

Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 31, Issue 2, February 2003

News Of Local Libertarians' Struggle For Freedom



SUNNYVALE GROUP FIGHTING RDA EMINENT DOMAIN ASKS LPSCC EXCOM FOR HELP

Reported by Marv Rudin

The highlight of our February LPSCC Excom meeting on Feb. 1 at the Rosegarden Library meeting room was a visit by leaders of the Sunnyvale group "Friends of Sunnyvale" asking for help in their petition drive to put a charter amendment on the ballot that would prohibit the Redevelopment Agency from using eminent domain to force private owners off their property to sell it to other private parties (usually developers or major retailers).

After approval of the January meeting minutes and an officer report by Treasurer Jon Hugdahl that he'd received an unsigned \$700 check from the LPC in partial payment of the amount the LPC is in arrears due to missed payments by the national LP, and discussion about creating a new resolution concerning the Iraq issue

by email discussion, the Excom heard a presentation by Olaf Hirsch of the Friends of Sunnyvale, a group dedicated to resisting the City of Sunnyvale's massive redevelopment plan, requesting help in their petition drive to get provisions into the city charter that would prohibit redevelopment plans that are not approved by a vote of the people. He was accompanied by Ray Johnson, also of the F of S.



Excom discuss RDA-ED with FoS's Hirsch and Johnson (rt)

Inside This Issue

- Pg. 2 LP Freestate In Mercurynews.com
- Pg. 2 LPSCC Freedom Wagon?
- Pg. 3 Lieberman Sets Up Rent Control Debate
- Pg. 4 Elections Coming November 3
- Pg. 5 LPSCC Quarterly Meeting At Fish Mkt
- Pg. 6 Umphress Gets LPC Bray Award
- Pg. 7 Iraq Liberation A Step Toward Peace
- Pg. 8 Should LPSCC Take Position On Iraq?
- Pg. 9 Officers List & Member Application

In his presentation, Hirsch described how the city plans for a series of 6 story buildings on either side of Mathilda Ave - Sunnyvale's central high traffic boulevard that carries worker traffic into Lockheed and environs - stretching from downtown all the way up to El Camino (about 5 blocks). Because

(Continued on page 3)

3 LPERS PARTICIPATE IN HOME AND PRIVATE SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING

Reported by Marv Rudin

Accepting Libertarian private school entrepreneur Robert Arne's invitation, Libertarians Collier, Rice, and Rudin heard speakers and joined in Q & A discussions at a state home & private school leaders convention -



Collier and Rice (left) learn problems of home/private schoolers

The State Convention of California Parents for Educational Choice (CPEOnline.org) - held adjacent to Arne's School of Choice. The convention, which hosted heads of CPEC and other school choice organizations, California Network of Educational Charters and California Homeschool Network, plus attorneys fighting for religious school choice, and operators of private schools and charter schools, and home schoolers, was held in a spacious and well equipped church auditorium on the converted public school facility on which Arne's school leases classrooms and offices. As a Libertarian, your reporter couldn't help thinking what an efficient free market use of a formerly inefficient public school!

(Continued on page 5)

Libertarian Party of
Santa Clara County
P.O. Box 60171
Sunnyvale, CA
94088-0171
Tel: (408) 243-2711
http://
www.sc.ca.lp.org

PUBLICITY

Stories about local Libertarians publicizing the party

FREE STATE PROJECT GETS LP NAME AND VIEWS INTO MERCURYNEWS.COM!

The Libertarian Party's views got some good coverage in Silicon Valley when The Mercury News ran the following article from the Baltimore Sun on Sun, Feb. 23, 2003, on its Bay Area news web site, mercurynews.com.

Libertarians are looking for a state to take over

By Marego Athans
Baltimore Sun

Plans are under way for an invasion of New Hampshire. Or Wyoming. Or maybe Delaware, Montana or Alaska. Sparsely populated and independent in spirit, they're all attractive targets for a bloodless coup.

Within the next several years, according to the plan, 20,000 Libertarians would move to a single state and begin infiltrating. They'd get jobs, join civic groups, get elected and take a hatchet to taxes and laws. In this utopia called the Free State Project, schools would be severed from the state, gun-control laws abolished, drugs legalized, health and social services privatized, most federal aid rejected. Government's only job would be to protect against "force and fraud." The libertarian movement has existed for decades and produced leading intellectuals and Nobel Prize winners, but despite all that it hasn't had much influence on a national level," said Free State Project founder Jason Sorens. "I think it's time we concentrate our resources in a place where we have a shot at actually winning."

A Libertarian since his teenage years in Houston, Sorens, 26, floated his idea in a July 2001 article in the online journal Libertarian Enterprise. Libertarians around the country began pledging to move -- 2,600 of them so far. Once the figure reaches 5,000, participants vote on their state of choice from a list of 10, selected because they have fewer than 1.5 million residents (easier to sway elections), a promising job market, a culture deemed "pro-liberty" and low reliance on federal aid.

Once 20,000 have signed on -- Sorens expects this by about 2005 -- the migration begins. By 2010, Sorens said, the group should be ready to start influencing policy, first as "foot soldiers" to the Libertarians already living in the state and then by running for local and state office. The next goal is to gain control of the state legislature. ■

LPSCC FREEDOM WAGON - DO YOU WANT ONE ?

A Rolling Statement On Wheels That Can Be Parked Visibly At High Traffic Spots All Over The County To Publicize The Message That Freedom Is As Close As Their Ballot

By Marv Rudin 2003 Publicity Chair

In the 10 years before 1999, the LPSCC spent over \$5,000 per year - over \$50,000 - for an office that hardly any outsider ever saw. In the years since we've managed to hang onto your dues and donations with eye toward spending it more wisely to publicize and grow the party.

You members have elected me to be responsible for party publicity as your Publicity Chair. Now I ask you members to help me do the job by supporting what I believe will be a very cost effective way to get our message to the public - a FREEDOM WAGON. The FREEDOM WAGON - a box truck with a potent message like the one pictured - could be a tangible means of bringing our message to thousands of "small I" libertarians - polls say it's 1 of 6 members of the public - who presently don't know that the Libertarian Party represents their beliefs.



Where and how would they see it? There are positions along busy surface roads all over the county at which such a messaged truck could be parked by volunteers living nearby. And by lining up 52 volunteers living near such visible high traffic locations, each would need to put the truck at a select spot for just one week, and pass it to the next volunteer for the following week. If the truck must be moved a few blocks daily (or maybe bi-daily) to conform to city ordinances, truck-home/home-truck transportation could be by means of a light bike or motor-

(Continued on Pg. 3)

LIEBERMAN GETS RENT CONTROL DEBATE ON AGENDA

As reported in the January issue of the SCL, LPSCC member Scott Lieberman is now Chair of the San Jose Advisory Commission on Rents. He says this position has enabled him to set up a debate on the pros and cons of rent control. He said, "I was able to set some of the agenda for our retreat. The debate between pro-rent control and anti-rent control experts was my idea. The debate, from 12:30pm to 2pm, on March 1 is open to the public. If you want to see what one appointed Libertarian can accomplish, you are welcome to attend the debate."

The debate, was scheduled to take place at Hayes Conference Center, 200 Edenvale Avenue, San Jose after a morning meeting session between Edward Stringham, Department of Economics and Janet Smith-Heimer, Managing Principal, Bay Area Economics. As it occurs in March the event will be reported in next month's issue of the SCL. Hopefully it will cause the negatives associated with distortion of free markets to become clear to more people. ■



Scott Lieberman

(Excom Meeting - Continued from page 1)

motorists driving through would see little sky except directly ahead and overhead, the plan has been nicknamed by opponents, "Mathilda Canyon". Hirsch, who has a business in downtown Sunnyvale that would be displaced or eliminated by the development said the city had a "stakeholder" meeting and came up with a high density plan, but that two thirds of the "stakeholders weren't residents, but were developers. The density is comparable to that of one of the World Trade Center towers in density. His group has two members who are architects who have proposed a plan that would be less dense and more people friendly in terms of open space and amenities, but the city wouldn't consider them. So the F of S has submitted 3 separate charter initiatives that if passed by the electorate would:

1. Make private-to-private eminent domain transfer illegal without voter approval.
2. Require that no RDA plan be adopted without voter approval.
3. Require voter approval of any building over 46 feet high.

Jon Hugdahl, and other Excom members said they didn't think the third initiative is something we could support, but that the first two are very consistent with our resolution opposing eminent domain to transfer property from one private party to another that was prompted by the Tropicana fight in San Jose.

The discussion then went to how many petition signatures were needed and before what date. When Hirsch and Johnson said they'd been gathering signatures for 4 months and still needed about 4 thousand signatures within a month, your reporter said that we probably couldn't make much of a dent in that size of requirement in such a short time, but that this initiative would be ideal for our COAP program if we could gather signatures over a 6 month period. I asked if it would be possible to recycle the project if they were unable to get enough signatures on the present program, but undoubtedly because they didn't want to contemplate the possibility of failure of the present drive, they weren't willing to give that any thought. Wanting to do the best we could for them, Zander Collier and Mike Laursen offered to help by phoning Libertarians to ask them to help gather signatures.



Olaf Hirsch of Friends of Sunnyvale at left

A complete description of the Friends of Sunnyvale project, including legally submittable downloadable initiatives, a well presented description of the Sunnyvale Redevelopment situation and F of S arguments for changing to a better reduced density plan, and links to web sites thoroughly covering redevelopment and eminent domain issues is on the web at <http://www.friendsofsunnyvale.org>. ■

Freedom Wagon - (Continued from page 2)

scooter stowed in the Freedom Wagon.

I'll get it started and develop the method of use and make a video to train volunteers, and will call as many of the 5000 registered Libertarians in Santa Clara County as necessary to line up the 52 weekly Freedom Wagon custodians. But not unless some of you folks say you like the idea, some say you'll help me find the most visible sites at which to park it, some will volunteer to be custodian for a week, and some say you're willing to donate toward it's cost - (which I estimate should average about \$250 per month for purchase amortization, insurance, maintenance and gas).

Not only can the Freedom Wagon provide an inexpensive mobile billboard for advertising, but it will be versatile enough to allow quick and easy vinyl-wrap sign changes, store fixtures and handout literature to eliminate our present \$75/mo storage rental, act as a bus for outreach events, give us a highly visible presence in parades, use speakers blaring our message in selected districts during election season

Readers - what do you think? Would you like to have a unique FREEDOM WAGON seen all over the county? Maybe even parked so every employee of the Mercury News will see it for a week as they drive in to work?

COMING EVENTS...

Central Committee Meetings: Thursday April 17th at the Fish Market on Blossom Hill

July 10th (location yet to be decided)
October 10th (location yet to be decided)

Executive Committee Meetings: Normally 1st Saturday of month, 10:00am
Usually at Rosegarden Library, Naglee & Dana Avenues, San Jose

Speakers Meetings: 2nd Thursday in months without central committee meeting
Cocos Restaurant, Sunnyvale (Oakmead Parkway & Lawrence Expressway)
Next speakers meeting: *Thursday 8 May*. Come at 7pm for dinner, meeting at 8pm

Booth at S.F. NORML Convention: Jointly with other Bay Area regions; all are encouraged to attend and volunteer

ELECTIONS ARE COMING NOVEMBER 2003

WILLING TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE AND SHRINK IT?

By Dennis Umphress, Campaigns Chair,

For those of you who may be interested in running or helping with elections coming up, the Santa Clara Valley Office of the Registrar of Voters will be conducting a Consolidated Election On November 4, 2003. Areas with possible elections are:

Cities:

Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale

Santa Clara Libertarian Schedule of Publication to Year End

<u>COVERAGE PERIOD</u>	<u>FINAL EDIT</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>
February Issue	March 17th,	printed & bulk mailed March 24th
March Issue	April 20th,	on web site April 22nd
April Issue	May 18th,	on web site May 20th
May Issue	June 15th,	printed & bulk mailed June 22nd
June Issue:	July 20th,	on web site July 22nd
July Issue:	August 17th,	on web site August 19th
August Issue:	September 14th,	printed & bulk mailed September 22nd
September Issue:	October 19th,	on web site October 21st
October Issue:	November 23rd,	on web site November 25th
November Issue:	December 13th,	printed & bulk mailed December 20th
December Issue	January 4th	on web site January 6th

(1) For regular notice at time of publication, say "SCL notice" to rudin@lpty.org

(2) All 1998 to 2003 monthly issues are online at <http://www.lpty.org/sclnews/>

Special Districts:

Aldercroft Heights Water District, 3 seats
Burbank Sanitary District, 2 seats
Cupertino Sanitary District, 3 seats
San Martin County Water District, 3 seats
Santa Clara County Water District, ? seats
Saratoga Fire District, 1 seat
Silver Creek Valley Country Club GHAD, 2 seats
South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District, 3 seats
Sunol Sanitary District, 3 seats
West Bay Sanitary District, 2 seats

Elementary Schools:

Cupertino Union School District, 2 seats
Los Altos School District, 2 seats
Montebello School District, 1 seat
Sunnyvale School District, 2 seats

Unified School Districts:

Palo Alto Unified School District, 3 seats
Patterson Joint Unified School District, 4 seats

Community Colleges:

Foothill-DeAnza Community College District, 3 seats

To find which districts you live in enter your address at this web site: http://www.sccgov.org/rov/district_form/0,5455,,00.html

If you are considering running for one of the above offices I strongly recommend that you attend their meetings. The meetings will give you an idea of the issues facing the district and the duties of the office.

Dates to remember:

July 14, 2003 - Nomination period opens, first day candidates may pick up nomination packets either at the district office or at the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

August 8, 2003 - Nomination period closes, deadline to file (in the Office of the Registrar of Voters only) all necessary nomination documents.

August 9 through August 13, 2003 - Extension period, If an incumbent in a specific district fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by August 8th, there will be a 5 calendar day extension during which any candidate, other than the incumbent, may file or withdraw from said office.



Zander Collier has good meeting planned

ABU-GHAZALAH AND UMPHRESS TO SPEAK AT LPSCC SPRING MEETING AT FISH MARKET

by Zander Collier, Activities Chair

The Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County (LPSCC) will be meeting at the Fish Market 1007 Blossom Hill Road on Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm. Phone # is (408) 269-3474. Our usual meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month, but to prevent conflict with tax day, April 15th, the date was made April 17th, the third Thursday of the month.

Two Libertarian Congressional candidates in the 2002 elections, Maad Abu-Ghazalah and Dennis Umphress, will be presented with the Sons of Liberty award and will speak about what they did to campaign, what their lessons were, and then spend 5-10 minutes answering your questions. Also,

if time permits those responsible for signing arguments versus parcel taxes as proposed by the local school districts, including Chair Ray Strong and possibly a couple of Republican cosignatories, will speak in the form of a round table discussion format.

This will be an entertaining evening to remember. Here is a quick agenda:

- 6:30 pm: no-host cocktails and greeting reception
- 7:00 pm: Dinner starts
- 7:30 pm: LPSCC Central Committee / Business Meeting Commences
- 9:30 pm: Meeting Concluded

Come and get acquainted and discuss subjects of mutual interest with your fellow Libertarians. See you Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm!



How to get to the Blossom Hill Fish Market

WILL YOU BE THERE?

(Libertarians at Home/Private School Convention - Continued from page 1)

We Libertarians sat in on just the late afternoon of the all day convention. The first speaker we heard was an elderly lady who had started a minimal sized preschool in her home in Walnut Creek in the early 50's that had mushroomed despite competition from public schools. She told how parents were willing to continue to pay for their children's schooling with her when they entered first grade, causing a natural progressive growth into a substantial private school that continues to this day, carried on by her daughter. She was very knowledgeable about dealing with state laws that regulate private schools, and advised attendees how to influence and lobby legislators on programs that pay for disadvantaged children to attend private schools.

Chris Cardiff, former head of CHN, and presently a home school lobbyist, described what practical steps can be taken now to withstand the attacks on home schoolers by the California teachers unions and the office of the state Superintendent of Schools. He said that fortunately they are occupied with staving off voucher advocates and government "challenger" schools, etc., to concentrate on harassing home schoolers. To put further pressure on the dreaded California Teachers Association (CTA) he advocated pushing "Paycheck Protection" a strange sounding term which turned out to mean protecting teachers against paying for union political activities against their will.

Dr. Alan Bonsteel, who heads school voucher advocacy organization, California Parents for Educational Choice, also said emphatically that the best opportunity to counter the CTA is to push for a Paycheck Protection law which would mandate allowing teachers to withhold their dues used by the union for political donations and support.

In the late afternoon, there was a Q and A session, during which Allen Rice invited locals to attend the San Jose Union School District's Measure F Citizens Bond Oversight Committee on which he serves and help hold the school board to what the bond proposal promised to do. Toward the end of the Q & A session, host Robert Arne took the mic, turned to our 3-man Libertarian contingent, thanked us for attending, and asked for our comments. Your reporter said he hadn't heard the word "freedom" used when speakers and audience discussed how to persuade the public to support home and private schooling as good public policy. As a Libertarian, I said, I see their cause and the problems they face as a "freedom issue", and suggested they could engender more sympathy from the citizenry by describing it that way. Zander Collier told how he'd become active in the Libertarian Party and that he'd propose putting paycheck protection for teachers union members into the California Libertarian Party's Program when he would be serving on the program committee at the upcoming state convention in two weeks.

LPC CONVENTION HONORS TWO LPSCC MEMBERS

LPC Resolution To Support Recall Of Governor Gray Davis May Be COAP Cause Celebre

Reported by Marv Rudin

At this years California Libertarian Convention, held as usual on Presidents Weekend, February 15 - 17, this time at the Marriott in Ontario, two local members were honored, M. Carling being elected as an At-large member of the state executive committee, and Dennis Umphress receiving the prestigious Karl Bray award for super activism. Attending the convention, and voting as delegates for our region were: Ray Strong, Mark Hinkle, Elizabeth Brierly, Joel Mannion, Joe Dehn, Mary Gingell, Scott Lieberman, Laura Stewart, M Carling, Beau Cain, and Zander Collier. One other happening in Ontario that may be of special interest to local Libertarians was the passing of a resolution for the recall of Governor Gray Davis. This resolution, which has been publicized by the news media in conjunction with a Recall Davis initiative being circulated around the state, is a potential outreach "cause celebre" needed to launch our COAP* public boothing program.



M Carling
now on
LPC Excom

As our representative to the LPC Program Committee, Zander was able to introduce a plank favoring "paycheck Protection" for members of the California Teachers Association (See pg. 1 article in last issue) which was approved by the general; assembly.

Dennis Umphress Receives Prestigious Karl Bray Activism Award

Presentation comments by MC Jack Dean at Sam Adams Society Awards Luncheon:

"The first Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism was presented at our 1980 state convention, and it has been the Libertarian Party of California's premier activist award ever since. Karl Bray was a charismatic libertarian leader and tax rebel who died of cancer in 1978. He was one of the founders of the National LP, and he served as an early member of the Libertarian National Committee. A year after Karl's death, one of his good friends and admirers, past LPC state chair Bruce Lagasse, established this award in his honor. The award is designed to honor effort "above and beyond the call of duty" during the previous year. It is designed to recognize the unsung hero . . . the activist working in the shadows, rarely -- if ever -- in the limelight . . . who, because of his or her self-initiated actions, significantly advanced the goals of the Libertarian Party of California during the past year. Recipients must be chosen unanimously, and therefore the award is not made every year; however, because the award is not competitive in nature, but rather is based on individual merit, some years have seen multiple recipients as you can tell from looking at the list of past recipients on your table.

I'm pleased to announce that this year we do have a recipient.

This year's recipient must have tremendous energy, because all of the people supporting his nomination were amazed at the variety of tasks he was able to perform.

He served as campaign chair for his county party -- recruiting and supporting candidates for both partisan and nonpartisan office.

He was active in the mailing to collect signatures for partisan candidates, and he organized several candidate workshops -- providing candidates with practice for appearing at public candidate forums.

He kept a watch on the various measures being placed on the ballot by local municipalities and school districts, providing timely warning and assistance in composing and delivering ballot arguments.

He also participated heavily in the party's Operation Politically Homeless program and in the petitioning for signatures for a local ballot measure.

He organized the Northern California Libertarian group for cooperation and coordination of LP activities in Northern California and managed several Yahoo groups for the state and county parties.

He also found time to run a low budget but active campaign for congress, and as a candidate he gave speeches, appeared on the radio, and at candidate forums. He carried his candidacy to a new level by appearing with and joining groups like the local taxpayers association and working tirelessly against the use of eminent domain in his city and against the enforcement of federal marijuana laws in conflict with California's medical marijuana law.

All of those who write in support of his nomination pointed out that in every issue of the regional newsletter during 2002, there was some mention of this person's activity. In the words of his nominator, "he did the work of at least three normal Libertarian activists" during 2002.

And a seconder had this to say about him: "He never lets his feathers get ruffled. He is an excellent example to all of us diehard, vehement Libertarians in how to convey our message in an inclusive way -- inclusive of those who want the same results we do, but who have vastly different ideas of how to achieve those goals."

So it is with GREAT pleasure that I present the Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for Activism for the year 2002 to an outstanding activist from Santa Clara County . . . Dennis Umphress.

IRAQ LIBERATION WILL BE A STEP TOWARD WORLD PEACE

Excerpts from an article by Libertarian candidate for Congress Jeff Landauer published at http://solohq.com/Articles/Landauer/World_Peace.shtml

The idea that if we maintain an isolationist foreign policy then the rest of the world will leave us alone is wrong. Muslims hate the United States because we are the greatest country on earth and in all history, not for what we've done. For example, Israel's neighbors did not simultaneously and instantly attack Israel from all sides the day that Israel declared independence (and repeatedly thereafter as opportunity permitted) because of any Israeli foreign policy. Israel is subject to constant attacks because it is non-Islam. Many followers of Islam are at war with all non-Islamic people. They wage their war as opportunity permits.

On whether or not to invade Iraq, let me first say that we never finished the Gulf War and that we're still fighting it. The peace treaty with Iraq contained the provisions that 1) Iraq would eliminate its stockpile of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD's) and allow inspectors to verify compliance, and 2) the establishment of a no-fly zone to protect local rebellions from Iraqi air attacks. Iraq kicked out the inspectors and has continued to hide and produce WMD's and Iraq constantly commits hostile actions upon coalition aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones.

It is so clearly and overwhelmingly in our interest to finish the Gulf War that I believe that people who argue that it's against our interest are not being intellectually honest. Rather, they are rationalizing to cover up an irrational pacifist bent. First, beating the Iraqi military a second time will be even easier than it was the first time. Second, a democratic Iraq will be an enormous benefit in the fight against terrorism, the weakening of Iraq's theocratic neighbors, and will pave the way for the democracy in other Muslim states in the region. Why are democracies important to us? Because, as the adjoining box score shows, democracies don't war with other democracies.

A democratic Iraq will probably cause an even stronger "brain drain" from the neighboring theocracies than already exists between the Middle East and the West — similar to how so many people have left the Peoples Republic of China for Taiwan and Hong Kong. Intelligent, freedom loving entrepreneurs and artists leave China, and books, movies, and the ideals of capitalism and democracy filter back, in effect Westernizing the Communist behemoth. A democratic Iraq located in the center of the Middle East could, over the years, grow to dominate the entire region culturally and be as great an ally in the war on terror as Germany was in the cold war.

The arguments against toppling Saddam Hussein are usually either that there is no immediate threat or that there is no particular reason to attack Iraq as opposed to other evil regimes throughout the world. To the first objection, Iraq is our enemy whether we like it or not. If we don't act now, the potential situation is that Iraq will get stronger, and pose a bigger threat in the future. Are we going to wait around until the threat is immediate? To adopt the policy of "Be nice to Saddam and maybe he'll be nice to us" is to come from a position of weakness and fear. And lunacy.

Why is Saddam trying so hard to get WMD's? It's not to use against his neighbors because he's learned that in a post-cold war world the West will not tolerate wars of aggression. It's not to use against his own people. He has plenty of bullets and torturing chambers to use against his own people. It can only be to blackmail the west. I assume he seeks to get to the point of MAD (mutually assured destruction), where he has powerful enough weapons that he can act with immunity on the conventional battlefield.

We have a great opportunity to take a big step towards world peace, liberate the oppressed, and help secure our citizens from terrorism. Liberating Iraq is an act that will safeguard democracies in the short term and is a crucial step towards bringing about world peace in the long term. We should seize this opportunity while it presents itself.

OPINIONS

Share your thoughts on making our party more successful and advancing the individual freedom with responsibility movement



Jeff Landauer

Wars 1816-1991

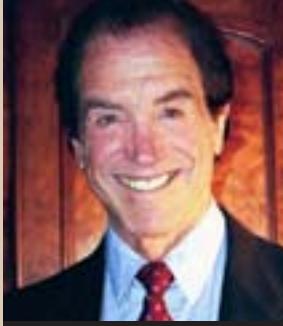
<u>Belligerents</u>	<u>Wars*</u>
democracies vs. democracies	0
democracies vs. nondemocracies	155
nondemocracies vs. nondemocracies	198

*Defined as military action in which at least 1,000 are killed in battle.

Source: [Death By Government](#), R. J. Rummel

OPINIONS

Share your thoughts on making our party more successful and advancing the individual freedom with responsibility movement



Marvin B. Rudin, Editor

TODAY IRAQ'S ON EVERYONE'S MIND Should The LPSCC Take A Position?

Because our members ALL pledge to shun initiation of force, getting all Libertarians to agree against initiating a war should be a slam dunk. Right? But what if it's defense? Or not initiation but continuation because of a

broken condition to eliminate mass weapons signed by the loser of the initial encounter in exchange for the winner not continuing the initial hostilities? And what if America has declared war against terrorists hostile to it, and the aforesaid loser refuses to cooperate in apprehending anti-American terrorists, and is likely to arm with mass weapons, terrorists seeking to kill Americans? If the these what-ifs are true, especially the latter, then it's difficult for Libertarians to make a nice clean decision on Iraq. We believe in non initiation, but we also believe in defense against threats. And we believe in enforcing agreements. This difficulty apparently has created an opinion schism among our members of approximately 60% anti-disarm and 40% pro-disarm Saddam Hussein by force.

Among local leaders there is also a second question; should the LPSCC take an official position on Iraq? I think it shouldn't. I believe that like abortion, where it's impossible to get a super majority to agree on what is a "life", it appears impossible to get substantial agreement on whether or not an Iraq war is needed for defense. Maybe with detailed military intelligence information, Bush does, but we Libertarians who don't want an official position feel we don't know enough to be sure.

On the other hand, our Chair Ray Strong, feeling that the public expects a political party to have a position on such a major issue, wants to compose a resolution about Iraq that our Excom could approve. I guess if it's ambiguous it could get approval and would make for better PR than having no opinion. But I wouldn't know how to write it. As we go to press the UN "Resolutionary War" has ended, and the start of a shooting war is just hours away and the outcome may significantly alter some members' pro-war opinions if it goes terribly. But a quick minimal loss victory probably won't change any anti-war members' opinions. They see it as not only non-Libertarian initiation of force with danger of large losses and damage, but also as non-Libertarian foreign meddling - not defense, which will further inflame Muslims around the world, and cause major tax expenditures for years to come. The latter two objections would not be resolved by a quick easy victory.

In this issue's opinion pages are two members' opinions on opposite sides of the Iraq war issue. One pro by Jeff Landauer on the preceding page, and the other con by Zander Collier which follows on this page.

Zander's opinion is in the form of an anti Iraq war resolution submitted by him for an Excom vote on 1/17/03 that would empower him to deliver a speech representing the LPSCC at a peace rally in San Francisco in January. (It passed at the time with the asterisked whereas's removed - although not in time for the speech. But it's no longer operative after being subsequently rescinded under a motion by Zander at our Feb. Excom meeting, in order to clear the way for a more euphemistic resolution on the subject. But it clearly was, and possibly may still be Zander's opinion for LP-internal consideration.)

"Whereas, The Libertarian Party rejects the initiation of force in all matters: personal, economic, social, and political,

Whereas, the current administration in the White House has repeatedly stated that there is proof of duplicity on the part of the Iraqi Government - and failed to deliver said proof to the American People,

Whereas, the current administration has repeatedly stated that there is proof of a link between Al Qaeda, the September 11th Terrorist Attacks, and the Iraqi Government - and failed to deliver said proof,

(*Whereas, human beings are vulnerable to Goebbels' Maxim: "Tell a lie often enough from a position of power and it becomes accepted truth.",

Whereas, the War on Terrorism was the declaration of one George W. Bush, and NOT the declaration of the United States Congress as is duly prescribed by The Constitution,

Whereas, the American public has been bombarded with a propoganda campaign to scare it into giving up its rights and civil liberties guaranteed by The Constitution,

(*Whereas, this same propoganda campaign has also been designed to incite the American Public to warmongering rather than to a genuine civil discourse on building a safer and more respectful world community,

Whereas, the safety and stability of the world community is just as threatened by an inconsistent and capricious United States foreign policy as it is by tin pot dictators and despots,

And Whereas old politicians' decisions are young soldiers' deaths,

Be it resolved that we, the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County do hereby condemn the unilateral initiation of force by the United States against any sovereign nation and its people."

EDITOR'S NOTE:
*Had a Libertarian
outreach experience?*

Converted someone?

Tell it to the editor!

*Email or phone Newsletter
Editor (see # at right)*

US mail:
**651 Princeton Drive,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087**

Officers:			
Chair	Ray Strong	(408) 268-1496	hrstrong@hotmail.com
Vice Chair			
Secretary	Joe Dehn	(650) 858-1842	jwd3@dehnbase.org
Treasurer	Jon Hugdahl	(650) 965-3744	jon@NoMoreTax.com
Membership	Randy Overbeck	(408) 732-3254	charlesoverbeck@mac.com
Campaign	Dennis Umphress	(408) 269-7432	dmumphress@hotmail.com
Publicity	Marv Rudin	408-978-0866	rudin@lpty.org
Fundraising	Mike Laursen	650-969-2368	LP@laursen.org
Activities	Zander Collier	(408) 369-1866	zcollier@concentric.net
Newsletter	Marv Rudin	(408) 736-5626	rudin@lpty.org
Local Organizing			
State ExCom Rep	Mark Hinkle	(408) 778-2444	mark@garlic.com
Alt ExCom Rep	Joe Dehn	(650) 858-1842	jwd3@dehnbase.org

Judicial Committee	Catherine Brown (408) 723-8711	Kennita Watson kennita@kennita.com (408) 733-7773	Elizabeth Brierly ElizabethB@netgate.net (408) 272-3191
-----------------------	---------------------------------------	---	---

This is the publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit political organization.

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



of Santa Clara County

P.O. Box 60171 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business).

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

Signature: _____

Membership Application

- \$25 Basic
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Life

Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:

- Monthly pledge
- One-time donation

Total:

Payment Method:

- Check payable to: Libertarian Party
- VISA or Master Card or
Discovery or E-Gold (circle one)

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

New Renew

**Santa Clara
Libertarian**

Libertarian Party of California
State Central Committee

Libertarian Party of
Santa Clara County
P.O. Box 60171,
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 4040
SAN JOSE CA

***Plan Thursday Apr. 17th For LPSCC
Spring Meeting & Dinner at The Fish
Market on Blossom Hill Road in S.J.***

No-host Cocktails; 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm

Cuisine: Fresh seafood -- Entrees: \$11-\$20 - Extras: Sushi bar, wine bar, liquor bar, oyster bar, you name it!

Convention Business 7:15 pm - 9:30 pm

Located at 1007 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose (near Almaden Expressway & 85 Freeway)

Come enjoy a fresh seafood dinner, hear speeches and debates, vote on proposals and swap views with your fellow Libertarians

