

FREE LIBERTARIAN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FREE
LIBERTARIAN
PARTY, INC.

Howie Katz, Carolyn Keelen, Fran Youngstein, Howie Rich and Leonard Liggio attended this year's convention, to everyone's delight, since we haven't seen much of these old troopers of late. also re-appearing, and elected to two posts, was another old-timer, Bob Cassella.

I must say, I haven't ever gotten into a con as much as I did this one, and I enjoyed it greatly. One of the high points for me and, I'm sure, for the cause, was Gary Greenberg's nomination for governor.

His
The nomination and his fine acceptance speech were the
speech drew the biggest crowd of the con, about sixty people, rivaled only by Jim Tobin's talk, earlier in the day, on the Chicago tax strike.

Gary's acceptance speech focused on the fact that New York is where the media is, and on the fact that that media has been ours to exploit when, in past campaigns, we exerted ourselves to capture it. "We have done it before," he said, "and we'll do it again." He also pointed out the wealth of big government issues that New York State has graciously supplied us with, such as the Westway, a super highway on Manhattan's west side, which has, since Gary's speech, gotten Mayor Koch's go-ahead (despite his campaign position that it wouldn't be done during his term--only a prediction, not a promise, he said.)

Convention

KEYNOTE ___ BURT ___ KEYNOTE ___ BURT

William Burt, an engaging and lively speaker from Brooklyn, president of AREA--Association for Rational Environmental Alternatives, and author of the LP booklet "Local Problems-- Libertarian Solutions," gave the keynote speech, on Friday night, on land use planning, transportation, taxes, and other local issues. Burt's main point was that there are some issues that seem like good libertarian issues, but aren't. One example is decentralization.

Decentralization, Burt pointed out, was the premise behind the neighborhood councils in NYC, but, instead of taking power from the central NYC gov't, they simply added one more layer of bureaucracy to the city's power structure.

By way of p

By way of making us aware of "creeping libertarianism" throughout the Establishment (which really is there, you know, if you look hard), Burt quoted John Trevotola, of the NYS Teamsters Union Joint Council, to this effect:

Introducing chair (H).

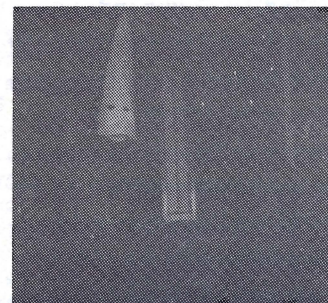
Organizing Secretary

Gubernatorial

candidate

Gary Greenberg

The Spanish Inquisition



"The tax collector, rather than the employer, is the real adversary of the worker, and the tax collector, rather than the worker, is the real adversary of the employer." This from a TEAMSTER!

Summing up, Burt admonished us to make taxes, not decentralization or Fiscal Conservatism and less gov't spending, our main target.

TBIN-----TAX STRIKE

Jim Tobin, of the National Taxpayers' Union, told how he and a few others saved Chicago area residents over a hundred million dollars in one year of well-organized, hard-working tax resistance. His message: do your homework, make your message simple, show the average joe taxpayer how a specific politician or political action ripped him off, and keep an eye on the teachers-- they are the most experienced, best organized pro-tax group. Tell people that the TOTAL spending per student-- some is camouflaged-- is 2-4 times greater in a public school than in private schools.

Alan Bock, of Libertarian Advocate, touched on something of the same sort in his banquet speech on libertarian lobbying: that a small number of people who KNOW the issue can make a great deal of difference. He emphasized that a letter to a congressman has more effect than you will know (wo wo wo) from the form letter you get back, mainly because his aides will read it and absorb it, and he has to listen to them, even if he doesn't know you (woo woo woo).

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TAF CHAIR TAF CHAIR TAF

On Sunday morning, Thomas A. Frederick, at that time co-editor, with me, of the newsletter, was elected state chair without opposition. Tom began his acceptance speech by pointing out the need for a Spanish Inquisition. I replied that I wasn't expecting the Spanish Inquisition, and if you watch Monty Python, you know what happened next. In burst three Inquisitors, saying that "NOBODY expects the Spanish Inquisition!"

Well, folks, you really had to be there to understand it, but suffice it to say that it livened up the convention, as did TAF's ensuing speech, in which he denied rumors linking him with the Committee to Forget Ella Fitzgerald, and a sheep. (The sheep, it turns out, had been a consenting adult.)

Tom also said many things of a serious nature on this occasion.... but I'm darned if I can remember any of them.

Incidentally, Ralph Fucetola and five 5th Amendment tax resisters

had been on the David Susskind Show the previous Sunday, and I ran into Ralph at the con on Saturday night. He said that it was his impression that Susskind probably deliberately put six people on at the same time, to t knowing that they would all be talking at once and therefore making themselves look silly, so that he as the moderator would look like the very soul of sanity.

Ann Jackson took the podium on Sunday afternoon to speak about sending letters to our Senators in support of the Packwood-Moynihan Bill.

There were the usual factionalisms and controversies, about two good sized ones anyway; one on whether to give Gary the authority to choose his own running mates and one on so obscure an aspect of the by-laws that I don't remember what it was, as well as not remembering (nor does anyone here in the office) what the outcome of the first one was. It is in the minutes of the con, but the lack of memory of it here among the most active of us gives an idea of how little significance most people assigned these issues. (The real problem is not an excess of power on Gary's part in choosing his running mates, but a lack of zeal on everyone's part, evidenced by the failure of even one person, at the time of the con, to volunteer for the honor.)



WANTED

SALES HELP _ ICE CREAM PARLOR

HOWARD SHAFRAN

650 - 9414 AFTER NOON

STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

Time: JUNE 4-SUNDAY

P lace: DOTTIE-LOU BROKAW'S HOUSE,
39 Prospect Terrace,
Cortland, NY 13045
On I81, between Syracuse and Bing-
hamton. Take exits 10,11, or 12.
Follow signs toward SUNY Cortland.
Prospect terrace heads uphill
from from Tompkins st. (NYS 13)
THIS IS A MEDIA EVENT, FEATURING GOV.
CANDIDATE GARY GREENBERG & THE LOCAL
PRESS. A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD.

Capital District FLR Picnic in June!

DIVIDING THE STATE

After the nomination of Gary Greenberg, the most important accomplishment of the con, I think, was the dividing of primary responsibility for organization of the state among four regional chairs, in four state regions. Now, when your phone rings and someone asks you to organize your county, or find someone who will, or recommend a contact to organize the county adjacent to yours, that call will not usually originate at the state office in Manhattan, and won't therefore add to the state party's phone bill, which YOU-- all of you, and me-- pay for, and the person making that call won't ask you questions like "why can't you Buffalo people hop over to Poughkeepsie for the afternoon," or "where is Binghamton or "how do you pronounce 'Tioghnioaga'?".

Regional chair for western NYS is Dave Hoesly. His counties are: Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

Dottie-lou Brokaw's Central region includes Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and Tompkins.

In the Eastern region, the man to see is Mike Kessler, whose territory comprises Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington.

The remainder of the counties are in the "Metro" region, whose chair is the State chair, Tom Frederick. This means everything from Dutchess and Ulster and Sullivan on down.

It was a fun con, largely, and it was a chance to get about a hundred New York State Libertarians together in one place at one time. Next year, I would very much like to see two hundred.

INTRODUCING STEVE JOHNSON

In his first few months on the Irondequoit town council, Johnson has spoken out on issues ranging from business-restricting zoning proposals to private trash collection.

A zoning proposal being considered would prevent setting up a business of the a

of the same nature as an existing business nearer than 450 feet to the existing business. Johnson labeled this proposal as an attack on free enterprise, saying "Consumers are best served by having many firms competing for their dollar, firms which will provide improved service and competitive prices to sway the consumers'

choices."

Johnson is also casting a critical eye on a town proposal to buy a computer system. He has promised to support this purchase "only if real cost savings can be achieved. If we hire a programming analyst to run the computer, then his/her salary plus the cost of the computer must create efficiency which results in a net savings to the taxpayers. Until convincing documentation is forthcoming, which identifies real tax-reducing benefits to Irondequoit citizens, I will oppose this computer purchase."

Private trash collectors in the Rochester suburb have approached Johnson with a proposal to provide a "full-service mode of operation, which Johnson says has merit. The entrepreneurs, who now pick up garbage and household refuse, want to haul away leaves, brush and other trash as well. Johnson supports their proposal, which would be less expensive, and result in less truck traffic on residential streets than the present redundant system produces.

(Ed. note--There, you see? It can be done! T Steve and his wife, Cindy, attended the FLP picnic in July of last year, and sought support for Steve's campaign, which he won. Before any FLP's decided to help him, a committee interview interviewed him on his political views, reporting that, while definitely conservative, Steve was quickly picking up the ideas

the more radical ideas of the local libertarians. After winning his seat on the 5-person town board, Steve and Cindy joined the Genesee Region FLP. Moral: You can find converts out there if you try, so keep those cards & letters coming in!) And going out!

ROCHESTER TAX PROTEST

A holdup took place in front of the Federal building in Rochester at noon on the 17th of April. A baker, offering samples of cake was robbed of nearly 50% of his wares by armed bandits.

Four local radio stations gave notice of the Genesee Region FLP's demo before it occurred, resulting in three neophytes coming to the demo, picking up placards, and joining the protest, and hopefully, the FLP. There was also pre-coverage in the Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester's major paper. All three local tv stations reported the event, in two cases giving 1-2 minutes to it.

Seventeen people heard FLP member Prof. John Zdanowicz speak on "The morality of Bankruptcy" in the GRFLP's Dinner-Discussion series on the 21st.

There is a possible statewide candidacy in the offing in the Rochester FLP group--more on this if it amounts to something.



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(The state headquarters is open every
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to 9PM and is sometimes open on weekends).