

Roberts Tosses Hat in the Ring

Warren Roberts, LPMer of long standing, submitted his nomination papers to Lexington authorities on January 31. He has qualified for ballot status and is now a candidate for Town Meeting Member in the 5th precinct. There are nine openings and thirteen candidates (seven of whom are incumbents).

Roberts plans a relatively low-key campaign: letters to the editor, a candidate's night, and distribution of a card outlining his position on town issues will form the core of the campaign. Since it is a non-partisan election, Roberts will be unable to run as a libertarian, but he will seek endorsement of the Middlesex-Essex Chapter of the LPM. Lee Nason has agreed to serve as campaign (miss) manager. If you wish to participate in literature distribution, please feel free to contact her at 864-6497.

ARISE YE TAXPAYERS OF THE WORLD

News by A. Taxpayer, alias Connie Cardillo

Saturday, January 22nd, a Political Action Conference, sponsored by Citizens for Limited Taxation, met at the Newton Holiday Inn.

Don Feder, Executive Secretary of CLT moderated the first panel, "Organizing Local Tax Groups." Among the panelists was Walter Longyear from the Connecticut Taxpayer's Group. A discussion of a tax limitation amendment for Taxachusetts was presented by Richard Manelis, a Framingham attorney. He recommended that tax resisters collect voter signatures and work via *two* avenues concurrently to insure that the tax limitation proposition will be brought onto the ballot.

Several additional panels followed a luncheon speech by CLT Director, Edward F. King. Speakers from existing local tax groups (Brookline, Lynn, Worcester, and Walpole) related the receptivity and resistance that their groups had encountered, and political office holders from various Massachusetts communities spoke about effective campaigning and encouraged conference participants to seek public office to aid the tax resistance movement.

A recurring theme throughout the program was the necessity of *group* resistance for strength and for defense. Both Michigan and California were unsuccessful in their attempts to legislate tax limitation amendments. Will Massachusetts citizens be first in time and space to enact legislation *dictating* to their government how much they can be taxed?

liberdates ↗

Liberdates is a regular column appearing in each issue of LIBERTY. If you know of any events of interest to libertarians, contact Lee Nason, 929 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts (864-6497) to have them included in our calendar. Please try to give as much lead time as possible.

23 February at 10:00 A.M. hearings on a new bill to extend eligibility for the high school equivalency exam will be held at the State House. This could be the beginnings of a voluntary school system! If interested, contact Jeffrey Lant at 969-0100, Ext. 3455.

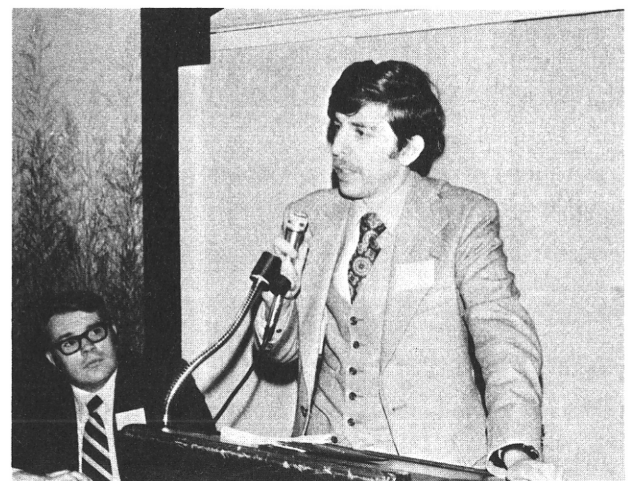
25 February at 7:00 P.M. a meeting of the Middlesex-Essex Chapter of the LPM will be held at the home of Lee Nason, 929 Mass. Ave. 11-D, Cambridge. The program will be a presentation of the Palestinian side of the Middle-east controversy by Imad-a-Dean Ahmad with cynical questions from the hostess. Coffee and dessert served. All welcome. Call Lee Nason at 864-6497 for directions.

27 February at 2:00 P.M. the Second Speaker's Workshop will be held at the home of David Long, 1 Dwight Street, Watertown. Attendees rated the first one as fun and informative. All welcome. For directions call David Long at 484-5110.

9 March at 10:00 A.M. Joint House and Senate Public Safety Committee Hearings on a new gun control law will be held in Room 257 at the State House. If you are interested in testifying for the LPM, call Nathan Curland at 332-3184.

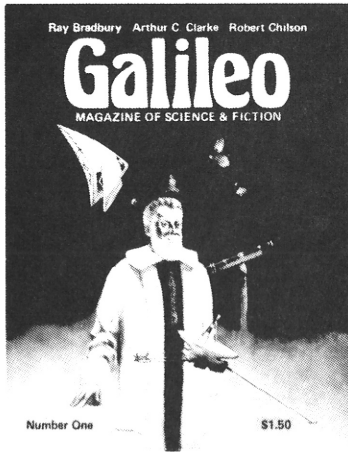
9 April -- NATIONAL TAX PROTEST DAY

23 April -- Tentative date for MASSCON '77



ABOVE: Don Cassidy, Citizens for Limited Taxation Holliston Coordinator, looks on while LPMer Don Feder chairs a session at the CLT Political Action Conference.

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First issue première
September 2, 1976

book review: Social Problems

Book Review by Daniel B. Kotlow
Social Problems by Henry George
Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York, 1966
 256 pp., \$4.95

Today, Henry George is thought of as an obscure social reformer who proposed that all land be publicly owned and that government be financed through land-use taxes alone.

He was much more than that. He was a brilliant thinker, a passionate libertarian, and an inspiring writer. He was widely read and quite influential in his day; Clarence B. Carson, in *The Fateful Turn*, calls him "the pace-setter and pathfinder" of American social reformers.

Henry George was a devout believer in the sanctity of the natural rights of man. That his influence manifested itself in a social movement away from his own ideals is a great American tragedy.

Social Problems, first published in 1883, represents the culmination of Henry George's work: its application to the social problems of his day. The theme of the book is the principle, asserted in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens, issued by the National Assembly of France in 1789, that "ignorance, neglect, or contempt of human rights are the sole causes of public misfortunes and corruptions of
 (continued on page 4, column 1)

JOHN GRAVES: LIBERTARIANISM AND GAY POLITICS

Interview by Stephen Trinward

There is a lamentable tendency among libertarians never to go outside their own ranks in discussing political issues, except when such discussion involves mere pedantry on the "enlightened" libertarian's part, teaching the "uneducated" listener some fine point of free-market economics or some such. In an effort to thwart and re-channel this trend, I hope to initiate with this article a series of interviews with what might be called "libertarian-ish" figures in the professional, academic, or otherwise-non-political community. I encourage other LPMers to join me in opening the ranks of the LP to these individuals, lest we end up talking to ourselves in a vacuum!

John Graves is a former MIT philosophy professor who specialized in the Philosophy of Science. He is the founder of the New England Gay Academic Union and is a regular contributor to local gay publications. Many libertarians know him from his MIT days; others may have met him at Northeastern University last April when he organized a NEGAU conference and invited Professor Robert Nozick as a speaker on libertarianism and the gay issue. Last month, in the course of some research I was doing on the Boston gay academic scene, I spoke with John; in the course of that meeting we had occasion to discuss libertarianism at some length. What follows is a partial transcript of that conversation.

Steve: First of all, I'd like to know how you react to the gay legislation which is being pushed in this state. What effect do you think it would have?

John: Well, it's kind of hard to tell - even if we could guess,
 (continued in next column)

AND NOW....

...HERE'S STEVIE!

Opinion by Stephen Trinward

Greetings from snowbound Brighton! Nor much over the airwaves these days, but true to form we've got a few dollops of dirt to deliver.

First, my apologies for not breaking the story on Webb's Wehrmacht and their handling of Dr. Adam Reed's involuntary retreat; I confess that low finances and other commitments prevented me from attending the D.C. bash, so the story came as just as much of a shock to me. I only hope that restitution is forthcoming (although at press time we still have no word from National to rebut Reed's version of the story; they have been strangely silent!). This sort of free-speech suppression is perhaps characteristic of a growing element of the Libertervative (Conservarian?) wing of the movement, and it must be challenged!

The LPM has gotten some strange letters of late, many of them re-routed from Chicago to DeeCee to Boston to DeeCee and back before finally coming to rest in our hands. A couple of them even crossed by own humble desk en route, and one deserves special mention (sorry, I have changed the name of
 (continued on page 7, column 1)

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and the legislation passed.... The early women's movement of the first couple of decades of this century put tremendous time and energy into one thing, namely suffrage. They finally got it, and instead of producing a utopia, the women's movement promptly put itself into a serious decline for about forty years.... It's only recently that it's resurfaced. To a certain extent it's focused on the E.R.A., but it has a lot of broader issues. Again in one sense the ultimate goal of the gay movement should be to put itself out of existence, or make its further existence totally unnecessary. That's a kind of utopian ideal, but.... One would like to see an ideal society where people are accepted for themselves, as individuals, and not stereotyped, categorized, or persecuted in irrational ways. Where people are open to a pluralistic society, where integration is not homogenization but an appreciation of the values of difference, and the ways in which we contribute to each other.... Legislation does not create utopia - there's always a lot of educating and changing of attitudes that has to go on, and what ultimate effect all this will have is very hard to predict....

Steve: How do you feel about the question of private vs. public discrimination? Passing laws against private discrimination never stops it, it just drives it underground. People find other reasons for not selling their houses, or hiring someone. Affirmative action just gives the excuse to find a half-Chicana, half-Black, young welfare widow with lesbian tendencies who has threatened to overthrow the government at least once! It's counterproductive as well, because it just strengthens the opposition's backbone; these people can always argue that their rights are being violated. And it's hypocritical because gays are themselves discriminatory - some are ageist, some racist, some lookist - in their own choices.
 (continued on page 4, column 2)

BOOK REVIEW: SOCIAL PROBLEMS

(continued from page 3, column 1)

government." George described the public misfortunes of his time, and sought to bring to light the violations of human rights which created them.

The root of all evil, George found, was the private ownership of land. All men require land to be on and to work on; for one man to deny to another, by legal force, access to unused land was to deny him the most fundamental of his natural rights, the right to earn his living. If a man were to work the land or make improvements on it, then the fruits of his labors are his by natural right; but for a man to exact rent from others for working the land is as much extortion as charging for air or water would be. The "oversupply" of labor, which was the pressing social problem of George's day, was a consequence of the denial by landlords of the right of access to the land to a population which was increasing rapidly on account of the enhanced viability of mankind engendered by the industrial revolution.

George gave full attention in his book to the other injustices of his time. His analysis of militarism, public debt, taxation, inflation of the money supply, and government-sponsored monopolies can be read with profit by modern libertarians. But he believed that land ownership was the most fundamental abuse of rights; if all the others were to cease, producers would still be in competition with one another for the coercively-restricted supply of land, and hence all improvements in production ultimately would accrue only to the benefit of the landowners through bidding up of land values. "To say that if a man continues to play at rondo the table will ultimately get his money, is not to say that in the meantime he may not have his pocket picked."

George's view of property rights in land is by no means antithetical to modern libertarian ideas. In fact, the genesis of original property rights is a subject which has not been well-explored by libertarians, and George's ideas are worthy of serious consideration. He believed that property rights in the products of human labor were natural rights, but that land is certainly not such a product and differs in every essential respect from that which is. He asked, "what more preposterous than that one tenant of this rolling sphere should collect rent for it from his co-tenants, or sell to them for a price what was here ages before him and will be here ages after him?"

George's tragic error was in adopting an organic view of society, ascribing to it collective properties not attributable to the individuals composing it. He believed that civilized society was a new biological species, the next rung above man on the ladder of evolution, depending for its survival on the development of a higher degree of intelligence. He wrote, "with the beginnings of society arises the need for social intelligence – for that consensus of individual intelligence which forms a public opinion, a public conscience, a public will, and is manifested in law, institutions, and administration. As society develops, a higher and higher degree of this social intelligence is required, for the relation of individuals to each other becomes more intimate and important, and the increasing complexity of the social organization brings liability to new dangers."

Libertarians today know that such concepts logically cannot coexist with the concept of individual rights. They are at the foundation of collectivist thought and are the rallying-cries of collectivist practice. We hear them bandied about as justification for all manner of violations of rights. That this is so is due, unfortunately, in no small measure to the influence of Henry George.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GRAVES

(continued from page 3, column 2)

John: I think that that's a very good point but for two things: first, the value [of the legislation] ... may be mostly symbolic; people *can* get around it, if they want to – but they *have* to, they have to find reasons for the effort. Obviously you can't legislate friendships. Then you have the fact that if a certain form of discrimination is against the law, it at least loses a great deal of public support. Rather than spending all their time getting around that one piece of legislation, perhaps people might think, "Well, maybe it won't hurt – the law says I can't discriminate against gay people – maybe if I hire this person, he might not be too bad after all...."

A severe homophobe might do anything, but that's *his* problem – it's his privilege, if you will, but it's also his *problem!* I think that there would be more people who would try to cooperate – not at first, and not all people – but over a long period of time.... After a while there are gains which can be achieved, although the immediate significance is more symbolic. Troy Perry [, a gay-activist church leader,] has said, "It's getting to the point where gays are the only minority it's still fashionable to hate!" ...I think if it's illegal to discriminate, then one can't be too overt about expressing hatred, and putting it into practice.... Some of the more blatant forms of persecution can then be avoided.

The second part of it is this: it's one thing with a private individual,... but there is certainly reason that corporations or individuals in real estate – not with their own houses, but as a major business proposition – should be prohibited from discriminating, and this part of the law has clearly been effective.

Steve: This has been a bone of contention in the libertarian movement, too. Many libertarians ignore the fact that a free-market hasn't existed for at least eighty years – and maybe not even then, because there were government interventions and subsidies going on anyway. It almost gets down to the point where you want to say that the private sphere ends at your doorstep. As soon as you become a corporation that is regulated, subsidized, and protected by the State, perhaps you forfeit your right to be considered part of the private sector! ... A corporation is a limited-liability proposition, by definition, which I think takes away the individual rights to run that business as whoever sees fit. As soon as one incorporates and has government protection against bankruptcy, lawsuit, and personal debt, then maybe the right to discriminate has been forfeited; maybe you should be considered as part of the State. On the other hand, I think a private homeowner, or a small unincorporated business should be able to pick-and-choose. On the same level, a person who feels that he or she has been discriminated against should be able to go out and tell his or her friends to help boycott the offender. Boycotts are useless against GM or U.S. Steel, but they can do a helluva job on a small business!

John: When Bob Nozick gave his talk last year at the GAU Conference, that's the objection that I was going to raise. But there were enough other questions being asked, and since I was chairing the session, I kept silent. I think this is the crucial issue, because if you take the position that Bob seemed to be – that it is wrong for the government or any *official* agency to discriminate *per se*, but that nevertheless private parties still have the right to do so – well, all right, but if the government becomes smaller and smaller, and there are no restrictions on the size and power of private parties, which can become giant corporations, the fact that the government can't formally discriminate against me is a rather empty right; the real power in the society then becomes vested with increasingly large private parties. If I'm being

(continued on page 6, column 1)

from the chair

Editorial by our beloved chairperson, Nathan Curland

As a result of the November elections an organization has grown up that promises to be a powerful force in Massachusetts politics for years to come. Citizens for Limited Taxation under the direction of Ed King and with the able assistance of LPMers Don and Andrea Feder were largely responsible for the overwhelming defeat of Proposition 2, the graduated income tax. As a result of the high media visibility CLT garnered during the campaign, they have elected to remain active and work toward legislation to reduce state spending and taxes. The CLT is currently forming chapters throughout the state in order to build a grassroots organization that will be ready to spearhead a drive aimed at limiting state spending via referenda this summer.

The membership of CLT is composed of tax protestors: libertarians, conservative Republicans, and even a few Democrats. This is an ideal opportunity for libertarians to get involved in an organization whose avowed purposes are in accord with our fiscal goals. Here you will meet people who believe in economic liberty and perhaps you will be able to influence them toward civil liberty as well.

The date of the Annual Convention of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has tentatively been set for the last weekend of April. Besides the yearly election of State Executive Committee members, we will also be selecting delegates to the National Convention which will be held in San Francisco in July. As I have stated previously, the strength of the party lies in its active members. If you want the LPM to be a strong force in Massachusetts politics, you must take an active role in it. I urge all of you to run for office and to run for delegate. The future is up to you.

In liberty,
Nathan Curland

bits & pieces

Ana collected by Lee Nason

MELECHINSKY JAILED: Andrew Melechinsky, constitutional lawyer, is out on bail following a short stint in solitary confinement for contempt of court in a civil case in Rhode Island. Information is hard to get at press time, but apparently this incident was initiated over the issue of taxation. Melechinsky was a guest speaker at the Connecticut LP Convention this year and has been a frequent attendee of LPM functions.

LOCAL GIRL MAKES GOOD: Ann Kotell has been named Convention Coordinator for MASSCON '77. If you want to help her, she'll be happy to hear from you. Call her at 1-263-0341.

LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD: LPM, Association of Libertarian Lawyers, and Citizens for Limited Taxation activist, Don Feder, has recently opened his legal practice here in Massachusetts. For all of you interested in obtaining the services of an attorney, Don is one of the few libertarians in the area who has had the dubious honor of being accepted into the bar. He can normally be reached at the CLT office, 742-0170. *Dear Massachusetts Bar: This is not a paid advertisement!*

EVEN FEARLESS LEADER MAKES GOOD: David Long is now hosting WBUR's "What's Right?" show every Monday *(continued on page 7, column 2)*

publication notes

The deadline for the next issue of LIBERTY is April 1, 1977.

Staff for this issue are Connie Cardillo, Nathan Curland, Don Feder, Don Hunt, Ann Kotell, Daniel Kotlow, David Long, Stephen Trinward, and your editor Lee Nason.

ATTENTION READERS: The Massachusetts Libertarian Party will be sending its LIBERTY mailing list to the National Libertarian Party. In the past the MLP has been very careful to protect the privacy of its members by not allowing this list to be given to unauthorized individuals or groups. We obviously cannot guarantee to what use the list will be put by National. If you object to your name being given to National, please call Nathan Curland at 332-3184 or write us before March 10, 1977 and we will cheerfully delete your name from the list.

Speakers Sputter

News by Nathan Curland

The Speakers' Workshop held its first meeting at David Long's new home on January 23. Four would-be politicians gathered around a cassette recorder gleefully watching their associates "uhm" and "ah" through the grilling supplied by steely-eyed David Long and rubber-lipped Stephen Trinward. The afternoon proved immensely educational and gratifying. Wits were sharpened and long pauses were filled by "filler talk." Practice is obviously the answer to many of the communication problems revealed.

As the workshop will be conducted on a regular basis, interested persons should contact David Long at 484-5110 or myself at 332-3184 in order to join in the fun.



No matter what happens,

there is always someone who knew

it would.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GRAVES

(continued from page 4, column 2)

discriminated against, it doesn't make terribly much difference to me whether it is from the official government, or from a private power that had become so strong and so dominant and so impossible for me to oppose effectively, so that it becomes the *de facto* government!

Steve: Well, the theory, at least -- and I endorse it largely because I have yet seen nothing which seriously challenges it -- my gut reaction is still uncertain -- is that so much of the corporate strength exists because of big government, that it has set up a fist-in-glove relationship with the State. So much of the power of corporations is dependent on that partnership: the limited liability of a corporation most definitely. An individual -- or even a large group of individuals -- going into a business venture knowing he risks everything, *has* to be less discriminatory in choosing customers and employees alike, because he must utilize every opportunity to make the business go. There is nothing to fall back on -- failure loses it all, and one is liable to be walking the streets selling apples tomorrow! The argument goes that if you take the power to grant special privilege from the government, the special-privilege power groups dissolve. The trouble now, of course, is this: you've already got an entire class of special-privilege people who are used to their status; if you take away their corporate might, they'll still figure a way back to the top because they already have the connections built among them.

The problem is that with every regulatory board, the people who are supposed to be controlled by it end up with positions on it. Take away the right to control an area of trade, and it automatically opens the field to competition.... The "Octopus" is always brought up at this point. Everybody ignores the fact that the "Octopus" was controlled and set up by people who never intended to run a decent railroad. They got subsidies and exemptions from legislators for the sole purpose of swindling the public! To write an expose about them without mentioning their connections with local governments is irresponsible at best; it's almost as though Norris had been one of them, propagandizing for their side to create the mess we have now! ...

John: One of the issues in terms of libertarian economic theory is this: is it possible, is it even meaningful, to talk about trying to restore the ideals of the free market? Certainly this is now an economy based very highly on technology. To begin anything a lot of major capital is needed, but it would be very difficult for private individuals alone to procure the basis for this kind of support. At the level of technology we have, one does need all kinds of support, and government is the only place with enough money to be able to supply that.

Steve: But it's not their money! It's our money! What about a voluntary government, where you could at least say, "I don't wish to support that, and you can't use *my* tax dollars to pay for it!" Wouldn't that be reasonable?

John: There are a lot of occasions when I've been very tempted by that idea....

Steve: I proposed something like that back in college, and now I understand some of Karl Hess's friends have brought up the same thing: some sort of checkoff system, whereby one could earmark what portion of his tax bill could be used for what....

John: The one catch is that if you do that on a large scale, where people are delegating their monies, you'd need an incredibly complex bureaucracy to keep track of whose
(continued in next column)

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GRAVES

(continued from last column)

money goes where. The thing would grow in any case ... but I really envisage a tremendous bureaucracy which would have to go over the records each time a budget choice came up....

Steve: But if it were done on a generalized basis -- a form that says, "From my tax bill I want X percentage used for defense, or Y for social services, or...."

John: I would love to be able to earmark my taxes for social services, with none of it going to the military establishment....

Steve: I think all it would take would be a decent-sized computer to tabulate and process the data once a year, and....

John: A hell of a big computer, you mean....

Steve: They process tax forms that way now. If this were a punch-card thing, or a checkoff, or....

John: One thing I know of is the \$1 checkoff we have now for political contributions. How many people are taking advantage of that?

Steve: A lot do; I haven't since they changed the law to apply only to the Republicrats. It annoys me, because the first year, I did fill it in, marking "Libertarian" in large letters on the sheet under "Which party do you wish to support?" Then, two months later, good old Hubie Humphrey ramrodded something through Congress restricting the funds to the two "major" parties.... I think there should have at least been some provision against retroactively enforcing it; ex post facto only seems to apply where Congress wants it to apply. But that is the kind of principle on which I'd base the broader program.

John: A system where people earmark their tax monies would turn any kind of budgetary considerations into total chaos!

Steve: Well, perhaps they should!

John: Yes, but on the other hand, assuming that you do want [tax dollars to be spent for something] -- whether you favor the military, or social services, or farm subsidies -- you would like to know that it's being used properly and effectively. That means that in your particular area of interest you'd like a well-planned and careful budget, where people will neither drastically overspend -- and find themselves short -- or underspend, and not get the best you want. It has to be done on at least an annual basis; after a while they might be able to make predictions on the basis of what people would support. But that's subject to a lot of possible fluctuations, in social and political situations, of course....

Steve: But that's essentially what they do now; the defense budget gets so much, and so forth. But the decision is not made by the people who pay for it; it's made by whoever's in the White House and whoever's in Congress. And the final tally is based on political considerations -- not on economics or actual needs.... I think I'd like to see this idea tried experimentally -- perhaps on a state-wide level. Maybe in a small-budget state like Vermont -- and see how it could work on that level.

John: Yes, I think it's definitely worth a try on a limited scale. Its extension would depend on a lot of things though.

Steve: Thank you for your time, John.

SARCASTIC STEVE

(continued from page 3, column 1)

the correspondent in case he/she/it eventually becomes a member and reads this drive!); a musician from the Boston area wrote to Roger MacBride last fall offering services of a PR nature; seems the sender's rock group might be interested in plugging the campaign during their gigs. The kicker was in the post-script, however; the writer mentioned Roger's stand on drugs as a plus, and then proceeded to offer to turn him on to some "super smoke" if he was in the Hub area in the future. Well, I don't know about Roger, but I'm certainly willing to unbend my normally stiff and proper self and sample the wares (why should Chevy Chase have all the fun?). If there are any more purveyors of "Killer Dope" out there in Liberty-land who want their goods tested by an independent source, please send a small sample - less than an ounce in this state, please - to: GANJAWEEED, 19 Caltha Road, Brighton. We'll get back to you if we find anything wrong with it!!

In the Friends From Unexpected Places Category we have Mr. Joseph Oteri, Esq., the defending lawyer in the recent decision which may result in cocaine's legalization in the Commonwealth. Oteri was being interviewed on a local talk show, and was asked his political affiliation. "I'm a card-carrying Democrat," he replied. "Well," offered his interrogator, "I'm a Republican myself." Oteri responded, "I'm not talking Republican or Democrat! I'm talking Libertarian!" The veracity of this statement will have already been tested by the time you read this, for Oteri has agreed to appear on "What's Right?" at David Long's behest. Following the show, if he is willing I intend to submit him to my own grilling, the results of which will be in *LIBERTY* soon, if not elsewhere as well.

And finally, in this abbreviated version, our Esteemed (But Far From Fearless) Leader, Doctah Cee, reports an interesting anecdote. For those who haven't been keeping up, it requires some background. Last May, in an action which has been misinterpreted by more Libertarians than the '75 Prescon's Saturday Night Caucus, the hitherto-radical LPM voted to alter the platform's Foreign Affairs plank. (The battle is still being waged, so I won't bore you with the details.) At the last LP National Convention, many people were up in arms about this move; spearheading the attack was that old-time rabble-rouser and "gadroach" (at his size "gadfly" is a conceit!), Roy Childs, who vowed he'd see the plank changed one way or the other!!! And now our story. As Nathan recalls it, he was shoveling out from one of the blizzards we have all come to love and associate with this lovely winter, when the phone rang. Cursing and dripping snow and slush across his hallway, he answered the call. It was an official of the Illinois LP, asking when we were holding our convention this year. Nathan, still puffing from the shovel work and not really prepared for this query, resisted the urge to reply, "Am I on camera?" Swallowing and coughing to clear his throat, he asked, "What's it ta ya?" "We're planning our own convention," was the response, "and we'd like to have Roy Childs as guest speaker!" "So?" countered Nathan brilliantly. "Well, we called him, and he says okay, but only if it doesn't conflict with your convention. He says nothing will keep him from coming to Boston and changing that *@!%& platform plank!"

A postscript to that story before I go. A proponent of that plank writes from California: "I'm pleased to hear that Roy Childs is upset about the Foreign Affairs plank. As someone said, 'When I heave a brick into a dark alley, and I hear a squeal, I know that I've hit a cat!'" I'm not sure how to interpret that last line (all I know about cats is that they're wonderful beasties and show up in philosophical parables), but I don't plan to enter any dark alleys when our California correspondent is in town!

BITS & PIECES

(continued from page 5, column 2)

night at 8:00 at 90.9 on your FM dial. This is the first explicitly libertarian radio show in the Boston area (though we must admit that Avi Nelson, Doug Cooper, and David Brudnoy are hardly statist). Every show should be of interest to thinking libertarians. Feel free to call in and chat with someone who understands your politics. And if you have any extra money, a donation to WBUR with a mention of Long's show would be a boost to the show's longevity. WBUR is listener-sponsored and they pay attention to those who pay the bills.

ALASKAN CRUDE: Alaskan Crude Oil is about to come pouring down on us. By law, only U.S. flag ships can carry it from Alaskan ports. The law is "necessary" because foreign flag ships are cheaper than American flag ships. Guess who pays higher heating costs?

MACBRIDE A LIBERTINE? When a telephone caller on David Long's new radio show asked Don Feder how the "Libertine" Party did in the election, Feder replied, "MacBride received over 180,000 votes and that's not bad for a Libertine!"

SIMON JESTER LOVES GRAFFITI: The new Simon Jester catalog is out. Simon prints and sells anarchistic and libertarian stickers for placement on letters to the IRS, etc. Some are straight, some are offensively funny. Call David Long at 484-5110 if you are interested in seeing their catalog.

FEDS IN DEBT UP TO THEIR EARS (AS IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW IT): Forbes recently (December 15) laid out the U.S. government's balance sheet and income statement as of June 30, 1976 as if it were a corporation. The result? A net worth of -965.7 billion dollars and a deficit in 1976 of 152.1 billion dollars (not the \$43.6 they had reported). The difference? Non-cash provisions required for unfunded Social Security and federal pension fund benefits.

EDITOR BRAGS: As this issue goes to press, your editor, Lee Nason, is just completing her master's thesis in architecture at MIT. The title of the thesis: "Municipal Interventions in the Building Process." The subject of the thesis: debunking the mythology of housing codes, building codes, zoning ordinances, and subdivision regulations and presenting a free-market alternative to government controls.

REASON PLUG: *Reason* magazine, one of the most popular and long-lived of the explicitly libertarian publications, is going on a subscription drive. Every month *Reason* publishes articles on issues ranging from philosophy to private fire companies, history to inflation hedges and the articles often provide needed intellectual ammunition for libertarians in a statist-oriented world. If interested, mail \$15 to REASON, POB 40105, Santa Barbara, California 93103. for a year's subscription. If nothing else, their monthly cartoon, "Rudebarbs," is worth the money.

FEDS GO PRIVATE: The Federal Office of Management and Budget is attempting to contract out many government services to private contractors in a cost-cutting move. The savings are usually 30% or better. It is running into opposition from (who else?) organized labor, in particular, from the American Federation of Government Employees as follows: (1) A bill to extend janitorial contracts to three years from one, died on the day a AFGE spokesman testified against it (longer contracts cost less per year), (2) The AFGE backed the extension of the Service Contract Act to include white-collar workers. The act requires contracting companies to pay employees "prevailing wages."

LIBERTY!

Editorial Policy:

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The opinions expressed in LIBERTY do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Libertarian Party or any of its individual members. Furthermore, the editor, being a very non-authoritarian lady, will usually forgo the pleasure of blue-pencilling submittals. Therefore, individual authors should be held responsible for their own ideas.

All subscriptions, memberships (see membership rates), and submittals for publication should be mailed to LIBERTY, P.O.B. 2610, Boston, Massachusetts, 02208.

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