



Alaska

Libertarian

News



Volume R, No. 4

May 1983

1983 ALP Convention Report

Another installment of the State Libertarian Party convention has passed into history. The 1983 version of the annual check-up, tune-up and rotation for the good of the order has been successfully completed. A newly committed, newly armed, newly excited group of libertarian leaders have headed back to their homes and are carrying with them the seeds for the spring of the new libertarian planting season. Still others are sharpening their tools to prepare for one of the best prospective harvests in the libertarian history. Countless others, who did not make the convention, stayed behind to work the ground and make it fertile and hospitable...ready for the planting.

The party machinery is ready once again to take on the enormous task of feeding the starving people. People who have been hungry for years for the kind of sustenance that the libertarian party promises to provide. People who have lived on the edge of intellectual, emotional and political famine for literally decades, and who have held on merely by the strength of their wills and optimism that sanity might once again prevail in a weary world.

The time is ripe; the machinery is well-oiled; the fields are turned and waiting; the mood is optimistic. The waiting is over, and the challenge is upon us. It is a make or break kind of year, and the convention confirmed a great commitment to success. It is the New Year of Liberty.

In the war of personal freedom, the enemies in the form of ignorance, confusion, deceit and fraud have lined up on one side..Libertarians have lined up on the other. The strides of both are irrevocable, have come too far to rereat at this point. It is finally time to fight or flee. The Libertarians must stand firm, and all current signs are that they will.

Delegates Elect Dick Randolph

Dick Randolph was elected to serve as State Chairman for the Alaska Libertarian Party at the regular election on the last morning of the convention. He ran against John Wood, long-time Anchorage activist, and Chairman of the Platform Committee for the last two years. Both Dick and John gave compelling speeches in their own behalf before the delegates marked their secret ballots. When the ballots were tallied, Randolph won by a comfortable margin.

As the new Chairman, Dick took up the duties of conducting the business meeting directly following the election of officers, and held a brief meeting of the new executive committee as soon as the convention had adjourned.



In his executive committee meeting, Dick asked all the new officers to make any statement to the group that they wished, and gave a brief summary of his/her hopes for the new party organization. He also asked the members of the Executive Committee to schedule themselves for a working meeting in Anchorage the weekend of May 6th, and to bring along written proposals regarding how they intended to carry out their new positions.

Other persons elected to serve with Randolph on the executive committee were: Ruth Reed, Vice-Chair; Judy Clarke, Treasurer/Finance Chair; Colleen Olds, Secretary; Susan Bickman, Membership Chair; Lydia Randolph, Nominations Chair; Curtis Green, Constitution and By-Laws Chair; Andre Marrou, Platform Chair; Ben Olds, Elections Chair. A future article in the ALP news will be devoted to the introduction of these new office holders and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year.

In addition to the May 6th meeting, Randolph said he would like to see the executive committee meet at least bi-monthly in various places around the state. These committee meetings are open to the membership, and each local party is entitled to voting representation (normally the local chair). Each meeting of the Executive Committee will be reported in the newsletter so that you will know what the party leadership is up to.

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view from the chair by Dick Randolph

Those people attending the convention will, I'm sure, agree that it was an exciting weekend. Convention chair Susan Bickman and her crew assembled an excellent array of speakers and seminars and ran the entire event with finger-snapping precision. And the convention showed a profit to boot! Great job, Eagle River Libertarians!

Now, for those whose misfortune kept them away...I'd like to highlight an agenda I presented for the next 18 months. In a seven page report entitled "A Blueprint for Victory," I suggested that our overriding goal must be to elect Libertarian legislators in 1984.

To accomplish that, we should determine which districts have the highest potential for Libertarian victories. In the top six to eight districts, we should recruit top-notch candidates, and concentrate our efforts on electing them. I encourage Libertarians to run elsewhere, since campaigns in 1984 build for future victories. Given our goal, however, of electing Libertarians, we must concentrate on some races at others' expense.

Electing Libertarians will cost money. I propose a two-pronged approach to fundraising. First, we must have some healthy monthly pledges to finance day-to-day operations that set the stage for winning. As you probably know, last month I mailed a request for monthly pledges to Alaska Libertarians. To date, we are only halfway towards our goal of \$3,000. per month. If you haven't yet made your pledge, please use the form on page 8. I can't overemphasize that our ultimate success in 1984 rests on how well this pledge drive does right now.

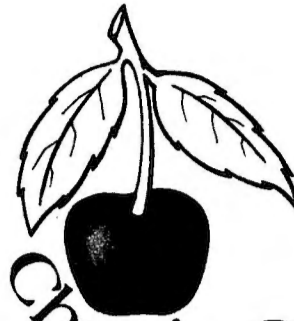
Second, we should organize continuing raffles...probably airplanes...to finance a war chest for direct contributions to candidates next year. I'm currently lining up airplanes for interested affiliates which will be available on a split (say 50 - 50) with state proceeds going into the bank account. By Thanksgiving, I hope we have at least \$150,000 set aside; at that point, we can start approaching Outside contributors for matching funds.

Our initiative to deregulate transportation will play an important part in our 1984 efforts. It will give our candidates an issue on which to campaign, and will attract new supporters and money for our cause. It will also generate a great deal of media attention as the campaign heats up. In addition to these benefits to the party, the initiative itself is a worthy cause. If it passes, it will save Alaskan consumers millions of dollars each year; it will strengthen Alaska's rapidly eroding free markets, and it will provide fuel for deregulation efforts nationwide.

We must also educate Alaskans about our stands on the issues. Within the party, this can best be accomplished by waging high profile campaigns with articulate candidates able to apply libertarian principles to current problems. They can issue position papers, buy media time, speak to groups, and disseminate literature. But educational efforts should not be confined to party activities; we are in the process of establishing an educational foundation separate from the party which can accept tax deductible contributions. If enough interest exists, the foundation will sponsor a weekend seminar early this fall on libertarianism featuring well-known speakers from Outside.

In my blueprint, I also stress the need to run local candidates, maintain a high profile for the party, register Alaskans as Libertarians, and other activities that time limitations prevent me from discussing here. Copies of the blueprint, however, are available to party members for \$2.50. If you would like to have one, please write to the ALP Headquarters at Box 104073, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

In short, I'm proposing 18 months of exciting activity and hard work. I'm ready for it, and I hope you are, too! Please call me with your ideas, and don't forget your monthly pledge!



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HQ WISH LIST

In the last issue, we ran a "wish list" for State Headquarters. We got exactly one response: Carl Whitson of Anchorage donated a clock and said he'd check to see whether he had an old refrigerator. Thus, we're going to give you another chance:

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From the Director

update



**Duncan
Scott**

The Alaska Libertarian Party submitted its initiative to deregulate the transportation industry in Alaska on April 20. It is expected to be ready for signature gathering in 45 to 60 days.

The initiative proposes to abolish the Alaska Transportation Commission (ATC) and repeal laws administered by that agency. Currently, the ATC sets freight rates for truckers and air taxi operators and restricts competition among carriers. Dick Randolph, the initiative's originator, explains why this is an ideal issue for libertarians:

"Few Alaskans have heard of the ATC, yet it cost them millions of dollars last year, and every year by raising freight rates above free market prices, and thereby raising the cost of consumer goods across the board in Alaska. Furthermore, I am confident we can raise over \$100,000. from businesses adversely affected by the ATC so we'll have sufficient money to tell consumers what the ATC does to them."

In addition to abolishing the ATC, this initiative would require the Governor to lobby Congress for the repeal of the so-called Jones Act. This act requires that ships leaving American ports for Alaska be built in the United States, and manned by United States crewmen. In their report issued in January, the Statehood Commission said that the Jones Act costs Alaskan consumers \$41 million every year, and reduces the wellhead value of Alaskan oil by about \$500 million. The Commission urged that Congress repeal this restraint on trade.

It is easy to guess that a major argument the opponents of deregulation will use is that deregulation means impaired safety. To defuse this argument, the initiative continues current requirements for carriers to hold insurance.

In order to get this initiative on the ballot, we must gather 20,000 valid signatures by December of this year. Of course, that means we'll have to collect at least 28,000 signatures to assure that we have sufficient valid ones. The initiative campaign itself will be run by a group of libertarians calling themselves "Alaskans for a Competitive Economy."

PDQ... call your rep!!

Alaska Libertarians have collected over 21,000 signatures statewide in support of the dividend program. Last month Dick Randolph delivered 10,000 signatures to Governor Bill. Since then, thousands more have been mailed to various legislators, including 5400 Anchorage signatures to Rep. Joe Hayes, who is spearheading the proposal to kill the program.

Despite these efforts, the House Finance Committee voted a bill (HB85) out of committee that will repeal the program. HB 85 is now stalled on the House floor while the leadership rounds up the necessary votes to pass it. Thus, it is important that you call your legislator right now and urge him or her to defeat HB 85. Without our petition drive, it is likely that HB 85 would have sailed through the House; with an intense phoning effort, we can possibly kill it on the House floor.

Our petition continues to report overwhelming support for the program. Jeff Austin of Eagle said he gathered 73 signatures in his area...which amounts to roughly 90% of the people living there! Andre Marrou, the new Platform Chairman from Homer, said Kachemak Libertarians gathered 896 signatures (about 30% of Homer's population). Fairbanks Libertarians gathered about 8,000 signatures, and Kenai Peninsula Libertarians several thousand more.

Posters urging people to call their legislators and save the program are now available from state headquarters. If you can help distribute them in your area, call or write immediately.

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SHOULD FISCAL CONSERVATIVES BUY
PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DEFENSE LINE?

by Don Doig

A professional writer and gourmet chef, Don Doig
is the Chairman of the Montana Libertarian Party.

Guest Writer's Page

There's a natural tendency for Americans to believe what their President tells them. We've been taught to accept what our government does as somehow reflecting the national interest as if the actions of government officials necessarily served the interests of the average citizen. Especially when it comes to defense, patriotism is equated with following the President. We are told that the security of the United States depends on maintaining a global policeforce, subsidizing innumerable foreign countries, and busting our economy on an all-out arms race. The question is, do you really trust these politicians enough to hand them a blank check for anything? I maintain that what Reagan and the whole pack of politicians infesting that imperial city on the Potomac really hold dear is their own professional welfare and political power. Their game depends on quiet acceptance of their terms...their explanations on the part of American taxpayers. How often do we have to be deceived before we stop believing them?

What strikes me about the current debate over the President's defense budget is how few people realize that fiscal conservatism is not compatible with global military presence, or with military expenditures of \$230 billion a year (projected to total \$1.5 trillion to \$2.5 trillion over the next five years). If America is going to maintain the reality of a free society, and not just the illusion of one, it is going to have to have a much smaller government...across the board.

Throughout history, governments have used the threat of external enemies to build up domestic government power, and to create what has been called a "permanent war economy" in which control over the economy is removed progressively from the private sector, and concentrated in the hands of the bureaucrats. Government war contracts, financed through taxation, government borrowing, or money supply expansion, concentrate resources and capital in the hands of those few large corporations lucky enough to have political pull. The number of companies competing in a particular industry always decreases following a military buildup, as a result of the failure of small companies not favored by the political process.

Menacing as foreign aggressors may appear, the central fact too often overlooked is that we have to live with our own government, a government sure to be a fearful master if we encourage it to get out of control. The only way we can ensure freedom for ourselves and our children is to insist on a small, peaceful government committed to an adequate domestic defense, but foregoing any role as global policeman.

To be secure from totalitarian intimidation, we simply must have a strong, healthy private sector economy. But when we have a government which extorts an average of 40% of our income, and absorbs over one-half of the total loan capital available in this country to finance its deficit spending, we cannot have a healthy economy.

Approximately three-quarters of our defense budget goes to subsidize the defense of other countries, such as Western Europe and Japan, who are then better able to invest in and modernize their domestic industries. So the American taxpayer ends up subsidizing foreign competition while American industry stagnates under a government-induced capital

shortage and a bewildering maze of counter-productive regulations.

We pump \$120 billion a year into NATO, even though the combined population and economic output of Western Europe exceeds that of the Warsaw Pact nations. And all of this goes for nothing. Our economy is being ruined and our actual security is decreased. A global military presence sets up trip wires for our

almost certain involvement in foreign conflicts. What might otherwise have been one of an interminable string of local or regional conflicts risks escalation into a global conflagration because of an ill-advised American presence. This decreases our actual security by risking millions of American lives whenever some politician sees political advantages in meddling in places a free society has no business interfering. Our cynical intervention in foreign countries has also created wide-spread dislike of our people and our way of life, and has handed the hearts and minds of the developing world to Marxism on a platter. It has all been unnecessary, and it's a shame. We just can't afford our foreign policy.

You can't have a free society and a free market if you're going to insist on a government anywhere near as large as ours, and all of Reagan's rhetoric can't make it otherwise. President Reagan does not want to cut back the power of the government -- he just wants us to think he does. His programs have turned out to be a backward rush to those of New Deal socialism, overlaid with conservative social rhetoric and cold-war sabre-rattling. All of these approaches have one thing in common: they increase the size and power of the federal government, and no end is in sight.

We could save easily \$200 billion a year by eliminating foreign aid and cutting back the military to just what is needed to provide a strong defense for a few tens of billions a year. On this basis alone, we could balance the budget. With enough cuts elsewhere in the budget, we could balance it at a much lower level and slash taxes, getting this economy back on the road to recovery.

But what about the Soviet nuclear threat? Outside of the Pentagon (or at least the "for-public-consumption-Pentagon"), most analysts are convinced we actually do have rough across-the-board nuclear parity. They have bigger bombs, but ours are more accurate, and so on. Both sides have about 25,000 nuclear warheads, and all it would take to destroy the Soviet Union (or America) would be about 400 warheads. Why would President Reagan tell the American people we are behind in the arms race when we aren't? He wants to have a saleable reason for continuing the arms race, even though we are even when it comes to nuclear capability.

For this strategy to have credibility, the U.S. would have to have clear nuclear superiority, sufficient to convince the Soviets that we can start and win a limited nuclear war and still have plenty of warheads in reserve with which to threaten more general destruction. A nuclear freeze would lock us into parity and prevent the U. S. from going all-out to win the arms race, preserving our policy of nuclear containment. This is why Reagan opposes the nuclear freeze, not because the Soviets are ahead. The threat of nuclear war hangs over our heads like a black cloud as our leaders play games devised decades ago...games long since grown absurd.

When Reagan accuses the Soviets, surely a scummy totalitarian lot, of not bargaining in good faith, it is like the kettle calling the pot black. Recent history has seen the U. S. repeatedly initiating new rounds in the arms race precipitating the USSR to follow suit. The Soviets offer to negotiate a nuclear freeze, Reagan says no. They offer to discuss cutbacks in their European nuclear forces, but Reagan insists on stacking the deck in our favor. The Soviets at least promise never to be the first to use nuclear weapons...Reagan hints we might be the first anyway.

Until we change America's policy of seeking nuclear superiority and first-strike capability, any attempt to provide additional defense against Soviet missiles will be seen by them as an adjunct to first-strike capability. We must end this insanity. We should immediately negotiate a verifiable freeze and begin work on bilateral disarmament. We should try to regain the honor, respect and good name of the United States, and stop acting like a modern day version of the British Empire. Finally, we must, as taxpayers and citizens, realize that we are paying for it all, and put our foot down to stop it.

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Ayn Rand Tribute

Fred James, KABN radio personality (don't ever call Fred a "DJ") has a regular talk show on that station every Sunday night at 10:00 p.m. Fred's show has featured a broad variety of newsmakers, including both right and left wingers...local municipal politicians, and just about anyone who is active on the political/governmental scene.

On Easter Sunday, April 3, Fred hosted a different kind of show. It was a special tribute to Ayn Rand, who died a year ago. For this program, Fred assembled a panel of "Rand Scholars" to discuss her work and her life. The panel was made up of John Ulsher, John Ward, Ruth Reed and Fred himself.

Each panelist reviewed a piece of Rand's work, and then entered into general discussions with callers or the panel on various aspects of her philosophical leanings. A recording of one of Rand's last speeches was also played...for many, the first time that that voice had ever touched their ears.

For Rand's fans, this was a memorable event. The panel, on the air in excess of four hours, did a fairly good job of touching on Rand's high points. Though there were various interpretations assigned to her motives and methods, the general consensus was that this had been an amazing woman and author and philosopher.

Four hours, four months or even four years would hardly be enough time to really do justice to the school of objectivism or Rand herself. Yet it is refreshing to know that there are still people in the electronic mass media business who will put out this kind of production for public consumption. We need more of this kind of stimulation...the kind that asks the listener to become involved, and engage his or her own reasoning faculties and draw some personal conclusions.

Rand would have been pleased; the members of the panel were, and we suspect anyone listening out there in the Alaska midnight must have felt pretty good about it, too. Plaudits to Fred James for putting the show together, and here's hoping he does more of the same sort of thing in the future.

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Gavel Gamesmanship

The convention provided us with a study in patience. Watching John Wood and Bruce Boyd (Platform and Elections Chairmen, respectively) carrying on their jobs was an education...at the very least.

John had his share of gavel games early on. His platform committee had had the routine marathon session to develop its report to the convention, and to propose new or revised planks for the party platform. Then, like the game is always played, delegates on the floor took the committee report and cut it to ribbons. They proposed endless amendments, and modified whole planks, sentences, and sometimes even words. A semantics freak would have been in his/her element!!

All of this was somehow tolerable, as it is the norm, and probably the requirement that the delegates get their chance to test the viability of the committee's proposed changes. But the part that John had trouble with was not the debate or the hair-splitting on the floor. It was the fact that on Saturday, as some popular seminars started up, there were not enough delegates on the floor to conduct business.

The bylaws were clear on how many delegates had to be present to conduct business. The only two options were to (1) curtail the business meeting until after the seminars or (2) suspend the rules and change the number of delegates who had to be present to approve the platform. In a move that seemed uncomfortable to nearly everyone, the rules were suspended until the platform was approved, and the business and seminars were carried on. Needless to say, orderly John Wood had a difficult situation on his hands, and he handled it like a pro.

Bruce Boyd's test of fire came on Sunday morning. It was the almost last event of the convention...the election of party officers. Things seemed to be going relatively well...there were more candidates running for the various offices than ever before. Bruce even got things running with a joke that rivaled a "Joe Grove" for its impact and effectiveness.

Bruce's glitch came in the form of NOTA, a naughty little non-person who graces every good libertarian ballot as a constant candidate. NOTA, by the way, is "None of the Above." Our NOTA leaped to life about a quarter of the way through the election. It was a two-way race for one of the offices, and the bylaws require a clear majority to elect...requiring that the lowest candidate be removed from the ticket if no clear majority appears, and re-running the remaining candidates. In the case of the two way race, the obvious thing seemed to be to throw out the whole ballot, and start over. The pro forma argument, though, was that the low vote getting candidate should run against NOTA. Well, you can just imagine NOTA as an officer, can't you?? Naturally, it all worked out with another rules suspension. But we got a good look at what John Wood meant when he told the group, "This is a prime example of how form can make an absurdity out of function."

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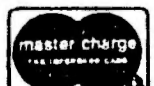
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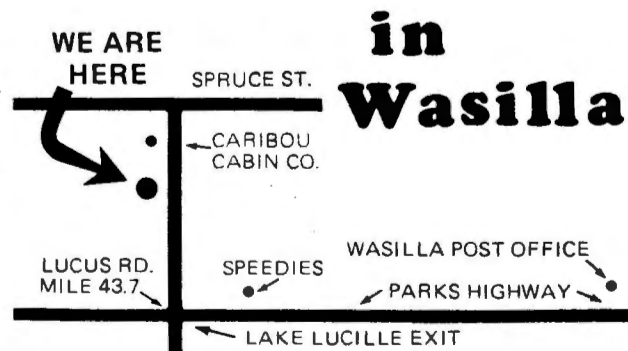
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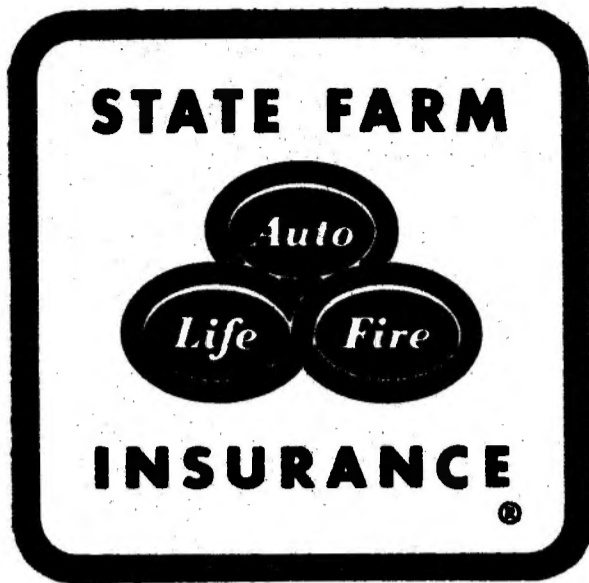
ALERT!!

ALERT...ALERT...ALERT...ALERT...ALERT...ALERT...ALERT...

One of the Bylaws changes made at the State Convention last week directly affects you!!!

There is a \$10.00 annual state party membership dues in effect now. The new Membership Chairman, Susan Bickman, has requested that all membership dues come through the local membership chairmen first. If there is not an organized local affiliate in your area, contact Susan Bickman directly at Plaza 7 #233, P. O. Box 2117, Eagle River, Alaska 99577. All membership application should be sent to the State Party Office in Anchorage.

Susan also asked us to announce to any persons who attended the convention that their party membership for the year was covered by their registration. The Eagle River Party voted to dedicate those funds to membership.



R.L. Randolph
1105 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Ph: 456-7787

ANCHORAGE PARTY REPORT:

The following report was given to the Executive Committee at its April 24, 1983 meeting in Anchorage: The Anchorage Party is conducting a \$2000 cash prize raffle; drawing will be held on May 14, 1983. Residential property tax initiative will be started effective with the May 9 meeting. 5141 Signatures will be required to get the measure on the ballot. If passed, the initiative will allow for an exemption of \$10,000 from taxation. Newsletter publication continues on a monthly basis. Lynn Davis is new editor. Open discussions are being held at meetings. Lately the topic of prison reform in Alaska has been discussed.

Executive Committee Report

On April 24, 1983, immediately following the adjournment of the 1983 ALP State Convention the Executive Committee met at the Northern Lights Inn. Present were: Dick Randolph/Chair, Colleen Olds/Secretary, Ben Olds/Election Chair, Ruth Reed/Vice Chair, Judy Clarke/Treasurer, Curtis Green/Constitution and By-Laws Chair, Lydia Randolph/Nominations Chair, Andra Marrou/Platform Chair, John Ulsher/Anchorage Party Co-Chair, Chuck Adams/Anchorage Party Co-Chair, Carl Whitson/ALP Member (Anch), Judy Whitson/ALP Member (Anch), Duncan Scott/Executive Director ALP, Eileen Marrou/ALP Member (Kachemak), John Wood/ALP Member (Anch).

The following highlights are taken from the meeting minutes:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: All executive committee members are expected to have a written proposal outlining their plans for carrying out the responsibilities of their new party offices. The written statements will be shared at the Executive Committee meeting to be held the evening of May 6th and all day May 7th in Anchorage. Chairman Randolph urged improvement of communications among executive committee members.

COMMENTS: All members were asked to give any comments they had for the good of the order. Among the recommendations and suggestions made were to concentrate efforts on organizing local affiliates through a sort of district coordinator. Also suggested was joining-affiliate meetings. Anchorage Co-Chair John Ulsher submitted a report from the local Anchorage Party.

ALP RENT: Anchorage co-chair Ulsher stated that the Anchorage party was in a bind for funds, and requested that the ALP split the \$250 monthly operating costs of the party office building with the Anchorage local effective May 1. Motion made and seconded and passed unanimously to do so.

NOTIFICATION OF LOCAL AFFILIATE CHANGES OF LEADERSHIP: Lydia Randolph proposed that whenever the chair of a local affiliate changed, the local affiliate should notify the secretary of the party so that ALP communications would be properly routed.

MISCELLANEOUS: Conversation regarding the possibility of joint raffles between cities (i.e., Fairbanks and Anchorage) as coordinated efforts ensued. Use of other available raffle permits was also discussed.



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**Government is not eloquence,
 it is force.**

**It can be a dangerous servant
 and a fearful master.**

Next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 6 and 7 in Anchorage. Dinner meeting May 6, time and location TBA.



Tundra Lives!

Wasilla Libertarian Mike Mulcady successfully lobbied the Wasilla City Council to pass the following resolution in support of the Tundra Rebellion:

" Resolution No. WB3-N-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA, REQUESTING STATE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE TUNDRA REBELLION.

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of Alaska approved Ballot Measure No. 5, "The Tundra Rebellion Initiative", at the November 1983 election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes the State of Alaska is under an obligation to act speedily on this initiative; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby understood that both the Constitution of the State of Alaska and the Statehood Act will require amending; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby understood that given the absence of Federal Legislation, the State of Alaska may be required to litigate its claim to public lands ownership against the Department of the Interior;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Wasilla urgently recommends that the Alaska Senate and House of Representatives enact legislation that will make effective the Tundra Rebellion Initiative and codify the initiative into Alaska Statutes...."

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PLEDGE FORM

I understand that we must have a strong monthly pledge program to maintain a growing state organization and elect Libertarians in 1984. I'll do my part by pledging the following amount each month:

_____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ Other

_____ I'm enclosing a check for my first month's pledge. I'll be expecting monthly reminders.

_____ I'm pledging at least \$25/month. Please send me VIP mailings as they come out.

_____ Please bill my credit card each month:

Mail to: Alaska Libertarian Party
Box 104070
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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Saturday: Noon to 11

next time

It is so very soon after the convention that we have had trouble giving you the kind of comprehensive report you should get...particularly in terms of the platform changes and the by-law and constitution changes. We did want to get this out ASAP, though, so you would at least get to see who the new officers are.

Since we didn't get into the details yet about these important matters, we will plan to do it next issue. In that issue, we will also introduce you to the new officers more intimately, and they will tell us what they plan to do with their new jobs. We will also try to tell you who the local contacts are, and how to reach them. There are also a number of articles stacking up from libertarians around the state...some of them for our point of view section, and still others telling us local news and personality highlights. All of this... and a view of the plans for the new Executive Committee in the next issue.

Meanwhile, thanks for your patience. We hope you will tell us if there's a feature you'd like to see us do. (Ed.)