

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle



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■ Former state legislator Don Gorman: "I have seen a groundswell of support from grassroots Libertarian activists from all across America encouraging me to run [for president]."

Don Gorman considers presidential campaign

Former New Hampshire State Representative plans to announce an exploratory committee

The Libertarian Party may soon have another candidate for its presidential nomination: Former State Representative Don Gorman of New Hampshire.

Gorman will announce the formation of a presidential exploratory committee at the California LP convention February 18-21 in

San Diego, he said, and will make a final decision whether to formally enter the race based on feedback from party members.

"I have seen a groundswell of support from grassroots Libertarian activists from all across America encouraging me to run," said Gorman. "If the support continues to build, I will run."

Twice elected

Gorman, 62, was twice elected to the New Hampshire state legislature as a Libertarian, in 1992 and 1994, and served as leader of the four-man Libertarian caucus for two years. He currently holds office as the Chairman of the Deerfield Zoning Board of Adjustment.

If he decides to seek — and then wins — the LP's presidential nomination, Gorman said he will use that experience as an elected Libertarian to help other LP candidates win public office.

"The Libertarian Party will win power when it builds its farm
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LP mobilizes against 'unfair' Debates Commission criteria

The Commission on Presidential Debates has issued criteria for inclusion in the 2000 presidential debates — and the standards are so unfair that the Libertarian Party has started a campaign to rally public opinion to overturn them, LP National Director Steve Dasbach announced.

"The Libertarian Party is asking our members to embark on a massive letter-writing campaign to pressure the Commission on Presidential Debates to change its decision," he said. "If this doesn't happen, we could be locked out of these crucial debates."

On January 6, the Commission on Presidential Debates — which is chaired by Paul Kirk and Frank Fahrenkopf, Jr., the former heads of the Democratic and Republican national committees — announced a three-part test for including candidates in the 2000 presidential debates. Candidates must:

- Be eligible to run under the U.S. Constitution.
- Have qualified to be on the ballot in enough states to have a mathematical chance of securing an Electoral College majority.
- Show up in at least five "se-

Presidential Debate Criteria

- Candidates must be Constitutionally eligible to run.
- Candidates must have qualified to be on the ballot in enough states to have a mathematical chance of securing an Electoral College majority.
- Candidates must show up at 15% in at least five "selected" national polls before any debate.

lected" national polls at 15% before any debate.

These criteria are more objective than the Debate Commission's standards in 1992 and 1996, acknowledged Dasbach, which had automatically included the Republican and Democratic candidates; set no firm polling requirements; and relied on the "opinions" of journalists, campaign managers, and political scientists.

So unfair

However, the new standards are still so unfair that a Jesse Ventura-style candidate would be excluded, and that almost every major third party candidate of the last 70 years would have failed to qualify, he noted.

"National debates play such a crucial role in presidential poli-

tics that the Debate Commission has an obligation to be open and inclusive — but the Commission has failed to meet that obligation," said Dasbach. "Their new criteria will unfairly exclude candidates with a serious chance to win the election, or with the potential to win the support of a substantial number of American voters. That's just wrong."

For example, he noted, Reform Party governor Jesse Ventura was at 10% in a statewide poll in Minnesota in late September 1998, before being invited to participate in five debates in October. Ventura went on to win the gubernatorial election with 37% of the vote.

"As the election of Jesse Ventura demonstrated, debates can change the outcome of an elec-

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NEWS ANALYSIS

The think tank boom

By Peter Orvetti

LP NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In the early 1990s, Steve Buckstein realized there was no free-market public policy institute in Oregon.

So he decided to start one.

"Think tanks can advance libertarian ideas by fulfilling the role universities once had: The development and promotion of ideas," said Buckstein, explaining what led him to launch the Cascade Policy Institute. "[There needs to be] a source for policy ideas."

Today, the Cascade Policy

Institute has seven employees, a half-million dollar budget, and has pumped out policy papers and scholarly studies that helped push Oregon in a more libertarian direction on issues like Social Security, tuition tax credits, and free-market transportation.

The Cascade Policy Institute



■ Buckstein: "Develop ideas."

may sound like a unique success story. But it's not.

In fact, over the last 15 years — and especially during the decade of the '90s — there has been a veritable explosion in libertarian/conservative think tanks.

75% since 1985

As the year 2000 dawns, there are more than 50 such public policy organizations, spread across 35 states. Half of them did not exist at the beginning of the 1990s. And fully 75% have been created since 1985.

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Browne campaign to offer outreach video

NewsBriefs

Pro-Regulation B forces are ahead

A slim majority of people who have contacted the Federal Reserve about Regulation B favor it — which is why Libertarians need to step up their opposition to the “racist” proposal, said LP Press Secretary George Getz.

According to an unofficial survey by the Greenlining Institute, 56% of the people who have filed comments with the Federal Reserve support Regulation B, a proposal that would encourage banks to collect information about the race, gender, and ethnic background of loan applicants.

“So far, Americans who like the government using race to pit one group against another are winning,” said Getz, who is coordinating the LP’s campaign to stop Regulation B. “If you disagree, you need to contact the Federal Reserve and be heard.”

Lobbying information about Regulation B can be found via a link on the party’s website: www.lp.org/lp-regb.html. The link includes more information about the proposal, a fax number for the Federal Reserve, and phone numbers for people to call their Congressional representatives.

The comment period for Regulation B ended in mid-November, said Getz, but the Federal Reserve is still “unofficially” taking comments and will not issue a final decision until March.

Regulation B would amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to “encourage” banks to collect data on the race, religion, gender, and national origin of anyone applying for an auto loan, credit card, or personal loan — a proposal the LP has called an “embarrassing throwback to the Jim Crow era.”

Suprynowicz is “Freedom Book” winner

Vin Suprynowicz’s *Send in the Waco Killers: Essays on the Freedom Movement, 1993-1998* has been named the Freedom Book of the Year for 1999 by Free-market.net, a “libertarian portal” to the Internet.

“It is nothing less than Tom Paine’s *Common Sense*, updated and made applicable to our current situation,” wrote Free-market.net editor Thomas L. Knapp in December.

Knapp said that Suprynowicz’s book matches Paine’s seminal work not just in passion but also in effectiveness as a tool to win new converts to the cause of liberty.

“Even in a decade where we’ve seen a marked increase in the popularity of key libertarian policy recommendations — ending the war on drugs, repealing the income tax, sacking the failed Social Security program — it’s difficult to sell the philosophical underpinnings of our ideology to the masses,” he wrote. “It’s not enough to make a theoretical case. Theory has its place, but it doesn’t get the blood of the masses pumping.”

In the book, Suprynowicz, a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* editor, tells many tales intended to get readers’ blood pumping: A father pulled his son out of a government school where the boy was failing and homeschooled him into a B student — and was then prosecuted for ignoring compulsory attendance laws. A man was murdered while waiting for government bureaucrats to approve his handgun permit. And of course, the tragedy at Waco.

Send in the Waco Killers [506 pages, \$21.95] is published by Mountain Media, and can be ordered from Laissez Faire Books.

New Libertarian chat forum started

A recently launched Internet chat forum offers Libertarians a new place to gather online.

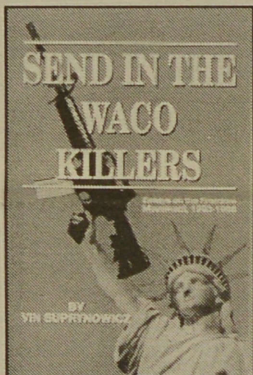
The discussion channel — #libertarian-politics — “has two functions: It allows us to share Libertarian views with anyone who is interested, and it lets people who are already Libertarians discuss the party and its positions,” said Josh Smith, an LP member from Cincinnati who is one of the operators.

The channel, available through the DALnet Internet Relay Chat service, has about 50 regular visitors already.

“The most popular topics in the channel are the ones that matter most to Libertarians: Gun control, taxation, the war on drugs,” said Smith.

There are several ways to join: Java users can visit www.dal.net and click “Chat Now,” entering “#libertarian-politics” as the room to join. Others can visit members.tripod.com/libertarians/ to download special IRC software.

“While libertarianism and its implications are recurrent themes of the channel, guests should feel free to discuss just about anything,” Smith said. “We also invite non-libertarians to debate with us and to take part in the conversations.”



Gorman considers presidential race

Continued from Page 1

teams: Well-known elected officials and strong local groups that work hard to re-elect them,” he said. “It is our elected and appointed Libertarian public officials who form the backbone of this party.”

He said that in many towns, “a visit by the Libertarian presidential candidate is newsworthy.” As the LP’s nominee, he would use this publicity to boost the local candidates, said Gorman.

“My goal is to elect Libertarians now,” he said. “I will use these opportunities to spread the Libertarian message and encourage libertarians to get involved in their local communities and serve in public office. My message will support our serious candidates for winnable office.”

Two to five

Gorman said he will pick “two to five [political] issues” to emphasize in his presidential campaign, and will “borrow heavily from proposals made by the Cato Institute, the Heartland Institute, the Reason Foundation, and other libertarian think tanks” in forming an agenda.

“I can’t promise that the majority of voters in your community will support my positions, but they will consider them credible and responsible,” he said. “My campaign message will serve as a role model for serious Libertarian candidates for winnable public office.”

If Gorman formally enters the race, he would face expected frontrunner Harry Browne, the LP’s 1996 nominee, as well as Larry Hines, Dave Hollist, and Edison McDaniels. The party’s presidential candidate will be selected by delegates at the LP National Convention in Anaheim, June 30-July 3, 2000.

Gorman promised he would run a “positive campaign for the nomination,” and added that he would like to debate his rivals before the convention.

“It would be great if Libertarian activists could directly compare my vision for the Fall campaign and the future of the Libertarian Party with those of the other candidates,” said Gorman. “How can anyone be ready to debate Gore, Bush, and Buchanan and not be ready to debate fellow Libertarians?”

Gorman said his experience in office separates him from the other candidates.

DON GORMAN:

“My message will serve as a role model for serious candidates.”

“All Libertarians have heard voters say, ‘How do we know that your candidate for president will do what he promised? What about his record?’” he said. “I have political experience. I have a record.”

Informal group

Gorman became interested in a possible candidacy after “an informal group of Libertarian Party activists” asked him to run late last year, said LP activist William Woolsey of South Carolina, Volunteer Coordinator for Gorman’s unofficial campaign. “Within a few days of the first announcement, Gorman had invitations to speak at state conventions.”

In addition to Woolsey, Gorman is supported by Nevada LP State Chair Terry Savage, who will chair the exploratory committee; former LNC Secretary John Famularo of Pennsylvania, who will manage the committee; and Mark Murphy of California, who will serve as Director of Electronic Media.

Gorman was elected to the New Hampshire state legislature as a Libertarian in 1992, winning with a “major party” cross-nomination. He was re-elected in 1994 — again with another party’s cross-nomination — before losing his third re-election bid in 1996.

Proudest moment

As a Libertarian legislator in New Hampshire, Gorman’s proudest moment may have been the passage of legislation requiring police to get permission from a judge before setting up drunken-driving roadblocks. It was the first Libertarian-sponsored state-level legislation voted into law in more than a decade.

Gorman also served as Leader of the four-man minority Libertarian caucus from 1993-1995. It was the first recognized third-party caucus anywhere in the United States since the 1930s, according to political experts.

Gorman, who owns and operates Auld-Reekie Chimney Services, currently serves as the Chair of the Deerfield Zoning Board of Adjustment. He is a Master in the Merchant Marine and enjoys flying, parachuting, and scuba diving.

For information on the Gorman exploratory committee, write: Gorman for President, 25422 Trabuco Rd #105, Suite 420 Lake Forest, CA 92630. E-mail: GoGorman@Gorman2000.org. Website: www.gorman2000.org.

OH Libertarian wins ballot listing court case

Ohio Libertarians scored an important legal victory when a federal magistrate ruled that the state’s law allowing election officials to leave a Libertarian candidate’s party affiliation off the ballot is unconstitutional.

U.S. Magistrate Michael Merz ruled on December 14 that then-Secretary of State Bob Taft had no right to deny 1998 Libertarian Congressional candidate James Schrader’s request that his party affiliation be listed on the ballot.

“The candidate has the right to a ballot ‘cue’ for the voters, and the voters have a correlative right to information about what the candi-

date stands for,” wrote Merz in his ruling.

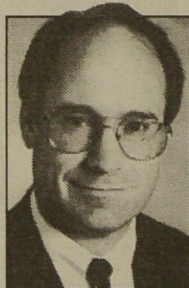
LP State Chair Dena Bruedigam, hailing the ruling, said it would decrease voter confusion.

“Previously in Ohio, all candidates of any party that the state did not officially recognize were

listed as ‘Independent,’ whether they were Libertarians, Socialists, or Communists,” said Bruedigam.

“This was extremely confusing for voters who were reluctant to vote for non-major party candidates because they did not know

See **BALLOT CASE** Page 18



■ Schrader: Wins lawsuit.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LPNews

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National Committee sets goals, budget for 2000

Core goals include 50-state ballot status, 218 House candidates, and more growth

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) has approved a record-setting budget for the party in 2000, and has agreed on a set of "core goals" for the year that include 50-state ballot access, 218 Congressional candidates, and sustained membership growth.

"The LNC is determined to make 2000 as successful a year as possible for our party," said LP National Chair David Bergland. "The party is setting out to be large enough — and do enough of the right things — by November 2000 to be considered a significant factor in the presidential election and Congressional elections by the public and the media."

\$5.4 million

At its year-end meeting in Washington, DC on December 11-12, 1999, the LNC approved a 2000 budget of \$5.4 million — which reflects both the party's increased membership and activity levels of a presidential year.

With that revenue, the party plans to purchase at least \$1 million worth of television and other media advertising, launch its new Internet site, and produce and distribute a half-hour television outreach program, said Bergland.

In addition, the LNC set four "core" goals:

■ To achieve 50 state (plus District of Columbia) ballot access

for the presidential ticket.

■ To run candidates for a majority of U.S. House seats (218).

■ To grow the party to at least 46,000 members and contributors by the 2000 National Convention and to 60,000 by the end of the coming year.

■ To end the year with a cash reserve of at least \$150,000.

These core goals were chosen, said Bergland, because "there is a strong consensus on the LNC that 50-state ballot status for the presidential ticket is crucial to our credibility [and] potential participation in the presidential debates. It simply must be, and will be, done."

"Similarly, the LNC [knows that] increased electoral activism and membership growth are the twin engines of progress for us. They are complementary and necessary elements of future success. Everything else depends on that foundation."

Other measurable goals set by the LNC include:

■ To run at least 2,000 candidates for both partisan and non-partisan offices.

■ To update the party's Program of current political issues and make it available to candidates.

■ To launch the party's new Internet site no later than March 11, 2000.



■ At its year-end meeting at the Executive Club Suites Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia (just outside Washington, DC), the LNC set goals intended to make the party "a significant factor in the presidential election and Congressional elections," said LP Chairman David Bergland.

■ To continue to offer campaign and activist training seminars and workshops around the country.

■ To generate at least 130 media contacts and 55 media interviews per month, with special emphasis on getting on television.

■ To retain party ballot status in 28-31 states after the November election.

These goals are ambitious, acknowledged Bergland — but achievable.

"The members of the LNC are a practical bunch of idealists," he said. "They have been through the [political] wars and know the dangers of aiming too high or too low."

"These goals are both realistic and challenging. Intentionally so. If we achieve them we can be justifiably proud. If we fall short, it won't be for lack of trying."

The LNC's goals were fashioned over a four-month span, said Bergland, with input from every member of the Libertarian National Committee.

Strategy discussion

The first draft of the goals was prepared following a strategy discussion at the August 1999 LNC meeting, he said, and then refined via e-mail discussions with LNC members and the LP national staff.

"These goals were adopted after substantial discussion and input for months before and during the meeting," he said. Then, "the LNC discussed, revised, and adopted the 14 goals at its [December] meeting."

If all the goals are achieved in 2000, it will signal a "lift-off" stage for the Libertarian Party, predicted Bergland.

"This growth and improvement should continue at an accelerating rate," he said.

"Why? Because the larger and more credible the party and its candidates become, the more people will find it worth investing their time and money in."

Former MI prosecutor joins party

A former prosecutor in Michigan who chaired his county's Democratic Party for two years has opted for "principle instead of politics" and joined the Libertarian Party.

In mid-December, Ghazey Aleck II, who served as the Clare County prosecutor from 1992-1996, quit the Democratic Party and became a Libertarian.

"This is the only party that is truly dedicated to the Constitution," explained the 38-year-old attorney. "I just can't stand by and watch what the Democrats and the Republicans are doing to our country. I'd rather be with the 1% who are right than with the 99% who are wrong."

Aleck, who may be the first former county prosecutor in the nation to join the party, was welcomed by Michigan LP officials.



■ Controversial former county prosecutor Ghazey Aleck II: "I'd rather be with the 1% who are right..."

"We were surprised and delighted to welcome Mr. Aleck into the LP," said Michigan Executive Director Tim O'Brien. "He just responded to our most recent membership drive — which shows how important continual outreach projects are."

Aleck is a resident of Clare, located in the state's lower peninsula. A lifetime resident of

See **PROSECUTOR** Page 17

1999 Project Archimedes analysis: A success, but improvement needed

Project Archimedes has fueled the longest sustained membership growth spurt in Libertarian Party history — but has not yet achieved the lofty numeric goals the party had hoped for.

That's the year-end assessment of the LP's ongoing direct-mail membership recruitment campaign from National Director Steve Dasbach.

"Project Archimedes has recruited more than 18,000 members and contributors, making it the most successful membership growth effort in Libertarian Party history," he said. "At the same time, it has not been as successful as we had hoped it would be."

Refine process

"Our challenge in 2000 is to build on our Project Archimedes accomplishments, learn from our setbacks, and continue to refine the process so we can build a political party large enough to compete effectively with the Republi-

DASBACH:

"Archimedes is the most successful growth project in LP history."

cans and Democrats."

On the positive side, approximately 18,300 new LP members and contributors had been recruited by Project Archimedes direct mail solicitations by the end of 1999, said Dasbach.

"Without those Project Archimedes members and contributors, the party's membership level would have been stagnant since the end of the 1996 presidential campaign," he said. "Membership from other sources —

such as our 800#, affiliate parties, advertising, and the website — has been enough to replace lapsing members, but not enough to keep the party moving forward."

"The bottom line: Project Archimedes is what has caused the party to grow to its current size of 38,400 members and contributors."

3.2 million pieces

In all, the party has sent out about 3.2 million pieces of Project Archimedes recruitment mail — including 1.5 million pieces in 1999 alone — which has generated a 0.6% response rate and an average first-time contribution of about \$40.

"Almost every Project Archimedes mailing has paid for itself over the following 12 months, when additional contributions have been factored in," said Dasbach. "In that sense, Project Archimedes has been a huge success."

See **ARCHIMEDES** Page 19

News:Politics

Final Election '99 tally: 22 victories

The number of Libertarian victories in the off-year 1999 election has jumped to 22, thanks to late results that added two new names to the winner's list.

"We're now running so many candidates — even in off-year elections — that it's difficult to keep track of them all, especially in smaller, non-partisan local races," said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger. "However, the results may be tardy but the excitement is the same — and we're delighted to learn that Libertarians did even better in the 1999 election than we thought."

In addition to the 20 victories previously reported [LP News, December 1999], election wins were recorded by:

■ **Rochelle Etzel**, elected to a six-year term as Auditor in Ashland Township, Pennsylvania.

■ **Nick Hogan**, re-elected to a non-partisan, four-year position on the City Council in Gahanna, Ohio. Hogan had joined the Libertarian Party in August 1999 after serving on the City Council for six years. [See-story in LP News, January 2000].

"Congratulations to not just these last two winners, but to all 22 Libertarians who won office in the November 1999 elections," said Crickenberger. "They have helped make the Libertarian Party the only real, viable third party in America today."

Libertarians now hold 168 elected offices around the USA, and 112 appointed offices, said Crickenberger.

Website matches views, candidates

A new political website has been set up to match visitors with the presidential candidate who best matches their own views — and many are finding that potential Libertarian candidate Harry Browne fits them best.

Browne is currently running at 17% in an "exit poll" at www.selectsmart.com/PRESIDENT/. Visitors are asked to say who they plan to vote for after filling out a detailed questionnaire.

At the site, visitors can furnish their opinions on 17 political issues ranging from abortion and "moral issues" to drug policy and Social Security reform.

The site then compares their choices with the positions of 16 presidential candidates from eight political parties. The candidates are ranked by percentage agreement with the visitor's choices.

Browne, currently the only Libertarian contender included, came out as the best fit for 8.4% of 42,246 visitors so far. By contrast, only 3.7% should vote for Republican George W. Bush if they are deciding based on issues alone, the site's survey said.

Unlike most of the represented candidates, Browne submitted his positions to the site personally. He told the *New York Times* on December 23 it was "well worth his time because the site is spreading awareness of the Libertarian Party."

Sites like Selectsmart are "very good for us," Browne said, since they can attract "ideological strangers who previously said, 'I didn't know anything about the Libertarian Party.'"

LP tells FEC: Hands off the Internet

The Libertarian Party has sent a letter to the Federal Election Commission, urging the agency to extend robust First Amendment protections to the Internet.

On January 4, LP National Director Steve Dasbach wrote to the FEC, encouraging federal bureaucrats to exempt independent websites, e-mail messages, and discussion lists from FEC financial disclosure requirements as in-kind campaign contributions or coordinated expenses.

"Internet based forms of communication should receive the full, unrestricted protection of the First Amendment, and should be exempt from FEC reporting requirements and limits," he wrote.

"We believe that websites, newsgroups, discussion lists, e-mail, and all other Internet based forms of communication should be considered the modern descendants of personal correspondence, pamphlets, newspapers, and other forms of political speech that have been traditionally protected."

The FEC is considering whether to extend campaign reporting requirements and limits to the Internet. At stake: Whether an individual's personal website that promotes a political candidate, for example, should be considered a "campaign contribution."

Depending on what the FEC decides, millions of individuals could be required to file paperwork with the agency under federal campaign law, if they engage in online political activity.

But any decision that hinders the free flow of electronic speech — or requires Americans to jump through regulatory hoops — would be a mistake, argued Dasbach.

"No person or organization should come under the jurisdiction of the FEC because of Internet activity that would otherwise not be subject to such jurisdiction," he wrote. "To do so would strike at the heart of our heritage of freedom."



Times News photo by Ned Jilton II

■ **Libertarian Party members joined other Tennessee residents to picket the pro-tax Republican governor at a speech in Kingsport on November 12. Thanks to such public pressure, the state legislature refused to approve a proposed \$1.8 billion state income tax.**

Libertarians help kill a proposed \$1.8 billion Tennessee income tax

Tennessee Libertarians played a key role in killing a proposed income tax that would have cost state residents \$1.8 billion a year — and say they are ready if the Republican governor tries to re-introduce the tax this year.

In the waning months of 1999, the LP of Tennessee helped coordinate an "overwhelming e-mail avalanche" and several well-publicized public events that convinced the state legislature to reject a first-ever state income tax.

The anti-tax lobbying campaign not only succeeded in derailing the tax, but it also did "a favor" for Libertarians "by giving us an opportunity to expose the whole Tennessee political circus," said State Chair Charles Wilhoit.

The well-publicized effort helped the Libertarian Party "[get] our message out," agreed Shelby County LP Chair Larry Henson.

\$79.9 billion

The proposed 3.75% income tax — the pet project of GOP Governor Don Sundquist — would have cost Tennessee taxpayers at least \$1.8 billion the first year, and as much as \$79.9 billion over the next decade, according to the Tennessee Family Institute.

It was introduced in mid-1999 as a way to close the state's estimated \$400 million budget deficit.

In response, Libertarians and other anti-tax activists began to organize a campaign to pressure legislators into rejecting the proposal, arguing the state government should cut spending instead of raising taxes.

THE CAMPAIGN gave Libertarians "an opportunity to expose the whole Tennessee political circus."

Around the state, Libertarian activities included:

■ Collecting hundreds of signatures on an anti-tax petition at the McMinn County Fair in September. "The response to the petition was overwhelmingly favorable, and the great majority of citizens were pleased to sign it," said McMinn LP Public Relations Coordinator Douglas Hutson.

■ Distributing brightly colored orange-and-black "Tax Or Treat" pamphlets at Halloween. Borrowing holiday imagery, the pamphlet noted: "Like a vampire, Governor Don Sundquist must satisfy his thirst for more money by sucking the earnings of Tennesseans with a state income tax."

■ Testifying against the proposal before the legislature's Tax Committee in Memphis on October 12.

■ Appearing on radio and television talk shows, including the popular Phil Valentine Show in Nashville.

■ Picketing the governor at a speech in Kingsport in November. The lobbying activities reached a crescendo in late November when the legislature met in a special session to consider the income tax.

Libertarians joined hundreds of Tennessee residents to surround Legislative Plaza with their cars and honk horns in protest. At the same time, the legislature was bombarded by thousands of anti-tax e-mail messages, after the LP and other groups spread the word over the Internet.

The "overwhelming e-mail avalanche that rained on state legislators in the days and hours before they were to vote on the tax proposal" definitely helped kill the tax, said LP activist David Carew.

The role of the Libertarian Party in the anti-tax campaign was noted by the media. For example, *The Nashville Tennessean* on October 24 credited the Libertarian Party for "injecting itself into the debate over tax reform."

Under siege

And *Nando Times* columnist Glenn Harlan Reynolds wrote on December 1: "Thanks to a combination of talk radio discussion and an e-mail campaign spearheaded by the state Libertarian Party, the Capitol found itself, almost literally, under siege [by protesters]."

But the euphoria over the victory and ensuing publicity have not blinded Libertarians to the fact that the governor will almost certainly try to pass his multi-billion dollar income tax again in 2000, said Wilhoit.

"Sundquist and his Republican henchmen will continue to attempt to impose an income tax," See **TENNESSEE** Page 17

There's still some left . . .

Buy Harry Browne's Government Book at Paperback Prices!

Some people take a *good deal* when they see one!
So what's stopping you?

For a couple months we've been selling bruised hard cover books of *Why Government Doesn't Work* at paperback prices. We've sold hundreds. Yet, we still have hundreds remaining. Those most surprised by this are the people who have already bought some. They call in with reorders, and are gratefully surprised that we still have some left to send them.

There are some very sharp Libertarians among the LP. They know how effective this book can be for spreading the Libertarian message and as a membership recruitment tool. The power of their Libertarian persuasion is greatly amplified by Harry's perceptive and concise explanation of *Why Government Doesn't Work*.

These astute members have also discovered that carrying-the-message doesn't get much easier or affordable than this:

- They seek out people who are disillusioned with the Republicans, Democrats and their intrusive big-government ways (Not that such people are hard to find these days).
- They provide a brief introduction of the Libertarian alternative, giving a copy of *Why Government Doesn't Work* to the people to read.
- And then they follow-up with some discussion, contact information to the Libertarian Party, and an invitation to join the LP.

Does it work? Well, we have LP members coming back to us 2 and 3 times for more books under this deal. We also know that a number of recent buyers first read the book when an earlier Ding & Dent customer gave it to them.

I've lost count of the number of people who've told me that their pivotal step into the Libertarian Party was provided by *Why Government Doesn't Work*. We often even hear it on Harry Browne's Sunday Night radio program on *Talk America*.

On a personal note, this book was what convinced *me* to join the Libertarian Party after 15 years of die-hard political avoidance (Okay, being a publisher to Harry might have had a bit to do with it also).

What are *you* waiting for? You probably know people who are politically homeless or disillusioned with the state of government in America. *Why Government Doesn't Work* may provide the answers they are longing to hear. Remember what it was like to wander in political disillusionment — the frustration, the vague loneliness? It's not a fun place to be. Help these folk come home!

We've even made it a bit easier for you. In each book shipped to you we'll insert the LP's *Is This The New Political Party You've Been Looking For?* brochure. Providing information about the LP, it also includes a membership form and the contacts to the National LP. We'll also insert two *World's Smallest Political Quiz* cards. You can suggest that they take the quiz before and after reading the book.


Here is a persuasive, powerful, and convincing kit you can use to help spread Libertarian thought and hopefully recruit some new members for this election year. And best of all the cost is pretty easy on your pocket.

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—Art Matsko, Publisher

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Talking Points

The epidemic of killer shoes and the dangers of (naked) Macbeth

■ Killer shoes

The next tidal wave of product liability regulation (and lawsuits) soon may hit America on both coasts. A school teacher in Japan died after fracturing her skull when she lost her balance and toppled from her five-inch-high shoes. In Great Britain, meanwhile, the *Daily Telegraph* reported that more than 200,000 people are treated for shoe-related injuries in the UK each year.

A spokesman for the British Standards Institution, referring to the Japanese tragedy, spoke alarmingly of an "epidemic of killer shoes." He vows to "be working with manufacturer, health, and consumer [groups] to discuss the development of shoe safety guidelines."

— CEI UPDATE
December 1999

■ What's a profit?

The majority, 60%, of U.S. high school students don't understand the purpose of profits, and think wages are set by the government, according to [a new survey from] the National Council on Economic Education.

— USA TODAY
December 15, 1999

■ The welfare industry

As economist Jonathan Hobbs stated, "the welfare system sustains a nationwide welfare industry of more than 5 million public or private workers . . . The industry has demonstrated that its goal is not to eliminate poverty, but to expand welfare through increased spending."

In other words, even if welfare rolls are down, we are still spending enough to sustain the real welfare bums, i.e., what economist Walter Williams calls the "Poverty Pentagon" — the army of politicians, bureaucrats, social workers, government-funded non-profit organizations and academic researchers who study and administer the poor.

— THOMAS J. DILORENZO
The Free Market, January 2000

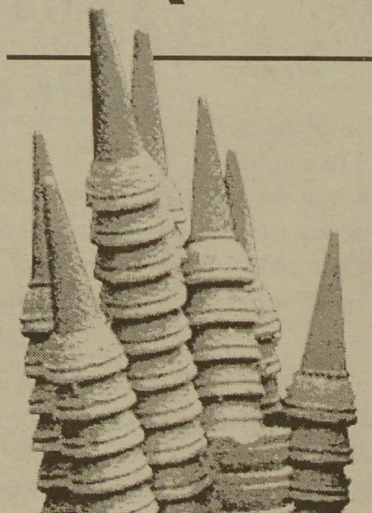
■ Nixon: Still the one

A new bumpersticker seen in D.C.: "Nixon in 2000 — He's not as stiff as Gore."

— U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
January 3, 2000

■ Lifting all boats

In the United States today, a smaller percentage of the population suffers from material deprivation than at any previous time in history. And people classified as "poor" in the United States have incomes that exceed the average income of most nations.



BEN & JERRY:

"The only safe level of dioxin is no exposure." So why is it in their ice cream?"

Our success in reducing poverty is not a result of government welfare programs. Rather, it appears that the continuing rising tide of America's free-market economy is lifting almost all boats.

Some 30 million Americans, or between 10 and 15% of the population, are still officially classified as poor. At the turn of the century, between 40 and 50% of American households had income levels that would have classified them as poor if judged by today's standards. The number of "poor" senior citizens, children, and blacks is half of what it was in 1950.

— CATO POLICY ANALYSIS
December 15, 1999

■ Gun facts

My guess is that if you go out and ask people how many gun deaths involve children under age 5, or under age 10, in the United States, they're going to say thousands.

When you tell them that in 1996 there were 17 gun deaths for children under age 5 in the United States and 44 for children under age 10, they're just astounded.

There's a reason why they believe these deaths occur much more frequently: If you have a gun death in the home involving a child under age 5, you're going to get national news coverage. Five times more children drown in bathtubs; more than twice as many drown in five-gallon water buckets around the home. But those deaths do not get national news coverage.

This type of news coverage has consequences, because it affects people's perceptions of the benefits and costs of having guns around. Concentrating on gun deaths in the home, exaggerating the risks of that, creates a false impression.

People are going to die because of that false impression. They're not going to have guns in the home, even though that's by far the safest course of action for them to take when they're confronted by a criminal. You may prevent some of the accidental deaths, but you're going to create other types of deaths because people won't be able to defend themselves.

— JOHN LOTT
Reason, January 2000

■ Pointing fingers

In 1954, Americans were asked how much of the blame for teenage crimes should be placed on comic books. 57% said "some" or "a great deal."

Last year [in 1999], 64% told Gallup they blamed the Internet at least partly for the mass shootings at Columbine High School.

— USA TODAY
December 31, 1999

■ Bias? What bias?

Network television newscasts overwhelmingly promote an anti-gun view, a new study concludes.

"It's clear that when it comes to the gun debate, TV news is not an objective referee. It is a partisan player that has chosen sides," said L. Brent Bozell III, chairman of the Media Research Center, which released the study, "Outgunned: How the Network News Media are Spinning the Gun Control Debate."

The two-year study analyzed 635 stories on gun policy by four major networks — ABC, CBS, CNN and NBC — and found that while 260 stories could be classified as neutral, stories that advocated more gun control outnumbered stories that opposed such

measures, 357 to 36.

"That translates into an astounding 10-to-1 ratio of news segments advocating gun control — hardly what any objective observer would consider balance," said Mr. Bozell.

Good Morning America was the most anti-gun program, according to the MRC study, with 99.7% of its stories advocating gun control.

— THE WASHINGTON TIMES
January 6, 2000

■ Naked Macbeth

Seminole County, Florida, forbade nude entertainment in places that serve alcohol [but] they made an exception for theatrical performances.

The exception lasted until topless clubs started staging plays such as *Macbeth* — starring naked women. The county reacted to that dramatic turn by banning all nudity in places that serve liquor.

— REASON
January 2000

■ 99.5% inefficient

In a study funded by the EPA, Kip Viscusi and James Hamilton (1999) have found that EPA clean-ups of Superfund sites cost an average of almost \$12 billion for every cancer case prevented.

Even more amazing is that virtually all — 99.5% — of the cancer cases that will be averted by EPA efforts are prevented by the first 5% of the agency's expenditures. The remaining 95% of expenditures avert only 0.5% of the cancer cases at a cost per case of an astonishing \$200 billion.

— PERC REPORTS
December 1999

■ Police firepower

[In the past few years], the Pentagon has been equipping police departments with M-16s, armored personnel carriers, and grenade launchers.

In all, the Department of Defense issued 1.2 million pieces of military hardware to police departments between 1995 and 1997.

— CATO POLICY REPORT
November/December 1999

■ Killer ice cream

According to recent product testing conducted by a former government scientist, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream contains dioxin.

Yes, dioxin — the very poison Ben & Jerry describe as "one of the most toxic substances in our environment today." By Ben & Jerry's own environmental standards, the famous frozen goodies with a flaming, left-wing social conscience may be hazardous to your health. And we're not just talking about extra calories.

Michael Gough, a former federal researcher, and Steve Milloy, risk analyst and editor of *junkscience.com*, evaluated a sample of Ben & Jerry's "World's Best Vanilla" ice cream for the presence of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. The tested scoop had 0.79 parts per trillion of dioxin (give or take a few tiny toxic

specks). That's roughly 200 times greater than the "virtually safe" daily dose set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Rational scientists will tell you that this negligible amount of dioxin is perfectly safe to consume. Yet, in an online position paper titled "Ben & Jerry's Thoughts on: Dioxin," the ice cream moguls chant the well-worn Greenpeace mantra: "The only safe level of dioxin is no exposure at all."

Ben & Jerry's spokeswoman Chrystie Heimert acknowledged that the company had not tested its own products for dioxin. "But we can't control the dioxin in our product. There's dioxin in every food group. It's in the atmosphere."

So what about Ben & Jerry's position that "the only safe level of dioxin is no exposure at all?"

"We don't purport to be experts on dioxin," Heimert said.

— MICHELLE MALKIN
CEI Update,
December 1999

■ Genocide It Wasn't

In Kosovo last spring, Yugoslav forces did heinous things. They expelled hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians, burning houses and committing summary executions. It may well be enough to justify the North Atlantic Treaty Organization bombing campaign and the war-crimes indictment of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

But other allegations — indiscriminate mass murder, rape camps, crematoriums, mutilation of the dead — haven't been borne out in the six months since NATO troops entered Kosovo.

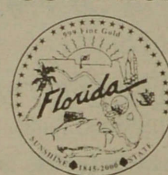
Ethnic-Albanian militants, humanitarian organizations, NATO, and the news media fed off each other to give genocide rumors credibility. Now, a different picture is emerging.

"Rwanda was a true genocide. Kosovo was ethnic cleansing light," says Emilio Perez Pujol, a Spanish pathologist who exhumed bodies after both conflicts.

British and American officials still maintain that 10,000 or more ethnic-Albanian civilians died at Serb hands during the fighting in Kosovo. But the number of bodies discovered so far is much lower — 2,108 as of November, and not all of them necessarily war-crimes victims.

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
December 31, 1999

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Carla Howell

small government is beautifulsm

Carla Howell's Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign Against Ted Kennedy

Front page, Sunday newspaper article: "If Hollywood needed to invent a challenger to Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, they couldn't have created anyone whose views differ more than Libertarian Carla Howell." (*MetroWest Daily News*, 11/7/99)

Why run against Ted Kennedy?

Because he's famous. Because he's powerful.

Because he's a key architect of today's Big Government.

Ted Kennedy is news. Local and national news.

Running against Kennedy is newsworthy. Challenging his philosophy and positions is newsworthy. Sharing a stage with Senator Kennedy is newsworthy.

Carla Howell is the Libertarian candidate for Ted Kennedy's U.S. Senate seat.

Credibility

In 1998, Carla Howell won 102,198 votes as the Libertarian candidate for State Auditor in Massachusetts — the highest total of any Libertarian candidate in Massachusetts history.

Carla Howell was endorsed by the *Boston Herald*, which described her as a "serious, savvy, and well-qualified candidate . . . well worth a vote." She was endorsed by *Boston Globe* columnist Jeff Jacoby — and political powerhouse Barbara Anderson, Director, Citizens for Limited Taxation.

Carla Howell has an MBA from Babson College. She is a marketing and management strategy consultant.

Capability

Carla Howell Chaired the Massachusetts Libertarian Party from 1997 through 1999. Results? The strongest growth in membership, activism, campaigning, and office holders in state party history.

In 1996, Carla Howell and Muni Savyon ran the biggest Harry Browne Presidential fund-raiser in the country. Over \$33,000.

During the last 4 years, Howell has built coalitions with single-issue groups that promote liberty. Privatization, ending rent control, Gun Owners Action League, Citizens for Limited Taxation, and MassCann/NORML.

The Campaign

How would you organize a Libertarian campaign for U.S. Senate — if your opponent was Ted Kennedy?

We put together the best Libertarian campaign team we could.

Michael Cloud. Barbara Goushaw. Muni Savyon. Kay Pirrello. Celeste Parent.

Kamal Jain. Elaine Berchin. Dennis Corrigan. Bob O'Keefe. Mike Conway.

We set an ambitious campaign goal: **The Most Successful Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign Ever!**

Our Libertarian Message is Simple: small government is beautiful. Our issue is simple: Big Government vs. small government.

Big Government problems. Or small government



Carla Howell

solutions. Big Government complexity. Or small government simplicity.

Big Government taxes. Or small government savings.

Big Government waste. Or small government thrift.

We're asking voters, "Which do you want: Big Government or small government?"

Carla Howell says, "As a Libertarian U.S. Senator, I'll ACT to make government small. *Every* issue. *Every* time. No exceptions. No excuses."

Our message is simple.

Communicating it to 3,000,000 voters is hard. It'll take brains. And a lot of volunteers and money.

We mobilized 63 Libertarian volunteers for the Carla Howell Campaign kickoff on November 5th. We drew a crowd of 203. We raised over \$23,178.

We have 10,604 registered Libertarian voters in Massachusetts.

Imagine 10,000 Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate Yard Signs in their front yards.

Imagine 10,000 Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate bumper stickers on their cars. Imagine just 100 other drivers seeing each Libertarian "small government is beautiful" bumper sticker. 1,000,000 people exposed to our Libertarian campaign each week.

We'll recruit volunteers to go to these 10,000 Libertarian homes.

But we need your help to fund the 10,000 bumper stickers and 10,000 yard signs.

Imagine that Carla Howell gives her Libertarian

"small government is beautiful" speech to 500 groups in the next 10 months. That's right: 50 speeches a month. To 40 people per audience. 2,000 people hearing our Libertarian message in person each month.

We need campaign brochures and handouts for 20,000 people. Will you help us fund them?

Now imagine something extraordinary. Imagine \$300,000 in Television and Radio advertising.

Imagine Carla Howell, Libertarian for U.S. Senate TV and Radio ads — offering 3,000,000 Massachusetts voters the Libertarian alternative to Ted Kennedy.

Can you imagine this?

If you can, we need your donation to help pay for it.

If you can't imagine it, if it seems too fantastic, will you help fund producing and putting on 10,000 Libertarian bumper stickers?

If you can't imagine it, if it seems too much to hope for, will you help fund the production and placement of 10,000 Carla Howell Libertarian yard signs?

If you can't imagine it, if it seems too extraordinary, will you help fund the campaign handouts for the 20,000 voters who will personally meet Carla Howell?

We'll do the work. Help us buy the materials.

\$85 would fund 100 Carla Howell bumper stickers.

\$65 would fund 26 Libertarian Yard Signs.

Please help us confront Big Government Ted Kennedy with the Libertarian alternative. *Please donate today.*

small government is beautiful

Carla Howell

The Most Successful Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign Ever!

Here's my best contribution to make this happen:

One-time Contribution: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250

☐ \$100 ☐ \$85 ☐ \$65 ☐ Other: \$_____ I'll pay by:

☐ Check: "Carla Howell for US Senate" (no corporate checks) ☐ Credit card.

Monthly Pledge: ☐ \$100 per month ☐ \$75 per month

☐ \$50 per month ☐ \$30 per month ☐ Other: \$_____ per month

Please: ☐ Bill my credit card. ☐ Send a monthly reminder.

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News:Affiliates

The mysterious Mr. Humphrey & fixing a school board scandal

■ ALABAMA

New state tax will be paid by people, says state LP

Business owners are people, too, state Libertarians have reminded the governor.

"Apparently the governor does not regard business owners as people," said LPA District Representative **Mike Kelly** on November 17, after Democratic Governor Don Siegelman proposed a new tax — and claimed it would be paid only by businesses, not by the "people of Alabama."

The new tax was introduced after a judge ruled that Alabama's practice of taxing out-of-state companies at a higher rate was unconstitutional. Siegelman proposed to "fix" this with a franchise tax that raised taxes on Alabama companies.

"He even suggested raising the franchise tax retroactively," said Kelly. "The fact that this is clearly prohibited by both the state and federal Constitutions didn't bother him in the least."

In response, "the Libertarian Party of Alabama urges all citizens to oppose the governor's proposal," said Kelly. "It is little better than piracy, clothed in the power of the state."

■ CALIFORNIA

Repeal Proposition 10 to help working families

State residents will have the opportunity to repeal Proposition 10-mandated taxes this March — and doing so would benefit children and working families, says the state LP.

"California's children should not be subjected to massive government programs that, like most government programs, are doomed to fail," said State Chair **Mark Hinkle**. "Abolishing this tax will save children from unproven and unworkable state-run programs — not to mention the financial savings to working families, who have been hardest hit by [these] onerous taxes."

Proposition 10, which was spearheaded by actor-director Rob Reiner and raised taxes on cigarettes by 50¢ a pack to pay for "childhood development programs," passed in 1998 by a narrow margin.

An initiative to repeal it has now been certified for the March primary ballot — and Libertarians say they will work to get it approved by voters.



Back in office, Fritz plans to tackle budget

■ **Libertarian Roger Fritz (left) signs his oath of office on December 27, 1999, after being re-elected to the city council in Roland, Iowa. Sitting with him is Mayor Gary Titus. Fritz's new term started on January 1, 2000, and his goal this year is to try to impose a "freeze" on city government spending.**

"Before government can shrink, there is a point where it must stop growing," he said. "[At] the first meeting, [the council] will start preparing the next budget, and my goal — since I must get agreement with four other council members — is to try to at least keep the budget the same."

Fritz said he also plans to try to end "city contributions to the DARE program and a senior citizen transit program. I have also already started a dialogue about making housing more affordable by reducing zoning regulations."

"We look forward to a challenging but successful campaign to repeal a tax that should never have passed in the first place," said Hinkle.

■ ILLINOIS

New LP advertising blitz targets subway riders

A new advertising campaign by Chicago Libertarians will offer Windy City Rapid Rail riders a taste of Libertarianism as they travel.

"We plan to place ads in strategic locations along the Chicago Transit Authority's Red and Brown Lines," said Chicago LP Chair **Matt Beauchamp**. "With over \$10,000 pledged from major donors and more rolling in from a targeted mailing, we can get the Libertarian name out before the public."

"Seeing the Libertarian name every day on the way to and from work will build awareness of the

Libertarian Party and give us added credibility."

The Rapid Rail has monthly ridership of 13 million, said Beauchamp — providing a lot of exposure for such a small investment.

The ads will not focus on any particular issues, he said. Rather, "they're a teaser to get riders to visit our website and reassure them that they are not alone in their discontent."

■ ILLINOIS

LP's gun buy-back lawsuit dismissed by U.S. Court

A lawsuit filed by a Cook County Libertarian against a government gun buy-back program has been dismissed as "frivolous."

In early January, a U.S. District Court Judge ruled that Chicago LP Chairman **Matt Beauchamp** had "no constitutional standing" to sue a Cook County Sheriff for illegal gun trafficking.

Beauchamp had filed the lawsuit in September 1999, charging that the so-called Safe Streets/Safe Schools 2000 gun buy-back program violated federal law because the sheriff purchased guns without the required firearms license and accepted weapons without asking for identification.

But the judge ruled that "Beauchamp alleges no other basis for his lawsuit than his interest in ensuring that public officials act in accordance with the law. That is an insufficient basis."

In response, Beauchamp said he will file a Freedom of Information request to get "every scrap of paper related to the gun buy-back program" before deciding what to do next.

■ MAINE

Libertarians start new talk radio call-in show

Two Maine Libertarians have taken the fight for liberty to the airwaves.

State LP Vice-Chair **Jeff Weinstein** and LP member **Mike Leonard** have become the hosts of a new talk radio show, "Good Morning Maine," which airs Saturday mornings on WTME-AM 1240 in Lewiston-Auburn and WKTQ-AM 1450 in Norway-South Paris.

"It's expected that a few more radio stations will pick up the show within the next several weeks, so if [Maine residents] can't hear us yet, just be patient," said Weinstein, after the show went on the air in November 1999.

Weinstein — a radio veteran who's "been talking on the radio since shortly after Marconi invented it" — described the show as a "radio cracker-barrel where the locals gather 'round to chat about the latest events."

While the call-in program touches on a broad range of topics, "we're quite willing to share our Libertarian perspectives with callers," he said.

■ MASSACHUSETTS

State Libertarians start matchbook outreach

Boston-area Libertarians are hoping to "light a spark" in Bay State politics by distributing Libertarian matchbooks.

"Why matchbooks?" asked State Assembly candidate **Doug Krick**, whose campaign is partially funding the effort. "Smokers are a targeted group that has been ignored and taken advantage of by the other two major parties. Libertarians want to get the government out of this personal choice."

The plan is to "flood the Boston area" with matchbooks printed with information about Libertarianism on the cover, and then to move the project statewide, Krick said.

"Libertarians on Cape Cod are working on a similar project, and I hope to enlist the help of people farther west," he said.

The first matchbooks will be distributed at gas stations, conve-

nience stores, and bars within the next few months.

With high tobacco taxes, "most states make more money on a pack of cigarettes than the tobacco companies!" noted Krick. "It's time to return the money to the taxpayers."

■ MICHIGAN

"Corrupt" school board targeted by LP member

East Detroit Libertarian **Diane Barnes** is rallying parents to investigate a School Board she says is corrupt — and \$3.9 million in the red.

Barnes organized the East Detroit Parents Association in November to demand answers about the Board's debt, which has already prompted investigations by the FBI, a U.S. Attorney, and local authorities.

"I'd like to find anybody who may be responsible," she said. "My goal is to remove them from office. We won't be happy until someone is held accountable for the scandal that has rocked our district."

Barnes said her group plans to pressure the Board President into investigating and removing corrupt members. She blamed the debt on "sweetheart deals" between Board members and favored vendors.

"Board members have failed utterly. If we can't trust them with our money, how can we trust them with our children?" she asked.

■ NEVADA

Nevada LP leads nation in membership growth

Who's #1? The Libertarian Party of Nevada — at least in terms of membership growth last year.

In 1999, the Nevada LP grew by "a whopping" 50.8%, according to figures released by the national Libertarian Party — making it "the fastest growing state affiliate in the nation," noted State Director **Chris Azzaro**.

The reason? Increased professionalism, strong leadership, an ambitious direct-mail recruitment campaign, strategic planning, and better marketing, he said.

"It's taken a lot of hard work to get here, and we are very pleased with the progress that is being made," he said.

This year should be another banner year for the Nevada LP, predicted Azzaro, with a "large slate" of candidates running competitive races "for everything from School Board to State Assembly. I think the 2000 elections will be the best in Libertarian Party history."

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

Why did ex-U.S. Senator really join the party?

A former Republican U.S. Senator has joined the Libertarian Party — but his decision appears to be a political ploy to boost his campaign for the GOP's gubernatorial nomination, said LPNH State Chair **Danielle Donovan**.

Gordon Humphrey — who served as U.S. Senator from New Hampshire from 1978 to 1990 — joined the party at the state convention late last year.

Although “honored to accept Senator Humphrey’s membership,” Donovan said the decision to join was probably based less on ideology than an effort to “woo Libertarian voters and supporters.”

Humphrey, currently the “unofficial front runner” for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, could face Libertarian **John Babiarz** in the general election this November.

And since the “gubernatorial campaign is our lifeline to ballot access,” if Humphrey was genuinely “sincere [about being a Libertarian], he’d support John and be one of our Congressional candidates, yes?” asked Donovan.

■ NORTH DAKOTA

Libertarian wins right to jury trial for small cases

It began as a minor building code violation case — but ended up winning North Dakotans the right to a jury trial for even a \$20 ticket, thanks to a Libertarian activist.

“I doubt that very many citizens would opt for an expensive jury trial for a \$20 parking ticket,” **Roland Riemers** said. “But the right to a jury trial is a fundamental guard against abuse of power by local government bureaucracies.”

In early January, Riemers convinced the Grand Forks District Court that the state constitution promises the right to trial for fines that small.

When prosecutors pointed out that the U.S. Constitution does not allow for jury trials in non-criminal cases, Riemers prevailed by noting that state constitutions can guarantee rights above and beyond those of the federal Constitution.

“This victory gives back to North Dakota citizens a right that has been eroded over the past 100 years,” he said.

■ OHIO

Libertarians help defeat 1999 transportation tax

Central Ohioans have avoided a new tax — thanks in part to the efforts of Libertarians.

The Coalition on Transit Inefficiency (COTI), formed by local Libertarians and others, campaigned last fall against two sales tax hikes intended to pay for government transportation programs.

COTI defeated one tax, ear-



California Libertarians save \$15,000 with candidate petition mailing for 2000 election

■ California Libertarians saved about \$15,000 in candidate filing fees for the 2000 election by mailing candidate petitions to registered LP voters. Shown here, LP members (l-r) John Graham, Rusty Nichols, Doris Ball, Richard Rider, David Graham, George Ball, Edward Teyssier, and Philip Zuebisch prepare a 3,700-piece mailing late last year.

This was “our largest candidate petition mailing ever,” said **Mark Laythrope**, editor of the San Diego *Liberty* newsletter.

In California, candidates can qualify for the ballot with either a filing fee or with signatures of their party’s registered voters.

“Because each voter has different candidates running in his or her area, [the mailing] is a rather laborious process with customization required,” said Laythrope. “[But] the signatures from the mailings, plus candidate and volunteer visits to homes, saved us over \$15,000 in filing fees.”

marked for a light rail project, by arguing that private buses already cover the same routes and are underused. Anti-tax activists pressed the point by campaigning from a nearly empty bus adorned with signs reading, “Tired of Empty Buses? Vote No.”

“The buses are an example of the community helping to solve the congestion problem without government interference,” said LP activist **Dennis Knepley**.

■ OHIO

Ohio LP is “official” again after 18-year absence

After an 18-year absence, the Libertarian Party should be back on the Ohio ballot as an “official” party in 2000.

Following a two-year petition drive, Libertarians submitted 72,775 signatures to the Secretary of State — more than twice what was required — in November, said State Chair **Dena Bruedigam**.

“We are certain we’ll be certified for the primary [in March],” she said.

The petitions have now been forwarded to county Boards of Election for validation. Once approved, the LP will be recognized

as a minor party by the state, making it the only third party eligible to appear on primary ballots.

Although the Ohio LP has qualified numerous candidates by individual petitions over the years, it hasn’t been recognized by the state as an “official” party since 1982.

The Ohio LP now plans to take advantage of their ballot status, said Bruedigam, by running at least 100 candidates in 2000.

■ VERMONT

Same-sex marriage ruling is mixed bag, says party

A Vermont Supreme Court’s ruling on same-sex marriages is good news — but also bad news — for personal freedoms, LP State Chair **Scott Berkey** said.

“We commend the court for including individuals of the same sex in domestic partnership protections,” he said on December 21, shortly after the court decided that same-sex couples must enjoy the same rights and privileges as other couples.

But by ignoring those who don’t choose marriage or domestic partnerships, the state continues to discriminate, said Berkey.

“We recognize the court’s good intentions in trying to provide all couples with equal protection,” he said. “Nevertheless, while protection of same-sex relationships might be a step in the right direction, it discriminates against those who choose to remain single.”

The answer, Berkey said, is to get the government out of personal relationships altogether, allowing people to choose how to live without government incentives or intrusions.

■ VERMONT

LP: Prescription price caps are ‘bad medicine’

Government meddling in the pharmaceutical industry is “bad medicine” for Vermont, LP State

Chair **Scott Berkey** has charged.

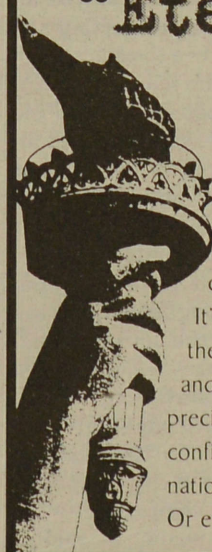
Programs that artificially cap medicine prices, like Vermont’s Act 51, “reduce our ability to develop further medical advances,” he said on January 4.

“So-called progressive politicians point to mandated low drug costs in foreign countries,” he said. “The truth is, the bulk of medicines available overseas were developed in the U.S. using funds from pharmaceutical sales. Other countries do not develop as many new drugs as we do because government pricing mandates deprive them of funds for research and development.”

Berkey agreed with the “progressives” on one thing — drug prices are indeed too high. But more regulations won’t fix that, he said.

“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

— Wendell Phillips



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The libertarian think tank boom

Continued from Page 1

Now, they spread like a free-market archipelago across the USA: The Independence Institute in Colorado. The Ethan Allen Institute in Vermont. The Southeastern Legal Foundation in Georgia. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Michigan. And the Washington Institute Foundation in Washington state, to name just a few.

The goals, expertise, and focus of these organizations are as varied as their locations.

The Southeastern Legal Foundation, for example, engages in legal action on Constitutional issues like private property rights and affirmative action.

The Independence Institute specializes in education, criminal justice, and gun rights.

The Washington Institute Foundation is passionate about privatization and criminal justice reform. And the Mackinac Center devotes its energies to education, the environment, and regulation.

However, all of them share a common smaller-government philosophy, whether they call it "conservative" or "libertarian" — and a devotion to reducing the size and cost of government, protecting civil liberties, and expanding free market opportunities.

Their tools are also similar: They hire scholars to build an arsenal of facts and ideas that support free-market positions. They study public policy issues, and then draft proposals, model legislation, and even "dream budgets" for legislators to consider.

First stage

But developing libertarian policies is just the first stage of the process.

Think tanks then employ the full arsenal of modern public relations tools to get their message out to voters, the media, influence-leaders, and politicians. They hold press conferences, conduct seminars, issue press releases, invite guest speakers for public events, write op-eds, testify before state legislatures, and publish magazines and newspapers.

"Before an idea gains political currency, it must have popular support," said Buckstein. "The groundwork must be laid — before principled ideas rooted in liberty and [free] markets translate into political victories."

These think tanks have one other thing in common: They all direct their energies towards influencing state — rather than the federal — politics.

"The federal leviathan ab-



■ The Cascade Policy Institute in Oregon uses prominent speakers to promote its libertarian agenda. Shown here just after a speech to 500 people, economist and syndicated columnist Dr. Walter Williams (second from left) meets with Cascade's vice president Kurt T. Weber, past executive director Tracie Sharp, and president Steve Buckstein.

sorbs people and money and produces very little change," said John P. Overton, senior vice president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. "States and state policy organizations are leading the way with education reform, welfare reform, term limits, tax limits, and a number of other issues. [That's why] there has been this incredible growth — because the action is in the states."

The Cascade Policy Institute is a classic example of how a libertarian think tank can become a key player in the political "action" of a state.

When Buckstein launched Cascade, he set an ambitious goal: To "develop and promote policy solutions that strengthen Oregon's economy, support personal responsibility, and are consistent with the principles of liberty."

Since then, Cascade has scored victories in all those areas, said Buckstein, who had been an LP activist before getting into the think tank business.

Opt-out plan

In 1997, "Cascade played an instrumental role in getting the Oregon legislature to pass a resolution asking the federal government to let Oregon opt out of the Social Security system — and allow our residents to set up their own individual retirement accounts," he said. "Shortly after [that], Colorado's legislature passed a similar resolution, and other states began contacting Cascade about the opt-out idea."

In 1998, Cascade helped open up the transportation market in Portland. A policy paper advocating competition in the taxi cab market "led to the city's approval of two new cab companies — the first in over 20 years," he said.

And in 1999, Cascade scored a quasi-libertarian victory in the "school choice" area — the payoff of eight years of issuing "numerous reports and [hosting] speakers discussing vouchers, tuition tax credits, charter schools, and the separation of education and state," said Buckstein.

Bowing to public pressure, the legislature passed education reforms that allowed charter schools to hire teachers who are not state-certified, "tapping a host of experts that government schools won't."

BUCKSTEIN:

"Before an idea gains political currency, it must have popular support."

But recognizing that "success breeds success," the recent winning streak won't lull Cascade into resting on its laurels, said Buckstein. Instead, Cascade will start focusing more energy on the "urban sprawl" debate.

"Work will be done to debunk the highly touted Portland model, which includes the urban growth boundary, light rail, zoning — in short, a centrally planned city," he said. "We will offer alternative proposals whose foundation consists of personal liberty, property rights, and [free] markets."

The growing clout of state think tanks like Cascade has been echoed time after time around the nation. Some examples:

■ In Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives is working to "put the 'public' back in public policy," said President Sean Duffy.

The foundation was founded in 1988 "to generate new ideas and policy changes that encourage a reliance upon private initiative and democratic citizenship," he said. "Our mission is to advance the public interest by promoting lean government, pro-growth economics, and broad-based government reform."

In 1999, the state budget approved by the legislature included a number of recommendations straight out of a Commonwealth analysis.

Expensive junket

Commonwealth also shamed state legislators into canceling "an expensive junket to Washington" and "caused [the governor] to back off his support for taxation of Internet sales," Duffy said.

Like Cascade, Commonwealth is on an upward trajectory — and "will continue to grow in size, scope, and effectiveness," Duffy said. It "will be on the cutting edge of the policy debate in Pennsylvania" by taking on new issues like technology and e-commerce regulation in addition to taxation issues, education policy, and the environment.

■ The Washington Institute Foundation in Seattle is influencing policy by taking its free-market message directly to the voters, said Vice President for Operations Dann Mead-Smith.

"Our goal is to provide accurate and accessible information to help inform the public debate," he said. "Our research explores ways state and local governments can operate more efficiently by mak-

ing the best use of tax dollars."

For example, the Foundation analyzes tax proposals and new environmental regulations, "looking at the ways the power of free markets and individual freedom can successfully address problems," he said. "We also publish an annual property tax scorecard that holds counties and cities accountable for their property tax increases."

These projects all have one thing in common, said Mead-Smith. "We try to help Washington's citizens understand and practice the fundamental tenets of a free society: That personal and economic freedom are inseparable, that individuals must be accountable for their actions, and that citizens must respect the lives and properties of others."

■ In Atlanta, Georgia, the Southeastern Legal Foundation fights for Constitutional values in the courts — and frequently wins those legal fights.

"We focus on Constitutional issues, like private property rights, affirmative action, tax issues, and free speech," said President Matthew J. Glavin. "We recently successfully challenged the Clinton Census 2000 statistical sampling plan in defense of a Constitutional count."

"In addition, we have authored studies resulting in more than \$1.7 billion in tax cuts in four southeastern states in unemployment taxes," he said. "Right now, the Southeastern Legal Foundation is engaged in affirmative action litigation against Atlanta's set-aside program for public contracting. We are also assisting government officials in Georgia with the implementation of a four-year, \$1 billion unemployment insurance tax cut."

The Foundation has experienced organizational successes as well, growing from 2,000 to more than 110,000 annual supporters since 1994, he said. Currently, 500-plus lawyers across the na-

See **THINK TANK** Page 11

Petitioners Needed!

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Correction

In the January 2000 issue of *LP News*, Jim Lark was incorrectly identified as secretary of the LP of Virginia. In fact, Lark is the Vice Chair.

The think tank boom

Continued from Page 10
tion are part of its attorney network.

■ In Colorado, the Independence Institute is defending the Second Amendment and education reform in the state that witnessed the Columbine shootings less than a year ago.

"Our mission is to advance the eternal truths of the Declaration of Independence," said David B. Kopel, the Institute's Research Director. "We have made a difference in the outcome of hundreds of issues before the Colorado legislature, Colorado voters, and local government, including charter schools, school choice, and enactment of legislation to protect the Second Amendment."

■ Even brand-new think tanks are playing a role: The Kansas Public Policy Institute was just founded in 1996, but is already taking on an issue of national significance, said President Bob L. Corkins.

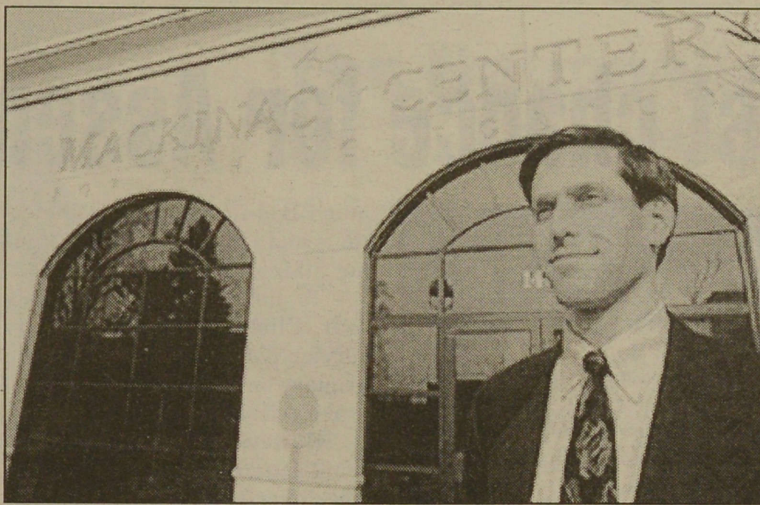
"Our major project involves reforming the \$8 billion state and local government pension system into a 401k-style retirement program," he said. "Not only is it an enormous state issue; as Kansas and other states succeed in this effort, we set the example for Congress to follow in reforming Social Security."

The future?

What does the future hold for these free-market think tanks?

Continued influence based on their success in the 1990s, seemed to be the consensus from their spokespeople.

"The tendency in public policy in recent years has been to shift away from government-centered solutions to ones that rely on private and community-based pro-



■ State-level policy foundations "are leading the way with education reform, welfare reform, term limits, tax limits, and other issues," said John P. Overton, shown here outside the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's office in Michigan.

grams," said Commonwealth's Duffy. "The agenda of individual empowerment and smaller government has won the support of a majority of Americans — due in no small measure to the hard work of free-market think tanks."

Southeastern Legal Foundation's Glavin concurred: "Clearly the libertarian movement has gained momentum in the past decade."

But there is still work to be done, Mackinac's Overton cautioned — while arguing that Libertarians "must make liberty once again a living intellectual issue" by offering a compelling vision of a libertarian future.

"Libertarians are too often like revival preachers: They have a very vivid description of Hell but a very inarticulate vision of Heaven," he said. "We must address head-on the soft issues of love, family, racial reconciliation, security, and community, and show how a free society meets

these real human needs."

Buckstein echoed that theme. Libertarians "must learn how to more effectively communicate our message," he said.

Human face

"We must get beyond the rhetoric of simple economics and put a human face on libertarianism. We must show how counterproductive regulations hurt the working poor and those on welfare, using real people in our examples. We must show how taxes hurt, not help, the very people tax-supported programs are claimed to help."

The good news is that "Libertarianism is getting stronger in America," he said. "Many Americans hold our views without using our label."

"Our job is to educate them to understand the underlying principles. Libertarian think tanks will play an important role in this effort."

Think tank contact info

Here is how to contact the various libertarian think tanks mentioned in this article:

■ Cascade Policy Institute, 813 SW Alder, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97205. Phone: (503) 242-0900. Fax: (503) 242-3822. Website: www.CascadePolicy.org. Focus: Oregon education, privatization, growth (land use, transit, zoning), taxation and budget, and health/welfare issues.

■ Mackinac Center for Public Policy, 140 West Main Street (P.O. Box 568), Midland, MI 48640. Phone: (517) 631-0900. Fax: (517) 631-0964. Website: www.mackinac.org. Focus: Education, labor, privatization, environment, taxation, and regulation.

■ Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, 3544 N. Progress Avenue, #101, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: (717) 671-1901. Fax: (717) 671-1905. Website: www.commonwealthfoundation.org. Focus: The "digital economy, protecting property owners' rights, empowering parents to provide a quality education, [creating] a growing economy with as little government intervention as possible, and privatizing government functions."

■ Washington Institute Foundation, P.O. Box 24645, Seattle, WA 98124-0645. Phone: (206) 938-6300. Fax: (206) 938-6313. Website: www.wips.org. Focus: "Three general areas: Privatization and competition in the delivery of government services; economic policies that favor free markets; and responsible criminal justice reform."

■ Southeastern Legal Foundation, 3340 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 2515, Atlanta, GA 30326-1088. Phone: (404) 365-8500. Website: www.southeasternlegal.org. Focus: "Constitutional issues, including private property rights, affirmative action, tax issues, [and] free speech."

■ Kansas Public Policy Institute, P.O. Box 1946, Topeka, KS 66601-1946. Phone: (785) 357-7709. Website: www.kppi.org. Focus: State and local government pension system and the state income tax.

■ Ethan Allen Institute, 4836 Kirby Mountain Road, Concord, VT 05824. Phone: (802) 695-1448. Fax: (802) 695-1436. Website: www.ethanallen.org. Focus: "Issues affecting Vermonters."

■ Independence Institute, 14142 Denver West Parkway #185, Golden, CO 80401. Phone: (303) 279-6536. Fax: (303) 279-4176. Focus: Education, transportation, criminal justice, and the Second Amendment.

For contact information on other libertarian/conservative think tanks: www.CascadePolicy.org/spn.htm.

Party works to overturn Debate Commission's 'unfair' criteria

Continued from Page 1
tion," he said. "That's why the Debate Commission should offer voters a broad spectrum of legitimate candidates — instead of acting as kingmaker among a handful of establishment candidates. Everyone benefits when voters are exposed to more choices in a presidential debate."

The best evidence of that, he said, was Ross Perot in 1992. The Texas billionaire (running as an independent) was polling at just 7% in October when he was invited to participate in the debates — but ended up boosting voter turnout by 12 million from the previous election.

"More candidates in the presidential debate mean more ideas, more excitement, and more voter involvement," said Dasbach. "In fact, a Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll conducted on July 17 showed that 67% of Americans favor a

strong third party that would run candidates for president and other offices.

"If we want voters to start tuning back into the political process, we have to open up the debates to a wider array of legitimate candidates."

Instead of the restrictive 15% threshold, the Commission should set a more inclusive standard of no more than 5%, he suggested.

5% threshold

"Libertarians would prefer a wide-open debate that includes every qualified candidate," said Dasbach. "However, given the Debate Commission's unwillingness to do that, a 5% threshold would make the debates much more fair. Such a criteria would have included John Anderson in 1980, Ross Perot in 1992 and 1996 — and, hopefully, will include the Libertarian candidate in 2000."

DASBACH:

"Everyone benefits when voters are exposed to more choices."

However, a standard that was even lower than 5% would still not create the kind of crowded free-for-all presidential debates that many people fear, he noted — and certainly wouldn't allow 100 candidates on stage, as the Commission suggested in a statement.

If every candidate on enough state ballots to theoretically win the presidency in 1996 had been allowed into the debates, noted

Dasbach, only six candidates would have been present.

"Inclusive standards would produce presidential debates that are smaller than many presidential primary debates," he said.

To increase the chance that the Libertarian Party's 2000 presidential candidate can qualify for the debates, Dasbach said the party is asking its members to put public pressure on the Commission to change its criteria.

"A massive influx of letters-to-the-editor will send a strong signal to the Commission and to editorial writers that reform is needed," he said.

"We believe this will be the most effective strategy because it's worked in the past: The Commission changed its previous subjective criteria because of an outcry from letter writers, political pundits, and editorial pages around the country after the 1996

presidential debates."

In fact, the Executive Director of the Debate Commission, Janet Brown, admitted that the criteria were changed because "it's pretty clear that [the Commission was] losing public credibility."

More fair criteria

Libertarians should write letters to their local newspapers and news magazines, and post messages to Internet discussion groups, urging more fair debate criteria, he said. Letters should be no more than 250 words, should be polite, and should be personalized for each publication since editors usually reject form letters.

"If you want to see a Libertarian in the 2000 presidential debates, we have to turn this into a public debate, and a letter-writing campaign is the first step," said Dasbach.

CAMPAIGN 2000 REPORT

Bonnie Flickinger: Best chance for Assembly seat?

3-time California city council winner hopes to move up to State Assembly seat

Three-time city council winner Bonnie Flickinger has set her sights on a seat in the California State Assembly in 2000 — and says the odds of winning are “excellent.”

“It’s a near-perfect window of opportunity,” said Flickinger of her campaign for the District 65 seat.

In fact, she said, “If we tried to design an ideal race for a Libertarian victory, we couldn’t do better than this. It’s an open seat in the state legislature with no incumbent. I have already won three elections in the largest city in the district. [And] I’m a third-term elected Libertarian in the middle of my term, so I don’t have to give up the city seat to run for the Assembly seat.

“Years from now, I don’t want to look back at this race and say: *How did we let that opportunity get away?*”

Flickinger was first elected to the city council in Moreno Valley (population 140,000) in 1992. In a five-way race, she received a formidable 42% of the vote. She captured nearly 60% in her first re-election bid, and then won a tough re-election campaign in 1998.

That lengthy tenure in office

will be a definite asset in her Assembly campaign, she said.

“After almost eight years in public office, visibility and name recognition are a given,” said Flickinger. “I’m frequently quoted in the newspaper — and will be more so this year, since I have been appointed Mayor Pro Tem for 2000.

“As a city council member, I have established a reputation for integrity, a track record as a defender of the taxpayers, and a large network of valuable contacts. In addition, an elected official has easy access to information that is not readily available to people outside the government.”

Vague ordinance

Flickinger has been very visible on the council, leading a successful effort to turn the county’s library system over to a private company, eliminating a mandate requiring new homes to have ceiling-installed fire sprinklers, and convincing her colleagues to reject a vague ordinance which would have prohibited minors from possessing a “graffiti implement.”

Thanks to such credentials, California LP Executive Director Juan Ros agreed that Flickinger



■ **Bonnie Flickinger:** “If we tried to design an ideal race for a Libertarian victory, we couldn’t do better than this.”

has a realistic chance to win an Assembly seat — but said it would not be an easy race.

“Bonnie’s prospects are better than any partisan Libertarian candidate that has run for the California state legislature [in recent years],” he said. “As a third-party candidate, Bonnie will need to work harder than the Democratic or Republican candidates to establish herself as serious and viable — but I know how

much Bonnie hates to lose elections and I’m confident she’ll put her all into the race.”

To move up to the Assembly seat, Flickinger must actually survive two elections — an open primary on March 7 and the general election in November.

However, the open primary could actually help her, predicted Flickinger, since it will expose her name to registered voters from every political party.

“Previously, voters registered with a political party could vote only for the candidates in that party in [the] primary,” she noted. “Now, all voters receive a ballot with the complete list of candidates from all the parties.”

Flickinger also has one other significant advantage in the campaign, she said: Fairly weak opponents.

Safe seat

“Until now, this had been considered a safe seat for the Republicans,” she said. “But one of the Republican candidates is the mayor of a small city of just 10,000; the other used to be a member of Governor Pete Wilson’s staff but has no elective political experience. The two Democratic candidates have never held public office.

“This is a good opportunity for the LP because we have an experienced campaigner who already

holds office and has name recognition, an existing support base, [and] a track record,” she said.

But Flickinger also has one potential weakness: Money.

“Running a partisan [Assembly] campaign with 400,000 constituents is very different from running a nonpartisan local campaign,” she said — and requires considerably more money.

Peanuts

“We are currently raising start-up [money] and have over \$8,000 in the bank. This sum is peanuts compared to the more than \$250,000 it will cost to win this seat. The two Republicans each have raised about \$140,000 to the latest reporting date.”

She can reduce that gap, said Flickinger, but it will require help from Libertarian Party members.

“I’m quite sure I’ll be elected,” she said — “but only if I can find enough generous contributors to fund the campaign.”

■ To help Bonnie Flickinger’s campaign, send contributions to: Friends of Bonnie Flickinger, Box 1492, Moreno Valley, CA 92556.

■ For information, call Flickinger: (909) 924-9104. E-mail: bflickinger@earthlink.net. Fax: (909) 242-9789.

218 Congressional candidates in 2000: It’s our USP

By Hugh Butler

CANDIDATE, 2ND HOUSE DIST., UTAH

“Unique Selling Proposition” (USP) is the holy grail of sales. Uniqueness is a form of identity in the mind of the buyer. What is it about you or your product that is so different from all the rest?

Voters need to know what makes us unique. We can say all we want about the benefits of a libertarian society, but the older parties insist on stealing much of that rhetoric.

We can sell them on the proposition that politics is corrupt and must change, but the newer parties all promise change and reform. What is there about the LP that merits attention, that promises a difference, that is truly unique?

We have an opportunity to make a claim unmatched since 1920. In 2000, we can run 218 or more candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives. Of

all the third parties since then, none has ever run nationwide campaigns in the majority of Congressional districts.

None has had a chance to elect a majority to the House. We could be uniquely identified in the public mind as a major new party.

As the major new party.

Broad support

That’s why I’m running for Congress from Utah’s Second Congressional district. I will run for the office, if the LP of Utah nominates me, and I will encourage and help others in Utah and outside who are also ready to serve. When we announce in a majority of Congressional districts, I want to read in the *LP News* and the



■ **Hugh Butler:** “Opportunity.”

Wall Street Journal that there is an established third party in America with the broad support and clout it takes to make a difference. I want to hear the *New York Times* say that the Libertarian Party has arrived, not as a personality cult, but as a national party of scope and substance.

If the other parties try and fail, I’ll expect to read about that as well.

We’ll tell our story and present our Unique Selling Proposition to the American people. In all of U.S. history only a handful of parties have established themselves so widely and thoroughly as to be reckoned a threat to the establishment. We can do what hasn’t been done for 80 years. I will do my part.

The LNC has called 218 in 2000 a “core goal” of the LP in 2000. Will you do your part? Identify and support (or volunteer to be) a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in 2000. Let us know that you have filed or intend



to file as a candidate. If you need help or advice, call or write me. It’s a way to uniquely identify our party as a majority movement, poised for leadership, ready to make a difference.

Roaring ’20s

That other party in 1920 made a difference. Within 12 years of their high-water mark, the Socialist Party members of the roaring ’20s watched as a Democrat enacted their favorite programs, one by one, committing the party of Jefferson to principles anathema to their founding fathers and America to a failed experiment in social engineering.

Is it time for a principled

party to exert that kind of leadership, to force a change of direction of that magnitude again?

It is our time. Let’s make the kind of statement which the horse race statisticians of the political press can hang their hat on. This is the “hook” that pundits seek: the shorthand way of referring to a sea change in the political landscape. With 218 in 2000, the LP will enter the history books.

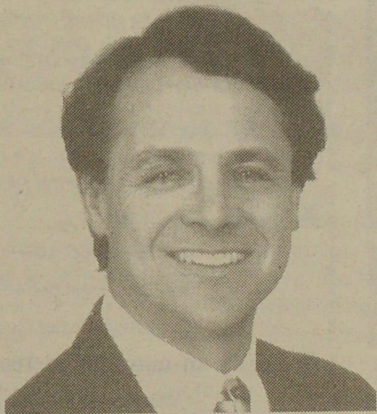
Make it happen. Let us know. This core goal is ours for the taking. Will you be a part?

■ **About the author:** *Hugh A. Butler is the Vice Chair of the national Libertarian Party. To contact him, call (801) 328-4325. E-mail: hugh@eccorp.com.*

■ Interested in becoming an LP candidate in 2000? Contact Libertarian Party Political Director Ron Crickenberger: RonCrickenberger@compuserve.com or call (202) 333-0008, Ext. 227.

The Nationalization of Income

by Jacob G. Hornberger



It's election time and Republicans are making their quadrennial call for income-tax cuts. Democrats are opposing them because the federal government needs the money to shore up Social Security and Medicare. The entire debate obscures an uncomfortable truth — that in 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution effectively nationalized the income of every American.

Although most Americans honestly believe that the income they earn in their jobs and investments belongs to them, nothing could be further from the truth. Because by having the power to determine how much money people are permitted to keep, the federal government, not the people, has become the ultimate owner of everyone's income.

People are born with certain talents and abilities that they use to sustain their life through labor. For example, suppose a farmer plants crops on land he has acquired. When the crops ma-

ture, he sells the produce to others in return for money that he then uses to purchase clothing and other essentials.

Although society benefits from the farmer's production of food, it is self-evident that the personal talents and abilities that the farmer uses to bring the crop to maturity are his and do not belong to "society." That is, other people have no "right" to force the farmer to devote his life and energies to them. The same holds true with respect to the crops — they belong to the farmer, not society, because they are the fruits of the farmer's own talents and abilities.

Suppose, however, that the government passes a law that decrees, "All farmers are now required to devote their efforts full-time to government service. All crops are now owned by the government, but farmers and their families will be provided their housing, food, medical care, and other necessities of life."

Most people would agree that this would constitute the very essence of slavery. After all, isn't that the relationship that plantation owners in the Old South had with their black farmhands?

The enslavement of people in a representative de-

mocracy such as the United States has required much more sophistication because it has necessitated the consent and approval of the very people who are being enslaved. Nevertheless, by empowering their own government officials to control how much income they will be permitted to keep, the plight of the American people is no different in principle from that of other slaves in history.

In essence, the federal government has decreed to the American people: "You are free to work for whom-ever you want and to make as much money as you can. However, you and your employer are required on pain of fine and imprisonment to send us a certain percentage of the fruits of your earnings. We will periodically advise you of the exact amount of the percentage."

If the percentage were to be set at 100, every American would easily be able to recognize his enslavement. He would be devoting all of his life's energies to serving people he had been forced to serve rather than serving others voluntarily in the marketplace in the process of serving himself. To put it another way, if slaves in the Old South had had the right to elect their taskmaster

(who undoubtedly would have advocated "reform" during election time), they might have been considered "free" in a political sense but certainly not in an economic one.

What do Americans receive in return for their enslavement? The same thing that slaves throughout history have received — a promise that their masters will take care of them (with the money that has been taken from them). In fact, government officials now use the promise of government-guaranteed care as the principal justification for the perpetual existence of the income tax and the IRS.

What we need in this country is not the customary quadrennial discussion over tax cuts and tax reform. What we really need is a national debate over such fundamental issues as the meaning of human liberty and the role of government in a free society.

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., which has recently published Your Money or Your Life: Why We Must Abolish the Income Tax by Sheldon Richman.

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM FOUNDATION

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■ **Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do** by Peter McWilliams. The definitive argument against "consensual crimes," packed with facts, quotes, and statistics. Paperback, 693 pages. **Cost:** \$9.95

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Outlines a Libertarian plan for victory. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 7th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting defense of the Second Amendment, designed especially for the gun community. Explains why the LP will never betray gun owners. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy and solutions in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 1998. 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-1997) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100. Size: 11" x 3"

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** (Red, white, & blue).

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-ELECT-US** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

Buttons (Cost: \$1 each or 75¢ each for 5 or more)

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

Miscellaneous Items

■ **Libertarian Party stickers.** Size: 5/8" x 2-1/8". (Red and blue.) Text: "Tired of big government & high taxes? Call the Libertarian Party." Includes LP 800#. **Cost:** Four sheets (96 stickers) for \$1. Or 25 sheets (600): \$5

■ **Windbreaker.** Blue, with LP logo & party name. Available in M, L, XL. (Please specify.) **Cost:** \$25 each

Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (For informational use only; not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, and taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP advertisements. **Cost:** \$3 for set

Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You can pick the second line from these two choices: "800-ELECT-US" or "Defenders of Liberty." (Specify which on order form.) **Cost:** \$40 each

Send a Liberty Valentine This Year!

Do you love liberty? February 14th is Valentine's Day. This year, why not send a "valentine" from the Libertarian Party to your friends and neighbors? Yes, you can share your heartfelt love of liberty by spreading the word about the Libertarian Party — the only political party that remains true to America's heritage of personal liberty and responsibility!

Give them a bouquet of brochures to explain how the LP will reduce taxes and protect their family budget. Instead of jewels, present them with an attractive Libertarian button. Or hand out copies of *Libertarianism In One Lesson* — the ultimate "love poem" to the Founding Fathers' vision of a free nation.

This Valentine's Day, show your passion for liberty by sharing the good news about the Libertarian Party!

**ENOUGH
IS ENOUGH
VOTE
LIBERTARIAN**

**Back in Stock
for Immediate
Shipment!**

"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH /VOTE LIBERTARIAN" Yard Sign. Red, white, & blue on foamboard. Measures 24" x 18". **Cost:** \$8.00 each.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

Yard Sign

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH /VOTE LIBERTARIAN. Red, white, and blue ink on sturdy foamboard. Measures a big 24" x 18". Perfect for LP campaigns or rallies. **Cost:** \$8.00 each.

Cost: \$8.00 each.

■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible and workable alternative to the government's dangerous "War on Drugs." **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how the government impoverishes Americans by taking more in taxes than most families spend on food, clothing, and shelter (combined). **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's five-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties — while providing more resources to fight real criminals. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains and defends the Libertarian Party's strong pro-Second Amendment position for general audience. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). How the LP would drastically reduce the size and cost of government by privatizing government services, abolishing corporate welfare, and ending income taxes. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

ORDER FORM

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 3-4 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party. Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Books for Sale

_____ *Ain't Nobody's Business* • McWilliams
_____ *Why Government Doesn't Work* • Browne
_____ *Libertarianism In One Lesson* • Bergland

Ready-to-use Literature

_____ "Million Dollar Bill" Literature
_____ Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party...?"
_____ Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"
_____ Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"
_____ Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
_____ Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____ Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____ Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____ Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____ *America's Libertarian Heritage* booklet
_____ Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
_____ 1995 LP Program
_____ World's Smallest Political Quiz

Yard Signs

_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

Bumper Stickers

_____ Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian
_____ I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!
_____ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN
_____ Vote Libertarian/1-800-ELECT-US

Buttons

_____ Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian
_____ VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776
_____ Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

_____ Sheets of LP stickers (24 per sheet)
_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

Tools for Campaigning

_____ Libertarian TV Ads Video
_____ Statue of Liberty logo master
_____ LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
_____ Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

Large & Small Banners

_____ Large: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" x 5')
Please check preferred second line:
☐ Defenders of Liberty ☐ 1-800-ELECT-US
_____ Small: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (12" x 5').

Total Due

_____ **Merchandise Total**
_____ **RUSH handling:** Add \$5 for same-day handling
_____ **RUSH shipping:** Call office to arrange
_____ **Send to a Post Office Box: \$5 extra**
_____ **TOTAL PAYMENT DUE**

[] Cash, check, or money order enclosed (No corporate checks!)
[] Bill my Visa [] Bill my MasterCard

Acct. # _____

Expires _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Membership ID# (On label) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

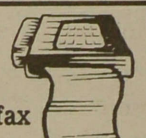
Occupation _____

Employer _____

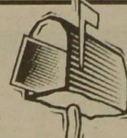
HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER



By phone...
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(202) 333-0072 by fax



By mail...
The Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue,
NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037



The Issues

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Keep the Internet tax-free — forever

Americans placed 36 million gift orders at online shopping sites this Christmas, which is a good argument why the Internet should remain tax-free, says the Libertarian Party. "Politicians shouldn't tax the goose that is laying the golden egg for the American economy," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "E-commerce is creating jobs, growing the next generation of business success stories, and generating profits for shareholders.

"To keep this boom going, politicians should keep their greedy hands — and their destructive taxes — off the Internet." According to BizRate.com, e-commerce generated \$3.35 billion in revenue this holiday season, a four-fold increase over last year.

In response, the National Governors' Association demanded e-commerce taxes, arguing that states "lose" sales tax money when people shop online.

The Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce is studying the issue, and will make a recommendation to Congress by April. Options include extending a three-year moratorium on Internet taxes, creating a national sales tax, or forcing cyberbusinesses to collect local and state sales taxes from online shoppers.

For Libertarians, the answer is obvious, said Dasbach: Give the Internet a permanent tax exemption.

"The Internet's tax-free status makes it a nationwide Enterprise Zone benefiting everyone," he said. "Instead of figuring out how to exploit the Internet for the benefit of politicians, let's consider how to protect it for the benefit of all Americans."

OSHA wants to regulate home-offices

If you work at home, OSHA has declared that your employer is responsible for any safety violations that occur there, the Libertarian Party warned.

"With this regulation, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration has become a hazard to your job, to your privacy, and to the flexibility to work at home that many employers offer," said David Bergland, the party's national chairman.

In January, OSHA publicized an advisory that "clarified" regulations on home-office safety. The federal agency announced that employers are responsible for all safety violations — including non-ergonomic furniture, improper lighting, and "unsafe" stairs — for employees who work at home.

The regulation covers 19.6 million Americans who work full-time from home and even employees who do occasional tasks.

The result of this new regulation, predicted Bergland, will be that many companies will simply prohibit employees from doing any work at home.

"Millions of Americans now have the option of doing work from home, which gives them time with their children, cuts down on traffic, and allows more flexibility in a hectic world," he said. "OSHA threatens to put a halt to this by applying 30-year-old regulations to a high-tech 21st Century workplace."

X-rated X-rays are a threat to privacy

The next time you go to an airport, your privacy may be invaded by "X-rated X-rays" — new, high-tech scanners that reveal every curve of your naked body right through your clothes, the Libertarian Party warned.

The machines, called BodySearch, are already in operation in six major airports, and will be installed in every large airport in the USA by June.

"You can be exposed like a *Playboy* playmate by these new voyeur-vision devices — even when you are fully clothed," warned Steve Dasbach. "And since airport officials don't need a search warrant to use these X-rated X-rays, everyone from your teenage daughter to your grandmother can be technologically stripped stark naked — in stark violation of their right to privacy."

The new BodySearch device does not generate photographic images, but displays clearly distinguishable shapes of intimate body parts like genitals and breasts, according to federal officials.

Currently, the BodySearch is only being used by U.S. Customs officials to scan airline passengers singled out for "special attention" — but the technology could easily be extended to every security checkpoint, noted Dasbach.

"The government continually expands its use of invasive search technology, such as thermal imaging scans of private homes and these X-rated X-rays in airports. Unless Americans protest this trend, every traveler's naked body could soon be routinely examined by the government's high-tech Peeping Toms."

Libertarian Party gains and loses a possible vice presidential candidate

The Libertarian Party gained its first announced candidate for its 2000 vice presidential nomination late last year — but only for about four days.

In late December, Hillsdale College professor Richard M. Ebeling announced that he was withdrawing his name from consideration as a vice presidential candidate.

His decision came just days after LP presidential hopeful Harry Browne announced on his nationally syndicated radio show that he had invited Ebeling — an economist and vice president of the Future of Freedom Foundation — to enter the race.

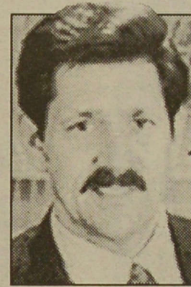
While Ebeling had first expressed interest, he then decided against it after considering the career implications, said Browne's press secretary, Jim Babka.

A barrier

"Richard was very interested in the [vice presidential run] and was prepared to accept," said Babka. "However, when he finished reviewing his professional situation, he could not go forward. His professional situation was too much of a barrier."

Babka said Browne made the invitation to Ebeling because he was concerned about the lack of potential LP vice presidential candidates.

"In the last campaign, Jo Jor-



■ Ebeling: Pulls out of VP race.

gensen announced her candidacy for the vice presidential nomination about 18 months prior to the national convention," he said. "This time, with only seven months to the convention, no one had come forward."

Browne worried "that a vice presidential candidate might emerge at the last moment — without delegates having had the chance to carefully consider his character, credibility, and competence," said Babka. So, Browne invited Ebeling into the race early enough to visit various state LP conventions to build support and hone his campaigning skills.

Several potential candidates were considered by the Browne campaign, but Ebeling was the only person asked to run, said Babka.

"Ebeling has been teaching Austrian-style, free-market economics for years, and has written numerous articles and books," he said. "Browne had heard him give speeches and was quite impressed. They had talked together about politics and political strategy on several occasions and found their approaches to issues

to be very similar."

Ebeling has co-edited several books for the Future of Freedom Foundation, a Virginia-based non-partisan think tank. Those works include *The Case for Free Trade and Open Immigration* (1995), *The Failure of America's Foreign Wars* (1996), and *The Tyranny of Gun Control* (1998).

Ebeling is also Chairman and Ludwig von Mises Professor of Economics at Hillsdale, a Michigan college famous for its refusal to accept any federal funds.

Babka said he is unsure whether Browne will ask another candidate to enter the race before the national convention in June.

Special person

"There are many attractive people in the Libertarian Party and now perhaps, that special person will emerge on their own," he said. "But Browne hasn't ruled out asking someone else."

According to Libertarian Party bylaws, the party's vice presidential candidate is chosen by delegates at its national convention, which will be held this year from June 30-July 3 in Anaheim, California. While delegates tend to honor the presidential candidate's VP recommendations, they are not bound to do so.

Ebeling did not respond to calls and e-mails from *LP News* asking for comment.

Would You Like To See A Fighter for Liberty As...

Mayor of Miami?

How would it affect our image if we had a Mayor in an internationally known city like Miami? *It would be huge!*

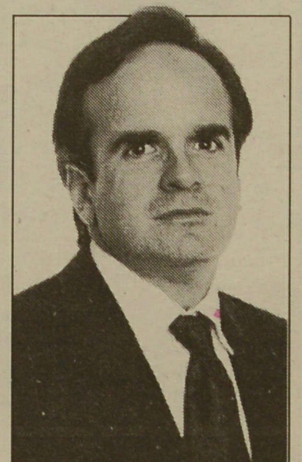
Does he really have a chance to win? It will take a lot of work, but, yes, he does. Because his opponents are the current mayor and two former mayors. Together, these Three Mayors have ruled Miami for 23 of the last 26 years amid corruption, scandal, voter fraud, government waste, huge debt, you name it. The voters are sick of them.

They need a reason to vote again this **March 14 (Super Tuesday)**. They need a new face. They need someone who will bring Miami's budget back down to earth. They need someone who will restore fiscal health without raising taxes.

They need . . . **Emiliano Antunez**, Miami native of Cuban descent, successful businessman, friend of liberty and free enterprise, opponent of taxes and regulation.

Want to help? Just send in your contribution (up to \$500 per person) to the address below.

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Skill

- (**skil**) *n.* **1.** An exceptional ability or proficiency. **2.** The ability to use one's knowledge effectively. **3.** A developed aptitude or ability. **4.** Competence.

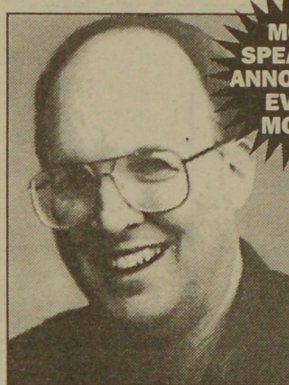
What will it take for the Libertarian Party to succeed ... and to break the Republican/Democratic stranglehold on politics?

One of the prerequisites for Libertarian victory is "skill" — the ability to engage in nuts-and-bolts politics in a professional, competent fashion. To recruit candidates, communicate our message, run effective campaigns, and so on.

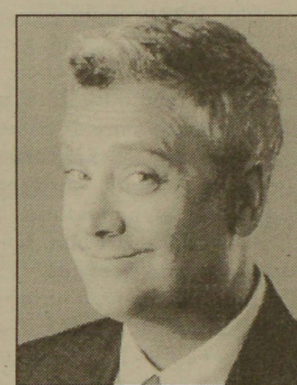
At the 2000 National Libertarian Convention, we will showcase some of the most skillful, talented people in the libertarian movement. Whether their skill is communicating, making us laugh, or political organizing, our speakers will demonstrate what it takes to be the best.

At the National Convention — **June 29-July 3, 2000**, Anaheim, CA — you will celebrate libertarian excellence with 1,450 LP delegates. And it's an opportunity to exercise your judgement skills when you vote for the party's 2000 presidential ticket; select LP leadership for the new millennium; and craft the new LP Platform.

Remember: "America's Future: Liberty, Responsibility & Community" starts in Anaheim. Be part of it! Register today: Prices go up April 15.



**MORE
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■ **Neal Boortz.** What's caused Neal Boortz to become one of the most popular syndicated libertarian radio talk show hosts in the nation? Some say it's his no-holds-barred approach. Others claim it is his wit and insight. And others give credit to his staunch libertarian philosophy. Whatever it is, here's your chance to experience "Big Mouth #1" in action.

■ **Sara Cotham.** How do you measure Libertarian success? In Indiana — under the leadership of LP state Executive Director Sara Cotham — they measure it with two election wins in *partisan* races in 1999; with twice the number of organized county parties, and a *sevenfold* increase in fundraising. Find out how she did it — and how your state can do it, too.

■ **Tim Slagle.** Is the federal government *funny*? It is when Tim Slagle talks about it from his uniquely "provocative and damned funny" libertarian perspective. Enjoy the libertarian insights of this professional comedian as he "fights a never-ending battle for truth, Liberty, & the American way" — sprinkled with wry wit and laugh-out-loud punchlines.

Discount Hotel Rates

Special discount room prices of only \$104 per night (single or double) are available at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. Call Marriott directly to make your reservation. Tell them that you are attending the 2000 Libertarian Convention. For special rates, make your reservation no later than June 2, 2000! (Room rate does not include 15% sales tax.) For reservations, call: (800) 228-9290

Special Discount Prices. (Deadline: April 15, 2000.)

Gold!

\$339 • Includes Gala Banquet, opening night reception, two luncheons with guest speakers, a special entertainment event, all workshops and panels, Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Convention Program.

Silver!

\$249 • Includes Gala Banquet, opening night reception, a special entertainment event, all workshops and panels, Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Convention Program.

Bronze!

\$129 • Includes opening night reception, a special entertainment event, all workshops and panels, Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Convention Program.

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\$59 • Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Convention Program.



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NOTE: PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE.

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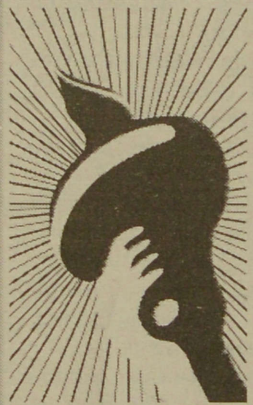
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JUNE 29-
JULY 3, 2000**

(Thursday: Opening night
celebration. Friday-
Monday: Convention
business & speakers.)
Anaheim Marriott Hotel

Former Michigan county prosecutor joins party

Continued from Page 3

Michigan and son of a Democratic sheriff, Aleck seemed set on a course in Democratic politics.

But after being elected prosecutor as a Democrat in 1992, Aleck's actions in office had a decidedly Libertarian flavor, he said.

"I was controversial," he admitted. "I put an end to the prosecutor being a rubber stamp for the police, and insisted they do their jobs right [and] get warrants for arrest.

Shall issue

"I stood off the judges who wanted to control my activities by citing the separations of powers clause of the Constitution. I implemented a 'shall issue' policy for concealed weapons permits."

Aleck was so controversial, in fact, that his political opponents tried and failed to recall him from office three times.

"I believe citizens are hungry for elected officials that stand on

principle — and that is why the recalls failed," he said. "I didn't run for re-election [in 1996] because I felt I could do more from the outside. The politics-as-usual made me sick."

Since his retirement, Aleck has built a lucrative private practice — but said he has also kept his eye on government. He hasn't liked what he has seen.

"I have watched our rights being taken away," he said. "More laws make more things criminal.

They are making the net wider to catch more of us doing things that should not be crimes. The Constitution is dying and close to dead."

Appalled by the "anti-gun fanaticism" of the Democrats, Aleck said he began to shop around for a new political home.

"I had heard the Libertarian Party was a real attempt to build a viable third party," he explained. "I looked at the national LP's website and was impressed with the fact that the principles set forth

were very consistent with my own. After I got some literature, I discussed the LP with some friends, relatives, and fellow attorneys. I found they all agreed with the ideas and principles as well."

Young children

Aleck and his wife Laurie have two young children, and he said he worries about what kind of America they will live in if things do not change.

"I fear for their future," he said. "I owe it to my kids. If I don't do something now, there won't be any semblance of freedom left in our country for their kids."

Aleck said he might like to seek public office again in the future — and will not rule out a possible campaign as a Libertarian. But he will only run if he feels he can win, he said — and in the meantime he plans to become active in the state and local LP.

"[Aleck has] indicated that he may run for public office again," said O'Brien. "I suggested a legislative race, state or national, and he seemed to like that idea."

Tennessee LP squashes tax

Continued from Page 4

he predicted. "They expect the anti-tax forces [and] Libertarians to run out of steam and go home."

But that won't happen, said Wilhoit — and, in fact, the Tennessee LP made fighting the income tax its top priority for 2000.

Before the next legislative session is called to order, the LP is stepping up its organizing efforts at the county level to "recruit members and develop [a larger] voter base," he said.

The party will also work "to identify appropriate spending cuts in the Sundquist budget" to close the budget gap without new taxes, said Wilhoit.


Fight tax again

And, finally, said Carew, "The LP of Tennessee sent out a direct mail letter the first week of January designed to raise funds explicitly and for no other purpose than to fight this tax again through radio, print, and possibly television advertisements."

Party activist Robert Calaway agreed that the battle was not yet over.

"I do not believe the issue is dead," he said. "It will remain alive until either the majority of the legislature is Libertarian, or the [state] constitution is amended to explicitly define an income tax as unconstitutional."

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"Superb." — **Vince Miller**, International Society for Individual Liberty

"A NECESSITY for every libertarian!" — **Jim Lewis**, 1984 LP Vice Presidential candidate

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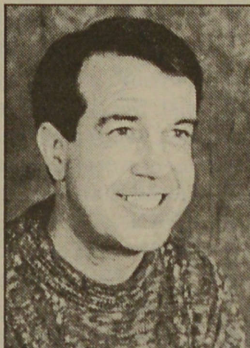
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Ron Crickenberger
Libertarian Party
Political Director



"The Essence of Political Persuasion" was created by communications expert **Michael Cloud**, professional speech writer and Keynote Speaker at the 1998 Libertarian Party national convention

Politics2000

Campaign highlights and news

With the election season heating up, *LP News* will launch a new column in this issue: "Politics 2000." This column will feature news tidbits about the 2,000 local, state, and federal LP candidates who will be on the ballot this November, updates about local elections in March and May, and an occasional sneak preview of the 2001 election.

■ The influential Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Portland has endorsed LP member **Ted Piccolo** in his non-partisan bid for the Portland City Council. The election will be held in May. "With the incumbent vulnerable on the issues, and with Piccolo's campaign picking up substantial support, this could be a winnable race for the personable and articulate Libertarian," said **Bruce Alexander Knight**, the secretary of the Oregon LP.

■ The Ohio LP has adopted a "State Representative Campaign Agenda," which highlights 10 issues that LP candidates pledge to implement if a Libertarian majority is elected in 2000. The issues include phasing out the state income tax, ending tax subsidies of businesses, legalizing medical marijuana, and letting voters approve new taxes. For more information, contact **Ralph Mullinger**: rmullinger@yahoo.com.

■ In New Jersey, **Emerson Ellett** has entered the race for U.S. Senate, and seeks to replace U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D), who is retiring. Ellett said he will campaign on issues of lawful government and individual rights. Also in the Garden State, **Mark Edgerton** is "gearing up" for a run for governor in 2001. In Massachusetts, **Rich Yampell** has become the 29th announced candidate for public office. He will run for State Representative in the 6th Norfolk District.

■ Libertarian presidential candidate **Larry Hines** will appear on the ballot in the Arizona presidential preference election (February 22), and the presidential primaries in California, Massachusetts and Missouri (March 7), he has announced. Hines will also participate in the California LP state convention's Libertarian Presidential Candidates Issues Panel (February 20), and will speak at the Pennsylvania (April 1) and Michigan (May 19-21) LP state conventions. For information on his campaign, visit: www.gaywired.com/larryhinesin2000.



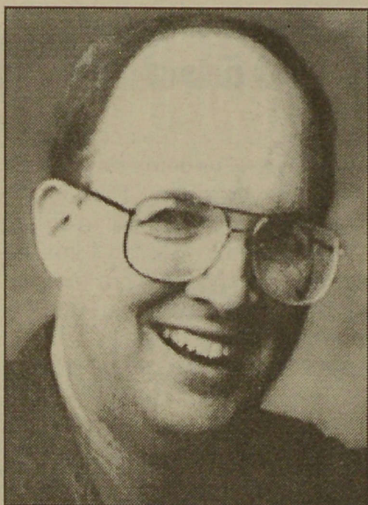
■ **Larry Hines:** In primaries.

■ The Rhode Island LP has announced a plan to run 12 candidates for State Senate in 2000 — the "most ambitious campaign plan ever undertaken by a third party" in the state, said State Chair **Jay Robbins**. In the District of Columbia, State Chair **Dan Smith** announced the party has two electoral goals this year: Winning "major" party status and getting a Libertarian elected to public office. And in New Hampshire, the state LP has 34 announced candidates towards its goal of 100. Leading the list: **John Babiarz** for governor and **Dan Belforti** U.S. House.

■ In Nevada, former State Chair **James Dan** has announced he will run what may be the "premier state legislative race in the country." He's shooting for the District 28 State Assembly seat, and said he's "totally committed to winning." In Michigan, the state LP has a new candidate for U.S. Senate: **Michael Corliss**, who said he will run an "active campaign." And in Iowa, **Russ Madden** will run for the 1st District U.S. House seat, and plans to "raise awareness of the political policies threatening our freedom."

■ The LP will run a full slate of federal candidates in Mississippi this year: **Lewis Napper** for U.S. Senate, and five candidates for U.S. House: **Chris Lawrence** (District 1), **Will Chipman** (2), **Jonathan Golden** (3), **Ernie John Hopkins** (4), and **Wayne L. Parker** (5).

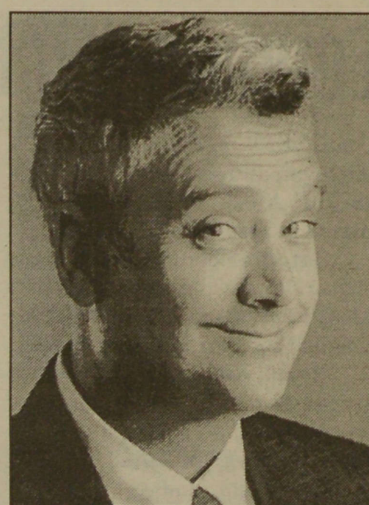
■ The California LP has qualified candidates for three out of every four partisan offices in the state. According to the Secretary of State, there will be 114 Libertarians in the March 2000 primary, out of 153 open partisan seats in the state. The state LP is contesting 45 out of 52 U. S. House races; 15 out of 20 State Senate races; and 52 out of 80 State Assembly races. At the top of the ticket: U.S. Senate candidate **Gail Lightfoot**. "This is the largest number of partisan candidates we have yet offered to voters," said LP activist **Ted Brown**.



■ **Neal Boortz:** He gets "Godzilla-size" ratings in Atlanta, and is one of America's up-and-coming syndicated radio talk show hosts.



■ **Sara Cotham:** As executive Director of the Indiana LP, she has doubled the number of county parties and boosted donations by sevenfold.



■ **Tim Slagle:** Is he America's funniest libertarian? Many think so — and praise him for being "provocative and damn funny."

Hot host, wry comic, and expert at organizing set for Convention

America's funniest libertarian, a fast-rising syndicated Libertarian radio talk show host, and one of the nation's most accomplished LP state activists — they're the latest additions to the growing line-up of speakers at the 2000 Libertarian National Convention.

Libertarian comedian Tim Slagle, syndicated radio talk show host Neal Boortz, and executive director of the Indiana LP Sara Cotham have all been confirmed as speakers at the convention in Anaheim, California from June 29-July 3, 2000, said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

"Why not the best?" he asked. "One of our goals at Convention 2000 is to present the best of the libertarian movement, and that's what we've done."

"When you attend the convention, you'll enjoy America's best libertarian comedian; a man who many consider the best Libertarian talk show host on the air; and one of the most successful LP state activists in the USA."

Speaking at the convention will be:

■ **Tim Slagle:** He has been called "America's funniest libertarian." A professional comedian, he has appeared on MTV and the Showtime Network, and has performed at clubs and colleges across the USA. With his subversive libertarian wit, he's been called "provocative and damn funny."

The *Twin City Reader* newspaper called Slagle a "droll, flag-burnin', politically incorrect satirist. Slagle's delivery is matter-of-fact yet plenty polished, his arguments are more consistently rational than most you'll hear on C-SPAN, and the punch lines are potent and abundant."

■ **Neal Boortz:** He has been described as "the Big Mouth No. 1, the Alpha Male, *le grande fromage*, the Big Kahuna, the

baddest of the bad" of Atlanta talk radio. He's now syndicated on the Cox Radio Network, and his ratings are "huge and growing."

Boortz, who joined the Libertarian Party in 1996, has been named one of the "25 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts in America" by *Talkers Magazine*, and has been written about in *Entertainment Weekly*, *USA Today*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

■ **Sara Cotham:** She's been the full time executive director of the Indiana LP since 1997. Her duties include development and maintenance of county affiliates, planning and implementing statewide political events, overseeing media and public relations, raising money, and coordinating communication.

During her tenure, the number of organized and active county parties has doubled, donations in-

creased sevenfold, and media coverage increased "exponentially," she said.

Welcoming party

The Libertarian National Convention will kick off with a welcoming party on Thursday night (June 29), and the first business session will be called to order on Friday morning (June 30). The convention wraps up on Monday (July 3). It will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, CA.

At the convention, LP delegates will select the party's 2000 presidential and vice-presidential candidates, vote on Platform changes, and elect a new Chair, new party officers, and a new Libertarian National Committee.

To register, see the full-page ad on page 16 of this issue of *LP News*. Or call the Balcom Group at (800) 272-1776.

Ohio LP wins ballot case

Continued from Page 2

the candidate's party affiliation.

"Anyone with common sense knows how important it is to voters to properly label candidates on the ballot. We always expected to win this lawsuit because we knew we were on the side of right," she said. "You don't have to be a lawyer to realize how weak the state's position is."

Injunction

Schrader filed suit against Taft in August 1998, during his 7th District campaign. Merz granted a temporary injunction that year that forced the state to list Schrader as a Libertarian on the ballot.

In his December ruling, Merz said that denying Schrader the right to be listed as the Libertarian candidate would have violated his rights to free speech and equal

protection under the law.

Bruedigam said she hopes this is the end of the case.

"Since we filed suit in 1998, the Secretary of State's office has changed hands from Bob Taft [now governor] to Ken Blackwell, who is much more understanding of third parties," she said. "We hope that he chooses to not appeal the decision, and we will begin a phone and letter writing campaign to convince him of that."

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Archimedes: Still working towards big numbers

Continued from Page 3

cess, since we now know how to achieve continued, steady growth outside the presidential election cycle — which is a first in party history.”

The Project Archimedes mailings have also brought in hundreds of new local LP activists, dozens of candidates, and at least 15 officeholders, he noted.

On the negative side, however, the party has been unable to achieve high enough response rates to roll out the recruitment mailings to huge “demographic” lists, said Dasbach, which would allow the LP to recruit tens or hundreds of thousands of members very quickly.

“We’ve had good luck identifying specific lists we can mail to successfully, especially financial lists,” he said. “In fact, we have identified lists of about 3 million names with solid recruitment potential — compared to a list universe of only a quarter-million names that existed before Project Archimedes.

Tens of millions

“But we haven’t had a similar breakthrough with demographic-based lists, which would give us access to tens of millions of names. Our plan is to continue to test different recruitment letters, themes, and packages to try to get the response rates up to the 0.9% we need to break even with such lists.”

The party has also been hindered by declining response rates from repeat mailings to successful lists, said Dasbach, and by some lists where test mailings performed well, but the wider “roll out” did not.

In fact, lower-than-expected response rates from an August 1999 mailing — as well as end-of-the-year cash flow considerations — convinced the party to scale back a planned million-piece mailing in October to just 125,000 pieces, he said.

“The numbers were just not where they needed to be, so we decided to do more testing” he said. “Project Archimedes is so important to the party’s future that we needed to take the time to do it right.”

The next Project Archimedes mailing is scheduled for February/March, when the party will mail a quarter-million pieces to 22 lists, said Dasbach. If those tests are successful, a mailing as large as 2.2 million pieces could follow in April/May.

Also in 2000, the party will broaden its membership recruit-

ment efforts to include up to \$1 million in television advertising and an enhanced Web presence, said Dasbach — which should help the party reach its goal of 46,000 members/contributors by the 2000 National Convention, and 60,000 by the end of the year.

Although those numbers are lower than the LP had originally hoped to generate, said Dasbach, they do represent an astonishing improvement for a party that had stagnated at about 10,000 mem-

UP NEXT:
A 250,000-piece
test mailing in
February/March.

bers for the decade before Project Archimedes was introduced.

“We had hoped that Project

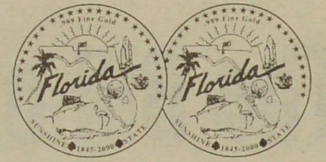
Archimedes would be a huge leap forward for the party — but it has turned out to be several large steps forward,” he said.

“But the most important thing Archimedes has achieved is to give us more resources and experience, which bring us that much closer to our ultimate goal. We can now be confident that the Libertarian Party will be able to achieve dramatic membership growth — we just don’t know how far and how fast it will come.”

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Sun. Jan 30 Dallas
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Irving, TX off 114 Fwy.

Sat. Feb 5 Salt Lake City
Best Western Plaza Hotel
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122 South West Temple, UT
at South Temple

Sun. Feb 6 San Diego
Best Western, 85
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85 Encinitas Blvd.,
Encinitas, CA Off 5 Fwy.

Sat. Feb 12 Orange County
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405 Fwy. @ MacArthur

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(408) 435-8800
2585 Seaboard Ave, San Jose, CA
101 Fwy. @ Trimble

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CA State Fair Grounds
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Sun. Feb 20 Sacramento, CA
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California State Fair Grounds
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330 West Peachtree St. NW,
Atlanta, GA at Simpson St.

Sun. Feb 27 New Orleans
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1021 Airline Drive,
Kenner, LA by the Airport

Sat. March 4 Houston
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The Forum

The Bill of Rights, dying in an airport

One recent Tuesday morning I watched the Bill of Rights dying. I don't know if anyone else noticed; it's been on its deathbed so long that most folks don't even go visit anymore.

Following a speaking engagement in Marina del Rey the evening before, I found myself approaching the security checkpoint at Terminal 1 of LAX at 6:10 am, preparing to catch the 7:56 to Vegas.

Approaching the baggage X-ray machine, I noted the now-familiar sign listing the facility's international red circle-and-slash prohibitions, warning passengers they'll be jailed if found in possession of a firearm or even a can of pepper spray — this now thoroughly routine rape of the Second Amendment drawing not a single glance from the customers standing in line for their morning McDonald's coffee, despite the fact it was occurring in their full view.

\$500 in cash

In fact, after a successful evening selling and signing books, a combination of the absurd local firearms restriction of Los Angeles County and this anti-self-defense policy of the airlines and the FAA had left me wandering the streets of Los Angeles at midnight

the night before, searching out an open Burger King, with \$500 cash on my person.

Had I been beaten and robbed of that sum, do you suppose the airline, or the FAA, or the County of Los Angeles would have made good my loss, since it was their unconstitutional conspiracy that deprived me of my right to safely and legally carry a firearm (or even a can of pepper spray) for self-defense, as I otherwise would surely have done?

I don't think so.

Past the now-familiar notices of anti-gun tyranny, I pushed my carry-on bag through the X-ray machine, submitting to its scan of my personal effects despite the fact neither the airline nor the airport administration held any warrant to search them, nor even offered me any probable cause.

But was that enough? Not last Tuesday. As my bag came down the belt, a tall, sleepy-eyed young man with a shaved head and an ill-fitting blue blazer,



By Vin
Suprynowicz

standing on the other side of the conveyer belt, asked, "Sir, do you mind if I search your bag?"

I replied: "Actually, I do mind. I do not consent to any search of my bag."

The young man acted as though I had not heard his question. "Sir, do you mind if I search your bag?"

"Yes, I do mind. I do not grant my consent for any search of my bag."

"Sir," he repeated, "do you mind if I search your bag?"

Broken record

I still don't know how long this would have continued. Sensing that it was up to me to jog the needle on this trance-like broken record, I next asked, "Did you see something on the X-ray that looked like a weapon?"

"No sir," he admitted. "It's a

random search."

"A random search?"

"A random search."

At this point, a bearded dwarf in a tweed jacket, looking for all the world like former Clinton cabinet secretary Robert Reich, appeared at my left shoulder, coming to the aid of my somnolent oppressor.

"He can ask you to search the bag, and if you refuse, he doesn't have to let you continue," said this strange apparition, holding his own two suitcases and a plastic shopping bag.

"How is this any concern of yours?" I asked the dwarf. "Do you work for the airline?"

"No," he smiled proudly, like an enormously self-contented bridge-player laying down the last trump card. "I work for the FAA."

"And you're on duty here?"

"No, I'm not. But I know

about this," he smiled even more broadly.

"Then you must know the security directive says they should ask to see our photo ID, but it specifically goes on to say that if we refuse, they can *not* bar us from boarding," I said quite firmly, drawing the attention of the sleepy-eyed fellow's lady supervisor, who now waddled over to join us. "So I assume it's the same with these 'random bag checks.' That's why they ask for our permission, right? If they don't need our consent, why keep asking for it?"

Disturbed woodchuck

Astonishingly enough, at this point, the little dwarf's smile collapsed, and he turned and trundled away like a disturbed woodchuck. Given that he presumably took an oath before God to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution, which still contains the Bill of Rights, it's unlikely the leering little geek's immortal soul will escape as easily.

"Sir," asked the tall young man, clinging to the security of his minimal training... "do you mind if I check your bag?"

"Listen," I said, "I do not grant my consent, and I'm not going to grant my consent. If you believe you don't *need* my consent, then do what you have to do."

At this point, with his supervisor looking on, the young man went through the motions of unzipping and re-zipping the two small side compartments on my bag, barely glancing at, in turn, a clean pair of white socks and a plastic bottle of Pepto-Bismol. He never undid the straps or unzipped the main body of the bag.

See **AIRPORT** Page 21



Dealing With GOVERNMENT

A Libertarian praises the nice folks in local government

The friendly, helpful folks at Town Hall prove our theories about the benefits of "local control"

The other day, I went to Town Hall to get some information. Specifically, I wanted a list of voters registered as Libertarian. This was because I wanted to inform them of a meeting to organize a Watertown Libertarian Town Committee.

I also wanted to see about using a meeting room in the building, as the other recognized political committees do for their meetings. In accomplishing these tasks, I was strongly reminded of why I'm a Libertarian.

Some sort of pariah

Interestingly, it wasn't because I was treated like some sort of pariah for having an affiliation with a third party, nor was it because I had to wait interminably for some service I should have received in minutes.

No, what gave me reason to think again of my political principles was the absolutely sterling service I received and the friend-

liness of the folks who served me.

Coming from a Libertarian, that's quite a statement. After all, we're always spouting off about how things would be better for everybody if there were

lower taxes — less regulation, more personal responsibility — in other words, less government. To a Libertarian, it seems dangerously like treason to give praise to any part of government.

Well, here's the thing. You see, the folks in Town Hall are some of the nicest people I've ever dealt with, and as a former chairman of the LP in Massachusetts (and a past candidate for public office) I've had to deal with a goodly



By Jim
Sullivan

number of elections department, and other government office, workers. Almost invariably, the nearer the office to the community it serves, the better the service and the friendlier the people.

It's just common sense, isn't it? The closer the government stays to the constituency it serves, the better the service it tends to deliver.

I'm sure this wasn't foremost in the thoughts of the good folks at the Watertown town clerk's office when I went there, but there is at least a certain subconscious feeling of a need for accountability when the person you're providing service to is someone you might have a business dealing with yourself at some other time.

So, the libertarian core concept of decentralization of government makes perfect sense, in that regard.

Returning government to more local control — letting the people closest to the situation decide what should (or shouldn't) be done — is key to keeping government responsive to the real needs of a community. Being able to visit

with, and work with, a person you know — perhaps even your actual neighbor from down the block — certainly seems a more likely way to get something accomplished than trying to get action from some faceless bureaucrat in Washington (or the holier-than-thou State House in Boston).

Local guy

Think of the people you elect, and consider which ones are more likely to respond to you with personal service. Go straight from the top — president, senator, governor — to the lower echelons — congressman, state senator, state representative, town councilor. When you really need something done, you're more likely to look to the local guy for immediate help.

Beyond that, you're even more likely to try to do something about it yourself, if possible, before enlisting the aid of someone else. And that's what the overall philosophy of libertarianism is about — giving you, the individual, more control. Your life, your way.

As a Libertarian, I know in

my gut that so many of the problems we decry would become less so if only they were handled on a local level more often. When you give control of your life to the folks in Washington (or even Boston) what you usually get in return are more laws and regulations, a higher tax bill, and people from out of town (who know little or nothing about your community) deciding how you should live.

Keep control as local as possible and you're more likely to end up with truly responsive elected officials who will work to keep costs down and use the resources available in as efficient a manner as possible.

As my proof, I offer you the folks at Watertown Town Hall. There aren't many government folk who can get a compliment from me. Would that all of our government officials were as efficient and just plain nice.

■ **About the author:** Jim Sullivan is a past chairman of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, and currently holds a seat on its executive board.

THE FORUM

Airports vs. Bill of Rights

Continued from Page 20

"Thank you," he said.

"I'm not going to thank you," I replied, "because we still have a Fourth Amendment in this country, which protects us from warrantless searches. You do know that, right?"

The bald young man looked right through me, focusing on the far wall, his heavy-lidded eyes blinking slowly.

His companion, a grossly fat black woman in the ill-fitting rust-red jacket of a "supervisor," who had been puffing up to say something before the FAA troll butted in, looked disgusted but averted her eyes, refusing to meet my gaze.

Bored, uncaring

These are the faces of tyranny, bored and uncaring. When instructed to load us political nonconformists onto cattle cars bound for the internment camps, they will do so in unquestioning, shuffling boredom, eyeing the clock to make sure they don't work a minute into their next scheduled break.

Thus are our precious constitutional rights daily rendered null and void by uncaring stooges, like dying rest-home patients clutching their bedframes in silent agony, writhing their death throes in their own excrement as the bored orderlies play cards in the break room down the hall, the sound turned up on the cheerful idiot morning TV calisthenics show, hoping their shifts will end before someone comes in and orders them to go change the sheets.

■ **About the author:** Vin Suprynowicz is assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

His new book, *Send in the Waco Killers: Essays on the Freedom Movement, 1993-1998*, is available at \$24.95 postpaid from Mountain Media, P.O. Box 271122, Las Vegas, NV 89127. Or call: (800) 244-2224. Or visit: www.thespiritof76.com/wacokillers.html.

Harry Browne to release campaign video

Harry Browne's campaign team will unveil a first for the Libertarian Party when Browne officially enters the race for the LP presidential nomination February 15: A high-quality television program that will air nationally.

The show, a 30-minute program titled *The Great Libertarian Offer*, focuses on three Libertarian issues: Big Government and the income tax, Social Security, and the War on Drugs. It features man-on-the-street interviews and interview segments with Browne.

The video will be sent out to campaign contributors around February 1, and is expected to air on national cable television in mid-February to coincide with the announcement of Browne's second run for the LP presidential nomination.

First time

"There have been no previous videos of this type," said Browne Campaign Manager Perry Willis. "The [Ed] Clark campaign broadcast five-minute TV ads in 1980, and a group of party members produced a 30-minute video about the party, but that was never shown on TV. This is the first time that a production of this quality has ever been produced by an LP presidential campaign."



■ LP presidential candidate Harry Browne on the set of the *Great Libertarian Offer* video, which will be widely available to Libertarian Party activists by mid-February, 2000.

The program is hosted by veteran game show host David Ruprect, best known for *Supermarket Sweep*. Ruprect has been interested in the LP for some time and plans to attend the national convention, said Willis.

Browne's team had wanted to produce such a video in 1996, but lacked two resources they have this time around: Funding and the help of Hollywood producer — and LP member — Kristin Overn,

who has worked on programs like *Chicago Hope* and feature films.

"We couldn't have done it without her," said Willis, adding that with Overn's help, the campaign was able to utilize "some of the best production facilities in Los Angeles."

The program will be at the center of all of Browne's outreach efforts, said Willis.

"It will be the most visible thing we do, and will run multiple

times throughout the campaign," he said.

In addition to national TV airings, the Browne campaign hopes supporters will use the tape to inform friends and family members about Browne and the Libertarian Party, he added.

Major visibility

"The greatest defect in previous LP campaigns was the lack of public visibility," said Willis. "Obviously, people can't vote for you if they don't know you exist. This show will give the LP something it hasn't had since 1980 — major visibility on TV."

"The show will begin appearing much earlier than the ads in 1980, and will run for a much longer time," he added. "We hope that the inquiries it generates will bring us new supporters and also help the LP reach its ambitious membership goals."

Willis said the video will be available from the Browne website — www.harrybrowne2000.org — by mid-February.

Browne, a bestselling author and the LP's 1996 presidential candidate, is one of several announced candidates for the party's 2000 presidential nomination. Other candidates include Larry Hines, Dave Hollist, and Edison MacDaniels.

The Power of Just One Signature

Do you think that our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

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Beginner's Introduction

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FROM **The Chair****The LP's 21st Century 'goals and challenges'**

At its last meeting of the 20th Century, the LNC adopted a set of 14 strategic goals for 2000. Significantly, the end target is beyond the term of this LNC.

Some observers think this is the first time an LNC has adopted a strategic plan. Not so. Many previous National Committees have adopted sets of goals. But, it certainly is true that this LNC is the first to face squarely its responsibility to examine its existing strategy and to design a strategic plan that consciously takes into account the very purpose of the Libertarian Party, and the party's emerging status as a significant player in American politics. That's healthy progress.

In the beginning (December 1971), only the national party existed — a mere handful who shared a vision: To live in a libertarian society where libertarian views predominate; with a small, limited government.

They created a political party to use electoral politics to bring libertarian ideas to society and move it in a libertarian direction by: (1) electing Libertarian candidates who could change law and governmental structure; and (2) disseminating information to persuade people and politicians to move in libertarian directions on all issues.

That handful of early party leaders reached out to libertarians they knew to form affiliate parties. A decentralizing strategy was set. Affiliate parties would bring in more libertarians, who would elect libertarians, who would reduce government.

It was understood that the Libertarian presidential campaigns would recruit members rather than elect a Libertarian president. Early libertarians believed that informing the public about libertarianism and its application to social policy would bring rapid acceptance and implementation. Clearly articulated, logical, principled arguments should carry the day. Didn't happen.

Beginning in the 1990s, a new strategy began to emerge. It has taken firmer shape and party officers and staff have followed it for several years — with the implicit approval of the LNC.

This strategy places a high priority on the national party promoting membership growth (second only to ballot access). Membership is a necessary condition for making everything else happen. More members increases the pool of people, talent, and resources. Larger size creates credibility (counteracting the wasted vote syndrome) and encourages more membership. It promotes electoral success because of a larger pool of candidates, campaign workers, and libertarian voters. But, since there is no free lunch, growth and political activism are necessarily constrained by available funds and fiscal caution.

The LNC adopted 14 goals for 2000, giving core goal priority status to four. The core goals demonstrate a balanced combination of electoral political benchmarks, membership growth, and financial responsibility.

In the political arena, the LNC will seek to achieve 50 state (plus DC) ballot access for the presidential ticket and to field at least 218 candidates (a potential majority) for the U.S. House.

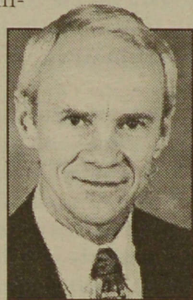
Membership and contributor goals are set for June 30 (just before the presidential nominating convention) and for December 31, with the ultimate goal being 50,000 paid members and 60,000 total members and/or contributors by year end.

On the financial front, election years being notable for financial volatility, the LNC set a goal to end the year with an excess of cash over accounts payable of at least \$150,000.

Other goals adopted also show a reasonable balance of priorities. The LNC has approved a \$5.4 million budget for 2000 that includes the production and distribution of a 30-minute television program promoting the LP and its candidates and the purchase of \$1 million in advertising.

The party's new Internet site will be up and operating by early March, which should add considerable muscle to recruitment and party credibility. The LNC will develop a new party Program, and we are aiming to retain party ballot status in 28 to 31 states as a result of the 2000 elections.

Great goals. Great challenges for all of us.



By David Bergland, LP National Chair

Protecting the consumer: Yes, private 'regulation' does work

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

By Peter Orvetti
LP NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Who's minding the store? That's the question many Americans have about deregulation of business. Companies do not always act in the interest of consumers, critics say, and if government regulation is eliminated, cutthroat companies will gain control of the marketplace and rip people off.

But ending government regulation is not the same as getting rid of all regulation. Scrapping antitrust laws won't lead to an "unregulated" market. Instead, reducing government's role would turn regulation over to those who can do it best: Industries and consumers themselves.

The notion of self-regulation may elicit a smirk from the "Big-Business-Is-Bad" crowd. Many Americans think of businesspeople as soulless and predatory, and letting them regulate their own affairs may sound like letting prisoners act as wardens. But much of today's regulation is already industry-based, not governmental.

In *Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform*, Yesim Yilmaz noted that "regulation" does not necessarily involve government bureaucrats. "Much of the regulation in the American economy is entirely private, produced and enforced by trade associations or independent third parties," he wrote.

Responsive, flexible

"Private organizations can oversee market participants' actions by processes such as certification, brand approval, and standard setting; impose enforceable sanctions; and ensure that businesses deliver what they promise," he goes on. "This process takes much less time, consumes fewer resources, and costs less than its coercive counterpart. In addition, independent parties are responsive and flexible, evolutionary, and can avoid 'one-size-fits-all' regulation."

Yilmaz wrote that the real reason policymakers want government to regulate is that it seems like a cheap "quick fix" for social ills.

"[Regulation] does not require direct taxing or spending by the federal government," he wrote. "In fact, the annual cost of run-

Libertarian Solutions

ning regulatory agencies within the federal government is around \$17 billion, only 1.5% of the total federal budget. As a consequence, the federal government is in the habit of creating new regulations to remedy various social problems."

But those regulations cost consumers \$668 billion in 1995, according to Thomas D. Hopkins of the Rochester Institute of Technology. And while the tax cost of regulatory agencies is comparatively low, spending on regulatory agencies increased by 800% between 1960 and 1995. And the

**QUESTION:**

Without regulation or antitrust laws, can we really protect consumers?

Code of Federal Regulations — just 54,834 pages long in 1970 — had swollen to 124,156 pages by 1996.

So government regulation may be a burden, but is it necessary? An examination of existing self-regulation structures proves it is not.

Even though compliance with private regulation is voluntary, Yilmaz notes that businesses do comply. That's because consumers

have come to expect the guarantee of quality that private agencies offer. For example, electrical appliance makers will rarely market a product that hasn't been approved by Underwriters Laboratories. That well-known "UL" seal is something consumers trust — and the agency that awards it is a private firm.

Independent third party "regulators" work because, unlike government bureaucracies, they are responsive to the needs of industry and consumers. They cost less, since they run on dues paid by member businesses and not from the bottomless pool of taxes. Since they are experts in their respective fields, most offer practical recommendations to businesses that can be implemented inexpensively. And of course, where there's no government, there's less paperwork.

Private regulation isn't just for home appliances — it's even common in the health field. Your dentist's equipment is "regulated" by the private American Dental Association, which sets standards for dental products and equipment and reviews products. It is a completely voluntary organization.

File a complaint

But suppose you're unhappy with a business, no matter who is regulating it? You can file a complaint with the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

Some people assume that this organization is governmental because it helps consumers fight big companies. But no, the BBB, which says its goal is to foster "the highest ethical relationship between the businesses and the public," is an umbrella organization of hundreds of local nonprofit agencies. It sets ethical conduct standards for member businesses and provides free business reports for consumers — and it is completely nongovernmental.

So three of the best-known "regulatory agencies" are actually private entities. Americans can buy a lamp or get a tooth filled with little fear, and these products and services are made safer without government regulation.

But does government regulation have any impact on business? Yes — a bad one.

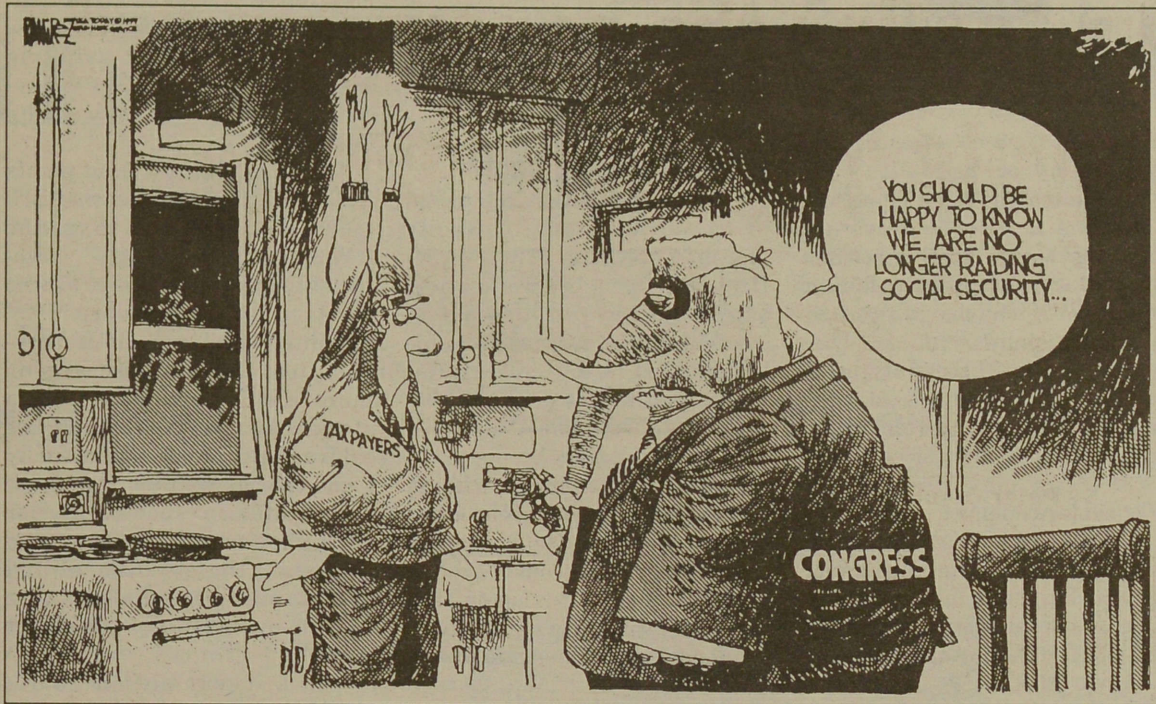
It is estimated that if the increase in federal regulations since 1965 had not taken place, the U.S. economy would be 20% more productive. That would have created millions more jobs and helped extend prosperity to more low-income workers.

Competitive Enterprise Institute analyst Jonathan H. Adler points to the dry-cleaning industry as one example, noting that

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Libertarian Online Guide

Libertarian Party:
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The MailBox

■ Anti-"Anti-Community"

I would not have caught the error that Lynn Atherton-Bloxham rightfully pointed out about the word "community" in the convention theme [The MailBox, January 2000].

I still think it's a minor error, but the symbolism probably does make it an error deserving recognition, even if it's too late for correction. Unfortunately, the heading "Anti-Community" almost implies an editorial disagreement with the author.

Come on now, guys. Don't be like government employees who never admit to a mistake. This is a small mistake. Just admit to it. You'll let me, Lynn, and probably a few others breathe a bit easier.

— CARL WATERS
Walton, Indiana

■ Community matters

I must take issue with letter writer Lynn Atherton-Bloxham's letter in the January issue concerning the community theme for the National Convention. Not only is it appropriate for Libertarians to be addressing the concept of community, I believe it is essential that we do so.

One of the most difficult issues for Libertarians is dealing with the concerns many people have for how social needs would be met in a libertarian society. These range from feeding the poor to maintaining our residential streets.

The only rational answer to these concerns which does not require coercion is to deal with them in the community in which we live. What distinguishes community from the state is the lack of coercion in community. In a community, by definition, anyone who is unhappy is free to leave and find another community in which she can be happier. By contrast,

there is no escaping the state.

Thus, unless we wish to limit our outreach to those rugged individuals who feel very happy to survive in isolation in a cabin in the wilderness, we had best be willing to address the issue of community.

— HENRY HALLER
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"WHY WOULD any Libertarian want to neuter our Statement of Principles?"

■ Oppose the Cult

Why would any Libertarian want to neuter our Statement of Principles [LP News, December 1999]? Why would they waste valuable time and effort, in an election year, attempting to replace a wonderful historic phrase with a weaker one with three times the words but half the meaning?

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Let's get on with campaigning and drop this stupid idea. You don't have a chance of "fixing" us in Anaheim next July, so let's work on what we agree on. Neuter your government, not our Statement of Principles.

— J.R. GRAHAM
San Diego, California

■ Libertarians & Greens

I liked Mary Ruwart's expression in the story "What's Next for the LP?" [LP News, January 2000]: "Help the poor, save the environment, discourage crime, and create a better world for all through liberty!"

And I wish the Libertarian and Green parties would work together because they have almost the same stance on so many issues. In fact, I wish both parties would agree on one presidential candidate to cross-endorse!

— GREG STARK
Rochester, New York

■ Join the police

Since they work for the government, carry a gun, and say "I'm here to help" as they come (often uninvited) through the door, I sympathize fully with Geoff Braun's "love/hate view of the police" [The Forum, January 2000].

But unlike him, I want to encourage Libertarians to do more than just reflect on their ambivalent feelings about cops — I think more of us should join the thin blue line, if only on a part-time basis.

I was recently graduated from a Reserve Police Officer Academy. It was worthwhile in several respects: I am now more widely known in my community, I understand public safety issues better, and I have joined a large and politically active professional fraternity.

See THE MAILBOX Page 24

ThePulse

Deadlocked on term limits

LP News readers are united in their contempt for career politicians, but are evenly split over whether term limits are the solution.

In fact, this month's Pulse question generated our first-ever tie. In response to this month's unscientific survey—should the Libertarian Party endorse term limits?—respondents split down the middle, with exactly 48.8% in favor of term limits and a dead equal percentage against. Another 2.4% did not answer the question.

Readers on both sides of the question invoked the spirit of the Founding Fathers to justify their opinions. Supporters of term limits blasted lifetime members of Congress as an insult to the idea of "citizen legislators"—and said that after a certain number of years, politicians should be sent home. But opponents argued that banning any candidate from the ballot would rob voters of their right to choose.

Other readers were pragmatic, and concentrated on how term limits would impact Libertarian candidates. But there was again a split: Supporters argued that eliminating the advantages of incumbency would help Libertarians break through into federal office. However, opponents looked ahead a few decades, and worried about the forced exit of those same elected Libertarians after their terms expire.

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ Term limits would create a "revolving door" effect. We should oppose term limits and defend each citizen's right to vote for his or her candidate of choice. We can then look forward to the day when elected Libertarian representatives are not cast from office by term limits.

— CHARLES STUPPY, Albuquerque, New Mexico

■ The Libertarian Party should absolutely *not* endorse term limits. Citizens are entitled to the best available representation. They should be allowed to receive this through re-election of an incumbent if they so decide.

— PETER CLAYMORE, Fairfax, Virginia

■ Term limits are good in principle when they get rid of someone like Bill Clinton, but the ultimate term limit is the ballot box. We should concentrate our efforts on removing the incentives that attract the Bill Clintons and special interests to politics.

— PHIL UNDERWOOD, Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

■ James Madison said "frequent elections are necessary to preserve the good behavior of rulers." By instituting term limits, we'll create lame ducks who have no accountability to the people they serve. We need to educate the electorate, then they will limit the terms of irresponsible elected officials.

— RANDY J. LINDOWER, Canton, Ohio

■ At their core, term limits prevent the free exercise of a person's vote. How can you deny someone their right to run, yet in the same breath decry what is sometimes done to our Libertarian candidates through a selective process of allowance onto the ballot?

— JIM SULLIVAN, Watertown, Massachusetts

■ The LP *should* endorse term limits because currently, every issue is decided based on what action will get the most career politicians re-elected. Term limits are also favored by a majority of the public and endorsing them would bring the LP more members, exposure, and votes.

— BILL MURPHY, Atlanta, Georgia

■ Term limits would increase the honesty and principle of the people serving. New Mexico has term limits and I'm sure that contributed to Gary Johnson speaking out against the War on Drugs. He knew that he would have "nothing to lose" because he can no longer serve after the year 2002.

— DUANE GRINDSTAFF, Kent, Washington

■ Our military, like Rome's when it was a Republic, is based on the notion of citizen-soldiers. Our politicians

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ThePulse

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should be the same: They should come from the ordinary citizens, serve briefly, and fade back among them. So politicians should be subject to term limits.

— ROY S.F. WILSON, Tillamook, Oregon

■ The founding fathers never envisioned a federal government as large and powerful as it is today. This unforeseen situation has had the effect of producing entrenched professional legislators. If we can't resuscitate the Tenth Amendment, then term limits are our next best bet.

— STU YOUNG, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

■ Unfortunately, term limits are necessary as long as legislative bodies organize themselves by political party and seniority. Long-serving legislators acquire so much power that they can "buy" re-election by forcing the prodigal expenditure of taxpayers' money in their districts.

— GREGG MAHLKOV, Port Saint Joe, Florida

■ Blanket term limits would restrict freedom of electoral choice. Yet we also perceive evil in extended longevity in the legislature. So a compromise: A person could initially be elected by a simple majority. But next time, to be re-elected, he/she would require a 55% majority, next 60%; and so on to a maximum of 80%.

— JOHN COVELL, San Francisco, California

■ I not only favor term limits for Congress, I favor term limits for civil servants. Even scientists at the National Cancer Institute should have term limits. If they cannot cure cancer in 20 years, they're out.

— ALAN RICHTER, Spokane, Washington

April Question: Campaign Finance?

Turn on your television or read your local newspaper, and it seems everyone is talking about campaign finance reform. It costs too much money to run for office, critics say, and big-money interests are "buying" politicians. The solution, they argue, is to impose spending caps on campaigns, to prohibit individual contributions, to ban all PACs, to mandate free TV airtime, and for the government to fund campaigns.

Libertarians — even as they are being priced out of many races by free-spending Republicans and Democrats — tend to shun such solutions. But that doesn't make the problem (or at least the public perception of the problem) go away. So what should Libertarians do about the "problem" of campaign finance reform?

■ QUESTION: Should the LP support any kind of campaign finance reform? If so, what specific "reforms"? (Please limit answers to no more than 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: March 5, 2000

March Question: Matching Funds?

For some Libertarians, it's like taking a handout from the devil. For others, it's a way to take back something the government took from you. It's matching funds — and, as the 2000 presidential campaign heats up, it's sure to become a point of contention again in the party.

Some Libertarians argue that taking federal campaign money is immoral, since government should not fund campaigns. Plus, it's hypocritical, since we want to abolish the program. Others argue that taking the money is a way to "recover" some of the tax dollars the government has taken from us — and *not* taking the money handicaps LP candidates who are fighting statist politicians.

■ QUESTION: Should the LP's 2000 presidential candidate accept federal campaign matching funds? Why or why not? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: February 5, 2000

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.

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TheMailBox

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Granted, the calisthenics and the hand-to-hand self-defense training nearly did this bookish 40 year-old in. For the less fanatic in the party who live in rural areas, an appointment as a constable or sheriff's deputy often requires only a little special training. If you are a Libertarian living in a larger town or city, your local police may offer a short "Citizen's Academy."

Whatever your option for criminal justice training and/or service, I urge you to get involved. Law and order are too important to be left to the full-time police.

— MATT MCCALLY

Burien, Washington

■ Daycare deductions?

It is unfortunate that Stacy Van Oast of the Michigan LP considers targeting only people who choose to have children for tax deductions as a "great idea" [Affiliate News, January 2000].

We all agree that taxes are too high and that government has helped create such "crises" as too-expensive daycare, but such deductions only increase the unfairness to those who choose not to have children.

Although it is tempting to want to see government return money to those who earned it in most cases, it is better to work for fundamental tax reform which lets everyone spend their money the way they choose, including on very expensive-to-raise children.

Why would Libertarians support fobbing off their children onto someone else anyway?

— MITCHELL J. MCCONNELL

Brookline, New Hampshire

■ Lottery benefits

I was disappointed to learn that our Alabama affiliate had contributed to the opposition to a state lottery [Affiliate News, January 2000]. Mark Thornton's remark that "it takes from the poor in order to give to the bureaucrats, politicians, and the rich" misses the essential point of a lottery — its voluntariness — that makes it different from a tax.

The distinction drawn by Mike Kelly, that lotteries should be legal but not run by the state, will be lost on most of the interests involved, who will interpret the referendum's result as a blow against legal gambling. Better that people be allowed to play a lottery run by the state than that they not be allowed to play any.

Permitting one entity to run a lottery constitutes an advance in liberty, just as awarding a cable TV franchise to a monopoly is a big advance over forbidding cable TV entirely. For most people, having a state lottery is almost as good as allowing everybody to hold lotteries.

— ROBERT GOODMAN

Bronx, New York

■ Level playing field?

I am amazed that you would print the opinions of Shelly Marshall Bowman [The Forum, December 1999]. In a world where one would have to hide out in some basement in order to escape bombardment by collectivist gobbledygook, why do the editors of LP News feel compelled to feed us more of the same?

You've got to give me a break on this "level playing field" crap. Liberty does not offer "level playing fields" or "safety nets." Liberty allows and obligates us to take care of ourselves and our families.

I have never heard a Libertarian or any rational person claim "the right to do whatever I choose." A parent deserting a family is not a good thing, but it is

**"IN A WORLD
of collectivist
gobbledygook,
why feed us more
of the same?"**

not a new thing. Government can do nothing to prevent it. Government is the entity that is least able to help the deserted family. Nothing is more demeaning than having to accept handouts from a government bureaucrat. Your so-called "safety net" is really just a snare. It is destroying the moral fabric of the American people.

In a Libertarian society, it isn't "only the strong win," but rather, that strength is encouraged in all the people. In a free society, the people tend to be strong, honest, self-reliant, tolerant and prosperous. Even the weakest and the poorest individuals are much more prosperous in a free society. Ms. Bowman's proposals for continued government interference in the private affairs of the people are not kind.

— THOMAS E. BELL

Bruno, Minnesota

■ Taking responsibility

I want to express my disappointment with Shelly Marshall Bowman's Forum piece. Bowman says that "we women find ourselves living with consequences of other's choices all too often," a naturally occurring phenomenon of being the one who bears the

children. It should be noted that, except in cases of rape, it takes two to make a child (ignoring technological innovations whereby it can be entirely the woman's decision).

And as Cathy Young points out regarding divorce in the April 1999 issue of *Reason* magazine ("Women on the Verge"), "two-thirds of the time, it's the wife who wants to end the marriage."

Furthermore, men are parents, too. Child education is no more a women's issue than a men's issue. Bowman sounds like a liberal Democrat who actually believes that women should not have to take responsibility for their choices and who wants to propagate the government and mass-media created myths that fathers are basically "deadbeat dads."

In fact, our divorce courts show extraordinary bias against men in the vast majority of cases, regarding them as little more than a source of financial support for mothers and children, while severely curtailing their opportunities to truly parent.

— ETHAN DEUTSCH

Seattle, Washington

■ We are Spartacus

I was somewhat disappointed that your list of best Libertarian movies [LP News, November 1999] did not include 1960's *Spartacus*. Kirk Douglas has a great line in it right before he is crucified: "When a slave says, 'No, I won't,' Rome begins to fear."

And that's what it's all about, isn't it?

— JOHN MILLER

Binghamton, New York

■ Are you Unforgiven?

Thank you very much for November's special feature presentation [the best Libertarian movies]. I've seen many of these movies and agree with those choices.

There is one movie I was surprised was not included. Ironically, it was written and directed by an avowed libertarian. It also has many libertarian undertones. It also won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Can't think of it? Then you are *Unforgiven*.

— JEFF BEADLES

Altamonte Springs, Florida

■ Denying choice

Upon reading the December 1999 Pulse, I was extremely shocked to find that we apparently have large numbers of "Libertarians" who want to ban abortion. How dare these people call themselves Libertarians?

The abortion issue boils down to a strictly religious question, for which science has no answer. That question is when an embryo becomes a person — birth, conception, or somewhere in between? Those who want to ban abortion are trying to force us all to follow their chosen religious dogma.

If you are against abortion, don't have one! Nobody is forcing

See THE MAILBOX Page 25

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The MailBox

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you to — that's your choice.

If you would deny others the same choice, then you are no Libertarian.

— **DEAN WAHLS**
Venice, California

■ Guns and cars

Why sue the makers of guns for not making their guns safer when the makers of cars have deeper pockets and could make their cars safer?

Instead of insisting on safety locks on guns (to child-proof them) why not insist on safety locks on cars (to drunk-proof them)?

A drunk with a key can turn on the ignition letting the car proceed down the road to kill someone. The car manufacturers should be held responsible since they should have installed breathalyzers in all cars that controlled the ignitions so drunks couldn't start them. Tens of thousands are killed every year by cars whose makers permitted them to be operated by drunks.

Never mind the inconvenience to responsible sober citizens. The bureaucrats thirsting for power have another beautiful excuse to take away some more of our freedoms.

Don't you dare say the drunk should be punished. After all, he had a hard day at the office or a fight with his wife or was abused as a child.

And, of course, everyone knows it's guns and cars that kill people, not the person pulling the trigger or steering the car.

— **JAMES W. PHELPS**
Aurora, Colorado

■ No to Johnson

I must agree with W.R. McGrath [The MailBox, December 1999] when he says that [New Mexico Gov.] Gary Johnson should not be considered as a Libertarian candidate for president. In addition to the excellent points raised by Mr. McGrath, I add the following.

First, Johnson is not a Ron Paul. He is not a Libertarian who ran as a Republican in order to get elected. If, at some point in the future, he becomes another Aaron Russo and defects to us, then perhaps we can consider him.

Second, like similar attempts to draft Jesse Ventura and L. Neil Smith, even if Johnson does an abrupt about-face and agrees to this drafting, he will be far behind in gathering funds for the presidential race. Even if he agreed, which by all indications he will not, he would not win the nomination of the party.

Third, consider the language those who wish to recruit him are

using: "Draft," "twist his arm," and so forth. These are terms of initiated force, and are antithetical to Libertarianism. How can we force him to become one of us? The idea is absurd.

If Mr. Johnson wishes to come to us, fine. But until he does, attempting to force him to do so is not only fruitless, but a betrayal of our own principles.

— **JAY MCINTYRE**
Colmar, Pennsylvania

■ Person of the century

Ayn Rand should not be only the most influential female of the century [The Forum, December

1999], she should be justly credited, in terms of actual results, as the most beneficial person of the century. Libertarians know why.

Just for kicks and grins, let's go one step further. Shall we speculate as to who might be the most destructive, in terms of human grief and suffering, person of the century? I would have a three-way tie for first with Joseph Stalin, F.D.R., and Adolf Hitler for the same reason: Human slavery, cowardice, and warfare.

The good news is the Libertarian/Objectivist movement is the next century and the rest of all human history. All other par-

ties will either be summarily forgotten or recalled in history lessons with great scorn and well-earned contempt as the terrible black mark in history they so very much are.

Hot tip, folks: Don't buy any stock in the Republicrats because it ain't worth a Continental Dollar or a politician's promise.

— **JEFF THOMSEN**
Kingman, Arizona

■ Fair voting

Contrary to the Editor's Note in the Mailbox section of the November *LP News*, two years in a See **THE MAILBOX** Page 26



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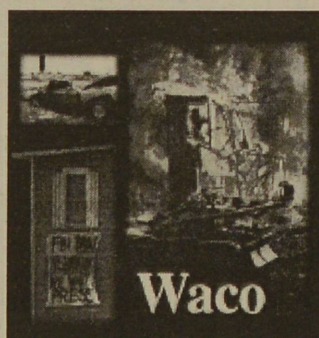
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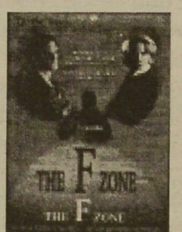
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Continued from Page 25

row at its state convention, the Libertarian Party of Washington affirmed its support of voting methods which result in Proportional Representation.

Opposition to such systems is usually the result of misunderstanding the way they work.

If you elect a nine-member city council, which way is fairer: To allow all voters nine votes and thereby enable the same 50% + 1 to name all nine members, or to allow voters one vote, thereby allowing any candidate supported by 1/9th of the voters to win a seat?

It does not require rocket science to see which system gives us all an opportunity to elect a real representative. The political majority elects the majority, but minority groups can also have representation.

That's how small parties can grow into big ones.

Only when American "minor" parties understand and actively

work for fairer voting systems will they begin to make a major impact at the ballot box. The Green and Reform parties support proportional voting systems; it's time Libertarians did, too.

— JANET ANDERSON
Seattle, Washington

Change our name?

I've been a member of the LP for three years but have been reading [Ayn] Rand and [Harry] Browne since the '60s. I read all about the problems of growing membership and having a national presence.

One of our toughest obstacles is our name.

I believe there is a large segment out there that believes what we believe. They are searching for a group to identify with, but when they hear "Libertarian" they think we are a bunch of commie-lovin' left wing liberals and shut us off. Even with my close friends, many of them feel this way, until I take the time to explain to them

what we are all about.

If we had a name for the Libertarian Party that better described what we believe in, it would be much easier to gain converts. No one would eat Toothfish — but when they changed the name to Chilean Sea Bass, it became a hit.

— WARD ELDRED
Glenview, Illinois

Bumper stickers

I want to urge all Libertarians to dig out those LP bumper stickers they've been hoarding, or perhaps forgot about. It seems like the presidential race is already in high gear, and people are taking an interest in politics like never before, largely due to the news media.

Bumper stickers are a terrific way to advertise our own party. Just think how many people get the privilege of looking at the backside of your vehicle every day!

I put one on my new truck (well, new for me) and I'm even more proud to drive it now. If I can get even one more person to think about the LP, I'll be happy.

— MARK STRYKER
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

Free-market consumer protection

Continued from Page 22

regulations can increase the cost of starting a new shop by more than \$138,000. He cites the case of Korean immigrant Yong Kyun Pak, who worked two jobs for six years in order to start his business.

But after dry-cleaning machine regulations were arbitrarily changed, Pak had to rent a new machine at an annual cost of \$15,000. Pak works 14 hours a day, six days a week, to pay the cost of this one regulation. Sadly, his case is hardly unique.

Necessary?

So government regulations can kill small businesses. But what about big ones? Aren't some regulations necessary to prevent monopolies?

There are very few real monopolies in the United States today, and those that do exist tend to be governmental — like the U.S. Postal Service.

"The clearest definition of monopoly is one seller, with the law prohibiting competitors from entering the market," wrote anti-trust expert D. T. Armentano. "Local telephone and cable-television companies are examples. They are usually provided a monopoly by their local governmental officials — that is, they are made the only provider of the service in a certain locale — and competition is prohibited by the local governing body. Obviously, this is not a monopoly arising in a free market since it is the government, not the market, that is dictating the number of suppliers."

ALAN GREENSPAN:
"Antitrust [law] in this country is a jumble of economic irrationality."

Armentano notes that "some business organizations spend years, even decades, earning consumer support. They produce innovative products which find favor with consumers; and they price their products correctly. The result is that they earn a significant share of the market."

The Justice Department might call such companies monopolies, but they're not. According to Armentano, "consumers don't need or want level playing fields. They simply want the best product at the lowest price."

Paternalism

The problem with prosecuting companies for being successful, says the Cato Institute's Robert A. Levy, is that "it leads directly to government paternalism — to the idea that an elite corps of government experts knows our interests better than we, and can regulate our affairs to satisfy those interests better than the market does. When we permit government to make such assessments, we abandon any pretense of a free market."

Many Americans fear that a company, once in a monopoly position, will restrict output in order to drive up prices. But the "trusts" of a century ago actually were increasing their output several times faster than the overall economy had been growing. They used their "monopoly power" to lower prices.

Reduced prices

When the Sherman Act, the antitrust statute that was used to prosecute Standard Oil, was passed in 1890, the so-called monopolistic trusts had been increasing their output several times faster than the overall economy had been growing. This boom led them to lower their prices. "Trusts have made products cheaper, have reduced prices," said Rep. William Mason at the time.

Over a century later, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was still denouncing anti-trust laws.

"The entire structure of the antitrust statutes in this country is a jumble of economic irrationality and ignorance," Greenspan wrote in 1961. "It is the product: (a) of a gross misinterpretation of history; and (b) of rather naive, and certainly unrealistic, economic theories."

Government regulation and antitrust prosecution are just more ways for politicians to look like they're doing something about America's problems. But when it comes to running a business, and satisfying customers, politicians are more the problem than the solution.

MORE UpComing

April 14-16, 2000

Colorado LP Convention, Best Western Executive Hotel, Denver. Speakers include Harry Browne (potential 2000 LP presidential candidate), Larry Hines (LP presidential candidate), and David Boaz (author, *Libertarianism, A Primer*). Seminars include "The Price of Free Speech?"; Victimless Crimes; and Alternative Education. For information, call Michele Bethke at (303) 690-2907.

April 15, 2000

Massachusetts LP Convention, Newton Marriott Hotel, Newton. Speakers include David Bergland (LP National Chair), Harry Browne (potential 2000 LP presidential candidate), Roy Innis (president, CORE), Barbara Goushaw (Libertarian campaign manager), Carla Howell (LP Candidate for U.S. Senate), and Craig Mathias (Selectman, Ashland, Massachusetts). For information, call: (800) JOIN-LPM.

April 15, 2000

Nevada LP Convention, Palace Station Hotel, Las Vegas. Speakers include Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications expert). For information, call: (702) 260-8328.

April 29, 2000

New York LP Convention, Royal Regency Hotel, Yonkers. Speakers include Kanchan Limaye (arts critic), Robert Schulz (All-County Taxpayers Association), Lawrence Parks (Foundation for Monetary Education), Carol LaGrasse (Property Rights Foundation of America), and Steven Landsburg (*Salon* columnist). For information, call Audrey Capozzi at (631) 286-7631. E-mail: Audgeo@aol.com. Or visit: www.ny.lp.org. Or write: Libertarian Party of New York, P.O. Box 728, Bellport, NY 11713.

April 29-30, 2000

Washington LP Convention, Doubletree Inn, Bellevue. Speakers include Richard Sanders (Washington State Supreme Court Justice), Peter Weissbach (radio talk show host), Declan McCullagh (Wired.com), Larry Dodge (FIJA), David Friedman (author/economist), and Mike Siegel (radio talk show host). For more information, contact Carol Miller: director@LPWS.org. Or call: (206) 329-5669.

May 6, 2000

Virginia LP Convention, Fredericksburg Holiday Inn North, Fredericksburg. Speakers TBA. For more information, visit: www.LPVA.com.

May 19-21, 2000

Michigan LP Convention, Clarion Hotel, Ann Arbor. Speakers include Harry Browne (potential 2000 LP presidential candidate), Prof. Richard Ebeling (Hillsdale College), Michael Cloud (creator of *The Art of Political Persuasion*), and Jon Coon (1994 U.S. Senate candidate). For information, call Emily Salvette at (734) 668-2608. Or e-mail: salvette@aol.com.

June 17, 2000

Idaho LP Convention, Holiday Inn Boise Airport, Boise. Candidate nominating convention. Speakers TBA. For information, call Chris Struble: (208) 362-6873. E-mail: clstruble@earthlink.net.

June 29-July 3, 2000

Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention, Anaheim, California. Speakers include Mark Skousen (investment advisor and author), David Thibodeau (author of *A Place Called Waco: A Survivor's Story*), Barbara Goushaw (LP campaign manager), Bonnie Flickinger (City Council, Moreno Valley, CA), Phil Miller (City Council, Greenfield, IN), Gary Nolan (syndicated radio talk show host), and Bill Masters (Libertarian sheriff, San Miguel County, CO). For information, call (800) 272-1776. E-mail: LPCONV@aol.com.

July 23-28, 2000

International Society for Individual Liberty's 20th Annual World Conference, University of Western Ontario, London (Ontario) Canada. Speakers include Barbara Branden (author, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*); libertarian columnists George Jonas and Karen Selick; Johannesburg (South Africa) City Council member Frances Kendall; John Hospers (1972 LP presidential candidate); and Nobel Peace Prize-nominee Leon Louw. For more information, e-mail: info@libertyconferences.com. Or call: (800) 226-2405. Or visit: www.libertyconferences.com.

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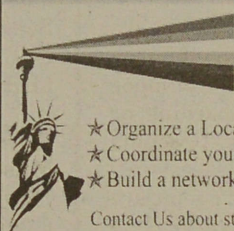
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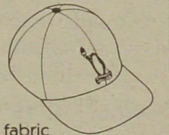
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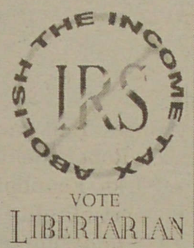
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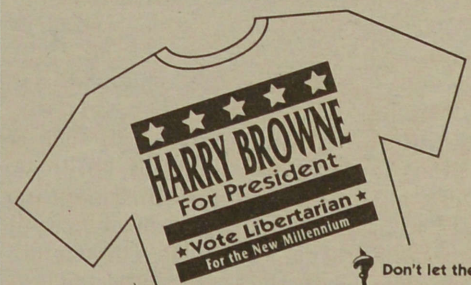
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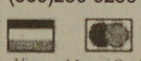
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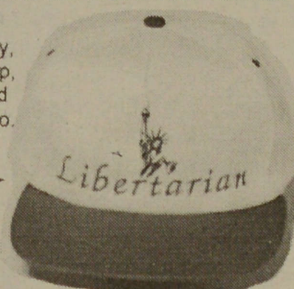
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UpComing

February 3-5, 2000

NORML 2000 Conference, Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC. Annual National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws conference. Speakers include David Boaz (Cato Institute), Lester Grinspoon, MD (Harvard Medical School), and Barbara Ehrenreich (historian). For information, call (202) 483-5500.

February 18-21, 2000

California LP Convention, Doubletree Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley, San Diego. Speakers include James Bovard (author of *Freedom In Chains*), Joseph Farah (editor, WorldNetDaily.com), Nathaniel Branden (author of *My Life with Ayn Rand*), Robert Best (President, Pacific Legal Foundation), Alan Bock (*Orange County Register*), Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Geoff Metcalf (Talk Show Host, KSFO Radio), Jacob Sullum (Editor, *Reason*), Declan McCullagh (*Wired News*), and Michael Cloud (LP communications guru). For information, call the Balcom Group: (202) 234-3880. E-mail: convention@ca.lp.org. Online registration available at: www.ca.lp.org.

February 19-21, 2000

Second Annual Reason Dynamic Visions Conference, Santa Clara Marriott, Santa Clara, California. Speakers include Virginia Postrel (author, *The Future and Its Enemies*), Gregory Benford (Astrophysicist), Nick Gillespie (Executive Editor, *Reason*), and Adam Clayton Powell III (The Freedom Forum). Package prices start at \$395. For information, call (310) 391-2245. E-mail: emannard@reason.org.

February 20, 2000

Oklahoma LP Convention, Tradewinds Central Hotel, Tulsa. Speakers include Clay Conrad (author, *Jury Nullification*). For more information, contact Lyn Atherton at (918) 447-1776.

February 26, 2000

Iowa LP Convention, Meskwaki Casino & Hotel, Tama. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (515) 388-4179. E-mail: LPIowa@aol.com.

March 4, 2000

Delaware LP Convention, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Wilmington. Speakers include Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), and Jim Lark (Advisor, student Liberty Coalition). For information, call Jay Lawrence at (302) 678-3883. E-mail: grinn01@hotmail.com.

March 17- 19, 2000

Illinois LP Convention, Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director) and Ken Bisson (LNC Representative). For information, contact Sara K. Davies: (312) 670-7000. E-mail: lpi@il.lp.org.

March 25, 2000

New Jersey LP Convention, National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, East Windsor. Speakers TBA. For more information, call Tom Wright at: (201) 651-0436. E-mail: atlarge1@njlp.org.

March 31-April 2, 2000

Pennsylvania LP Convention, King of Prussia Holiday Inn, King of Prussia. Speakers TBA. For information, contact Tim Moir at: TJMoir@aol.com. Or call: (215) 546-4509.

April 8, 2000

Maine LP Convention, Embassy Suites Hotel, Portland. Speakers include Harry Browne (2000 LP presidential candidate). For information, call: (207) 772-8702. E-mail: markc@omnisystem.com.

For more Upcoming Events, see page 26

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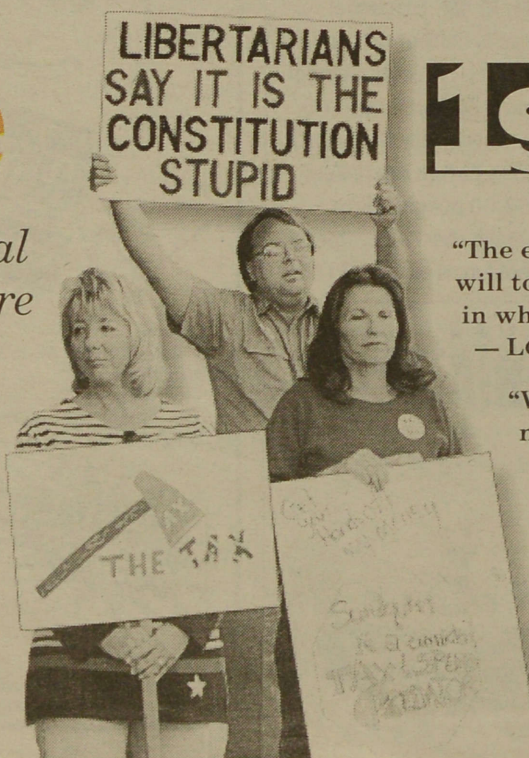
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InSide

PAGE 1 Presidential debates criteria are "unfair," says LP

PAGE 3 National Committee sets "core goals" and budget for 2000

PAGE 4 Tennessee Libertarians win anti-tax battle



1st Word

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— LORD REES-MOGG, *Strategic Investments*, October 20, 1999

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— RAY ALDRIDGE, *NW Florida Daily News* (Walton Beach), June 20, 1999

"Communication philosopher Marshall McLuhan's thesis that the 'medium is the message' applies well to online politics. [His] theory indicates that the future of American politics will be guided by the political philosophy founded on radical individualism now represented by the Libertarian Party. [In fact], an online voting system with today's demographics would result in a Libertarian President of the United States."

— BRIAN PERRY, *Madison County Journal* (Mississippi), July 15, 1999