



L. P. WYO NEWS



The Newsletter of the Wyoming Libertarian Party
June - July 1981

From the Acting Chair

There's a need to address the issue of membership, and I would appreciate any response from my readers on this subject.

I'm a novice at politics, but I do need to find out what kind of numbers it would take to put a few Libertarians into state or local offices. Will you please drop me a line and let me know what the chances are in your county right now, and what we need to come up with by election time? This is not asking for a huge statistical effort; just your ideas and some common-sense predictions.

At the last Executive Committee meeting we discussed dues structure but came to no decision other than to leave in effect our previous fee of \$5.00 (FR) for membership in the Wyoming Libertarian Party. If you are already a member, try to help by persuading someone else to join. If you are not already a member, see the application form on page 5.

Some of us have agreed to try to find out how many voters registered as "independent" last election, with a view to contacting these people who apparently don't want to associate with the republicans or the democrats. You may want to check this out in your county also. The information is available at the Court House.

When you get some names of interested people, forward them to G. Reith, 1116 North Main, Sheridan. WYO 82801. We'll send them some basic literature.

I'd like to see a flow of information started, so you're invited to drop us a letter (Wyoming Libertarian Party, Box 1972, Casper, WYO 82602) or give us a call at 307-265-7804.

...Larry E. Gray, Acting State Chair
Buffalo

MEETING

Friday, July 31, 1981 8:00 P.M.

Casper Wyoming Women's Club
Corner of 6th and Wolcott

SPEAKERS

Larry Gray - Gun Control
Dave Dawson - Libertarianism

From the Vice-Chair

Since most of my readers are not members of the Executive Committee, they probably have a few questions about what's going on. Who are we? What have we been doing? What are our plans?

To start with answering, I must go back to the Clark campaign. Most of the experienced aid with the campaign came from out of state because Wyoming did not have any organized Libertarian Party. When the organizers went home, those of us who lived here were left with a mailing list and a box of literature. Some preliminary moves to create a Party had been made in Casper and in Sheridan, but post-election blues in combination with other commitments and our lack of skills led to a loss of momentum. (For a time, I concentrated on gathering a small library of basic texts and studying them. I leafleted friends and discussed libertarian ideas with fellow coffee bar layabouts.)

Not particularly knowing what to do next, but generally feeling that something had to be done, several of us in Sheridan called for a convention. We hoped to regroup and assess means toward creating an active organization in the only state to lack one.

At the convention, which brought out the "winter soldiers", we haggled over a constitution for a few minutes (!) and elected some officers. Along with the officers we elected six members at large who would fill in the rest of the nine-member Executive Committee. (By the way, copies of all our documents; Constitution, By-laws, and meeting minutes are available to members on request. Anyone else who wants them should enclose a few dollars to cover the cost of making duplicates.)

At present, as I see it, the role of the Executive Committee is akin to that of the entrepreneur. We have a product we are trying to sell, and we are involved in figuring out a marketing strategy.

The product we are selling is this: participation in working to change for the better the face of politics in America and in Wyoming. Anyone at all interested in seeing less GOVERNment and more liberty is a potential customer.

Now, we who have taken the initiative in creating the Wyoming Libertarian Party do not claim any kind of om-

niscience. Quite the contrary; most of us are inexperienced and not too well aware of all the possible approaches to limiting the state's size. It seems as if we have shunned political activism ever since having become completely disgusted with the bureaucrats and powermongers who, in dominating the field, have up until now preempted any opportunity for a politics of principle; a politics in favor of liberty and in opposition to power.

Since we have not got years of practice beneath our belts, we depend greatly on input from everyone, sympathizers and fellow travelers alike. Ours is a practically uncharted territory, guaranteed replete with learning opportunities.

LATE ADDITION !!

I just recently received and responded to a request for help from a new organization well worthy of support.

It is named the **Libertarian International**, and as you might guess, it is devoted to pursuing worldwide promulgation of libertarianism. About time, I say, and three cheers....there are quite a few nations that are (shall we say) somewhat further along the totalitarian road than are we, and finding ways to being the word of freedom to the people of these lands serves two commendable purposes: The first being found in the simple value of aiding the cause of liberty for all, and the second being found in reflecting that it is easier for some to be free when all are free. If national defense is a problem because fascist regimes threaten, it is in our interest to join battle in the war of ideas; and the L. I. is one good way to do it. They need financial aid, as can be expected (basic membership is fifteen U.S. dollars), and they need translators willing to donate time. Write: **LIBERTARIAN INTERNATIONAL** c/o Dr. Ralph Raico, 230 North St., Apt. c-6, Buffalo, NY 14201. (A Canadian postal strike has effectively shut down communications with the original headquarters.) Or ask me to send info. ED.

Libertarian Resources

Reason Magazine
Box 40105
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
\$19.50

Libertarian Review
1320 G Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

The Freeman
Irvington on Hudson, NY
10533 - 64 pages each month FREE

Protectionism Exposed

by
Sheldon Richman

PART TWO

...The broadest and oldest fallacy is that imports undermine our economy while exports buttress it; it was thoroughly exploded at least 200 years ago. If we look at trade as occurring between individuals, we see the nonsense of this old saw. When an American chooses to buy a foreign-made product, he or she does so either because it is cheaper than the American version, or it is better, or there is no American version. In any case, the purchaser is demonstrably better off for buying the foreign product. (Of course, purchasers make mistakes that are realized after the fact, but they only engage in exchange in the expectation of becoming better off).

It is true, of course, that sellers of the domestic variety are not as well off as they would have been had the buyer patronized one of them. But the same would be true for most of them had he or she bought the product from one of their American competitors. Only one firm could have made the sale. But no one would say that the economy was undermined as a result. What is the difference?

The difference is that with imports, **foreign** sellers are involved. And all that means is that the transaction crossed an arbitrary political boundary, a line on a map. But that only matters if you look at nations as "teams" and the economic system as a zero-sum game (for every winner there is at least one loser), rather than as a means to increased well-being in which trade leaves all transacting parties better off.

Nobody, in his or her role as a consumer, believes imports are bad. (When U.S. Steel recently needed to buy steel, it turned to Japanese companies.) Intuitively, most people realize that what counts are products, not money, not even jobs. They are means. The end is the desired good or service. Conventional economics holds that exports are beneficial, imports detrimental. This is like saying that for an individual, only selling is beneficial while buying is detrimental.

Obviously, something is amiss. Why would anyone sell if he or she didn't intend to buy? What confuses most thinking here is money. In barter, selling is buying. If international trade were conducted by barter, none of these fallacies would arise. But international trade would be severely limited, if not impossible, were we confined to barter.

So let's talk about money. Money brings about indirect barter. As a common medium of exchange, money

NATIONAL CONVENTION APPROACHING

More than one thousand Libertarians from around the country are expected to gather for the Tenth Anniversary Convention in Denver, August 26 - 30. The Convention Committee has extended an invitation to all interested people to attend this historic event. The Convention will combine business, celebration, reviews of the party's past ten years, and a look at prospects for the next ten years.

Libertarian national conventions have always been exciting, educational events. But many factors combine to make this the most extraordinary convention yet. This is the first national convention since the one which nominated Ed Clark for President, way back in September of 1979. It will probably be the last convention until the nominating convention for the 1984 presidential race. The convention offers a chance to see and hear the people who built the Libertarian Party from an idea into America's third party. It offers a chance to participate in debates on additions to the party's radical, no-nonsense platform.

Interesting and controversial proposals for the Constitution and By-Laws will be discussed - questions like: When should the next Presidential Nominating Convention be held - in late summer of 1983 (leaving more time for ballot drives) or in the spring of 1984 (when the primary season focuses much more attention on presidential politicking)?

Also, panels will be held with leading specialists discussing crucial issues. Congressman Ron Paul and Professor Earl Ravenal will discuss "Defense and Foreign Policy," David Koch, Chris Hocker, Tonie Nathan, Bill Evers, and Dave Walter will discuss "Lessons of 1980," Sharon Presley, Wendy McElroy, Tonie Nathan, and Bruce Majors will have an "Association of Libertarian Feminists" panel; nine other subjects will be covered in similar panels.

A "Tenth Anniversary Banquet" on Saturday night will highlight the convention. Leading candidates, officers, and others from the party's first ten years will be recognized and asked to address the crowd. A reception honoring past presidential candidates - Ed Clark, Roger Mac Bride, and John Hospers will be held on Friday night.

Political skills workshops will be held on Friday and Saturday, featuring leading Libertarian campaigners and activists from around the country. Over sixty panelists will participate, including Dick Randolph, Martin Buerger, Ed Crane, David Hoesley, Ann Perier, Jim Clarkson, Mike Hepple, Linda Taylor, Sandy Burns, Leslie Graves Key, Chris Hocker, Jule Herbert, David Nolan, Bill Evers and others.

The business session will conclude with the election of officers and a new National Committee on Sunday. These elections are very important for the future of the party, and the many campaigns will add interest and excitement to the entire convention. The many candidate hospitality suites, along with suites hosted by leading Libertarian organizations, provide informal settings for talking with the leading candidates, activists, and writers in the party, until the wee hours of the morning.

For more information, contact the LP/10 Committee, 1041 Cherokee Street, Denver, Colorado 80204 (303) 573-5229.



Here To Stay

NOTE: We're looking for alternate delegates and people who will be attending who are also willing to help us staff a booth. Just give a call at 307-265-7804



*The Denver Hilton
August 26-30, 1981*

Registration Information

Choose from four different event packages, each designed for a specific need and budget! The first price given is for registrations sent in prior to the 4th of July; the second is about 25% higher.

Admission to individual events is not available by pre-registration. Single-shot admissions to *some* events will be offered on-site at the convention, depending on availability.

FULL PACKAGE — \$180 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$225 AFTERWARD

As the name implies, this includes everything — the four Breakfasts, all evening events including the Tenth Anniversary Banquet, admission to all speeches, panels, and workshops — plus, of course, your registration material and access to the convention floor. This is definitely the first-cabin way to go; you get first crack at limited-admission events, and the freedom to change your plans at any time.

DELEGATE PACKAGE — \$150 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$185 AFTERWARD

Everything *except* access to the speakers and panels which run directly opposite floor proceedings. If you plan to spend your daytime hours on the floor, but want to do all the Fun Stuff in the evenings, this is the package for you. Includes the Breakfasts.

ECONOMY PACKAGE — \$120 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$150 AFTERWARD

Gets you onto the floor, into the daytime speeches, panels and workshops, and into all social/recreation events *except* the Banquet and the four Breakfasts. Most mileage for your money, but you miss one of the great Libertarian events of all time and four of the party's most popular speakers.

"BARE BONES" PACKAGE — \$80 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$100 AFTERWARD

Floor access, panels, workshops, daytime speakers, and the Thursday and Friday night movies at the Hilton. No frills, but you'll learn a lot.

TENTATIVE PRICES FOR SINGLE ITEMS.

Not available by pre-registration; neither availability nor price is guaranteed now.

REGISTRATION MATERIAL AND FLOOR ACCESS — \$25

DAYTIME PANELS, SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS — \$75 PKG, \$6 EACH

BREAKFASTS — \$40 PKG. OF FOUR, \$12 EACH

TENTH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET — \$50

EVENING IN CENTRAL CITY — \$20

EVENING WITH MURRAY ROTHBARD — \$10

PAST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RECEPTION — \$15

JOSEPH SUGARMAN — \$8

MOVIES — \$3 EACH

Enclosed is payment for _____ Convention Registrations, as indicated below. First price is for registrations sent before July 4th; use second price after July 4th.

- _____ FULL PACKAGES @ \$180 (\$225) \$ _____
- _____ DELEGATE PACKAGES @ \$150 (\$185) \$ _____
- _____ ECONOMY PACKAGES @ \$120 (\$150) \$ _____
- _____ "BARE BONES" PACKAGES @ \$80 (\$100) \$ _____

Registration form

LP/10 Convention Committee
1041 Cherokee Street
Denver, Colorado 80204

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____
 Please charge to my MasterCard VISA
 Card no _____ Expires _____ Signature _____

If you are ordering more than one package, please list names of all registrants; attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LP/10.**

Protectionism....

facilitates trade between individuals who otherwise couldn't trade with each other. If Jones has butter and wants shoes, and Smith has shoes but doesn't want butter, money enables them to trade because Smith can then use it to get what he or she wants. Despite this indirectness, buying and selling remain two aspects of the same act. No one wants money for its own sake. It is accepted only because the seller believes he or she will later be able to trade it for products he or she wants. The fallacies melt away with this understanding.

This brings us to the "balance of trade". Many people anguish over the fact that Japanese producers, for example, bought \$8 billion less of American products in 1980 than Americans bought of theirs the year before. They call this a "trade deficit." Why is this bad? As former Rep. Charles Vanik of Ohio put it, "We sent them \$8 billion of our wealth." Of course, this is absurd.

The wailing about trade deficits is full of problems. First, Americans trade with many people. Why focus on one group arbitrarily? second, why focus on one arbitrary 12 month period? People trade continuously; there is no reason to believe that freezing the film at an arbitrary date will give us an accurate picture.

But there are deeper problems. How can a trade deficit or "negative trade balance" ever occur? Aggregate trade statistics for Japanese and Americans are ultimately reducible to transactions between individuals. When individuals voluntarily agree to trade, they all expect to benefit, or they would not trade. But if all parties benefit, how can a **negative** balance result? All must experience a "positive" balance. If it is true for individuals, it must be true for the groups they make up.

Individuals can experience a "negative" balance only in the sense that during the same period, they can spend more than they earn, either by reducing their cash balances or borrowing. But that obviously will be made up later by buying less so they can rebuild their cash balances or repay the loan. Again, net benefits accrue to each party or the transaction would not occur.

The people who lose sleep over trade "imbalances" with Japan need only ask themselves: What will the Japanese do with eight billion Federal Reserve Notes? Eventually, the notes will be traded for American products. Japanese holders of the notes will either send them back or sell them to someone else who will send them back in the form of a purchase payment. We can be assured that no one wants the notes for their own sake. (Do You?)

What worries the mercantilists is the thought that the Japanese might never let the dollars be traded for American goods. How ridiculous! What will they do — burn them, dump them in the sea or stuff their mattresses? If so, all the better. Americans will have gotten Japanese products for free. (Next year we can send them one note with lots of zeroes.) So while we may hope that foreign sellers will never redeem paper dollars for goods - to the mercantilist's horror - we can count on their doing so.

However, even if they burn their dollars, it would be wrong to say that the U.S. has a trade imbalance or isn't exporting anything. We'd be an exporter of green slips of paper with president's pictures on them.

Incidentally, if foreign sellers could redeem their dollars for gold, as in bygone days, the analysis is not changed materially. The mercantilist fear of an uncontrollable gold outflow is groundless. Each transaction with gold meets

Over Please.....

YES, I'm tired of:

- Letting politicians (run my life, take my money, restrict my options, ad infinitum/nauseum)
- Idly watching the growing trend toward Modern American Totalitarianism
- Catering to the whims of capricious power-mongers
- Concluding that there is no hope

*Choose one, any, or all

SO, I'm going to put it on the line and apply for membership in the party.

WYO only (\$5.00 FR)

Joint state/national (\$15.00)

PLUS \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as an appropriate means of attaining social or political ends."

Signature _____

the same standards as other transactions: each party expects to benefit. The gold outflow stops when the holders of gold decide they prefer larger cash balances to smaller ones.

Finally, on this point, let's imagine the worst case of all from the mercantilist view, namely a situation where the U.S. imports everything and exports nothing. Suppose Japanese producers send us all the goods we want at no charge. The ultimate dumping! Only a practicing ascetic could object. Not only would we have all the goods the Japanese send us, but all our productive resources would be available to produce the other things we want. Fear of this situation rests on the fallacy that there is only a limited amount of work. Were that true, it would follow that goods produced abroad take away work from people here. But human wants are limitless. There are arrays of items we'd all like but can't afford. Labor and capital are perpetually scarce relative to people's desires.

(To be continued next issue.)



Random Bits

Jim Blomquist and Gerry Reith were able to attend the Montana L.P. convention in June, where we met with the three candidates for National Chair. We both endorse John Mason for Chair. For further information on the candidates, all of whom are fine, qualified people, write:

JOHN MASON
168 So. Emerson Street
Denver, Colorado 80209

LP WYO NEWS
G. Reith, editor
1116 North Main
Sheridan, WYO 82801

-Please register all correspondence-

Mailed _____ a.m. - p.m.
_____ 1981

FRIENDS OF ALICIA CLARK
P.O. Box 11
Tucson, Arizona 85702

KENT GUIDA
1566 Bay Head Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

As well as hearing speeches from the candidates, we heard from TONIE NATHAN, past Vice-presidential candidate of the party (and the only woman in history to receive an electoral college vote); MICHAEL EMERLING, who gave a seminar on political persuasion with special emphasis on outreach to the fundamental christian community; and lots of good parliamentary procedure!

At present we are planning to have a booth at the Convention in Denver, which promises to be an excellent fundraising event. We must explain to potential donors how good our chances are for '82 and beyond; thus will they be convinced that their \$\$ are well spent in aiding Wyoming LP activities. (If you have anything you would be willing to donate for raffling or sale at this booth, contact the editor. It is a nice non-monetary way to help.)

Many Thanks To.....

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[406] 356-2230

For their
generous contribution

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SNAIL
TODAY.



DAVID F NOLAN
1818 S. Jasmine St.
Denver, CO 80224

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

.....William Pitt