

Libertarian Party

NEWS

July 1995 Vol. 10, No. 7

Ron Paul exploring GOP bid for Congress

Former Texas congressman and 1988 Libertarian Party presidential nominee Ron Paul has announced the formation of a Ron Paul for Congress Exploratory Committee. Paul plans to seek the Republican nomination for the 14th District U.S. House seat in Texas.

Paul served four terms in the U.S. House, completing his last term in 1986. In January 1987, Paul wrote a letter to the national chairman of the Republican Party, explaining why he found it necessary to resign from that party.

Paul joined the Libertarian Party in 1987 and was chosen as the LP's 1988 presidential nominee. Even though he now plans to seek the Republican nomination for U.S. House, Paul has said that he has no intention of resigning his Libertarian Party life membership.

Commenting on Paul's decision to seek the Republican nomination, LNC Chair Steve Dasbach expressed

see **Paul** on page 2

LPHQ moves

The national headquarters of the Libertarian Party has moved to its new offices as of June 30. The new address is: LPHQ, 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037. LPHQ also has a new telephone number: 202-333-0008. The new offices are located in the prestigious Watergate office complex.

Perry Willis, LP national director, said new office furniture has been purchased thanks to the support of members who contributed funds for that purpose.

The national LP plans to have an open house at the new offices later this year.

Ballot access

Immediate threat to LP eased

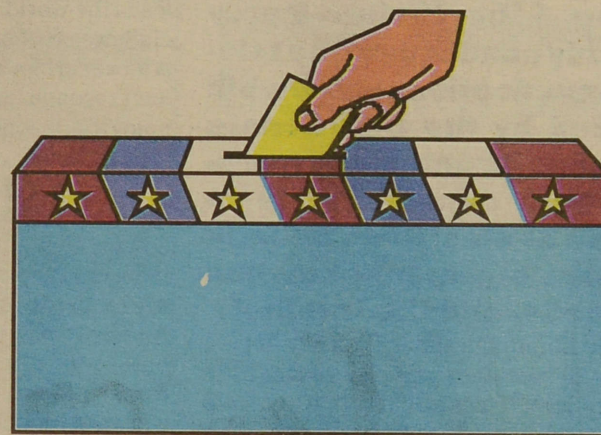
By RANDY LANGHENRY

A recent fund-raising letter from the national Libertarian Party stated, "The Libertarian Party is under attack!" The letter went on to outline a number of new ballot access attacks in states from New Hampshire to Alabama. Although this was no fund-raising hyperbole, the serious situation has eased considerably in the past few weeks.

While the Republicans and Democrats have responded to the recognition of Libertarian and other third party and independent threats to the entrenched two-party system by introducing new and more onerous ballot access restrictions, Libertarian Party members have responded by fighting back. And Libertarians are winning.

And one interesting development is Libertarians have found an ally in the media. In past years when ballot access laws were toughened, the media usually either ignored the issue, or worse, backed the Republicans and Democrats in their attempt to keep "nuisance candidates" off the ballot.

But polls showing nearly 60 percent of Americans sup-



porting the establishment of a major third party may have awakened the media to what has been obvious to Libertarians for years—all the Libertarian and other third parties are asking for is a level playing field.

The *Wall Street Journal*, for example, in an article about this move to put up more blockades to ballot access, stated, "Democrats and Republicans around the country are responding the way big organizations do: They are trying to strangle the competition."

The most severe attacks this year have come in New see **Ballot access** on page 9

The Fourth

Let's celebrate Libertarian holiday

By DAVID F. NOLAN

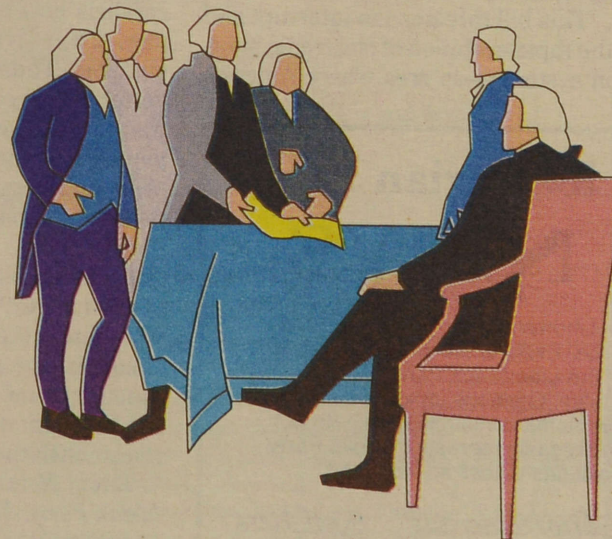
With all the hoopla over picnics, fireworks, and "summer blowout" sales by the local car dealers, it's easy to lose sight of the real reason why we celebrate Independence Day. And maybe that's because the powers that be don't really want Americans to think too long or too hard about the Declaration of Independence and its implications.

This uniquely American document was drafted, I am told, on paper made from the now-outlawed hemp plant; the copy on display in Washington, DC, is on parchment. And it is a very radical piece of work indeed! Its very first sentence alludes to a people's right to "dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another."

The second sentence, perhaps the best-known, says that "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And the third sentence reminds us that "whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government." Pretty strong stuff!

Two Revolutions

These were the principles behind the First American Revolution, and they stood largely unchallenged for three-quarters of a century. Unfortunately, the next time the issue of "dissolving bands" was raised, at the time of the Civil War, the principle of secession was negated. Contrary to what is taught in the public schools today, the Civil War was NOT fought primarily over the issue of slavery, or even over economic issues; it was fought to determine whether or not one part of the nation could secede from the remainder.



Abraham Lincoln himself admitted that slavery was not the issue, stating that "the Union must be preserved," and that to do so he would declare some, all, or none of the slaves to be free! This makes it most ironic that we now combine the celebrations of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays on "Presidents' Day." Washington led a Revolution that established the right to secede; Lincoln led a war to negate that very principle. The Civil War was in fact the Second American Revolution, and its outcome was to establish the primacy of the central government.

And Yet Two More

The Third Revolution, commonly called the New Deal, led to the establishment of the modern-day welfare state. Led by FDR, this Revolution extended and expanded the principles of the Second. And now, in the waning days of the Roosevelt Era, the failures of statism are becoming painfully evident.

Although few pundits have made the comparison, the see **Fourth** on page 2

CDA

LP calls new bill 'high-tech censorship'

The Libertarian Party harshly condemned the telecommunications reform bill passed by the U.S. Senate because it contained sweeping new censorship laws aimed at electronic bulletin boards, commercial on-line services, and the Internet.

"The Communications Decency Act is a case of 20th-century politicians using 19th-century laws to control 21st-century technology," charged Libertarian Party Chair Steve Dasbach.

The censorship amendment, sponsored by J. James Exon (D-NE) and Dan Coats (R-IN), passed the Senate on June 14 by an 84-16 vote. It banned so-called "obscene" material from computer on-line services, with fines up to \$100,000 and prison terms of up to two years for violations.

"Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly lined up to support this high-tech censorship," said Dasbach. "It was bipartisanism at its worst. Apparently there's no gridlock in Washington when it comes to gutting the First Amendment."

Dasbach said the Libertarian Party opposes the bill for numerous reasons.

"This bill is censorship—an effort by politicians to restrict the freedom of the electronic press. As such, it is a clear violation of the First Amendment. Free speech is free speech, whether it is distributed via an 18th-century printing press or a 20th-century modem," he said.

"This bill threatens to interrupt and curb the rapid evolution of electronic information systems—an area where America

leads the world in innovation. It will have a chilling effect on these new technologies. A more certain way of guaranteeing permanent second-class status for American technological leadership is hard to imagine," said Dasbach.

"This bill isn't needed. For example, the marketplace is rapidly moving to remedy any concerns parents might have about indecent material being available to children. Large commercial services like America Online already offer parents a 'lock-out' service to keep such material away from children. There are also commercial software products available, including the popular SurfWatcher, which monitor and limit on-line access. And, this week, three companies announced they are developing another software product to filter and block objectionable material from the Internet's World Wide Web," he said.

"This bill usurps the role of parents. Senator Exon said he wants to protect children—but parents, not Justice Department bureaucrats, should determine what children see, hear, or download. It's especially hypocritical for Republicans, who bemoan other government programs which weaken the family, to vote for paternalistic laws appointing Washington bureaucrats as the family censor," said Dasbach.

Fourth

continued from page 1

parallels between our time and the latter days of the Civil-War-to-New-Deal Era are striking. Today's Whitewater parallels yesterday's Teapot Dome; both illustrate the arrogance and corruption of entrenched power. And the similarities of the current "War on Drugs" to the futile and destructive Prohibition Era of 1918-1933 are widely noted.

A sense that the Old Order is failing is now "in the air." Last November's elections were only the beginning of the Great Changes that are likely to take place over the next decade or so. The Fourth American Revolution is upon us; hopefully, it will re-establish the principles of the First.

David Nolan is the founder of the Libertarian Party. This commentary is scheduled to appear in the current California Liberty.

The Libertarian Party was a member of an Internet coalition assembled to fight the Communications Decency Act, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Council for the Arts, the Center For Democracy and Technology, the National Writers Union, and People for the American Way.

On the topic of censorship, the Libertarian Party Platform states:

"We oppose any abridgment of the freedom of speech through government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media, including laws concerning electronic bulletin boards, communications networks, and other interactive electronic media. We hold them to be the functional equivalent of speaking halls and printing presses in the age of electronic communications, and as such deserving of full freedom."

Paul

continued from page 1

a Libertarian. "Each of us must choose how we can best work to achieve liberty," Dasbach said. "Ron Paul had the most libertarian record in Congress when he previously served—I fully expect him to maintain that status if he is elected again. That is, until we start electing Libertarians to Congress."

"In Ron Paul's 1987 letter of resignation from the Republican Party, he stated that 'There is no credibility left for the Republican Party as a force to reduce the size of government,'" Dasbach said. "Frankly, I don't think things have changed much since 1987 in that regard. Republicans are still proposing higher spending, deficit budgets, and continuing attacks on our personal liberties and privacy. One Republican congressman, even one as dedicated to liberty as Ron Paul, isn't likely to change that. Continuing to build the Libertarian Party seems to be the only hope in the long term."

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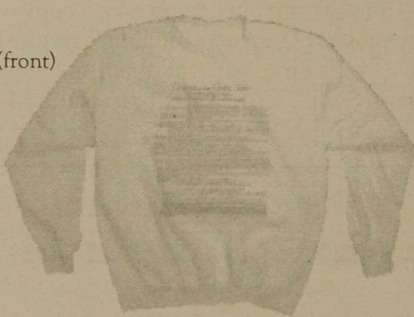
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The Bill of Rights is under attack from the right and the left today. (front)
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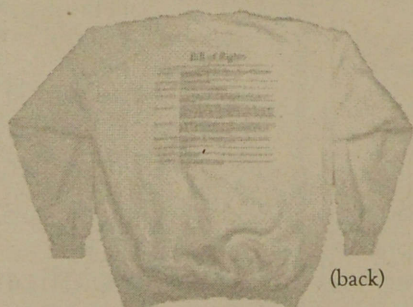
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Toward '96

Schiff offers new platform

Irwin Schiff, candidate for the Libertarian Party's 1996 presidential nomination, has prepared and proposed a new 10-point platform.

Schiff said he wanted to "focus on 10 issues that have a built-in constituency already."

The 10 points Schiff addresses in his platform are: 1) Income Taxes; 2) The Federal Reserve; 3) What Can Constitute "Legal Tender" and Circulate as Money; 4) Government Loans and the Guaranteeing of Debt; 5) Foreign Aid; 6) The Federal Judiciary; 7) "Assistance of Counsel"; 8) Social Security; 9) All Manner of Federal Subsidies and Transfer Payments; 10) Minimum Wage Law.

"I am offering this platform as a replacement to the party's current one, since in its directness and simplicity, it offers us the possibility of gaining much broader public support, and the possibility that the aims and objectives contained in our more extensive, 43-page platform will someday be realized," said Schiff.

Schiff also noted that "a discussion of these 10 issues will allow Libertarian candidates to quickly and dramatically cut to the criminality, destructiveness, and stupidity of government, without being sidetracked by marginal and divisive issues, and thus allow the Libertarian Party to, hopefully, minimize and curtail government's destructive influences in many other areas—which, of course, is the Libertarian Party's ultimate objective."

Schiff said anyone can receive a copy of his proposed platform by mailing a request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Irwin Schiff, 4616 W. Sahara, Suite 340, Las Vegas, NV 89102.

Tompkins officially in race

Rick Tompkins, former Arizona LP state chair, officially announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party on May 24.

Tompkins, 55, is a 20-year veteran of the Air Force and has run for public office twice before—in 1988 as a U.S. Senate candidate and in 1994 as an Arizona state Senate candidate.

Tompkins acknowledges that he may be the ultimate "dark horse," but he considers his campaign important. "There is much more at stake here than election to high office," Tompkins said. "I fully expect to advance the cause of liberty. I am determined to help the LP to set a standard of political integrity against which all others will be measured."

Harry Browne finishing book

Harry Browne, candidate for the Libertarian Party's 1996 presidential nomination, is busy finishing his new book, "Why Government Doesn't Work."

The book, which Browne hopes will give a big boost to his presidential campaign, is scheduled to be published by St. Martin's Press this fall.

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- Doug Casey, best-selling author, investment advisor and libertarian gadfly at-large
- Michael Emerling Cloud, speech-writer, Libertarian political maven and creator of *The Art of Political Persuasion*
- Marshall Fritz, founder of Advocates for Self-Government, Founder of Separation of School and State Alliance, and Black Belt Communicator
- John Fund, *Wall Street Journal* writer and ghost-writer of Rush Limbaugh's *The Way Things Ought To Be*
- Jacob 'Bumper' Hornberger, Founder and President of the Future of Freedom Foundation
- Carole Ann Rand, Advocates for Self-Government President
- Michael Rothschild, author of *Bionomics: Economy as Ecosystem* and President of Bionomics Institute
- Joe Sobran, syndicated columnist and editor of *Sobran's*, a monthly newsletter

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Affiliates

New officers, campaigns, outreach, and more

Alabama

Michael Probst, state chair, is the host of "Liberty Forum" on TCI cable television in Montgomery. The program is broadcast live on the third Monday of every month, and is rebroadcast at other times. **Dr. Jimmy Blake** is now on WYDE 850AM radio every weekday from 4-5 p.m.

Arizona

Ed Kahn is hard at work in his campaign for mayor of Tucson. Kahn is hoping to participate the the city's matching funds program. If he raises \$10 each from 300 city residents, then every dollar he raises after that point will qualify for matching funds. Kahn has pledged to put the matching funds toward the state LP's voter registration drive. The state party still needs to register about 5,900 new Libertarians to ensure ballot status in 1996.

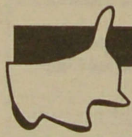
For more information, contact Ed Kahn for Mayor, P.O. Box 11, Tucson, AZ 85702, or call 520-326-3550.

California

► **Elizabeth Michael**, chair of the Libertarian House Finance Committee, a political action committee dedicated to putting Libertarians in the U.S. House in 1996 and beyond, can be contacted at a new address at P.O. Box 6234, Burbank, CA 91504, or telephone 818-842-7653, or e-mail at 102152.134@compuserve.com.

► Officers for 1995 for the Santa Clara LP are **Brad Walker**, chair; **David Bonino**, vice chair; **Hugh McLean**, secretary; and **Ed Wimmers**, treasurer.

► In mid-April, Valley Libertarian Regional Chair **Jonathan Richter** was one of three panelists to address a meeting of Leadership Tulare County. These leadership programs, designed to groom local



National pulse

News from the states

citizens to assume leadership roles in the future, have been very popular in the central valley. The topic of this panel was "recycling." Dinuba City Manager Ed Todd contacted Richter because he said he wanted people who could present alternative viewpoints. Richter did so by disputing arguments that we suffer from a garbage crisis, pointing out that recycling programs usually cost several times what landfilling does, and arguing that recycling should be done only to the extent the market will support it.

The Valley Libertarians also sponsored a booth at the Second Annual Dittohead Barbeque and Politically Incorrect Picnic at the Madera Fairgrounds in mid-April and were very well received. Several hundred of the new brochures being produced by the national party were handed out, and dozens of names added to the mailing list. An impressive thing was the result of the political quiz. Every time someone took the quiz, their score was put up on a big board with a red dot. At the end of the day, out of more than 100 dots, only two fell outside the Libertarian quadrant.

In mid-May, Richter was one of three speakers to address College Students for Constitutional Adherence at College of the Sequoias in Visalia. Approximately 50 students attended. Richter was the opening speaker, with the topic, "The Fourth American Revolution: A Return to Constitutional Values."

Colorado

► **Dale Doelling** finished second in a three-way non-partisan race for Grand Junc-

tion City Council, receiving more than 24 percent of the vote.

► **Carol Hill** of Leadville was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission in Lake County.

► **Tom Peckham** of the Aspen Liberty Coalition reported that an art gallery specializing in tasteful nudes had a display case at the Aspen airport that contained a picture of a nude woman's back and buttocks. The airport manager ordered the offending item removed. The picture was subsequently featured in the local newspaper, and the art gallery owner is making Libertarian literature on censorship available to his patrons.

Connecticut

The state party headquarters can be contacted at 203-459-9446.

Delaware

The state party recently elected the following officers: **Dan Beaver**, chair; **Richard Schwartzman**, vice chair; **Terri Lewis**, secretary; **Karen Smith**, treasurer. New regional chairs also were elected, including: **William Morris**, New Castle County chair; **Jim Conk**, Kent County chair; and **Jack Dalton**, Sussex County chair. To contact the state party, write LP of Delaware, P.O. Box 1472, Dover, DE 19903-1472, or call 302-678-8950.

Florida

New officers were recently elected for the LP of Alachua County: **Jen O. Hassler**, chair; **Shayna Sutherland**, vice chair; **Marshall Sutherland**, treasurer; and **Dave Hardy**, secretary.

Idaho

Joe Rohner, state party treasurer,

gained some excellent exposure with a commentary entitled "Free-market principles should apply to education as well," published in *The Idaho Statesman*. In part, the commentary states: "The facts are indisputable. Bureaucratic lifers decide everything including who must attend school and how many hours per week, weeks per year, and years per life span each captive consumer must attend. They decide who can teach, who cannot; where schools can operate, where they can't; who can be in business, who can't; which subjects are taught, which are not; how much money is to be spent, and who must pay."

Rohner goes on to discuss the growing home-school movement, and he offers the following advice for parents who are really concerned about their children's education: "1) Allow tax credits (not vouchers) to all parents who choose non-government education. And allow the same credits to all businesses and other groups who choose to privately subsidize needy students; 2) Abolish all compulsory education laws; 3) Legalize competition by allowing all who wish to offer educational services to do so without interference from the state." Then he adds, "And, yes, the U.S. Department of Education should be abolished."

By the way, Rohner, a Boise Realtor, practiced what he preached. He is the father of two children who were home-schooled.

Maryland

► As was reported in the June NEWS, the Maryland LP turned in more than 13,500
see **Affiliates** on page 6



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LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Celebrate the true spirit of July 4th!

What are you doing this 4th of July? Going to a barbecue? To the beach? To a parade?

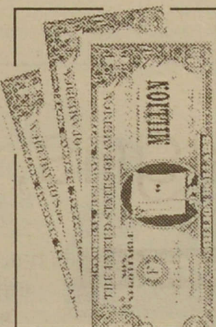
Instead, why not celebrate the *true spirit* of the holiday by telling people about the Libertarian Party — the only party *dedicated* to the classic American tradition of "liberty for all"? Our literature can help you. It presents our positions on a wide range of issues in a compelling and easy-to-understand way. Our brochures and booklets will help your friends and neighbors *embrace* the benefits of liberty... and understand why the Libertarian Party is the best means to achieve the *rebirth* of liberty in our nation.

The July 4th holiday: Why bother to celebrate it if you don't use it to *celebrate liberty*?



■ **Liberty Today** tabloid newspaper. Brand-new, updated 4th edition, with several new articles! 12 pages, green & black ink, numerous photographs throughout the issue. Probably the most comprehensive one-piece overview of Libertarian Party activities, history, politics, personalities, and philosophy.

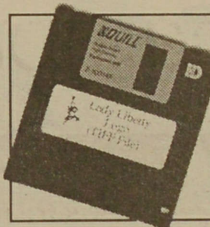
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■ **"Million Dollar Bill."** Green ink. Front: A faux \$1,000,000 bill. Reverse: Highlights Federal spending (\$1 million every five seconds) and the LP alternative. Perfect for Tax Day or general outreach.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

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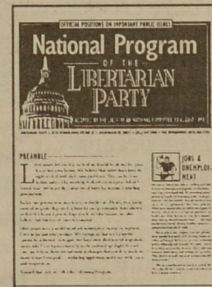
■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk, with several different sizes and versions of the LP logo.

Cost: \$3 each



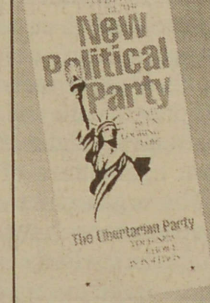
■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Flyer, maroon ink. Our hard-hitting outreach to the gun rights community, listing 10 compelling reasons why the Libertarian Party deserves their support.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



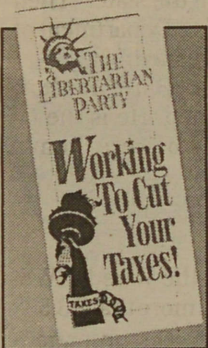
■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, maroon ink. Details LP positions on education, employment, political corruption, health care, and violence & crime. Provides steps the LP would take immediately to solve these problems.

Cost: Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100



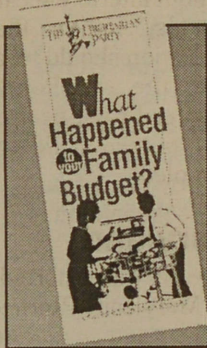
■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). New introductory brochure, giving general overview of the Libertarian Party.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



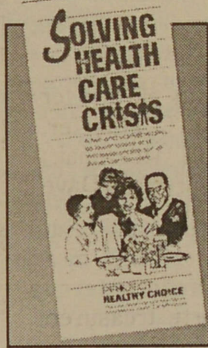
■ **The Libertarian Party: Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). Outlines how Libertarians would drastically reduce taxes and government spending.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



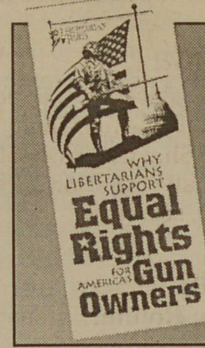
■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Hard-hitting look at how government impoverishes the "typical" family through taxes and inflation.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Solving the Health Care Crisis.** Brochure, 2-color (maroon & black). Part of Project Healthy Choice, detailing the LP's innovative 5-point free market health care reform proposals.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



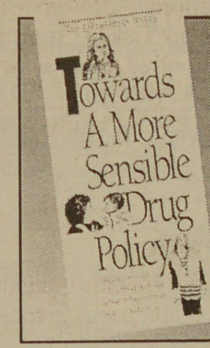
■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains the LP's pro-Second Amendment position, and defends the right to own guns.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's 5-point Operation Safe Streets "Crime Control" program.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100



■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Compares Drug Prohibition to alcohol prohibition; discusses the Prohibition/crime link; argues for legalization.

Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

Literature

■ **Libertarianism in One Lesson** by David Bergland. 126 pages, 6th edition. The classic, critically praised introductory work about Libertarianism. Cost: \$8 each or 5 for \$25

■ **LP Platform.** 24 pages, dark purple ink. The 1994 platform of the LP, with the "official" party positions on individual rights and civil order, trade, the economy, domestic concerns, and foreign affairs. Cost: Sample: \$1 or \$50 for 100

■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights from 1971 to 1993) and 2-page bibliography (over 150 books about Libertarianism). Sold as a set only. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. An excellent overview of Libertarian philosophy, covering politics, free markets, social issues, and more! Cost: \$1 each

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths, and an excellent low-cost hand-out! Cost: \$1 for 100

Tools for Campaigning

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** 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: general, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. Cost: \$3 for set

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape compilation of TV ads by LP candidates, from State Representative to President. (For information only; not broadcast quality.) Cost: \$20.00 each

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning.** 32-page handbook written especially for LP candidates. Cost: \$3.00 each

Buttons

Cost: All buttons are \$1 each or 75¢ 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

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■ **High-quality, lined windbreaker,** blue with LP logo and party name on front. Available in M, L, XL. (Specify on order form.) Cost: \$25 each

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

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

■ **Enough is Enough/Vote Libertarian** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-672-1776** (Blue & white.)

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

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," second line your choice (specify on order form): ★ 800-682-1776 ★ Defenders of Liberty ★ Freedom is the American Way. Cost: \$40 each

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Ready-to-use Literature

Quantity	Amount
_____	Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?"
_____	Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____	Brochure: "What Happened To Your Family Budget?"
_____	Brochure: "Solving the Health Care Crisis."
_____	Brochure: "Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners"
_____	Brochure: "Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____	Brochure: "Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy"
_____	Flyer: "Which Political Party / 100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____	Flyer: \$1,000,000 Bill
_____	Liberty Today tabloid newspaper (New 4th ed.)
_____	1994 LP Program
_____	1994 LP Platform
_____	LP Fact Sheets. 2-page LP history & 2-page bibliography. (Offered as a package only.)
_____	World's Smallest Political Quiz
_____	Libertarianism in One Lesson book
_____	America's Libertarian Heritage booklet

Bumper Stickers

_____	Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian
_____	Enough is Enough/Vote Libertarian
_____	Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776
_____	I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!

Buttons

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

Windbreaker

_____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL

Tools for Campaigning

_____	LP 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.
_____	Libertarian TV Ads
_____	Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning manual.

Large & Small Banners

_____	Large: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" x 5'w)
_____	Please check preferred second line:
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> "Defenders of Liberty" <input type="checkbox"/> "Freedom is the American Way" <input type="checkbox"/> "1-800-682-1776"
_____	Small: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (12" x 5'w).

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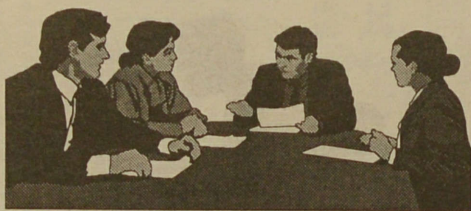
continued from page 4

signatures to gain ballot access. As it turned out, after checking, on May 24 the state said that the LP was 46 valid signatures short of the 10,000 needed. While the state gives the LP until August 1996 to finish petitioning, "that's much too far away for us," said **Jesse Markowitz**, LP state chair. "So on May 25, we turned in more than 100 more. With our party's recent growth surge and thousands of new voters registering every month as a part of the Motor Voter Law, we want to make sure that voters have another choice as soon as possible."

On June 7, the state notified the state LP of its "established party status."

"We're happy that we've gotten the technical procedures behind us and can now turn 100 percent of our attention to building a strong third party in Maryland," said Markowitz.

► Following the Oklahoma City bombing, the media expressed interest in any and all groups critical of the government. Baltimore Libertarian **Lorenzo Gaztanaga** was interviewed on a local television news program. Gaztanaga was asked what parts of the government he thought could be eliminated, and he mentioned the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare had no role at the national level. He stated that these concerns should be taken care of at the local—"the very local"—level. He was also asked, "Do you think we have lost control?" Gaztanaga answered, "No, I don't think so. I'm very hopeful."



Massachusetts

Preliminary organization has begun for the Western Massachusetts Libertarian Party Committee. The committee met for the first time on May 23 in Wilbraham.

The purpose of this regional chapter will be to provide leadership in furthering the cause of liberty in the Western Massachusetts area. The committee presented **Dean Cook**, state party chair, with a "Petition for Official Recognition" to be forwarded to the state committee for approval.

Dean provided the committee members with instructions and methods on organizing town committees of the Libertarian Party. The organization of town committees is necessary as a result of the growth of the Libertarian Party in Massachusetts. The LP achieved major party status in the state as a result of the 1992 elections.

Dean Cook, **Carl Vassar**, CT state chair, and **Geoff Braun**, Orange County (CA) chair, have agreed to provide advice and support the efforts of this new committee.

Committee members attending were; **Charles Separk**, **Mike Serafin**, **Stan Shaw III**, **Ward Smith**, **Jim Robinson**, and committee organizer **John Brickner**.

Information regarding the committee or

planned activities may be obtained from either John Brickner at 413-245-0408 or Stan Shaw at 413-525-8740 or e-mail at SCSStan@aol.com.

Michigan

The following new state party officers were elected at the recent convention: **Emily Salvette**, chair; **Mark Owen**, vice chair; **Dan Marsh**, secretary; **David Nagy**, treasurer. Two important committee chairs were also named: **James Hudler**, campaign chair; and **Ben Bachrach**, membership chair. Salvette said that the state party will continue the work of last year when the state party was converted from the main working body to making the state party a support group for local affiliates. "Local Libertarian groups are the Libertarian Party of Michigan," said Salvette. "It is at the local level where new members are recruited, where candidates run for public office, and where educational activities occur. The state party officers understand that we were elected to help you do your grassroots work."

Minnesota

Charles Test, state party chair, is mounting a campaign against a proposed Minneapolis rental licensing ordinance. The ordinance places responsibility on the property owner for any conduct by persons "on" the premises. "Think about what this is saying," said Test. "It is making property owners responsible and liable for not only their renters, but anyone at any time who happens to be on their property. It is requiring property owners to police their properties 24 hours a day under threat of rental property license revocation, which would effectively put them out of business."

Test said the proposed ordinance "implies to me that the city council considers renters a special class of potential criminals in need of 24-hour surveillance by an untrained, unpaid, unarmed coerced group of property owners." Noting that many renters are low-income and minorities, Test asks, "Does this imply that low-income or minority renters cannot be treated as adults, responsible for their own actions, and capable of knowing right from wrong?"

Nevada

The Libertarian Party of Nevada held its annual state convention in Las Vegas on June 10. Elections for all offices were held, with the following results: **James Dan**,

chair; **Ernest Walker**, vice chair; **Scott Kjar**, secretary; and **Brendan Trainer**, treasurer.

Guest speakers at the convention included **Ron Current**, chairman of the local Black Panther Party, which shares the LP's healthy distrust of government power, but differs on what solutions are appropriate.

New Jersey

Mike Panella, of the Libertarians of Monmouth County, purchased an Operation Politically Homeless kit from the Advocates for Self-Government and donated it to the local affiliate. The kit has already been put to good use at the Children's Peace Fair at Brookdale Community College.

North Carolina

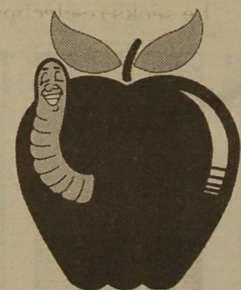
The Libertarian Party of North Carolina held its convention on May 7 where a new executive committee was elected, and two at-large seats were changed to a press secretary and a ballot access coordinator. The following new officers were elected: **Chris Spruyt**, chair; **Steve Craton**, vice chair; **Gary Goodson**, membership secretary; **Sean Haugh**, newsletter editor; **Candi Copas**, ballot access coordinator; **Randal Stroud**, press secretary; **Douglas S. Adams**, recording secretary; **Dwight House**, treasurer; and at-large seats: **Tom Bailey**, **Wendel Drye**, **Seth Ferhs**, **Dale Grote**, and **Rick Pasotto**.

Ohio

► **Jim Berns**, Libertarian candidate for Cincinnati School Board, recently called for the "elimination of the Cincinnati Public School (CPS) public relations department and five full-time positions." Berns said the cuts would save more than \$300,000 per year. "Some of that saved money should be used to create the position of student out-placement coordinator," said Berns. "The coordinator will work with school counselors in assisting students and their parents in finding voluntary schools for the student to attend."

Berns said that "CPS should be viewed

see **Affiliates** on page 7



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Affiliates

continued from page 6

as an extension of the welfare system. Going to CPS should be avoided just like going on welfare should be avoided."

Berns also noted, "Not only will the children transferring to voluntary schools receive a better education in a safer environment, but for each child that transfers out, CPS will save over \$5,000. If just 6 percent of students transfer out, this fall's proposed tax increase would not be needed."

► State party Secretary **Donald Gallick** and Columbus LP Rep. **Dena Bruedigam** were featured on a one-hour radio interview about the Libertarian Party of Ohio Convention. WTVN (610) radio host **Steve Hansel** also interviewed Gallick in January to discuss the Republican Congress. WTVN is the number-one radio station in Columbus, and the station also featured news reports of the Columbus Libertarian tax rally on April 19 and did an additional interview April 20 with former LPO statehouse candidate **Brian Ryman** who was arrested during the tax rally when a police officer warned Libertarians to cease handing out tax fliers.

Oregon

Republican State Rep. Chuck Carpenter recently joined the Libertarian Party, but he is retaining his Republican voter registration for now. Carpenter said since he was elected as a Republican he would not change his registration during the current term, and that he had not yet decided which party he will represent when he seeks re-election.

"At some point, I think he will agree that for all its political viability, the Republican Party is too replete with social conservatives and so-called 'fiscal moderates' to be a true and reasonably consistent friend of liberty," said **Richard Burke**, chair of the LP of Greater Portland. "Until that point arrives, I welcome him into our membership, and thank him for his willingness to work for liberty. I congratulate him for a courageous move."

Pennsylvania

The **Abington/Rockledge Libertarian Committee** chalked up another victory in May when it successfully challenged a new anti-graffiti ordinance. As originally written, the proposed township ordinance would have forced the victims of vandalism to remove graffiti at their own expense within 15 days or face a possible \$300 fine and 16 hours of community service.

Dubbing it the "Penalize the Victim Act," three Abington Libertarians testified at length against the ordinance at the township commissioner's meeting. **Ken Krawchuk**, state party eastern vice chair, testified first about how the proposed ordinance violated both the Pennsylvania and U.S. constitutions. He presented court cases to support the libertarian position. **Bob Kern**, LP candidate for township commissioner, blasted the predominantly Republican board for imposing yet another unfunded mandate. Lastly, **Brian McHugh**, another LP candidate for township commissioner, presented a novel approach to

their heavy-handed ordinance—punish the criminal instead of the victim.

Overall, the image presented that evening was one of the LP as champion of the victim against an overbearing government. When the smoke finally cleared, the commissioners voted unanimously to delete the offensive language from the ordinance.

Five of the 15 commissioners, including the commission president, commended the Libertarians for their efforts. The local media noted the LP role in defeating the legislation.

Rhode Island

► The state party is sponsoring a number (three to five) of Operation Politically Homeless booths at county fairs this summer, and it has been publishing its newsletter every other month for the past six months.



► At the May state party convention members re-elected the full slate of officers: **Karl Waldman**, chair; **David Bibeault**, vice chair; **John DeMeo**, treasurer; and **Pat LeBlanc**, secretary.

► The state party now has a "new member/information" number: 401-334-0705.

Texas

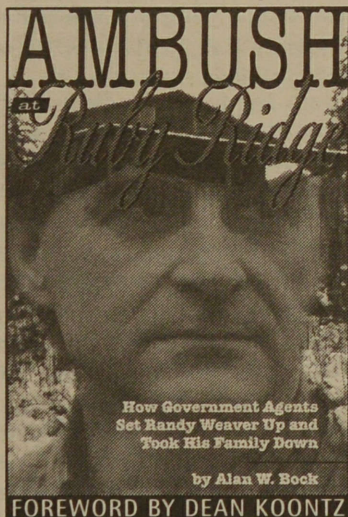
The **LP of Collin County** will participate again this year in the annual Collin County 4th of July parade. Last year party members had a great time and passed out thousands of pieces of literature to people "who openly displayed admiration and support for the LP." For more information, contact the LPCC in Plano at 214-517-1789.

Washington

Todd Herman, state party liaison of the Spokane County LP and host of a popular radio talk show on KSNB-AM, has moved his daily two-hour show to 7 p.m.

West Virginia

The state party has been grabbing media attention lately. State party Vice Chair **John Sturgeon** and 2nd District Chair **Roger Fritz** were guests on a WCHS radio talk show. The two party members took calls and explained the benefits of the LP. Also, the *Charleston Gazette*, the state's largest newspaper, recently ran a story about the state party's "semi-official" computer bulletin board. The story noted that the LP and libertarian ideas are catching on, with many young computer users.



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Militia Forum

MO Libertarians stage successful outreach event

"Welcome to an average run-of-the-mill monthly meeting of the St. Louis Area Libertarians," quipped Ken Bush, standing center stage at the podium.

The opening remark broke the audience into laughter and applause.

Bush was emcee and moderator of the May monthly meeting of the libertarian group. It was no ordinary forum. This unique pro-and-con panel discussion was on the militia movement and it featured a militia leader facing off with the head of the regional FBI. Some journalists commented that this was likely the first balanced public forum on the militia in the country, and the first time in recent memory that a federal law enforcement agency officially appeared with a member of a "targeted group."

The forum, held at a local library auditorium, was titled "The Militia Movement: Conflicts and Controversies," and attracted about 400 people from across Missouri and Illinois.

The panelists included: John Moore, the militia leader (his title is "Colonel") for eastern Missouri and a former Green Beret; James Nelson, head of the FBI in the St. Louis region; Greg Jeffery, president of the 2nd Amendment Coalition, the largest gun rights group in the state; Mike Fagras, attorney and Second Amendment historian; Hamid Kusha, Ph.D., an Iranian citizen and professor of sociology at Maryville University; Don McDonald, Rock Hill, MO, police chief and past president of the MO

Police Chiefs' Association; and Alan Howard, constitutional law professor at St. Louis University Law School and a former ACLU board member.

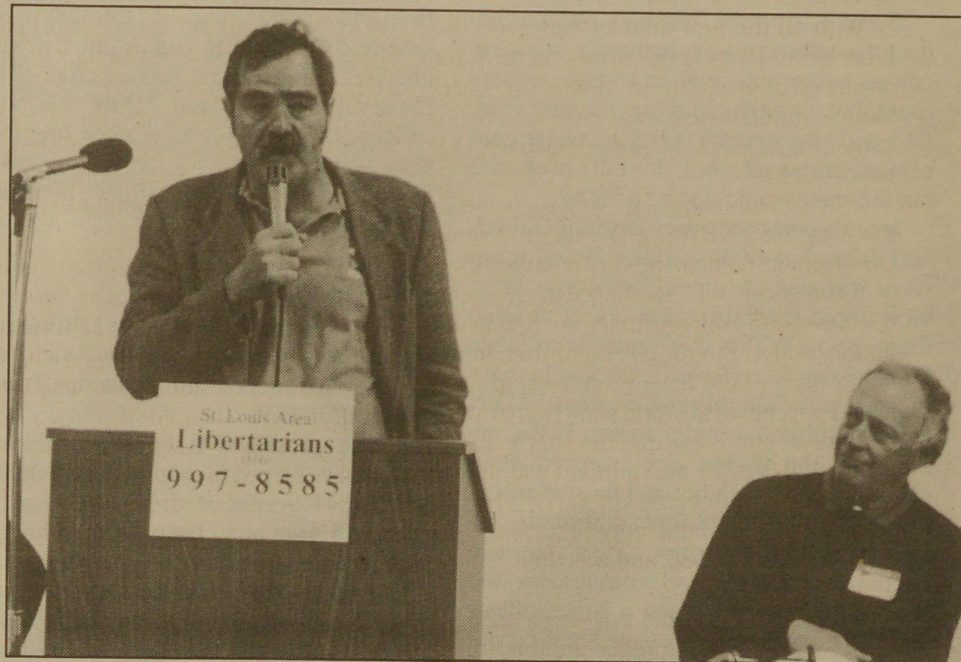
During the forum, militia-leader Moore explained that the Waco incident in Texas, the Weaver incident in Idaho, and the congressional crime bill were the impetus for many militia groups to form. He vowed that our country's militias and the public would soon be strong enough that they would not let those types of assaults happen again.

James Nelson, FBI agent, complimented the St. Louis Area Libertarians. He told the audience, "I think this type of forum is constructive."

Nelson later emphasized that despite the unpopularity of various groups like the neo-Nazis, the Klan, or the Mafia, it is not illegal to belong to them.

Nelson indicated that those involved in the militia agreed with some parts of the Constitution, but conveniently ignored other parts. Fears of government conspiracies to deprive citizens of their rights were unfounded and alarmist, he said. To allay any fears, he reaffirmed that the U.S. government protected our rights and worked hard to keep law and order. Mistakes have been made, he acknowledged, but considering the large number of agents needed to keep the peace throughout this vast country, an occasional slip up is bound to occur but is rare, he said.

Jeffrey, gun rights activist, said the core



NEWS photo by Ken Bush

A LIGHT MOMENT - FBI Special Agent James Nelson, right, reacts to comments from Bill McClellan, local PBS talk show host and award-winning columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. McClellan, who was invited to comment during the forum, said that if militia leader John Moore could call himself "Colonel," then he wanted to be referred to as "Admiral McClellan." The audience roared with laughter. Weeks later McClellan devoted one of his newspaper columns to his experience at the Libertarian forum.

issue in America today is how much government citizens should have in their lives. He said the militia controversy and gun rights debates were examples of that. A common theme in the writings of the Founding Fathers, he said, is that government is best when it is small and localized.

Both attorney Fagras and law professor Howard traced the history of the Second Amendment and its infrequent appearance before higher courts. Fagras supported the wider citizen-militia-forming interpretation while Howard did not. However, both were worried that the recent militia controversy would be an unjustified excuse for the government to begin unwarranted intrusions into citizens lives that are supposed to be protected by the First and Fourth amendments.

Professor Kusha is Iranian and not a U.S. citizen. He told the crowd that after traveling the world he was dismayed that Americans took their freedoms for granted. He said that Americans are fortunate to live in a country whose government was nothing like the repressive regimes he has experienced. He warned the audience that it was not only unnecessary but dangerous to have armed citizen militias, especially for a country like America that he observed was too violence oriented and that is blessed with a solid, decent government. Disputes arising in society should not be handled by guns, he said, but by peaceful negotiations.

Police Chief McDonald urged militia supporters—and Libertarians—to vent their anger at the system by getting active at the local level, particularly at city council meetings, to effect real change. "Big government begins with little government," he instructed. McDonald praised Libertarians for their ability to bring such varied viewpoints together at a public forum.

"It was so crowded that the library personnel panicked and for the first time in their history they phoned local police about a meeting," chuckled Charles Kempf, presi-

dent of the St. Louis Area Libertarians. "One officer stayed in back and watched our entire forum, which, due to the audience's questioning, went an hour past the scheduled ending. For the libertarian movement, the meeting was a successful outreach tool to the general public and area journalists," he said.

"We were the top news item on two television stations and we even got a regional wire story via Associated Press," said Mary Ann Gassmann, chair of the Jefferson County LP, who helped distribute the meeting fliers in her area. "Virtually the entire effort—from arranging the speakers to designing the fliers and press releases—was the work of Ken Bush," she said. Bush is special projects coordinator for various libertarian groups.

"To help assure a successful, well-attended event, I distributed fliers to a variety of conservative, liberal, and politically active groups," explained Bush. "They in turn redistribute the flier on to their members and contacts. You can't lose. Whether any of their members actually show up at the event, they at least see the 'L' word in a positive light and know that Libertarians are alive and kicking."

Bush emphasized an angle that particularly caught the media and public's attention. He began the flier and news release with these words: "Militia. Who are these people? Your opinion is based on newspapers and television. Here's your chance to learn directly—first hand—from a militia leader, their supporters, and their critics. Together, in person, on the same stage."

The flier even provided the reader with the full text of the First, Second, and Fourth amendments. (For copies of the release and flier and some press clippings, contact the St. Louis group at the number below.)

To find out what St. Louis Libertarian activists are up to next, contact the St. Louis Area Libertarian's 24-hour Liberty News Hotline at 314-997-8585.



NEWS photo by Ken Bush

THE CROWD - A timely topic, the militia, and effective publicity resulted in an over-packed auditorium for the May monthly meeting of the St. Louis Area Libertarians. "People were crowded in the back five rows deep, sitting along the aisles, and standing 25-feet deep out the rear door into the hallway," said Maggie Barnes, a local Libertarian who distributed programs to the crowd.

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Ballot access

continued from page 1

Hampshire and Alabama. And while both seem to be in check for the moment, the Libertarian Party must stay vigilant.

With all the new attacks, however, the Libertarian Party is still firmly on track for 50-state ballot status in 1996. "I'm absolutely confident we'll have complete ballot status in 1996," said Steve Dasbach, LP national chair.

In New Hampshire, as was reported in the May 1995 NEWS, a Democratic sponsored amendment to the very popular "First in the Nation Bill," dealing with keeping the New Hampshire primary the first in the nation, added the requirement that an existing party must have membership of at least 1 percent of the total state registration to retain its status as a qualified party. It was clear to all that the amendment was aimed squarely at the Libertarian Party. The bill passed the New Hampshire State House in mid-March by 259-86, and was then passed on to the state Senate.

Libertarians realized this was a life-and-death issue and mounted a counterattack.

At the Senate committee hearings on the bill, "we had 30 Libertarians who took a day off from work—in many cases it was a vacation day, or they lost a day's pay—that came to testify, and that makes an impression," said Jeff Emery, New Hampshire LP state chair.

"We presented a lot of good information, and we were very well represented," said Emery. "We noted that this had been a law for well over a century, and that nobody had had a problem with it before. And it's only since the Libertarians had gotten onto the ballot three consecutive times that all of a sudden it became an issue."

Emery also praised ballot access expert Richard Winger for providing each senator with a great deal of information about ballot access laws across the country.

At the same time, Libertarian State Rep. Don Gorman went to work on the Senate. "I talked to senators daily," said Gorman, "in the cafeteria, walking them to their cars, wherever and whenever I could nail them down. What I got from them, individually, was, 'You Libertarians, you've got a position, and maybe I don't agree with everything you say, but by God, we need you guys around.'" As he got those kinds of statements from senators, Gorman said he realized that on the whole they were very sympathetic to keeping the LP a viable alternative.

"The bottom line was, and I have to admit I was as surprised as anybody," said Gorman, "that it was a clean sweep in the Senate. That every single senator voted for an amendment that eliminated all of the third party, i.e. Libertarian, controversy from the First in the Nation Bill. The amendment just deleted it. And it had the full support of the Senate, it was 23-0. I almost dropped dead. The Senate never votes 23-0 on anything. It's just absolutely phenomenal."

Emery said one thing that helped defeat the proposed changes was that there was no groundswell of support from the public to clamp down on the Libertarians. In fact, the media in many cases supported the Libertarian position.

Gorman said it helped also that he had co-sponsored a lot of senatorial legislation on Libertarian-type bills, and as a result he "had a lot of friends and allies in the Senate."

They just didn't want to see us nailed to the wall."

"I would say for right now I don't think we are under direct threat," Gorman said, "because this was kind of a rock they threw at us, it didn't go anywhere, it was an embarrassment to the rock throwers, and I don't think they are going to be eager to pick up another rock this upcoming year. However, they are not going to quit. They are going to come back."

In Alabama, as was reported in the June 1995 NEWS, the state House passed a bill that increases statewide petitions from 12,000 to 60,000 signatures. Again, the Libertarian Party mounted a campaign against the proposed change.

Bob Burns, LP state treasurer, led a fight against the bill, and for the present at least, seems to have put off its passage. At press time, the bill had become bogged down in a Senate committee, and hopefully, according to Burns, it will stay there. But there was still concern about the possibility of passage.

The LP received support from the media in Alabama, much as in New Hampshire. The two largest newspapers in the state editorialized against the bill.

In Illinois, a new bill was introduced to prohibit paying people to obtain signatures on a per-signature basis. This is almost a necessity for any third party in the state where the required signature total is 25,000. Although the LP is already on the ballot in Illinois for 1996, the party achieved ballot status for next year by an LP candidate getting more than the required percentage of votes in last year's race for University of Illinois trustee.

Apparently the Republicans and Democrats recognized that the Libertarian Party had cleared that hurdle, so they passed a new bill earlier this year that removes the trustee race from the ballot in the future.

The good news in Illinois is that the current bill disallowing paid petitioners has been informally tabled in a House committee. That, of course, doesn't mean that it can't pop back up at any time.

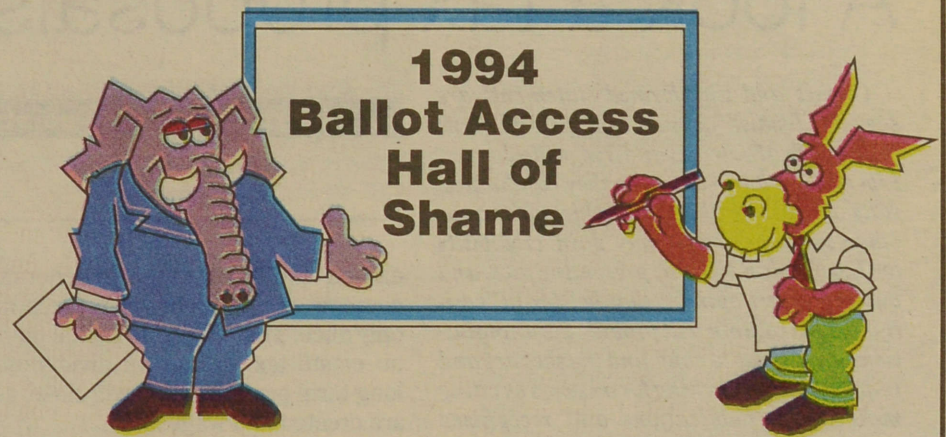
In Maine, a bill was introduced this year to double the number of signatures for all third-party candidates to get on the ballot. A joint committee unanimously recommended that the bill "ought not pass," said Richard Winger, adding that the author of the bill is amending it, "but they won't say what the amendment is. They shut the public out." It looks as if there will be a floor vote, Winger said, and "Maine is still something to watch."

Another bad bill that was introduced this year was in California, where legislators are trying to outlaw paid registration drives. New parties qualify for the state ballot by registering 89,000 people into their party, and "this difficult job generally requires the use of paid workers," according to Winger.

The bill, however, failed in a Senate committee, but only by a 19-19 vote. "It could be reconsidered at any time," said Winger.

The LP is already on the ballot in California, but these kinds of laws could make it difficult to retain ballot status in the future, and certainly make it very difficult for new parties to achieve ballot status.

While Libertarian Party officials continue see **Ballot access** on page 11



These recent proposed bills would raise the number of signatures required to get on the ballot, or add additional requirements to get or stay on the ballot, or create more restrictive deadlines, or throw structural hurdles in the process of getting on the ballot.

1) New Hampshire: To become a "major" political party and obtain automatic ballot access, a party must gain 3% of the vote in the governor's race. Under HB-333, a political party would also have to register 1% of the voters (one of the highest requirements in the nation) within two years of earning "major party" status — or get booted off the ballot.

TARGET: The Libertarian Party, which lawfully earned "major party" status three elections in a row under the state's previous 100-year-old law.

STATUS: Passed by the House. The State Senate stripped out the anti-third party provisions.

2) Illinois: SB-34 would prohibit paying people to circulate ballot access petitions on a per-signature basis.

TARGET: Third parties, which must collect 100% to 1,000% more petitions than their Republican or Democratic counterparts. Even with paid petitioners, it's difficult for new parties to gather the required signatures. By restricting their ability to hire people to help, this bill would make it all but impossible.

STATUS: Passed the State Senate; now before the House Rules Committee.

3) Idaho: HB-270 pushes back the petitioning deadline for non-presidential independent candidates by three months from June to April.

TARGET: All third-party and independent candidates.

STATUS: Signed into law on March 14.

4) California: SB-418 and AB-1532 would prohibit paying people to register voters.

TARGET: New third parties. Since new parties almost always qualify for the ballot in California by doing paid registration drives, these bills would make it immensely more difficult to qualify.

STATUS: Defeated in the State Senate on a tie vote, but could be reconsidered any time.

5) Alabama: HB-66 would boost the signature requirements for independent candidates to get on the ballot from 1% to 5% of the last governor's race. That's an increase of almost 50,000 signatures.

TARGET: All independent candidates. Alabama was one of nine states that did not have any third-party or independent candidates running for state office in 1994. This bill would make it five times as difficult.

STATUS: Passed by the House; awaiting the State Senate Constitution and Elections Committee.

6) Maine: LD-1091 would double all petition requirements for any third-party or independent candidate to get on the ballot.

TARGET: All third-party and independent candidates.

STATUS: Failed in committee, but replacement bill coming to floor.

7) Georgia: SB-148 would push the petitioning deadline for third-party candidates back from July to May 9, eliminating almost two months of petitioning time.

TARGET: All third parties.

STATUS: Passed the legislature; vetoed by the governor.

8) New Mexico: HB-1070 would double the number of signatures needed for the candidate of qualified minor parties to get on the ballot.

TARGET: All current and future qualified minor parties.

STATUS: Passed the legislature, now before the governor.

9) Alaska: SB-5 would push back the petitioning deadline for all non-presidential independent candidates by two months from August to June.

TARGET: All third-party and independent candidates.

STATUS: Signed into law on June 1.

10) Florida: SB-2309 would make the filing deadline for write-in candidates more restrictive.

TARGET: All write-in candidates.

STATUS: Signed into law on May 2.

Talking points

A look at tax proposals, anti-terrorism, and more

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty).

Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Issue: The flat tax

Among the many varieties of tax reform currently under consideration is a greatly simplified federal income tax, known as the flat tax, which contains almost none of the exemptions and loopholes that have made the national income tax as it currently exists a vast and incomprehensible mess.

There are persuasive arguments, summarized in the excerpts below, that this proposal is worthy of Libertarian support; not because the flat tax (or any tax, for that matter) is an inherently good thing, but because it will, on balance, reduce the power of government to intrude on the lives of taxpayers.

"After seven decades of abuse by corporate lobbyists and self-righteous income redistributors, our tax code is a mess. Rates are high, loopholes abound and families are burdened as never before. My bill would scrap the entire code and start over with a simple, low, flat tax.

"Modeled after a plan that Robert Hall and Alvin Rabushka proposed on this page in 1981, it would work like this: All personal income would be taxed *once* at the single low rate of 17 percent. There would be no special tax breaks of any kind—only a child deduction of \$5,300 (twice what it is today) and a highly generous personal allowance (\$13,100 for an individual, \$17,200 for a single head of household, \$26,200 for a married couple). Business income would be handled equally simply. A corporation would just subtract expenses from revenues and pay an identical 17 percent on the remainder.

"No longer will Americans spend anything like 5.4 billion man-hours figuring their taxes each year, as they do now, and legions of lawyers and accountants will need to find other work. This will remove an immense burden on the economy, and it will also make the government far less intrusive. Citizens will not need to work as hard—or reveal as much—to meet the demands of the bureaucrats.

"More important, the flat tax will be an economic growth bonanza. Not only will the plan lower tax rates and lighten the overall tax burden, but it will eliminate the current double taxation of savings, creating a great new incentive for investment. Today, in one of our greater economic atrocities, we tax money first when it is

Libertarian talking points

Charles D. Poe

Editor

earned and again when it generates income as savings. This plan taxes money only once. That means no capital-gains tax, no estate tax, no tax on dividends. Our long-term growth deficit will close, as jobs are created and wages rise."

Rep. Dick Armey (R-TX), chairman of the House Republican Conference, in *Wall Street Journal*, June 16, 1994.

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"A flat tax? The very idea, which would mean doing away with most exemptions, is generally dismissed out of hand as political suicide, despite such vocal backers as Richard K. Armey (R-TX) in the House. But it makes sense—far more than any other reform being considered. Limiting exemptions and deductions would lower the tax rate by broadening the tax base. And the change would encourage a more efficient allocation of resources—not least by reducing government interference in citizens' financial choices.

"Radical tax simplification might have a better chance of passing if its economic benefits were better understood. The cost of complying with tax rules is huge, for one thing. For individuals alone, the tab comes to more than \$30 billion per year, says Joel B. Slemrod, an economist at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. A flat tax, which is much simpler to calculate and process, would eliminate the need for so many tax lawyers and accountants while thinning the Internal Revenue Service's bureaucracy.

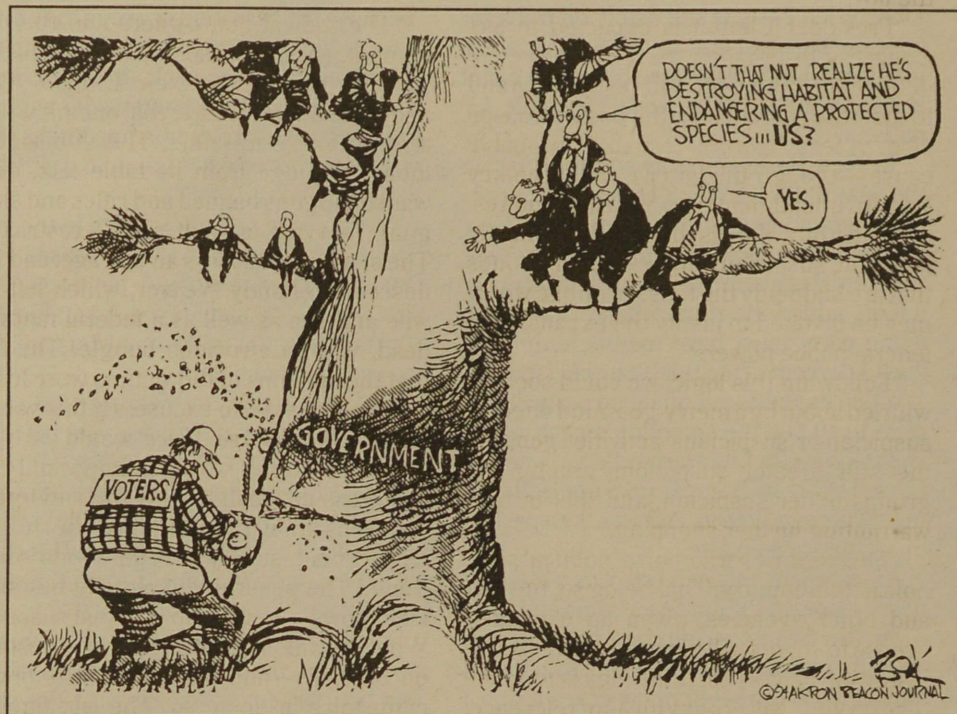
"Most important, a flat tax would separate revenue-raising from policymaking. Today, too many government programs and key economic policies are buried in the tax code. That makes for bad policy and inefficient taxes. Far better to remove tax-code fiddling as an option for policymakers and keep any fiscal-policy debate focused on government expenditures. What government programs do we want, and how much are we willing to spend for them? Radical reform, if it finally arrives, will help us get a better feel for the scale and scope of our government—and for what we want it to become."

Christopher Farrell in *Business Week*, Jan. 9, 1995.

Issue: The value-added tax

It has also been suggested that a type of national sales tax called the Value-Added Tax (VAT) would be a good alternative to what we have now. This may indeed be the case, but among those who have no principled opposition to ever-higher rates of taxation the VAT could serve as a means of increasing, rather than decreasing, the total federal tax burden. The warning here is directed at conservatives, but Libertarians should take note of it as well.

"The Republican takeover of Congress



has shifted the debate on almost every issue, and nowhere is this more evident than in the case of tax reform. Fears of class warfare kept Republicans from including in the Contract the most important key to economic growth—reduction in tax rates on working, saving, investment, and entrepreneurship.

"In the last six months, however, timidity has given way to boldness and the debate has evolved so rapidly that the fundamental question now is which radical tax reform Republicans should adopt. Most of the attention has focused on the Armey flat tax. Some are arguing, though, that the time has come to simply junk the entire income tax and replace it with a national sales tax or Value-Added Tax (VAT).

"There is one potential pitfall conservatives must be careful to avoid. There is substantial support among liberal politicians and certain large corporations for a VAT as an *additional* tax on top of the current system (liberals, of course, see the VAT as a money machine that will finance new spending, while some businesses naively believe that some of that new money would be used to offset reductions in corporate taxes). These forces are hoping to lure anti-income-tax conservatives into an unholy alliance to push the VAT as the tax reform that would be considered in the short term.

"This is a classic bait-and-switch routine. If successful, liberals would get their money machine, and the promises they made, both to the politically naive corporate chieftains and to conservatives who had hoped to kill the income tax, would be quickly forgotten. Skeptics should remember, after all, that these are the same clever political operators who tricked Reagan into raising taxes in 1982 with the promise that every dollar of new revenue would be matched by three dollars of lower spending. The tax increase went through and Reagan is still waiting for the spending cuts.

"If any conservatives are tempted by this kind of deal, they should ask how many countries have ever adopted a sales tax or a VAT and *then* abolished income taxes.

The answer is zero. They should ask how many states have adopted a sales tax and then eliminated an income tax. Once again, the answer is zero."

National Review, May 15, 1995.

Issue: Anti-terrorism legislation

In response to the bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City and the earlier bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, politicians and other influential people from both sides of the political spectrum are proposing that the federal government be given greatly expanded powers of search and seizure, eavesdropping, and infiltration.

In their haste to give even more power to the government when it already has too much, and to further restrict the freedom of innocent people when they already have too little, those who call for making the heavy hand of government even heavier are obviously giving no thought to the question of whether this will do more harm than good or actually improve the quality of law enforcement. As pointed out in the excerpts below, hasty, emotion-based legislation prompted by little more than instinctive revulsion in response to a particularly horrible crime makes us no safer and merely adds one tragedy to another.

"Sorrow and hysteria of the kind generated by the Oklahoma City atrocity are not a good climate for judicious legislation.

"Even if they were, neither of the recent spectacular terrorist assaults—neither the one at the Murrah federal office building nor the earlier one on the World Trade Center in New York—suggest that federal and state investigators are being hamstrung by current restrictions and guidelines.

"The chilling effect of various restrictions on written and spoken advocacy are familiar, for they are constantly and publicly disputed. The equally basic rights of association tend to get chilled in less spectacular and visible ways—not merely by infiltration and snooping but by acts of

see **Talking points** on page 11

Talking points

continued from page 10

provocation when law enforcement agencies, given their heads, entrap otherwise law-abiding citizens in conspiracies to break the law.

"President Clinton is expected to ask Congress to broaden the FBI's power to dilute Fourth Amendment restrictions and to institute searches on the basis of 'suspicion,' a less rigorous test than 'probable cause'—though the latter is what the key Fourth Amendment rule explicitly requires.

"The irony, if so, is that the lurid, mostly fantastic, suspicions of the 'militia' groups that are suddenly the focus of public worry may be invoked to justify the expansion of federal police powers.

"Following this logic, we could soon be whirled about by a merry-go-round effect—suspicion of 'suspicious' activities generating still greater suspicions among the groups under suspicion, and that in turn warranting further snooping.

"There is a rich tradition of political paranoia in this country. That being so, the FBI and other agencies, given an expanded license to snoop, will not be hard pressed to justify intrusiveness. If the idea is to monitor everyone with kooky ideas of reference, excuses for excess won't be hard to find."

Syndicated columnist Edwin M. Yoder in

Houston Chronicle, April 27, 1995.

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"The radical gun owners and the religious nuts are paranoid—their alienation parallels that of the New Left 30 years ago—but they also have real enemies, who are up to real mischief. The gun-control lobby, to judge from its table talk, does want handguns banned and rifles and shotguns (not just 'assault rifles') restricted. The siege of Waco was an outrage, and the descent on Randy Weaver, which left his wife and son as well as a federal marshal dead, was an atrocious bungle. The fact that the opinions of the victims were loony or repellent was no excuse. (If this were a crime, *The Village Voice* would be suppressed.) This is why it is important that Congress not rush to pass the anti-terrorism legislation requested by the Justice Department, simply in order to 'do something.' The government already has sufficient powers to wiretap criminal suspects. What it wants now is a right to eavesdrop on oddballs—and the help of the phone companies in doing so. The last time an unpopular Democratic Administration moved against terrorists, we got the Palmer

raids—not a happy precedent."

National Review, May 15, 1995.

Issue: Environmentalism

Although the environmental movement is generally perceived as advocating nothing more than the commendable goal of making our air and water less toxic, it has in fact become to a considerable extent a vehicle for promoting the objectives of those who are hostile to middle-class prosperity and to the economic growth that has made middle-class prosperity possible.

Activists of this sort, who have become all too common in the environmental movement, seek to impose a profoundly anti-libertarian way of life and greatly reduced standard of living on people who would never freely choose to give up so much in return for so little.

"Logging, plowing, heating, cooling, showering, breathing, having children—not to mention artificial lighting and paper bags—are all objectionable to the greens. In fact, every human activity except dying offends some environmentalists. It's enough to make you glad to be alive.

"Taken to its logical end, environmentalism would bring the economy to a standstill, and then reverse it. And, in fact, by using the regulatory state, the greens have been moving us toward their goal of lowering growth. All over the country, Americans have been forbidden to use their own land as they see fit. If it's a swamp or bog—a wetland—or holds an endangered spe-

cies, such as the recently sanctified Delhi Sand Fly, shut it down. Your name may be on the deed, and you may pay taxes on it, but the government is the real owner since it decides how the land is to be used, if at all.

"Environmental regulations are why it costs so much to get your air conditioner repaired, why your car can't pass emissions inspections even though it's only a few years old, why you are forced to collect old newspapers so the city can recycle them at tremendous expense, and charge you for it. That trees are a crop, like asparagus, and can be grown again and again, is inadmissible.

"There's no science or logic to the bulk of their claims, whether it's global warming, holes in the ozone layer, acid rain, or any of the other Mother Green fairy tales. But just as Americans are catching on, the greens are trying to trick us again. They want us to believe that free markets, not the Clean Air Act and other crippling laws, are the problem."

Llewellyn H. Rockwell Jr., president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, in Insight, June 20, 1994.

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Thanks to the following for clippings used this month: Melissa Ryan, Chicago, IL; Scott Shreckhise, Roanoke, VA; Dave Walter, West Chester, PA; and Research Etc., Princeton, IA.

Ballot access

continued from page 9

to be very optimistic about achieving total ballot access for 1996, the task will not be an easy one. Florida, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Maine, and North Carolina still present formidable obstacles.

In Florida, the Libertarian Party lobbied to get legislation to allow an unqualified party, such as the LP, to circulate its presidential petition before it knew the identity of its presidential candidate. The bill failed. The party then approached the secretary of state who issued an informal opinion that the LP could not substitute candidates on the petition. But the party is continuing its fight.

"We've now requested the assistance of the Florida ACLU in filing a lawsuit," said Steve Dasbach. "The sense is that this is a very good case. Every precedent that exists is favorable, because the suit is not against the number of signatures, it is against the accommodation of an early deadline and no substitution provision."

In Florida, third parties are required to gather about 65,000 signatures by July 15 next year. With the LP national nominating convention set for July 4, 1996, the LP would have only a little more than a week to gather the signatures needed for ballot status.

The LP national committee already has made contingency plans for LP ballot status in Florida. The national committee has designated Ed Clark and David Bergland as the "stand in" LP candidates for president and vice president for 1996. This gives the state party in Florida the ability to proceed with gathering signatures to place the LP on the ballot for 1996.

"Whenever the appropriate point is, we will begin petitioning in Florida, with or without a court decision," said Dasbach. "If we end up with a negative court decision, it just means we will have a different presi-

dential ticket in Florida." Either way, the LP will achieve ballot status in the state, Dasbach said.

"This problem won't go away," warned Dasbach, "especially if third-party candidates do well in 1996. The problem is that Republicans and Democrats write ballot access laws that—surprise—favor Republicans and Democrats."

Dasbach illustrated the magnitude of the problem by pointing out that "a new party formed in the United States for the 1994 election needed to collect 3,501,629 valid petition signatures to run a full slate of state and federal candidates. By contrast, a new political party in Russia needs only 100,000 signatures to get on the ballot for all offices, and only 10,000 signatures are required in South Africa.

"It's deplorable when Russia and South Africa can boast of greater democracy than the United States," he said. "And these proposed new laws would only make it worse. They pose a genuine threat to fair elections and democracy."

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To see where the Libertarian Party currently stands, state-by-state, in the 1996 presidential petitioning process, see chart on page 15.

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Letters

Members speak out on gun rights, taxes, and more

LP candidates

Richard Winger's suggestion that we do a "Contract With America" clone with paper candidates (May 1995 NEWS) has two defects: It is obviously derivative, and it takes us in the wrong direction.

We should be running candidates for school board, registrar of deeds, town council, and yes, dogcatcher, rather than governor, senator, and congressman. Sometimes we need to run for statewide office to secure ballot access, but there is no reason for any Libertarian to run for U.S. House, except those who already hold public office.

Why are we wasting our best candidates running for offices we can't possibly win? And what gives us the arrogance to run for high office with no track record, no political base, and no experience in public office?

I greatly respect Richard Winger's work to ease ballot access laws across the country, and am grateful for the invaluable help he has given us here in Maryland. Nonetheless, I think he is off base in suggesting that we federalize our politics before we have built a local base of support.

I don't think Americans will be ready to elect Libertarians to Congress in large numbers until Medicare goes bankrupt in 2002, or until Social Security goes belly up about 2013. Then they will be ready, but only if we are ready, by having candidates who have established credibility by getting elected to lower office who are ready to be elected to higher office.

Libertarians should run for the lowest office available, even though trash collection is less exciting than welfare reform. We need to get our farm system in place before we can expect to compete in the big leagues.

Douglas E. McNeil
Chair, Baltimore LP
Baltimore, MD

Keep it short

I hope that Steve Dasbach's grade A on the Republican's line-item veto doesn't mean endorsement of a constitutional amendment for a line-item veto. That would be a further shift of power to an executive which has already usurped too much.

The problem is the omnibus bills with their pork-barrel amendments. I have a constitutional proposal which would tackle the problem much more elegantly:

"No vote on a law or provision of law can be taken by Congress unless it has been read out loud, and in its entirety, in the presence of the members voting upon it immediately prior to the vote. The reading must include the full text of any reference to another law or document unless the vote is for the repeal of the provision. The president's signature on an act of Congress shall not be deemed valid unless the act has been read out loud, and in its entirety, in the presence of the president immediately before he signs it."

This provision would force all laws and finance bills to be short.

While one is about it, perhaps one could rein in the extra-constitutional law-making (rules and regulations) by executive agencies (IRS, EPA & Co.). One could add the words: "no rule, regulation or law of the federal government shall have the force of law until it has been read



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

to Congress and both houses have approved it by a vote."

If one could add a sunset provision to all federal laws, these would have a powerful shrinking effect on the federal government.

David Barnett, PhD
barnett@textb.ph.utexas.edu

Term limits

I was quite surprised, while reading the LP report card (May 1995 NEWS) on the Republican's "Contract With America," that "No grade" was given to the Citizens Legislature Act with a comment by Steve Dasbach that the LP doesn't take a position on term limits.

Dasbach, and apparently the LP itself, completely misses the point on term limits. By restricting the amount of time a person may serve in Congress, career politics in that body is severely curtailed if not completely eliminated. We would essentially be electing people who would view their time in Congress as a short break from their real careers in the private sector. Such people would think more than twice when it came to enacting punitive business regulations or legislation that curtails rights of the citizens. Indeed, there is probably no greater sure-fire way of reducing the size and scope of government than term limits.

For further information, I recommend Doug Bandow's "Real Term Limits: Now More Than Ever," published by the Cato Institute.

Scott A. McLennan
Minneapolis, MN

LP and GOP

My congratulations to you for your thoughtful and fair "report card" on the House Republican's "Contract With America." I note that, while an overall grade of "B-minus" wouldn't qualify anyone for the Dean's List, it is a passing grade.

The real congratulations should go to the American people. The media describe those who voted for the Republicans as "angry white men." ("White men" is meant to be an insult, but why should I consider a description of my skin color or gender to be an insult?) Careful analysis of the public, however, shows that a large and growing segment is libertarian.

The success of the Republicans is that they have gained the support of most of this segment without alienating any of their incumbent constituencies.

I'd describe this success as tentative: First, there are some contradictions in the Republican coalition. We who are libertarian have never been comfortable in alliance with, e.g., the nationalistic elements of conservatism. Second, the Democratic Party has yet to adjust itself to the new electorate, and remains wedded to the welfare state. Is it beyond hope to think that the Grover Cleveland wing of the Democratic Party will return to ascendancy?

Thus my recommendation to you, who are active in third-party politics: Be selective in your support of Republicans,

and continue your educational efforts to shift even more voters into the libertarian segment.

Clifford F. Thies
President, Republican Liberty
Winchester, VA

Terrorism and the law

When Americans who believe the Bill of Rights and Constitution should be revered and obeyed by our public officials are labeled as the "lunatic fringe" and vilified for "extremist views" and our president calls for a "purge" of those whose greatest crime appears to be "inflammatory rhetoric," it is a frighteningly small step to the totalitarian state warned of by the "extremists."

The last month of well orchestrated hysteria as the media systematically attacked the citizen militia movement (despite the fact that the accused terrorist McVeigh was not a militia member) have culminated in an assault on our civil liberties as politicians introduce "counter terrorism" legislation that would give the president unilateral power to suppress opposing voices, spy on law abiding citizens, and deny the accused their constitutional right to confront their accusers merely by labeling them "terrorists."

Those in our government who are seeking to use the horrific tragedy of Oklahoma City as justification for increasing the size, power, and intrusiveness of government and those in the media who are fanning the flames of the '90s version of McCarthyism (a constitutionalist behind every rock) while smugly denouncing "inflammatory rhetoric" make the predictions of the "lunatic fringe" chillingly believable.

Mary Lou Seymour
Bath, SC

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

If the "Counter-Terrorism Bill" is railroaded through Congress in the wake of the tragic Oklahoma City bombing, the greatest victims will be innocent American citizens and residents, not international terrorists.

This bill, which was written by the FBI, and introduced concurrently in the Senate (S390) and the House (HR896) on Feb. 10, 1995, goes a lot further than Chronicle writer Louis Freedberg's assertion that "it closes some legal loopholes and gives federal agencies more leeway in monitoring and apprehending possible terrorists."

Terrorism is certainly a terrible crime, but the U.S. government already has plenty of legal powers, plus investigative resources both at home and abroad to find and deal with potential threats.

The "Counter-Terrorism Bill," however, concentrates enormous police powers in a domestic equivalent of the National Security Council, and gives the president tremendous arbitrary power to declare who is a domestic or overseas "terrorist", a decision which this legislation says shall not be subject to appeal! The bill authorizes secret trials for citizens and immigrants who are merely accused of lending support (including humanitarian aid) to domestic or international "terrorist" organizations,

and these accusations may be made by anonymous informants.

The bill says that individuals arrested under this act may be declared ineligible for bail, may be detained indefinitely until trial, and will be considered guilty until proven innocent—the direct opposite of American principles of justice that have protected the freedom of innocent people for over 200 years.

If the individual cannot somehow prove his or her innocence, then he will be summarily deported if a "green-card" resident, or put in jail for up to 10 years if a citizen while still not necessarily having been proven guilty of any real crime.

It is worth noting that if the president has arbitrary standards for declaring individuals or groups "terrorist", standards and targets can change according to short-term political goals. Syria was a "terrorist state" until George Bush needed it to help fight Iraq. Iran has been an alternate ally and enemy, as has Iraq, some Afghan groups, the ANC, and numerous others. How is one to know what aid is legal and what may be suddenly not?

This bill is scary. It bears a striking resemblance to the dictatorial powers given Chancellor Adolf Hitler in the Enabling Acts, passed in July 1933, just after opposition was muffled following the famous Reichstag fire. Aimed at "Communist terrorists", they ended up being the mechanism for rounding up political dissidents, gays, Jews, gypsies and other targeted groups, and set the stage for the Holocaust.

The government has all the legitimate tools it needs to combat terrorism. The "Counter-Terrorism Bill" is unnecessary, and dangerous to the life and liberty of innocent people.

James R. Elwood
Executive Vice President
International Society for Individual Liberty

Know your rights

William Foster (April 1995 NEWS) wrote saying we need a constitutional amendment concerning not being convicted in court unless force or fraud against another is used. We don't need it; it is already there. This is what the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution are about. But you need to understand how to both claim and enforce your rights.

I have uploaded a file, HOWARDFR.ZIP, to the Libertarian forum on CompuServe. This is a transcription of a speech given by a gentleman named Howard Freeman. Many Libertarians met and heard his speeches when he was alive. I would urge all Libertarians to become familiar with the issues presented by Mr. Freeman.

Mr. Freeman addresses how to deal with all manner of the current "administrative law problems," from violations of zoning ordinances to traffic tickets and even including the IRS.

I hope that reading and understanding Mr. Freeman's information will go a long way toward assisting us in liberty.

Steven Currie
73023,643
StCurrie@ix.netcom.com

see **Letters** on page 14

Libertarian Party NEWS

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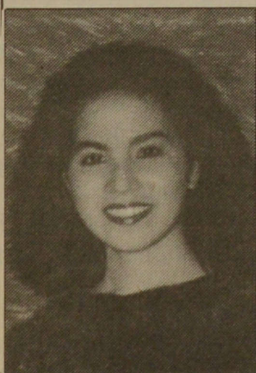
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Letters

continued from page 12

Fund raising

The Libertarian Party needed \$15,000 to renovate their new office. If 12,500 members send \$25 each, the party would raise \$312,500. \$312,500 minus \$15,000 equals \$297,500. The only thing that I would recommend is that the LP use any money in excess of \$15,000 to: 1) recruit new members (radio and magazine ads); 2) for the 1996 political campaigns.

D. M. Davis
Council Bluffs, IA

Land value tax

The recent comments by David F. Nolan about the land value tax being the least harmful and most palatable tax (March 1995 NEWS), the knee-jerk response from libertarian Ted Slampyak (April 1995 NEWS), and Nolan's reply, indicate to me a woeful ignorance among my fellow libertarians regarding the moral justification for the collection of ground rents.

The question one must ask is, "Does anyone have the right to claim outright, eternal ownership of the earth, or just the use of it, and the value they've added to it?" To help you decide, here's what some of our intellectual heroes had to say on the subject (for the quotes I thank Dan Sullivan, a Pittsburgh libertarian, and land value tax activist for over 15 years).

"Men did not make the earth...It is the value of the improvement only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property...Every proprietor owes to the community a ground rent for the land which he holds." — Thomas Paine

"The earth is given as a common stock for men to labor and live on...Whenever in any country there are idle lands and unemployed poor, it is clear that the laws of property have been extended beyond human right." — Thomas Jefferson

"Ground rents are a species of revenue which the owner, in many cases, enjoys without any care or attention of his own. Ground rents are, therefore, perhaps a species of revenue which can best bear to have a peculiar tax imposed upon them." — Adam Smith

"Landlords grow richer in their sleep without working, risking, or economizing. The increase in the value of land, arising as it does from the efforts of an entire community, should belong to the community and not to the individual who might hold title." — John Stuart Mill

For the Biblically inclined: "The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine, for ye are strangers and sojourners with me." — Leviticus 25:23

Libertarians often exclaim in exasperation, "We're just trying to sell freedom, and we can't even give it away!" Perhaps it's because our traditional brand of freedom has a large portion of unfair land monopoly mixed in.

Without commenting further, let me just say that I'm a Libertarian candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, and the Georgist concept of a single tax on land value (Henry George, American economic philosopher, 1839-1897) is fully half of my platform, the other half being ending prohibition (of recreational drugs, sex-for-pay, and gambling).

Harold Kyriazi, PhD
Secretary, Libertarian Party of
Pittsburgh

Gun owner response

I was much amused by the letter from

Antony Van der Mude (June 1995 NEWS) about gun control. He states that we Libertarians should be honest enough to carry our guns openly. I do, very often. I have walked down Main Street of my own town with my .44 Magnum in its speed rig on my hip. But I only do that when I am wearing blue jeans. The idea of getting dressed up to go out for dinner wearing a cocktail dress or evening gown with that huge pistol slung around my hips strikes me as ludicrous. I will take something more discreet and tuck it in my purse, thank you. Just because I wish to look nice doesn't mean that I wish to be defenseless.

He further states that carrying a concealed weapon is an act of fraud, and should be treated as such. Fraud against whom? I immediately thought of the poor, hard working criminal who was defrauded into thinking that I was an easy mark because he could see no weapon. It was in fact not concealed. Even though it was a small revolver, it was still too big to fit into my jacket pocket and the butt was hanging out, had he but noticed. You see, Antony, it's like this. We women have been victimized too often by men who initiate force against us. I had no intention of allowing this man to force his unwelcome attentions on me. No doubt you could have defended yourself against him, but he was half a foot taller than I, and who knows how many pounds heavier? He thought he had himself some easy pickin's. Wrong! He made a mistake in judgment, and I am glad to say he left with his tail between his legs.

I am not going to use a firearm except in defense. My state allows us both to carry and to use arms with a very strongly worded constitutional privilege. If, though, I were to go to your hometown, Summit, NJ, and walk down your Main Street carrying a revolver openly, how long would it take for me to be arrested? Not long! There is no intrinsic evil in concealing a weapon. I often do. Sometimes, as I have already noted, for what might be called "cosmetic" reasons, and also because there has been so much hysteria in the media that many people can be upset by the sight of a firearm. Why cause them gratuitous anxiety? I have never shot another human being. I hope I never do. But one thing is sure. It is not safe to initiate violence against me.

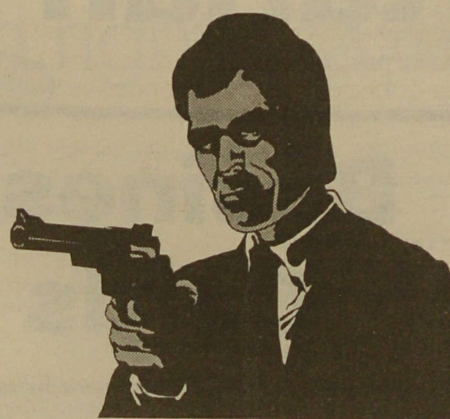
Anne H. Allen
Bennington, VT

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

I am writing in response to Antony Van der Mude's letter regarding having the LP reconsider its stand on weapons ownership "in light of the events in Oklahoma."

First of all, I want to point out explicitly that guns were not involved in the Oklahoma City bombing. Whatever has been said about gun ownership restriction in connection with the bombing is simply a demonstration of the reactionary mentality of gun controllers.

Second, Mr. Van der Mude seems to write with no consideration of the Second Amendment, which states that the federal government shall not infringe our rights to keep and bear arms (not just hunting rifles). The very purpose of this amendment is to protect our power to fight against our own government with weapons if enough people feel that circumstances warrant such action. With this in mind, it is the case



that the LP's current stand is anything but extreme or radical. It's constitutional, however else you want to describe it.

Let's not forget that George Washington, the first president under the U.S. Constitution, was the same man who took up arms against his own government, and helped organize other men against it.

For the record: I have yet to hear a member of the LP, either in writing or through personal discussion, condone or advocate such an act as that which occurred in Oklahoma City. We are not hypocrites like so many others. In fact, we were among the first organizations to denounce the government actions near Waco, Texas.

Todd Greene
Grand Rapids, MI

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

I read Antony Van der Mude's letter in the NEWS with disbelief which soon turned to anger. Even though his letter appeared in the NEWS, I do not know whether or not to assume that he is in any way associated with the party. There was not one sentence in his letter that conveyed any understanding or appreciation of Libertarian thought. In fact, the whole tone and premise of the letter was anti-libertarian.

Mr. Van der Mude does not understand the meaning of fraud if he thinks carrying a concealed weapon is fraud. Fraud is the use of deception to steal or otherwise obtain that which one is not entitled to. I am no more committing fraud when I carry my Glock in a concealed holster than I am when I conceal my wallet in my pocket.

Mr. Van der Mude uses a libertarian-sounding phrase, "acting as a responsible adult," to argue for yet more restrictions on individual liberty. The philosophical foundation of libertarianism is the belief that we have free will and are responsible for our own actions, decisions, and lives. Mr. Van der Mude repudiates these principles and implies that the state is responsible for regulating our actions. In Mr. Van der Mude's world not only is the state responsible for the regulation of the actions of the citizenry, but we all are. I accept that I am responsible for my actions and words, but I do not accept, as Mr. Van der Mude apparently does, that I, through my speech, am responsible for the actions that others choose to engage in.

Normally when I run across a letter or article such as this I shrug it off as the usual ramblings of a liberty-fearing statist, but when such a letter appeared in the NEWS I made a decision to write a response in order to defend libertarianism as I understand it.

Paul Zimmerman
Anderson, IN

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

The letter by Antony Van der Mude set me to thinking. Although I disagree with his stand in favor of limiting gun owners' rights, his statement regarding Libertarian descriptions of federal agents as "storm troopers" is valid. Simply put, many Libertarians and libertarians have written off the 80 percent of the American electorate who follow, to some degree, the teachings of Jesus Christ. We have done this by dividing the human race into two categories, "us" (moral, principled, etc.) and "them" (immoral, unprincipled, etc.).

If we are ever going to appeal to the mass of the American people, we are going to have to give up our view of ourselves as pure, holy, and unsullied by statism. Some libertarians preach about the immorality of accepting government welfare payments, while these same libertarians gladly accept government subsidized student loans, use government roads, schools, and the postal service. The fact is, none of us is pure, holy, and unsullied by statism. We have all been both aided and hurt by government action. While I would venture to say that 99.9 percent of us have, on balance, been hurt more than helped by the existence of big government, the fact remains that we are all imperfect. There is both good and evil in all of us, and referring to government agents as "storm troopers" and federal legislators as "congresscritters" dehumanizes people and does not serve the best interests of the Libertarian Party. Judging others simply puts us in the same camp as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and Bill Bennett.

Perhaps the best example of our hypocrisy is signing an oath that we do not "believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." No human being could, in good conscience, sign such an oath unless we all lived in a pure libertarian society. Any contemporary American citizen who signs such an oath is risking hypocrisy as there is simply no way we can escape abetting statism as long as it exists.

While viewing ourselves as perfect may make us feel good, judging others simply dooms us to political irrelevance.

Mark W. Stroberg
Concord, CA
markws@ccnet.com

LP on OK

People rarely take the time to praise a job well done, but I wanted to do so for the June issue of the NEWS. I was waiting for the tone of the response to the Oklahoma City bombing, and frankly I was afraid of a macho flash. Instead, I read what is probably one of the best issues ever of the NEWS. The content of our response to the bombing was exactly what people should expect from rational, peaceful, responsible dissenters. This issue is one that I look forward to sharing with non-Libertarians, who I think will see us in a different and much better light as a result.

Brian Schar
schar@chaph.usc.edu

On-line

As the 1996 election season approaches, a cheap and easy way to see **Letters** on page 15

Letters

continued from page 14

raise awareness about the Libertarian Party and its principles might be to venture onto the Information Superhighway and do some "on-line proselytizing."

Many on-line services are offering free on-line time to try out their services. I have spent many hours in the "Newsroom" chat room on the America On-line service debating public policy issues and familiarizing others with libertarian ideas.

I also let everyone in the chat room know about the LP's toll-free number and inform them that they can learn more about the LP by typing keyword: libertarian.

I have found that by discussing issues on-line the audience can gain a more in-depth view of libertarianism—and increasing the LP's name identification doesn't hurt either!

J. Robert Latham
Salt Lake City, UT

Exclusionary rule

[Concerning "Issue: The exclusionary rule" in "Talking points" column in June 1995 NEWS]

Does this represent the LP consensus? I sure hope not. Like the editor and Michael Gartner, I want less government, not more government intrusion. But I disagree with the idea that the exclusion of evidence is the preferred means of restricting the government's ability/desire to conduct unreasonable searches.

In my opinion: a) evidence is evidence, no matter how obtained, and should not be excluded because of another unrelated crime; and b) if government agents obtain evidence illegally, then these agents should be prosecuted for breaking this law (in an entirely separate case). If an illegal search is conducted, then someone broke the law, didn't they?

Our current system just angers citizens and police alike when evidence is excluded. We effectively punish those guilty of illegal search/seizure by making their jobs a little more miserable—maybe a slap on the hand? Today, a cop considering a search that is of questionable legal basis must weigh the pros and cons—pro: if it turns out to be legally grounded (or not, as long as it's not contested), I get to bust a bad guy... I'm a hero... America's a better place...; con: if it turns out to be an illegal search, the evidence is excluded, and the bad guy may get away... my boss will probably tell me to be more careful next time...

I'd guess the pros outweigh the cons nine times out of 10. The downside just isn't there.

A much more direct approach and a more efficient deterrent is to prosecute these illegal searches, still allowing the evidence in court. This way, fewer criminals get off on what seems to be a courtroom technicality, and police have a better picture: it's not a question of legal wrangling and evidentiary technicalities, but a question of themselves breaking the law and facing the consequences.

I'm glad with the approach taken by House Republicans towards the exclusionary rule. Now all we have to do is start dealing much more harshly with those that illegally invaded our privacy.

Michael Good
Tampa, FL

WWWow

I just wanted to let you folks know that the LP's new World Wide Web page is

excellent! Whoever made this idea a reality should get a great big pat on the back. It is one of the best and most informative Web pages I have seen and it will surely help bring new members to the cause of individual freedom.

Thanks a lot and keep up the good work!

Daniel Koerner
DKoerner@aol.com

The pledge

David Nolan (June 1995 NEWS) is right. The LP pledge could possibly "serve the Libertarian Party well in the dark days of witch-hunting and scape goating that may well lie ahead." It was originally intended to be a pledge against participation in violent anti-government activities (such as what happened in Oklahoma City). The problem is the pledge is not air-tight.

The media could interpret "non-initiation of force" to mean that Libertarians cannot engage in terrorism *unless* the government starts it first (e.g. Randy Weaver, Waco, and such). There is nothing we could say to prove them wrong. The pledge itself is defective.

The pledge should read: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate *terrorism* as a means of achieving political or social goals." In this way the original purpose of the pledge is satisfied and we are not left vulnerable. Anything less would be "short-sighted."

Mark Sulkowski
Buffalo, NY

Write now!

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Join the party!

see page 4

1996 presidential petitioning status

State	Requirement	Signatures gathered	Deadline in 1996
Alabama	11,991	finished	
Alaska	2,586	100	in doubt
Arizona	14,500	(register) 9,864	May 21
Arkansas	21,506	0	Jan. 2
California		already on	
Colorado	0	0	Aug. 6
Connecticut	7,500	can't start	Aug. 7
Delaware		already on	
D.C.	3,200	can't start	Aug. 20
Florida	65,596	0	July 15
Georgia		already on	
Hawaii		already on	
Idaho		already on	
Illinois		already on	
Indiana		already on	
Iowa	1,500	0	Aug. 16
Kansas		already on	
Kentucky	5,000	0	Aug. 29
Louisiana	0	0	June 30
Maine	4,000	can't start	June 4
Maryland		already on	
Massachusetts		already on	
Michigan		already on	
Minnesota	2,000	can't start	Sept. 10
Mississippi		already on	
Missouri		already on	
Montana		already on	
Nebraska	2,500	2,300	Aug. 27
Nevada		already on	
New Hampshire		already on	
New Jersey	800	0	July 29
New Mexico		already on	
New York	15,000	can't start	Aug. 20
North Carolina	51,904	0	in doubt
North Dakota	4,000	0	Sept. 6
Ohio	5,000	50	Aug. 22
Oklahoma	41,711	3,444	July 15
Oregon		already on	
Pennsylvania	30,000	can't start	Aug. 1
Rhode Island	1,000	can't start	Sept. 6
South Carolina		already on	
South Dakota		already on	
Tennessee	25	0	Aug. 20
Texas		already on	
Utah		already on	
Vermont	1,000	0	Sept. 19
Virginia	16,000	can't start	Aug. 23
Washington	200	can't start	July 6
West Virginia	6,837	0	Aug. 1
Wisconsin		already on	
Wyoming		already on	

Information for the above chart is taken from the June 1, 1995, Ballot Access News, Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147. Subscriptions available for \$8 per year.

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Upcoming Events

July 29, 1995:

Alabama LP Convention, Montgomery; for information call 800-207-1770 (in AL) or 334-265-1770 (outside state). Speakers include Harry Browne, Jacob Hornberger, and Jo Jorgensen.

June 30-July 2, 1995:

Texas LP Convention, Doubletree Guest Suites on Westheimer, Houston; for information contact Joe Lusardi at 713-784-1776 or 800-422-1776. Speakers include Steve Dasbach, Harry Browne, Jo Jorgensen, and Michael Emerling.

July 1, 1995:

Second Annual 2nd Amendment Rally, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA; for information call 707-429-2871.

July 29, 1995:

Alabama LP Convention, Montgomery; for information call 334-265-1770. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jo Jorgensen, and Jacob Hornberger.

Aug. 19, 1995:

Brass Roots '95—Second Annual 2nd Amendment Rally, east steps of Capitol building, Lansing, MI; for information call 810-399-9177 or write Brass Roots, P.O. Box 246, Hazel Park, MI 48030.

Aug. 26, 1995:

South Dakota LP Convention, Radisson Hotel, Sioux Falls; for information call 800-639-2623 or 605-255-4032. Speakers include Tim Slagle.

Aug. 26-27, 1995:

Libertarian Party National Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL; for information call 202-543-1988.

Sept. 9, 1995:

Second Annual Liberty Fair, sponsored by the Miami Valley Libertarian Party, Enon Beach, Dayton, OH; for information call 513-845-9980 or 513-335-8297.

Sept. 23, 1995:

Connecticut LP Convention, Stamford; for information call Mark Tuniewicz at 203-777-7498. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jo Jorgensen, and Gene Burns.

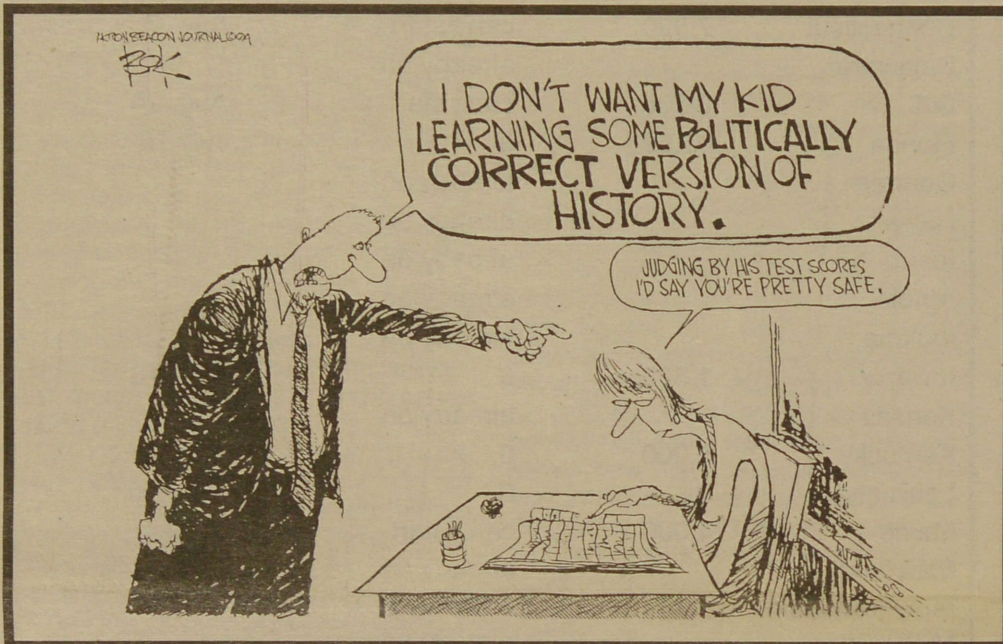
Sept. 30, 1995:

West Virginia LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Clarksburg/Bridgeport; for information contact John K. Brown at 800-950-3421 or 304-757-3821. Speakers include Harry Browne, Irwin Schiff, Jo Jorgensen, and Bill Winter.

Oct. 6-8, 1995:

FIJAcon III - Fully Informed Jury Association third national conference, Crystal Inn, Salt Lake City, UT; for information call 406-793-5550. Talks, panels, debates on jury veto power.

Send upcoming event notices early to: Libertarian Party NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Ballot woes
eased
page 1**

**Affiliate
news
page 4**

**Militia
forum
page 8**