



# The Washington Libertarian

September

1983

## Bergland PresCon '83 Pick

David Bergland, Los Angeles attorney and long-time Libertarian activist, was nominated LP Presidential candidate on September 3rd at the LP nominating convention in New York. Jim Lewis was nominated for the VP spot.

The nomination was thrown open just days before the convention when Gene Burns, who had effectively sewn up the nomination in pre-convention campaigning, withdrew citing money problems. According to a press release from Orlando, Burns had been promised some \$25,000 from the LP as reimbursement for expenses he had incurred during his campaign for the nomination. Unhappy with the financial support he was receiving, Burns withdrew. According to one source, Burns was particularly leery of over-extending himself financially as a result of a previous personal bankruptcy. Ed Clark stated that the real reason for Burn's withdrawal was cold feet. Burns is a relative new comer to the LP, and, according to Clark, Burns was just not prepared to face a sometimes hostile media and public.

Campaigning for the two top LP spots was heated with both positions requiring four ballots before a candidate received the necessary majority. Bergland received exactly the minimum necessary for majority on the fourth ballot, and Earl Ravenal, his main opponent, withdrew.

Factionalism was evident at the convention with groups led by Ed Clark, Ed Crane and the Radical Caucus. Generally, the Clark group supported Bergland and the Crane group supported Ravenal. The Radical Caucus split with Murray Rothbard throwing his support to Bergland. The Libertarian Defense Caucus consensus was "None Of The Above."

Four LPWS delegates, Tom Spanos, Skip Baron, Mike Dunn and Mimi Leyba, attended the convention. On the fourth and decisive ballot, Baron voted for Bergland and the remainder of the delegation voted for "None Of The Above."

Bergland was seen as the "libertarian purist" as compared to Ravenal who promised to make the LP more attractive to a wider spectrum of the public. Of the two candidates, Ravenal had an edge in ability to project a positive image to the media, but rumours swept the convention alleging Ravenal "softness" on such Libertarian issues as taxation and the draft.

There may have been some dissatisfaction with the Bergland choice, particularly amongst the Crane group as evidenced by the departure of about 100 delegates following the presidential nomination as measured by the vote totals for VP. According to one source, "nearly 100% of those who walked away from the convention were Ravenal supporters from the Crane group."

The convention approved a number of minor revisions to the LP platform, but was unable to move on a number of controversial new planks and revisions. New planks on Native American Rights, Defense and Retaliation, Offensive Nuclear Weapons, Military Alliances, and Latin America were not considered due to time constraints resulting from extended balloting for President and VP.

Paul Grant of Colorado was elected National Chair replacing Alicia Clark.

The convention was widely covered by the national and local media including all wire services and major city newspapers. C-Span carried extended coverage of the convention on a delay basis. Media coverage was positive including acknowledgement of the LP as the third party in the U.S.

750 delegates registered for the convention and an unspecified number of observers attended. The convention committee reported that all of the 1000 rooms the committee had committed for at the Sheraton Centre were sold despite early fears that significant numbers of attendees would desert for cheaper facilities at other hotels.

Most significant announcement at the NatCom meeting immediately following the convention was pronouncement of payment of National LP debt in full. National has no accounts payable over 30 days. National Director, Honey Lanham, promised no future debt and anticipates expanded LP activity now that current contributions will no longer be needed to retire debt. In addition, she reported that "Clark for President" books will be closed "shortly."

Dave Brazier was reelected Region 3 Representative with Skip Baron alternate. Brazier is reportedly seeking "out" of the Rep position because of the press of his three businesses. Skip Baron is considering the spot but is seeking financial support from the Oregon and Washington LP's for travel expenses. At present Regional Reps are responsible for their own travel expenses. Regional Reps are expected to attend four NatCom meetings per year held in various cities.

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## REVIEW

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**A NATION AT RISK: The Imperative for Educational Reform**  
Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office  
Washington, D. C. 20402  
Stock No. 065-000-00177-2. \$4.50

The National Commission on Excellence in Education, after dropping \$785,000 of the taxpayer's money on \$100 a day "honorariums" and travel expenses over its 18 month life, has discovered--hold your breaths now--that the quality of education in the United States is miserable and getting worse. They have printed their findings in a slick paperback that undoubtedly cost additional hundreds of thousands to print and distribute.

The list of Commission members, contributing authors, and those giving testimony at hearings reads like a "Who's Who" of the educational establishment--the same folks who gave us milquetoast text books, classes in bachelor living, "pass/no-pass" education puff courses, truant officers, a Department of Education, 23 million functionally illiterate adults, and a 20 year decline in SAT scores.

You'll never guess their solution to this mess--spend more money (aw, you guessed). Despite a lot of rhetoric about all pulling together for this dear old country which we all love, rhetoric that won't be read by one parent in a thousand, and which most students probably can't read, the Commission proposes raising teacher salaries, increasing the hours of school per day, and days of school per year. Their proposal for paying for all this--something like a 40% increase over present costs--well, the Commission is silent on that one.

Sorely missing from the report is any suggestion to bring market forces to bear, or any comparison of public and private education. Responding to this shortcoming, the Cato Institute has just published a paper entitled "Are American Schools Working? Disturbing Costs and Quality Trends." Some highlights: In school year 1977-78 average per pupil cost in public school was \$1,736, in private it was \$819. In comparing achievement, a 1982 study (High School Achievement: Public, Catholic and Other Private Schools Compared, by James Coleman, et. al.) found that Catholic secondary school achievement levels were significantly higher than public ones, differences in achievement could be accounted for by different academic demands and discipline, achievement levels between children from varying socio-economic backgrounds were diminished in Catholic schools relative to public schools, and private schools are less racially segregated. Not only is private education cheaper, it is better, and it is not "elitist" as some critics maintain.

The Cato report is available for \$2.00 from: Policy Analysis, Cato Institute, 224 2nd St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

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## CALENDAR

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September 13: PUGET SOUND LIBERTARIAN FORUM will present Senator Jack Metcalf speaking on "The Federal Reserve: Do We Need It?" Metcalf is an outspoken critic of the Federal Reserve System. He has been pushing hard for an independent audit of the Fed, an audit that would have far reaching consequences, and which would provide much ammunition for those who would see the Fed put out of business. Dinner and speaker is \$12.00, speaker only is \$2.50. Call 282-1941 or 284-2909 to make reservations. SUNDAY'S Restaurant, 620 1st Ave. N., Seattle. Cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, speaker at 8:00.

September 17: State Central Committee meeting, Tomm Spanos', 4611 College St., Bellingham. 1:00 PM. Meet is planned to be aboard Tomm's yacht, subject to last minute change due to weather turning sour, boat sinking, etc. If you plan to attend, check with Tomm for changes, 676-9999.

September 20: Primary elections. LP candidates on the ballot in Whatcom County running for school board: Wayne McClemore, Kevin Burke, Bill McCord, Tomm Spanos.

September 27: Whatcom Liberty Forum will feature comments from public, private school officials on differing approaches to education. Cocktails at 6:30, Dinner at 7:00, speakers at 8:00, the Leopold Hotel, Bellingham. (Date tentative--normal Forum night conflicts with primary election. Tomm Spanos for confirmation--676-9999.)

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## QUOTES

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*"For a while it may have appeared that men and women were getting away with flaunting God's laws and turning the sacred into the sensual. The sudden and devastating plague of this painful and devastating form of VD [herpes], striking millions of Americans at the peak of this permissive age, is no mere coincidence. It just seems that God has fixed it were the laughing, blaspheming, mocking crowd of lust-loving libertines*

in the 20th century are going to have to live with their sores and misery as an everlasting reminder that we don't do wrong and get by."

Rev. Hugh Pyle, Panama City, Florida

"The cynical indifference with which the Soviet Government has responded to international outrage [over the Korean airliner downing] is most disturbing. The Soviet Government reaction has undermined its credibility as a responsible superpower. It raises the disturbing question as to whether the vast military apparatus of the Soviet Union is under any rational control."

Suppiah Dhanabalan, Singapore's Foreign Minister

"The worst mistake a Libertarian activist can make is to misrepresent the party's position on a given issue. If the speaker is a candidate or party officer, ignorance of the platform clearly is no excuse. The second worst thing is to make a poor impression on the party's behalf. This can be done by being poorly prepared for a speech, sending out illiterate press releases, using gutter language at a public meeting, or any number of things one might imagine. I think we should all dedicate ourselves to knowing the state and national platforms, and those of us in a position to speak for the party must take our responsibility very seriously. We should always behave as though the future of freedom hinges on the impression we're making. It just might."

Kim Horner, Arizona LP State Chair

ET CETERA

The Manhattan Institute, a New York based free market think tank, is aggressively expanding the reach of its "Perspective on the Economy," a Monday through Friday commentary. The program is presently aired in half of the major radio markets in the United States, including six stations in Washington. In July and August, "Perspective" commentators included Reason editor Robert Poole, Richard Wilcke, president of the Council for a Competitive Economy, and Tom Bethell, editor of The American Spectator. A schedule for Washington stations follows. If you like hearing a free market counter to the usual mush that passes for economic analysis in the media, you might call or write the station you listen to "Perspective" on and let them know. If "Perspective" isn't available in your area, ask for it.

|         |           |                 |         |          |        |
|---------|-----------|-----------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Tacoma  | KVTI 90.9 | 8:59am          | Spokane | KXLY 920 | 8:30am |
|         | KUPS 90.1 | 4:30 and 8:30pm |         | KSFC     | 5:15pm |
| Seattle | KBLE 1050 | 3:13pm          |         |          |        |

Manhattan Institute for Policy Research  
20 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018. 212-354-4144  
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Like the newsletter name change? Don't like it? Object vehemently? Want Reason and Liberty back? Write and let us know. Perhaps suggest a name you'd rather see. Suggestions accompanied by tax creditable contributions to the LPWS will be especially welcomed.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Get ready for Son of WPPSS. S-1701, which would bail out WPSS by passing costs for completing WPPSS 2 and 3 through to BPA rate payers, is gaining momentum in Congress. Most notably, this bill would also bail out Puget Power and other privately owned utilities who have an investment in WPPSS--a naked, forced transfer from the public to the stockholders of the privately owned utilities. If S-1701 passes, WPPSS will increase its indebtedness an additional \$2-4 billion--and indebtedness all BPA customers (that's you) will be obligated to pay. If you've had enough of WPPSS, write to your congressional delegation urging them to defeat S-1701. You might also write to Michigan Rep. John Dingell, Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He's a strong opponent of the bailout bill, and he needs support.

LETTERS

Hello: I found it most difficult to read all of "Tunnel Vision" in the most recent REASON & LIBERTY. Martin and Trinnes speak of Dunn's "rhetoric" and "smoke and noise" - I find this similar to 'the pot calling the kettle black.' M. and T. go on and on and on and on and on about the semantics of 'unilateral,' 'bilateral' and 'mutual' disarmament. One paragraph well written could have summed this up quite nicely and allowed them to speak of the "very interesting questions, and reports (of)...interesting facts (about the USSR)," brought up in Dunn's article. It is articles such as M. and T.'s that re-inforce the public's low opinion of the Libertarian Party. Such wishy-washy articles should not appear in your publication.

LESA MOE, Seattle

# CONTACTS

LPWS Hotline.....525-7635  
 LPWS Chair--Tomm Spanos.....676-9999  
 LPWS Treasurer--DeAnn Pullar.....676-1364  
 LPWS Secretary--John Trinnes.....475-0712  
 Whatcom--Tomm Spanos.....676-9999  
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 King/Snohomish--Clark Rarig.....282-1941  
 Pierce/Thurston--Kelly Haughton....564-1635  
 Newsletter--John Doherty.....383-2076

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- \_\_\_ Send information brochure on the Libertarian Party.
- \_\_\_ Have someone call me.
- \_\_\_ Send State newsletter for one year. Enclosed is \$5.00.
- \_\_\_ Enclosed is \$20.00 annual membership dues for:
  - \*\*\* National Membership Card \*\*\* Subscription to national newsletter, Libertarian Party News \*\*\* Voting privileges at Annual State Convention
  - \*\*\* Subscription to State newsletter \*\*\* Membership in local chapter.

*"I believe that individuals have the right to live their lives in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others. I do not advocate nor will I practice the initiation of force or fraud."*

|               |                 |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
|               | Date            | Signature Required for Membership |
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## The Washington Libertarian

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