

## Meltzer Speaks to Supper Club

Dr. Allen Meltzer of Carnegie-Mellon University, a fellow libertarian, spoke to the Libertarian Supper Club of Western Pennsylvania on February 10 on "Why Government Grows." Dr. Meltzer's thesis was that Western Democracies have built-in mechanisms which insure the growth of government and the eventual collapse of democracy.

Of course, government employees favor growth because it increases their power, prestige, and pay. But since 85% of the voters do not work for the government, why don't they stop it?

In answer, Dr. Meltzer explained that taxes are diffuse while benefits are concentrated. Voters think it is in their interest to vote for a politician who promises benefits for them to be paid for by everyone, instead of a politician who promises a small reduction in their taxes by removing other people's benefits. Politicians put together coalitions of people who want to use the ballot box instead of the market place to acquire wealth and the coalitions join together to get the laws passed that they each want.

Also, in all Western societies the mean income is above the median income. Those voters around and below the median, who constitute most of the voters, think they can gain by a transfer of in-

come to them from those above the mean. Since it is the skilled, talented, and the productive people who have the higher incomes, as they are exploited more and more they leave and the quality of life in the society decreases.

Of course, these two processes cannot continue forever, and they usually end with a dictatorship.

At the heart of the problem is the fact that governments redistribute income, rather than limit themselves to protecting rights. Dr. Meltzer noted that from the 15th century up to 1900 governments took less than 7% of the national income. Around that time voting rights became more widely distributed which increased the use of the processes described above to redistribute income. Government now takes about 35% of the national income in the United States and 67% in Britain.

—Dick Fuerle

Editor's Note: To explore Dr. Meltzer's thesis in greater detail than Dick Fuerle's excellent review can provide, buy a copy of Dr. Meltzer's 14 page booklet, "Why Government Grows." It is available from Laissez Faire Books, 206 Mercer St., New York, NY 10012. Cost: 95¢.

## Dick Fuerle's on the Ballot!

The May ballot will feature the names of seventy-five persons running for a seat on the Allegheny County Government Study Commission. LPP member Dick Fuerle of Monroeville is one of those on the ballot in this non-partisan election. Hopefully he will be one of the nine elected. If that should be the case, the very valuable result would be a libertarian input where we have scant reason to believe there would be anything else to our liking! We urge that you contact Dick if you would like to help him with his campaign. Phone: (412) 327-1935. If you are a registered voter in Allegheny County, we urge that you vote only for Richard D. Fuerle for Allegheny County Government Study Commission. (If you vote for all nine, you'll in all likelihood hurt Dick's chances for winning.) This is an important election. Dick needs your help.

## Libertas 1977

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania's annual convention will be held on Saturday, May 21, at the Holiday Inn, 4th & Arch St., Philadelphia. Since the business to which we'll be addressing ourselves is characterized primarily by its brevity, that means we'll have practically the whole day for a number of other things—namely speakers (on various subjects) and fun things.

The convention is being planned and presented through the efforts of Joe Sabatina, William Stocker, Tony West and Josh Zissman. They'll be sending out a flyer soon telling you how National LP Executive Director Bob Meier will be the banquet speaker, etc.

Anyway, we need about 60 people to fork over enough cash to get in the door to make a go of this financially, so please come!

# Guest Editorial

In November and December of last year, I achieved a long-awaited goal by undertaking the Mt. Everest Base Camp trek through the Himalayan Mountains in Nepal. Several aspects of that trip combined to spark a number of thoughts, concerning libertarianism and civilization, that I would like to share with you.

I had never before been out of this country. Therefore, although I was intellectually aware of amenities to expect as I traveled to India and then on to Nepal, the first-time, first-hand experience of being in a primitive environment was overwhelming in its impact.

So many of the things that I saw I had read about; but that didn't soften the gut reaction when actually confronted with sights (and smells) of squalor—men, women and children urinating and defecating in backyards and streets because there's nowhere else to go; being admonished, even in the good hotels, not to drink water from the tap (one is given a thermos of potable water by the desk clerk when needed); keeping one's mouth closed even when taking a shower.

This was also my first actual experience with a government-controlled media—the several English-language newspapers in Kathmandu all looked alike, because all their contents came from the same source. All news items were of the form, "His Majesty's Government announced yesterday..."

Later, on the trail, we would, from time to time, encounter other hikers; on two such occasions I heard remarks to the effect: "I'm out here hiking to get away from Western materialism." These statements came from people with custom-made German or Italian hiking boots, down-filled nylon jackets, and precision Japanese cameras.

Back in Kathmandu, I picked up a guidebook ("Wonderland of Nepal," by Fantin and Mehra) which had the following comments: "Perhaps it is just as well that (Nepal) is not a part of affluent Europe or America. Otherwise...the uninhibited character of its charming people would have been contaminated by the cruel onslaught of modern civilization, and its pure salubrious climate would have been polluted by industrial excreta." Yes, I thought; in addition, its people might also be contaminated by prosperity, happiness, increased life-span, hygiene and sanitation, and a more desirable standard of living.

Karl Bray once remarked that it would be a good experience for many libertarians to spend some time in jail in order to drive home ever more forcefully the meaning of freedom. In a similar way, I am now prepared to argue how salutary it would be for libertarians (and others) to spend some period of time in a primitive, mystical, collectivist society, not only to learn the lesson of liberty, but also to appreciate, on a more basic level, the full magnitude of the gifts and the advantages of civilization—here denoting the increased power of individuals to control their own existence.

I thought finally of the beautiful and moving column by Prof. Tibor Machan in the May, 1976 Reason (Viewpoint, p.33), which said, in part, "I feel pain and sometimes indignation when I perceive all the hostility unleashed at the things that make up this great, industrial, capitalist, hustling intense country I have chosen to live in and would not trade, even now, for anything else I know of on the face of the globe...I find it incredible that the Galbraiths and the Naders of our land hate the things I love so much, or like at least, so often without even noticing them. The movies, songs, cars, gadgetry, science, art, music, and all the rest—nothing anywhere matches the array of 'goods and services' that have been produced in the United States....Why are man's products, his great achievements, his minor improvements on life and culture so despised? Why, why would anyone allow himself to work for the destruction of it all?"

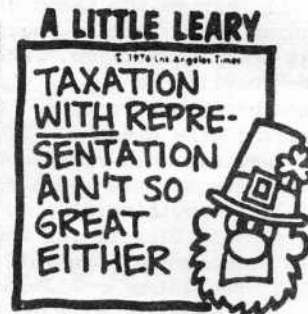
As Prof. Machan indicates, barbarians still exist. I have experienced, with my own senses, the type of existence they would bring about. You and I in the libertarian movement must see that they never succeed.

—Bruce Lagasse

Editor's Note: Bruce Lagasse is the Editor of CALIBER, the newsletter of the LP of California, and this article appeared in that publication as an editorial. While in Nepal Mr. Lagasse carried a MacBride poster to an altitude of 18 400 ft., just 6 miles from Mt. Everest.



Oct. 13, 1978 Philadelphia Inquirer



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY National Convention

In September of 1976, more than 600 enthusiastic libertarians from around the country (and the world) descended on Washington, D.C. for the Libertarian Party's fifth national convention.

"The best convention ever!" was the verdict of many delegates when the four-day event was over.

Now, almost all of the Convention's outstanding talks, panels and workshops are available on cassette tapes—from AUDIO-FORUM. Each was recorded "live," on the spot, capturing all the intellectual excitement of the occasion.

If you were fortunate enough to have been at the Convention, you can relive your favorite moments on tape. If you missed out, here's your chance to hear the highlights of "The Second Libertarian Revolution."



## The Convention Tapes

**Roger MacBride's Banquet Address.** The LP's 1976 presidential candidate delivers a rousing talk at the banquet in his honor. MacBride's discussion of his campaign and the growth of libertarianism drew repeated cheers and applause from the audience. **Tape 731 (51 min.) \$9.95**

**Nathaniel Branden tells How to Communicate Political Ideas.** To a large and appreciative audience, Dr. Branden explains how libertarians can break down the barriers that prevent them from getting political ideas across to others. (Includes a question-and-answer period.) **Tape 732 (55 min.) \$9.95**

**Welcome Address: Ed Crane and Roger MacBride.** The LP's national chairman and presidential candidate discuss the progress of the campaign and the future of the Party. **Tape 733 (25 min.) \$8.95**

**History of the Modern Libertarian Movement: Ralph Raico.** Dr. Raico discusses the libertarian movement's place in history, and offers a scathing analysis of Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Lester Maddox, and the Republican and Democratic Parties. A longtime libertarian activist, Ralph Raico is professor of history at the State University of New York, Buffalo. **Tape 734 (42 min.) \$9.95**

**The CIA-FBI Threat to Privacy: Morton Halperin.** An incisive analysis of the illegal actions of government agencies, Halperin discusses the dangers posed by state secrets and executive orders, and reveals the frightening practices of the CIA, FBI, NSA and other government agencies. He concludes by telling what can be done to protect Americans from these organizations. A former deputy assistant secretary of defense, Morton Halperin is a member of the ACLU and the Council on Foreign Relations. (Includes a question-and-answer period.) **Tape 736 (53 min.) \$9.95**

**A Non-Interventionist Foreign Policy: Earl C. Ravenal.** Dr. Ravenal accuses the American government of hypocrisy, secrecy, elitism and waste in its conduct of foreign affairs. He also tells how we can reduce the threat of war. A well-known writer and adviser on American foreign and military policy, Dr. Ravenal is a former director of the Asian Division in the office of the Secretary of Defense. **Tape 737 (65 min.) \$10.50**

**Natural Rights: Eric Mack.** Dr. Mack discusses the concept of natural rights, their violation, the proper use of force, and the distinctions between force, fraud and coercion. Eric Mack is assistant professor of philosophy at Tulane University and a contributing editor of Reason Magazine. **Tape 738 (44 min.) \$9.95**

**The Logic of International Diplomacy: David Friedman.** Maintaining that an interventionist foreign policy is extremely dangerous, Friedman argues the case for a return to isolationism. He discusses the present world situation in which there are two major powers, and examines the possibility of an alternative, one-power world. An assistant professor of economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, David Friedman is author of *The Machinery of Freedom*. **Tape 739 (40 min.) \$9.95**

**The Middle East.** An analysis of war, politics and oil in the Mideast. Panelists are history professor Leonard Liggio, author Steve Halbrook, and John Hagel, president of the Center for Libertarian Studies. **Tape 740 (71 min.) \$10.50**

**Libertarianism and Feminism.** This panel covers such issues as abortion and birth control legislation, government child care programs, discrimination against women via taxes and Social Security, women and business, and government surveillance of feminist organizations. Panelists are Sharon Presley, Kay Augustin, Jenny Graf, Cindy Cisler and Nancy Borman. **Tape 741 (58 min.) \$9.95**

**Libertarianism and Social Philosophy: Tibor Machan.** Libertarians should be concerned with more than politics, contends Tibor Machan. Human decency demands that we take positions on a broad range of social issues. Dr. Machan teaches philosophy at the State University of New York, Fredonia, and is a prolific contributor to Reason magazine. **Tape 742 (37 min.) \$9.95**

**Libertarian Morality: John Hospers.** Dr. Hospers focuses on individual sovereignty and personal rights as the keystones of libertarian morality. **Tape 743 (64 min.) \$10.50**

**Lobbying for Libertarianism.** Three seasoned Washington hands explain how to influence government through lobbying. Panelists are Bob Brauer, aide to congressman Ron Dellums; Scootch Pankonin, aide to congressman Steve Symms; and Alan Bock, head of the Libertarian Advocate lobbying group. **Tape 744 (32 min.) \$9.95**

## Defending the Undefendables: Walter Block.

The author of what may be the most controversial book in the history of the libertarian movement explains why he regards prostitutes, slumlords and other social undesirables as "heroes." **Tape 745 (51 min.) \$9.95**

**Austrian Economics.** An introduction to the Austrian School of economics, including a discussion of its achievements and its uniqueness. Panelists are economics professors John Egger, Walter Grinder and Murray Rothbard. **Tape 746 (68 min.) \$10.50**

## Integrating Psychology and Politics: Peter R. Breggin.

"Voluntary servitude" is Dr. Breggin's topic: why people don't break free of their oppressors. The model for oppression, Dr. Breggin contends, is childhood. Director of the Center for the Study of Psychiatry, Peter R. Breggin has won national recognition for his fight against compulsory psychosurgery. **Tape 747 (63 min.) \$10.50**

## A Libertarian View of the American Revolution: William Marina.

The fundamental issues behind the American Revolution are analyzed by William Marina. Currently the Liberty Fund Research Scholar at the Institute for Humane Studies, William Marina is author of the forthcoming book *The American Revolution as a People's War*. **Tape 748 (48 min.) \$9.95**

**Benediction: Murray Rothbard.** Dr. Rothbard closes the Convention on an optimistic note. He tells why he believes that the Libertarian Party is the party of the future. It is, says Dr. Rothbard, the means by which the power of the state will eventually be rolled back. **Tape 749 (33 min.) \$9.95**

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# Notes & Asides

• State Chair Jo Chernow was the guest of Kenneth Books on his talk, call-in, variety show on WQIN radio in Lykens, PA at 1:00 P.M. Sunday, March 27.

• It now seems possible that the state legislature will repeal the onerous blue laws. By the time you read this, the matter may have come up for a vote. In any event it can't hurt to drop a post card to your state representative and senator to let him/her know what you think. With blue laws recently repealed in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and declared unconstitutional in Vermont, isn't it time to drag our own state government (albeit kicking and screaming,) into the nineteenth century?

• On November 9, 1976, the PA Senate adopted the Balance the Federal Budget Resolution (#236), which had been adopted by the PA House on June 30, 1976. Thus PA is the 15th state to ratify the Resolution, which is designed to call a Convention solely to amend the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced budget (except in a "national emergency").

• A New York City Budget Bureau spokesman was asked if he considered the assignment of 1142 school-children to two schools that do not exist an administration "goof." "Yes," he said, "it's a goof, but we'd prefer to call it an inadvertent oversight."

—New York Times

## IRS News

THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE collects dossiers about the political beliefs of private citizens! Paul Stout, LPI member from DuPage County, has obtained the file on himself through the Freedom of Information Act. The file contains several copies of two letters to the editor he sent to Chicago newspapers. The letters do not advocate illegal acts, nor do they pertain to Mr. Stout's tax affairs. They are simply critical of the IRS.

Mr Stout has prepared a document to substantiate

these charges, and with the help of the DuPage County club, he has made 500 copies, which are being sent to Senators, newspaper columnists and the like, across Illinois. Copies of the 30 page document can be obtained from him for \$3.00.

Collecting dossiers is a serious charge. If we can succeed in making it stick, the public will be enlightened to a considerable extent about the nature of the IRS. Everyone knows about the CIA, the Red Squad, and the FBI files, but few put the IRS in the same category--yet.

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