

California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume III, Number 9

December 1988

A LOOK AT VOTE RESULTS Programmed For Defeat?

CAMPAIGN '88 is behind us. We still do not have the final results since not all absentee votes have been counted. As of press time it seems Ron Paul and Andre Marrou received 409,000 votes nationwide and 68,838 (.7 percent) in California, while Senate candidate Jack Dean got 75,275 votes (.8 percent). None of our local candidates fared as well as they hoped. John Vernon, who ran an intensely active campaign in the San Fernando Valley (23rd Cong. Dist.), received 4,282 votes or 1.9 percent. Top vote getters were Kennita Watson, who received 21,225 votes (13.8 percent) in her race for the 10th Cong. Dist.; Steve Pencall, 58th Assem. Dist., got 10,018 votes (13.4 percent) and Sue Goodwyn, 21st Assem. Dist., had 13,166 votes (12.2 percent). Watson, Pencall and Goodwyn were in two-way races against incumbents only. That's the more or less official record of how we did, and we'll run the final count for all candidates when we have it.

What happened? Why the poor showing? OK, there was a serious media blackout with even certain "friends" on the right selling out to Bush. But aside from that, Ron did well in radio polls. He charmed crowds where he spoke. And so did his running mate Andre Marrou, who like Ron campaigned full time and made friends wherever he went. We should have had more votes. What went wrong?

The following is strictly speculation, not charges, but it is chilling speculation: the ugly possibility of vote counting fraud. Apparently it wouldn't take much to slip votes from us and the other third parties over to the major parties — not to throw the election to Bush or Dukakis, but to destroy third parties.

CLNews is indebted to Larry Patterson who provided some leads in his newsletter, *A Monthly Lesson in Criminal Politics* (Sept.); Box 37432, Cincinnati, OH, 45222. Patterson writes:

The TV networks have (for a long time) owned an independent company that places telephone banks in cities across the country for presidential elections with phone lines temporarily hooked up to the local election boards for the ostensible purpose of getting election vote totals reported to the American people. Question: Could these network TV controlled telephone centers be a cover to obtain control over the vote tabulating

machines in (at least) key cities to make sure that certain candidates' votes are reduced in selected cases? Now I'm not claiming proof of rigging of the presidential election — I'm simply posing it as a question based upon facts which are now before a grand jury (here in Cincinnati, OH) and based upon the charges made by Cincinnati Bell employees. If you scoff because you doubt such a thing could be kept under wraps, stop scoffing.

The independent company here referred to is, of course, the National Election Service (NES), which CLNews discussed in last month's issue when we learned NES was not go-

Continued page 4

Is the Party Over?

Randall Grindle

The California Libertarian Party will cease to exist in 1990 unless you help. Party registration has been steadily declining since 1980 from the one percent required by state election law to retain ballot status to under .5 percent today (48,000). In 1986 the party also failed to obtain the two percent of the vote in a statewide contest against the two major party candidates which is required by law to retain ballot status. It was only by a stroke of luck that the Republicans ran no one for treasurer so our candidate was able to get about eight percent.

To stay on the ballot we must get our registration back up over one percent by Nov. 1990, the next gubernatorial election. That'll be a lot harder this time around since we need about 125,000 registrations, not 80,000. We must increase our registration by 77,000 from the current 48,000 and we have about 24 months to do it.

None of our other activities are going to matter if we lose ballot status. The presidential campaign, running Congressional and local candidates, media events, initiative drives, social clubs, conventions, etc., are all important; but our very existence is threatened unless we deal with the problem of our declining registration and our inability to pull the legally required minimum vote in 1990.

Randy is LPC chair of Lake, Napa, and Mendocino Counties. He is an enthusiastic advocate of engaging in "real world" politics. (See page two)

News and Events from the Regions

Here and There

REGION 67 (East San Gabriel Valley): A Libertarian/Objectivist group is starting at the Claremont Colleges. Contact: Cort Fritz, (714) 621-8000, ext. 3856 for information; or Gail Lightfoot, (714) 623-1117.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: Activity is picking up in this, the largest county in the state. Bonnie Flickinger, who ran for Congress, plans to run again but with a much stronger Party base. She will spend the next four years building a constituency and the necessary community support.

Del Harbour is taking on the responsibilities of chair, while Ed Moss will serve as contact person. Del's telephone is (619) 248-6887.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: Supper clubs are starting again, with the first one to be held Dec. 5. Speaker will be Stephen Crigler discussing ways to increase local activism. Contact: (805) 569-0244.

VENTURA COUNTY: A libertarian lending library is being set up at Stephanie Horner's house. Besides a good selection of books, the library has tapes of Marshall Fritz and Ron Paul's campaign tapes. Borrowers will pay a deposit which will be refunded on return of the book or tape. Contact: Stephanie Horner, (805) 4988-7327.

Notes from the ExCom

The LPC Executive Committee met in San Luis Obispo, Nov. 14-15, for what was expected to be a dismal post mortem of the election, but was instead a very upbeat meeting marked by surprising optimism. Several activists announced they plan to run in local contests and be more active in the political life of their communities. Business matters were the order of the day, and below are some items approved by the ExCom.

- **LPC State Office:** Lyn Sapowsky-Smith has been rehired as coordinator and manager for the state office in San Jose. She will be working full-time.

- **Registration Drive:** The committee reaffirmed its commitment to a registration drive and plans are being made to translate the commitment into a reality.

- **Region Mergers:** The consolidation or formation of several regions was approved. Randy Grindle has agreed to be chair not only of Lake County, but Mendocino and Napa as well; Bill Baucum is taking on the chairmanship of Mono County

in addition to Inyo; and Bryce Bigwood is now chair of both Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

San Francisco and Marin are once again two counties, with Bob Bickford the new chair of Marin. San Bernardino was separated from Riverside: Del Harbour to be the chair of San Bernardino County, with Ed Moss as contact person.

Clearlake Votes Down Tax

Voters in the Lake County city of Clearlake voted down a proposed six percent utility tax which would have raised about \$3,500,000 for city services. Percentage-wise, it was the biggest defeat (88.3 percent) of any tax in California: 3,477 to 461 votes. There are to be quite a few layoffs, including the city engineer and the zoning code enforcement officer (that's two we can definitely do without).

More Good News from Clearlake: Of three vacancies for the five member city council, two have been filled by libertarians: William Struthers (incumbent) and Vera Reed. "There is a strong connection between the defeat of the utility tax and those who were elected to the council," said City Administrator Dan Obermeyer. Voters gave Struthers and Reed the first and second highest votes — and both were major opponents of the tax.

Still More Good News: Lastly, voters also said NO to a proposed state prison, 11,531 to 6,844.

The successes in Lake County can be attributed in large part to the efforts of Randy Grindle who keeps the debate open and constantly brings the libertarian point of view before the public and into committee meetings. This kind of intense community activism is admittedly very time consuming, but the rewards are great. It pays off, but it must be continuous and not sporadic.

December Hikes

Bay Area: Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m., Mt. Tamalpais, from Pantoll to West Point Inn and return via Mountain Theatre. Great views of the Bay. Contact: Lloyd Licher, (415) 472-3294.

Los Angeles: Saturday, Dec. 17, 9:45 a.m., Altadena to Henninger Flats. Originally homesteaded by Capt. Wm. Henninger who operated a "farm in the clouds," now it's the site of the L.A. County Experimental Forestry Nursery. Five miles round trip, 1,400 ft. elevation gain. Contact: Alan Pendleton, (213) 392-2181 or Ed Ogawa, (805) 379-1491, evenings.

San Diego: Saturday, Dec. 17, 9:45 a.m., Wilderness Gardens County Park. Hike will be along the Meadows trails, four or five miles. Also, the Third Annual Hikers Holiday Party will be Sunday, Dec. 18, 7:00-10:00 p.m. If you've been on at least one of the hikes, you're invited. Contact: Sara Baase, (619) 460-9136.

- **Important Disclaimer:** These hikes are not an officially sponsored activity of the Libertarian Party. Each person's safety is his or her responsibility. Don't lose yourself in the cloudfarm, and watch out for poison oak.

California Libertarian News (CLNews) is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained therein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

Please send regional news, calendar items, photos, non-member subscriptions (see below), and other material to:

Sarah E. Foster, Editor
777 Terrace 49
Los Angeles, CA 90042
(213) 259-9580

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Last Minute Campaigning

The weekend before the Election saw candidates and their campaign workers walking precincts and doing what they could to drum up a few more votes. In Pomona, Gail Lightfoot precided over a display of Libertarian materials she had assembled for the Great Western Gun Show. Activists from the East San Gabriel Valley were on hand to help, and our vice presidential candidate Andre Marrou was there as one of the judges of the chili cookoff. Andre had never been a judge at a chili cookoff, but then, no vice-presidential candidate has ever acted in this capacity, so it was a first for both. Thanks to Jerry Lustig of Region 61 who arranged for Andre's participation.

Gail was so pleased with the response from the crowd that she reserved tables for two major gun shows next year.

There's only one thing to complain about. The crowd was great, but while standing in a *very* long line for tickets to get in we were subjected to a loudspeaker recording about how all good Second Amendment folks ought to vote for George Bush. Talk about noise pollution!

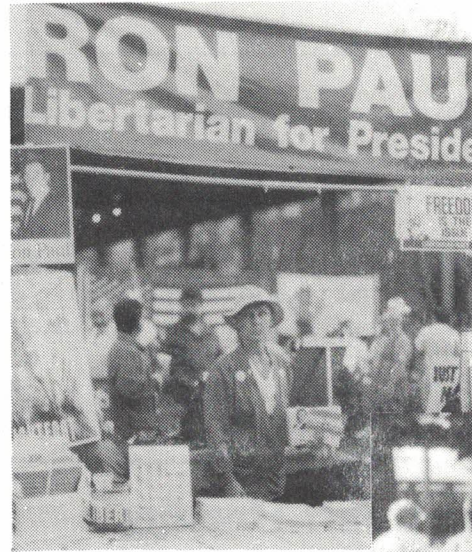
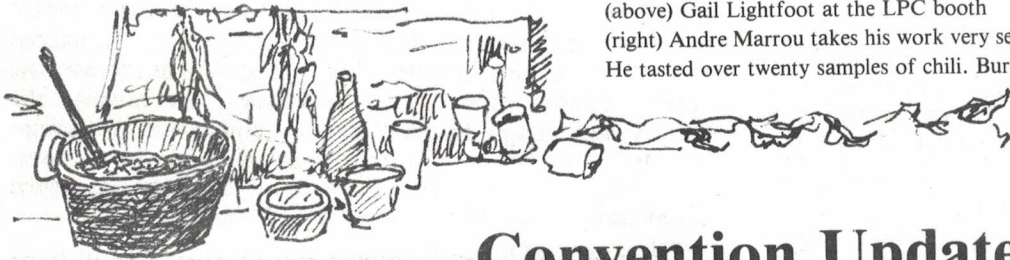
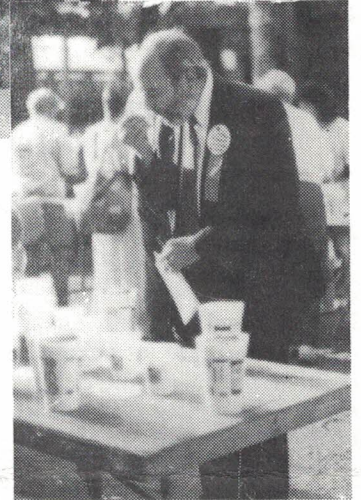


Photo Captions:

(above) Gail Lightfoot at the LPC booth

(right) Andre Marrou takes his work very seriously.

He tasted over twenty samples of chili. Burp.



Convention Update

FEB. 17-20 LAS VEGAS

Plan Now, Pay Later

Hope you've all made up your minds to Celebrate Freedom in Las Vegas, Feb. 17-20. We realize the holiday season is upon us and money may be in short supply so we won't give you the real hard sell until after Christmas, but we do want you to mark your calendar now and make your reservations very soon. Use the form on page four. Visa and MasterCard are OK.

Just think how wonderful it will be in Las Vegas in February. Bring the whole family for a fun-in-the-sun vacation. The Alexis Park is a luxurious resort hotel with country club amenities and great food. They have a four-star restaurant, and the same kitchen will cater our convention. The huge two-room suites are only \$75 per night and can sleep up to four.

There are three packages available: the Connoisseur (all meals and speakers), the Gourmet (food only, but includes meal speakers), and the Intellectual (talks only — no food, but includes meal speakers).

The speaker program is about 95 percent confirmed and it keeps getting better! A complete schedule will appear in the brochure to be mailed out just after Christmas. Individual events will also be available. Check last month's newsletter for more information or call (213) 595-6266 or (818) 893-6884. Happy Holidays, and see you in February.

The Convention Committee



Bylaws and Platform Changes

The business part of the convention will deal primarily with discussion of changes to the Bylaws and Platform of the Party. If you have any ideas for improving either of these, please send your suggestions to the committee chairs well ahead of time. All proposals will be distributed to members of the appropriate committee for consideration.

Proposed changes to the LPC Bylaws should be sent to Lyn Sapowsky-Smith, 4 Inner Circle, Redwood City, 94062.

LPC Platform changes (new planks, new wording, etc.) should be sent to Michael Iddings, c/o Libertarian Party, 2156-B The Alameda, San Jose, 95126. The Platform Committee will meet Friday, Feb. 17 (first day of the Convention) to discuss suggested changes. All regions eligible to send delegates to the Convention may make one delegate a member of the committee.

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Supreme Court Hearing

Richard Winger

The U.S. Supreme Court hearing for *San Francisco Co. Democratic Central Committee, et al vs. Eu* is set for Dec. 5. This is the case the LP of California joined back in 1983. We are co-plaintiffs with many county central committees of the Democratic Party and one Republican county central committee, and are attacking state laws which dictate how political parties should be structured and which make it illegal for political party county and state central committees to endorse candidates.

Every judge who has heard this case has ruled that the First Amendment protects the right of political parties to endorse candidates and to structure themselves as they wish. Nevertheless, the state of California doesn't give up easily, and obtained a full U.S. Supreme Court review. Its decision is expected to be released sometime in January or February.

LPC to Be Honored at Annual Meeting: The Committee for Party Renewal will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Jan. 21, 11:30 a.m., in the O'Neill Room of the Faculty Club at UC Berkeley. The Committee wishes to honor the LPC at this meeting so we should have as many participants there as possible. We have been the beneficiary of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of free legal work, and we need to show our appreciation for the Committee, just as the Committee is likewise indebted to us because our participation made the case stronger. For more information, contact Ted Brown, (818) 568-8404.

Richard Winger is editor/publisher of Ballot Access News and recipient of the 1988 Karl Bray Award.

Election 1988

from page one

ing to report the results of third party votes during its election night coverage. Knowing nothing of our problems with NES, Patterson raises some important questions:

Just consider. We all know that a telephone modem allows a telephone to be hooked up to a computer, and that those telephone numbers can be dialed (from across the country) to allow the computer to either accept or transfer back any amount of data. . . If this is true, then what's stopping computer vote tabulating equipment from being manipulated through the use of telephone modems? Absolutely nothing.

The Cincinnati case Patterson refers to involves two former Cincinnati Bell employees who recently testified to the Grand

Jury that they had personally wire-tapped into the vote tabulating computer in a local election, under orders from superiors!

Now if that weren't enough, all libertarians should get their hands on a copy of the Nov. 7 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine and check out Ronnie Dugger's article, "Annals of Democracy: Counting Votes." Dugger describes the way the vote computer tabulating systems work, the history, the secrecy surrounding the source codes, and reviews a number of court cases where vote fraud was observed by witnesses. His sources — all experts in the field — state that the system is extremely vulnerable to possible vote fraud.

CLNews personally contacted several persons knowledgeable about the Cincinnati case, including expert witness Robert Strunk, and learned that the fraud can be perpetrated at any level from the precinct to the vote-counting centers, and wouldn't take all that many people to do it. According to Mr. Strunk, "the system depends on the faith of the voters."

The bottom line is that we don't know whether there was any vote fraud, either at the local level (as in Cincinnati) or via modem from afar, but the technology is there. It is possible according to those who have studied and/or worked with the system. Whether it was done or not is impossible to prove either way.

Media and Message

from page five

statewide. The arguments they use are boilerplate, interchangeable arguments against everything a government might do." You guess wrong, Mr. Azevedo. We were happy about the "free" publicity, but would have been ecstatic had Californians agreed with us and not continued the suicidal rush into the abyss of indebtedness. As for boilerplate arguments, ours are no more so than those by the pro-debt people with their hooah about human and public "needs."

Well, it wasn't all bad. CLNews has reported quite a bit of good coverage, but overall it could have been a lot better. And the irony is that we're the only political party that categorically supports complete and total freedom of the press and really takes the First Amendment seriously. Coverage like what we got makes one have second thoughts. Just kiddin', folks, just kiddin'.

The Media and Our Message

One of the main problems our candidates faced in this campaign was the media coverage, which was either negligible or all too often the kind we'd be better off without. It wasn't that the press didn't know we were here. Libertarians throughout the state kept up a steady barrage of letters to the editors of papers, great and small, outlining the party's principles, extolling the merits of our candidates and their ideas, and decrying the lack of coverage. Newspapers printed these letters — complaints and all — but only occasionally sought to rectify the charges that the voters were not being given adequate information. In some communities, this constituted virtually the only mention in the press of the LP.

Some local papers towards the end of the campaign seemed to feel a twinge of concern and ran an Associated Press piece by John Horn about the Paul campaign and Ron's difficulty in obtaining media coverage. In it Horn observes: "Ignored by newspaper reporters, neglected by television crews and denied a debate platform, the four-term congressman's weaving drive for the White House magnifies the crucial role free media play in the presidential race." And he quotes Paul: "I think the media should be more objective," Paul said. "If they were satisfied to report Ronald Reagan's getting government off our back, why don't they point out the fact that the government isn't off our back? And why don't they cover somebody who has an alternative view?"

This piece by Horn appeared in newspapers throughout the state who never bothered to print Ron's press releases or interview him directly.

There was also a disturbing tacit agreement among some members of the press that for anyone to run on a third-party ticket was somehow un-American, and that third parties owe their existence to the charity of the Republicans and Democrats. Consider this little gem of media-bias:

The two-party system, which is the cornerstone of American democracy, magnanimously allows the token appearance of cranky little parties that nominate candidates whose principles often soar above their political impact. As the 'negatives' — or voter distrust — toward vice President George Bush and Gov. Michael Dukakis build, many voters may wish these eccentric parties offered something more than statistical participation in what's referred to as the 'political process.' (*Times Advocate*, Escondido, Oct. 25.)

There follows a discussion of the principles of the LP, AIP, and Peace and Freedom parties, mocking all three for having philosophical principles, and concludes: "...perhaps the nation's better off with the unprincipled major parties that — at the very least — elevate human talent over ideological purity. In the end, we trust people, not parties."

Then there's the *Wall Street Journal*, a friendly publication — right? So why in the middle of an otherwise fairly acceptable article does writer Bob Davis comment: "...sometimes Libertarianism seems synonymous with stinginess. Dr. Paul says he wouldn't use tax money to clean up toxic wastes...or to help the poor." True, but not because we're "stingy" — and Davis sure knows better. With friends like the *Wall Street Journal*, we don't need enemies.

We don't need 'em, but we got 'em — like Paul Azevedo, a columnist for the *Tribune* (San Mateo Co.), who was torqued by our arguments on the ballot propositions: "This year there are a number of propositions opposed only by Libertarian candidates. It's my judgement they care less about the propositions they criticize than the free publicity they get

Continued page 4

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Libertarian Party
of California

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LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

| COUNTY | DATE | EVENTS | CHAIR or CONTACT* | PHONE |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------|--------------|
| Alameda | Tue., Dec. 8 | Program to be Announced | Mike Tejada | 415/531-0760 |
| Butte | | | Mark Sweany | 916/345-9970 |
| Calaveras | | | Tom Tryon | 209/736-4845 |
| Contra Costa | Tue., Dec. 13 | Jim Peron: Libertarian International Convention | Mike Rother | 415/932-4993 |
| El Dorado | | | Richard Akin | 916/622-4785 |
| Humboldt | | | Daniel Mosier* | 707/822-7804 |
| Inyo/Mono Counties | | Call County Chair for Information | William Baucum | 619/878-2288 |
| Kern | | | Craig Gifford | 805/832-6231 |
| Lake/Mendocino/Napa Counties | | | Randall Grindle | 707/994-4817 |
| Los Angeles County (Regions 61-67) | | | | |
| -61, San Fernando Valley | Tue., Dec. 13 | Doug Thorburn: The Debt Bubble | John Vernon | 818/780-9943 |
| -62, West L.A. | Thu., Dec. 15 | Roy Childs: The Anatomy of an Election | Neal Donner | 213/477-6462 |
| -63, Foothills | Tue., Dec. 20 | Howard Hinman: The Hotel as Model of Community | Waheed Bactor | 213/227-6314 |
| -64, Central L.A. | Thu., Dec. 8 | David Gordon: A Look at Economic Trends | Don Meyer | 213/463-5362 |
| -65, Downey | | Call County Chair for Program Information | Walter Clark* | 714/441-3434 |
| -66, South Bay | Sat., Dec. 17 | Christmas Party | Cullene Lang | 213/595-6266 |
| -67, East San Gabriel Valley | | No Meeting this Month | Gail Lightfoot | 714/623-1117 |
| Marin | | | Bob Bickford* | 415/927-4814 |
| Monterey | Tue., Dec. 13 | Business Meeting | Bob Ratto | 408/424-9346 |
| Orange | Thu., Dec. 15 | John Dentinger: The Future of Freedom — An Evolutionary Perspective (Liberty Forum Supper Club) | Richard Martin | 213/426-3069 |
| | | | Jack Dean* | 714/871-0371 |
| Placer | | | Bruce Daniel* | 916/663-2568 |
| Riverside | | | Ron Holman | 714/684-5218 |
| Sacramento/Yolo Counties | | | Bryce Bigwood* | 916/447-4527 |
| San Bernardino | | | Ed Moss* | 714/986-6677 |
| San Diego | Sat., Dec. 10 | Post Election Party | Dick Rider* | 619/276-7166 |
| San Francisco | Sat., Dec. 10 | Call County Chair for Program Information | Jim Peron | 415/864-0952 |
| | | Jeff Hummel: War and the State (Free Exchange) | George O'Brien* | 415/731-3031 |
| San Luis Obispo | | | David Bersohn | 805/466-3963 |
| San Mateo | | | Lyn Sapowsky | 415/368-8148 |
| Santa Barbara | Mon., Dec. 5 | Stephen Crigler: Increasing Local Activism | Brian Garrity* | 805/928-0311 |
| Santa Clara | Wed., Dec. 14 | Discussion Group | Steve Alexander | 408/554-1119 |
| | Thu., Dec. 15 | Business Meeting/Dinner | Steve Alexander | 408/554-1119 |
| Santa Cruz | | | Bill Anderson | 408/476-9753 |
| Solano | | | Mark Moberg* | 707/864-1673 |
| Sonoma | | | Jim Oglesby | 707/823-5261 |
| Tulare | Dec. 14 & 28 | Study Group Meeting | John Graham* | 209/591-5541 |
| Ventura | Thu., Dec. 8 | Jerry Douglas: Getting Libertarians Elected Locally | Aaron Starr | 805/583-3308 |

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

California Libertarian News

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