



ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Illinois

vol. 15 no.8

November 1989

The Law

by *Kenneth Prazak*

What is the law? Is it the myriad of codes, rules and regulations that swamp our daily lives? Is it the written law legislated by politicians who, many times, have no regard for any constitution? Ultimately, is the law what the United States Constitution says, or what the Supreme Court says it says? On all the above, I think not. Ultimately, **the law is what twelve jurors says it is or one juror says it isn't.**

The last check and balance of a free people on those that govern them (besides the Declaration of Independence option) is that of jury nullification,—the right and responsibility of individual jurors to decide if a law is just or unjust according to their conscience, irrespective of what "the law" may be. It only takes one juror of twelve not to convict.

Think of the implications for freedom. Every prospective juror determines justice according to his conscience instead of rubberstamping the law as the judge directs.

To inform people of this traditional right and responsibility is what the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) is all about.

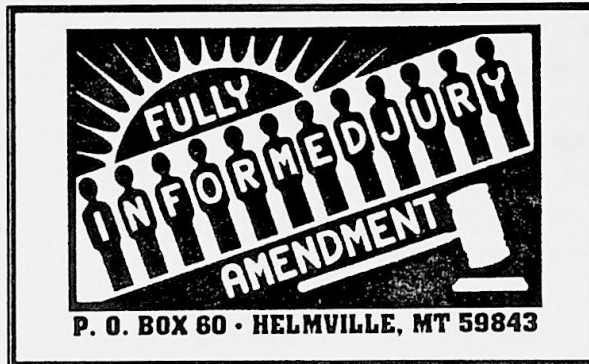
As was reported in the October issue, Larry Dodge, Libertarian from Montana, is leading this endeavor to enlighten the nation on jury nullification. He reports that in eighteen states, preliminary filings have been made to proceed with getting FIJA on the ballot.

The FIJA movement is a no-lose proposition. Jurors already have the right to nullify unjust laws according to conscience. But judges routinely instruct jurors on the opposite. This amendment would force judges to instruct jurors on the right of jury nullification. But even if the amendment loses, freedom fighters will still have won. The education process of proposing the amendment will inform countless prospective jurors of their right. If this initiative becomes national in prominence, judges no longer will be able to run roughshod on freedom fighters.

This initiative has a great chance on becoming a popular movement. Consider all the groups that would benefit from a fully informed jury: Tax resisters, draft resisters, pro choice groups, pro life groups, gun advocates, entrepreneurs stifled by regulation, alternative health practitioners, home educators, midwives, NORML, and petty

traffic violators to name just a few.

It seems to me that with all these people on our side, getting enough signatures to put FIJA on the ballot should be no problem at all. In Illinois, we can only propose an advisory referendum, but that's all right. The process of getting on the ballot and engaging in argument for FIJA will become a successful educational project in of itself. I am organizing a FIJA initiative in this state. Please let me know if you would like to help. Call Ken Prazak, 810-1974.



to the editor

Letters

to the press

The Sanction of the Victim

Libertarians claim that there is more out there than just the left-right spectrum. They claim that the political spectrum looks, in fact, like a diamond divided into four quadrants (the Nolan chart). If this is the case, the following question arises: If libertarians want people to abandon the out-moded left-right spectrum, why do they do everything in their power to further its survival?

A concept, in order to survive, must be recognized. A concept is not like a physical object which exists regardless of whether or not a human is there to perceive it. If humans stop recognizing a particular mental construct, it vanishes.

The left-right spectrum would disappear if people stopped recognizing its existence. How many times have you read an article written by a libertarian that used the terms "left" and "right" in a political context? To use these terms is to recognize the concept these terms are meant to represent—and more significantly, to deny the existence of any alternative. To a libertarian, an idea should not belong to the "left" or to the "right"; an idea is either "libertarian" or "unlibertarian".

The "left" supposedly believes in a person's "right to choose"—unless it is day care or education (or drugs) that one is choosing. The "right" believes in "freedom"—unless it concerns the freedom to view pornography or compete against established companies (or take drugs). Countries ruled by the "right" are headed by generals who put down labor movements—unless the country happens to be Poland. A political party sponsored by a labor movement belongs to the "left"—unless it is in Argentina. Whether you are a "leftist" or a "rightist", sympathizing with Palestinians depends upon your view of capitalism. If you oppose pornography you are a "rightist" unless you are a feminist in which case you are a "leftist". Latin American countries dominated by the military and headed by a uniformed dictator are "right-wing"—unless the country is Cuba.

Libertarians desperately want their ideology to be recognized and respected by the American public. The best way this can be realized is by encouraging new ways of classifying ideas. Events or ideas should be described either as libertarian or unlibertarian or not classified at all.

Dave Hoscheidt

Belleville, Il.

'Statistiganda' on Drugs

reprinted from Electronic Engineering Times, Sept. 4, 1989

Mr. Rassbach may very well be a victim of government-handout statistical propaganda (see "Crosstalk," July 31, page 26).

True: England's registered addicts more than doubled from about 1964 to about 1967 (during the period of the "experiment" that was tried and didn't work). But Rassbach left out or didn't know the actual figures and from whence they came.

A Madame Frankau operated a clinic for opiate addicts who wanted help. She supplied them with maintenance amounts daily, required them to seek gainful employment and counseled them to not associate with other addicts. There was to be no forced withdrawal.

Word of this program spread to Canada and the United States. Over 400 American and Canadian addicts, who had plenty of trouble with the law, entered her clinic, complied with her terms and became peaceful, productive members of the community. These immigrants were the means by which England's "addicts more than doubled"—a total of little more than 800 addicts! Hardly a cause for hysteria.

But by 1968, as a result of U.S. Commissioner of Narcotics, Harry J Anslinger's statistiganda and incitement, the whole lot of Canadians and Americans were deported. Then came the strict, ruthless anti-narcotics criminal statutes of 1970. From then until now, the narcotic addict population has grown to an estimated 500,000 to 1 million.

So, the "experiment" which didn't work really did work; it cleaned up the lives of over 400 people with little more than common-sense humane treatment. The threat of jail has dirtied the lives of millions—not just addicts.

Viewed vis-a-vis the history of civilization, the experiment that doesn't work is prohibition. It took patients out from under the care of their physicians and left them to their own devices in the streets. Incidentally, the deportees to the United States and Canada resumed a life of crime to "enjoy" their habits.

The sooner government relinquishes jurisdiction over "public health," the sooner this society will regain its health.

Bernard Irving Sommer

Engineer, Talk-A-Phone Co., Chicago, Ill.

Immediate Action Needed on Lethal Weapons!

as reported in the Chicago Tribune on 27 July 1989:

Thrown Turnip kills Londoner

London (AP)—Police said Wednesday they were investigating the death of a man who was fatally injured after being hit by a turnip that was thrown from a passing car.

The attack apparently was carried out by a gang who toss vegetables at random at passersby.

by David M. Walden

Once again, it has taken a tragedy to alert us to a terrible threat. Our irresponsibly casual attitude toward vegetables has produced a victim. It has finally happened—a life has been senselessly cut short by a flying vegetable.

And this was no ordinary vegetable; this was the brassica rapa, an ugly, hairy-leaved biennial of the mustard family.

The terrible crime of murder by turnip is just as possible here as in England. If anything, our laws regarding turnips are even more lax.

Incredibly, one needs no license or permit to buy a turnip. There is no background check of purchasers. There is no waiting period. Turnips are not registered.

This means violent criminals and lunatics can buy turnips and turn them into whatever deadly purpose is desired. Turnips can even be hollowed out and used to smuggle drugs!

And—as if all this weren't bad enough, ordinary turnips can easily be converted into even harder and therefore deadlier weapons through the process of freezing!

Currently there are no laws to prevent a deranged person from buying a whole bushel basket full of turnips, driving to a schoolyard, and hurling them at our children!

Although turnips are edible, do you know anyone who eats them? Do they contain vitamins not obtainable from other sources? Minerals? Fiber? No one needs turnips. Only farmers and grocers should have turnips.

The time for action is now! Don't wait until more lives are lost! Save our children! Write your state and federal legislators NOW! Tell them you want turnips BANNED!!!

Switzerland and Gun Control

Switzerland insists that every male of military age must keep a powerful, fully automatic assault rifle in his home. Every home must be armed by law, and some even keep mortars. Yet Switzerland has one of the most law-abiding citizenry, the lowest crime rate, and least violence of any country in the free world. And it has remained free for over a thousand years. In fact, in Washington, Chief of Police, Maurice Turner, recently said that the District of Columbia gun-ban law had completely failed, and he has called for an armed citizens Police Auxiliary to help restore order.

reprinted from the McAlvany Intelligence Advisor, P.O. Box 84904, Phoenix, AZ. 85071

New Freedom Fighter Monthly



A Prairie Fire is coming in December

\$20/12 issues, first class mail Subscribe today:

name: _____

street: _____

City/state/zip: _____

For a special free subscription, call editor/publisher, Ken Prazak, 708-810-1974

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Volunteers wanted to staff this effort!

If YOU are willing to lend your expertise towards that goal, please call 475-0391.

The volunteers will elect their own Chairman, and decide *their* agenda, just so ALL funds go to P.O.B 313!

Club Reports and Announcements

Springfield Report

The Libertarian Club of Springfield has been active in placing ads in local newspapers. They recently ran an ad in the Lincoln Land Community College Lamp quoting George Washington, "Government is not reason; it is not eloquence. It is force. And force, like fire, is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

At their previous meeting held on September 23, they sent a letter to C-Span thanking them for their coverage of the Libertarian Party National Convention. They also approved a contribution of \$100 to David Nolan's LIBER/TV advertising project.

DuPage Report

Willowbrook and Addison Trail High School has implemented arbitrary and random drug testing violating all sorts of Constitutional rights of students. This policy could be one of the best outreach tools we have ever enjoyed in this state. Eric Banfield and Ken Prazak have drafted a flyer to be distributed to the school indicating support for the students plight and asking them to join the party. Mike Gentile will take care of the distribution. If the response is what is expected, we will help them form student libertarian organizations at their schools whose main project would be to eliminate this policy. Contributions to help in the printing costs can be sent to Ken Prazak, 810-1974.

The Effects of Political Torture

The Evanston chapter of **Amnesty International** will hold a symposium on the effects of political torture as a means of repression and its impact on millions of people around the world, on Friday, November 10, at 8:00 P.M. Admission is free and open to the public. The panel discussion will be held at St. Ignatius Church, 6559 N. Glenwood, Chicago, which is near the Loyola 'el' stop. For more information, contact Tim Oppenheim at 465-5693.

Counseling
Psychotherapy

Individuals
Couples, Families

LILA PIFER, M.A.

2430 W. Gunnison
Chicago, IL 60625

(312) 271-9450
Evenings

Paul Jacob Hired

The **Tax Accountability Amendment** petition drive has received a major boost in its campaign to fulfill the requirement of 266,000 signatures by signing on Mr. Paul Jacob as the coordinator in the petition drive. Paul Jacob recently resigned as Field Coordinator for ballot access of the National Libertarian Party. Paul is also well-known for his courageous stand against draft registration for his refusal to register, and his subsequent jail term.

As was reported in our August issue, the tax Accountability Amendment is a binding statewide initiative which if passed would require a three-fifths majority of both houses to pass any tax increase. The amendment requires a two week notice to the public before tax increases can be approved by revenue committees. Another requirement mandates that no politician may serve more than four consecutive years on a tax committee in Springfield.

To help in the petition drive, contact Paul Jacob at 255-4941, or National Taxpayers United of Illinois, at 484-2333.

IVLA Report

Scott Tillman of the Illinois Valley Libertarian Assoc. reports that the IVLA is laying some groundwork to network with the conservative Central Illinois Constitutional Caucus, Inc. They are also planning to network with Amnesty International and the Nature Conservancy.

Clarification

In last month's issue, there was information on both the Libertarian Party of Illinois, and the Libertarian Education Institute, Ltd., in an article signed by Sue Walton, State Chair. She is state chair of LPI, not the latter. She is a member of the Board of Directors of LEI, LTD. These two organizations are separate entities.

- Wallpapering
- Plastering
- Refinishing
- Interior
- Exterior

Perfect Painting And Decorating

Satisfaction Guaranteed

KENNETH PRAZAK
8827 Ogden Ave.
Brookfield, IL 60513

(312) 810-1974
Downers Grove, IL

Directory

National

Libertarian Party Headquarters202-543-1988
 National New-Member Information
 (toll-free)800-682-1776

State

Libertarian Party of Illinois708-299-7564
 P.O. Box 313, Chicago, Il. 60690

LPI Officers

Chair: Sue Walton708-475-0391
 Northern Vice Chair: Eric Banfield708-960-1552
 South-Central Vice Chair: Al Blomquist815-883-6333
 Recording Secretary: Maggie Kohls708-653-6441
 Corresponding Secretary: Harvey Gould708-729-2262
 Treasurer: Scott Walton708-475-0391

Local Clubs

DuPage: Steve Nelson708-969-1088
 North Cook: Greg Bezdek708-251-2870
 Northwest Cook: Dan Coit708-803-8855
 Springfield: Chris Barker217-523-1235
 Will County: Anne McCracken708-739-6240
 Il. Valley: Scott Tillman309-353-1500

Illinois Libertarian Calendar

November 6

- **DuPage Libertarian Club**, Monday, 6:30 P.M. at the Minuette Restaurant, Ogden and Main St., Lisle, Il. Meets first Monday of every month (different this month), same place and time. For more info: Steve Nelson, 708-969-1088.

November 9

- **North Cook County Libertarian Club, and North Shore Individualist** meeting Thursday, 7:00 P.M., a Marshall Fritz tape will be shown, at the Henry George School, 4536 N. Ravenswood, Chicago. Location: just south of Wilson on Ravenswood on the west side of the tracks. One and a half blocks north of the CTA Ravenswood line Montrose Station, one and a half blocks south of the CNW north line, Ravenswood. More info: Greg Bezdek, 708-251-2870 or Sue Walton, 708-475-0391.

November 11

- **Springfield Libertarian Club**, Saturday, 7:00 P.M. Discussing projects for 1990. Location: Manpower Temporary Services, 306 S. Grand Ave. W., Springfield. Contact: Chris Barker, 217-525-9600, or 217-523-1235.

November 17

- **Northwest Libertarian Club**, Friday, 6:45 Dutch treat dinner, 8:00 program. Banquet room, Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee St., Mannheim Road (1/4 block south of Algonquin Road), Des Plaines. Call Dan Coit (708-803-8855) to reserve a place for dinner.

November 27

- **NCCLP Supper Club** resumes at a new location: Monday, Angelo's Restaurant & Lounge, 1418 West Morse, Chicago, one-half block west of the Morse EL. Angelo's serves alcohol; it's the Rogers Park equivalent to LCD's Minuette. 6:45 PM.

December 3

- **SCC Meeting**, Sunday, 1:00 P.M., at Steve Reed's apartment, call for directions, 708-765-5828.

December 4

- **DuPage Libertarian Club**, Monday, 6:30 P.M. at the Minuette Restaurant, Ogden and Main St., Lisle, Il. Meets first Monday of every month (different this month), same place and time. For more info: Steve Nelson, 708-969-1088.

December 14

- **North Cook County Libertarian Club, and North Shore Individualist Annual Holiday Party**. More info: Greg Bezdek, 312-251-2870 or Sue Walton, 708-475-0391.



of Glen Ellyn

538 Crescent Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4174

312/858-1840-Agency
 312/462-0888-Home

Lynn Latimer
 Travel Consultant

Leaders in Travel & Tourism Innovation

By Appointment

(312) 980-1004

Dr. Helen C. Heyden

Chiropractor
 Nutritional Consultant

130 E. Elm, #202, Roselle, IL 60172

Committees and Chairmen

This is the up-to-date listing of committee chairmen for the purpose of reaching goals set at the State Convention.

Campaign Committee: Anne McCracken, and Mike Burns

Awards Committee: Scott Walton

Neighborhood Fairs, etc.: Glenn Olofsen

Prairie Fire: Ken Prazak

Membership: Helen Heyden

100% publication of letters to the editor: Ted Semon

Develop follow-up letters to letters to the editor: Robert Coolidge

Develop telephone tree: Tim Griffin

Student education outreach: Lyn D. Tinsley

the Illinois Libertarian

Publisher: The Libertarian Party of Illinois

1111 Church St., Unit 405, Evanston, IL 60201 708-475-0391

Editor: Kenneth Prazak

8827 Ogden Av. Brookfield, IL 60513 708-810-1974

Opinions expressed in the articles of the Illinois Libertarian do not necessarily represent the views of the party. Permission is granted to reprint or quote from articles with appropriate credit (author's name and the above IL name and address).

Subscriptions: \$15 per year, free to LPI members.

Please send subscription orders and Party memberships to:

Libertarian Party of Illinois, P.O. Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690.

INCLUDE ME!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

To assist in the LPI's organizing efforts, please provide as much of the following information as you can (most items are listed on your voter's registration card)

Congressional District No. _____ County _____

State Senator District No. _____ State Representative District No. _____

Local: Ward No. _____ Precinct No. _____

(For members only:) "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature _____ Date _____

- Regular member of LPI \$20.00
Same-household membership (two or more sharing a residence—all membership privileges, one newsletter) \$20 first membership, \$10 each additional
Student member of LPI \$10.00
Life member of LPI \$200.00
National Libertarian Party member \$15.00
National, Illinois, and local member \$40.00
Supporter (has all membership privileges except voting, doesn't sign membership pledge) \$20.00
Illinois Libertarian subscriber \$15.00
Well-wishing contributor \$
Please send me a copy of David Bergland's book Libertarianism in One Lesson (paperbound) \$5.00

the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN
1111 Church Street, Apt. 405
Evanston, IL 60201

The fastest growing party in the U.S.

Non-Profit Orgn.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Evanston, IL
60204-9998
Permit No. 156

Address Correction Requested

If this box is checked, this is your last newsletter—have you renewed?



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY