

# LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



## LP Presidential Ticket: Browne-Jorgensen in 96

Harry Browne was chosen on the first ballot to represent the Libertarian Party at its Presidential Nominating convention last month in Washington, DC. Also chosen on the first ballot was Jo Jorgensen, running unopposed for the Vice Presidential nomination. The convention generated unprecedented publicity for the Libertarian Party, with extensive coverage on the C-Span Cable Network generating thousands of calls to the National LP's toll-free information number, as well as to the California LP 800 number.

During the past month, we have seen Harry Browne interviewed on CNN, MTV and the PBS program *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, where Harry was interviewed by Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Charlane Hunter-Galt. A growing number of syndicated columnists and editorial page writers (including those for our own *Hayward Daily Review*) have been calling for inclusion of the Libertarian candidate in the nationally televised presidential debates. *PCWORLD Magazine* even gave the Browne campaign equal coverage to those of Clinton and Dole in a recent article on political campaigning on the World Wide Web.

Browne, an author, newsletter publisher, financial advisor and former East Bay Region LP member, has already amassed an impressive campaign war chest and is the first LP presidential candidate in history to have qualified for federal campaign matching funds (which he plans to refuse, saying, "I do not believe in welfare for individuals, corporations *or* politicians."). Jorgensen is a computer software executive from South Carolina and former Vice-Chair of the South Carolina LP.

As the campaign develops, you can expect to see more and more attention given to the Browne-

Jorgensen ticket by the national media. This is, in fact, one of the primary goals of the party, because increasing public awareness of the libertarian alternative is a far more important objective than actually winning the presidency (which is of course, practically a mathematical impossibility). The campaign also hopes to draw support and assistance from LP regions, and a visit to the East Bay is already in the works.

How the newly-organized Reform Party will fit into this scheme is anyone's guess. Billionnaire H. Ross Perot's entrance into the 1992 presidential race threw a monkey-wrench into the chances of the promising Marrou-Lord campaign and his Reform Party could do the same thing to the Browne-Jorgensen ticket; however, there are quite a few differences between this race and the previous one.

Perot's erratic behavior in 1992 and lack of ideological focus seriously eroded the support he once enjoyed, and many of the volunteers who worked on his behalf then will not do so again. And while the media still courts his appearances on the airwaves, he has little credibility anymore, and has become the butt of too many jokes to be taken seriously as a presidential candidate. Perot has also discovered how much more difficult it is to run on a party ticket than to run as an independent candidate. As of July 20, the Reform Party has qualified for ballot status in only 25 states and their chances of appearing on all 50 state ballots is seriously in doubt. Moreover, former Colorado Governor Richard Lamb is seeking the Reform Party's presidential nomination, and Perot has not clearly articulated whether he approves of Lamb, or plans to run himself.

The Browne-Jorgensen campaign, in comparison, appears to be a model of efficiency and professionalism. The LP is now ballot-qualified in 35 states and the likelihood of our ticket appearing on the ballot in all 50 states (plus the District of Columbia and Guam) is well within reach. If successful, it will be the first time in history the LP has enjoyed 50-state ballot status for two consecutive presidential campaigns.

The road ahead will be a difficult one, though. As with any high-profile campaign, and particularly a

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Libertarian campaign, not all of the media attention given to us will be favorable or fair. We should all be prepared to fire off letters to the editor of any newspaper that publishes inaccurate or unfair profiles of Libertarian candidates or positions. It has taken us many years to distance ourselves from a completely false association with perennial Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche that came about from one ill-conceived sentence printed in an otherwise straightforward article in *TIMEMagazine*. We cannot afford to have our credibility jeopardized because lazy journalists repeat misinformation without confirming the facts.

This is not to say that all unfavorable coverage will be inaccurate. The July 1996 issue of *Reason Magazine* included an article by Nick Gillispie on the LP and the Browne campaign that was not particularly flattering, but one would be hard pressed to label it inaccurate or unfair. The article was vehemently attacked by both Browne and LP co-founder David Nolan in rebuttals printed in *LP NEWS*, but the issues it raised bear serious scrutiny if Libertarian candidates ever expect to be accepted by the rank and file of

### LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

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American voters.

While libertarians appeal to the intellect to persuade voters to support them on the moral principles of freedom, the average voter rarely gives much thought to these ideas. They are more interested in how a politician plans to benefit them personally. The politicians who get elected are the ones who promise voters the most money, the most jobs, the best health care, the lowest taxes, and the strongest, safest protection, both domestically and internationally. The mere fact that they cannot and will not deliver on any of these promises is irrelevant. What Libertarians need to do to appeal to voters is not to excite their minds, but their pocketbooks. We've tried the first approach for years, and have been met with little more than blank stares. We need to persuade more people that the libertarian approach will not just promise prosperity, but deliver it as well. We need to be able to explain how drug legalization will not turn our children into a generation of addicts, but free up billions of dollars in resources to increase their standard of living and further limit the encroaching police state developing around them.

Let's support this ticket with as much enthusiasm and energy as possible, and make sure that this year, the Libertarian alternative will be acknowledged. To contact the Browne-Jorgensen campaign, write to:

Browne for President 1996  
4094 Majestic Lane, Ste 240  
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# FBI Surveillance of Library Patrons

*an observation by Jim Warren and Jim Schmidt*

It seems appropriate to recap this past(?) FBI surveillance practice, given the 1) FBI's half-billion-dollar national wiretap system (mandated by the Democrats in 1994 legislation), 2) FBI's and Clinton's continuing *vehement* opposition to widespread use of robust privacy protection (standardized uncrackable crypto), and 3) White House's past (Watergate) and apparently-ongoing use of confidential FBI files compiled on an administration's political opponents.

The following is a response that I received to some private dialogue re the FBI's snooping on "suspicious" library patrons and what they read. It is from, Jim Schmidt, past President of the American Library Association's stellar legal-action arm, the Freedom-to-Read Foundation. He is currently in academic librarianship at San Jose State University.

—Jim Warren, GovAccess list-owner/editor, advocate & columnist (jwarren@well.com) 345 Swett Rd., Woodside CA 94062; voice/415-851-7075; fax/<# upon request>

Dear Jim:

I am one of the two living experts on the FBI's Library Awareness Program; the other one wrote a book about it. A short recap below.

In 1970 (give or take) after the bombing which caused at least one death in the computer center at University of Wisconsin - Madison, the FBI and ATF folks asked the Milwaukee Public Library for names of persons who had recently checked out or who still had library books on plastic explosives. From this incident arose the American Library Association's first policy on confidentiality of library records.

The FBI's so-called "Library Awareness Program" was an initiative of the latter 1980's, represented by the Agency as limited to scientific and technical libraries and primarily run out of the NY regional office. Given reported visits across the country and not only to scientific and technical libraries, we know that the Bureau's characterization of the program is incorrect.

From testimony of bureau employees and from documents secured under FOIA, we know that the

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program of the 80's was in fact a resurrection of one that operated in the 70's, and we have inferential (strongly suggestive) evidence that library visits occurred in the 60's too.

The 80's version was the Bureau's contribution to an interagency program coordinated by the CIA, specifically initiated at the behest of the CIA deputy, one Admiral Bobby Inman (ret), to limit technology transfer from the U.S. to other countries (remember the commodities list, licences required from Dept of Commerce, NSA monopoly re encryption research, etc?) of which Zimmerman's problems with PGP are vestiges as are those that the grad student at Berkeley had to go to court about.

As a result of the 80's program, now 46 states have statutes specifically protecting personally identifiable information in library records (there were 38 when news broke in Sept 87 of the FBI's visit to the Math Library at Columbia).

Automated library systems currently do attach at least a patron's name to items he or she has checked out, i.e. still has not returned. Virtually all such systems strip personally identifiable data from the transaction records when the items are returned. I won't vouch for whether a forensic data specialist (or hacker) could with some amount of work reconstruct who borrowed what but it wouldn't be easy and getting access to a library's system to do it would be another matter.

I think the consciousness of libraries was greatly raised in the 80's and I feel comfortable, especially given the wonderful way the library staff in Montana responded in re Kaczynski, in saying that the staffs won't willingly permit access and that they go to some lengths to assure that access cannot be gained.

Sincerely,

Jim Schmidt

San Jose State University

Jim Warren adds in conclusion: I asked for and received Jim Schmidt's permission for arbitrary re-distribution == you may recirculate to your heart's desire.

# READ

## NEWS & NOTES

### Convention News

The theme of the LP National Nominating Convention was "DECLARE YOUR INDEPENDENCE." I hope you were at the Convention or able to watch at least some of the C-SPAN coverage. If not, you missed an incredible event. Our candidates presented our philosophy with style and feeling. FEE, the promoter, had lined up every outstanding speaker available including Thomas Jefferson and George Washington (as played by Canadian teacher and actor, Bruce Evoy). From Bruce's costumes to the stage backdrop of Lady Liberty, every detail was beautifully orchestrated.

Over 900 delegates and friends of liberty were present. We looked and sounded like the growing Party we are. Don't be sad if you missed it because we have taped highlights that you can watch at the next meeting.

As one of the Presidential candidates, Doug Ohmen made the case for local focus and growth. This theme struck home in a room stuffed full of hard-core local activists, but it was not enough to win him the nomination.

Our candidate is, as you know, Harry Browne. He and his very professional campaign staff will run a first class operation which will not be missed by Billy/Bob and their staffs. I noticed that the Dole campaign is already trying to get their candidate to talk about cutting back the IRS. Of course, Dole hasn't got a clue that this is a hot topic with the voters. He trashed the notion as soon as his staff made its statement. If it weren't for Dole the Republicans could have stolen that position from the Libertarian candidate. It's a good thing those other Parties can't pick front runners when it comes to ideas.

We will be hosting a fund raiser for Harry Browne's campaign in September. Watch the calendar section for information. If you want to volunteer, call the Greg Lyon campaign phone number or the Party line. We will be happy to help you help Harry and the Libertarian Party.

### FAMILY VALUES

Mary and David Theroux of the Independent Institute of Oakland, California were invited to a conference at the Vatican. "The Family and Economy in the Future of Society," did not have Hillary Clinton as a participant. Finally, the state of the family has been discussed in conjunction with responsibility and self-government.

Thank you to the Therouxes and the Independent Institute for all their wonderful work. Copies of

An Economy for the Family, produced by the Vatican with the help of the Independent Institute are available. Please write to 134 Ninety-Eighth Avenue, Oakland, CA 94603 or visit the Institute at its website: <http://www.independent.org>.

[www.independent.org](http://www.independent.org).

## WHO ARE WE? WHO ARE YOU?

This newsletter is the publication of the local/county affiliate of the Libertarian Party of California which is an affiliate of the Libertarian Party, a national organization. Registered Libertarians are just that and are counted as members of the LP. Money to publish comes from those Libertarians who fill out the membership form usually found on page 7. We also accept donations. Without our paid membership we could not continue to publish this newsletter or pay to attend various shows and events where we can present our views.

Often we are asked to provide speakers for high school and college classes. These Libertarians are not paid. They volunteer, taking time off work. Volunteers also staff our tent at events.

You could be one of these supporting members just by filling out the membership form and sending in your donation. Here is some information that may answer any questions you have: if you registered to vote as a Libertarian, you probably have heard of us and know something about libertarian philosophy; however, this is just the first step. If you send in dues to the regional organization, you then become a *member* of the Libertarian Party. If you sign the non-initiation of force pledge and send in your donation you are a *voting member*, and may serve as an officer and as a delegate to the California and National conventions. **It is not mandatory to sign the pledge**, and many Libertarians do not do so, but since the principle of non-coercion is central to libertarian philosophy, those who wish to represent the party as a candidate for office or as a delegate to LP conventions are strongly encouraged to declare their adherence to this belief. In addition, if you pay the National dues through us, you receive a \$5.00 discount from the normal \$25.00 fee. Please note that joining the California LP does not automatically make you a member of the National LP. Because grassroots activism is central to the growth of the party, the National LP does not draw any funding from the local or state parties; the organizations are administratively separate, so you may join one or the other -- or both simultaneously to take advantage of the discount.

Each month we have meetings. Usually we have a video or speaker to address Libertarian issues. We would very much like to meet all the registered Libertarians in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. If it fits into your schedule, join us at one of the events listed in the Calendar section on page 8 of this newsletter.

# The System?

*by Thomas L. Testeman*

Two-hundred and twenty years ago, our forefathers were inspired to set forth ideas and ideals in writings that have withstood the test of both time and man. These we call The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States of America. The system set forth in these documents is not the problem today and indeed is still working exactly as our fathers set it forth so long ago. The problem is not the system, but rather the people responsible for overseeing the system; not the politicians holding the offices they were elected to for, after all, they were elected; not the special interest groups that use money and influence to place their favored few in positions of power (we all have special interests that we would like to see represented in our nation's capitol), but rather with each one of us: the individual, John Q. Citizen.

We sit in our homes and proclaim the injustice of Washington raising our taxes, but we do not call to task the Congressmen responsible for it having occurred. We cry in disgust at the poor level of education being provided to our children, and the interference of Uncle Sam, and our lack of alternatives to do better, but fail to condemn to obscurity those who deny our children a future. The system has placed in each individual's hands the method, power, and responsibility to see that those people elected to office respond to, i.e., represent, the wishes of the electorate. If they fail in this, the ultimate responsibility, vote them out of office. Do not wait for a regular election, use the tools that the system provides you and call for a special election. We cannot blame the system for our shortcomings. If we cannot, will not, do not take the appropriate credit for the state that our country is in, we cannot, should not, will not blame those who take advantage of the situation. If you do not register to vote, do not complain about those elected by those who do. If you do not vote, do not complain about the laws passed by those elected by those who did. If you vote against, rather than for, expect your negativity to be reflected in those who are elected.

Quit asking the candidates for office what their agendas are. Like you, they are an individual with likes, dislikes, beliefs, and preferences. But as candidates for office, these personal agendas must be subjugated to the needs and preferences of the electorate. Whatever the question, whatever the issue, unless it violates the Constitution, the candidate has but one vote and must bend his will and knee to the demands of the majority.

There is no such thing as a partisan topic, no such idea as a partisan bill, only men who are willing to truly REPRESENT the People or NOT.

If WE THE PEOPLE use the system as our forefathers intended it to be used, we would find it to be more powerful a weapon than any designed by man, for any man can be destroyed, but an ideal is forever. I have seen the sacrifices of time, blood and life made by my fellow Americans in the name of this country and as I hear the cries for the overthrow of this system, I recall these words: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." What you can do is get up off your dead butts and exercise the franchise that so many have lived and died to give you.

# VOTE

# ISN'T THAT SPECIAL?

The End Run Around Proposition 13

by Denise P. Kalm

In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a landmark proposal that cut property taxes and made special taxes subject to a 2/3 super-majority vote. Unfortunately, "special" taxes were not defined, leaving a gaping trough for pork-hungry legislators to waddle through. Special assessment districts covering lighting and landscaping, mosquito abatement, etc. sprung up, covering anything local government deemed the public would support and pay for. In '82, the state Supreme Court affirmed that special taxes meant those earmarked for a specific purpose; these would require the 2/3 vote. Taxes designated for the general fund required no such vote. Taxes continued to be levied without a vote, spawning Proposition 62, which was approved in November of 1986. Proposition 62 was supposed to close all the loopholes, forcing votes on all local taxes and a 2/3 majority for special taxes. Denied special taxes, many local governments began imposing new general taxes without voter approval, such as utility taxes, business license and hotel taxes. During the '90's, it is estimated that over \$400 million was collected in violation of Proposition 62 (League of California Cities survey). Various courts of appeal invalidated Proposition 62 for pre-existing and future taxes, further confusing the issue. A critical decision was reached in the 1995 case, Santa Clara County Local Transportation Authority v. Guardino. It stated that Measure A, a sales tax for transportation, was invalid as it only received a majority vote. The state Supreme Court referenced Proposition 62 in their verdict, a deliberate attempt to clear up the uncertainty as to which taxes were covered. The decision validated the constitutionality of Proposition 62. Based on this case, any tax earmarked for a specific purpose is a *special tax* and must be approved by a 2/3 super-majority vote. Local general taxes require a majority vote. The concern is the effective date. If it is determined to be 1978 - the Proposition 13 date - all special taxes collected since that date are illegal and subject to a refund. Legislation to quash any possibility of a refund (SB1590) is currently on the floor; and all taxes imposed prior to 12/ 14/95 would be legal, regardless of how they were originally imposed. Daniel Boatwright voted for this and his office notes that he does not really support the right of the public to vote on each and every tax. Richard Rainey strongly supports the right to vote on all taxes, but feels refunds aren't viable. In fact, there isn't any money to make refunds and a lawsuit would probably just make the counties' situation more

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untenable. In November, a state initiative sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association designed to shore up Proposition 62, "The Right to Vote on Taxes Act" will be on the ballot. Officials fear its passing, as it would finally expose their sneaky taxing technique to light. Given the current mood, the proposition is likely to pass, but in recent editorials, government officials have asked us to trust them more. They firmly believe they are better at assessing the needs and the wants of the community than its members are. We need to tell them how we feel about this continuing paternalism. A country-wide groundswell of discontent on property taxes resulted in Proposition 13 here and similar initiatives elsewhere (where states provide the initiative process). Is it too much to hope that this latest measure might lead to challenges against local taxation in other states, as well as the big enchilada, state and federal income tax? Libertarians may not favor taxation as a method of fund-raising, but until we achieve a quorum in the legislature, we must at least insist on the right to vote on all taxes. This latest proposition is a good start.

In Response to "Guns, Money, and Medicine" an article by Susan Headden appearing in *U.S. News & World Report*, 7/1/96 pp 31-40.

Dear Editor,

According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association's* analysis, every year 180,000 Americans die from physicians' negligence<sup>1</sup> - almost five times the number who die from guns. Why are doctors not declared a public health menace? It is because we save so many more lives than we take, and so it is with America's guns where every year 2.5 million Americans use guns to protect themselves, their families, and their livelihoods - almost a 1/2 million lives saved<sup>2</sup> plus injuries prevented, medical costs averted, and property protected.<sup>3</sup>

In 98% of these protective uses, as in my own protective use a year ago, the gun is not even fired,<sup>4</sup> no one is injured, police report is rarely necessary. As in my own case, we go home and hug our children, unnoticed by the media or the trauma surgeons who see and sensationalize only the outcomes of criminal and irresponsible gun use, never the success stories. To discuss the "costs" of guns without considering the benefits is as meaningless as noting operating room deaths without accounting for the surgical saves.

The actual medical costs of gunshot wounds is \$1.5 billion per year,<sup>5</sup> less than two-tenths of 1% of America's annual \$900 billion health costs. The anti-self-defense lobby inflates this number to \$80 billion by pretending that the victims are average people with average lifetimes and earnings, ignoring that 2/3rds of homicide victims are

drug dealers and their customers and take a terrible toll on society in both human and economic costs.<sup>3,6,7</sup> They have even added the "cost" of lost work because employees gossip about gun violence.<sup>8</sup> If we use the prohibitionists' own method, we find that guns save 1/2 million lives and \$500 billion annually (equivalent to about 10% of the US Gross Domestic Product) — Now *that* is news!

Edgar A. Suter MD, National Chair  
Doctors for Integrity in Policy Research Inc.  
a national non-profit physicians think tank

Note to the editor: We find it interesting that, though our organization has repeatedly testified to Congress on these issues, is published in the medical literature on these issues, and has even been attacked repeatedly by the New England Journal of Medicine in its editorials, your reporter, Ms. Susan Headden contacted none of the leaders of our organization. Please suggest to Ms. Headden that she do a more thorough job in the future. Thank you.

#### References:

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- [4] Kleck G. Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. 1991.
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- [8] Nieto M, Dunstan R, and Koehler GA. Firearm-related violence in california: incidence and economic costs. Sacramento CA: California

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*(For those joining the LP as a voting member)*

*I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.*

### Libertarian Party

#### of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318  
Hayward, CA 94541

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

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(add \$20 per person)
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*Libertarian Lifeline* \$10
- ☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:  
**Libertarian Party of California**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS **AUGUST**

**August 11, 1996: Greg Lyon for Congress Campaign Wine and Food Fest.** 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, delicious wine and food at the Westover Winery, 34329 Palomares Road in Castro Valley and support our candidate for the 10th Congressional District. Suggested donation of only \$10 per person. The Winery tour will begin at 4:00 p.m., so please try to be prompt. Please RSVP to 889-1544.

**August 20, 1996: Alameda County LP General Meeting.** Ricky's Sports Lounge and Steakhouse at 15028 Hesperian Boulevard in San Leandro (near BayFair Mall). Formal business will begin between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

**August 27, 1996: Contra Costa County LP General Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Fuddrucker's, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA, located in the Willows Shopping Center (take the Willow Pass exit off Highway 680). For details, call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

**Sunday Evenings, 8:30 p.m to 9:00 p.m. On-Line Chat with Greg Lyon, Libertarian Candidate for Congress.** America On-Line subscribers are welcome to join a weekly chat room with Libertarian Party Congressional candidate Greg Lyon every Sunday evening at 8:30. Just log on and go to LYON4CONGRESS.

**Sunday Afternoons, 5:30 p.m.: The Libertarian News Hour** on Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM, hosted by East Bay LP Chair Jeff "Zippy the Yippie" Sommer, the voice of freedom on the airwaves originating from one of the last bastions of socialism in America, Berkeley, California.

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