

FROM THE CLUBS

The FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY will be very decentralized, consisting of autonomous local clubs which are now being enthusiastically encouraged.

In future issues, this column will be devoted to news of the activities of each club.

Those who are interested in forming a club should read Articles II, III, VI, VII, IX, X and XI of the FLP Bylaws. For further information and assistance in forming a club, contact Gary Greenberg, 124 West 81st Street, New York, New York 10024, (212) 787-7093.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY will hold a formal news conference to announce the existence of the party and introduce its candidates to the media. The conference will be held on July 4th at The Williams Club in Manhattan at 1:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed on the Membership Committee. Please contact Les Davidson, Membership Chairperson at (212) 477-0905 (evenings).

CAMPAIGN NEWS

The Campaign Committee has conducted two successful campaigns of distributing party and Greenberg campaign literature in Stuyvesant Town, the Village and Yorkville. The committee will soon undertake a sidewalk poll.

MANY, MANY volunteers are needed to carry petitions for our candidates. Without your help, we cannot get on the ballot. If you can give time, contact Mel Hirshowitz at (212) 244-3100 (day) or (212) 734-3438 (evenings.)

CLASSIFIED

LAISSEZ FAIRE BOOKS: Fantastic selection of Libertarian, Free Market, and Romantic Literature. 208A Mercer (corner of Bleecker) in Greenwich Village.

OUTLOOK, The Libertarian Monthly: The liveliest, most provocative political magazine, featuring leading libertarian writers and thinkers. \$6.00/year OUTLOOK, Box 1027, Newark, N.J. 07101

The **SCORPIO SHOW**, starring Gary Greenberg, Sunday Nights, 2:00 AM, WHBI-FM, 105.9.

FLP NEWS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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NAT'L CONVENTION NOMINATES HOSPERS/NATHAN

ELECTS OFFICERS AND ADOPTS PLATFORM

NY'S CLARK VICE CHAIRMAN

The first national convention of the Libertarian Party nominated Dr. John Hospers and Ms. Toni Nathan as the party's candidates for President and Vice President. Ms. Susan Nolan of Colorado was elected Chairman.

Over 100 delegates from coast to coast attended the convention in Denver, Colorado June 15-18.

The agenda of the convention included the writing and adopting of a constitution and bylaws, national platform, election of party officers and the nomination of presidential and vice presidential candidates.

In a keynote speech before the platform committee, David Nolan, Temporary Chairman of the party advised the committee to "be as radical as you want in what you say, but be as moderate as possible in how you say it." After two marathon sessions, the committee produced a platform containing strong positions against

the draft, for free trade, for restitution by perpetrators to victims of crimes, for the elimination of crimes without victims and for restitution to those indicted and tried for crimes, but not convicted. Printed copies of the official platform will be available after July 1st.

The party officers elected at the convention are:

Chairman: Susan Nolan, Colorado
Vice Chairman: Edward Clark, New York

Secretary: Diane Amesen, New Mexico
Treasurer: Pipp Boyles, Colorado

Dr. John Hospers, the presidential candidate, is Chairman of the Philosophy Department at the University of Southern California, the author of several books on ethics and the author of Libertarianism.

Ms. Toni Nathan, the vice-presidential candidate, is a television producer from Portland, Oregon, whose previous political activities include working for McCarthy in 1968.

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PARTY FORUM

CRIME, DRUGS AND THE STATE

by Gary Greenberg

There is a tendency among Libertarians to blame our growing crime problem on the "something for nothing" philosophy of the welfare state, i.e., belief by criminals that they have a right to the properties of others because they need it, and that criminals are nothing more than the consumers of the welfare state who have eliminated the bureaucrats as middlemen by going directly to the producers (read victims).

The fallacy underlying this analysis is the assumption that the criminals in our society have come to some sort of moral conclusion about their behavior. In considering the problem, it is apparent to me that the villain is indeed the government, but the cause is not the moral conclusions of criminals but rather the government's suppression of narcotic sale and use.

Most people experienced in the areas of crime would probably agree that from 60-80% of the robberies, burglaries, muggings, shopliftings and other crimes aimed at obtaining property are committed by narcotics addicts.

To get a better picture of the problem consider the following: 1) a heroin habit will cost five to seven hundred dollars a week and few people can afford such a habit by working at honest employment; 2) to earn five hundred dollars a week through criminal acts a person would probably have to steal twenty-five hundred dollars worth of goods in addition to any

cash obtained; 3) the size of the addict population is constantly increasing (in New York City it is estimated that there are now 150,000 to 200,000 addicts) and virtually all addicts are full time criminals.

When we realize that, under present conditions, the addict is consumed by one obsession--obtaining the next fix--it is quite evident that law and order not only will not stop the rise in crime but will, in fact, be the major cause of the rise in crime. A fix costs fifteen cents to produce. Government suppression of narcotic use and sale has resulted in a coercive monopoly run by the elements of organized crime. The only factor limiting the price charged by this monopoly is the outside limit of income obtained by the average addict through criminal activity.

If heroin were sold openly on the free market the cost of maintaining a habit would be on the order of the cost of cigarettes to a heavy smoker, and there are very few persons driven to a life of crime by a cigarette habit. Once the addict knows that he can supply his habit without any difficulty or great expense he can function as a relatively useful individual capable of holding down a job and earning his way. In addition, the addict no longer has an incentive to increase the addict population because he no longer needs to find customers for pushers in order to get some cheap supplies of his own as a reward.

As a result of the continuing increase in crime, the criminal courts have become so crowded that they no longer seek justice but are instead

only concerned with disposing of cases. Cases frequently drag out for over a year and the deterrent effect of swift punishment has been lost. As a matter of fact, one can safely say that not only does crime pay, but there is virtually no enterprise that pays as well with such a low risk of failure. In New York City, for example, in 95% of reported burglaries (only a portion of the actual burglaries committed) there is no suspect even brought into court.

This is not to say that the situation is inevitably hopeless. The crisis is purely a government created crisis. Not only has government given organized crime a prosperous monopoly, but it has increased its size and its own power to destroy civil liberties--and all with the howling support of the people. Judges frequently look the other way as police perjury becomes an accepted and favored method in obtaining convictions. For fear of constitutional restraints on police procedure, the police have taken to straight-out lying about how they seized evidence or obtained confessions.

Off the bench and in private the judges will usually admit that most testimony from narcotics officers is untrustworthy, but once they start speaking for the public record, the police are transformed into poor maligned public servants who deserve public support and sympathy. To suggest to the law and order crowd that there is widespread police perjury is to invite a cacophony of verbal abuse.

The legalization of heroin would result in an almost overnight elimination of one of the greatest social problems. Not only would we eliminate

the crime crisis, we could fire a lot of cops, judges and other assorted government hangers-on as well as break the back of organized crime's financial base.

Many people oppose the legalization of drugs on the non sequitor ground that legalization will not solve the drug problem; it is supposed to solve the crime problem. Solutions to the drug problem lie with the medical profession, not the law enforcement profession.

Libertarians should make it clear: If you support an increase in crime, then support law and order; if you wish to drastically reduce the crime problem, then support the order of the market place.

Reprinted from OUTLOOK

FROM THE CHAIR

The second general meeting of the FLP was held May 21st at The Williams Club in Manhattan with nearly 100 in attendance. Membership rolls had more than doubled from the original 25 on April 22nd. On June 21st membership reached 100.

The following officers were elected: Melvin Hirshowitz and Jerome J. Klasman, Vice Chairpersons and Ray Goldfield, Treasurer. Calvin Beatty was appointed Finance Chairperson, Les Davidson, Membership Chairperson and Linda Klasman, Publicity Chairperson and volunteers were accepted for each of the three committees.

Gary Greenberg was overwhelmingly nominated as the party's candidate for Congress in the 18th "Silk Stocking" Congressional District.

Guy Riggs, Libertarian Assembly candidate in Poughkeepsie, discussed the progress of his campaign.