

# Massachusetts LIBERTY

FEB - MAR 1975

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS LIBERTARIAN PARTY

## CONVENTION '75!

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- WALDRON on Platform Committee
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- STENERSON on Books
- ZIOBRO on Rules Changes (What else?)

PLUS: Special Section with details of  
MLP CONVENTION 75  
with featured speaker:

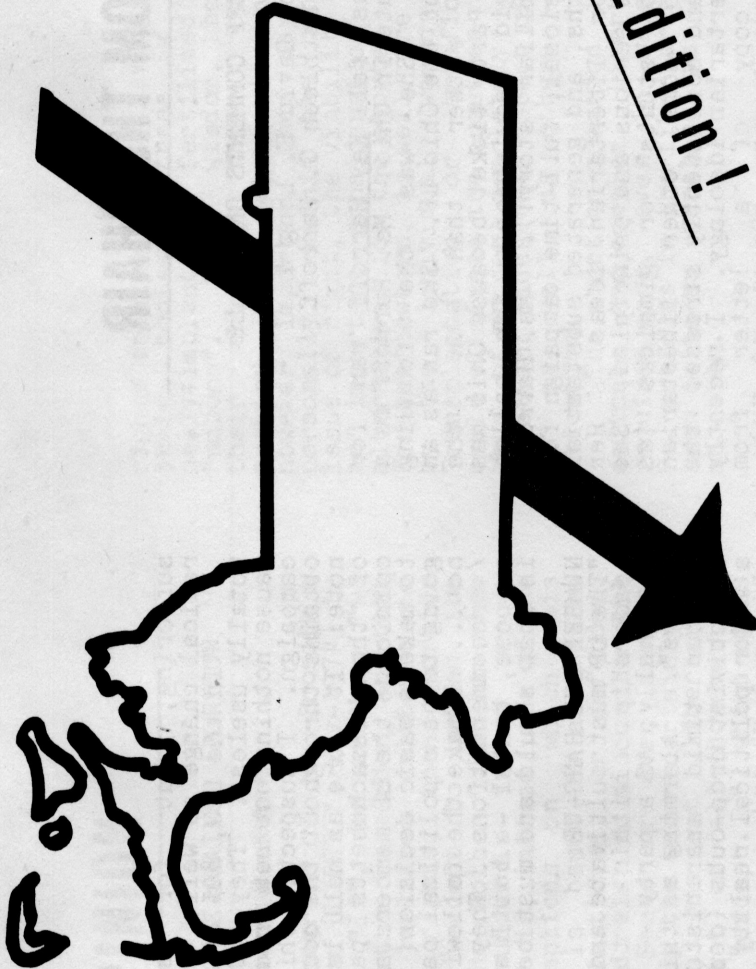
Fran Youngstein

### AND MORE:

- DROSDIK blasts Conservatives
- KENNEY blasts Drosdik
- HARROFF blasts Libertarians

*Special Edition!*

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## MEMBERSHIP MEETING REVIEW

by Lee Nason

Our last membership meeting on January 18 was both fruitful and enjoyable. Sandra Cohen arranged for us to use a meeting room in the Framingham Library which we filled with nearly thirty members of the MLP and a somewhat smaller number of guests and visitors.

The major items of business were constitutional changes and interim appointments. The rules changes, submitted primarily by David Long and Walter Ziobro, aimed at making life in the MLP less authoritarian both for members and officers. For members: nomination of officers has been simplified to allow for nominations from the floor rather than the cumbersome "written and received before the deadline" procedure we used to have. Also, officers' terms have been shortened to one year, which allows us more flexibility in selecting our leaders. For officers: the proposal to allow the annual election meeting to be held sometime (anytime?) other than April was defeated. These outcomes seem appropriate to this writer: members (individuals) should be allowed the maximum freedom (flexibility) compatible with protection of rights; officers (government) should be limited to the extent that is feasible. It is admirable that the results of our voting on complex issues are so consistent with our libertarian philosophical system.

Another rules change, submitted by Walter Ziobro, made the Statement of Principles [drafted by Ed Hacker and David Reardon - Ed.] which was unanimously accepted at our 1974 Convention into a virtually permanent part of our organization.

Elections were held towards the end of the meeting. Jack Waldron ran unopposed for Vice-Chairperson, and, not surprisingly, won by a land-slide. The Executive Board then took a straw vote of the members between Margaret Stenerson and Lee Nason to decide who would be appointed Interim Historian until this April's Convention (the Board felt that an arbitrary appointment, although allowed under our current Constitution, would be in defiance of the spirit of libertarianism). Lee Nason won by a narrow margin. A more detailed report of the rules changes and elections, *et alia*, will be available in the minutes of the meeting. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call this writer at home at 1-617-868-6497, or write to 929 Massachusetts Ave, Apt 11-D, Cambridge.

Since we were running short on time, the meeting was then adjourned and about 25 of us went to the Dragon Palace for a Chinese dinner (also, arranged by Sandy Cohen). At the writer's table the major topic of conversation was science fiction: writers ("Despite Asimov's social theories, I think he's a good writer" - Steve Klein); new books ("The Dispossessed is LeGuin's best book to date" - Nathan Curland); and even the last Star Trek

## NOZICK DINNER REVIEWED

by Steve Klein

The most successful libertarian event of the year took place last night as the Center for the Study of Social Systems began its TANSTAAFL Dinner Series. Nearly 100 people gathered at the Hong Kong Restaurant in Harvard Square to hear Dr Robert Nozick, Harvard philosophy professor and author of the recently published book Anarchy, State and Utopia.

Professor Nozick's brief opening remarks dealt mostly with his pessimism at the prospects for the libertarian movement. In the short term, he believes, government regulation will bring on another economic collapse, which will again be blamed on the free market. But in addition Nozick pointed out some psychological factors which he claimed made it unlikely that a large number of people would ever accept the libertarian ideal. One is simple envy; resentment of someone more successful than oneself is so common a human trait that many people don't even bother to hide it. Also, most people feel threatened by the thought of someone whose values and lifestyle are fundamentally different from their own. Therefore, they have to try to suppress such persons, no matter how irrational this may be. Nozick gave as an example the heroin laws, which impose tremendous costs on the average city dweller in terms of the violent crime they produce, but are given sacred-cow status nonetheless.

Having made these observations, Nozick threw the meeting open to questions and comments, expressing the hope that someone might refute his pessimistic projections.

No one did. The comments were mostly platitudes about how much progress the movement has made, or assertions that it could conceivably succeed someday, or references to well-known political and social factors that have worked against libertarianism. Only one person dealt at all with Professor Nozick's dilemma in the context in which he presented it; this person claimed that new educational theories being tried lately may result in more self-reliant students.

One questioner elicited comment from Prof Nozick about the reaction to his book in academic circles. The reaction, said Nozick, had mostly been along such lines as "it's startling, it's original, it's interesting, but of course it is all wrong and here's why...." Overall, though, he felt that the book was not being rejected out of hand (as has been the sad history of most libertarian works), and he expressed hope that it would exert a growing influence among philosophy students and graduate instructors, perhaps to the extent of making libertarianism an accepted school of philosophical thought.

[Mr Klein is a longtime MLP member. He is one of few living persons ever to achieve a perfect rating in the Star-Trek computer game.]

(to p. 6)

PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEETS

by Jack Waldron

The first meeting of the Platform Committee was held Monday, February 10, at the home of Bill and Sandy Cohen in Framingham. Discussion centered on topics which fell under the first two sections of the 1974 Massachusetts LP Platform. There was little sentiment among those present to revise the present planks. Abortion, amnesty, involuntary mental hospital commitment, and civil disobedience were some of the topics debated. Final planks on these and other issues in this area of the Platform are being prepared by various persons for the next meeting. The consensus of those present was that the discussion was interesting and very informative. After arguing vehemently with contemporary liberals and conservatives, it is interesting to observe the wide areas of disagreement among libertarians. Platform Committee meetings will be held approximately every two weeks until the MLP Convention '75 in late April. Those interested in attending future sessions should contact either Sandra Cohen (879-6073, Framingham) or David Reardon (444-1906, Needham). All MLP members and interested non-members are invited.

[Mr Waldron is state Vice-Chairman of the Libertarian Party.]

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Libertarian Party  
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Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Editor: David E. Long

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Unless otherwise stated, all articles represent the viewpoint of the author. Contributors to LIBERTY do not necessarily represent the position of the Massachusetts LP.

The officers of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party are:

- Chair: David E. Long  
232-0050 (Brookline)
- Vice-Chair: John K. Waldron  
839-5594 (Grafton)
- Historian: F. Lee Nason  
864-6497 (Cambridge)
- Treasurer: Walter J. Ziobro, Jr.  
672-5437 (Fall River)

LIBERTARIAN SUPPER GROUP FORMED

by John Hagel

[The following announcement is printed as a service to Bay-State libertarians. The Center for the Study of Social Systems is not connected in any way with the Libertarian Party.]

Two students at Harvard Law School have begun organizing a monthly dinner series for libertarians, which they hope will provide a regular opportunity for libertarians of all persuasions in the Boston area to meet on a social basis. Following each dinner, a prominent libertarian will be invited to speak informally to the group and to field questions from the guests.

The first dinner in the series [reviewed elsewhere in this issue -Ed.] featured Robert Nozick, Professor of Philosophy at Harvard University, and author of the recently published work Anarchy, State and Utopia [Reviewed in the last issue of LIBERTY -Ed.].

The second dinner in the series, scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 23, will feature Avi Nelson, WHDH talk show host and a leader of the Boston anti-bussing campaign. The subject of his talk will be "Libertarian Principles and Politics: Do They Mix?" The April dinner will feature Professor Leonard Liggio of the City College of New York on "The Relevance of the American Revolution to Contemporary Libertarianism". The May dinner will feature the nationally syndicated columnist Nicholas von Hoffman on "Strategies for Respectability". All of these dinners will be held at the Hong Kong Restaurant, near Harvard Square in Cambridge. [For details about the coming dinners of this series, please consult the flier enclosed with this newsletter. -Ed.]

Libertarians who were unable to attend the first dinner but who want to be placed on a mailing list for invitations to subsequent dinners are urged to contact the Center. Also, feel free to suggest additional names and addresses of persons who would also be interested in receiving future mailings regarding these dinners. With your cooperation it should be possible to make this dinner series an excellent opportunity to maximize contact among libertarians in the area.

[Mr Hagel is a student at Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School, and is co-founder of The Center for the Study of Social Systems.]

**Subscribe!**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WESTBORO -- MARCH 30, 1975

MELECHINSKY TO SPEAK

ALL INTERESTED LIBERTARIANS INVITED.

A pre-convention membership meeting has been called for Sunday afternoon, March 30, 1975. The meeting will be held at the apartment of Craig Franklin in Westboro.

The meeting has been called for two purposes: (1) the Executive Board would like our annual convention (this year, anyway) to be free of the necessity of debating rules changes. Walter Ziobro, Margaret Stenerson, and David Long have proposed a number of rules changes (listed below). Only one is considered to be of substance. That is, there is only one change -- to enlarge the size of the Executive Board -- which would affect the operation and composition of the Party leadership.

The other principle reason for calling this meeting is to introduce the Party membership to a very interesting person. Mr. Andrew Melechinsky will give a talk on the U.S. Constitution. He thinks that fighting for strict adherence to the Constitution is an excellent tactic for achieving a free society. Mr. Melechinsky is well-known to libertarians as the man who fights city hall -- and wins!!

Mr Melechinsky has a great deal of knowledge about the Constitution -- he calls himself a "Constitutional Attorney, not establishment licensed" -- and is the founder of the George Mason Constitutional Revival Movement. George Mason was the author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, and was one of the few members of the Constitutional Convention not to sign that document when it was finally presented for ratification.

It might also be noted that this will be the last general membership meeting prior to our April State Convention. If you have any interest in running for MLP office, Executive Board, or for a delegate position to the National Convention in New York this summer, this will be your last chance to meet other members and to bid for (buy?) their votes.

Directions to Meeting:  
Craig Franklin's apartment is located at

2805 Windsor Ridge Drive  
Westboro, Massachusetts

To get there from Boston or points east, drive out Route 9. One mile past the intersection of Rt-9 and I-495, turn right onto Route 30 and proceed north for about one-half mile to Windsor Ridge Drive. For more info, call Mr Franklin at 1-366-2058 or Jack Waldron at 1-839-5594.

PROPOSED RULES CHANGES

A few very short rules changes are proposed below. With the exception of the last, which proposes to enlarge the size of the Executive Board, the changes are simply designed to substitute words commonly used in state law for words in our Constitution with similar meanings. The next to last proposal is simply to change the wording of a section which has been made obsolete by recent changes. The last proposal is the only one of substance. It contemplates adding members at large to the Xboard (State Committee). If this is to be enacted, it would be highly desirable to do so prior to the April Convention in order that the membership may elect such at-large members at that time.

PROPOSED: To substitute "secretary" for "historian" wherever that word appears.

PROPOSED: To substitute "state committee" for "executive board" wherever that expression appears.

PROPOSED: To substitute "state caucus" for "membership meeting" wherever that expression appears.

PROPOSED: To strike the words "to draft and approve a political platform" in Article XVI, Section 1, and replace them with "to consider amendments to the political platform".

ENLARGED XBOARD (STATE COMMITTEE)

PROPOSED: To add the following words to Art VIII, Sec 1: "...and three members at-large".

AND: To insert a new article following "Duties of the Officers":

Article --: Members At-Large  
Section 1. Responsibilities: To attend all Executive Board (State Committee) meetings; to assist the officers of the Party in organizational procedures; and to engage in any other activities deemed to further the cause of libertarianism.  
Section 2. At-Large members shall be nominated and elected according to the procedure laid down for the election of officers in Art VII, following the elections of all officers.

AND: To substitute the expression "member(s) of the Executive Board (State Committee)" for "officer(s)" wherever applicable, including the following instances: VII, Title; VII, 1; VIII, 9; IX, 2, 3, 4; X, 2; XIV, 2.

AND: To add the phrase "At-Large members of the Executive Board (State Committee)" to Art VII, Sec 5.

## CONSERVATIVES: THIRD PARTY?

by Vincent A. Drosdik, III

Indecision and a lot of loose ends characterized the 1975 Conservative Action Conference in Washington, D.C., February 13-16. While there seemed to be general agreement among the approximately 800 delegates about the need for a third party or at least a major realignment of the two major parties into liberal and conservative, there was no consensus as to how or when to bring about the new party. Leaders especially could not agree on how or even whether to form a new party.

The Libertarian Party was represented by national Chairman Ed Crane, new National Director Ned Hutchinson, and Roger MacBride. A literature table was maintained in the lobby and a hospitality suite provided liquid refreshment.

Another third party was at the conference in strength -- the American Party. National Chairman Tom Anderson urged all conservatives to join the AP, saying that all were welcome and that positions of responsibility were very much open. Only the AP principles could not be altered, he said. Florida Senatorial candidate John Grady was also there. Grady pulled in about 20% of the vote last November for one of the best third party showings of the election. He is considered by many APers to be a leading candidate for that party's presidential nomination. Another excellent possible candidate was there, John Rarick. Rarick, who had one of the best ratings in the House according to the Royce Report, was defeated in the Democratic primary last year and on Lincoln's birthday switched to the American Party.

The libertarian philosophy is definitely on the rise within the conservative movement. James Dale Davidson of the National Taxpayers Union spoke during a panel discussion, "The Regulated American", and stated that with the U.S. economy and federal government in such indebtedness that all departments within the federal government would have to cut their budgets, including Defense. While this didn't go over too well with those listening (on the day before, Senator Strom Thurmond had called for greater defense spending), most seemed to reluctantly accept the truth of Davidson's remarks.

During resolutions, there was an almost bitter fight over a resolution calling for an amendment to the Constitution banning abortion, euthanasia, etc. The right-to-lifers were very adamant, virtually threatening a walk-out if the resolution failed. Opponents pointed out that they did not want further governmental intervention in their lives, though most personally opposed abortion. The resolution finally passed by the smallest margin of all the resolutions passed, but the action pointed out the growing influence of libertarianism within conservative circles.

Further, M Stanton Evans, chairman

of the American Conservative Union, personally described himself as a libertarian. On drugs, he said: "The individual should have the right to burn his brain out any way he wants. What I object to," he said, referring to his articles in Human Events, "is misinformation about them."

Surprising, perhaps, to many LP members, is the influence of libertarianism within the American Party. A top leader of the Wisconsin AP, for example, told me that he personally favored abolition of anti-drug laws, while others expressed more libertarian than conservative sentiments. The number of "closet" libertarians among AP members and conservatives in general at CPAC was eye-opening. Despite what others have said, conservatives are a fertile field for spreading the libertarian gospel.

The conference ended with a lot of loose ends. A couple of workshops urged Republican conservatives to work in the GOP to defeat Rule 29 -- a rule for racial, sexual and other quotas for delegates to the national convention rather than have them chosen as individuals. A committee established to study the feasibility of a third party will not make any final recommendation before late next summer, it appears. Ronald Reagan won't commit himself to any political activity at all. (But the newly formed Conservative Caucus -- headed by ex-OEO Director Howard Phillips and NH Governor Meldrim Thompson -- will not let opportunity pass, seeking 1000 members per Congressional district and planning a national convention in early 1976 to present a conservative platform and nominate, if necessary, its own candidates for President and Vice President.)

Libertarians should keep their options open and remain an independent force. But they should be, I believe, ready to cooperate, if only in the short run, with all enemies of collectivism. The conservatives as represented at CPAC are, in general, such possible allies.

[Mr Drosdik is a life member of the LP. He is currently pursuing studies at the University of Virginia, which, by the way, was founded by Thomas Jefferson.]

## Patriot's Day??

Walter Ziobro, in the finest tradition of Thomas Paine, has produced a rabble rousing flier entitled "SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY -- ARISE! THE HOUR IS LATE". He intends to distribute this at Bi-Centennial activities in the Concord - Lexington area on Patriots Day. If you are interested in joining him, copies of this pamphlet can be obtained from him @ \$10 per thousand. Contact: Walter Ziobro Jr, 1-672-5437.

MLP

Convention '75

Special Section

The Third Annual Convention of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party will be held on Saturday, April 26, 1975. It will be held at the Hotel Lenox in Boston. The Lenox is located on Boylston Street one block west of Copley Square. It is one block from Copley Station (MBTA, Green Line), and is right by the Prudential Center Exit from the Massachusetts Turnpike. [For details of parking arrangements, please call David Long at 232-0050.]

MLP CONVENTION 75 will begin at 12 noon and last all day and into the evening. We will meet in the Heritage Room, on the second floor of the hotel. The following activities are scheduled:

- Keynote speech by FRAN YOUNGSTEIN
- Chairman's annual report to the Party
- Debate of MLP 1975 Platform
- Raffle: First edition of Atlas Shrugged, autographed by the author
- Buffet dinner
- Election of Party officers
- Election of delegates to 1975 National Convention

The general registration fee for full participation in the Convention is \$5. This includes the cost of a very special buffet dinner; there will be no other Convention fees. This fee applies both to members and non-members alike, first come, first reserved, although in the event that the dinner is fully subscribed, Massachusetts LP members will be preferred above non-members. The buffet is being planned for fifty \* 50 \* persons, so please reserve your place as early as possible.

For those who cannot attend the dinner, and for anyone wishing only to listen to Fran Youngstein and observe the afternoon Platform debate, a reduced convention fee of \$2 will be charged. This fee does not include the buffet dinner. If you are not an LP member and would like to see just how many differences libertarians have, even among ourselves, come to the afternoon session of CONVENTION 75. Say hello to somebody -- we're a friendly bunch. You will be welcome! (And for only \$2, how can you lose?)

Details concerning all these activities, and more, will be found throughout this special CONVENTION 75 section of LIBERTY.

Please mark this date -- Saturday, April 26, 1975 -- on your calendar NOW, and plan on attending the best-ever Libertarian Party Convention that this Commonwealth has ever seen! A cursory glance at the "laundry list" above indicates that we have a hell of a lot to do, so please plan to come early. Bring your money, friends, notepads, pencils, money, prejudices, gripes, enthusiasm, tape recorders, money, fliers, announcements and anything else you think will contribute to the success of this gathering of the faithful.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you help out at the Convention? There is lots to do -- from selling raffle tickets to personning literature tables to general "dofer"ing -- and if you can lend us a hand, it will be greatly appreciated. Just call your friendly local Exec Board member and let us know.

# Fran Youngstein

CONVENTION 75 is proud and honored to have as our featured speaker a libertarian known throughout the country as the person who put New York City back on the map (no, dummy, not Ayn Rand). Francine Youngstein was the first woman ever to run for Mayor of New York, in a campaign which is still looked to by libertarians as a standard by which to measure other campaigns. In this campaign (1973) Ms Youngstein garnered a total of 8818 votes for a then-unknown, untried party. This vote total, by the way, beat the combined vote totals of the other four minor parties (mostly far-left).

Ms youngstein works as a systems engineer for IBM Corporation, where she is a staff instructor teaching marketing techniques to new sales employees at IBM's Data Processing Division. In addition, she is a principle in Ad Lib, Inc., a small, independent advertising agency. She also founded the now-defunct Libertarian Abortion Action Group (LAAG), which was formed to work for the repeal of laws forbidding abortion.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As this issue of LIBERTY is going to press, we have just received word that

ROGER MACBRIDE

will be flying into Boston to attend our Convention. As every living libertarian must know by now, Mr MacBride was the Republican Elector from Virginia who cast the historic ballot for the Hospers/Nathan Libertarian Party ticket in 1972.

What many libertarians may not yet be aware of, however, is that Mr MacBride has announced his intention to seek the Libertarian Party's Presidential nomination for the 1976 election. (The Party will pick its '76 Presidential nominee this summer at the 1975 National Convention in New York.)

Come to CONVENTION 75.

Meet the man who is running to save your life and property.

Meet the man who wants to make "1984" stand for the Year of America's Re-Discovery of Freedom.

Meet Roger MacBride!

She is currently extremely active in libertarian activities. In addition to being in great demand as a speaker, she is an at-large member of the national LP Executive Committee and the Free Libertarian Party State Committee.

Come to CONVENTION 75 and meet one of the most dynamic anti-politicians ever to hit Beantown -- she'll wake them up all the way from Beacon Hill to Nantucket!

## PLATFORM

A major function of our CONVENTION 75 will be to debate and approve a new MLP Platform. A number of persons have been meeting regularly to discuss existing planks and to propose new ones. According to newly adopted rules, the Platform adopted at the 1974 Convention is now permanent; that is, all changes will be made with reference to that Platform. To add a new plank or modify an existing one will require a two-thirds approval of the membership present at the Convention. To delete any plank requires only a simple majority.

A number of new planks have been suggested. Such planks cover a wide range of libertarian topics, including civil disobedience, environmental protection and amnesty. The area in which the strongest disagreements appear to have developed (as at last year's convention) is abortion. Indications are that both pro- and anti-partisans are ready for a verbal melee on the convention floor to support their respective positions.

Special Convention rules governing the length of time that any one issue may be debated are being worked out by Walter Ziobro and Jack Waldron. In general, there will be a limited number of minutes that any one plank may be discussed. After that point, it will be automatically tabled until after "New Business", the last item on the agenda, has been disposed of. At that time, any tabled plank may be taken from the table by a simple majority, and debated further.

The Platform debate will begin at approximately 1.30 p.m., and will continue until 5:30 p.m., when the buffet dinner is scheduled. At 5:30 the Platform discussion itself will be tabled until the end of the Convention.

# editorial reply



REFERENCE NO.

7

WCVB-TV 5 TV PLACE NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02192 617 449-0400

TITLE: Turning Off on Democracy  
PRESENTED BY: David E. Long, chairman, Massachusetts Libertarian Party  
BROADCAST: Jan. 21: 6:58AM, 12:28PM, 6:28PM, 2:10AM

Channel 5 recently suggested that voting should be made mandatory, with fines imposed on those not voting. The Libertarian Party utterly rejects this idea as being an inexcusable incursion upon the rights of individuals.

Channel 5 claimed that the voters were offered clear and important choices. Is this really true? As far as we could see, most of the candidates were offering you either the status quo, that is, Big Government, with lots of interference in your life, or the alternative of Bigger Government, with lots more interference in your life.

Perhaps Channel 5 has forgotten the old aphorism "no choice, no vote." If you are offered no choice at the polls, the only way you can register your protest is by not voting. In not going to the polls, many citizens are casting a vote -- a massive vote of no confidence in the so-called choices that are offered to them.

One alternative might be to have a place on every ballot marked "none of the above." If this box received a majority of the votes cast, a new election would be called for that office, with none of the repudiated candidates permitted to run again in that next election. But even if this plan were adopted, there would still be no justification for forcing people to go to the polls.

The Libertarian Party believes that it is your inalienable right not to vote when you are offered no choice. For more information about the Libertarian Party, write us at 95 Centre Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

WCVB-TV, Channel 5, presents editorials in the public interest on issues of concern to our community. Responsible opposing views are regularly broadcast. All comments from our viewing audience, and all requests for time to reply to editorials, should be directed to the Editorial Department, WCVB-TV, 5 TV Place, Needham, Massachusetts 02192. Telephone (617) 449-0400, extension 275.

Channel 5 wishes to make clear that all requests for time to reply to editorials are considered equally, from individual viewers as well as from spokesmen for government, associations and other organized groups.

# MLP ELECTIONS

## OFFICERS

According to the revised Constitution of the MLP, all officers are elected to one-year terms at the annual Convention. This means that all state LP offices -- Chair, Vice-Chair, Historian, Treasurer -- will be up for grabs on April 26. In addition, further changes to our rules have done away with the former requirement that nominations be mailed in advance to the Executive Board. All officers will be nominated and elected from the floor of the Convention.

IF YOU THINK THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO "THROW THE RASCALS OUT", YOU HAD BETTER COME PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. As of this writing, the following rascals have announced their candidacy for re-election:

David E. Long, Chairman

F. Lee Nason, Historian

Walter Ziobro, Treasurer

Jack Waldron has announced that he will not be running for the position of Vice-Chairman.

All persons interested in running for any office of the Massachusetts LP are urged to contact any member of the Executive Board at the earliest opportunity for details of the nominating and election procedure. Any persons wishing to publicize their candidacy for any office may purchase a set(s) of pre-gummed mailing labels for the purpose of sending a flier or letter to all Party members. The cost per set of labels is \$1.00. All costs of printing and mailing must be borne by the individual member.

In early April, LIBERTY will publish a pre-convention Bulletin containing the names, and short biographies, of all persons who have declared their candidacy by that time.

## NATIONAL LP CONVENTION

The Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party recently chose the time and place of this year's regular Convention, as mentioned in the December issue of LIBERTY,

-- The time: Labor Day Weekend, August, 1975. Special interest groups and committees (Platform, Rules, Credentials) will meet earlier in the preceding week.

-- The place: New York City, downtown Manhattan.

This will be a Presidential Nominating Convention, so those who attend can look forward to a very busy time as the initial strategy for the LP's March on '76 is mapped out. In addition, the Platform produced by this Convention cannot be altered until 1977, which means that this (1975) Platform will be our party's most official statement of position during the coming 1976 election campaigns.

## DELEGATES

Massachusetts delegates to the Convention will be chosen at our state Convention in April. Delegates are elected by members of this state party. There is no other way for MLP members to become delegates to the national convention than by election at the state convention.

The preliminary tally of state and national LP memberships indicates that we will be allotted seven \* -7- \* delegate positions to the national convention -- this is not final, however, and may change slightly by April. We will also choose alternates for the elected delegates. In the event that a person who was elected delegate could not attend the national convention, an alternate would take that person's place. If more persons wish to participate in the Convention than our delegate allotment would permit, there will be some openings for persons from our region on the Rules, Platform and Credentials Committees.

A number of persons have expressed interest in attending the national LP Convention in New York, either as delegates or as members of one of the above-mentioned committees. If you have any interest in any of these positions, please contact any member of the MLP Executive Board as soon as possible. The next issue of LIBERTY will contain a list of all persons who have by that time declared their candidacy for one of the available delegate or alternate positions. Of course, all nominations will be made from the floor of the Convention. No written notice or other advance procedures are required by our current rules.

Some candidates may wish to publicize her/his candidacy. Pre-gummed mailing labels listing all MLP members will be available to any MLP member who wishes to solicit votes (for him/herself, or others) at our April state Convention. The complete label set will cost \$1.00. The costs of printing and mailing such solicitations must be born entirely by the individual member.

PROPOSED AGENDA

[This agenda is preliminary, and is subject to ratification and possible changes by the Executive Board at any time prior to the Convention.]

- 1. Call to Order (12:00 noon)
- Minutes
- Announcements
2. Annual Treasurer's Report
3. Chairman's Report to the Party and introduction of keynote speaker.
4. Keynote Speech: FRANCINE YOUNGSTEIN
-- SHORT RECESS --
5. Debate and ratification of 1975 MLP Platform.
(1:30 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m.)
-- RECESS FOR BUFFET DINNER --
(5:30 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m.)
6. Nomination and Election of MLP Officers (7:30 p.m.)
7. Nomination and Election of Delegates to 1975 national Libertarian Party Convention.
8. New Business
[9. Resumption of Platform debate, if not completed prior to the dinner recess.]

THE NO-FREE-DINNER

Following is the menu for the buffet dinner. This will be served in a room adjacent to the room in which we will meet in the afternoon.

- Shrimp Chop Suey
Chicken a la King Swedish Meat Balls
Sliced Roast Beef Sliced Ham
Sliced Corned Beef Sliced Turkey
Potato Salad Chef's Salad
Salmon Salad Cole Slaw
Assorted Relishes
Coffee Desert

The MLP Exec Board has made arrangements for our CONVENTION 75 to adjourn in time for members to attend a nearby meeting of the greater Boston weight watchers club.

CONVENTION SPONSORS

If \$5 seems like a rather low fee to charge for a full day of libertarian rabble rousing, including a quite spiffy buffet dinner, you are very astute: the truth is that the dinner alone will cost substantially more per person than \$5. And of course in addition to the food, we will incur printing and mailing expenses, advertising costs, not to mention speaker expenses (which you may now consider mentioned). Since we know that there is no free banquet, obviously somebody is paying for it all.

Actually, there are several somebods, who have very generously donated a considerable sum of money for the express purpose of underwriting our CONVENTION 75 and thus making the general entrance fee far lower than it otherwise could be. Not that these pledges were sought or accepted in any altruistic spirit -- it just gives one a good feeling to see that there are people willing to put their money where their mouths are -- in fact, several of the largest donors are often among the quietest persons at our meetings! These people, listed below, deserve to be noted and thanked by everyone who attends CONVENTION 75:

- Mr & Ms Arman David Narlee
George Warren
Anne Clark Robert Hoover
Norman MacConnell David Reardon
Steve Trinward Walter Ziobro
Ed Hacker
John Carlson
Sandra and Bill Cohen
Craig Franklin Steve Klein
Mr & Ms Lindsay Jack Waldron
Tony Conte John Costello
Nathan Curland Don Hunt
Reid Morrison Lee Nason

In addition to the persons above, we owe a special vote of thanks to the Finance Chairman, David Reardon. Fantastic job, D.R.

CYNICAL CYRIL

This is intended to be a sporadic column dedicated to gossip which libertarians might find of interest. If you run across any juicy tidbits send or phone them to David Long. (I've asked him to be a collection node and he's reluctantly agreed.)

This year we've heard a lot of vague sentiments about running a couple of candidates, but when, Oh Lord!, when are some of us cracker-barrel philosophers going to get up off our duffs and do something? The Boston mayoralty, for instance, is crying to be saved by a consistent candidate. Can't any one of you find even one supporter, to serve as campaign manager? Let's see some preparation for the April Convention -- let's plan to put our energy to good use.

Thanks to Sandy Cohen. She put in thought and work and we all benefited with a successful membership meeting. I vote her the Most Hospitable Libertarian of the year.

Who ever said Ed Hacker was Chairman of the Philosophy Dept at Northeastern? [Editor's note: Ooops...] Ed confided to me that since his official title would have been "Chairman of the Philosophy and Religion Dept", he decided he couldn't morally accept the offer!

Dave Long prefers to be called "David", but he's so anti-authoritarian that he refuses to force his preference on us. [True, but wait and see what I call you....-Ed.]

Word has it that Avi Nelson hasn't got what it takes to run a consistently libertarian campaign for dog-catcher. Why do we have so many closet libertarians? And why, above all, should so many of us be so ready to support them?

[Cynical Cyril is not the editor. Honest.]

REVIEW: THE I IN YOU

by Margaret Stenerson

The I in You, by Darlene Bridges, is a book of poetry that uniquely captures observations, experiences and realizations of the author with obvious attempts to integrate objectivism into daily living.

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## OPINION

### ON DROSDIK'S CASE AGAINST ABORTION

by Richard K. Kenney

The final paragraph of Mr Drosdik's piece on abortion [LIBERTY, Nov-1974] is rather strange. "If", he writes, "we conclude that abortion is murder, and that the State has a justified existence to defend natural rights, then abortion should be illegal except to defend the very life of the mother." But his view that abortion is murder is in no way a conclusion -- it is, instead, one of the fundamental assumptions on which his entire position is based, an assumption never examined, questioned, or defended. Nor does Drosdik raise in discussion the legitimacy of the State or even specify what he means by the term (certainly an open question in current libertarian theory). Strangest of all, however, is the final clause, "except...", which opens his entire position to doubt. Because if abortion is murder, how can (even) the defense of the pregnant woman's life justify the act? And if, somehow, it does, might not other exceptions be justified?

While that paragraph alone might seem to pose enough difficulties for Drosdik's case, problems can be found throughout the article. While people concerned with the abortion issue will do well to examine the photographs in the Handbook on Abortion (if only because the book is so frequently mentioned by anti-abortionists), doing so provides no basis for deciding whether the act of abortion is one of murder. Drosdik is using extremely poor taste in suggesting that mere convenience is behind the decision to abort. Sexual intercourse is, when voluntary (and one of the glaring omissions in his article is the problem of rape), a right -- not, as Drosdik approvingly quotes Grady, a privilege. Drosdik does not account for the responsibilities for support which he attributes in passing to both "father" and "mother". And so forth.

More significant is Drosdik's assertion that "[t]he criterion of viability outside the womb cannot be used as an argument for abortion, as a newborn babe obviously cannot survive on its own either..." The central questions involved in the abortion issue are two: whether it is right (just) & whether it is desirable. Unfortunately, the literature on abortion often fails to distinguish these two questions. Too frequently the assumption here, as elsewhere, seems to be that if the act is a right, people will always choose to exercise the right. But the libertarian position on abortion must distinguish these questions because the only question for libertarians is the question concerning right. As libertarians we are concerned not with abortion, per se, but with the right (or lack of right) to abortion. What is at issue is whether women are within their

rights in expelling or having removed from their bodies fetuses / embryos / newly-implanted, fertilized eggs / "unborn". Their wisdom, their goodness, their courage, their concern for mankind...these matters are not at stake, however important they may be for us personally. Within the context of the issue of right, the viability criterion is an important consideration because the alternatives for the aborted entity (and for the newborn, as well) are not: support by the individual woman or death. Transplantation or artificial support could eliminate the question of death (and thus, of murder) completely, but Drosdik's treatment hides this aspect of the dilemma -- as well as others -- from our attention.

The abortion question is extremely delicate and complex. Libertarian theory requires care, even in brief articles. Few articles in the libertarian press have been quite as careless as Drosdik's on abortion.

[Mr Kenney is past Chairman of the Massachusetts LP. He is also a gentleman, scholar, raconteur, and connoisseur of fine wines and beautiful women.]

(From p. 1)

Convention, which Steve Trinward attended. To top off the evening, we went to Sandy & Bill Cohen's new house for more talk and more refreshments. Here the conversations turned to more orthodox libertarian topics. Jeff Helfont's noted guest, Constitutional Attorney Andrew J. Melechinsky, from Connecticut, actively espoused limited government theory and talked of his refusal to deal with the IRS. We also listened to the tape of the interview with myself and David Long on Doug Cooper's What's Right Show. Those who couldn't stand the full hour of listening to the Chairman\*\* discreetly slipped away to other rooms to engage in lively conversations about tropical fish and non-coercive child rearing. And we discovered some real talent in the Party...it turns out that Craig Franklin is an excellent folksinger and guitarist.

One of this writer's two guests for the day noted that this was an exceptionally fine, sociable meeting, and the other guest finally got around to applying for membership. What more could we ask?

[Ms Nason is the Historian of the MLP, and is currently pursuing graduate studies at M.I.T.]

\*\* Editor's note: Your names have been duly noted and you will be dealt with at the appropriate time.

## FROM THE CHAIR

### HARROFF COMMENTS ON THE LP

by David E. Long &  
Kathleen G. Harroff

This past fall Kay Harroff ran for the U.S. Senate in Ohio. Ms. Harroff is a libertarian. She was the founding Chairperson of the Ohio LP. She ran as an Independent, rather than on the Libertarian Party ticket because Ohio has extremely rigid requirements for ballot listing (familiar story!). Ms. Harroff ran a professional, full-time campaign for several months, and generated substantial publicity for libertarian ideas. Her campaign was serious and principled. She engaged in no "stunts" or gimmicks (as opposed to some other libertarian campaigns), and consistently stressed the radical libertarian ideology. I recently received a copy of a letter from Ms. Harroff to an LP member in New York. With her permission I herewith reproduce some excerpts from that letter. I may say that I agree emphatically with virtually all of what follows:

"It would appear that a strong, hard-core, full-time candidate is the best investment libertarians can make in any political campaign. All our publicity -- and it was substantial, even with all the many media that persisted in ignoring me completely -- concerned our principles and platform positions. We got literally pages of newspaper space and hours upon hours of radio/TV time. Publicity stunts and gimmicks (we had none) get coverage. But so do principles and positions.... It would seem, then, that the most "educational" campaign is also the most effective in terms of votes....

"What direction do I envision the Party/movement taking? First, I (would) disregard the movement. It has a life of its own, and its effects on political change will be virtually nil...it is vitally necessary. But its value is very long-term... It's like a natural resource, a new idea, concept or invention. Without that solid, consistent philosophical base, our revolution would not be possible. BUT -- that base could exist for centuries and -- without the exploiters, the salesmen, the ACTIVISTS -- it would remain unknown and of little or no benefit to any great number of people....

"...It seems self-evident... the only practical and effective vehicle for change is the Libertarian Party -- not only for desperately-needed immediate political reform and relief of human

suffering, but for solid, long-term radical change as well.

"In the LPO, 80% of the members are totally useless. They (80%) did, in fact, cause nothing but net trouble during the campaign. I suspect...this same situation obtains throughout the country... (Ed. s note: It sure as hell is true of members of the Massachusetts party.). In my opinion, the LP members are going to have to make a basic decision: either they are going to be a political party, or they are not... I make the following observations / recommendations. They are brief and, I suppose, brutal -- but I am convinced this is what should and must be done...

#### NUMBER ONE HANG-UP:

"The LP must cultivate and develop strong leadership within the Party and nationally, AS a party -- both leaders and "stars". Alarming as this may be to many of our timid anarchist / pacifist / Objectivist drop-outs (cop-outs?), this is a major political reality that LP members must stop evading.

#### NUMBER ONE NECESSITY:

"No one should run as an LP candidate who is unable or unwilling to stand unequivocally and effectively on the hard-line LP principles/platform. If Ohio comes close to being typical, THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE SATIATED WITH PRAGMATISM, COMPROMISE, EQUIVOCATION, CONTRADICTIONS AND EVASIONS. Furthermore, amateurs should not be sent out to do professional work -- and that's what running for office is....

#### NUMBER ONE UNPLEASANT (?) TASK:

"The activists must lead the Party, and the dilletantes and discussion-groupies ignored or side-tracked. The political motto should be: Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way! If 4,500 members leave the Party and only 500 effective ones remain, the Party, the movement, the country, the world! will be 100% better off. (My own personal experience in this past year was that I could convert activists to libertarianism a damned sight faster than I could (if one ever could) convert most present libertarians to activism!)

#### CONCLUSION

"The philosophy is ready -- as it never has been before. The people -- perhaps everywhere -- are ready as never before -- for new, positive, strong, SANE direction and leadership.

"It would be a pity if the LP -- the ONLY alternative -- failed both."