

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



New Plans Laid for LP Growth

The Libertarian Party has established some ambitious goals for growing into a major political force by the next general election. At the national level, the Libertarian National Committee hopes to double its membership within four years; the Libertarian Party of California plans to do likewise; and the East Bay Region hopes to double both its paid membership and to double the number of registered Libertarian voters during this same period. Achieving the goal at the highest level depends upon the progress made at the regional level.

This is a formidable task because the grassroots level depends on a handful of volunteers who can devote only part of their time to the cause. And a good portion of that time is still taken up with activism on local issues—following up on ballot measures, bond elections, and keeping an eye on local politicians and their shenanigans. All the while, the local party must devote time and resources to recruiting candidates for office and promoting those campaigns.

When the East Bay Region adopted its growth plan, we determined to do it the hard way: by organizing registration drives at shopping malls, gun shows, supermarkets and any other place where such activities are allowed. We cannot guarantee success, but we felt that this was the only viable means to achieve our goals to increase the *real* numbers of Libertarian voters and Libertarian Party activists. With the resources at our disposal, this is the only realistic means available to us.

We have in the past tried using this newsletter as an outreach and recruitment tool, but this has not been demonstrated to be an effective means of gaining new activists. Every year on April 15, we gather at a targeted post office to persuade taxpayers that their annual sacrifice to the politicians in Washington and Sacramento will only be wasted and that they can make a difference in today's government and tomorrow's future by exploring the ideas of the Liber-

tarian Party. At a fundamental level, they tend to agree with us, but from a practical standpoint, they simply do what they feel they *must* do—render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. Nevertheless, we will once again be gathering at a post office on April 15, this year in Walnut Creek, to demonstrate our opposition to government robbery, government coercion and government waste.

The LP of California chose to double its membership the easy way. The state organization actually has the least work to do to accomplish its goal. The LPC Executive Committee has adopted a plan to combine its membership with that of the LNC, which will increase the number of party members in one procedure. But since the number of national party members is not distributed uniformly throughout the state, it is not yet clear how the regional organizations will benefit from this process, or by how much. It is still up to the grassroots activists to make sure new party members become active in the organization and renew their memberships regularly to maintain the level of growth the new system instigates. While the LNC will perform the administrative tasks necessary to process these memberships, it is still up to the local organization to alert the national LP members to the existence of local parties and encourage them to become active in their own community.

During its twenty-five years of existence, the LP has grown steadily in both numbers and influence. What began as an uneasy alliance between disgruntled anti-war Republicans who felt Nixon had betrayed the country, rebellious Democrats who felt the party of the poor had sold its soul to powerful political bosses, and young idealistic voters dissatisfied with the rhetoric of both the right and the left, has developed into an intellectual movement that has finally demonstrated an ability to affect public policy. While we still have some difficulty defining ourselves to the public in a manner they can accept on a philosophical level, we now must battle the public misconceptions of the Party because we have become fashionable. Rush Limbaugh has recently called himself a "libertarian" on his highly-rated radio program. Two years ago, Bill Clinton called himself a "libertarian"

Continued on page 2

on the issue of gays in the military, even while drafting a policy that was anything but libertarian. Film director Clint Eastwood is probably the only high profile public figure to call himself a Libertarian and actually understand what the word means (see his interview in the March 1997 issue of *Playboy*).

All the while, our growth has been gradual, but real. We have been patient because we understood that transforming the prevailing power structure would require enough time for a significant portion of voters to recognize that the old model no longer functions. It takes time to develop the means to market our ideas in such a fashion as to persuade the average voter that freedom works better than tyranny. But these new "Get-Big-Quick" plans imply that we have run out of patience. We should not deceive ourselves into believing that a single magic bullet will propel our movement to the forefront of the public consciousness. Howard Stern's candidacy for governor of New York in 1994 was no major leap forward in terms of numbers or influence. To expect an overnight conversion of a significant proportion of the electorate to our ideology is unrealistic.

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

Copyright© 1996 by the Libertarian Party of California, East Bay Region, 20993 Foothill Blvd., #318, Hayward, CA 94541-1511. Articles, except copyrighted articles, may be reproduced with credit. All submissions for publication accepted under these terms. Opinions are those of the signed authors or, if unsigned, of the editor.

Editor: Terry Floyd

Printed by: East Bay Region LP

Chair: Doug Ohmen (510) 820-0812

Alameda Co. Vice-Chair: Jeffrey Sommer

Contra Costa Co. Vice-Chair: Jean Marie Walker

Treasurer: John Taylor

East Bay Party Line: (510) 531-0760

The Common Sense BBS: (510) 713-7336; 1200-33600, 8-N-1

Now on the World Wide Web!!

<http://cmnsens.zoom.com/lifeline>

News & Events deadline: 15th of the month. Send to Editor, 240 Sybil Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 or call (510) 351-0973.

Submit on paper, diskette, or internet e-mail to:

Terry.Floyd@cmnsens.fidonet.org or upload submissions to the Lifeline File Drop area (Local.Political.Lifeline.sub) of the Common Sense BBS. For subscription info, see page 7.

The activists who were disappointed with party growth decades ago left the movement to pursue other interests. The departure of activists over the years has not derailed the dream nor has it destroyed the party or slowed its momentum. In fact, some of these activists even aided the LP by pursuing our goals through alternative avenues. The Republican Liberty Caucus promotes libertarian ideas within the Republican Party, and can be credited with moving the GOP incrementally forward to actively implementing the smaller government philosophy they have claimed to believe in since the Reagan era. While real Libertarians may be disappointed and distrustful of the Republican Revolution of 1994, at least we now have congressmen actually discussing the possibility of abolishing the IRS, serious discussion of privatizing the Social Security System, and a gingerly approach to reassessing the War on Drugs.

This is not the time to lose patience. If we fail to achieve our lofty goals, we should not assume that we have failed to accomplish anything. California Libertarians have legalized Medical Marijuana, have attempted to restore sanity and fairness through the Civil Rights Initiative, and today command a greater respect from the public and the press than at any previous time in our history. It did not happen overnight, and our long-term goals may not be met within two years, four years or even ten years from now. But we cannot abandon the dream.

In a recent review of Charles Murray's new book *What It Means to Be a Libertarian* in the internet magazine *SLATE* (<http://www.slate.com>), critic Jacob Weisberg notes that while the Cato Institute is now one of the most influential think tanks in Washington, former LP Presidential candidate Ron Paul has been reelected to congress, and even Bill Clinton's admission that "The era of Big Government is over," in his 1997 State of the Union Address, the United States is "moving toward libertarian-style minimalist government in the same way that you get closer to Paris when you drive east to the supermarket." All of the accomplishments listed in Weisberg's laundry list of Libertarian achievements are tangible, and even if we're not yet quite as near to Paris as we'd like to be, we're enjoying the ride immensely, and we're not about to give up just because we are forced to obey the political speed limit.



From the Chair

Hello again! We had a great meeting at Fudruckers on Tuesday, March 18. The restaurant was noisy, but Jerry Denham made a good talk. Mr. Denham is a member of the John Birch Society, but he is trying to start a group that he calls The Freedom Coalition. His idea is that all of the groups that are concerned about the way the Democrats and Republicans are moving the country should get together to try to resist the current trends. Libertarians can agree with a lot of what other groups are trying to do, even if we cannot agree with all of it. That is why groups in The Freedom Coalition agree to disagree about some things and to agree about a lot of others.

To meet with others in The Freedom Coalition, come to the meeting each Sunday morning at 7:00am for an hour and a half. The meeting location varies each week, so call Jerry Denham at (510)937-1405 to find the East Bay location for the week. If anyone attends, please keep the rest of us informed.

We have recently heard a lot of allegations that various politicians, including the President and Vice President and the Democrat National Committee have been willing to accept large donations to ensure election. The politicians have predictably suggested that there be more laws passed, instead of just enforcing the laws that we currently have. We must realize that any time people give big money to politicians they expect to receive big returns on their investment. This is where the corruption is endemic in the political process.

The answer is not to make more laws to try to control the money politicians receive. The answer is to limit what government can do. If government could not award big contracts, could not give one person, one group or one business an advantage over others, there would be no reason to bribe politicians.

The Libertarian Party is dedicated to bringing on small government. Unfortunately, the corollary to this is that there will be very few people who will ever give really big money to the Libertarian Party. Is this just a discouraging way to say that the Libertarian Party can never succeed? No! But, the Party must reach for a different electorate. We must offer people smaller government, lower taxes, less government control of personal actions. We cannot offer more goodies from government the way most of the Democrat and Republican politicians do. The hard side of what we offer is that people must take care of themselves and of their neighbors. There will never be a

3

big "benevolent" government to step in with bushels of money when people have hard times with no assurance and no savings.

The fact is that under a Libertarian government people would have a lot more of their own money for savings and for insurance. In addition, people would have a feeling of interdependence. Neighbors, churches, lodges and unions would take care of their own people. The deadbeats would have a much harder time convincing individual citizens that they should be taken care of in the style that they wished without any effort on their own part.

This is not a new idea. For the first 175 years of our Republic there was no welfare at any but the local level. Even during the depression, when as many as 25% of all wage-earners were unemployed, people were taken care of by their communities and no one starved. It is only with the initiation of the welfare state that suddenly there is no one who can take care of the destitute except for the Federal Government. The Feds do a very poor job of policing who is in genuine need. Some people can and should just get a job, even if it is not at the level the person feels is appropriate. The Libertarians would restore to the community the care of those who truly cannot take care of themselves and would do it at far less cost than is currently spent.

An answer that could be instituted by Congress at this time would be to make cash donations to genuine charities, such as churches, Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc., totally deductible from people's taxes (not just from people's gross income). This would short circuit the path of sending funds to the wasteful bureaucracy in Washington, where (in some reports) only 18% ever reaches the truly needy.

How do Libertarians change things? We talked in the last two months about our goals of growing Libertarian voter registration and growing the Libertarian Party. We also have the goal of doubling the number of active Party member. Our meeting at Fudruckers was a step in that direction: We had a number of new people who came to the meeting. That is a great indicator.

On April 15, Greg Lyon has invited as many as can to come to the Walnut Creek Post Office at 6:00pm or after. We will tell late IRS filers that we would eliminate the IRS if we controlled the government. Come on out and have some fun for a few hours.

Our next meeting will be in Fremont on May 20. Please put that on your calendar. We will announce the location next month. Even if you live in the north of our area, plan to come. It is only once a year in the south. We will again have a speaker and lots of fun. I hope to see you there. □

Common Sense

Editor's Note: It is often helpful to return to the roots of libertarian philosophy to examine where we've been and how far we have come. Also, the public education system under which most of us were taught frequently fails to provide this background, so many of us may not be familiar with the classic works of libertarian thought. What follows is the first part of Thomas Paine's most influential essay. Further installments of this and other major works will be appearing in future issues of the Lifeline.

Some writers have so confounded society with government, as to leave little or no distinction between them; whereas they are not only different, but have different origins. Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vices. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinctions. The first is a patron, the last a punisher.

Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil, in its worst state an intolerable one; for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamities are heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer! Government, like dress, is the badge of lost innocence; the palaces of kings are built on the ruins of the bowers of paradise. For were the impulses of conscience wear, uniform, and irresistibly obeyed, man would need no other lawgiver; but that not being the case, he finds it necessary to surrender up a part of his property to furnish means for the protection of the rest; and this he is induced to do by the same prudence which in every other case advises him out of two evils to choose the least. Wherefore, security being the true design and end of government, it unanswerably follows that whatever form thereof appears most likely to ensure it to us, with the least expense and greatest benefit, is preferable to all others.

In order to gain a clear and just idea of the design and end of government, let us suppose a small number of persons settled in some sequestered part of the earth, unconnected with the rest, they will then represent the first peopling of any country, or of the world. In this state of natural liberty, society will be their first thought. A thousand motives will excite them thereto, the strength of one man is so unequal to his wants, and his mind so unfitted for perpetual solitude, that he is soon obliged to seek assistance and relief of another, who in his turn requires the same. Four or five united would be able to raise a tolerable dwelling in the midst of a wilderness, but one man might labor out the common period of life without accomplishing any thing; when he had felled his timber he could not remove it, nor erect it after it was removed; hunger in the mean time would urge him from his work, and every different want call him a different way. Disease, nay even misfortune would be death, for though neither might be mortal, yet either would disable him from living, and reduce him to a state in which he might rather be said to perish than to die.

Thus necessity, like a gravitating power, would soon form our newly arrived emigrants into society, the reciprocal blessings of which, would supersede, and render the obliga-

tions of law and government unnecessary while they remained perfectly just to each other; but as nothing but heaven is impregnable to vice, it will unavoidably happen, that in proportion as they surmount the first difficulties of emigration, which bound them together in a common cause, they will begin to relax in their duty and attachment to each other; and this remissness, will point out the necessity, of establishing some form of government to supply the defect of moral virtue.

Some convenient tree will afford them a State-House, under the branches of which, the whole colony may assemble to deliberate on public matters. It is more than probable that their first laws will have the title only of REGULATIONS, and be enforced by no other penalty than public disesteem. In this first parliament every man, by natural right will have a seat.

But as the colony increases, the public concerns will increase likewise, and the distance at which the members may be separated, will render it too inconvenient for all of them to meet on every occasion as at first, when their number was small, their habitations near, and the public concerns few and trifling. This will point out the convenience of their consenting to leave the legislative part to be managed by a select number chosen from the whole body, who are supposed to have the same concerns at stake which those have who appointed them, and who will act in the same manner as the whole body would act were they present.

If the colony continue increasing, it will become necessary to augment the number of the representatives, and that the interest of every part of the colony may be attended to, it will be found best to divide the whole into convenient parts, each part sending its proper number; and that the elected might never form to themselves an interest separate from the electors, prudence will point out the propriety of having elections often; because as the elected might by that means return and mix again with the general body of the electors in a few months, their fidelity to the public will be secured by the prudent reflection of not making a rod for themselves. And as this frequent interchange will establish a common interest with every part of the community, they will mutually and naturally support each other, and on this (not on the unmeaning name of king) depends the strength of government, and the happiness of the governed.

Here then is the origin and rise of government; namely, a mode rendered necessary by the inability of moral virtue to govern the world; here too is the design and end of government, viz. freedom and security. And however our eyes may be dazzled with snow, or our ears deceived by sound; however prejudice may warp our wills, or interest darken our understanding, the simple voice of nature and of reason will say, it is right.

I draw my idea of the form of government from a principle in nature, which no art can overturn, viz. that the more simple any thing is, the less liable it is to be disordered, and the easier repaired when disordered; and with this maxim in view, I offer a few remarks on the so much boasted constitution of England. That it was noble for the dark and slavish times in which it was erected is granted. When the world was overrun with tyranny the least therefrom was a glorious rescue. But that it is imperfect, subject to convulsions, and incapable of producing what it seems to promise, is easily demonstrated.

Absolute governments (tho' the disgrace of human nature) have this advantage with them, that they are simple; if the people suffer, they know the head from which their suffering springs, know likewise the remedy, and are not bewildered by a variety of causes and cures. But the constitution of England is so exceedingly complex, that the nation may suffer for years together without being able to discover in which part the fault lies, some will say in one and some in another, and every political physician will advise a different medicine. I know it is difficult to get over local or long standing prejudices, yet if we will suffer ourselves to examine the component parts of the English constitution, we shall find them to be the base remains of two ancient tyrannies, compounded with some new republican materials.

First. The remains of monarchical tyranny in the person of the king.

Secondly. The remains of aristocratical tyranny in the persons of the peers.

Thirdly. The new republican materials, in the persons of the commons, on whose virtue depends the freedom of England.

The two first, by being hereditary, are independent of the people; wherefore in a constitutional sense they contribute nothing towards the freedom of the state.

To say that the constitution of England is a union of three powers reciprocally checking each other, is farcical, either the words have no meaning, or they are flat contradictions.

To say that the commons is a check upon the king, presupposes two things.

First. That the king is not to be trusted without being looked after, or in other words, that a thirst for absolute power is the natural disease of monarchy. Secondly. That the commons, by being appointed for that purpose, are either wiser or more worthy of confidence than the crown.

But as the same constitution which gives the commons a power to check the king by withholding the supplies, gives afterwards the king a power to check the commons, by empowering him to reject their other bills; it again supposes that the king is wiser than those whom it has already supposed to be wiser than him. A mere absurdity!

There is something exceedingly ridiculous in the composition of monarchy; it first excludes a man from the means of information, yet empowers him to act in cases where the highest judgment is required. The state of a king shuts him from the world, yet the business of a king requires him to know it thoroughly; wherefore the different parts, unnaturally opposing and destroying each other, prove the whole character to be absurd and useless.

Some writers have explained the English constitution thus; the king, say they, is one, the people another; the peers are an house in behalf of the king; the commons in behalf of the people; but this hath all the distinctions of an house divided against itself; and though the expressions be pleasantly arranged, yet when examined they appear idle and ambiguous; and it will always happen, that the nicest construction that words are capable of, when applied to the description of something which either cannot exist, or is too

incomprehensible to be within the compass of description, will be words of sound only, and though they may amuse the ear, they cannot inform the mind, for this explanation includes a previous question, viz. how came the king by a Power which the people are afraid to trust, and always obliged to check? Such a power could not be the gift of a wise people, neither can any power, which needs checking, be from God; yet the provision, which the constitution makes, supposes such a power to exist.

But the provision is unequal to the task; the means either cannot or will not accomplish the end, and the whole affair is a *felo de se*; for as the greater weight will always carry up the less, and as all the wheels of a machine are put in motion by one, it only remains to know which power in the constitution has the most weight, for that will govern; and though the others, or a part of them, may clog, or, as the phrase is, check the rapidity of its motion, yet so long as they cannot stop it, their endeavors will be ineffectual; the first moving power will at last have its way, and what it wants in speed is supplied by time.

That the crown is this overbearing part in the English constitution needs not be mentioned, and that it derives its whole consequence merely from being the giver of places pensions is self-evident, wherefore, though we have and wise enough to shut and lock a door against absolute monarchy, we at the same time have been foolish enough to put the crown in possession of the key.

The prejudice of Englishmen, in favor of their own government by king, lords, and commons, arises as much or more from national pride than reason. Individuals are undoubtedly safer in England than in some other countries, but the will of the king is as much the law of the land in Britain as in France, with this difference, that instead of proceeding directly from his mouth, it is handed to the people under the most formidable shape of an act of parliament. For the fate of Charles the First, hath only made kings more subtle not more just.

Wherefore, laying aside all national pride and prejudice in favor of modes and forms, the plain truth is, that it is wholly owing to the constitution of the people, and not to the constitution of the government that the crown is not as oppressive in England as in Turkey.

An inquiry into the constitutional errors in the English form of government is at this time highly necessary; for as we are never in a proper condition of doing justice to others, while we continue under the influence of some leading partiality, so neither are we capable of doing it to ourselves while we remain fettered by any obstinate prejudice. And as a man, who is attached to a prostitute, is unfitted to choose or judge of a wife, so any prepossession in favor of a rotten constitution of government will disable us from discerning a good one.

TO BE CONTINUED

Redevelopment: Tax Increment Diversion

by Lou Filipovich

Once a redevelopment project area is created, all property tax increment within it goes directly to the agency. This means all increases in property tax revenues are diverted to the redevelopment agency and away from counties, school districts and the state that would normally receive them.

While inflation naturally forces up expenses for public services such as education and police, their property tax revenues within a redevelopment area are thus frozen. All new revenues beyond the base year can be spent only for redevelopment purposes.

In 1995, this revenue diversion was just over \$1.5 billion statewide. This means 8.5% of all property taxes were diverted from public services to redevelopment schemes. Even with modest inflation, the percent taken has roughly doubled every decade. At current trends, redevelopment agencies will consume 68% of *all* statewide property taxes by the year 2025! (See table at right).

If redevelopment were a temporary measure, as advocates once claimed, this diversion might be sustainable. Once an agency is disbanded, all the new property tax revenues would be restored to local governments. Legally, agencies are supposed to sunset after 40 years, but the law contains many exceptions and is easily circumvented. Out of 382 redevelopment agencies created by cities statewide, *none* have ever voluntarily disbanded themselves.

Financially hard-pressed counties are well aware of the cost of this diversion, and often go to court to challenge new redevelopment areas. In 1994, the Los Angeles County Grand Jury released its exhaustive report on redevelopment, calling for more public accountability and citing detailed negative effects on county services. The Los Angeles County Fire Department stated that it lost \$16 million to redevelopment diversions in 1994 alone.

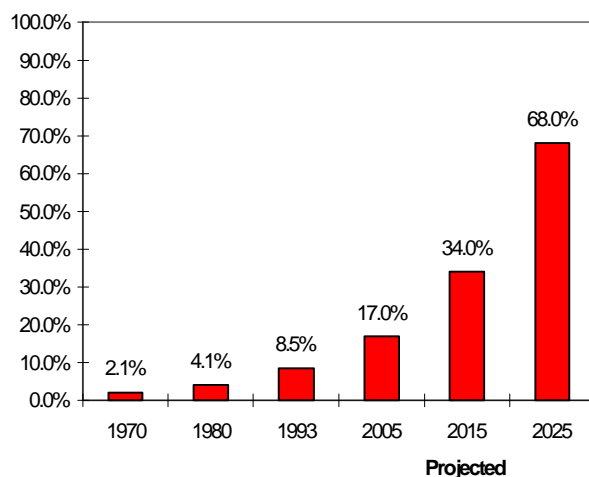
School districts have also responded with lawsuits, sometimes forcing "pass-through" agreements to

restore part of their lost revenue. (Schools have levied "new" builder fees on residential redevelopment, thus passing the burden of redevelopment on to new renters and homeowners).

Cities themselves are impacted by redevelopment diversions. While their redevelopment agencies are the beneficiaries, that part of the tax increment that would have gone to the cities' general fund (17%) is lost, and can now be used only for redevelopment purposes. Thus, there is now money to build auto malls and hotels, but less for police, fire and libraries. Cities cannot use redevelopment money to pay for operations, maintenance, and public safety, which are by far the largest share of municipal budgets.

Footnote: City redevelopment agencies (CRAs) finance their activities by means of the tax increment. This increment is the difference between the property tax assessed at the time the redevelopment project is formed and higher property taxes after development. CRAs as of now have placed city and county taxpayers over \$37.7 billion dollars in debt!

Property Tax Increment as a Percentage of
Total Property Tax Revenues Statewide
(Percent of Property Taxes Diverted to
Redevelopment)



This is the third installment of a ten part series on the growth of Redevelopment Agencies in California. Part Four, entitled "Debt: Play Now, Pay Later," will follow in next month's **Libertarian Lifeline**.

39 Fewer Problems in the Gene Pool

The Disinformation Web site (www.disinfo.com) provides a Media Watch column to put the news into perspective. Knowing that information is power, and *reliable information* is even more powerful, this website provides links to related news sources from a variety of directions to cover a story from as many angles as possible. Recently, they covered the suicide of the Heaven's Gate pilgrims in San Diego with the following introduction:

"Is there a more bizarre story this decade than the mass suicide of the UFO obsessed Higher Source followers? Well, more bizarre than the fact that less than 50% of the nation votes and there's STILL a federal government? Waco, O.J., even John Wayne Bobbit's porno career pale in comparison to the ceremonial departure of 39 lost souls from their earthly vessels acted out in a San Diego suburb."

There follow several links to both the Heaven's Gate website and information on ordering their books and videos (as if there's anyone around anymore to lick a stamp), as well a *New York Times* article about the groups' founder from 1975, other UFO websites and even the HigherSource satire page ("Sick...funny, but sick.")

"It's a lurid tale which weaves together so many surreal elements...aliens, sexual perversion, low camp Eschatology, castration, the internet, Hale-Bopp angels... The truth is out there...WAY WAY OUT THERE!" □

Tax Day Approaches

April 15th is one of the most infamous days of the year as it is the tax return due date for all Americans. Selected Post Offices stay open until midnight and offer curbside service for those last minute filers.

This affords Libertarians an opportunity to make their point at a most opportune time - when Americans are really frustrated by taxes. So every year, Libertarians have been staging a tax protest at selected Post Offices. This year, we will be at the Walnut Creek main post office on Broadway near Ygnacio Blvd. We will be gathering from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Come as early as you like and leave as late as you like, but, just come. Help us make a statement. Bring a sign (please keep it clean, we must think of our image) or dress outlandish to attract attention. See you there.

--Greg Lyon

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

*I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.*

Libertarian Party

of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP+4 _____

(Optional)

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

email: _____

- ☐ Basic LP Membership
(includes *LPC Monthly*,
LP NEWS+ Lifeline) \$25
- ☐ Household Membership
(for joint households) \$35
- ☐ National LP Membership
(add \$20 per person) _____
- ☐ Subscription only to
Libertarian Lifeline \$10
- ☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

☐ Recorded in database

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **APRIL**

Saturday, April 5, 1997: California NORML State Conference. "Beyond Proposition 215" to be held at the Hayward Hempery, 22630 Foothill Blvd., #420, Hayward, CA. Conference begins at 12:00 noon. For more information, contact the Hempery at (510) JET-WEED.

Saturday, April 12, 1997: Reasoning with Irrational People. A three-hour workshop with Dixon Wragg, sponsored by Resources for Independent Thinking, 5236 Claremont Avenue, Oakland, CA. Workshop fee is \$35 if prepaid (\$39 at the door). Students, seniors and those of limited means can attend for \$24. For more information, contact RIT at (510) 601-9450 or go to their website at <http://www.well.com/user/rit>

Tuesday, April 15, 1997: Annual Tax Day Protest. Meet LP Volunteers at the main post office in Walnut Creek on Broadway near Ygnacio Boulevard anytime after 6:00 p.m. For more informaion, contact the LP at (510) 531-0760.

April 13 - April 27, 1997: Philosophy, Individualism and the Human Sciences. Six seminars presented by George H. Smith, author of *The Case Against God*, and the keynote speaker at the 1997 Convention of the Libertarian Party of California. Each session consists of a one hour lecture followed by a 45 minute discussion. To find out more about this seminar series, contact Resources for Independent Thinking at (510) 601-9450.

Sunday Afternoons, 5:30 p.m.: The Libertarian News Hour on Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM, hosted by Jeff "Zippy the Yippie" Sommer, the voice of freedom on the airwaves originating from one of the last bastions of socialism in America, Berkeley, California. If you have internet access, check out the Free Radio Berkeley Web Site at <http://www.freeradio.com>

Libertarian Party of California
20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541-1511

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Organization

**U.S. Postage Paid
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 34**

