



California Libertarian News

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March 1991

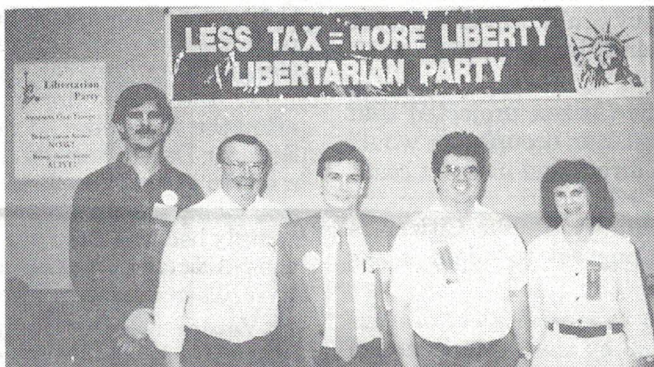
LPC ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

The Libertarian Party of California's State Convention was held February 15-18 in Monterey. The theme was "The Best of Libertarianism." Delegates elected new officers and made some notable changes in the party by-laws.

Pat Wright, computer programmer and former San Diego chair, was elected State Chair on the second ballot. The other officers elected were **Mark Hinkle** (Northern Vice-chair), **Kim Goldsworthy** (Southern Vice-chair), **Ed Moss** (Secretary), and **Bonnie Flickinger** (Treasurer). Wright's main goal for the next year is to increase party membership, just as he increased San Diego's membership by 600% while he was chair there several years ago.

The delegates responded to complaints about the unwieldiness of the State Executive Committee by reducing that body's membership from a possible 47 to a fixed number of 15. This will include the five party officers, a representative from each of the five largest counties or regions, and five members elected at-large by delegates from all but the five largest counties or regions. The at-large members elected were **Gail Lightfoot**, **Jerry Douglas**, **Ted Brown**, **John Vernon** and **Kate O'Brien**. The five largest counties or regions are San Diego, Santa Clara, West Los Angeles, Orange, and Alameda/Contra Costa/Solano.

In other elections, **Steve Alexander** and **Thea McLean** were chosen as California's two representatives to the Libertarian National Committee. 116 delegates to the upcoming National Convention in Chicago were also elected, and the list of winners will appear in next month's issue. The Judicial Committee (the LPC's "Supreme Court") will consist of **David Bergland**, **Ed Clark**, **Jack Dean**, **David Nolan**, and **Bill White**.



New officers: (left to right) Mark Hinkle, Ed Moss, Pat Wright, Kim Goldsworthy, Bonnie Flickinger



Delegates debate on convention floor.

Besides the convention business, attendees heard numerous speakers address current issues in the fight for liberty. Presidential contenders **Andre Marrou** and **Dick Boddie** were on hand to solicit the support of Californians. The biggest controversy involved Marrou's campaign advisor **Michael Emerling** and Californian **Steve Alexander**. Both made excellent points, and a straw poll afterwards found Libertarians split about 50/50 on the issue.

The Samuel Adams Society award luncheon was held at the end of the other proceedings. This year's "Sons of Liberty" award was presented to **June Genis** of Redwood City, candidate in the 11th congressional District, for running the 1990 campaign found to most promote the cause of liberty. The Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for activism has not been presented since 1988. This year, three Libertarians won this distinguished honor: **Steve Alexander** of San Jose, **Neal Donner** of Los Angeles, and **Betsy Mill** of San Diego. CLNews

UPDATE: TERRY WILEY

A few months ago we reported that Terry Wiley, a 38 year old computer lecturer from Sacramento, faced a death sentence in Malaysia for possession of 9.37 ounces of marijuana. Libertarians protested this miscarriage of justice. Dennis Thompson, LP candidate for Governor, led a demonstration at the Malaysian consulate in Los Angeles during his campaign.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that Wiley ended up receiving a five-year jail sentence and ten strokes of the cane. The judge believed Wiley's version that the marijuana was for personal use, not for sale. Another visitor may not be so lucky, however. A Filipino fisherman (unfortunately from a country with less political clout than the U.S.) now faces a Malaysian death sentence for possession of just 8.54 ounces of marijuana! CLNews

NEWS BRIEFS

* A deficit of intellect has led President Bush to propose a \$1.45 trillion federal budget for 1992, with a proposed deficit of \$280.9 billion. This is not a record, though, since this year's deficit is expected to hit a new high of \$318.1 billion. This budget is supposed to live within the "tight restrictions" imposed by last fall's deficit reduction accord. Imagine if he had to propose a budget without these "tight restrictions!"

* Robert W. Gambino, Bush's nominee to head the Selective Service System, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the agency could provide 100,000 conscripted troops within a month if the military draft were to be reintroduced.

* The consumer group Public Citizen projected that a "short war" with a short post-war occupation would cost a family of four \$2,624 in direct and indirect costs. A "long" war with a "difficult" occupation would up the ante to \$4,288 for the same family. Public Citizen, a Ralph Nader group, urged Congress to adopt a tax package to pay the bill.

* Daily expense money paid to state legislators has been increased from \$88 to \$92 by the State Board of Control, which is required to increase the legislative per diem each time the rate goes up for federal employees who travel. Legislators are paid expense money every day they are in session as long as they do not recess for more than three days in a row. The money is tax free and designed to defray travel costs and maintenance of a second residence in Sacramento. This is on top of a recent 28.6% pay increase the legislators received effective 12/1/90, from \$40,816 to \$52,500 per year.

* U.S. taxpayers are currently paying millions of dollars annually in veterans benefits from the Spanish-American War, which was unwisely fought in 1898. Past experience shows that benefits are paid for as long as 120 years after a war ends. The cost of these benefits has averaged 278% of the cost of the war! This means that our great-great grandchildren will be paying for the Persian Gulf War until about 2111 A.D.

* Following up on our story last month, please note that only 19,936 assault rifles have been registered in California. This leaves an estimated 280,000 weapons unregistered and as such "illegally held." Attorney General Dan Lungren has been unable to legally accept 2,500 additional applications that were postmarked after the December 31 deadline. To remedy this, State Senator David Roberti (D-Los Angeles) has introduced a bill to extend the deadline an extra 90 days. Lungren and Roberti seem to think that Californians failed to comply because they are ignorant of the law. In reality, the politicians are ignorant for not recognizing massive civil disobedience to an unconstitutional law.

* Voters recalled Stanley Quintana, the mayor of South El Monte, for the second time in fourteen years. His ignominy in 1977 is unknown, but this time he was found guilty of leaving the scene of an auto accident where he rear-ended two cars and conjured up a story about how the damages to his car occurred. He pleaded "no contest" to filing a false police report and was sentenced to two days of service with a Caltrans freeway clean-up crew, as well as a \$500 fine. His opponents stated that this incident showed personal qualities that should disqualify him from office.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Convention audio tapes are available for \$5.00 each. Contact The Freedom Conference, 1800 Market St. #1, San Francisco, CA 94102

✓ The First Conference on Computers, Freedom and Privacy will be held March 25-28 at the SFO Marriott Hotel, near San Francisco Airport in Burlingame. For information, contact Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, 345 Swett Road, Woodside, CA 94062, phone (415) 322-3778.

✓ A one-day seminar on Austrian Economics will be held April 6 in San Francisco. Cost is \$50 and attendance is limited to 25 persons. For information, contact The Freedom Conference, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102, phone (415) 431-0675.

✓ The Libertarian Party of California's state executive committee will meet Saturday, March 23, in Ontario (San Bernardino County). For location, call Ed Moss at (714) 986-6677.

✓ Marion McEwen, chair of the Field Coordinator Project, offers her thanks to all the activists who supported the project with their time and/or money. Special thanks go to **John Vernon** for bringing the project together and to treasurer **Dave Maxwell** for keeping the books straight. Thanks to all of these efforts, they were able to pay **Jim Lewis** a final \$800 and close the books in balance. Thanks again!

PHOEBE'S PLACE By Bill Schorr

WERE YOU SURPRISED PRESIDENT BUSH EXEMPTED SOLDIERS IN OPERATION DESERT STORM FROM PAYING THE IRS ?...



... HE PROMISED TO PROTECT THEM FROM STATE SPONSORED TERRORIST GROUPS...



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



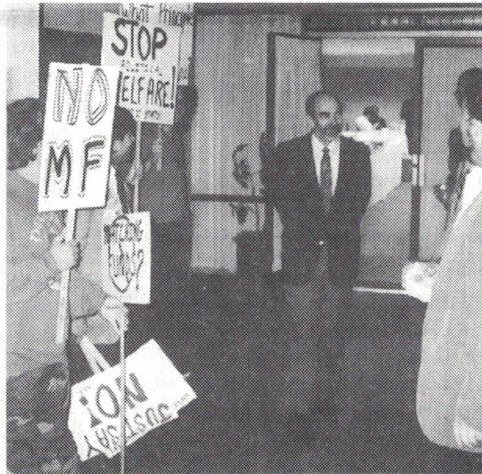
State Chair Gail Lightfoot boogies with challenger Pat Wright after banquet.



Calaveras County Supervisor Tom Tryon "roasts" Andre Marrou at banquet.



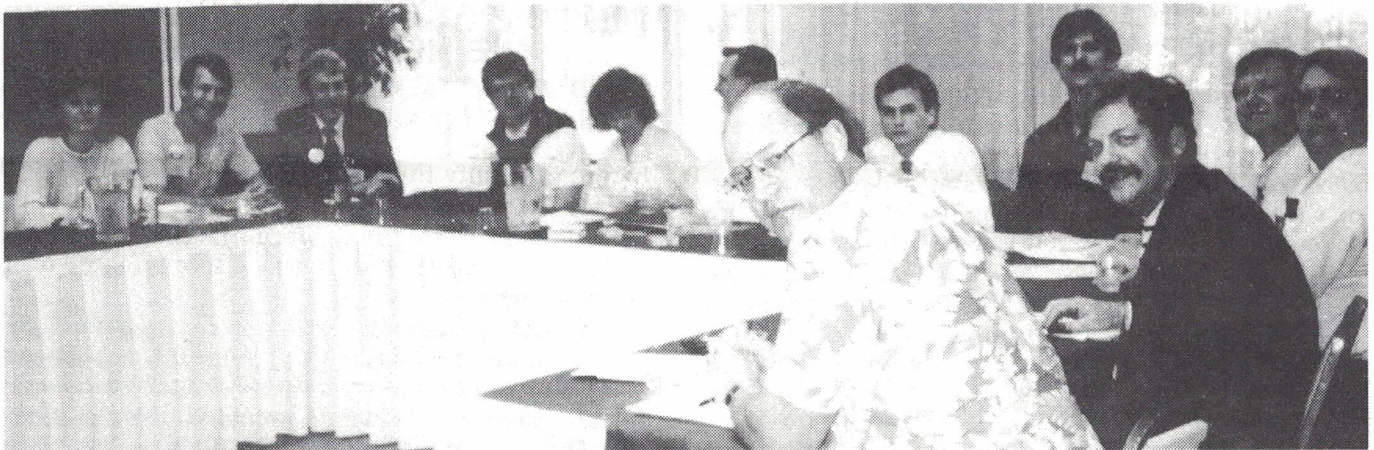
Steve Alexander receives Karl Bray Award from Bruce Lagasse.



Andre Marrou crosses line of anti-matching funds demonstrators.



June Genis, "Sons of Liberty" award winner.



The new "lean, mean" Executive Committee meets.

California Libertarian News is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained within do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated. Please send articles, local news, photos, letters, and advertising copy to the editor: **Ted Brown**, 125 N. Allen Ave. #107, Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 568-8404

NOTICE

California is entitled to 116 delegates and 116 alternates to the Libertarian Party National Convention being held in Chicago from August 29 to September 2. 90 alternates are needed. If you are going to Chicago and have not already put your name on the list, please contact Ed Moss at (714) 986-6677. The deadline is March 25.

BITTER LEGISLATOR THREATENS TO QUIT

Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, a 59 year old San Jose Democrat who has held office since 1966, is angry. Californians, including those in his own district, voted for Proposition 130. This means that Vasconcellos and his colleagues will have to live with substantial staff and budget cuts, plus have to leave office by 1996.

"I'm really debating whether to resign before the term is over," said the chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. "I don't see any point in killing myself for people who apparently don't care if they have decent government or not."

One-third of Assembly employees—about 500 people—are leaving due to the voter-enforced budget cuts. Passage of Prop. 130 has brought "devastation and utter demoralization" to the Legislature, according to the indignant Vasconcellos. "I'm real bitter about it," he said. "I couldn't believe the voters would pass it. I couldn't believe they would be that self-destructive. If people want better government, this isn't the way to get it."

A few years ago, Vasconcellos got a lot of publicity by virtue of his taxpayer-financed state Commission on Self-Esteem. Now he and the other thieves of Sacramento will need plenty of self-esteem to get real jobs in the free market. Assembly Speaker Willie Brown predicts that 40% of the legislators may not run again in 1992. Majority Leader Tom Hannigan (D-Fairfield) has already announced he will not run. Speaker pro tem Mike Roos (D-Los Angeles) is considering resigning soon to take a job trying to improve the quality of Los Angeles schools. Let's hope a lot more of these guys will take the hint and stop watering at the public trough.

CLNews

FEDERAL BLACKMAIL REARS ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN

by David Keller

The Federal Government would be encroaching on "states rights" if it were to set speed limits or drinking ages, so it offers "incentives" for states to pass such laws on their own. The negative incentive is the withholding of federal highway funds if a state refuses to comply.

Now they're at it again. A federal law passed in 1990 threatens to withhold these transportation funds if a state doesn't enact and enforce a law suspending, revoking or delaying issuance of a drivers license for at least six months for anyone convicted of a "drug offense." The relationship of the offense to driving is obviously irrelevant. If California refuses to enact such a law, 5% of the highway funds would be withheld starting October 1, 1993. If we still persisted in self-government, the amount withheld would rise to 10% on October 1, 1995.

The two bills introduced in the California Legislature to implement this law are **SB 62** by former Senator John Seymour (R-Anaheim) and **SB 136** by Senator Bill Leonard (R-Big Bear Lake). SB 62 states that it puts

California in compliance, but has no provisions for delaying issuance of licenses or for implementation of the act. SB 136 is more extensive and would fulfill the federal requirements. It also provides that enforcement would be a state-mandated local program, so that local governments will have to pay for it. Local costs will be high, since more people will likely demand jury trials for minor charges if their driving privileges are at stake.

It's far better for California to lose a few million dollars of federal highway money than to pass such repressive legislation. Write to your state senator and assemblyman at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

CLNews

STOP THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE TAX

by Steven Currie

Once again, state legislators are trying to pass a sales tax on custom computer software services sold to clients. This will open the door to taxing services, which are currently exempt from sales taxes. Several bills are pending that contain this new tax, including SB 5X by Senator Wadie Deddeh (D-San Diego), SB 2X by Senator Daniel Boatwright (D-Concord), and SB 29, which is called a jet fuels tax.

If passed, this tax would have a severe negative effect on all computer jobs in California. The cost of custom services would rise from 6% to 7.5%, depending on the county. This translates to an added cost of \$362.50 on a \$5,000 job. Large computer installations could pull out of California, taking jobs and money with them. First Interstate Bank and Hughes Aircraft have already moved their computer operations to Arizona.

Libertarians need to be adamant in opposing these bills. Write your state assemblyman or senator at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

OTHER BILLS WE NEED TO OPPOSE:

- * **AB 441** by Assemblywoman Gwen Moore (D-Los Angeles) would prohibit sponsors of ballot initiatives from paying professional signature gatherers to collect names to qualify the propositions.
- * **AB 432** by Assemblyman Rusty Areias (D-Los Banos) would create the California Cheese Commission within state government, without specifying its membership, powers or duties.
- * **AB 402** by Assemblyman Gerald Felando (R-San Pedro) would prohibit smoking in all publicly-and privately-owned buildings accessible to the public.
- * **AB 458**, also by Felando, would increase the state cigarette tax from 35 cents to 45 cents a pack, with the additional revenue going into the state general fund rather than a special fund designed to help pay for programs to reduce tobacco use.
- * **SB 283 & SB 284** by Senator Herschel Rosenthal (D-Santa Monica) would help curb illegal construction along California's coastline by increasing potential fines and allowing them to be imposed administratively rather than through the courts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anti-War Protests

Editor:

Your January issue was the most exciting I have seen in a long time. It's about time some real anti-war protests get going. Way back in 1972 I was one of a handful of people who got this party going. I put in many years and finally burned out after the 1980 campaign. I registered Libertarian and voted for the first time in ten years this past November, and I wore my "I'd rather be smashing the state" button to the polls.

Kathy Stephens
Roseville

(Editor's note: Welcome back, Kathy!)

Editor:

As a long-standing supporter of the Libertarian Party, I was shocked and angered by the front page cartoon in your February issue comparing George Bush to Adolf Hitler. May I look forward to an apology in the next issue?

Marc B. Franklin, CFA
Palm Desert

(The Editor responds: Though Bush is no genocidal monster, there are a lot of similarities between the views of these two leaders. Hitler's National Socialism, with contempt for both civil liberties and economic freedom, is not too much different from Bush's moderate Republicanism. Hitler believed in a New World Order in which his "1000-year Reich" would dominate the world. Bush evidently believes in a New World Order of U. N. internationalism, but with the United States dominating the world as its unwelcome policeman. Bush has no extermination program designed to rid us of unpopular minorities, but recent FBI questioning of Arab-Americans shows that our government can make generalizations based on ethnic origin just as Hitler did. Also, let's not forget that Bush carelessly compared Saddam Hussein to Hitler. Perhaps Bush deserves a little of his own rhetoric.)

Editor:

I was distraught to read in your January issue that the Libertarian Party of California has "joined" the L. A. Coalition Against U. S. Intervention in the Middle East.

This is an organization that, among other things:

- 1) refuses to condemn Iraq for its continued occupation of Kuwait and its barbarous human rights violations.
- 2) continues to advocate self-determination for all Arab persons, including Palestinians, at all costs, including the destruction of the legitimate State of Israel; and most heinous of all,
- 3) thoroughly supports the use of all "Operation Desert Shield" funding for socialist welfare programs here at home.

I do not mind stating that the LPC supports the Coalition's position on the American military presence in the Gulf. But to state that we have joined the Coalition itself suggests we lost some of our principles of economic and individual freedom along the way. Please say it isn't so!

Alan B. Cawi
Ontario

(The Editor responds: Mr. Cawi will be glad to know that Libertarians have been working to have the Coalition express opposition to Saddam Hussein's conquest of Kuwait. On February 5, 1991, the Coalition agreed to the following declaration, written by our own Neal Donner:

"We oppose the Iraqi government's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, but Iraq's intervention does not justify U. S. military force in the region. The Bush Administration's claim of moral authority in condemning Iraq's invasion is inconsistent, hypocritical and unprincipled, in light of the United States' own invasions of Grenada and Panama, its own supplying of arms to Iraq, and its own diplomatic green light to Iraq just days before the invasion of Kuwait.

We affirm the right of the people of the Middle East to determine their own future and resolve their own conflict without interference from powers outside the region. We repudiate the attacks on Iraq and Kuwait which threaten to engulf the entire region in a full scale war and lead to massive loss of life."

The Coalition formally believes in five points of unity, all of which were printed in the January issue. The LPC also agrees with these points, and thus the leadership of the party was comfortable in joining the Coalition. It is true that most other Coalition members hold leftist views on other issues. That does not mean the LPC has changed any of its positions to agree with them on any of those issues.)

CALIFORNIA LIBERTARIAN NEWS

READER SURVEY

The war in the Persian Gulf is a controversial issue among Libertarians. Over 75% of the public supposedly supported President Bush's decision to go to war after the bombing started versus only about 50% before the bombing began. The Libertarian Party is on record as opposing this foreign intervention. So we can see where individual party members stand on the issue, please take a minute to fill out this questionnaire and mail it to: Ted Brown, 125 N. Allen Ave. #107, Pasadena, CA 91106.

I condemn Saddam Hussein's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Agree () Disagree ()

President Bush should never have sent any U. S. troops to Saudi Arabia. Agree () Disagree ()

I oppose the war against Iraq (Operation Desert Storm) and want our troops to be withdrawn immediately. Agree () Disagree ()

I am glad that the Libertarian Party steadfastly supports our troops by demanding their immediate return to the U. S. Agree () Disagree ()

President Bush should be impeached and removed from office. Agree () Disagree ()

Comments: _____



Guest Opinion

The Night of January 16

by John Vernon

"John, I'm calling to let you know that you did something I didn't approve of," said the voice on my answering machine.

It was the night of January 16, the day American bombs began dropping on Iraq. It was also the day that I performed my first act of civil disobedience, with the deliberate intention of getting arrested. That day, I was one of 76 men and 76 women who were arrested at the Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles, attempting to bring business-as-usual to a halt in government offices, trying to prevent the inception of a shooting war between the U. S. and Iraq.

It was a day of joy and fervor, and a day of great sadness, for the bombing began as we sat, detained, in holding cells in the basement of that government building.

When I finally spoke with the caller, it turned out that he had seen me in a television interview and disagreed with my publically announced opposition to American intervention in the Middle East. The caller had been a volunteer in Ron Paul's presidential campaign and had also assisted in my campaign for Congress in 1988. I explained that the Libertarian Party has always maintained a foreign policy of non-interventionism, and there was no unique reason in this instance to deviate from this policy. I also informed him that Ron Paul was one of the most consistently non-interventionist members of Congress, facts of which he seemed unaware.

He politely told me that we should bomb Saddam Hussein into oblivion, and that we should then go after the Soviet Union and a bunch of other countries. My caller was at least consistent in his interventionism. "Sounds like a good way to launch a nuclear war," I responded.

He went on to say that "we" should fight the Russians, and that "we" should airlift weapons to the people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to help them secure their independence. I tried to find out who this "we" is that should be doing the fighting. Since he didn't make that clear, I explained that Libertarian principles allow all people to defend their lives, liberty, and property. It also allows individuals to assist others in their struggle for freedom. But this principle does not allow "us" to enslave others to do our fighting, nor does it allow "us" to seize the money of others to buy arms and ammunition.

I asked him if he intended to volunteer to do this fighting against the Soviet Union. He told me that he is a pilot, a skill which he and I have in common, and that he could easily learn to fly a military aircraft, but that he has a medical condition that requires him to eat regular meals, which would prevent him from engaging in combat. I restrained myself from asking if the fact of his medical condition conferred on him rights not held by others—a right to enslave the lives and commandeer the property of others for his noble purpose.

Like the bravery of those who are daring with other men's lives and the generosity and compassion of those who are lavish with other peoples' money, my caller's patriotism must be called into question.

So it appears to me that the principle of American non-intervention in the affairs of other nations is an essential to libertarianism as any other element of the party platform. It is distressing to hear some Libertarians imply—or loudly proclaim—that this current conflict is a "good war," one in which the U. S. must justly participate.

If one takes the attitude "My country, right or wrong," then there is hardly a war which will not be justified. But America has not been attacked, nor is there any interest in the present conflict which applies to all—or even most—Americans. What should be clear from the facts is that George Bush has wanted war since before August 2, 1990. Hussein was his patsy, misled into believing that the United States would not oppose his invasion of Kuwait. From that moment, Bush pushed for an "international" (read "American") rather than an Arab solution to the invasion.

Our president would lead us to believe that Saddam, who even with our assistance could not defeat Iran, is the Hitler of the '90s, and that he, whom we formerly aided, is a threat to the "American way of life." The entire drama is a chapter out of the Iron Mountain Report.

The world is now in the grip of two madmen, and one of them is ours. One appears to be entirely out of our reach. The other, the President of the United States, may be more accessible. Now more than ever, it is essential for Libertarians to maintain their positions and their principles, and demand that the U. S. initiate an immediate cease-fire and sue for peace. What's at risk here, for us, is the soul of libertarianism.

(John Vernon is former state chair of the Libertarian Party of California and a candidate for Lt. Governor, Congress, and State Assembly. "Night of January 16" is also a play by Ayn Rand, in which the audience votes as a jury as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant.)

NOTABLE QUOTES

"Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but trade with them."

—Thomas Paine, 1776

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

—William Pitt (1708-1778)

"What a country calls its vital economic interests are not the things which enable its citizens to live, but the things which enable it to make war. Gasoline is much more likely than wheat to be a cause of international conflict."

—Simone Weil (1909-1943)

"Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war."

—Herbert Hoover (1874-1964)

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1528 Pennsylvania Ave. S. E.,
Washington, DC 20003

County Chairs or Contacts

(figure in parentheses is dues-paid membership)

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El Dorado (10)	Richard Akin	(916) 622-4785
Fresno (12)	Jaak Sanders	(209) 485-0489
Inyo/Mono (1)	William Baucum	(619) 878-2288
Kern (13)	Vicki Williams	(805) 833-0140
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62 Westside (183)	Bob Weber	(213) 204-0612
63 Foothills (67)	Ken Saurenman	(818) 574-8181
64 Central L. A. (65)	Michael Everling	(213) 487-5199
65 Downey (27)	Jean Taborsky	(213) 920-9258
66 South Bay (69)	Cullene Lang	(213) 595-6266
67 East San Gabriel (30)	Jim Brownfield	(714) 623-5914
Marin (23)	Bob Bickford	(415) 927-4814
Merced (3)	Roy Shimp	(209) 723-1768
Monterey (14)	Robert Ratto	(408) 424-9346
Nevada (3)	Gary Dusseljee	(916) 478-1776
Orange (152)	Roger Bloxham	(714) 642-2002
South County	Jim Rushing	(714) 494-6266
Placer (9)	Bruce Daniel	(916) 663-2568
Riverside (44)	Ron Holman	(714) 684-3218
Sacramento/Yolo (49)	Bryce Bigwood	(916) 758-6219
	or David Henderson	(916) 922-9973
San Bernardino (36)	Tom Cosgrove	(619) 868-4461
San Diego (409)	Jim Lorenz	(619) 276-1776
San Francisco (64)	John Whisman	(415) 921-6008
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Santa Clara (249)	Jon Petersen	(408) 778-1802
Santa Cruz (49)	Bill Anderson	(408) 476-9753
Shasta/Tehama (14)	Ross Crain	(916) 537-2676
Siskiyou (3)	Gary Martenson	(916) 468-5355
Sonoma (30)	Jim Oglesby	(707) 894-2658
Tulare (17)	Roy Kendall	(209) 732-3237
Ventura (60)	Aaron Starr	(805) 583-3308
Other Counties (13)		(800) 637-1776
Total (2112) as of 1/31/91		



Libertarian Party of California

286 Greenhouse Mkpl. #362
San Leandro, CA 94579

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature _____

Date _____

- ☐ I choose to set my dues at: ☐ \$25 (basic)
☐ \$50 (sustaining) ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____
☐ Life Membership (\$500) _____
☐ National LP Membership (add \$25 to LPC dues) _____
☐ Additional Donation (Thanks for your support) _____
☐ First Class mail option for monthly CLNews (\$5) _____
Total enclosed \$ _____

I would like to help by providing (volunteer time, computer skills, printing, legal work, or anything else) _____

*Occupation _____

*Employer _____

(*FEC requires our asking)

Payment:

☐ Check to Libertarian Party of California

☐ Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address ☐ h ☐ w _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone ____/____-____ Work Phone ____/____-____

LIBERTARIANS SUE TO OVERTURN SALES TAX HIKE

In November 1990, Los Angeles County voters cast 50.4% of their ballots for Measure C, a proposition to raise the sales tax by ½ cent per each \$1.00 to finance government transportation projects. The measure was declared passed even though Propositions 13 and 62 require a two-thirds yes vote for such a tax hike. The tax, which officials expect will raise \$400 million per year, will probably be collected starting in July 1991.

Former LPC state chair **John Vernon** is the main plaintiff in a lawsuit designed to stop this tax from being collected—and spent. Other plaintiffs include **Ed Clark**, **Ted Brown**, and the Los Angeles County Central Committee of the Libertarian Party. Attorney Mark Rosen of Santa Ana filed the suit, and the first hearing will be held on March 26 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 86 of Los Angeles County Superior Court in downtown Los Angeles. The case is called *Vernon vs. State Board of Equalization*, #BS005466.

Rosen is also filing suit in Orange County Superior Court against a similar tax hike in that county, Measure M. Libertarians expect success in these cases based on the precedent of a San Diego case, where local LP members went to court to successfully overturn a sales tax increase for local jails that passed with less than two-thirds. The government is appealing.

Vernon told the press that "there are two issues here: one is the protection of taxpayers' rights through the two-thirds vote requirements contained in Propositions 13 and 62. The other is the monumental waste which is the inevitable result of government monopoly transportation projects." The Blue Line train in Los Angeles County is touted as a success by its promoters due to ridership levels, but in reality the train costs taxpayers \$10 in operating costs for every dollar taken in at the farebox.

Contributions for legal fees are gratefully accepted.

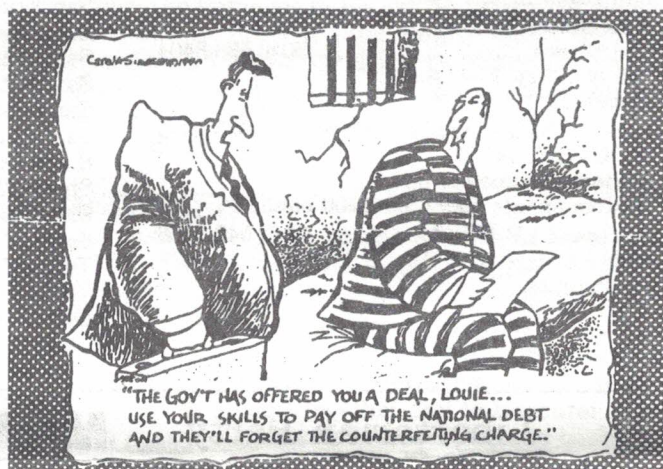
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LP LAWSUIT TO BE APPEALED

Last year the Libertarian Party of California sued in federal court to demand our right to nominate candidates by convention if no candidate is nominated in the June primary election. LPC By-law 17, adopted in February 1990, describes the procedures to make such nominations. Secretary of State March Fong Eu refused to allow over 50 candidates we nominated at local conventions last summer onto the November 1990 ballot.

We maintain that past federal court decisions allow political parties wide latitude to run themselves as they see fit. Unfortunately, Federal Judge Thelton E. Henderson misinterpreted the case, considering it a "ballot access" case rather than a "political party rights" case. Since the LPC already has ballot access in California, the judge decided we had no basis upon which to sue.

The case *Lightfoot v. Eu*, no. 90-16680, is being appealed to the U. S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. We are represented by longtime LPC attorney Ray Hendrickson, and by Arlo Hale Smith, son of the former Democratic candidate for Attorney General and an experienced attorney in this field. The case should be heard by a panel of judges later this year. For more information, contact Richard Winger at (415) 922-9779.



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