call him at 209-472-0853.

► The **San Francisco LP** (SFLP) has completed submission of arguments as the official opposition to two of the bond measures placed on the November election ballot by the Board of Supervisors.

"Bonds cause a forced transfer of tax money from the poor and middle-class to the rich, who are the only people who buy these 'extortion futures,'" said **James R. Elwood**, SFLP treasurer.

The SFLP will have opponents' arguments in the voter handbook against Propositions A and C.

Proposition A is a \$63 million bond issue to finance the cost of improvements to office facilities in San Francisco City Hall.

Proposition C is a \$29 million bond issue to finance repairs and facility upgrades of Steinhart Aquarium in Golden Gate Park.

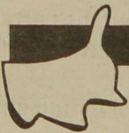
"If new funds were really needed, then the solution should be private charitable fund raising," said **Michael K. Dunn**, SFLP vice chair. "San Franciscans should be provided an opportunity to actively take pride in their community."

"We are proposing practical, voluntary, moral solutions to problems, not just saying 'No!'," said Elwood.

Colorado

► Nine Libertarians attended the first formal meeting of the **LP of Adams County** in July. The following officers were elected: **Earl Allen**, chair; **Norm Olsen**, secretary/treasurer; **Christine Shock**, campaigns; **Doug Carlsten**, events; and **Bob Shock**, membership/publications.

► **Chris Bogart** and **Todd Wasser-**



National pulse

News from the states

mann put together a very successful first annual LP Independence Day picnic for the state party.

Delaware

LP activists in the state have announced the formation of "**LPac**," a political action committee with the purpose of funding LP campaigns and educating candidates.

LPac is an acronym for Libertarian Political Action Committee. The PAC was founded by many of the same LP activists who were involved with the fund-raising effort that raised a record \$13,000 for the **John Reda** campaign last year. Reda was a candidate for the state house.

The "LPac team" plans to hold several fund-raising events. The efforts may extend to neighboring states, and LPac may have funds available for candidates outside Delaware within a year.

To contact LPac, write to LPac, P.O. Box 69, Claymont, DE 19703, or call **Dave Shanklin** at 302-427-9287 or **Jim Larsen** at 302-475-7954.

Louisiana

Mark Marchiafava, of Baton Rouge, has sued the state Department of Public Safety and Corrections for its refusal to issue him a driver's license because he did not want his Social Security number imprinted on it. Several other states have abandoned the use of Social Security numbers on driver's licenses after legal challenges on the grounds of privacy.

Marchiafava said he had been continu-

ously harassed—including being thrown in jail—by police since it first became known that he had refused a current driver's license.

Minnesota

For the first time ever, the state party had a table at the Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Weekend 1995 in Minneapolis.

"We were joined by over 300 other vendors and tens of thousands of people," said **Charles Test**, LP state chair. "We had a good reception from people there." Test, LP member **Dan Daehlin**, and a friend, also carried a banner in the GLBT Pride parade. "Many people expressed their pleasure seeing us out and about," said Test. Other activists who helped with the event were **Char Larsen**, **Chris Hawkins**, **Bob Kuhn**, **Caryn Cohen**, **Rory McGovern**, and **Eric Olsen**.

Montana

► The **Missoula County LP** is once again starting another season of its cable access television show, "Fear of a Libertarian Planet," on Missoula Community Access Television. The first show featured **Joseph Knight**, editor of "The Joe Knight Letter." According to State Chair **Michael Fellows**, the show was a good introduction to libertarianism and the Libertarian Party. "Public access allows groups like ours to provide the public another alternative," said Fellows. The program will soon air in Billings, also.

► **Western Montana Libertarians** marched in the University of Montana homecoming parade in September. The Montana "Griz" are ranked in the top five of division 1-AA football.



NEWS photo by Ken Bush

Libertarian panelist Brad Ems, the 1994 LP U.S. House candidate in Missouri's 2nd District, challenges famous conservative **Phyllis Schlafly**. The cross examination by a libertarian panel followed Schlafly's speech entitled "My Half Century As a Political Activist." The event drew a packed auditorium for the St. Louis Area Libertarians' August monthly meeting. A video of the event is available by calling the SLAL's Liberty News Hotline at 314-997-8585.

New Jersey

State party member **Randy Enterline** of Somerset County filed a complaint with the New Jersey Department of Education against his local school board for spending tax money to produce a newsletter that exhorted residents to vote in favor of a \$54 million dollar referendum plan.

The voters rejected the plan in a March 28 election. "Over 3,000 people opposed the referendum but were forced to pay for

see **Affiliates** on page 5

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LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Affiliates

continued from page 4

a newsletter that promoted the school board's agenda," Enterline was quoted as saying in the local paper.

An administrative law judge was scheduled to rule on Enterline's complaint in September.

North Carolina

The state party is engaged in a lawsuit through the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals to secure ballot access in North Carolina. If the suit is decided in the LPNC's favor, ballot status will be granted automatically. If decided against the LPNC (or if no decision is handed down before November), the LPNC will need nearly 70,000 signatures to qualify for ballot status.

Since the outcome is unpredictable, the LPNC is beginning its petition drive now. To get a petition, contact the LPNC at 1708 Bayleaf Trail, Raleigh, NC 27614.

Ohio

➤ Four LP volunteer petitioners—**Heather Loughley, Scott Smith, Vicki Parsons, and Dena Bruedigam**—were told to leave the premises of the Dublin Branch of the Columbus Public Libraries recently as they were working to get a Dublin resident on the ballot as a candidate for Dublin City Council. The petitioners were standing outside collecting signatures from library patrons to allow **William J. Kammerer's** name to be placed on the ballot when Carolyn Moore, library circulation manager, told them that they could not continue to petition there.

"I knew that the library was public property and that Ms. Moore was out of line in her decision to make us leave," said Bruedigam, one of the four petitioners. "But when I politely explained that to her, she refused to give me her name and immediately called security." A few minutes later the four left the premises and continued their efforts elsewhere.

William Kammerer, candidate for the Dublin City Council, was shocked at his hometown library's actions and said that he never dreamed it would be so difficult to petition to get his name on the ballot in Dublin.

The petitioners are considering legal action against the library for the violation of their First Amendment rights.

➤ The **Miami Valley LP** held its Second Annual Liberty Fair Sept. 9 at Enon Beach Campground in Springfield.

This all-day outdoor event was designed to promote awareness of some of the critical political issues affecting or infringing upon personal liberties.

It was also an opportunity to show-case freedom-oriented organizations. Exhibitors included the Ohio and Miami Valley LPs, the Miami Valley Advocates for Liberty, True Blue Patriots, Miami Valley Association for Responsible Legislation, The Freedom Connection, Ohio Term Limits Coalition, Taxed Enough Already (TEA), E Pluribus Unum, and many others.

Dayton radio talk show host **Mark Williams** was on hand as the master of ceremonies.

There were lectures and workshops throughout the day, including workshops on how to go about founding and publicizing a new group. Additionally, there were games and activities for children of all ages, as well as a "Libertarian pig roast, the only

Libertarian pork you'll ever see," according to event publicity flyers.

Pennsylvania

In mid-September, the **Bucks County Libertarian Party (BCLP)** held its first annual picnic. The picnic was coordinated by **Wayne Siefert**. Proceeds from the picnic went to the operating budget of the BCLP and to the Victory '96 Fund.

South Carolina

➤ Several members of the **Aiken**

County LP were harassed and threatened with arrest for handing out LP literature at a recent local festival. The festival is held annually in the public park in the city of Aiken. LP members were handing out flyers containing information about the party, as they have done at the same festival for 10 years.

"I was standing in the park, handing out flyers, when the Chamber of Commerce (the festival sponsor) officials told me to leave or they would have me arrested," said **Tom King**, ACLP chair. "I explained I was exercising my First Amendment right of

free speech and political expression. They then called the police."

King said the police told him he was violating a city ordinance. "I asked what ordinance, and they told me they would go research it," King explained. "I informed them I'd be back in an hour. I returned with three party members, a video camera, and a tape recorder."

Upon his return to the park, King was approached by Chamber officials and city police and told to leave. This time the police

see **Affiliates** on page 6

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Affiliates

continued from page 5

said nothing about a city ordinance but instead claimed that the city park was not public property that weekend because the Chamber had rented it for the festival, said King. According to King, the police admitted the festival was open to the public with no admission charge. King continued to distribute flyers, and the police left. No arrests were made, although Chamber officials came over several more times and harassed the Libertarians, said King.

"We're considering legal action," said **Mary Lou Seymour**, state party secretary. "To allege that city property somehow becomes 'private property' if rented for a weekend event open to the public with no admission charge is absurd. Their own program calls the festival 'a community project.' For city police as well as Chamber of Commerce officials to exhibit such a high degree of intolerance and ignorance about the Constitution is pitiful, as well as dangerous to a free society."

Seymour said, "We have talked to an attorney and we need help with legal fees. We carried [one] election case to the U.S. Supreme Court, and we'll do the same with this if need be." To help or for more information, see address below.

► The state party has developed a poster and flyer, entitled "At Stake: Your Future, Your Freedom," designed to attract new "Generation X" members. Distribution of

the flyer at one local college and a street fair has already resulted in two new members and several inquiries. The flyers, as well as other LP material, will be distributed at the state fair and Aiken County Fair this month. For a copy of the new flyer/poster, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to **Mary Lou Seymour**, Secretary, Drawer Q, Bath, SC 29816.

West Virginia

Wallace D. Johnson, M.D., the 3rd Congressional District chair of the state LP, has filed pre-candidacy papers for the 1996 gubernatorial election. Johnson expects to formally announce his candidacy this month.

Johnson has selected state party officers **John K. Brown, David B. Wolfe, Roger Fritz**, and **John Sturgeon** to help run his campaign.

When asked about his candidacy, Johnson replied, "**Ed Clark** (1980 LP presidential candidate) summed it up best when he said, 'I'm not here to cut the fat out of government; I'm here to cut the muscle out of government.' Mine will be an issues-oriented campaign, no mud-slinging, no negative campaigning."

For more information, write Johnson for Governor in '96, David Wolfe, treasurer, P.O. Box 177, Philippi, WV 26416-0177.

Lett-Connors offer contract in NJ race

Austin Lett and Ray Connors recently announced the opening of their joint campaign to unseat what they called "the establishment bureaucrats" on the five-seat Chatham Township (NJ) Committee in this November's election.

The candidates spoke of their frustration with increased spending and regulation at all levels of government, and they expressed a strong desire to begin to reverse this trend.

"Both Austin and I believe in the libertarian principles of limited government along with personal freedom and personal responsibility," said Connors. "We are running under the motto, 'Libertarian: Slash taxes,'" he continued.

"We think that this is consistent with the words of Thomas Jefferson who said that the best government is that government that governs least. The current committee is increasing township taxes and spending by \$321,000 this year, with \$83,073 or 25.8 percent of that increase going to subsidize a private swimming and tennis club," he said. "We don't think that taxes should be collected from retirees on limited incomes to pay for other peoples' swimming and tennis."

"Ray Connors agreed to run with me

this year and the two of us put together a Contract With Chatham modeled after the Contract With America," said Lett. "It is a plan to slash local property taxes, cut down the size of government, and to begin to reduce regulations like the one that required me to purchase a permit to replace the deck on my house this year."

The Lett-Connors contract states: "If you elect us to the two open offices on the Chatham Township Committee, we will slash private property taxes for each homeowner in Chatham Township."

The contract also promises, among other things, to: sell the municipal building; enact a property owner's bill of rights; establish term limits for township offices; and protest wild county spending.

Lett, 54, is a managing director of an investment banking and venture capital firm in New York and Summit. He is a Vietnam veteran and was awarded a bronze star for combat operations. He is married and has two children.

Connors, 44, is a technical sales specialist for AT&T Global Markets. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard where his duties included assignment to the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, DC. He is married and has two children.

1995 Libertarian Party Candidates

The following is a list of 1995 Libertarian Party candidates who have been identified by the national LP campaign committee. Please send additions, corrections, and election results (as soon as possible) to the NEWS for inclusion in a future issue.

Arizona

Ed Kahn	Tucson Mayor
Gary Fallon	Phoenix Mayor
Jim Savoca	Phoenix City Council, District 1
Tim McDermott	Phoenix City Council, District 3
Robert Anderson	Phoenix City Council, District 5
Richard Duncan	Phoenix City Council, District 7

California

Tom Kohlhepp	State Assembly, Stockton
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Connecticut

John Joy	Oxford Selectman
Stanley Viens	Windham First Selectman
David Gauthier	Windham District Selectman
Marvin Edelman	Windham School Board
John Adamo	Windham School Board
William Rood	Windham Board of Finance
Joan Goetschius	Windham Board of Finance
Robert Langworthy	Windham Board of Finance
Theodore Misak	Windham Board of Finance
Carlton Harris	Windham Board of Finance
David Howe	Windham District Selectman
Maurice McClure	Windham District Selectman
Joseph Santa Lucia	Windham District Selectman
Gloria Haddad	Windham District Selectman
Francis Sellars	Windham District Selectman

Colorado

Dale Doelling	Grand Junction City Council
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Delaware

Lawrence Sullivan	State Representative, District 1
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Georgia

Bruce Van Buren	Avondale Estates City Commission
Dewayne Methaney	Auburn City Council

Louisiana

Mike Wolf	State Representative
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Maryland

Steve Ziegler	Charles County School Board
Lorenzo Gaztanaga	Baltimore City Council

Michigan

James Montgomery	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3
Richard Ask	Traverse City School Board
Glenn Barr	Walker City Council
Steve Butler	Grand Rapids City Commission, Ward 2
Phil Geno	Grand Haven City Council
Robert Toepfer	Warren City Council
William Carver	Roseville City Council
Walter White	Milan City City Council
Douglas Friedman	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 2
David Raaflaub	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4
Renee Emry	Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 5

New Jersey

Austin Lett	Chatham Township Committee
Ray Connors	Chatham Township Committee

Ohio

Jim Berns	Cincinnati School Board
Ralph Mullinger	Findlay City Council

Oregon

Nick Kirkpatrick	School Board
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Pennsylvania

Mark Messics	Orefield Township Supervisor
Grace Matelyn	West Bradford Township Supervisor
Brian McHugh	Abington Township Commissioner

Virginia

Eric Strzepek	State Senate, District 25
Paul Gagnon	Fairfax Co. Board of Supervisors, Lee District
Tomas Estrada-Palma	Prince William County Board of Supervisors
W. J. Bennett Rutledge	Fairfax County School Board

New advocate

LP member Harris new director for Advocates

Longtime Libertarian Party member Sharon Harris of Marietta, GA, has been chosen as executive director of the Advocates for Self-Government.

Current Advocates President Carole Ann Rand will remain president during a transition period of several months. After that, Rand will remain active in the organization as chairman of the board of directors.

"I'm delighted that we have found the perfect person to head the Advocates," Rand said. "Sharon brings the strengths, skills, experience, and deep commitment to libertarian principle that will help the Advocates grow to new heights."

Harris has been a libertarian since the late 1960s. She was a founding member of the Libertarian Party of Georgia in 1972, and she has played many roles in that organization, including executive committee member, newsletter editor, delegate to national LP conventions, campaign manager, and candidate. In 1988, she managed the LPGA's historic statewide Public Service Commission campaigns, which won enough votes to overcome Georgia's repressive ballot laws and win the party the ballot access it still enjoys today.

Last year Harris ran for Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture as a Libertarian, gaining 25 percent of the vote by winning more than 300,000 votes.

Harris has a degree in journalism and is a former editor of the Journal of the Medi-

cal Association of Georgia. She is a successful entrepreneur, having run her own book indexing company for many years, and she is a widely-published writer. An award-winning speaker, Harris is active in Toastmasters and speaks frequently on libertarian topics in the Atlanta area.

The Advocates for Self-Government is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization that provides tools and training to help libertarians become persuasive and effective communicators of the freedom philosophy, and presents libertarian ideas in an attractive and persuasive manner to the public. The Advocates are perhaps best known among libertarians for creating the "World's Smallest Political Quiz." More than 2,500,000 copies of the quizzes have been printed since that tool was introduced in 1987. Other Advocates tools include "Operation Politically Homeless," a highly successful outreach booth that makes it easy for libertarians to quickly identify large numbers of potential libertarians and get their names and addresses.

New Advocates projects include an increased presence on the Internet (which was featured prominently in a recent Rolling Stone magazine article), and "Welcome Home," a program designed to place literature from numerous prominent libertarian organizations (including the Libertarian Party, CATO, Reason, Liberty, Imprimis, Laissez Faire Books, Liberty Tree Books,



Sharon Harris - new executive director of the Advocates for Self-Government

the Foundation for Economic Education, and others) into the mailboxes of thousands of new libertarians.

"I am honored to be chosen for this position," Harris said. "America is ripe and ready for libertarian ideas, and the Advocates have a crucial role to play in getting our ideas out to the public. Our job is to provide the libertarian movement with the

tools and techniques that will win the hearts and minds of Americans hungry to regain our heritage of self-government.

"I've used Advocates tools and techniques myself for many years, and I know how effective they can be," said Harris. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with libertarians around the world to spread the ideas of freedom."

To learn more about the Advocates and to get a catalog of Advocates products, call them at 1-800-932-1776, or write: Advocates for Self-Government, 3955 Pleasantdale Road, #106-A, Atlanta, GA 30340.

You can also check out their Web page - <http://www.self-gov.org> - which features an interactive version of the World's Smallest Political Quiz.

Atlanta gets '98 convention

The Libertarian Party National Committee decided at its recent meeting that the 1998 national convention will be held in Atlanta.

The responsibility for planning the national convention will be assumed by the national party rather than an independent contractor. Changes in FEC financial reporting regulations led to this move.

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- Factsheet Five

FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

"Most people can agree that much of what is on television today is objectionable to many parents. For instance, many Republicans are routinely offended by graphic displays of people not accepting Jesus Christ as their personal savior."

"The problem with private industry is its focus on researching only products that have a potential to make a profit, that is, products that are desired by a great many people. Government research ensures this prejudice is overcome so that products nobody wants will always be in ample supply in America."

"A St. Louis jury recently awarded \$90 million to a woman who was paralyzed when a Suzuki Samurai in which she was riding rolled over. The small sport utility vehicle is more prone to roll over than cars that are not sport utility vehicles due in part to its characteristically high center of gravity. Such hazards are rampant in the automotive world. Readers should note with alarm that Toyota Corollas are more prone to have less mass than Chevrolet Caprices and that motorcycles are prone to have fewer wheels."

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'95 campaign

Wolf now running for state rep. in Louisiana

Libertarian Party member Michael Wolf announced recently that he will be a candidate for election to the Louisiana House of Representatives, District 68, in the open primary election to be held on Oct. 21, 1995.

Wolf had been a candidate for the Louisiana State Senate seat held by Jay Dardenne (Senate District 16) when State Rep. Sean Reilly announced that he would not seek re-election.

In a statement released to the news media and his supporters, Wolf said: "Before announcing my candidacy for the Senate, I checked to see whether Sean Reilly was going to run for re-election. Sean had usually supported constitutional values in the legislature, and he had helped me and other Libertarians in trying to reform the Louisiana Election Code to open our elections to competition from new parties and independent candidates. Sean said he would run for re-election, so I began a campaign for the Senate seat I had first run for in 1991.

"Unlike Rep. Reilly, Sen. Dardenne opposes the very personal, private rights of our citizens to make their own decisions about reproduction and family planning. In running against Dardenne for the Senate, my principal goal was to help move the politicians in our state back toward constitutional values and away from the demagoguery, corruption, and incompetence with which they have been bedeviling us.

"Now that Sean has decided not to seek re-election, I have decided to run for the open seat in my House district.

"In this race I will continue to call for a restoration of constitutional values and an end to our Banana Republic of foolishness and mediocrity. The essence of my platform is my conviction that the only way to raise the general standard of living in Louisiana is for the people of Louisiana to start taking more responsibility for themselves, their families, and their communities. We must start thinking for ourselves and stop expecting the government to do our thinking for us.

"We should stop expecting the government to do our family planning or to pay for our children if we can't afford them. We should stop expecting the government to guarantee us the kinds of jobs we'd like or the salaries and profits we wish to earn. We should be responsible for all the injuries we cause to others. No one should be excused from criminal guilt or civil liability because of 'insanity' or incompetence.

"Restoring the constitutional values that made America great also means that our legislature must fulfill its constitutional responsibility to act as a check on reckless policies of the federal government that seriously injure the people of our state.

"A tragic example of disastrous federal action that our legislature could help curb is the forcing of inflation and poverty on our

people through Washington's irresponsible fiscal and monetary policies. Three times during the 1970s our legislators voted to force Congress to cut its spending by passing a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Then, just a few years ago (1990), the Louisiana Legislature rescinded its support for a balanced budget amendment.

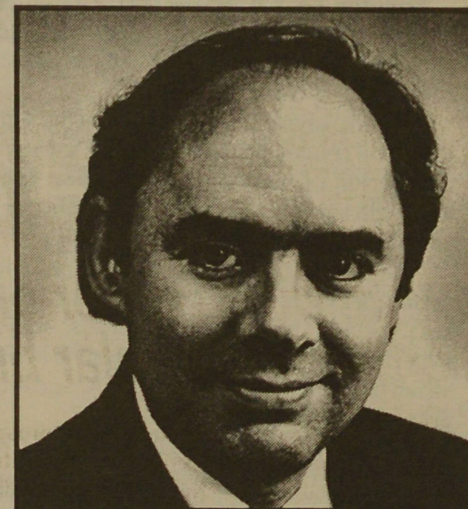
"In fact our legislature has been so irresponsible and wasteful about its own spending that our per capita state debt and the costs of servicing it are about the highest in the country.

"Louisiana can become prosperous and secure by following the principles that produced the wealth of America in the first place. By hard work, cooperation with our neighbors, and caring about the justice and goodness of our communities, we can build a better state for the new century."

Concerning the potential field of candidates seeking to replace Rep. Reilly, Wolf said: "I believe I will be the best qualified candidate in the District 68 race, and that my chances of winning are very good.

"I have an excellent background in education and experience for the position of state representative, including a political science degree from Stanford, a law degree from LSU, and 22 years of law practice in a wide variety of professional fields—civil, criminal, public, and private.

"I'm a lifelong Baton Rougean. My wife, Lessie Johnson, has been a public school teacher in Baton Rouge for over 20 years. We have a wonderful daughter, Elyse, who is a senior this year at Baton Rouge High School.



"I have demonstrated my commitment to improving our community by years of moral leadership and public service in the Baton Rouge area. I have proven my leadership abilities by being among the first in Louisiana to propose market-based reforms in education and economic development, to call for term limits on elected officials and for reform of our Election Code, to oppose racial gerrymandering, and to work for honest reform of our criminal justice system.

"I believe I can count on the support of the large group of independent voters in District 68, including many of the Democrats and Republicans who don't vote blindly for candidates wearing their parties' labels. I expect to have the support of all voters concerned about restoring constitutional values like the right to privacy, personal responsibility, and sensible government."

Why Do We Allow The Government to Take Away Voters' Right to Choose?

American politics are divided by our plurality voting system into two parties. The American people are not. What gets in voters' way is our "all-or-nothing" plurality system in which up to 49% of the vote in a single-member district often means no representation -- and no power. When so many votes are "wasted," the way that single-member districts are drawn during redistricting can determine which party wins or loses for ten years. And who draws the districts? Legislators who then run in those districts!

As Bill Redpath argues in this issue of the *LP News*, we need to look at proportional representation (PR) voting systems where 10% of the vote earns 10% of seats and more Libertarian candidates would win. Join Bill and an impressive array of reformers at the 1995 conference of The Center for Voting and Democracy, the nation's leading pro-PR organization:

The *From Here to Democracy* conference is on **November 11-12, 1995** in **Boston**. It features panels on going beyond the two-party system, building a pro-democracy movement and much more. To register or find out more information, please send this form to the Center (address below):

Registration for National Conference on Proportional Representation

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

_____ Sat. only: \$15 enclosed _____ Sunday only: \$15 enclosed
 _____ Weekend: \$30 enclosed _____ Weekend (student): \$15

The Center for Voting and Democracy, 6905 Fifth Street, NW, Suite 200,
 Washington, DC 20012 (202) 828-3062

Turnout

continued from page 1
 testify, and Winter said the national office is working to make arrangements.

"They made it clear that they are just interested in corporate and government officials with downsizing 'success' stories," he said. "So, we're contacting all the elected and appointed Libertarians in each state to see if they have any specific, concrete success stories. If they qualify, we will contact the committee and try to get them scheduled."

Winter said that to encourage state party participation, the national office sent a comprehensive "Action Kit" to state chairs in the states where the hearings are being held entitled "Reform and Oversight Committee Hearings: What You Can Do!"

The package listed a series of recommended activities, including:

- Arranging for at least one credible, presentable LP spokesperson to speak during the "open mike" segment.
- Sending out a press release announcing state party participation in the hearings process.
- Contacting state members and encouraging them to attend the hearing.
- Making arrangements for distribution of LP literature at the hearing.

For any individual Libertarian who plans to attend the hearings and try to speak,

Winter suggested:

- Be professionally dressed.
- Identify yourself as a Libertarian Party member.
- Have a prepared statement; don't try to "wing it."

• Make specific, realistic recommendations. For example, a statement that the committee should "abolish the federal government" will do no good. Make suggestions they will actually consider—and perhaps use.

• Be polite, and stay calm. Avoid personal insults, threats, or yelling.

• Steer clear of heavy doses of philosophy—you're not going to change these politicians' lifelong beliefs. Instead, emphasize the practical benefits of your suggestions. Make your reasons clear, precise, and compelling.

"And finally, contact us and tell us what you did," urged Winter. "We want to report back to the committee about Libertarian Party activities. The more we do to help make these hearings a success, the more likely it is that they will ask us to help them again in the future, and the more influence we'll have on their 'downsizing' agenda."



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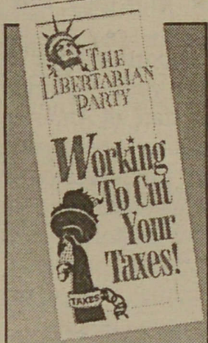
In other words, do you need to "beef up" your library of LP outreach materials?

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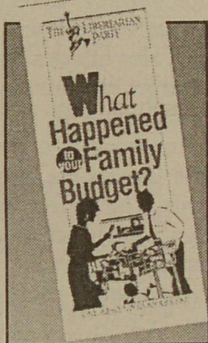
- ✱ *What Happened to the Family Budget?*
- ✱ *The Libertarian Party: Working to Cut Your Taxes!*
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(NOTE: This offer is good until October 31, 1995. Only the three brochures listed above are eligible for this special price.)



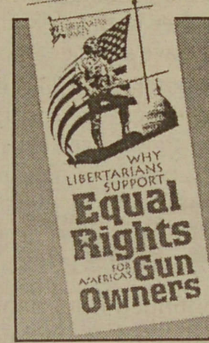
■ **The Libertarian Party: Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). Outlines how Libertarians would drastically reduce taxes and government spending. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 200



■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Hard-hitting look at how government impoverishes the "typical" family through taxes and inflation. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 200



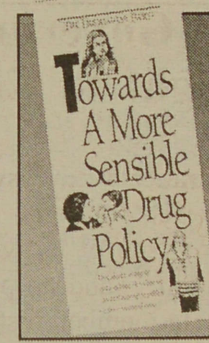
■ **Solving the Health Care Crisis.** Brochure, 2-color (maroon & black). Part of Project Healthy Choice, detailing the LP's innovative 5-point free market health care reform proposals. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 200



■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains the LP's pro-Second Amendment position, and defends the right to own guns. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's 5-point Operation Safe Streets "Crime Control" program. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Compares Drug Prohibition to alcohol prohibition; discusses the Prohibition/crime link; argues for legalization. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

Literature

■ **Libertarianism in One Lesson** by David Bergland. 126 pages, 6th edition. The classic, critically praised introductory work about Libertarianism. **Cost:** \$8 each or 5 for \$25

■ **LP Platform.** 24 pages, dark purple ink. The 1994 platform of the LP, with the "official" party positions on individual rights and civil order, trade, the economy, domestic concerns, and foreign affairs. **Cost:** Sample: \$1 or \$50 for 100

■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights from 1971 to 1993) and 2-page bibliography (over 150 books about Libertarianism). Sold as a set only. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. An excellent overview of Libertarian philosophy, covering politics, free markets, social issues, and more! **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz** cards. Perfect for "politically homeless" booths, and an excellent low-cost hand-out! **Cost:** \$1 for 100

Tools for Campaigning

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party—Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each: general, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. **Cost:** \$3 for set

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape compilation of TV ads by LP candidates, from State Representative to President. (For information only; not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning.** 32-page handbook written especially for LP candidates. **Cost:** \$3.00 each

Buttons

Cost: All buttons are \$1 each or 75¢ for 5 or more.

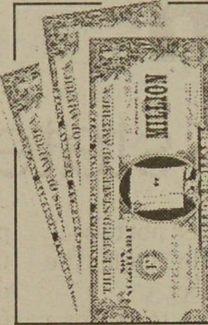
■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776



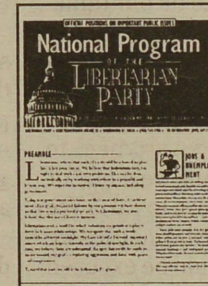
■ **Liberty Today** tabloid newspaper. Most recent updated 4th edition, with several new articles! 12 pages, green & black ink, numerous photographs throughout the issue. Probably the most comprehensive one-piece overview of Libertarian Party activities, history, politics, personalities, and philosophy. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100



■ **"Million Dollar Bill."** Green ink. Front: A faux \$1,000,000 bill. Reverse: Highlights Federal spending (\$1 million every five seconds) and the LP alternative. Perfect for Tax Day or general outreach. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Flyer, maroon ink. Our hard-hitting outreach to the gun rights community, listing 10 compelling reasons why the Libertarian Party deserves their support. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, maroon ink. Details LP positions on education, employment, political corruption, health care, and violence & crime. Provides steps the LP would take immediately to solve these problems. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100



■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk, with several different sizes and versions of the LP logo. **Cost:** \$3 each



■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). New introductory brochure, giving general overview of the Libertarian Party. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

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Brochure: "Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again"

Brochure: "Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy"

Flyer: "Which Political Party / 100% Pro-Gun Rights?"

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Libertarianism in One Lesson book

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Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776

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Buttons

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LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk

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Libertarian TV Ads

Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning manual.

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New way to vote?

Proportional voting system would benefit the LP

By BILL REDPATH

Commentary

As an LP member for 11 years, many times I have heard the claim that the two-party system is near an end. And not just by Libertarians.

Oh, how I wish that were so.

True, about 150 Libertarians currently hold public office (and that is double the number of two years ago), and 6 percent of the votes cast for the U.S. House in 1994 went to independent and third-party candidates. Polls show that over 50 percent of the American people would like to see a third major party. And a recent poll estimated that 22 percent of the American public is at least fairly libertarian.

So, is the two-party system approaching extinction? Are we about to witness the birth of a multi-party system in America, with the Libertarian Party right up there with the Republicans and Democrats?

Don't bet on it. At least not as long as we maintain our present system of voting. The U.S. is among the few democracies (all descendants of the United Kingdom) of the world that retain a Single Member Plurality (SMP) voting system. We divide legislatures into single member districts, voters have only one vote to cast, and only the person receiving the most votes wins. Under such a system, the game for candidates for public office becomes one of trying to be all things to all voters and to offend the fewest people possible. This is why candidates don't take detailed or controversial positions. If you take six positions, each of which offend 10 percent of the electorate, you're finished. De-emphasis of issues and thematic campaigns, so roundly criticized as being problems of the American political system, are nearly an inevitable result of our SMP voting system. This system is "winner take all", the most egregious form of which is our Electoral College. With "winner take all", a significant portion of the electorate, including Libertarians, end up without any true representation in legislatures.

Other results of SMP voting are voter alienation, low voter turnout, the perception (and reality) of wasted votes, district gerrymandering, candidates appealing to "the center" (translation: avoiding the issues), and the resultant two-party monopoly. District gerrymandering engineers the results of elections before they occur through the blatantly political drawing of district boundaries. And with more sophisticated population data and computer technology, gerrymandering will only get worse. Libertarians should be bothered by this both philosophically and pragmatically.

The emerging democracies of this world have taken a look at SMP voting and have unanimously chosen other forms of voting that can be classified by one phrase: proportional representation. There are many different types of proportional representation (PR) voting, but they all fall into three general types of PR voting: 1) party list voting; 2) an additional member system; and 3) preference voting (also called "single transferable voting").

With party list voting, voters vote for a party and, possibly, particular candidates.

Seats within a legislature are allocated based upon the party vote, with a state treated as one large district. If the LP were to get 10 percent of the vote for a state legislature, Libertarians would get 10 percent of the seats. With a closed party list system, each party would determine which members got seats in the legislature. With an open party list system, the public would vote particular party members into office.

The additional member system is used in Germany and has aspects of both the party list vote and our SMP system. Voters would vote for both a candidate to represent their district and their favorite party. I'll use the Virginia House of Delegates to illustrate this. Instead of 100 single member districts, there would be 50 single member district elections that would fill half of the legislature based upon SMP elections. The other half of the legislature would be allocated to parties based upon the outcome of the party list vote. If Libertarians got zero elected through the district SMP elections, but got 10 percent of the party vote, then 10 percent of the House's seats would be filled by elected Libertarians (assuming the party vote would compensate for 0 seats won through the SMP vote). With a non-compensating system, only five Libertarians would be appointed to the legislature.

With preference voting (STV), multi-member districts are created (or there is only one district, say a county or city) and voters step into the voting booth and mark their preferences: This candidate is my first choice, this is my second choice, third, fourth, etc. Based upon the number of seats to be filled, a threshold number of votes is established at which point a candidate is elected to office. (With a city council of nine seats, the threshold would be a little over 10 percent of the vote). When someone is elected, that candidate's excess votes above this threshold are reallocated to those voters' second choices, then third choices, etc., until there are no more excess votes for winning candidates to be reallocated. Then the last place candidate is eliminated and his or her votes are reallocated to voters' second choices. This process of reallocating the excess votes of winners and the votes of losing candidates is repeated until the elected body has been filled. Used for voting in 20 U.S. cities earlier this century, it now survives in only Cambridge, MA, city council elections and New York City School Board elections.

In all three of these systems, a candidate can get elected to public office by appealing to only a minority of voters, and not be forced to be either "in the mainstream" or unelectable.

States and lower governmental entities can select their own ways of voting. For the U.S. House, a law passed in 1967 mandating single member districts is the only barrier to PR voting for U.S. House elections. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA), whose badly gerrymandered district was recently declared unconstitutional by the

U.S. Supreme Court, has introduced legislation that would allow states to use whatever method of voting they want to fill their U.S. House delegation.

It would take a constitutional amendment for PR voting to occur in U.S. Senate elections. However, majority preference voting (where losers' votes are reallocated until one candidate has a majority) could occur in U.S. Senate elections and other single winner races. This would, I think, greatly help LP vote totals, because many voters would vote Libertarian with their first choice knowing their vote could be transferred to their next favorite candidate if the Libertarian doesn't win. Under SMP voting, because votes can't be transferred, many voters don't vote for their truly favorite candidate because they fear that by doing so they will help elect the candidate they most despise.

There are several objections to proportional representation voting. (And we know who'll be doing most of the objecting: The Rs, Ds, and entities, individual and otherwise, who have a big investment in the current system.)

One is that it's too complicated. Although the calculations involved can be somewhat complicated, the mechanics of PR voting are not. One good response to this is, "Your objection implies that Americans are dumber than Europeans." That will usually end that objection.

Another objection is that it takes too long to find out who won the elections. Computer technology makes this argument false. But, after months (if not years) of campaigning, and assumption of office usually a couple of months away, why do we have to know on election night who won?

PR voting also is not about racial set-asides or racial groups winning a predetermined number of seats, but rather about more voters getting a chance to win the representation they want by having their votes much more likely count toward a candidate's election.

And one important thing! As a method of election, proportional representation is completely different than a parliamentary system, which describes the structure of governance. We can still have stable governments with PR voting.

Without a change from SMP voting to some form of PR voting, the only path for long-term electoral success, particularly at the federal level, lies in either displacing an existing "major party", or in having one of them completely co-opt our agenda. Both are historically rare events.

Until recently, I had little hope of seeing any form of PR established in the United States. However, the recent Supreme Court decision declaring racially gerrymandered districts unconstitutional and the success of term limit initiatives and referenda have opened the door to introducing PR voting into American elections.

In light of the Supreme Court ruling on the unconstitutionality of Georgia's 11th U.S. House District, African-Americans and Hispanics, who have been relying on racially gerrymandered districts, may be open to supporting PR as an alternative. PR has the added advantage of providing real rep-

“ We need to become leaders in the drive toward proportional representation voting in the United States. ”

resentation without racial set-asides or quotas. Add to that the support of other minority groups, disenfranchised Democrats and Republicans in lopsided districts, and frustrated independents, and the possibility exists to put together a solid majority in favor of PR.

Of course, we can't expect incumbent politicians to possibly reform themselves out of a job. That's why the 25 states that allow initiatives and referenda are so important. The term limit movement demonstrated that the voters can prevail even in the face of the determined opposition of incumbent politicians. They can be successful in establishing a PR beachhead as well. In fact, proportional representation initiative campaigns are already under way that would impact municipal elections in Seattle, WA, and Eugene, OR.

The next redistricting cycle is only six years away. This offers a great target for getting states to let the people, not the mapmakers, determine who their representatives will be.

It also offers a great opportunity for Libertarian candidates. SMP voting is largely responsible for the sad state of American democracy: Ever decreasing voter turnout, and the choice between the lesser of two evils. The American people have said that they want to see more viable choices on the ballot. We need to let them know that a proportional representation system may be the only way to get these choices.

To those of you who think this sort of change is impossible, I readily admit that it will be an uphill fight. But, it is absolutely not impossible. No doubt many people thought slavery would always exist, that women would never vote, that the Berlin Wall would never fall. Change is possible, but it's not going to happen until we know what we're aiming for and why.

For us, as a party, to move forward and really succeed, we need to recognize what's holding us back. Libertarians have to recognize that a two-party monopoly is the inevitable result of our SMP voting system, and that the system must be changed. We need to become leaders in the drive toward proportional representation voting in the United States.

If you want to learn more about Proportional Representation voting, write the Center for Voting and Democracy (CVD), of which I am a board member, 6905 5th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012, or call 202-882-7378 for information. CVD is holding a conference in Cambridge, MA, on Nov. 10-12, 1995, which will include sessions on proportional voting. I also recommend the book "Real Choices, New Voices: The Case for Proportional Representation Elections in the U.S.," by Douglas J. Amy (Columbia University Press, 1993).

Media blitz

LP heard across nation

The national LP enjoyed a major radio publicity blitz in August, appearing on more than 500 radio stations around the country—and bringing the Libertarian message to tens of thousands of populist-leaning listeners.

National LP Chair Steve Dasbach was the guest on one We The People Radio Network program, and National Director Perry Willis, New Hampshire State Rep. Don Gorman, and Director of Communications Bill Winter appeared on a different show a week later.

"It was a chance to reach an audience we don't normally reach," said Winter, noting that the network attracts primarily a populist/conservative audience.

On Aug. 9, Dasbach appeared on the "Washington On Trial" program, hosted by Jerry Hughes, which is broadcast on 200-plus stations.

"In general, it went very positively," said Dasbach, who described the callers as "basically suspicious of big government, but also concerned about moral issues. That's where I used the Ransberger Pivot idea that morality comes from choosing what is right—there's no morality in having the choice forced on you. It's not up to the government to define sin."

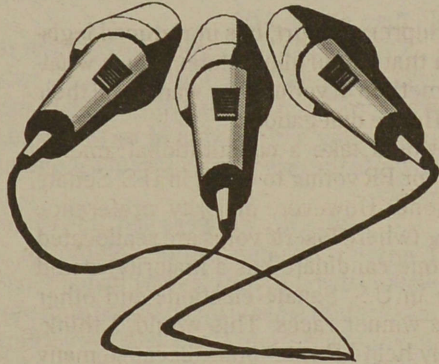
Dasbach said the host "indicated that he liked a lot of what we had to say—he had [only] a few disagreements."

On Aug. 17, Willis, Gorman, and Winter each did a one-hour stint on the Chuck Harder Show, broadcast from the We The People radio/television studios in Washington, DC. Harder's radio program is heard on more than 300 radio stations; his companion TV show is distributed to 80 television stations, three cable networks, and seven million satellite dishes.

Harder, who has made a name for himself as a proponent of government protectionism, relentlessly grilled Willis for close to an hour on the LP's free trade position.

"I think it gave us a great opportunity to clearly differentiate ourselves from the failed policies of protectionism, which impoverish consumers and cost Americans jobs," said Willis. "I didn't convince Mr. Harder, but I think some of his listeners realized that the Libertarian Party has something to offer."

Willis said he thought he held his own in the debate, stressing the LP's message that free trade benefits all consumers—and refuting Harder's "utopian expectation that everyone can maintain the same job at the



The LP's 800-number service reported receiving hundreds of phone calls following Harder's show.

same wage for life."

Gorman, who flew down from New Hampshire to appear on the show, said he especially enjoyed taking calls from around the country. "Being on the show was a fantastic opportunity in that we were actually speaking to the people themselves. The people talked to us, and we talked to them—one to one. It was 300 stations, or whatever, but it isn't radio stations—it's people. I thoroughly enjoy that."

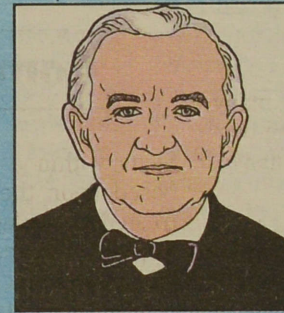
Winter said that Harder seemed to have a different focus than his listeners—especially the ones who called in. "Parts of the show were somewhat contentious because Mr. Harder is obsessed with the idea of foreigners taking American jobs. Fortunately, his listeners seemed to have a broader agenda, at least one-third of the callers were simply curious about other LP positions, and one-third were very supportive of what we had to say."

The LP's 800-number service reported receiving hundreds of phone calls following Harder's show, and a staff technician at a radio station in Knoxville, TN, called the headquarters to say he was so impressed by what he heard that he would volunteer to run public service announcements about the party on his station.

Also in August, national LP staff members appeared on radio talk shows in Syracuse, NY; Norfolk, VA; Miami, FL; and Athens, GA. In addition, Willis appeared on two national cable TV networks: National Empowerment Television and NewsTalk TV.

Rating justice

Justice John Paul Stevens



Personal liberty cases: 88% pro liberty

Economic freedom cases: 38% pro liberty

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor



Personal liberty cases: 50% pro liberty

Economic freedom cases: 75% pro liberty

Justice Clarence Thomas



Personal liberty cases: 50% pro liberty

Economic freedom cases: 75% pro liberty

Justice David H. Souter



Personal liberty cases: 75% pro liberty

Economic freedom cases: 38% pro liberty

Court rated

continued from page 1

The most surprising thing about the 1994-1995 session was the large number of key cases that were decided by 9-0 or 8-1 decisions. In some cases (Rubin vs. Coors—involving commercial free speech, and Wilson vs. Arkansas—involving the knock and announce rule)—a libertarian perspective controlled the court. In others (U.S. vs. Robertson—involving RICO statutes, and Witte vs. U.S.—involving the Sentencing Commission) the court took an overwhelmingly authoritarian position. Only 30 of the cases considered involved close decisions. In the three close economic freedom cases the libertarian position prevailed in each, and in the two personal liberty cases the authoritarian position prevailed.

The overall philosophical outlook of the Supreme Court and its individual members remains inconsistent. The court has moved in recent years towards a recognition of property rights in the "takings" area and has expanded commercial free speech. It

also has resisted erosion of political speech. However, the court has granted new powers that have emerged in the drug war era such as Fourth Amendment reductions and RICO powers. Almost half of the key court issues this year centered on drug war violation cases, and the drug war continued both to clog our court systems and to erode our constitutional liberties.

Ratings for each individual justice were as follows, with the economic freedom rating followed by personal liberty rating: O'Connor: 75%/50%; Kennedy: 75%/50%; Souter: 38%/75%; Thomas: 75%/50%; Scalia: 75%/38%; Rehnquist: 75%/38%; Breyer: 38%/63%; Ginsberg: 38%/50%; and Stevens: 38%/88%.

Copies of the 12-page review of 16 key cases and the voting records of the individual justices can be obtained from Don Ernsberger, 865 Meadowood Lane, Warminster, PA 18974 for \$10.

LP World Wide Web

<http://www.lp.org/lp/>

Online LP NEWS

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Online LP Platform

<http://www.lp.org/lp/platform/>

State Party Information

<http://www.lp.org/lp/lp-aff.html>

LP member witnesses state execution

By DAVID M. HOLDEN

Commentary

On my way headed south on rural Highway 21, as I passed through several counties in my leisurely one and a half hour drive from St. Louis, I thought of four years ago, almost to the hour, when I witnessed the birth of my daughter. This morning at an early hour on her anniversary, I wasn't traveling to a happy birthday party, rather I was headed to the maximum security prison in Potosi, Missouri, to see the solemn execution of Mr. Larry Griffin.

Griffin, 41, had the usual "rap sheet" of a repeat offender—repeated burglaries, robberies, felony assaults, and second and first degree murder, in addition to major and minor drug offenses. He had spent time in some of Missouri's finer penal institutions, with many of his sentences running concurrently.

My point in witnessing the execution of Griffin was not to affect public policy on the necessity of the death penalty, which I do support. I see the death penalty as a proper use of force in the application of justice.

Rather, I wanted to be an "official witness" to determine if the way executions are carried out in Missouri (and other states that operate similarly) are proper. At issue was not the question of, "Is lethal injection better than a firing squad or hanging?", but it was about the inability of the public to be present and witness the event.

Before 1937 in Missouri, executions were carried out by hanging by the sheriff in the county of the occurrence. The citizens of Missouri, to my knowledge, are as adult now as then and could no doubt take the viewing of such a gruesome event.

It took one year from the time I wrote to the director of the Department of Corrections (DOC) asking to be a volunteer until the time I actually became a witness. I was contacted several times in between, but there were appeals and delays.

When I was first contacted by the DOC, it was not more than two weeks since I had started a new job with a major life insurance company (ironically, I suppose). My district manager, who is a very tolerant man and is aware of my political involvement and aspirations, was somewhat disturbed when I explained that I wouldn't be in the office the morning following the execution since I would be up very late driving home. While speaking with him, he explained to me that he had been witness to several executions—the "field type"—in Vietnam, most being somewhat "secret" where the condemned was shot in the head point

blank. His story influenced my opinion.

During the drive to Potosi, I was relatively calm. Upon approaching the prison that began to change. The prison is located far from St. Louis and the night was as black as ink, but as I got close to the prison's road, the sky out in the distance was illuminated like a ball field. Concertina wire, barbed wire, cyclone fence, and tall ball field lights stretched as far as the eye could see, complemented by shotgun toting, Ninja-dressed guards at the entrance.

When I drove up, I was ID'd no less than three times within about 50 yards, each time the guards checking my ID against a list of names and looking into my car.

The most freedom I had during my voluntary incarceration was the 20 seconds it took to walk from my automobile on the prison parking lot to the entrance of the prison itself. In that brief walk, Carolyn Tuft, a reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, commented that she had followed me much of the way to the prison. She must have made note of the bumpersticker on my car that read "Criminals Prefer Unarmed Victims", because she printed it in her newspaper story the following morning.

My ID was checked again, as I entered the building, by a man looking very official wearing a dress shirt, tie, and radio headset. The reporter and I were required, like all visitors, to empty our pockets, and after passing through metal detectors we were told to place our belongings in small gym sized lockers and given the keys. I was allowed to keep enough change for a soft drink.

Media personnel were then separated from state's witnesses, I speculated this was because of their need for electronic gear and cameras. From that moment on, no one was out of the sight of either a prison guard or official. I was escorted by a matronly stone-faced woman to an employee lounge to wait. It was now 9:30 p.m.

By 10:30 p.m. there were six witnesses and one official waiting in the lounge. If everything went according to schedule, we were to be briefed and told of our "official duties" as witnesses, but we were told that last minute appeals were delaying matters a bit. During the wait, I learned that of the other witnesses, all men, two worked for the DOC and were asked to be witnesses because the state has difficulty finding

enough volunteers. Another witness was a tenured professor of criminology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He expressed some interest in my libertarianism. Another witness was the sheriff of Pettis County, MO.

Our moods were good throughout the wait, which extended past 2:30 a.m., when we were informed that the appeals were concluding and we should be prepared to travel to the prison infirmary at a moment's notice.

At 3:30 a.m. we were led downstairs. Everyone became rather solemn as we walked through the clean white halls, passing through several mechanized doorways, waiting for each to close with a reverberating clang behind us. Passing through an exterior courtyard, we entered the infirmary and were led to a closet-sized courtroom. As "official witnesses," it was our job simply to observe the state of the condemned when the curtains were lifted, see that he was alive, listen as we were told that the three lethal drugs were administered, and told of his death by a medical doctor who observed out of sight.

The briefing took about five minutes, and then we were led into another room to witness the event. A stepped platform with chairs on two walls of the execution chamber faced small windows in the walls, the windows were covered.

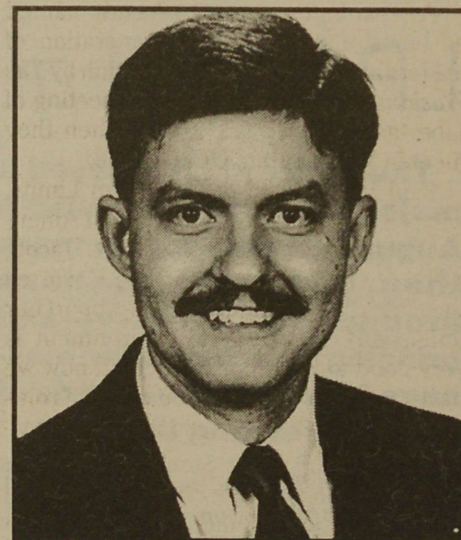
At this point I was a bit anxious and warm, remembering my manager's story about the "executions" in Vietnam. We all sat and waited and I noticed what sounded like gasping coming from the execution chamber. A moment later, the spokesman notified us that the execution was about to begin and the first drug would be administered. The curtains were raised.

Larry Griffin lay there on a gurney, feet first, covered in a white sheet with IV tubes leading from the wall behind his head up under the sheet to his arm.

Griffin was asleep and snoring. My mood changed from anxiety to amazement when I realized the sound I had heard moments before was snoring. Griffin had apparently requested a sedative about 8 p.m. before the witnesses had even arrived at the prison.

The first drug was given, which stopped his breathing. Then the second drug and finally the third lethal drug were administered.

Griffin was pronounced dead at 3:45 a.m. Promptly upon the announcement of death,



LP member David Holden served as an "official witness" at a Missouri execution in June.

the curtains were dropped and we were quickly led to another room. It was there that each of us, including the media members, signed the affidavit stating that the execution was completed.

The execution itself appeared well planned and professionally done. In short, it was benign, non-violent, and sterile. For someone who murdered another human being, his death was not violent enough.

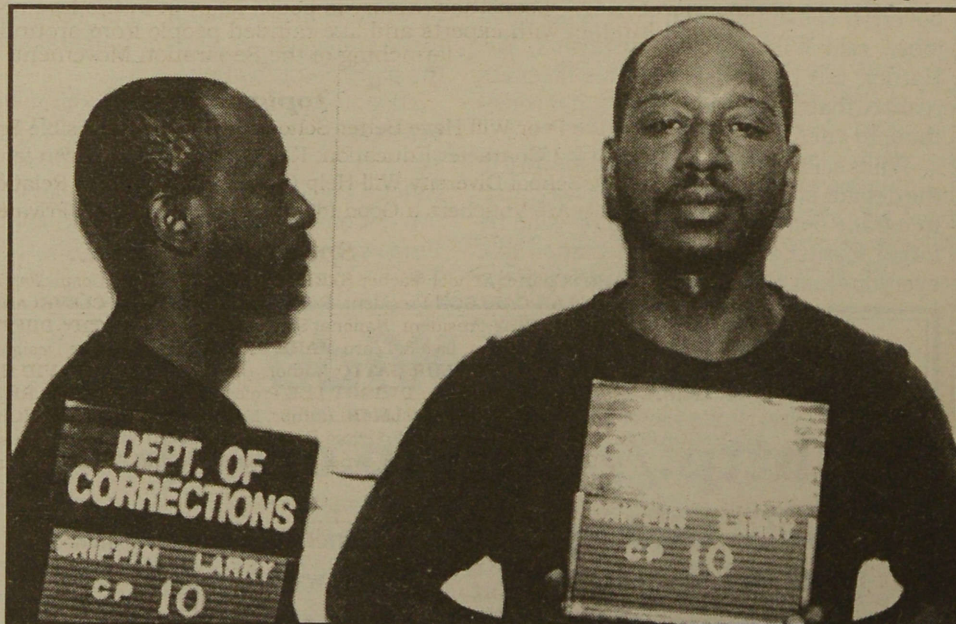
What changed the way we perform executions? Technology has no doubt played a role in the method of execution, as well as the constitutional necessity to be free from "cruel and unusual punishment." Missouri first introduced the use of the gas chamber in 1937. Because the condemned had to be separated from those viewing because of the lethal gas, it required special amenities. Lethal injection is not much different, since it uses hospital-like settings.

Because of the elite atmosphere the state created for executions, Missouri has difficulty in locating enough volunteers to serve as witnesses. If the executions were held in a more public setting—say the town square by hanging—there is little doubt that a crowd of witnesses would be attracted.

Capital punishment is not likely to be a "deterrent" for the criminal intent on committing a capital offense. In the eyes of many, myself included, capital punishment is simply justice for heinous offenses.

Here in Missouri and throughout the U.S., we still have a government that is

see **Witness** on page 13



Larry Griffin, above, was executed in Missouri on June 21, 1995. LP member David Holden acted as an "official witness" at the execution.

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State chairs to meet

A Washington activist recently named as being among the new generation of leaders at the heart of the revolution by *The Washington Post* will address a meeting of Libertarian Party state chairs when they meet in Washington, DC, Oct. 6-8.

Paul Jacob, head of U.S. Term Limits, will present, "The New Realities of American Politics: What the People Want." Jacob, a former national director of the LP, will tell the state chairs that the people support our philosophy, the political environment is very good for our movement, and now we have to move away from "educational" roles into the how-to's of implementing our vision.

In addition to Jacob, the group also will hear a presentation from Donald Lambro, chief political correspondent of *The Washington Times* and a nationally syndicated columnist. Lambro will focus on the realities of politics and tell attendees what they have to do if they want the LP to be taken seriously by the year 2000.

As of press time, 22 state chairs had registered for the event. Friday night activities include a reception for the state chairs and open house at the LP's new national party headquarters in the Watergate. Saturday will feature Jacob's speech and a busy agenda focusing on building state membership, effective communication, fund raising, and strategic planning for success, including the roles of various party levels. On Sunday morning, LP National Chair Steve Dasbach will address the group.

This meeting was originally organized in May by state chairs Gail Lightfoot, CA; David Aitken, CO; Gene A. Cisewski, DC; Wayne Parker, LA; Jesse Markowitz, MD; Richard E. Sincere Jr., VA; and Ron Emery, WI.

For more information about the event, you may contact local coordinator Gene Cisewski at The Monticello Group in Washington by telephone at 202-483-4051 or via the Internet at MontiGroup@aol.com.

Witness

continued from page 12

representative of its population—we, as citizens, need to take responsibility for the actions of our government, especially actions like capital punishment. Totalitarian governments arbitrarily use death and torture against their own people. If we continue to execute people in the U.S. in such a secret and elite manner we might see the wanton use of force against us all. The U.S. is not immune from tyrants; enemies of the Constitution are both foreign and domestic.

It is the responsibility of citizens to make informed decisions on the actions of their government and to participate whenever possible—as an "official witness," testifying before the state legislature, running for office, or just voting at every available opportunity.

My purpose for witnessing the execution was to be fully informed about such

a state action. It is not a matter of "if," but "when" I expect to affect public policy on this matter. As a Libertarian, I do not want to be just another party member with an opinion. While I have had a unique experience, even for a politician, I still think capital punishment is appropriate for heinous crimes.

What I feel on the subject I am uncertain. I'm reminded of my manager's story and think often about the actions of tyrants.

David Holden is chair of the St. Louis Libertarian Central Committee. In 1992, Holden ran for sheriff in Jefferson County. His participation in the election placed Libertarians permanently on the ballot in Jefferson County. Holden lives in St. Louis and works as part owner of a family machining business, works for a private investigative company, and holds multiple insurance licenses in Missouri.

'96 convention committee members sought

The 1996 LP national convention will be held two months earlier in the calendar year than past conventions. Among the dates made earlier by this shift is the deadline for the LNC to select members for the three convention committees: Platform, Rules and By-Laws, and Credentials. The LNC selects 10 of the 20 Platform Committee members, five of the 10 Credentials Committee members, and all 10 of the Rules and By-Laws Committee members. In past convention years, the LNC has made those decisions at the April meeting before the convention. This time around, the decisions are to be made at this *December's* meeting, which will be held in Washington, DC.

Recognizing that the report of the Rules and By-Laws Committee will be considered only by a suspension of the rules, anyone interested in seeking appointment

by the LNC to one of the convention committees should submit a resume to the National Office no later than Nov. 1, 1995. It should be sent "Attention: xxx Convention Committee", where xxx is the specific committee you are seeking appointment to. The LNC will give particular consideration, in regards to the Platform Committee, to individuals with special expertise or knowledge pertinent to the Platform — public policy experts, skilled writers, experienced campaigners, etc.

Members of the 10 largest affiliates also should be aware that they get to select one appointee each to the Platform Committee, and selecting that individual should be arranged so that he or she can start work with the LNC-selected members as quickly as possible. And members of the five largest affiliates should apply the same foresight to the selection of their appointees to the

Credentials Committee.

As of April 30, 1995, the top 10 affiliates, in order of membership, were CA, PA, TX, MI, FL, IL, NJ, NY, CO, and OH. Other affiliates with a shot at the top 10 slots are MA, WA, VA, AZ, and MD. This list is subject to change as you prepare for the convention by launching membership drives to increase your delegate allocation.

Finally, the deadline for determination of the relative strengths of the affiliates, for committee appointments as well as delegate allocation, is Dec. 31, 1995. Therefore the decisions of the LNC will all be tentative, pending final determination of the top five and 10 affiliates.

The convention committees will not be able to start work, therefore, until 1996 begins. We would like to minimize any delays. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Publishing start-up seeks libertarians for management

The opportunity: I'm putting together a management team for a Birmingham, Ala.-based company to own and operate newspapers or magazines. Team will be responsible for developing operational and financial plans for buying existing publications and launching start-ups. Team members will have *earned equity positions* in company.

The positions:

■ **General Manager/Chief Financial Officer.** Ideal candidate has successful experience in financial management of newspapers or magazines. Start-up experience strongly preferred; ability to deal with investors and raise money absolutely necessary. MBA helpful, but company atmosphere will be more "Tom Peters" than "The Organization Man."

■ **Computer Guru/Chief Information Officer.** Ideal candidate has experience managing networks of Macintosh computers in a publishing environment. Technical experience in graphic arts preferred, but knowledge of computer-based business systems required as well. Love of Macs preferred; we don't do Windows here. Familiarity with Guy Kawasaki's "The Macintosh Way" a big bonus.

■ **Vice President-Advertising Sales.** Ideal candidate has a successful track record in print advertising sales, both in personal selling and managing sales teams. Must have strong orientation toward total company profit rather than just keeping an eye on gross sales.

■ **Vice President-Marketing.** Ideal candidate has successfully promoted an intangible product to a mass audience. Media promotion experience helpful. Strong orientation toward both customer service and profitability required.

For all positions, things such as accomplishments, attitude, passion for achievement and sense of humor matter more than specific formal education.

How will selections be made? Selected finalists will be invited to a full day of interactive testing to be conducted in Birmingham. Candidates will work together in groups to get to know each other and get a feel for me and for the other candidates. Myers/Briggs-style testing will be done, and the result will be available to all candidates. At the end of the day, each candidate will get the opportunity to secretly "vote" for which finalists he or she would be interested in working with. I will make the final selections. Your Saturday meals and one night of lodging will be paid, but your cost of travel is not paid. If you're married, your spouse is welcome to attend for meals and basic orientation.

Why libertarians for these positions? I'd like for this company to be instrumental in getting more libertarian ideas into the mainstream news media, but our first goal is and always will be to make "obscene" profits — both for ourselves and our investors.

My background is running small newspapers, in both news and overall management (editor/publisher level).

How can I apply? Please send information about yourself to the address below. I'd like to have a resume, but also give me some indication of specific things you've done and what you'd really like to do with your life. Be as non-traditional as you'd like.

Send responses to David McElroy, McElroy Media, 164 Charleston Way, Trussville, Ala. 35173. You can also fax to 205/655-4645 or send e-mail to 75450.3334@compuserve.com.

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Talking points

Views on Civil Rights Act, equality, education, more

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty).

Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Libertarian talking points

Charles D. Poe
Editor

tigators found 166, touching upon everything from technical proposals for Agriculture Department grants to nuclear waste disposal.

"When regulations become this numerous and exacting, it is impossible to speak of a 'spirit' of the law. One can acknowledge only the aura of moral tyranny."

Syndicated columnist Tony Snow, *The Washington Times* national weekly edition, April 17-23, 1995.

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Issue: Slippery Slope - The 1964 Civil Rights Act

It should be axiomatic by now that a law that takes away a small amount of freedom at first will take away a great deal of freedom thereafter, and that an oppressive law tends to become more so over time, despite whatever noble goals its authors may have intended to achieve. The history of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shows why no law should be considered acceptable if it is designed to achieve these goals by reducing the freedom of autonomous individuals to interact non-coercively with each other as they see fit. Once a mildly intrusive law of this sort is passed, neither Congress nor the courts can be relied upon to intervene as it travels down the slippery slope towards serious tyranny.

"The original Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbade all forms of discrimination, including racial quotas. But liberal bureaucrats decided the law was insufficiently sweeping and vicious. Alfred Blumrosen, an early powerhouse at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, wrote in 1971: 'If discrimination is narrowly defined, for example, by requiring an evil intent to injure minorities, then it will be difficult to find that it exists.'

"Since he believed bigotry infected all of American society, he helped devise a standard that would make it almost impossible not to detect prejudice everywhere. He argued that the government should sue any business that failed to hire designated minorities in proportions roughly equivalent to their appearance in the general public.

"The Bush administration included this notion—called disparate impact analysis—in the Civil Rights Act of 1991. As a result, federal law requires racial and sexual quotas, even though it never uses the word 'quota.'

"According to the Iron Rule of Micromanagement, when a law fails to produce the desired results, Congress writes another one. What began as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 thus has blossomed into a vast field filled with inscrutable, constantly changing edicts.

"Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, Kansas Republican, recently asked the Congressional Research Service to list all the statutes and executive orders that require race or sex-based preferences. Inves-

"As compliance chief and de facto head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during the 1960s, [Alfred] Blumrosen subverted the 1964 Civil Rights Act while Congress was distracted by Vietnam and other pressing matters. Blumrosen ignored the Civil Rights Act's prohibition of the EEOC from issuing any interpretative regulations. He also ignored the act's prohibition against requiring businesses to report the racial composition of their work forces. And he ignored the protection the act gave to employment tests. Above all, he eliminated intent as the basis of discriminatory acts and redefined discrimination as anything short of proportional racial representation in the work force.

"Blumrosen succeeded in grabbing regulatory powers that are illegal under the 1964 statute and using them to rewrite the legislation. When Blumrosen finished, the 1964 Civil Rights Act stood on its head. Intent was gone from the law, and racial imbalance or statistical disparities were proof of discrimination. To avoid lawsuits, employers had to hire by the numbers.

"Blumrosen bet that his 'creative interpretation' of the Civil Rights Act 'would be upheld by the courts, partly out of deference to the administrators,' and he was right. The Warren Burger Supreme Court was a partner to his deeds when it ratified his rewrite of the Civil Rights Act."

Paul Craig Roberts, economist and syndicated columnist, in *Houston Chronicle*, April 16, 1995.

Issue: Equality

One reason laws such as the Civil Rights Act are passed in the first place is that the lawmakers are trying to achieve equality where it does not, and cannot, actually exist. Although civil liberties should be granted equally to all, this does not mean that all men are created equal insofar as their ability to achieve wealth or social status is concerned. Shortly after the beginning of the 20th Century, when this fundamental inequality of individual talent was still accepted as a basic fact of life, it was noted with approval in a classic American novel that the United States, unlike most other countries, was willing to officially acknowledge this inequality and to write its laws so as to favor merit over inherited status. Shortly before the end of



the 20th Century, when it has become politically incorrect to say such things, a conservative political commentator has said them anyway; pointing out that a free society cannot, and has no business trying to, achieve equality of outcome.

"It was through the Declaration of Independence that we Americans acknowledged the eternal inequality of man. For by it we abolished a cut-and-dried aristocracy. We had seen little men artificially held up in high places, and great men artificially held down in low places, and our own justice-loving hearts abhorred this violence to human nature. Therefore, we decreed that every man should thenceforth have equal liberty to find his own level. By this very decree we acknowledged and gave freedom to true aristocracy, saying, 'Let the best man win, whoever he is.' Let the best man win! That is America's word. That is true democracy. And true democracy and true aristocracy are one and the same thing. If anybody cannot see this, so much the worse for his eyesight."

Owen Wister in *"The Virginian,"* New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1911.

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"Actually, only a small part of the political class entertains the self-image of living in 'an egalitarian society.' In the Federalist, James Madison called the rage for equality 'a wicked project.' No nation that rewards effort, talent, inventiveness and luck can even pretend to cherish equal outcomes. People differ, rewards differ—that's the essence of both liberty and justice. Jefferson and Madison were a lot wealthier than their local saddlers and blacksmiths. Abe Lincoln, when he was poor, never sought to have the wealthy brought down to his level. Equality under the law is one thing, and a good one, but in an inventive and dynamic society equal (even relatively equal) incomes can be achieved only by abandoning liberty for tyranny."

Michael Novak, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, in *The Wall Street Journal*, July 11, 1995.

Issue: The Cost of Public Education

How can it be that public education at the elementary and secondary level extracts from the taxpayers such an extremely high rate of expenditure per pupil, with such dismal results, when at the same time public school teachers are not particularly well paid? The answer is, as one might expect of government bureaucrats who spend other people's money, that a large portion of the funds spent on public education are not actually spent on education at all.

"I served in the [education] department for 18 months during the Bush Administration, as Assistant Secretary for Education Research and Improvement. I was responsible for supervising the spending of \$450 million each year. I can say without hesitation that most of the money was wasted. It subsidized technical assistance that no one asked for; research that few read or used; multimillion-dollar programs that served only those professionals who received the funding; and activities that were protected by congressmen, or their staff members, who were assiduously courted by education lobbyists.

"For its \$32 billion the Department of Education does not educate a single student. It does not make schools better. Its very existence is a burden to states and localities, because the department's regulations require them to deploy bureaucrats to monitor compliance with federal regulations. Every time an administrator is hired to write reports on federal programs, local resources are expended that ought to be used in the classroom. An international study reported recently that 50 percent of those employed in American schools are not teachers, the highest proportion of non-instructional personnel of all modern industrial nations."

Diane Ravitch, *Forbes* magazine, May 22, 1995.

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see Talking points on page 15

Letters

Comments on Browne and sales tax, lots more

Secret court

In America we have a "secret" court system (to protect our children's rights?): The Juvenile Dependency Court. The Los Angeles County, CA, Court is administrative, not judiciary.

The system administrator is the LA County Department of Children's Service (DCS) and is accountable to *no other agency*. Their employees (social workers) have unqualified immunity from prosecution. Our State (CA) Superior Court judges in Juvenile Dependency Court—LA County—are not accountable to our State Commission on Judicial Performance.

The Department of Children's Legal Services (DCLS) DCS-paid attorneys and the appointed (DCS-paid) therapists conspire with and agree to county counsel (DCS attorney) position. If not in agree-



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

ment, they argue the report out of evidence. Private (parent-paid) attorneys' and therapists' arguments, testimony, and reports are treated as fiction.

The DCS agenda of, "We must believe the child," is the agenda mandated to them by our federal judiciary. The purpose is to enforce the liberation of children from their parents. We now have communist doctrine being mandated to our county and state employees by our federal judiciary. What is their purpose?

The United Nations' "Children's Bill of Rights" treaty will be the end of our children's freedom. Our federal judiciary

will insist that under Article Six of our Constitution a treaty supersedes city, county, state, and federal child abuse laws. They will tell us they have no choice; they are mandated. This is not correct. Law is not only words, but also intent. It is time to stop this madness: 1) Make Juvenile Dependency Court "open"; 2) Repeal unqualified immunity for public employees; 3) Hold jury trials in Juvenile/Dependency Court; and 4) Demand that our senators not ratify the UN Children's Bill of Rights.

Steven Hanson
Mira Loma, CA

Not So Wild About Harry

You've rightly given prominence recently to the fine start achieved by the Browne campaign, but I write to give your readers pause. It's such a pleasure to find a candidate for nomination to the presidency at once so radical and so well able to raise funds that we are all in danger of suspending our critical faculties.

On page 5 of his already widely-distributed 12-page publication "Why I'm Running for President", Harry Browne writes: "We will abolish the 15-39 percent personal income tax and replace it with a simple 5 percent national sales tax."

Alas, that's not a typo. I've seen some of the detail not shown in that handout, and it is indeed magnificent, almost breathtaking—except for that ominous phrase

about introducing a new tax. That's an integral part of Browne's main platform.

A key reminder: Every member of this party has signed what we call "The Pledge"; a statement that we "do not advocate the initiation of force." That's the shortest way I know of stating what libertarianism is. Anything and everything goes, except a first use of force. This party exists solely and absolutely to promote that principle. Take that principle away, and you take away everything that makes the LP, the LP. Without that belief, it's just a political party like any other; out to grab and enjoy power for its own sake, not to abolish that power to prevent each person governing his or her own life.

Now, the proposed Browne Sales Tax does, for certain, "initiate force." It introduces to our society a new compulsion that was not there before. It clearly and absolutely violates our foremost principle. If we were so foolish as to nominate this man to be our #1 spokesman, this party would never again be able to call itself the "Party of Principle".

Consider the consequences, if we nominate Browne and his national sales tax, and if he wins the election.

Every time any person goes shopping, Uncle Harry will be there with an outstretched hand, demanding payment as the price of being allowed to complete a voluntary transaction. Two hundred mil-

see **Letters** on page 16

Talking points

continued from page 14

"Most schools are nothing less than a caricature of an old industrial factory—rigid, top-down, bureaucratic, and rules-driven. It makes for incredible inefficiency. Only 52 cents of the average dollar spent on public education gets into the classroom. Where does the rest go? Nobody knows."

"School systems typically have only a dim idea of how much goes where. When Christine Todd Whitman, New Jersey's Republican governor, recently instituted a new accounting system that disclosed costs, school districts discovered they were spending \$3,000 to \$5,000 per student every year for administration alone. Nationally, per-student spending has gone up 25 percent over the past decade, adjusted for inflation, without much to show for it."

Business Week, April 17, 1995.

Issue: Prayer in schools

A powerful argument against public education can be made on the basis of its high price and poor quality, but even so these are not its most objectionable features. The very fact that public education is public creates insurmountable problems and conflicts which no amount of money or educational excellence can resolve. The issue of prayer in (public) schools is a good example of this, and has been recognized as such even by commentators who are not advocating an explicitly libertarian approach to educational issues in general.

"With millions of Americans having differing religious views, including nonreli-

gious views, what kind of meaningful prayer can be produced by political authorities? And are there not innumerable other places where people can in fact say prayers that are meaningful to them?"

Thomas Sowell, economist and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, in Forbes magazine, May 8, 1995.

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"The devil may make us do it, but we want something outside of us to make us stop."

"This is why some conservatives so badly want one minute of prayer in the public schools. They mistakenly believe such a prayer—which would be watered down if not unspoken—would create intellectual and moral manna, restoring what has been lost in education. It is easier to persuade ourselves that government should restore our lost virtue, rather than make the effort required to live a virtuous life so that others might do likewise. The power of a changed life is greater than the power of the state."

Cal Thomas, syndicated columnist, Omaha World-Herald, June 6, 1995.

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Thanks to the following for clippings used this month: David M. Davis, Harlan, IA; Alan Perlman, Highland Park, IL; Scott Shreckhise, Roanoke, VA; Dave Walter, West Chester, PA; and Research Etc., Princeton, LA.

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Letters

continued from page 15

lion shoppers will know it daily as the "Libertarian Sales Tax"; an oxymoron, if ever I saw one. It's "protection money", imposed with all deliberate force by the first Libertarian Godfather. It's theft, at gunpoint if necessary.

It's just politics as usual, John Q. Citizen will reasonably conclude; the difference between the LP and the best of the Republican Party (Lugar/Archer) is a matter of arithmetic, not of principle.

Naturally, I have pointed all this out to Harry Browne, before writing to you. On July 24, I presented him with what he called a "comprehensive report for avoiding a sales tax" which showed how his admirably-reduced federal budget could, on reasonable assumptions, be balanced by selling federal holdings instead of imposing any new tax. Six weeks and a good deal of correspondence later, I'm still waiting for him to end his initiation of force.

Well, I'm not waiting any longer, and nor should any of your readers. Each will make his or her choice of alternative as he sees fit; but we must all resolve that next July, Browne, with his sales tax, will not become the LP nominee for president.

A.J. Davies
New London, NH

Smoke

Don H. Wacker's letter (Sept. 1995 NEWS) was right on. As I listened to some of the recent Waco hearing on C-SPAN, and heard a witness describe the effects of CS gas on the eyes and respiratory system, I thought, "Wow. It's just like tobacco smoke." I am one of the 11 percent of the population that has an allergy and cannot tolerate tobacco smoke.

If CS gas, an assault weapon, has the identical effect that secondhand tobacco smoke has on some people, then is it an unreasonable stretch to say that secondhand smoke should be regarded as an assault as well as an annoyance?

Perhaps the individual's right to use tobacco, and a property owner's right to manage smoking, is not quite the no-brainer that libertarians like to think it is. If secondhand smoke were accurately viewed as a potential assault weapon, then the smoking issue takes on a whole new character. Of all recreational drug users (legal or illegal) only those that smoke a product have the inherent potential to violate the rights of other individuals. It is one thing to defend the individual's right to use tobacco (or marijuana), or an owner's right to permit smoking on their property, but it is something else when that same defense concomitantly upholds one person's right to assault another.

If libertarians were as concerned about the rights of non-smokers as we are about the rights of smokers, we could logically argue that anyone who smokes a product in such a way that it annoys or harms another individual be subject to arrest on charges ranging from disturbing the peace to aggravated assault. This would not prohibit the use of tobacco (or marijuana), it would simply make it incumbent upon smokers to respect the rights of individuals who must, or prefer to, breathe clean air.

Grant Kuhns
Carlsbad, CA

Slavery or free trade?

Mr. Hugo Cunningham comments (Sept. 1995 NEWS) that David Nolan must have slept through history class in high

school. I don't believe so. It appears he must have later studied history at a higher academic level where more accurate views may be obtained, however unpopular.

As a background, the New England states got rich on the triangle trade. Textiles were shipped to West Africa and traded for slaves. Slaves were shipped to the Caribbean and the South and traded for rum and cotton. Rum and cotton were shipped to New England and traded for textiles manufactured from the Southern cotton. New England thrived on shipping and textile manufacturing based on the slave trade. As time went on, the Caribbean and the South filled up with slaves, and the demand for new slaves from West Africa diminished. In the U.S., people such as Theodore Parker, Lysander Spooner, and John Brown railed against the injustice of slavery. An anti-slavery movement started with the underground railroad, and juries nullifying the Fugitive Slave Act. The U.S. made the importation of slaves from Africa illegal. The New England power brokers did not fight, since the market wasn't there anyway. Usually when something is made illegal, a black market results with very high prices. Since the basic market had been over supplied, a black market did not result. New England focused its attention to textile production using slave-produced Southern cotton, in competition with its arch rival, the British textile industry, which also used slave-produced Southern cotton.

Having achieved considerable influence in Washington, New England hit on a scheme to deny cotton to their arch textile rival, Britain, and lower the price of cotton to themselves. New England lobbied Washington into placing an embargo on U.S. cotton being shipped to Britain, and reduced the effective cotton market by roughly a half. Since the supply of cotton was now greater than the market, the price of cotton fell.

Britain had seen this coming and tried to prepare. The warehouses in Liverpool, and other port cities accessing the midlands, were stuffed with cotton, with hope this would tide them over until the embargo could be settled. British interests started cotton cultivation in Egypt.

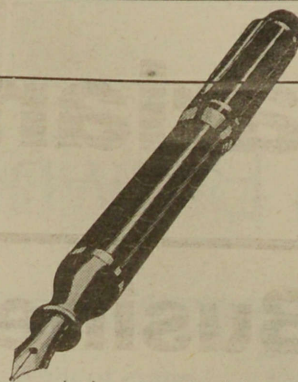
The South was suffering. Half their market was cut off by the U.S. embargo and the remaining market had very low prices. So, the Southern states seceded from the Union to get out from under the U.S. embargo and regain their full market.

Secession put the North in a very precarious economic situation. The South could ration cotton to New England textile industries and create a very high price, as is done today with diamonds, while still selling to Britain.

So, the North invaded the South, to force the South back into the Union, and under the U.S. cotton embargo to Britain.

Many people on the Union side went into the war with the idea of preserving the Union. A smaller minority thought they were abolishing slavery. However, New England industry needed that slave-produced cotton.

About two-thirds of the way through the war, Britain was running out of cotton and planning to enter the war on the side of the South to regain its cotton supply. Lincoln had to act fast. He divided Parliament by making slavery the issue of the war by the Emancipation Proclamation, and kept Britain out of the war. Lincoln had to be very careful not to alienate the slave states that stayed with the Union. So the Emancipation Proclamation addresses only slavery



in the seceded states. It did not free the slaves in the Union's slave states. They had to wait for a constitutional amendment.

Lincoln was almost too late. Jefferson Davis was considering freeing the slaves in the South to put the slavery issue to rest, and remove disincentives for these soon-to-be former slaves to support the Confederacy. But, Lincoln did it first.

Of interest, New York almost seceded from the Union, not to join the South, but to separate itself from the military despotism of the Union government where civil rights had been suspended.

Abolition of slavery was a very fortunate end result of the War Between the States, but it was not the cause of the war. Free trade was.

Ed Crusoe
Summerland Key, FL

Read on

I am a die-hard Libertarian from the LP of Bucks County, PA, chaired by Don Ernsberger.

I am writing to inform as many key decision-makers as possible of what is our most crucially informative document, synthesizing ecological, economic, and civil-liberty issues into the most effective case for our cause: "The Emperor Wears No Clothes," by Jack Herer.

For the sake of all liberty and the whole world-at-large, I hereby impel every Libertarian to read this book and sell, disperse, and promulgate it in every way conceivable!

Matthew Scott Paul Stover
Levittown, PA

Ballot access

The September 1995 NEWS has a letter from the state chairman of the Idaho Libertarian Party defending a restrictive ballot access law change made this year by the Idaho legislature.

Idaho holds primaries in May, so the petition deadline for anyone running in a primary is in April. For practical reasons, the deadline can't be any later, obviously.

However, Idaho lets political parties nominate by convention or by committee, as late as August, if the party primary doesn't result in a nomination. Also, new parties can get on the ballot by submitting a petition as late as the end of August, and such new parties nominate all their candidates by convention. Therefore, political parties have a great deal of leeway as to when they finalize their nominations.

The 1995 session of the Idaho legislature moved the deadline for independent candidates (for office other than president) from June (which was already too early) to April. This is not fair to independent candidates, and it is also not fair to Idaho voters. One of the reasons states provide for independent candidates to get on the ballot is so that if the voters are dissatisfied with the choices made by the various political parties they still have time to get an alternate choice on the general election ballot. The 1995 Idaho law throws a monkey wrench into that process.

One can predict that soon, some Idaho legislator will notice that a new party has until August of an election year to submit its petitions, and he or she will point out that since independent petitions are due in April, the new party petition is "obviously" too late, and he or she will then propose an April deadline for new parties as well.

Early petition deadlines for new parties force us to petition in the winter months, and greatly harm our ability to get on the ballot. It is not in the interest of the Libertarian Party, nor is it in the interests of voting rights generally, for any official of the Libertarian Party to applaud restrictive ballot access laws for independent candidates.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, CA

School and state

Some Republican congressmen advocate a constitutional amendment to put prayer in public schools and congressional hearings have been held. Republicans who want prayer in public schools are missing the real issue.

If the government operated churches and disallowed prayer, would Republicans advocate privatizing the churches or would they advocate a constitutional amendment to put prayer in public churches? The answer distinguishes libertarian Republicans from Republican statists.

Religious privatization was achieved long ago. Why is it so hard for so many people (even Republicans) to support privatization of education? Popular reasoning can support public churches and public schools more logically than private churches and private schools. It is a wonder why the prayer-advocates don't use more of the illogic that public school advocates use: No poor people go to church because they can't afford churches or schools; churches are unequal, some better than others; some churches are segregated by class, sex, race, even by what is taught!

Many Republicans criticize public schools only because they do not control them. It would seem that many Republicans would love public schools if they could dictate the curriculum, ideology, and prayer schedule. Republicans who support prayer in schools and oppose school privatization show that they have one thing in common with many democrats: they are statists.

It is wrong to force people who wish to mix religion with education to subsidize and/or attend schools where their wish is denied. It is equally wrong to force people who wish to separate religion and education to subsidize and/or attend schools where their wish is denied.

Republicans should not support a constitutional amendment to put prayer in schools; they should support a constitutional amendment to privatize public schools. The separation of school and state is as important as the separation of church and state.

Rex Curry
Tampa, FL

Sign me up

Throughout my life I've always been a fiercely independent individualist. Communal groups like political parties were only for the lemmings in society. I never wanted to join a party because, first of all,

see **Letters** on page 18

Libertarian Party NEWS

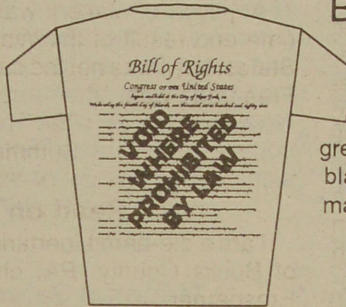
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LIBERTY INFORMATION NETWORK

Letters

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none of the two main parties fully reflected my views; second, my desire for freedom prohibited me from establishing any exclusive binding ties to any one political faction. Instead, I independently formulated my own political philosophy based upon the premise that *everyone has the right to do whatever they want*. The key concept here is that I believe all people are motivated by what they perceive to be in their own self interest. I had no need for a political party that would offer me anything less than complete freedom.

A co-worker soon changed my negative perceptions of political parties. He convinced me that my voice had much more power when combined with the voices of others, and the more I learned about the party, the more I found I had in common with their views. He also opened my eyes to the fact that my individual freedom is such a precious thing that it must be staunchly guarded or it will soon be stolen, and strangely enough, the best way to maintain my individuality (my self interest) is to unite together with other free-thinking individuals.

Following my self interest, I finally did what was best for my own well being—I joined the Libertarian Party. But simply carrying a card in one's wallet is not enough; true involvement is necessary in order to achieve change. So in addition to joining the party I decided it was my obligation to lend a hand financially (again, this was no selfless act—I did it to benefit me). I don't have the eloquence of a great orator, nor am I armed with all the current facts to effectively combat the spread of ignorance and apathy. My money, more effectively than my mouth, can help me do my part to spread the word of freedom.

Maybe someday I'll make a difference by running for office or writing a book, but for now I can feel good that I've shed the cloak of apathy and finally made a difference.

Hopefully my contribution will help promote good old-fashioned common sense, something entirely lacking in the Republican platform. . .

Educating our citizens is the key to overcoming the oppressive demagogues in government at all levels, especially the education of the youth in this country while their minds are still open to new ideas. Rational informed people would *always* vote Libertarian; there is no other logical option. Freedom is always paramount! Without freedom life is not worth living.

Kevin Paul Hamilton
Roswell, GA

Secession

This is in response to the letter from John DeMeo (Aug. 1995 NEWS).

What is so preposterous about the idea of secession? Why does Mr. DeMeo assume that majorities in the various states would vote to break away from a federal tyranny only to establish an even worse tyranny in their own states? How does he conclude that secession would not be in the interest of individual liberty?

When the 13 American colonies seceded from the British Empire, they did so in the interest of individual liberty. When the Soviet republics seceded from the Soviet empire, they did so in the interest of individual liberty. When Mexico seceded from the Spanish empire, it did so in the interest of individual liberty. All of the old empires were broken up and new independent nations established themselves

in the interest of individual liberty as defined by the classical liberal philosophy of the 18th Century Enlightenment. The problem now is the realization that the classical liberal movement did not go far enough toward establishing a lasting individual sovereignty. This is why we now need the Libertarian philosophy and movement toward a more complete recognition of individual sovereignty. As one prerequisite, there is the need for a greater recognition of the rights of states and cities to their sovereignty as political entities. . . even if this necessitates secession. Greater local sovereignty will then give a better advantage to the principles of individual and voluntary group sovereignty. The voices of a thousand Libertarians in a community of, say, 26,000 would be heard louder and more clearly than the voices of a million Libertarians in an empire of 260 million people. . .

The U.S. is in dire need of its own version of glasnost and perestroika with a secessionist movement. With the guiding principles of the Libertarian philosophy and party, this will be in the interest of individual liberty par excellence. David Nolan and the LP platform are absolutely correct in supporting the right of secession. There is no doubt about it.

Jeffrey E. Bunch
Phoenix, AZ

National Sales Tax

Brooke King prefers the flat tax to the national sales tax (NST) (Sept. 1995 NEWS). I would suggest reading "For Good and Evil" by Charles Adams. A great book on taxes, it reveals that no civilization has survived an income tax or any direct tax of any kind, of which the flat tax

is. However, those societies that used only indirect taxes (consumption taxes) did quite well, thank you. The reasons are explained in the book.

The NST does not require a constitutional amendment and is one of a group of indirect taxes called "duties" provided for in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The value-added tax (VAT) is just another lousy income tax and should not be confused with the NST. Although the VAT would require a new bureaucracy as Brooke King points out, the NST will not. The NST is a simple tax that can be collected along with the state sales taxes.

The sales tax is the only tax that can be developed to the truly workable voluntary tax system for which we libertarians have been searching.

George Meyers
Des Plaines, IL

Quote

First, the government tried to stop the black market in "crack";
But it couldn't be done!

Then, the government tried to stop the black market in "pot";
But it couldn't be done!

Now, the government wants to start a black market in the sale of cigarettes to teenagers.

As you can tell, it's just another "crack pot" idea from the Clinton Administration.

— **Ted Jacobs**
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LP ballot access concerns eased

The Libertarian Party ballot access concerns—with regard to a July presidential convention—have been eased.

"We now have it in writing that Kentucky and West Virginia will permit us to circulate our presidential petition with a stand-in (Ed Clark)," said ballot access expert Richard Winger. "Ohio legalized presidential stand-ins last month via legislation. We only have two states remaining which are not permitting stand-ins, Maine and Florida." The Florida ACLU was expected to decide in late September whether it will sue Florida for the LP.

Winger and the LP were highlighted in a Sept. 11, Insight magazine cover story on ballot access issues. The story quoted both Winger and LP National Chair Steve Dasbach. This was the second Insight magazine cover story featuring the Libertarian Party in two months.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 30, 1995:

West Virginia LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Clarksburg/Bridgeport; for information contact John K. Brown at 800-950-3421 or 304-757-3821. Speakers include Harry Browne, Irwin Schiff, Jo Jorgensen, and Bill Winter.

Oct. 6-8, 1995:

The Advocates for Self-Government's 10th Anniversary Summit Conference, Atlanta Airport Hilton & Towers Hotel, Atlanta, GA; for information call 404-417-1304. Speakers include Marshall Fritz, Jacob Homberger, Doug Bandow, John Fund, Joe Sobran, Mary Ruwart, Doug Casey, Michael Rothschild, Michael Emerling Cloud, and more.

Oct. 6-8, 1995:

FIJAcon III - Fully Informed Jury Association third national conference, Crystal Inn, Salt Lake City, UT; for information call 406-793-5550. Talks, panels, debates on jury veto power.

Oct. 13, 1995:

Singles Dance sponsored by Rockingham Chapter of LP of New Hampshire, Sawyer's Banquet Facility, Plaistow, NH; for information call 603-329-6526 or 603-382-9810.

Oct. 14-19, 1995:

ISIL 1995 World Libertarian Conference, Hotel Zafolia, Athens, Greece; for information call 416-964-0142. Speakers include Barbara Branden, Jarret Wollstein, Louk Jongen (Holland), Constantine Christide (Greece), and more.

Oct. 15, 1995:

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Concord; for information call 800-559-LPNH or 603-627-3666. Speakers include Irwin Schiff, Harry Browne, Steve Dasbach, and Jo Jorgensen.

Oct. 19, 1995:

Middle Tennessee LP Outreach Meeting, Nashville City Club, Nashville; for information call 615-773-7090. Speakers include Harry Browne.

April 13, 1995:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Country Inn and Convention Center, Pewaukee; for information call 800-236-9236. Speakers include Rick Tompkins and Harry Browne.

July 3-7, 1996:

1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Washington, DC.

Send upcoming event notices **early** to: Libertarian Party NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503.

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