

Ed Clark Petition Drive Underway

The bald fact is that 60,000 signatures are needed between February 19 and May 6.

The Massachusetts Libertarian Party must find that many registered voters willing to sign a petition by May 6, 1980, in order for Libertarian Ed Clark to be on the November ballot for President. Otherwise, Clark voters will have to write in their vote on the ballot, cutting Clark's chances appreciably . . .

Although Massachusetts law only requires just under 40,000 valid signatures to put someone on the ballot, usually about one third of all "raw" signatures are invalidated by the government. A legitimate, valid signature and address exactly matches the voter's signature and address when he/she registered to vote. Adding or omitting an initial, or spelling a street differently, etc., throws the petition signature into the invalid category. So to be sure of getting enough valid signatures, half again the needed amount must be submitted.

Our challenge is this, then: to get 60,000 signatures between February 19 and May 6. In a state this size, the uninitiated might think, that should not be a difficult task. But as those of us who have petition driven before know, it takes about an hour to get twenty signatures. That comes out to 3000 hours for 60,000 signatures, plus paperwork time. There are about 100 Libertarians in Massachusetts. Were they all to volunteer 30 hours between now and May 6, or maybe 35 hours, the task would be done. Since experience has shown this is not likely, signature gatherers will have to be hired, at a cost of about \$.25 (twenty-five cents) per signature.

The Executive Committee hopes that the average contribution from each Massachusetts Libertarian will be 600 signatures on petitions, or their partial or total equivalent in cash. Larger donations will of course be welcome, to offset the smaller ones. Also needed are places for out-of-state signature gatherers to stay for a weekend or a week at a time, in all areas across the state.

It's a challenge, assuredly, but the overall situation is not bleak. Even notorious pessimist Lee Nason says, "We are absolutely going to make it." A lot of people are behind this effort, including the national party campaign people, who of course want Clark on as many states' ballots as possible. If Massachusetts can't do it on her own (!!!), they will send people in to gather

signatures. Chuck Pike, the petition drive coordinator, is working hard every day putting the pieces together. He needs our support.

Nationwide, the initiatives to put Clark on state ballots have been very successful. Twenty-two states already have the required petitions, and twenty-five more seem fairly sure of success, including Massachusetts. Only three states are unlikely this year, and hope has not been entirely relinquished in those.

So here is a big chance for you to make an impact on this country's future. Whether you contribute time or money or a place for someone to stay, you will be directly responsible for helping Ed Clark get elected, and helping the United States get back on the track of freedom.

And that's the bottom line.

Send contributions to: The Massachusetts Libertarian Party
739 Boylston Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02115

New Offices for LPM

As of February first, 1980, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts had a new home: 739 Boylston Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02115. The office is still pretty sparse, so if you have or can find any office furniture to put in there—folding chairs, desks, filing cabinets, tables, etc.—your donation is needed. The work we are doing is valuable. It should be done on desks.

With all the enthusiasm of a new Libertarian not knowing what he is letting himself in for, I, Don Dewsnap, do hereby accept the editorship of *Massachusetts LIBERTY*.

In other words, Hello. Lee Nason has handed the reins of this galloping horse to me. Truthfully, I reached for them, and hope it will not take long to catch the rhythm. Sixteen years experience at newsletters will help make up for the limits on my time, so within a month or two (and I do want to make *Massachusetts LIBERTY* monthly), it should be running fairly smoothly. In the meantime, bear with me, let me know what you think, help me out. There is a survey elsewhere in this issue which will help immensely if enough people answer. Please do.

My editorial policy will be similar to Lee's, with perhaps a bit more attention to news and less to opinion (except on the letters page), more to local and state activities, and less to national. Massachusetts should be a leader in Libertarianism, so the thrust of *Massachusetts LIBERTY* will be to encourage that: Who is doing/thinking what in Massachusetts?

Your participation in *Massachusetts LIBERTY*, in the form of news of your area, response to the content, and questions that you want answered, is critical to the success and growth of Libertarianism in Massachusetts. We are working together to increase personal freedom in this country. A good

place to start is right here in the birth state of the American Revolution. *Massachusetts LIBERTY* can help us join our individual forces into a significant movement toward the principles we hold dear. Whether your orientation is philosophical or political, your contribution to Libertarianism is valuable and appreciated. Combining our energies behind statewide activities will result in increased public recognition of Libertarianism and its goals, and thus faster attainment of those goals.

There is another way you can help: advertising. If you have a product or provide a service available on a statewide basis, put an ad in *Massachusetts LIBERTY*. Your ads will help finance the publication of *ML*, and allow it to grow bigger and better. The corollary to this is to patronize the advertisers in *ML* to make it worthwhile to advertise. Let me know what results your ads have.

So that's it. I am always willing to communicate and receive communication, so feel free to call or write. My wife Vykki and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming years, especially in celebration of advances toward freedom.

Toward a Free America,

Don Dewsnap

Non-aggression Interpretations Initiated . . .

Dear Editor

I was very interested in Steve Fulchino's opinion article in the June-July issue of *Massachusetts LIBERTY*. I agree with much of his article, especially the idea that libertarians can easily disagree, because their positions are necessarily based on more than the basic axioms of libertarianism. In these areas of disagreement, I liked his idea to protect the interests of a one-third or larger minority, so that they would not have to seem to endorse a position that a majority in the Libertarian Party wanted to take.

I think the article had an important error, however. It assumed that a "non-initiation of force" or "non-aggression" principle is the basic axiom of libertarianism. It is anything but that! In fact, the non-aggression principle sometimes results in the opposite of a libertarian position. Why is this so? Because the non-aggression statement is a rule of thumb, handy to use in most cases, but sometimes misleading unless you know the principles it is based upon.

First, let's consider the claim that the non-aggression principle is BASIC to libertarianism. Consider the actual statement provided by Fulchino:

Every action by an individual is legal if and only if he does not, in performing the action, use force or commit fraud against any other individual or group of individuals or the property of either.

This sounds nice; stated in such general terms it could well be mistaken for the basic statement Fulchino is looking for. But note that we learn very little about libertarians by reading the statement. Just what do they consider to be property? What is their opinion about the proper ways to obtain and then transfer property? What constitutes force or fraud? We need to know what libertarians think about rights and duties before we can answer these questions.

Like all rules of thumb, the non-aggression statement is an oversimplification. The rather incomplete statement Fulchino gives us does not even make provision for the defensive use of force. Most libertarians would say that one may not "initiate" force or fraud. Fine, but what constitutes an act of "initiation?" This is a complex field of inquiry when examined by a scholar such as Robert Nozick. When, for instance, may a person KILL to protect life or property? When may a person step in to the defense of another? These questions can only be answered by an appeal to the basic principles of libertarianism.

And another problem is that the non-aggression statement always has exceptions. What would the author of the statement say about the right of parents to discipline their children? What about the right to forcibly remove children from dangerous situations? Again we'll have to search for answers among the ACTUAL basic axioms of libertarianism. I ask, "If the more basic principles exist, why not go ahead and state them?"

I would like to state briefly what I think the libertarian position is. This cannot be comprehensive, of course, but it indicates the type of statements we need to use as our foundation.

Libertarians believe that a person should, by and large, have the right to live his life as he sees fit. Any exception to this general principle must be on the grounds of necessity. One exception is that a person may not interfere in the equal rights of others to live their lives. Another exception will be made for children. Many libertarians will want to make an exception for the activities of government. I do not want to argue for any of these particular exceptions, but just suggest that they will exist in the minds of the individual libertarians who work out their positions.

Libertarians also believe that property should be held individually, or in voluntary cooperation with other people. This is a strong contrast with all existing governments, who want to limit private ownership to those aspects of property that are not useful to the state to control. Libertarians tend to want to extend this property right to wide areas of potential property. They would welcome private ownership of the oceans, of air rights over land, of broadcasting frequencies, of ideas such as patents and copyrights. Each libertarian may have his own personal list of the proper areas of ownership, and some disapprove of some of those I have just listed.

The libertarian position with respect to property is in no way obvious from the right to live one's life. There is much dispute among philosophers over what constitutes a proper object of ownership. So we must state which things are properly in the realm of private ownership.

Libertarians generally define the proper objects of ownership very widely, to include:

- 1) the things a person makes
- 2) the things a person finds, providing either that the person be first in time or find a thing that another person has clearly abandoned
- 3) the things a person uses, or first reduces to possession, such as the claim upon a homesteaded farm, or the claim upon sunlight or water that has been used for a long time
- 4) the ideas that a person creates, provided they are reduced to a concrete form or put to a practical use: book copyrights, patents
- 5) any of the above things that have legitimately been reduced to ownership and then legitimately transferred to their subsequent owner.

There is controversy among libertarians about the proper scope of property. Some, for instance, don't believe we should allow property in ideas, property in copyrights and patents. Some don't like the thought of ownership of land, because it is usually not created by the action of the first owner. Still, the generality holds: libertarians favor a very wide range of private property ownership.

Libertarians, further, believe in the voluntary exchange of values and the right of an owner to make a gift of his property. They believe in contracts, and wish to see these enforced by either government courts or free-market agencies voluntarily employed. There is, here again, some disagreement. What is to be the allowable subject matter for a contract? Some libertarians do not think it permissible to bind oneself by contract to perform future services; this has the appearance of signing away the person's future will. But overall, the libertarian commitment to voluntary exchange, and the corollary rejection of government interference with contract, are clear.

These, I think, are the basic principles of libertarianism: freedom to live one's own life, to accumulate the widest range of personal property, and to dispose of one's property in any voluntary manner. This is basic. Naturally it follows that the initiation of force upon another person will generally conflict with libertarian principles, but not always. And anyway, let's be careful to set out what those principles are.

Libertarians should also be aware that people who exercise the grossest forms of coercion generally do not believe that they are initiating force against other people. The resumption of the draft, for instance, is seen as enforcing a responsibility, a duty, that a young man already has toward his country. As another example, liberals never believe that their regulation of business initiates force; they are themselves reacting defensively to the predatory use of "economic force" by powerful businesses. And governments that go to war never "initiate" the dispute; they always react to injustices that have been perpetrated against them, and for which there is no recourse but arms.

As an aside, note that the Libertarian Party has adopted the non-aggression statement as a way of affirming the basic truths of libertarianism. It really doesn't accomplish this. The use of the statement as a pledge can be criticized on the grounds that it is both demeaning and naive. Demeaning in that it asks people who wish to join the party to state that they do not advocate the basest methods of action — an assumption that any person of good will automatically makes about his associates, until he has good cause to change his mind. And it is naive in supposing that anything could be learned from a pledge that is so ambiguous in its words that a socialist or a communist could sign it in perfect good faith. Perhaps the pledge says more about those who want to make it a requirement than about those who sign it!

To conclude, let me repeat that Steve Fulchino's article was discussing the basic axiom of libertarianism. I've made it clear, I hope, that there is no basic axiom, but instead there are some basic principles, whose exact content will vary from one libertarian to another. The meaning of libertarianism is much more complex than the non-aggression statement would suggest.

Yours for Liberty,
Jack R. Sanders
Attorney at Law
708 Gage Drive, San Diego, California 92106

Region XVIII (New England) of the national Libertarian Party has a new representative to the LP National Committee. As of January 11, 1980, Carl Helmers of Hancock, NH (sole nominee) had received five affirmative votes from the six state chairs. He replaces Frances Eddy, who moved to Washington to become an Administrative Assistant at National Headquarters in November 1979. Mr. Helmers can be contacted at: Carriage Hill Road, Hancock, NH 03449, tel. (603) 525-4038.

Liberty from the death of your body? The Cryonics Association and the Cryonics Institute offer a free brochure explaining the possibilities of cryonic suspension for later revival and rejuvenation. Write to them at: 24041 Stratford, Oak Park, MI 48237.

The following press release was received in May 1979 from the Committee to Save Atlas Shrugged, and appeared in the June-July 1979 issue of Massachusetts LIBERTY. Its message is still current, and still urgent.

Shrugging Atlas

Think of the impact a televised "Atlas Shrugged" would make on millions of viewers just before the 1980 presidential election.

A Libertarian fantasy? Unfortunately, unless you act, it will turn out to be just that.

NBC has quietly shelved plans to make "Atlas Shrugged" into an eight-hour series for television. Sterling Silliphant's screenplay is partially completed and has Ayn Rand's approval. The series was scheduled to be shown in the fall of 1980.

NBC's excuse for dropping it is that the thousand-plus pages of "Atlas Shrugged" do not provide enough material for eight hours of television! As anyone who has read the book knows, the more plausible problem would be condensing the storyline, not expanding it, to fill eight hours.

Televising "Atlas Shrugged" would be a tremendous impetus in spreading Libertarianism—particularly if it is shown just before we run our third presidential candidate.

The only way to make NBC reconsider is to demonstrate the book's widespread popularity with a massive letter-writing campaign. We should get as many people as we can to write directly to the head of NBC:

FRED SILVERMAN
National Broadcasting Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

Further information may be obtained by writing or calling the Committee to Save Atlas Shrugged, Richard Saum, chairman, 87 Mallard Ave., Goleta CA 93017; (805) 967-9446.

Editorial note: Public relations people in government and industry know that every letter received represents many people of the same viewpoint—I have heard the figure is about 500—so your letter does have significant impact, inasmuch as it speaks for 499 others who can't be bothered to assemble paper, pencil, envelope, and stamp to make their opinion known.

The following is reprinted from the November issue of World Research INK.

A Bad Parent

"Above this race of men stands an immense and tutelary power, which takes upon itself alone to secure their gratifications and to watch over their fate. That power is absolute, minute, regular, provident, and mild. It would be like the authority of a parent if, like that authority, its object was to prepare men for manhood; but it seeks, on the contrary to keep them in perpetual childhood: it is well content that the people should rejoice, provided they think of nothing but rejoicing. . . . It covers the surface of society with a network of small complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate to rise above the crowd. . . . Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrial animals of which the government is the shepherd. Alexis de Tocqueville.

Victims?

The following article is reprinted from the December, 1978 issue of Caliber, the newsletter of the California L.P.

According to a new government-financed study, 21 percent of all persons appearing in Washington, D.C.'s superior court were accused of victimless crimes — crimes such as gambling, prostitution, and smoking marijuana. The study found the typical gambler is middle-aged, employed, has no record of arrests, no history of violent acts, and poses no threat to the community.

With regard to prostitution the government study proposed many alternatives to the present system, one of which was to consider neither arresting nor prosecuting persons who peaceably engage in sexual activities for pay. The study says, "In setting law enforcement policies, decision-makers should be aware that the resources involved in enforcing victimless crimes are high compared to the resources used in crimes involving victims."

During 1976 one half of those accused of victimless crimes were acquitted, and 83.8 percent never went to jail. Of those jailed, less than 3 percent were confined for a year or more.

Although it is comforting to know that more than 80 percent of all persons accused of victimless crimes serve no time in jail, still the cost of arresting and prosecuting these persons is enormous, and diverts needed resources from the prosecution of *real* crimes.

Source: *San Francisco Chronicle* article of September 11, 1978, provided by June Genis.

The following is reprinted from the Wall Street Journal.

Midland's Revenge

From an article by Jack Mabley in the Chicago Times.

When the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development applied for a parking space at the municipal airport in Midland, Texas, Mayor Ernest Angelo returned its application with a request for more information.

The first requirement Angelo informed the feds, was to obtain from the United State Government Printing Office, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, or someplace, a supply of application form COM-1975. Submit three executed and 14 confirmed copies of the application.

Second, submit the make and the model of the proposed vehicle together with certified assurances that everyone connected with the manufacture, servicing and operating of same has been paid according to wage scale that complies with the Davis-Bacon Act.

Next requirement was a genealogical table for everyone who will operate said vehicle so Midland can ascertain that there will be precisely equal percentages of whites, blacks, and other minorities as well as women and the elderly.

This is just the beginning of Midland's Revenge. Midland has just gone through a 10-month nightmare of red tape in applying to H.U.D. for a housing grant.

Midland's Revenge was mailed to H.U.D. in October or November, 1975, Angelo said. "They may still be filling out the forms for all I know."

The following article is a partial reprint of a story which appeared in the March issue of Colorado Liberty, the newsletter of the Colorado Libertarian Party.

Price Controls Expensive

In a recently published report, economist Robert Pindyck of M.I.T., computed the total cost of the shortage created by federal controls. Central to his analysis were the observations that those shivering Americans in the East had to substitute other, more expensive fuels for natural gas, and that

Continued on page 5

News Notes

For those of you who are following the Saga of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin vs. *Massachusetts LIBERTY*, our rag has apparently finally gotten it through their bureaucratic brains that we don't accept stolen monies confiscated from unwilling taxpayers. We just received a check from a private individual who presumably works for a living and who is willing to pay for a subscription for the Historical Society. So, welcome to the ranks of anti-statists, ye bureaucrats at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Somehow, we sense that there must be something ironic about this story but we're not quite sure what it is.

The October-November issue of *Libertarian Lines*, the newsletter of the New Hampshire Libertarian Party, hints strongly at the possibility of Bill Hunscher running for U.S. Senate. Bill apparently cannot announce formally without running afoul of the federal regulations on fundraising. The Draft Hunscher Committee has been formed and has been soliciting contributions with the help of Ray Cunningham and Ken Sturzencker. All New Englanders are urged to help this effort. A serious candidacy in New Hampshire will have a positive impact throughout the Northeast and Hunscher's candidacy will be serious — a quarter of a million dollars worth of serious according to the Draft Hunscher material.

The recent issue of *Frontlines* carried an intelligent article on humanism and libertarianism by Dr. Peter Breggin. Breggin suggested that we might do well to adopt a humanistic attitude, i.e. everyone has the right to be uncharitable, bigoted, rude, unbathed, and just plain mean, but would it hurt so much if libertarians didn't choose to exercise that right so consistently?

Funthoughts has come out with an attractive bumper sticker: "Warning: Government May Be Hazardous to Your Health." Send \$1.00 to Funthoughts, Dept. F, POB 130, Whippany, N.J. 07981.

If you're wondering why libertarian Don Feder is no longer running Citizens for Limited Taxation, here's your answer. In the October-November issue of the *Second Amendment Reporter* out of Seattle, Washington it was announced that Don had been named Executive Director of the Second Amendment Foundation. We are all sure that Don will be successful in bringing a libertarian perspective to this anti-gun control group and we hope that non-libertarian Gregg Hyatt, Don's successor at CLT, will maintain the principled, libertarian positions that Don has established for our Massachusetts taxpayers group.

Policy Report 11/79

"When President Carter ran for office in 1976 he promised to streamline the federal government by reducing the number of Cabinet departments. So far he has added two — Energy and Education."

— Albert Shanker,
New York Times, Oct. 7, 1979

"By September, 1980, the four budgets that the Carter administration has controlled are expected to show a cumulative deficit of 157.3 billion dollars.

"That would be the largest cumulative deficit for one President since the 12 years of the Roosevelt administration, when the U.S. government spent 196.9 billion more than it took in while combating the Depression and fighting World War II."

— *U.S. News & World Report*,
Oct. 8, 1979

The following are excerpts from the Southern Libertarian Messenger, Oct 1979

The Draft

When the military brass say, "We need The Draft," they are quite sincere, and they mean exactly that: We, The Brass, need a Draft to provide more troops for our empire building within the services. They do not mean, although they may say, We, the Citizens, need a Draft.

For example, a US division needs 40,000 men including support. Other

modern armies get the same number of troops into combat with 25,000 or so. Of course, this would mean that some of the "lifters" would get into places where they could be shot at, instead of "fighting" a war from a safe rear area.

(On Dec. 8, 1941, a retired officer I know appeared at the recruiting HQ in Atlanta, and asked for a commission. He was about 60, and had been a major in WWI. "Colonel," they said, "we're not calling up officers in your age group; what could you do?" Looking around, he answered, "Give me 2 good secretaries and I can handle the work of this office." This would have released a dozen or so able bodied young career officers for active combat; needless to say, he did not get the commission.)

Quite aside from the wastefulness of military manpower usage, is the question of the need for even so big an army as we now have, some 3/4 of which is for defending other nations.

But why do The Brass want more men, rather than more sophisticated weapons for defense. Because more men to command mean more promotions, "more jobs for the old boys," more internal empire building.

And that's why the Pentagon wants a draft instead of a replacement of our B-52's.

Miscellany

In 1880, taxes were \$12.87 per capita including all federal, state & local tax levies. Now they're \$1944. (TRIM)

Carl Watner (7250 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21227) is collecting funds to pay for perpetual care for Lysander Spooner's grave at Jamaica Plain, MA. Total cost is \$100.

Savannah River atomic waste dump in SC is leaking, and Ben McCarty of Nuclear Waste Management Div. of Dept. of Energy concedes, "There is an urgency to the problem." 8 out of 32 million-gallon tanks of atomic wastes have sprung leaks that the government admits. The Savannah River has high levels of radioactivity & the cancer rate in Barnwell County, SC has gone up 168% since 1972. (NE)

Commissioner of Irish Lights (?)

In New Orleans, a striking teacher recently carried a sign: "We are striking for descent wages." (sic) (WSJ) Descent into illiteracy wages?

Until this summer, reports Dr. Richard Timberlake of U. of GA, gas & oil prices had not risen any faster than the value of the dollar had declined. (Ind. Lib.)

Meanwhile, Fred Muller of Columbia, SC, has written OPEC-President Mana Al-Oteiba suggesting that world-wide inflation be curbed by selling oil in terms of gold prices. (PSL)

Puerto Rico reduced marginal tax rates by 10%, and tax collections rose by 7% (Am. Spectator)

Canada

New address for the Libertarian Party of Canada:

127 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1W4 Tel: (416) 363-0157

Mailing address: P.O. Box 190, Adelaide St. Postal Station, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2J1

the prices of alternative energy sources were uniformly higher than the unregulated market price of said product.

In carefully examining the economic tradeoffs between continued price controls and the deleterious consequences of the federally induced shortage in the form of increased unemployment and lowered production, Pindyck calculated the aggregate losses from regulation to be more than \$180 billion by 1985. Comparing this figure to the total of \$54 billion he arrived at as the increased cost in higher prices incurred through phased gas deregulation, we note that some of the statements made by President Carter and his coterie of Congressional "rip-off" investigators demand closer scrutiny.

Pindyck concludes: "A regulation-induced shortage only makes sense from the point of view of total public welfare if the gain to consumers from lower prices exceeds the losses created by the shortage. . . . In the case of natural gas, continued regulation-induced shortages cannot be justified, since the cost of the shortages would far outweigh the gain the same consumers would receive by being able to pay lower prices."

The following article is reprinted from the April, 1979 issue of World Research INK.

Want a good laugh? Then read on! The Federal Trade Commission wants to offer more competition and thus, the result — lower-priced products. How? They have proposed a rule that would "regulate" private groups who define acceptable levels of product quality safety. Such private groups are notably recognized by consumers, building code groups, etc. The F.T.C. says such a rule would eliminate unnecessary, inadequate, and overrestrictive standards — now, isn't that something! This little informative tidbit was sent to us from Mr. Guy Gordon of Florida State University and was found in *Chemical and Engineering News*, December 11, 1978.

The following is reprinted from the January issue of Reason.

Massachusetts Joins Revolt. Of the 115 (out of 351) Massachusetts municipalities that have announced their property tax rates for the year ending June 1980, 76 have cut back their levies, 12 have maintained the same tax, and only 27 have increased taxes. Massachusetts Gov. Edward J. King predicts that 70 percent of the state's municipalities will reduce their property tax rates, with a significant number staying even. Massachusetts has long had the highest property taxes in the United States.

Individual authors bear all responsibility for the accuracy of facts and validity of opinions in their work. No articles or other content should be construed as representing the opinions of the editor, the Libertarian Party, or the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts unless so stated.

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Deadline for the next issue is March 15, 1980.

Subscription Rates:

\$ 6.00 for members per year
\$10.00 for non-members per year

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Bill Hurst	547-2590
Dan Kotlow	787-1673
Temperance Snow	261-8853
Lee Webber	266-9079
Walter Ziobro, Jr.	672-5437

News by Lee Nason

As long-time readers of *Massachusetts LIBERTY* may remember, we rejected a subscription from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin because they tried to pay for it with stolen (tax) money. Well, they didn't give up and recently sent us another note asking for recent copies. We reprint our reply here below for the edification and enjoyment of all good libertarians everywhere:

Dear Ms. Reddick:

We returned your subscription check and have not sent you copies of *Massachusetts LIBERTY* because we cannot, on principle, accept the money the state of Wisconsin has stolen from its citizens via taxation and we do not wish to send it to you free.

We appreciate your efforts to do a good job for the citizens of your state but we cannot in good conscience collaborate with people who are sympathetic to the coercive nature of government institutions. You unfortunately have proved your sympathy by accepting government money.

In liberty,
Lee Nason, Editor, *Massachusetts LIBERTY*

The following is reprinted from a letter by Robert Clarkson, a southern libertarian involved in tax issues.

The Privacy Act of 1974, 5USC 552A, Subparagraph (e) (7) specifically prohibits government agencies from collecting any information whatsoever on how a citizen exercises his first amendment rights.

However, rightfully so, one exception exists, for a legitimate law enforcement investigation, an agency with written authorization may collect and maintain a few records. With typical bureaucratic stupidity, the I.R.S. wrote out I.R.M. 9383.6 to justify political spying. You can receive a copy of this for 10 cents under F.O.I.A.

This I.R.S. procedure, besides being openly violated by agents, is clearly deficient, and the Privacy Act provides for injunctions and damages, as well as attorney's fees, even for "pro se's. Plus, the Privacy Act mandates a minimum of \$1000 damages.

Ralph Nader's group just settled out of court for \$200,000 damages under the Privacy Act. The Socialist Workers Party will collect twenty million dollars on similar grounds on a civil rights suit.

How to do it: Contact Robert Clarkson (803) 225-3061 now. Then send in an F.O.I.A. request. The Carolina Patriots are now preparing a complete Privacy Act Suit packet.

In order to provide you with a newsletter you will look forward to each month, I have to know what you want to read. I know how tough it is to get around to actually addressing and mailing an envelope, but for my wife's sake (a frustrated Don Dewsnap is a terrible person to live with), could you answer the survey questions below and mail the answers to me at 24 Elmwood St., Newton, MA 02158? She will appreciate it.

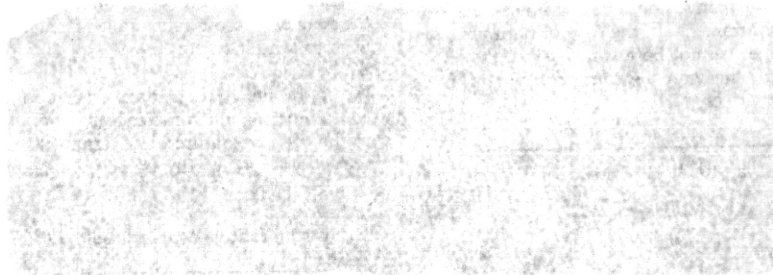
Background info:

1. What does membership in the MLP mean to you?
2. How involved do you think Libertarians should be in politics?
3. What should the MLP be working toward?

Newsletter content:

4. What should be the purpose of Massachusetts LIBERTY?
5. How can it accomplish this purpose?
6. Name some specific areas, topics, or features of interest you would like to see in Massachusetts LIBERTY.
7. Any other comments?

The results of this survey will be published in a month or so, and will be evident in future issues. Do write.



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Massachusetts LIBERTY

Article 1, Paragraph 3, (partial) of the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts (April 1, 1978):
 The purpose for which the Party is organized is to implement and give voice to the following fundamental principle* of libertarianism: NO PERSON, GROUP OF PEOPLE, OR GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO INITIATE FORCE AGAINST ANY OTHER PERSON, GROUP OF PEOPLE, OR GOVERNMENT. (The word "force" is interpreted broadly to cover such acts as fraud, extortion, stealing, and threats against life or property, as well as physical aggression.)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MASSACHUSETTS, P.O. BOX 2610, BOSTON, MA 02208
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name Phone (Hm) (Wk)
 Address

Membership: Basic(\$2 per year) Sustaining†(\$25 per year) Patron†(\$50 per year) Life†(\$250)
 †All these members receive the newsletter without extra charge.

Newsletter: Members rate(\$6 per year) Non-members rate(\$10 per year) Information packet(\$2)

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

Signature: Date:

I would like to be active in the L.P.M.: Newsletter Editorial rebuttals Position papers Speakers bureau Local organizing Campaigning Other (specify)

I would like to join the National L.P.: Student(\$5 per year) Regular(\$10 per year) Sustaining(\$25 per year) Patron(\$100 per year) Life(\$250) Life Sustaining(\$1000)

Note: L.P.M. members are entitled to 20% discount on National membership.