

Libertarian NEWS Party

Tax Cut Action! Project Makes Debut

Mark Skousen Serves as Honorary Chairman

By Kathleen J. Richman

Financial economist Mark Skousen recently announced creation of Tax Cut Action!, a project of the Libertarian Party aimed at "making real progress in cutting the tax burden placed on Americans at all income levels."

The project was publicly unveiled on Tax Day, the deadline for filing federal income tax returns, and Skousen said the project hopes to make "April 15ths of the future a little less frustrating." A letter, signed by Skousen, went out to LP members in late March to solicit support for the new project.

"We can talk and talk about why taxes are wrong and the right of people to keep the fruits of their labor, but with Tax Cut Action!, the Libertarian Party is launching a concerted effort to do something about it," Skousen said.

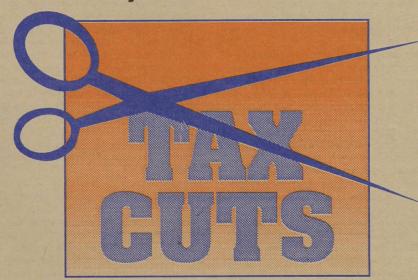
The project plans to develop tax reduction initiatives to place on ballots across the country, to solicit sponsorship of suitable tax reduction bills in Congress, and to offer support to any such bill or initiative effort that already exists. Successful ini-

"We can talk and talk about why taxes are wrong and the right of people to keep the fruits of their labor, but with Tax Cut Action!, the Libertarian Party is launching a concerted effort to do something about it," Skousen said.

tiatives in one state, Skousen said, will fuel similar efforts in others.

One of the project's first efforts will be in opposition to a move in the Texas state legislature to institute a state income tax.

The Tax Cut Action! Committee boasts Skousen as honorary chairman and leading Illinois anti-tax activist Jim Tobin as project director. Other committee members include former congressman Ron Paul, the LP's 1988 presidential candidate; Roy E. Cordato, a Washington, DC-based economist; Nancy Lord, a Washington, DC attorney, who was the LP's 1990 candidate for DC mayor; Sandi Webb, an elected Libertarian city councilwoman from California; and Libertarians Jimmy Blake, Mike Ford, June Genis, Toby Nixon, and Bill Winter—all active in local anti-tax organizations.



Skousen is a leading investment counselor, author of 12 books, and editor of the monthly "Forecasts & Strategies" investment newsletter. He is also an adjunct professor of economics and finance at Rollins College in Florida. He earned a Ph.D in economics from George Washington University.

Tobin, director of National Taxpayers United of Illinois, has been active in the anti-tax movement for many years. He was chairman of the committee which sponsored the extremely popular Tax Accountability Amendment, which was

thrown off the Illinois ballot last year by the state's Supreme Court, bringing cries of outrage from the electorate. The amendment has received an unprecedented amount of favorable publicity, and Tobin's efforts were responsible for winning endorsements for the amendment from both the Republican and Democratic gubernatorial candidates.

Updates on Tax Cut Action! project activities will be included on the LP's new 900 line, 1-900-4-LIBERTY.

More Libertarians Elected in New England

New England is proving itself to be a hot-bed of Libertarian activity.

In the last two months, at least three Libertarians have been elected to local offices—one in Maine and two in New Hampshire.

Sam Elliot, chairman of the Oxford County LP in South Paris, ME, was elected to his local school board in early March.

Howard Wilson was elected to a threeyear term as selectman in Andover, NH, and David Benson captured a one-year position on the joint Town/School Budget Committee in Salem, NH.

Elliot, who will serve a three-year term, defeated two other candidates, including an easily defeated incumbent school board member and a well-liked former principal of the local junior high school.

"It wasn't just running for the school board to get elected, it was a real question of taxation, getting a grip on spending, and stopping some of this waste. That was clearly the issue—the purpose I ran—and I hope that's why I got elected."

Elliot is not only the chairman of the local LP group, but also chairman of Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility (CFR), a local anti-tax group. While other members



of CFR are not part of the state LP, "they might as well be—the philosophy would seem to fit what these people are acting on," Elliot said.

Meetings of the CFR are regularly attended by 20-30 members each month, and a newsletter is sent to about 100 people. CFR had two other members elected as well as Elliot, and two additional new members of the school board espouse the same sort of ideas, Elliot said.

"So we did pretty well, actually," Elliot

The school district includes one high school, one junior high, and six elementary schools. It is located in a rural area of eight small towns, a portion of Oxford County in western Maine

Elliot will serve on the budget committee of the school board. "It's a \$17-million budget—so it's sizable," Elliot said.

Elliot said he spent a minimal amount of money on the campaign. "I made up a flier which I passed around town, and I took out an ad in the paper," he said.

The two New Hampshire Libertarians were elected to town offices in March, both on solidly Libertarian platforms of fiscal restraint.

Wilson won in a three-way race, beating his two opponents 245 to 222 to 90. Benson had a comfortable victory margin of more than 500 votes, defeating his sole opponent 1,982 to 1,432.

Both Libertarians stressed tax and spending issues in their successful campaigns.

paigns.

"People were tired of things as they were," said Wilson. "They wanted a change. They want a watchdog in the office of selectman. I've spoken up in opposition to spending at town meetings, and people remember that."

Wilson said he has developed a "general reputation for reducing the size of government, especially on the spending side" among residents of the small town (population about 2,000).

Anger at a recent 25 percent property tax increase was also probably a factor in the vote, Wilson said.

In Salem, a town with a population of 29,000, Benson said one of his father's favorite sayings helped him explain his continued on page 3

Montana Gets Ballot Status

In late March, the Governor of Montana signed into law a new bill which ensures the LP ballot status in the state for 1992.

The new law makes it easier for political parties to retain their ballot status. If a party now polls 3 percent in either of the last two elections, the party is considered qualified. The LP already had ballot status in the last election.

There Is No Free Lunch for Libertarians

It is striking, sometimes, how the fiscal matters of the Libertarian Party exhibit the same characteristics of the public debate over government spending and revenue raising.

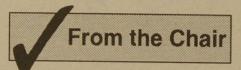
It is a frequently noted phenomenon that the majority of citizens want ever larger services from government while at the same time demanding lower taxes. Milton Friedman and Robert Heinlein had an answer: "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch (Tanstaafl)." Unfortunately for those of us who want less "service" and no coercive taxation, we can't easily drop out of the crowd of taxpaying victims.

There's no free lunch for Libertarians

either. But those who don't want to be serviced by the LP have the option of walking away. The dues increase passed by the majority of the National Committee, which went into effect on Feb. 1, has led to anger on the part of some individuals. There have been threats to "not renew." pleas to "cut spending," etc., etc. Now, I did not support the dues increase from \$15 to \$25; but I do think they are a small price to pay for the services a national member receives, in addition to the intangible rewards of supporting the third largest political party in the U.S. and the only one that advances libertarian principles.

I've heard of two complaints from leaders or former leaders of state organizations who think the dues increases are outrageous. In both cases, their state party has recently received thousands of dollars in assistance from the national party's Ballot Access Committee to fund ballot status!

Let's look at the budget for a minute. At current spending levels, the national LP takes in and spends approximately \$50 per member. This means that, at maximum, dues cover only 50 percent of the requirements; the generosity of our members, in giving extra, enables the party to do more than maintain a membership data base and publish a newspaper. In fact, the national LP receives far less than 50 percent from dues, because all memberships received through state organizations earn a rebate to the state party. The national party takes only \$10 of the \$25 submitted in this manner. We used to take \$7.50, so the increase in dues amounted to \$2.50 or 33 percent for national. Your state party



Dave Walter, LP National Chair

keeps up to \$15 of the dues. The National Committee deliberately increased the rebate to state parties because more and more of them were expanding and growing and we felt the true work of the LP is on the local level and not the national level

Most members of the party realize that spending has to be **increased** if the party is to be more effective. We need more members and contributions so we can fund more literature, more media relations, more outreach, better campaigns, etc. Where would you suggest we cut back from current levels? Dues were held in line for years, despite postage and printing increases, to name a few. The frequency of the LP NEWS was doubled. Should we go back to six issues a year? Should we end all media relations work? That might save \$1

I get dozens of letters a week from members with suggestions about what should be done or not done. Many involve multi-million-dollar suggestions for TV advertising, or the like. Others want to pay nothing, but expect big results. The fact that we can't achieve these results is allegedly due to some perfidious NatCom that chooses to ignore this or that project that is "guaranteed to make the difference. I don't mind such suggestions, or politely answering them, but I find it amusing how many of these people aren't willing to step to the plate with their time and their

Is there room for more careful spending? Yes, and we continually try to get more "bang for our bucks." Recently, we changed direct mail fund-raising techniques so that net proceeds to the party will increase.

I understand that some people cannot afford \$25 in dues. I'm sure there are many Libertarians out there who would be willing to sponsor such people. The fact remains that our dues are far below what many other organizations must charge and well below the minimal costs to service our

membership and keep the national party

If you feel you need to drop out because \$25 is an outrageous amount, then weunlike the taxers—have no power to keep you on board. However, I do hope that the dropouts will remember that there is "no free lunch" and refrain from borrowing a copy of LP NEWS from those who did choose to receive it, argue in their state meetings that no ballot assistance from national is to be sought, and, among other things, stay away from the national con-

1990 Vote Increase

Richard Winger, in a recent issue of Ballot Access News (3201 Baker St., San Francisco, CA 94123), highlighted the vote totals for third party candidates in the 1990 races for U.S. House of Representatives

With 47 candidates, the LP totaled 380,892 votes, or an average of 8,064 votes per candidate. This was easily the highest of all nationally-organized third parties. The next closest party had only 15 candidates.

In 1988, the LP had 91 candidates and totaled 447,822 votes, or an average of 4,921 votes per candidate.

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ventions because some dues money goes into staging and publicizing the event. And, should you be tempted to watch the convention on C-SPAN this year, please don't, because national will be responsible

for arranging that coverage too.

Freedom isn't free. Many thousands of LP members realize that. They realize the \$2.0833 per month is a small price to pay for the chance that liberty and justice can triumph in America. For those whose commitment to liberty is shallower than \$2.0833 per month, I wonder what you are counting on?

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LP's 'Liberty Line' Encourages Callers to Take Action and Gives Them Ways to Get Involved

The new 900 line, 1-900-4-LIBERTY, sponsored by the Libertarian Party, is offering Libertarians and other interested individuals a "Letter-to-Congress" service, as well as a variety of information about the party

the party.

"Liberty Line," as it is called, consists of five different recorded messages which cover a variety of topics. Callers may choose to listen to any or all of the messages. Cost to the caller is \$1.95 per minute and is charged to the caller's phone bill.

In April, the five areas included the "Letter-to-Congress" message, which gave callers the opportunity to request, after hearing a letter summarized, that the letter be sent to their congressperson in the caller's name. The April letter urged the rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Persian Gulf region.

Another section of "Liberty Line," and possibly the most useful, is called "Legisla-

LP Victories

continued from page 1

opposition to spending—and helped him win the election

"My father told me: 'If you can't afford it, you don't need it," said Benson at a candidates' night during the campaign, and then told the audience: "We've got to look at each line of the budget with my father's philosophy."

Now that he has won, Benson said he plans to live up to his campaign promises.

"The principal thing is to save taxes—to get right down to the business of finding unfunded statemandates, and make damn sure we're not paying for any programs because the state told us to," Benson said.

Benson also vowed to study privatization of the town's Public Works Department, and to closely examine the school budget. "There's a lot of fat on the school [budget] side," he said.

Wilson, while admitting that selectmen do more administrative work than "initiative" work, said he also plans to attack town spending.

"I'm going to try to hold the line," he said. "Hold down taxes, hold spending down. At a minimum, try to hold town spending at the current level."

Portions of this article first appeared in the April issue of "Libertarian Lines," the newsletter of the LP of New Hampshire, P.O. Box 669, Windham, NH 03087

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tive Hotline." In April, the message encouraged Libertarians to keep an eye on congressional bills designed to cut Social Security taxrates. "Liberty Line" suggested that Libertarians "write your senators and congressional representatives now and urge them to support cuts in the FICA tax rates. Point out that the Social Security program should be severed from the general budget, that tax rates should be cut,

that citizens should be able to opt out of the program, and that the Social Security progam should be abolished."

It also suggested that support should be given to the "DeLay-Wallop proposal" for FICA rate cuts, as opposed to the more publicized "Moynihan proposal."

The "Legislative Hotline" also offered information concerning bills which deal with privatization of space exploration.

Other areas of "Liberty Line" include information about LP membership, an update of Libertarian Party plans, projects, and activities—messages concerning the Bill of Rights Committee and the Tax Cut Action! project were included in the April message—and Campaign '91/'92 information, providing news of Libertarian candidates and election results.

Call today—and get involved!

A Feast of Freedom

"Liberty is a Glorious Feast." —Robert Burns

Every issue of Liberty offers a feast of individualist thinking designed to delight the most refined palate.

Hors d'oeuvres

To whet your appetite, Reflections offers the provocative opinions of Liberty's editors. A few selections from the menu for May:

R. W. Bradford on Llewellyn Rockwell's defense of police beating of suspects;

Chester Alan Arthur on the continuing romance between conservatives and libertarians;

Robert Higgs on U.S. taxpayer support for the KGB;

Gary Alexander on Hollywood's bizarre ideas about commerce.

Entrées

The main course is a variety of controversial and thoughtful essays. A few entrées from our current offering:

Milton Friedman puzzles over the very unlibertarian intolerance of two libertarian heroes: Ludwig von Mises and Ayn Rand;

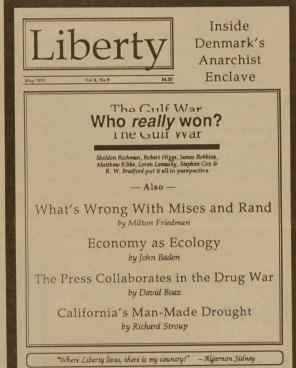
James Robbins explains why the Storting should recall Gorby's Peace Prize;

Richard Stroup on California's manmade "drought" and how to solve it;

Inside Ayn Rand's Inner Circle

In an exclusive interview, Barbara Branden speaks frankly about life with Ayn Rand and Nathaniel Branden (Rand's lover and Barbara's husband). She reveals for the first time intimate details of life inside Rand's circle. The fascinating topics include the weird psychological manipulations within the cult, the expulsion of members in kangaroo courts, the glaring errors in Nathaniel Branden's memoir about his affair, and Rand's fight in a posh Manhattan restaurant with Alan Greenspan, now chairman of the Federal Reserve System.

This account includes information that cannot be found in any other source. You won't want to miss this probing interview. And it's yours free with your subscription to Liberty.



David Boaz reveals the journalists' complicity in America's longest-running war;

Richard Miniter contemplates the media's bias against free-markets in the context of the free market for journalism;

Ron Lipp travels through the corridors of eastern Europe to find the mysterious Dr Cepl, and discovers a reality of Kafkaesque proportions.

Potages

To accompany its main features, Liberty presents a variety of penetrating re-

views. A few examples from our current issue:

John Baden bestows the honor of "political economy book for the 90s" on a revolutionary work on the relationship between economics and environmental science.

Leland Yeager restates the truth about capitalism and one of capitalism's most effective advocates;

Richard Kostelanetz rediscovers an intellectual father he never knew he had;

Peter Reidy notes the ominous parallels between bad computer science and bad economics.

Desserts

To top off your feast and satisfy your intellectual sweet-tooth, Liberty offers:

Cartoons by Baloo and Mark Frauenfelder;

A science fiction short story of a dystopia where drugs, freedom, prostitution and poetry are one.;

The bizarreries of Terra Incognita, snippets from the real world of statism and the credulous booboisie.

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Libertarians Hope to Control Election Commission in Denver

n Denver, it's not only election time, it's re-election time.

Petitions bearing 520 signatures in support of the re-election effort of incumbent Denver Election Commissioner Doug Anderson, plus an equal number of signatures for Mike Zink, who is seeking a post on the commission for the first time, were turned in to city officials in late March, resulting in an official declaration of Anderson and Zink's ballot eligibility.

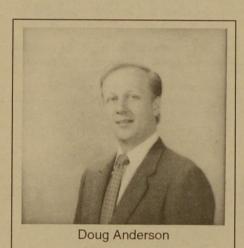
Only 300 signatures from registered Denver voters were required to gain ballot access in the citywide election commission

Geoff Lloyd, another Denver Libertarian, also recently announced his candidacy for the Denver municipal elections scheduled for May 21. Lloyd will be seeking a seat on the city council, representing the 7th District.

Thane Eichenauer, a member of "Anderson & Zink for Tomorrow's Election Commission," or AZTEC '91, spearheaded the petitioning effort for Anderson and Zink. Others circulating petitions included Carol Steinheimer, David Bryant, Ron Bain, Richard Schaeffer, Jackie Erickson, Ernie Clark, and Brian Holthouse.

Anderson, 34, is a native of Boston, MA, and has lived in the Denver area for 10 years. A tee-totaler, Anderson has made a career in the liquor industry for 13 years, as a wholesale liquor salesman, bar manager, and professional bartender

Zink, 33, is a self-employed home im-

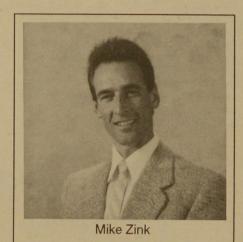


provement and repair businessman and a Denver native.

Lloyd is a relatively experienced candidate, having run for transit district direc-

tor, state senate, and school board.
"Now our campaign will really begin in earnest," Anderson stated after hearing of his official designation as a ballot-qualified candidate. "We'll see who the serious contenders are and weed out the not-so-serious candidates. Then we'll find out who's really ready to compete in the free and open marketplace of ideas.

The two Libertarian candidates for election commission are clearly ready to compete. AZTEC '91 has already raised over \$6,000, most of which will be spent on television commercials. This will be the



first time a candidate from any party has utilized television advertising in the Denver Election Commission race, according to Anderson. At this point, none of the candidates from the two older parties has raised anywhere near the amount of money the Libertarian candidates are operating

"I'm really anxious to get this next phase of the campaigning going," Zink said. "Now that I'm on the ballot, I think people will listen a little more carefully to my proposals about limiting the terms of municipal officials and making voter registration

For more information, write AZTEC '91, P.O. Box 61114, Denver, CO 80206, or call 303-757-8896.

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LIBERTY TRIUMPHANT isn't just a Chicago operation. Jim Peron of California, Tonie Nathan of Oregon, and Jim McClarin of New Hampshire have given us speaker support. Don Ernsberger of Pennsylvania has been working with C-SPAN. Nick Youngers of Maine and Bob Waldrop of Utah have been working special events. Ken have been working special events. Ken Bush of Missouri will be working on media. Alexis Thompson of Arizona and the LNC staff in Washington, DC, have been promoting LIBERTY TRIMUPHANT. Our database is run out of Miami by Sue DeBusk.

Our newest staffer is Diane Pilcher of Texas. Diane is in charge of national program advertising. So if you'd like information on advertising in the convention program, please contact Diane at 2600 Northeast Loop 410, #2102, San Antonio, TX 78217. (A full page is just \$100.) Deadline for advertising submission is July 1, 1991.

Ad Campaign

has developed a "format" for radio and television spot advertising which they hope will be used by Libertarian Party organizations and candidates.

Based around the message, "Enough is Enough," the ads are designed to coordinate much of the Libertarian Party advertising, both national and local, around this central

According to Nathan Advertising, "the importance of this simple idea is that it epitomizes a sentiment that is the prevailing attitude among voters according to every major poll. 'Enough is Enough' consolidates all the public dissatisfaction with taxes, guns, censorship, drugs, education, or whatever, into one phrase that already has general acceptance and then leads the listener/viewer to action by suggesting solutions might be found in the Libertarian Party.

Nathan Advertising has invested in the production costs of the first audio and video master tapes—an advertisement addressing taxes—and is offering demonstration copies and masters for sale.

This effort is strictly a private enterprise, and no funds or endorsement from the national LP are involved.

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LIBERTY TRIUMPHANT

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Plus, the world-famous Chicago International JazzFest, and the Science Fiction 1991 WorldCon take place over Labor Day.

Convention Doings

If we can keep you near the hotel, we've got plenty to do on the convention floor, too.

- Nomination of 1992 Presidential Candidates
- Election of National Party Officers
- Platform Debates
- Nationally-known speakers
- · New, expanded Exhibit Hall

Special Events

As though the above isn't special enough!

Wednesday: Celebration of the Bill of Rights/Platinum Anniversary of

the Libertarian Party Party

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Thursday: A Taste of Chicago with the Second City Touring Company Friday: "City of Clout" Tour with a stop at Chicago's JazzFest

Saturday: Presidential Banquet and Dinner Dance

Sunday: Diehard Libertarian Dinner*

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Gary Miller, Director of Public Affairs, Heartland Institute,

634 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60605, Tel: 312-427-3060)

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Soak the Rich?

By George L. O'Brien LP Internal Education Chair

A number of Democrats are returning to their traditional strategy of calling for higher taxes on "the rich" in the name of "balancing the budget" and "fairness." Fortunately, most people understand that higher taxes for the "rich" ultimately mean higher taxes for everyone.

In spite of this, the demagoguery of attacking the "rich" remains a potent political tool of not merely the Left, but also of "social control conservatives" such as Kevin Phillips. There are many reasons why "soak the rich" has a strong appeal, but it is clearly bad public policy.

William Safire differentiates the "rich" from the merely "wealthy" and "affluent." Roughly speaking, the rich are people who can live a "very comfortable lifestyle" without having to hold a job. The wealthy are people who own wealth which contributes to their standard of living but need to have jobs to maintain their lifestyle. The affluent live comfortably but do not have very much wealth other than their homes, and they need jobs just to get by.

It is the "affluent" who end up paying most of the taxes.

The central problem with soak-the-rich schemes is that there are not enough rich compared to the number of poor

There is a wonderful story about a man

who forced his way into the office of Andrew Carnegie. He gave an impassioned speech about how unjust it was that Carnegie had all this money while he, the speaker, had none. When the man finished, Carnegie got up from his chair and walked over to his book shelf, pulled out an atlas, wrote down a figure, and did some calculations. He then called in his secretary and ordered her to write out a check to the man for \$.98. "That is your share of my wealth," Carnegie said.

The rich and wealthy plow most of their "incomes" back into their businesses and investments. While their lifestyles may seem to be extravagant to the rest of us, the rich do not become or stay rich by consumption.

From the

Libertarian Party Platform . . .

Since we believe that all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity that consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights. Specifically, we:

a. recognize the right of any individual to challenge the payment of taxes on moral, religious, legal, or constitutional grounds;

b. oppose all personal and corporate income taxation, including capital gains taxes;

c. support the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment, and oppose any increase in existing tax rates and the imposition of any new taxes;

d. support the eventual repeal of all taxation; and

e. support a declaration of unconditional amnesty for all those individuals who have been convicted of, or who now stand accused of,

As an interim measure, all criminal and civil sanctions against tax evasion should be terminated immediately.

We oppose as involuntary servitude any legal requirements forcing employers or business owners to serve as tax collectors for federal, state, or local tax agencies.

We oppose any and all increases in the rate of taxation or categories of taxpayers, including the elimination of deductions, exemptions, or credits in the spurious name of "fairness," "simplicity," or alleged "neutrality to the free market." No tax can ever be fair, simple, or neutral to the free market.

In the current fiscal crisis of states and municipalities, default is preferable to raising taxes or perpetual refinancing of growing public

The Mortal Words Birds by JOHN BRYANT

HERE'S A MESSAGE FOR GEORGE BUSH ON HIS NEW TAXES:



Read my hips!

From the book series The Mortal Words of J.B.R. Yant And Other Irritations - #3-15

Taxing ALL of the income of ALL of the millionaires in the U.S. would not pay for three days of the federal budget. Beyond that, it would hurt the economy enormously by reducing the amount of money which is reinvested. Furthermore, taxing away all of the income from making investments would discourage people from investing.

In fact, the claims that the "rich are getting richer" should not be of much concern if what they are doing is increasing the amount of investment capital in the economy. Still, it turns out that the basis for the claims that the rich are getting richer is in fact erroneous. According to Walter Brooks, the origin of the claims came from an erroneous Commerce Department report which was later corrected. Nevertheless, people have been repeating the erroneous figures even when they know they are erroneous.

If, instead of simply taxing income, the issue is complete wealth redistribution, then the topic is socialism.

In feudal societies where wealth is land which is worked by peasants, land reform is a form of redistribution which may make sense on economic as well as moral grounds. However, in industrialized and technological societies, the redistribution of businesses has been a disaster.

The only practical alternative to private ownership is direct control by the politicians and bureaucrats. Unfortunately, these are frequently the least competent people imaginable to run an enterprise

According to a Washington Post article, George McGovern is currently trying to run a hotel in Connecticut, and McGovern now says he wishes that while he was in the Senate he would have known what it takes to run a business

In the few cases where "nationalized business" has not been completely run into the ground, the management operates as if they are private investors. It is impossible to find any great benefit to the public from this approach, except that government owned agencies do not pay taxes

In most of Europe, substituting bureaucratic ownership for ownership by stockholders is a net loss. The bureaucrats make political rather than economic decisions, which lead to inefficiency and waste, and eventually require bailouts

The rich, of course, make mistakes just

like the bureaucrats do. But in the case of the rich, their mistakes reduce the amount of wealth they have to make future mistakes with. It is all too easy for bureaucrats to hide their mistake under mountains of incomprehensible statistics and miles of red tape. It takes a total collapse, such as the case in the Soviet Union, before people really see the full results

The Left loves to make a big point about how a small percentage of the population "controls" a huge percentage of the wealth of the United States. This is presented in a way that makes it seem as if the rich "owned" all of this wealth.

Actually, an enormous proportion of the wealth of this country is owned by pension funds which are generally restricted to own less than 5 percent of the firms they in invest in. This means that those people who are independent can dominate the board of directors of these firms with relatively small percentages of the stock.

Nonetheless, if these boards of directors act contrary to the interests of the rest of the investors, they hear about it very quickly.

Ironically, many commentators think that what is needed is more wealthy industrialists, rather then pension fund managers, making key investment decisions. Closely held firms are in a better position to "think long term."

If soak the rich is such a bad idea, then why is it so popular? Robert Sheaffer, in his book "Resentment Against Achievement," argues that the real problem is "envy." This is not simply a desire to have something someone else has, but a much deeper resentment which leads to a desire to see the successful person fail even if this does nothing to improve the lot of the envyer. Sheaffer considers envy to be a psychologically debilitating attitude.

In short, soak the rich is a social, economic, and even psychological dead end. Historically, the only real way to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor is through a free market.

In a free market, there is no option of buying political favors or protection from competition. Gates and Jobs can elbow their way into the upper circle while Trump can crash. Twenty-five percent of the "Forbes 400" richest people turn over every year.

Maybe that is why they are so reluctant to support truly free market economies.

Who Are Andre Marrou and Dick Boddie?

This month the NEWS profiles both of the contenders for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination. The material for the biographies below was provided by the respective candidates' campaign committees.

Marrou Andre Marrou

Libertarian presidential contender Andre Marrou, 52, has a well-rounded and highly diversified professional and educational background.

Working in the active Las Vegas real estate market, Marrou holds a license as a broker-salesman. He currently represents a major nationwide firm, working primarily on large-scale commercial projects.

Before moving to Las Vegas in late 1986, Marrou owned and operated his own real estate agency in Alaska, where he still holds a broker license.

In 1984, he was elected as a Libertarian to the Alaska House of Representatives, where he served two years.

From 1978 to 1980, Marrou studied and practiced self-sufficient living in the Alaskan wilderness.

For three years in the mid-1970s, Marrou owned and operated a company that distributed restaurant and bar supplies along the 365-mile-long highway between Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK. In the course of business, he was often required to drive a heavily-laden truck in nearly perpetual darkness along icy and treacherous mountain roads. He also set up technical libraries in the pump stations along the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

pipeline.

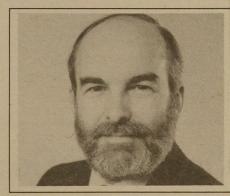
Marrou also boasts 10 years of experience in engineering, including more than six years as an engineering manager with a staff of 21 in the Boston area during the late 1960s and early 1970s. He worked on high-tech applications such as research and development for artificial kidneys, and high-vacuum metallurgy for satellites and other space applications. In one year, he received bonuses for eight inventions.

Marrou is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1962. He was one of the first persons to receive a National Merit Scholarship. While in college, he played on the last football team fielded by MIT (until 1988, when the program was restarted). Marrou also played several years of high school and junior high football.

Marrou was born in 1938 in Nixon, Texas, only 20 miles from where the first shots were fired in the Texas revolution of 1836.

As a member of the Libertarian Party since 1976, Marrou has worked tirelessly and with total commitment to build the LP and advance the principles of individual liberty.

During the past two years, he has traveled extensively around the country as director of Project 51-'92, organizing signature petition drives and helping state LP groups to overcome legislative hurdles to achieve ballot status. He directed fund raising and managed the successful Nevada ballot drive in 1990.



Working with Paul Smith in Oregon, Ken Bush in Missouri, and David Hudson in Massachusetts, Marrou testified before their state legislatures on behalf of LP ballot access. In addition, he lobbied several other state legislatures by telephone to reduce ballot access requirements. He is currently coordinating and raising funds for the North Carolina ballot drive.

As the LP vice-presidential candidate in 1988, Marrou traveled to all 50 states and the District of Columbia (a first for a Libertarian candidate), generating considerable publicity and adding over 4,000 new names of prospective libertarians to the mailing list of both the national LP and the respective state parties. His campaign was run and funded separately from the Ron Paul presidential campaign, raising almost \$200,000 and finishing with no debt.

Marrou is one of the few LP members to have been elected to office as a Libertarian. While a member of the Alaska State Legislature from January 1985 to January 1987, he was able to derail several proposed laws, including an attempt at massive state regulation of the transportation industry, and was the author of a law that partially rolled back state professional licensing requirements.

Marrou was also actively involved with several LP-sponsored voter initiatives in Alaska, including a successful one that repealed the state personal income tax.

Marrou has drawn upon his experience in the political trenches to aid other Libertarian candidates with advice, fund raising, and financial support. In 1990 alone, he was an adviser for 11 LP campaigns and raised \$36,000 for Libertarian candidates. At 32 LP state conventions, he has conducted seminars on how to run a winning campaign.

A veteran of hundreds of talk shows and newspaper interviews, Marrou is a forceful and articulate spokesman for the Libertarian point of view. His experience as a ballot drive organizer, state LP officer, fund raiser, Libertarian campaign consultant, LP convention speaker, candidate, and legislator make him uniquely qualified to be the standard bearer for the Libertarian Party in 1992.

Boddie Dick Boddie

Dick Boddie (pronounced "body") is a dynamic communicator and leader and is emerging as one of the nation's top motivational speakers.

In addition to professional speaking, training, and facilitating in seminars, workshops, conferences, and conventions, he is a lawyer, adjunct professor (andragogue: teacher of adults), mediator/arbitrator, writer, and entrepreneur. His experience reflects an open-ended notion of what an occupation should be. Boddie has been a decathlon champion, folk singer, recreation leader, cook, jazz musician, banker, student radical, ombudsman, salesman for New York Life, Eastman Kodak, and Wells Fargo Bank, financial planner, private court administrator, radio and television personality, New York State administrative hearing officer, fund raiser, and amateur philosopher.

He is an independent self-starter who has for over four decades demonstrated a unique ability to inspire and motivate others. Boddie describes himself as an "Aframerican individualist" and "secular evangelist." Boddie is a "people person" who can transmit people skills to others.

His charisma, personality, background, life experience, and vision establish the foundation of his mission: "To teach and share the ideals and ideas of individual achievement and individual liberty with others—every day, for the rest of my life."

Boddie was the first Aframerican youth in the history of Rochester, New York, to receive the Eagle Award, the highest honor of the Boy Scouts of America.

Boddie was also "the Jackie Robinson of banking" in that city as the first black banker. His exemplar and "mentor" is the great Abolitionist orator of the 19th century. Frederick Douglass, who is



buried in Rochester's Mt. Hope Cemetery.

A champion of individual rights, self-government, and the free market, Boddie attributes his success mainly to his family, immediate and extended. He is the son of the Rev. Dr. Charles Emerson Boddie, one of America's most outstanding Baptist theologians, and grandson of the late Rev. Jacob Benjamin Boddie of New Rochelle, NY.

His "master mind" group includes the likes of Socrates, J. S. Bach, St. Thomas More, Thomas Paine, Lysander Spooner, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, James Weldon Johnson, Ludwig von Mises, M. K. Gandhi, Ayn Rand, Nicola Tesla, Roland Hayes, Malcolm X, H. L. Mencken, Bill Cosby, and Richard M. DeVos.

His motto is: DARE TO BE. .

Dick Boddie was born in Elmira, New York, on Oct. 19, 1938. He has lived in Orange County, Southern California, since 1977, has been married to Ann Lynette Snellings since 1963, and has three daughters, Jordana, Roxanne, and Erica. He is a graduate of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and holds a law degree from Syracuse University College of Law.



Campaign Addresses

If you would like additional information concerning the Libertarian Party presidential nomination campaigns of Dick Boddie and/or Andre Marrou, write to:

Marrou for President

4750 E. Sahara Las Vegas, NV 89104 702-431-3848

Boddie for President

P.O. Box 2706 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 714-968-3973

LP Presses Forward With Legal Action

Legal action is proceeding in a number of states which will affect the Libertarian Party and its members.

In Georgia, the state LP has decided to appeal its case against the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission (GPTC) to the U.S. Supreme Court. As earlier reported in the NEWS, the suit was originally brought against GPTC to stop the broadcast of debates between the two older parties' candidates for governor and lieutenant governor during last year's election. GPTC had refused to include Libertarian candidates in the debate.

Although the Libertarians won in a first hearing in the U.S. District Court, an appeal by GPTC to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit vacated the

District Court order.

The Georgia LP continues to consider this case to be extremely important, as a decision in favor of the LP might lead to the requirement that all debates carried on public television include all candidates legally on the ballot.

For more information, or to contribute to the Georgia LP Legal Fund, contact Ron Crickenberger, 1351 New Hope Rd., Locust Grove, GA 30248.

Books

In Colorado, a lawsuit which was initiated last fall in an attempt to place Robin Heid on the ballot as the Libertarian candidate for governor continues to make its way through the court system.

The issue in this case is whether the state may restrict a party's choice of candidate by imposing membership requirements more strict than the party's own. At the time of his nomination by the state LP, Heid did not qualify as a Libertarian according to the state's rules. Therefore, the Colorado secretary of state refused to place Heid's name on the ballot.

The LP's brief in an appeal of a lower court ruling that upheld the secretary of state's action was filed with the state Supreme Court earlier this year.

For more information, contact the Colorado LP, 720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver,

In California, a Superior Court judge ruled against a Libertarian-backed lawsuit challenging Proposition C, a measure placed on last fall's ballot by the L.A. County Transportation Commission. The measure, which passed with only 50.4 percent of the vote, raised the county sales tax by one-half percent on April 1

As reported in last month's NEWS, the suit alleges that according to newly passed Propositions 13 and 62, a two-thirds vote is required to raise taxes to benefit entities such as the transportation commission.

John Vernon, who filed the suit on behalf of himself and the state LP, is appealing the decision.

Vernon was quoted as saying, "We remain philosophically opposed to government mass transit systems. Any time you have a monopoly providing a service, you have low efficiency and high cost.

Vernon had earlier pointed out that if the suit is successful in returning the sales tax to its previous level, L.A. County taxpayers would save over \$4 billion during the next 10 years.

For more information, contact John Vernon, P.O. Box 614, Van Nuys, CA91408.



NEWS Graphic by Tom Donnelly

Cartoons Commissioned, Donated to National LP

Jim Hudson, of the Georgia LP, has donated to the national LP four cartoons addressing Libertarian issues.

The cartoons, which were designed and conceived by Hudson, were drawn by artists Tom Donnelly and Brian McCleskey.

Hudson commissioned the works which address the issues of individual freedom, the war on drugs, gun control, and "pork barrel politics.

The original artwork for the cartoons was on display at the recent Georgia state convention, and a copy of the gun control cartoon was presented to Wayne LaPierre of the NRA, while Kevin Zeese and James Ostrowski, who debated the war on drugs, were presented with the cartoon address-

The cartoons, see one above, will be published in future editions of the NEWS.

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Liberty Today - 12-page tabloid explains basic Libertarian principles and introduces many of the people active in the LP - superb primer for prospective members - a must for state fairs and other large gatherings! Low bulk rate: \$10 per set of 100 copies!

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The Bill of Rights: Void Where Prohibited by Law T-Shirt is now available. This 50/50 beige shirt has the Bill of Rights in black on the front with "Void Where Prohibited By Law' stamped over in red. Available in sizes S- XL for \$11 from

> Libertarian Party of WI PO Box 20815 Greenfield, WI 53220

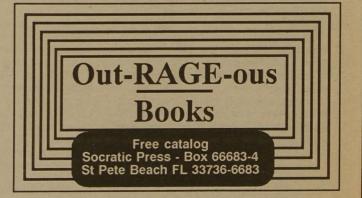
IRS Integrity?

John T. Harllee, of the Florence County (SC) LP, is publicizing the new "IRS Integrity Hotline." The toll-free number was set up by the "Internal Security" section of the IRS in Washington, DC, to "report incidents of fraud, waste, and abuse within the Internal Revenue Service." This is not a joke!

In other words, the IRS says it is policing its own. Although the IRS claims "anonymous calls or requests to keep identity confidential are respected," Harllee is suggesting callers may wish to use a pay phone to be sure. Oh, yes—the number is 1-800-366-4484.

By the way, when the NEWS called to check out the number, a recording asked that we leave our phone number where an investigator could get back in touch with us-so much for anonymity

Please Tell A Friend About the **NEWS!**



Outreach Efforts Keep States Busy

California

Libertarian Calaveras County Supervisor Tom Tryon announced he will be running for re-election for a third term.

Four Libertarians will be on the ballot for a special election on May 14 to fill vacant state legislative seats. Gary Dusseljee and Eric Sprik are running for state senate, while Debra Klohs and Michael Everling are seeking state as-

The speaker at a recent LP of Santa Clara County meeting was Peter Barry, MD, the mayor of Ross, CA (and a Liber tarian). Even though Ross has only 1,500 people, Dr. Barry said he spends over 10 hours a week on city council businessand the position is unpaid.

More Libertarians have been appointed to city commissions. In Ventura County, Aaron Starr and Michelle Kurtz will serve on Neighborhood Councils, which have responsibility for looking at development projects, while Joe Hlajek was appointed to the Thousand Oaks Cable Commission. In Chico, Mike Skram was appointed to the city's Affirmative Action Committee. He had been an unsuccessful candidate for city council. These and other committee and commission appointments not only allow Libertarians to influence political decisions, but they are also great stepping stones to local elected offices!

Colorado

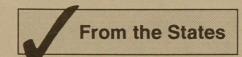
Jefferson County members have been examining precinct-by-precinct voting results for the 1990 races for governor and sheriff with the intention of reaching out to areas where Libertarian candidates did better than average. A combination of direct mail, local newspaper advertising, and door-to-door canvassing will be used to try to identify and recruit new local

Georgia

Carole Ann Rand, the 1990 LP gubernatorial candidate, has accepted the presidency of The Advocates for Self-Gov-The Advocates was founded by Marshall Fritz in Sacramento, CA. With the change in leadership, the Advocates headquarters will move to Lilburn, GA.

Illinois

Libertarian Education Institute, Ltd., host of the 1991 LP National Libertarian Convention in Chicago, has an-



Activities noted in newsletters and news releases

nounced that it will use the proceeds from its seminar on planning of the 1991 convention to donate copies of David Bergland's Libertarianism in One Lesson to all public libraries in Illinois.

Massachusetts

The state party created a new outreach committee, chaired by Peter R. Perry, with the responsibility to devise and implement a plan to: 1) educate the general public to the ideas and philosophy of the LP; 2) supply the established membership with facilities and material to promote libertarianism; 3) solicit new members; and 4) create a statewide atmosphere in which the state party will have a role to play in the state political and legal

New Hampshire

The state LP recently wrapped up its second annual food drive. The drive was held to remind Libertarians that freedom comes only with responsibility, according to Lionel Tandy, event coordinator. All donated items were delivered to the New Horizons soup kitchen/homeless shelter in

New Jersey

State party members will be passing out two new outreach items this yearinformation about the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) and copies of the U.S Constitution. Jerry Zeldin, state vicechair, is the contact for this project.

The state party is also accepting nominations for the "Municipal Maladroit of the Year Award."

New Mexico

Local party organizations are continu-

Michael Giusto, a Silver City educator, heard LPNM coordinator Joseph Knight on a local radio talk show and liked what he heard. Giusto contacted Knight and agreed to help set up the Grant

Alamogordo florist and business woman Kay Stone was attracted to the LP by Ron Paul's presidential campaign. She has agreed to help develop the Otero County

The state party's Operation GO, the Growth and Organization Project, hopes to organize every county in the state by the 1992 elections.

Virginia

Student libertarian groups are very active in the state, thanks in large part to Jim Lark. The Students for Individual Liberty at the University of Virginia recently sponsored a speech by Yuri Maltsev, a former Mikhail Gorbachev aide, addressing economic changes in the Soviet Union. Student groups at Virginia Tech and William and Mary are also active.

Washington

The state party has contracted with **DeAnn Pullar** to act as a "legislative liaison" in Olympia. Pullar coordinated a LPWS Lobby Day and will also be encouraging state legislators to support a Fully Informed Jury bill.

Wisconsin

Dues-paying state party membership has increased by more than 164 percent since last November's general election. The LPWI credits the increase in large part to veteran Libertarian telemarketer Scott Kohlhass, who has been working hard recently calling lapsed members and

The LPWI isn't just sending books to Lithuania. The party recently sent out a mailing to the state's public and university libraries offering free materials on the LP to place in their vertical files.

Libertarians opposed to the state's compulsory seat belt law attended hearings in Madison on allowing the law to "sunset" this June. Dave Ameringer and Ken Zollner lobbied the Assembly State Affairs Committee on why Libertarians support allowing the compulsory seat belt law to sunset.

If you would like the rest of the country to know about your state's activities, send a short note to the LP NEWS, P.O. Box 780, Winchester, VA

CA Prepares for Redwood Event

The 4th of July is a "really big show" in Redwood City, CA. The parade, which is one of the largest west of the Mississippi, draws between 150,000 and a quarter of a million spectators. It's followed by a street fair and carnival and comes to a flashing conclusion with the evening fireworks. The entire show is run and financed by a privately endowed organization called the Peninsula Celebration Association. No government funds are involved.

This year the LP of San Mateo County is planning on having an entry in the parade. The theme will be "The Libertarian Party Salutes 200 Years Under the Bill of Rights." Help is needed from Libertarians around the state to maximize the investment.

Decisions are still being made as to whether the entry will be a float or a marching unit, but in either case lots of people are needed to help carry signs. hand out literature, and generally contribute to a massive presence. The San Mateo LP would particularly like to hear from those who have any costumes or other props (like antique musketry) that will help to visually enhance the entry.

If you'd like to be part of all this, please contact July 4th Project Coordinator June Genis at 415-723-7664 (or contact GA.JRG@Forsythe.Stanford. EDU if you have access to network email). We will find crash space for you

For more information or to make contributions, contact June Genis or write SMLP, 790 Laurel St., San Carlos, CA 94070.

IS ABORTION HOMICIDE?

Libertarian arguments saying why it is, and why it violates libertarian principles: \$3. (For introductory information only: SASE) Libertarians for Life 13424 Hathaway Drive, #18 Wheaton, MD 20906, 301/460-4141 Doris Gordon, National Coordinator

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LP NEEDS **PETITIONERS**

The Libertarian Party is in need of petitioners from now through September 1992 to put our next presidential ticket on the ballot in all 50 states, DC, and Guam. Good petitioners can make \$500-600 per week. See the U.S., make good money, and help the LP achieve its best ballot status since 1980. For more information, contact the Ballot Access Committee Chairman:

> Bill Redpath 1337 Cassia St., Herndon, VA 22070 703-406-0732

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Still More on Matching Funds and the War

More on Matching Funds

Like many LP members. uncomfortable at the prospect of accepting federal matching campaign funds. Is this really the return of stolen property, or merely a rationalization for accepting subsidies (and one that non-libertarians could extend to other kinds of subsidies)? Even if we decide it's morally proper, is it worth the political misperceptions it might generate?

Having read Dick Boddie's and Michael Emerling's arguments in the Feb. NEWS, I would like to suggest an intermediate position:

Rather then attempting to conservatively calculate the total taxes stolen from LP members (to provide a pool of recoverable money), look only at the individual. The majority of libertarians are unable to avoid paying some taxes. I doubt that anyone has qualms about accepting a tax refund (even though the stolen property has already been "merged"). The refund clearly has a direct relationship to the specific amount taken from that person that year.

If a taxpayer can get the federal government to disgorge some of his or her taxed (stolen) money, I believe it is moral to accept that money. And if it's moral to accept it, then it's moral and permissible to sign the check over to another individual.

Hence, if I were to donate money to a presidential campaign, and at the same time specifically authorized that campaign to accept an equal amount of my money (not to exceed the amount that had been stolen from me in taxes for the year) directly (as a donation from me) from the federal government, I think that would answer any objections concerning the propriety of a candidate accepting those particular matching funds.

If my argument is correct and it is indeed moral to accept matching funds at least within narrow limits, does the political benefit of the extra money outweigh the political damage?

The answer to the last question is a judgment call, not an ethical issue. Each LP member must make his or her private estimation and act accordingly.

Having recently been involved in a successful campaign to elect a Libertarian to office, my own judgment is this: Go for the

Daniel Paul Wiener Simi Valley, CA ******

In regard to the matching federal funds question, we should remember that while money may be yours or mine, "federal funds' always means somebody else's. The same somebody else who is apparently so stupid that he must forfeit 30 percent of every paycheck to the experts who know how to spend it correctly. By accepting matching federal funds we too can be such enlightened

And from such a hypocritical stance we can go on to explain how the Libertarian Party is not just another hustle.

Right.

Mike Branhut Philadelphia, PA

Regarding the matching funds issue which seems to be shaping up as the one major philosophical difference between our party's two declared presidential candidates, I vote in favor of Mr. Boddie's position against accepting them.

To accept matching funds would be a vote to cave in our principles and invite the press to harp on the issue until we are dead. They'll say to themselves, "We've finally caught these Libertarians in the act of

compromising." This will serve to sidetrack our candidate from our overall goal, which is to get the Libertarian message to every household in this country

We can't afford to look hypocritical at this stage of the movement, nor at any stage for that matter. It could prove to be the beginning of our "end."

Ray C. Dorman Las Vegas, NV

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Can LP candidates accept federal campaign subsidies while at the same time denouncing the subsidy?

As a Libertarian, I advocate the ultimate privatization of roads and highways if that is possible. I think we would have better roads and the people who use the service would pay for the service. The reality, however, is that government owns most of the roads. I do not see Libertarians lining up to sign pledges refusing to drive on roads that are built and maintained with stolen money.

If someone stole your car you might curse the thief, but you would not refuse to reclaim and recover your car because it was tainted

Take the money, and then loudly curse public campaign financing all the way to the bank. There is no dishonor in this: after all, it's our money.

> Joseph E. Knight Flora Vista, NM

Having recently renewed my membership after a considerable lapse, the issue of the NEWS that came recently really doused me with a bucket of deja vu. The great matching funds issue raises its ugly head again. And I really couldn't believe an old timer like Tonie Nathan siding with the corruptors. Then there are a couple of folks that have no concept of what ethical principles are. If you don't practice them, then you don't have themperiod. All that separates us from the Republicans and Democrats is that we make the effort to act on our principles-not just mouth them.

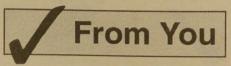
A Libertarian candidate accepting matching funds would be like an anti-drug evangelist that regularly gets bombed on alcohol, i.e. duplicitous, corrupt, selfcontradictory, etc. I would like to praise the LP of California for taking its strict antimatching funds stance. The LP NatCom should write that stand into the bylaws, if it is not there already.

There is a book that was a staple at Laissez Faire that could help those that have no concept of logical argument, truth, and ethical behavior—"Thinking Straight" by Anthony Flew. I haven't seen it in the catalog lately, but I'm sure they still have it. Our candidates cannot take stands that are antithetical to the principles the party espouses! For that is all we really have that differentiates us from the old parties that trod down this path to corruption a long time ago.

W. A. Bill Hill Tallahassee, FL

During the 1988 campaign I became quite angry over the fact that of the four presidential candidates who were on the ballot nationally-George Bush, Mike Dukakis, Ron Paul, and Lenora Fulani—three of them were stealing from me, via taxation, to pay for their election campaigns. Only one candidate-Ron Paul, of course-had the integrity to refuse the temptation of stolen money, though he obviously could have used these funds.

I would not have voluntarily contributed one penny to the campaigns of Bush, Dukakis, or Fulani, yet they were taking my money without my consent-stealing from



Letters from members and readers

me-to subsidize their political ambitions. But the candidate that I did voluntarily contribute to stood on principle-the libertarian principle—and said no to stealing from those who would not give to his campaign voluntarily.

This time, incredibly, it is a Libertarian who wishes to use tax money to subsidize a campaign. To this I object strongly

Dick Boddie wants to see the LP stick to its principles. So do I. I've met Andre Marrou several times and I both like him and respect him. But on the matching funds issue I think he's dead wrong.

> Keitt T. Miller Lakeland, FL

Beyond Matching Funds

A Libertarian candidate can be much more effective by taking a year or two off from work, to devote full time to campaigning Many excellent potential candidates regret that they cannot afford the loss of income, however, and must either wage a spare-time campaign or cede the nomination to a less effective candidate.

But those are not the only options. Consider that the candidate has been paying a very large fraction of his or her income in taxes for many years. What better way to reclaim that stolen money than to go on welfare for the duration of the campaign?

Note that this option is not limited to candidates. Consider the effectiveness of a full-time campaign staff, all reclaiming their stolen property via welfare. And since the average American pays enough taxes in a very few years to finance a year on welfare, consider the vast potential of a virtual army of Libertarian activists, putting their welfare sabbaticals to good use.

Accepting matching funds is a flawlessly logical idea, as far as it goes. But why stop

> **Carol Pruitt** Camarillo, CA

More on the War

Triggered by events in the Persian Gulf, the LP's non-interventionists are reinforcing the public's view that Libertarians are enemies of the "new world order". The March issue of the NEWS is packed with headlines such as "Libertarians Rally Against the War", accompanied by photos of party members protesting on the steps of the Capitol. The LP's message is unconditional isolationism, but it ought to be that we care deeply about liberty for all the world's people.

The LP should start by acknowledging that libertarian principles could have been seen as supporting intervention in the Gulf. An unprovoked war was occurring; a large and organized set of violent crimes was being committed. A legitimate libertarian analysis therefore begins with the question of how best to end such large-scale violations

Assuming that libertarians agree that the rights of the people of Kuwait are as deserving of protection as any American's, the question becomes, "Where can people legitimately turn for protection against invading armies? When Kuwait's local and national forces have already been overwhelmed, it seems logical that a higher level organization would be called in. In theory, this is exactly the role of the United Nations. It acts as a policeforce of last resort for crimes committed across the boundaries of individual nation's legal systems.

The short-term goal of a U.N. intervention is stopping crimes. The longer-term goal is crime prevention through the strengthening of the idea that aggressive use of large scale force will not be tolerated.

It's a mystery to me that more Libertarians didn't begin their analysis in this way, and see Saddam's army as criminals being stopped by an (admittedly) imperfectly formed super-national police force. I agree that the funding of such a police force should be voluntary, but taxation isn't the issue here, since not intervening in the Gulf will not help in the struggle against taxes. I also agree that the U.S. should not independently take on the burden and risk of becoming this police force, but this is a problem that's solved by explicitly centering this function only within the U.N., not by avoiding intervention entirely. (The issue I worry about most is the centralization of excessive power in a possibly corruptible U.N., but I've found that few of my libertarian friends object to the war primarily on these grounds.)

The LP, perhaps more than any other party, ought to be emphasizing the theme that wars are crimes that need to be stopped. If the party could publicly admit that intervention in the Gulf is at least debatable, it would significantly increase the chance that people would perceive us as more forward-looking and more globally-oriented

Henry Mendenhall Mt. Laurel, NJ

******** I was very happy to see the NEWS publish stands against the war. The Libertarian Party is often accused of being right wing or conservative. I disagree. My main reasons for joining the LP were its stance on nonintervention and on victimless crimes—both "liberal" stances. I also agree with its position on big government and taxation, but those points carry less weight with me. You've reaffirmed my pride in calling myself Libertarian.

Joe Dumas Peabody, MA

****+**** In 19 years as a registered Libertarian, I have often been ashamed of libertarians; but this is the first time I've been ashamed of the Libertarian Party

I was supposed to see brave Libertarians, standing up for moral principle in the face of overwhelming opposition. That's not what I saw. I saw knee-jerk posturing by would-be peaceniks, deserted by their heroes because this time the enemy wasn't Socialism.

I saw deliberate evasion of gross differences between evils; as though Saddam's rape of Kuwait were on the same level as the wrongfulness of taxation. It's as though we watched our neighbor's little girl kidnapped, and justified our failure to help because that would have involved

The old Kuwait government was no libertarian utopia; but that's like refusing to help our neighbor's little girl because that neighbor isn't really a very good father.

There are really very few clear cases of right and wrong. The whole country saw this one, and saw the Libertarian Party wearing a rigid cardboard costume of vacuous moral principle, open in the back and made up entirely out of sophistries, subtleties, and technicalities. I'm deeply ashamed.

Tom Porter Reseda, CA continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

When most of my friends voiced pro-Gulf War sentiments I was surprised. We are 40ish, grew up during the Vietnam War, and have young children who could be drafted in the decade ahead.

I was saddened to hear poll results showing 85 percent, or more, of Americans supported the Gulf War.

Shock is what I felt upon reading that some Libertarians were pro-Gulf War. While dissent is a healthy aspect of any rational group, our basic tenet is "I do not believe in the initiation of force . . ." If you don't accept it, then you can't be Libertarian. Perhaps the recently expanded version: ". . . for political has confused some or social goals . people into thinking that you can use force for economic or imperialistic goals. I suggest a return to the original statement for clarity and emphasis. No initiation of force, period

Karol Kennedy Milford, OH

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The Libertarian Party's position on the Iraq War is not "principled"—it is foolish consistency. If a man is raping and beating a woman next door, and we know about it, our principles first recognize the rapist has initiated aggression. Our principles next assert the woman's right to resist. Our principles do not state what our duties are as a third party onlooker.

However, the principle that we must not initiate aggression is not the controlling rule in this situation. Interfering with the rape does not make us the moral equivalent of the rapist. The force we use to stop or even kill the rapist is justifiable.

The party has ignored this critical distinction to its detriment

The party disgraces itself by allying with the far left and "peace movement." Ron Kovic and his buddies hate America and probably agree with the LP only on the war issue. To associate oneself with those who criticize only America, and who turn a blind eye to Communist and Socialist atrocities worldwide, commits a moral, historical, and tactical blunder.

All of the arguments we advance that the U.S. should not subsidize dictators are absolutely correct. But the argument that the war had nothing to do with U.S. interests is false, because the U.S. has an interest in

world peace—physical, moral, financial. . . I agree with the LP principle of nonintervention, and the general proposition that the U.S. should avoid for eign entanglements. But it is not a black-and-white rule, even as stated in the party platform. It is an area of grey, which presumably we would leave to even an LP-dominated Congress under our Constitution.

I would love to see the LP stand up and admit, in light of what we now know about Iraq's devastation of innocent Kuwaitis, that it was wrong. Let's get back on a morally even keel

Richard W. Stevens San Diego, CA

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I am really saddened to see the party and its leadership plunging headlong down what I believe to be a tragically wrong path. I do find some consolation, however, in the picture in the NEWS of an LP member brandishing a poster with that mindless slogan of "No Blood for Oil." That at least puts the lie to the accusation that the LP is just a bunch of intellectuals. Also, I know that politics makes strange bedfellows, but Ron Kovic (in that same photo)? Gimme a break! Doesn't it give you people some pause when you see whom you're in bed with on this issue?

The point, that almost everyone seems to

want to ignore, is that the war was waged in defense of the U.S. and is therefore completely justified on libertarian principles.

With the capture of Kuwait and its oil wealth, Iraq and Saddam Hussein had all of the ingredients (including the intent) needed to become a direct military threat to the U.S. All the other arguments against the war are just diversions; strawmen that are easily disposed of.

The choice that Saddam Hussein presented to the U.S. was never one of war or peace. It was a choice between war now (with maybe thousands of casualties) or war later (with probably hundreds of thousands of casualties).

So let's stop this kneejerk reaction of mouthing the non-interventionist mantra which completely misses the point. Let's address the real question which is whether or not Saddam Hussein's seizure of Kuwait, combined with his aggressive intent as demonstrated by his actions, made him a real, military threat to the U.S. and that now was the right time and the Persian Gulf was the right place to defend ourselves.

Jay R. Baker Rockville, MD

The stated position of the LP on the War in the Gulf is simply wrong. It's inconsistent with libertarian ideals and we ought to fix it before it alienates us from the majority of the American people.

There's nothing wrong with the party platform: it's easy to construct a platform when you have a sound doctrinal base. Unlike our counterparts, to whom ideology is a meaningless word, it's only in the application that we've encountered difficulty.

We alone have the ideological base. The American Dream is on our side: economic freedom, political freedom, freedom from involuntary servitude. We properly support

the volunteer army.

The army itself is a necessary evil. To paraphrase Milton Friedman: we must defend ourselves. We must have a military.

Having a military, what is it good for? I submit that nothing requires a Libertarian to be a pacifist. The Pentagon exists not solely for the defense of the political liberty of our people but for their economic liberty as well. That is to say, it is a legitimate function of armed force to further American interests around the world, whether those interests be personal or pecuniary, ideological or financial.

Our interest—and it is a compelling one is that the marketplace remain free. This is the key: The world's oil reserves are too finite and too precious to be allowed to reside in the hands of a monopolist, be he greedy capitalist, godless communist, or fascist dictator. There is nothing wrong with a foreign policy that utilizes military power to keep the market unconstrained. This is in the American interest; this is in the international interest; this is the libertarian ideal

If this sounds like "blood for oil" then so be it. But I will remind you that the armed forces are all volunteers, just like our policemen. If a thief were stealing gasoline from the tank of my car I would expect the police to stop him, even at the risk of life and limb, and even to the use of deadly force. I wouldn't call that 'blood for oil." I would call that simple prudence in the furtherance of legitimate societal goals: namely deterrence, disincentive to engage in crime

The military has done a laudable job in the Gulf. They have performed admirably in one of the few arenas that is rightfully the task of the state. And they have done so for personal profit. This is the very stuff of libertarianism.

I strongly urge that our party belongs in step with reality and with the American people.

We have the right ideals, but there is nothing more pathetic than an ideal without any idealists behind it The War in the Gulf was right. Let us now move on to the next war, one equally honorable: the war on government spending.

William H. Crain Napa, CA

Boddie Backers

Though I don't know anything about Marrou or Boddie except what I got from the NEWS, I still found it easy to choose between

Before anyone can be attracted to join the LP, we must first get their attention. It is unfortunate for Andre Marrou that he looks like just another rich, white guy. Now, I have nothing against rich, white guys (I hope to be one myself some day), but Marrou will be all too easy for the media to ignore. Boddie, however, would appear (from his photo) to be a black man. This is most definitely an asset to Richard Boddie, presidential candidate, and to the Libertarian Party. The guilt-ridden liberal media will feel compelled to pay attention to Boddie.

It may be that Marrou intends to hit the campaign trail with a dozen topless former Ms. Centerfolds in tow, in which case I might reconsider my allegiance, but absent something equally compelling, Richard Boddie's blackness is the best gimmick we've got for getting attention in this age of formover-substance.

> Warren P. Michelsen Page, AZ

44+44

Who should be the LP's next presidential candidate? Dick Boddie. Why? Because he'll get far more media coverage per dollar spent Why will he get more bang for the buck with media? Because he's black. The egalitarian media will eat this up. They won't be able to

resist covering a black presidential candidate. This makes Dick Boddie a "sexier" candidate in the eyes of the media.

Steve Marczeski Santa Ana. CA

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For all the controversy over matching funds, there is an issue even more important in the 1992 presidential race—publicity. Dick Boddie's emphasis on expanding LP awareness and membership is more in tune

Granted, Andre Marrou is more popular within the party, but that's a qualification for national chair, not presidential candidate.

The LP must fill its important niches with the right people. Andre Marrou is the intraparty person, Dick Boddie is the extra-party

> **Brian Schar** Huntington Beach, CA

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Not long ago I was having a talk with a local college professor who sought me out to discuss what Libertarianism is. His questions centered on economic issues and, while I did my best to show that a free market is good for minorities and that restrictive laws don't change what is in people's hearts, I could sense that he had the idea that Libertarians are just a bunch of rich, white males.

I might be a white male, but I'm sure as heck not rich (I make only \$5.50 per hour), and I am a member of a minority (homosexual). Therefore, I am a bit tired of the image the public has of us Libertarians.

To fight the negative image, I am giving my support to a man who can do much good for our cause: I'm backing Dick Boddie for president in '92.

Dennis A. Kjeldergaard St. Cloud, MN

The Proxmire Pledge
In my opinion, the "Proxmire Pledge" (developed by former Sen. William Proxmire)

could go a long way toward cleaning up Congress, and restoring confidence in that institution. The pledge reads: "I will accept no contributions from an individual or group with a material interest in the legislation that comes before the committees of Congress on which I serve."

This pledge is totally non-partisan. All men of honor could support it. All challengers should challenge every incumbent to take the pledge. How could any politician explain his refusal to take this pledge?

The Proxmire Pledge goes to the heart of campaign finance reform on a voluntary basis, without cumbersome laws, regulations and bureaucracy, without endless debate about civil and political rights.

I recommend that we make the Proxmire Pledge a national campaign to restore honor to politics at all levels.

Jack H. Stuart Cloverdale, CA

Bill of Rights

In the April NEWS, on page 4, it says that the Third Amendment to the Constitution is not being violated by the government today.

I submit that when the federal government taxes me and my friends at such a high amount that neither I nor my friends is able to purchase a home, and then the tax money is spent in the payment of quartering troops, that the federal government has circumvented the Third Amendment and is therefore in violation of it.

John Paul Robinson Fort Worth, TX

New World Order

As President Bush and the rest of us bask in the euphoria and relief of the victory in Iraq, I would suggest that we ought to start giving some serious thought to the emerging 'New World Order.'

As I understand it, this "order" will consist of a world government by the United Nations and a few mega-corporations who will divvy up the globe amongst themselves into spheres of control. The corporations will be multi-nationals that are bigger than any national government-including the U.S. government. Through their great wealth and power they will have the ability to make or break any nation or area they choose. Obviously, since the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. is appointed, they will have extraordinary influence on the U.N. government.

Basically, it seems that the New World Order will have the means to control every aspect of our lives-with or without our consent. It will be the end of our democracy and free enterprise system. Is that what we really want? Should we quietly accept this decree or vote them out before it is too late? Should the LP make a stand against the NWO?

Dwight Barlow Scappoose, OR

Organization

From the start, the Libertarian political party has been an elitist organization.

It remains a paradox and hypocrisy to speak for "decentralization of power" and for a "grassroots movement" when the LP presents a national committee selected for their ability to pay! This august group, with airline tickets in hand, shows up all over the map to negotiate the business of running a political party. Here in Austin last spring the Texas party was victim of such a visitation. .

Why not organize this effort from bottom up? State organization is almost nonexistent or resting on shoulders already too burdened with the strange notion of "letting others do it" again a contradiction in our belief in the responsibility of each.

Mary Lou Graham Cedar Park, TX

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Upcoming Events

May 3-5, 1991:

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Best Western Hotel (exit 16 PA Tumpike), Carlisle. Speakers include David Walter, Andre Marrou, Dick Boddie, and Joe Sobran; 215-

May 4, 1991:

Kansas LP Convention, University Club. Wichita. Speakers include Gene Burns: 316-269-9210.

Maryland LP Convention, Bowie State College; 301-523-0928.

May 11, 1991:

Washington State LP Convention, Days Inn, Tacoma. Speakers include Marrou and Boddie: 206-329-5669.

May 11, 1991: Alaska LP Convention, Golden Lion Inn, Anchorage. Speakers include Andre Marrou and Norm Sailors; 907-562-7985.

May 17-18, 1991:

New York State LP Convention, White Plains Hotel, White Plains; 518-439-4612.

Wisconsin LP Convention, Grand Hotel, Milwaukee; 414-375-0068.

May 18, 1991:

North Carolina LP Convention, Umstead Park Raleigh. Speakers include Tibor Machan; 919-847-3939

May 18, 1991:

Washington State LP Convention, Puget Sound Region; 206-752-1189.

May 18, 1991:

Maine LP Convention, Atrium Motel, Brunswick; 207-874-6992.

Connecticut LP Convention; 203-257-4844. Alaska LP Convention; 907-479-4250.

June 1-2, 1991:

Texas LP Convention, Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston; 713-772-8416.

June 1-2, 1991:

Florida LP Convention; contact Jim Culberson at 407-727-0801.

June 2, 1991:

Rhode Island LP Convention; 401-247-2068.

Arizona LP Convention, Hotel Westcourt, Phoenix. Speakers include Dick Boddie, Andre Marrou, Eric Ewing; 608-248-8425.

June 15, 1991:

Minnesota LP Convention, Metrodome Hilton, Minneapolis; 612-483-2358.

June 21-23, 1991.

Women in Libertarianism Conference University Park Holiday Inn, Ft. Collins, CO; 303-484-8184

June 29, 1991:

Kentucky LP Convention, Lexington; 606-

July 19-21, 1991:

Missouri LP Convention, Fontbonne College, St. Louis; 314-997-8585.

August 24, 1991:

Maine LP Picnic, The Pavillion, Reed State Park: 207-874-6992

August 28-September 1, 1991:

"Liberty Triumphant," LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Chicago Marriott, Chicago: 708-475-0391.

To add your LP state convention or other LP event of national interest to this calendar, provide information to Gary Johnson, 2001 Parker Lane, #134, Austin, TX 78741-3849; 512-441-6378.

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