

Alaska Libertarian



SUMMER

1981

FREEDOM IS THE ISSUE

Vol. 5 No. 5

HAPPY SUMMER

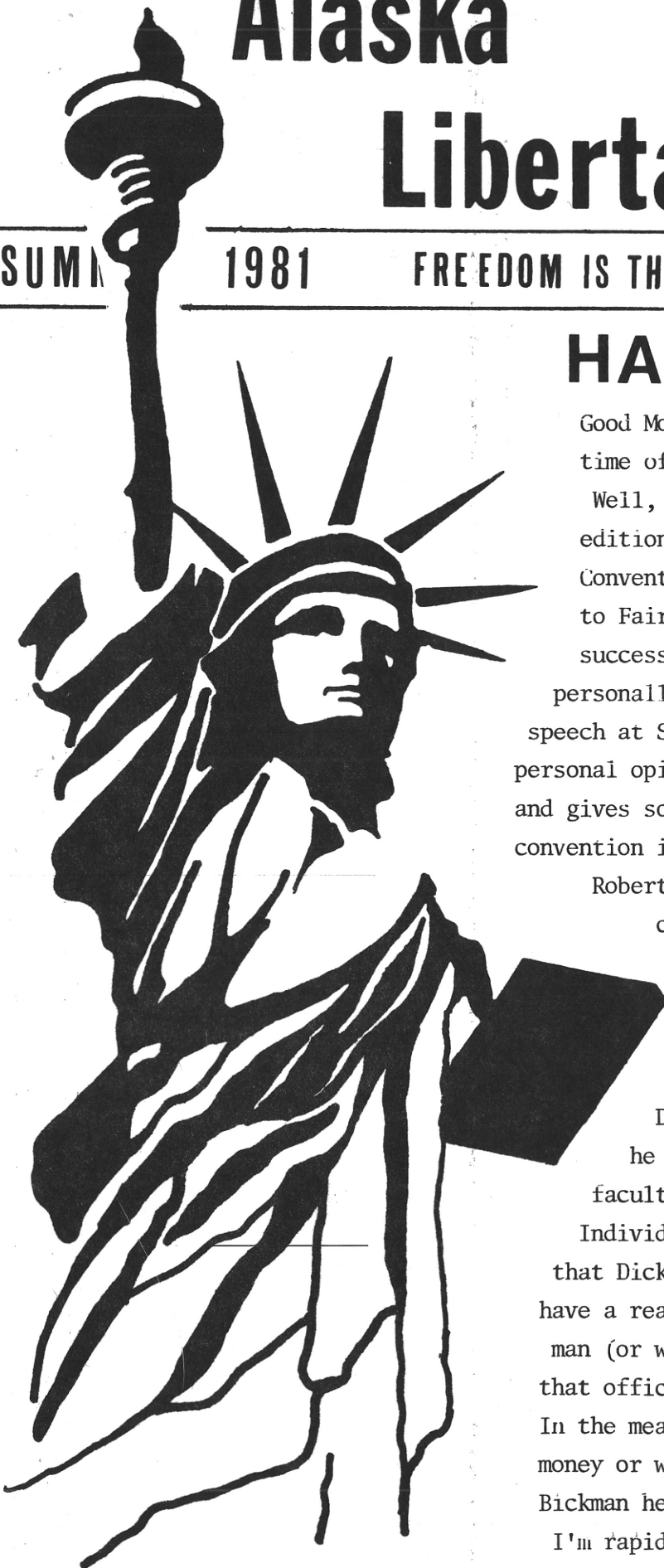
Good Morning or Good Evening, depending on whatever time of day the mailman gets to you.

Well, first things first, I guess. With this edition of the newsletter we put the 1981 State Convention to bed. For those of you who didn't get to Fairbanks last May, the convention was a great success. Even the bottom line showed a profit. I personally was a little disappointed at Robert Ringer's speech at Saturday night's banquet, but that's my personal opinion. Gil D'Innocente wrap-ups the convention and gives some pointers to those who will run next years convention in his article on pg. 7.

Robert Ringer's speech was somewhat of an anti-climax, coming as it did several hours after Dick Randolph's nomination. As most of you are aware, (those of you who aren't living under a rock) Dick was nominated by the convention to run for the office of Governor. Dick kindly accepted (anyone who thought that he wouldn't, doesn't possess all of his or her faculties).

Individuals For Randolph, the committee to see to it that Dick is elected, is alive and well and will soon have a real office and phone and a real live person to man (or woman) the office. I'm not sure exactly when that office will be opened but I'll keep you posted. In the meantime, if you'd like to volunteer, donate money or whatever you can call Steve DeLisio or Susan Bickman here in Anchorage or Lew Beyer in Fairbanks.

I'm rapidly running out of paper, so see you later....



VINCENT A. DROSDIK, III

LP LOSES SHELL GAME

If the Mary Shell affair is any indication, the Libertarian Party, qua party, is going backwards--as if it was not already in a weak state.

Mary Shell was elected mayor of Bakersfield, Calif., last fall, in a non-partisan race (no party labels used in the campaign or on the ballot). However, she was registered as a Libertarian voter.

She is no ordinary woman: a professional, she had been a columnist for the local newspaper and had a large following based both on that and on her own personality. She is married to the man who opposed Richard Nixon in the 1962 California GOP gubernatorial primary.

But along the way, she discovered Ed Clark and the LP. Mary liked most of what she saw, and so, despite threats of political death and exile made by the Republican hierarchy, she registered as a Libertarian. She won the mayoralty race anyway.

Sounds great. But Mary faced two factors which drove her out of the LP within only months: indifference and the wrath of the purists.

As for the first, according to my California source, she was basically ignored by LP leaders. Instead of being warmly welcomed, befriended, aided and cultivated, she got the cold shoulder. As any salesperson knows, followup is crucial. LP leaders should take courses in sales and personal relations.

Part of the problem was that Mrs. Shell was not pure enough to satisfy everyone. For one thing, she opposes abortion. Well, she isn't alone -- a growing number of LP activists have emerged from the closet on this issue, declaring themselves "pro-life".

Another key issue Mary was "wrong" on is tax funding of public parks. She apparently supports private schools, but has a weakness for national forests and preserves. Big deal. This takes up a miniscule portion of the federal budget. Cutting even a tiny fraction of the waste and fat from the Pentagon's billions would save more money.

There was perhaps another reason for her "sell out" on parks: there are several near Bakersfield, and voters there in the main support them. Certainly it is not an issue worth getting defeated over.

Then the crowning crime in the purists' eyes: Shell rejected legalizing all drugs. It is a key civil liberties issue, to be sure; but consider that local governments do not have too much control on the matter.

More importantly, and not generally known in LP circles, is this mitigating circumstance: Mary Shell's son had committed suicide about a year ago after getting messed up on drugs. That might color even a hardened Rothbardian's opinion.

The smart course to pursue would have been follow-up, working with her on the issues and looking at the positive aspects of having a major office holder calling herself a Libertarian (and working to implement a sound fiscal policy locally).

It was not to be. So Mary Shell got tired of being abused when she wasn't being ignored, and quietly re-registered as a Republican.

The Bakersfield LP quit the California Libertarian Council in disgust. I don't blame it. The wonder is that it didn't ditch the LP altogether.

For the "Party of Principle," there is a fine line between being pure and being a political party. It is to be the latter, it must bend at least a little on the former.



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membership

We are just starting a new year and hope that it will be a successful one! For those of you that missed a great convention..... I am the new membership chairman and I need your help.

Several others that have accepted responsibility in the membership area are:

- Jim Knoll - - Juneau
- Colleen Olds - - Kodiak
- Tim Dove - - Fairbanks
- Midge Hamilton - Eagle River
- Carol Hammond - Mat Su

We are still looking for someone to assist in Cantwell, Kenai, Valdez and Anchorage.

Who knows, I may be calling you.

Looks like we have a real horse race going. Look at the figures:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Minimum goal Increase 25%</u>
Anchorage	96	24
Fairbanks	97	24
Cantwell	10	3
Kenai	7	2
Kodiak	5	1
Juneau	24	5
Valdez	6	2
Mat-Su	12	3
Eagle River	15	4
At-Large	21	5
	<u>293</u>	<u>73*</u>

*This is in addition to maintaining current members..so Let's get with it! The membership office also has the responsibility for a speaker's bureau and maintaining educations and informational materials. I'm still looking for people to assist with the Speakers Bureau. ANYONE interested? ? ? ?

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Lydia

Lydia Randolph, Membership Chairman

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The Tenth Anniversary Convention of the Libertarian Party

*August 26-30, 1981
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The Libertarian Party has come a long way since its beginnings ten years ago. And this summer, we're meeting in Colorado — birthplace of the party — for a grand celebration and a flying start into our second decade.

Highlights of this historic gathering will include panels, workshops, a reception in honor of our three past presidential candidates, a trip to an old gold mining town, a great debate on the future of the party, and a gala 10th Birthday Banquet that will be talked about for years to come.

For veterans and newcomers alike, LP/10 will be an exhilarating and memorable experience. Plan now to be there.

Details to follow.



LP/10

Here To Stay

Libertarian Convention Committee
1041 Cherokee Street, Denver CO 80204
Phone (303) 573-5229

DICK ELABORATES.....

Too often questions of taxation before the legislature are cast exclusively in pragmatic terms: "How can we end the oil companies' tax suit against the state without really lowering the taxes?" Or, "Wouldn't it be more effective just to give a lump sum to the municipalities and let them decide whether or not to grant property tax relief?"

But taxation is a moral issue!

Taxation is actually a confiscation of property, an act which is considered a crime when committed by an individual. How is it that government escapes moral condemnation for such forcible seizure of property when individuals do not? What process of reasoning can justify acts of government which are not justifiable for people?

These may sound like unusual questions, but they must be faced squarely if we are to have any hope of preserving the ideal of limited government. After all, we do pay lip-service to the principle that we live in a republic. A republic is a form of government which is limited to the function of protecting the equal rights of all of its citizens. A government which consistently violates these rights, instead of protecting them, is not a republic nor is it a limited government. The power to tax is the power to violate human rights, and it must be opposed on moral grounds by all concerned for human liberty.

A very reasonable objection could be made at this point. How could any government function without the power to tax?

The answer is that most of what our government currently does would not be possible without taxes, and rightly so. Government could not redistribute wealth without the power to tax, and rightly so. Government could not bail out Chrysler and Lockheed without the power to tax, and rightly so. Government could not afford to lock up the public lands or bribe special interest groups without the power to tax, and rightly so. Government could not meddle with our private lives, our private homes, our private bank accounts, or our private businesses without the power to tax, and rightly so. The power to tax is the power to destroy; taxes have already gone a long way toward destroying our economy, our money, our incentive, and our freedom.

"But," you might persist, "how could government do anything without the power to tax?"

When we have eliminated all the things a government should not be doing, like violating

our civil and economic liberties, there is little left. What remains are the legitimate functions of a limited government: protection of individual rights. For Alaska's state government this consists of roughly three categories of functions: police, to protect us from criminals; courts, to furnish an objective means to settle disputes; and a legislature to provide an ongoing process of elaborating the best means to protect our rights.

These three functions are services which society simply cannot do without. Not one person in a thousand would seriously suggest that we fire all the peace officers or that we settle disputes by armed combat. Isn't it a bit absurd, then, to suggest that people would not willingly support such admittedly vital services. If you were faced with freely deciding between supporting a police force and permitting muggers and rapists to roam at will, which would you choose?

But this is not the choice we face today. Our government, with powers to seize property, with powers not limited to guaranteeing our rights, forces us to support programs we would not use or value had we the opportunity to choose for ourselves, and prevents us from pursuing other, non-aggressive goals.

The immediate question which Alaskans face is not how to support a government without taxation. Realistically we face the more critical, moral problem of how to survive a government whose power to tax has removed its restraints and left it unlimited.

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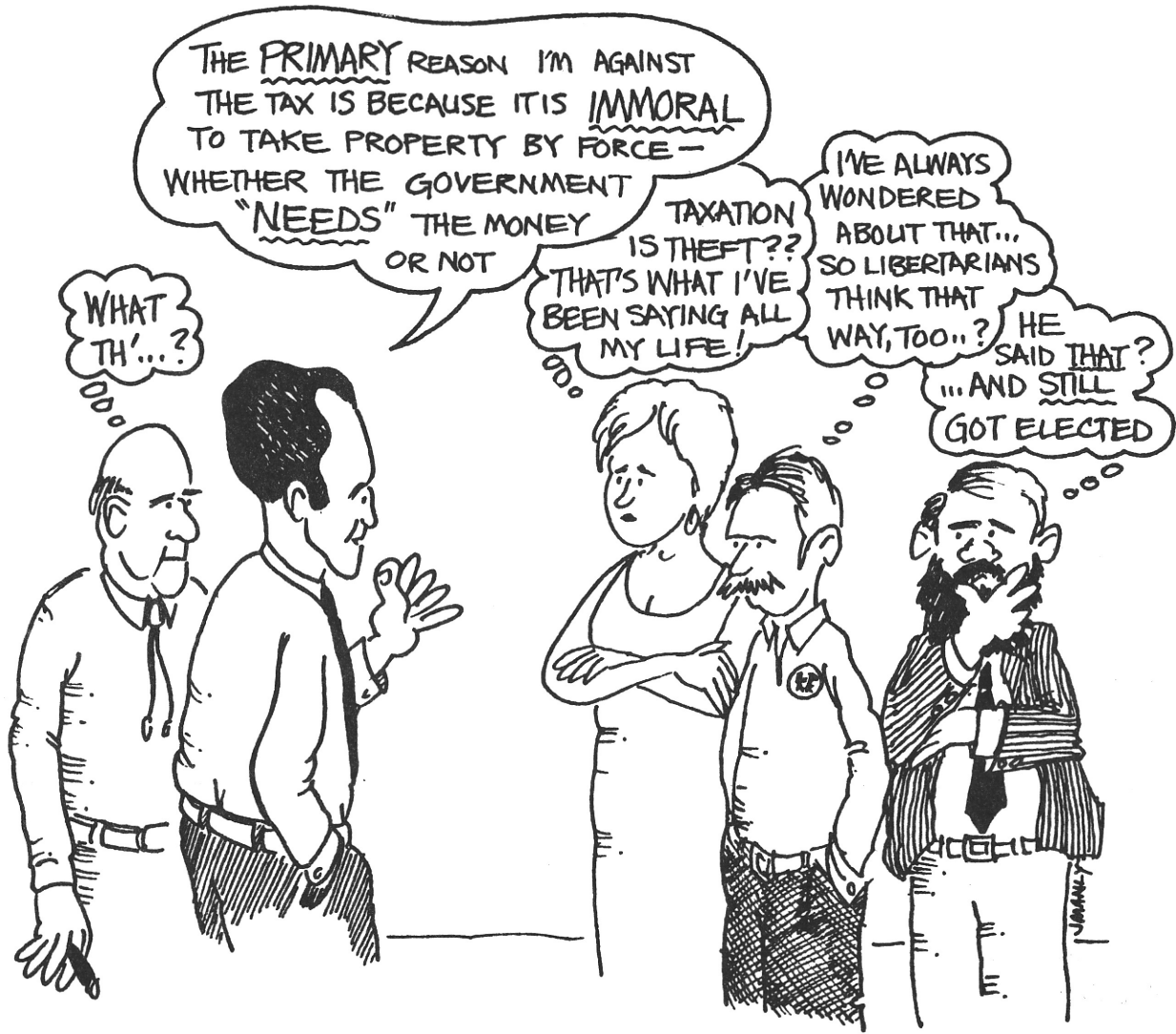
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CONVENTION WRAP-UP

As the last expense checks go out, and before the excitement fades, I'd like to pass on some words of encouragement and advice to the next committee....for 1982!

1. Pre-registrations: Three separate mailings, phone contacts, meeting discussions, etc., had little real effect in prodding early decisions. A progressively timed series of discounts seemed to have been confusing, not only for members, but for registration bookkeeping. We would recommend an early estimate of cost to each delegate; setting that as the pre-registration price, then adding 15% for late registration at the door. The 15% "penalty" isn't to make money from our members, but to bring home the need for early arrangements (dinners, rooms, etc.) and provide a slush fund for unexpected expenses...which are sure to surface! It seems that the most effective means of obtaining early registrations is local and personal contact with each prospective attendee from the chairmen and committee members in each party.

2. Mailings: Using our bulk-rate permit was a great disappointment. It seems that despite payment & cooperation from the user, our Postal Service regards bulk mailers as inferior customers and relegates delivery to the last order of business. Some people received their mail up to three weeks later, and some not at all if their addresses had changed or were in error in any way. Better to pay a little more and secure prompt delivery by going First Class!

3. Headcounts: Over the last eight years appear to result in about 25% less than expectations--for delegate attendance. I'd

count on it. But, for keynote address and banquet, it's only limited by the personal effort expended in going out to sell tickets! Jack Randolph sold more than 35 in 3 to 4 days! Several others sold 10 to 15 in the same period of time. The newspaper and TV advertising was secondary and really only provided some background fill-in. The bulk of ticket sales came from face-to-face soliciting, doubling the sales from advertising for the previous ten days.

4. Seminars: Would have been better attended if they had not been scheduled at all in opposition to any of the general membership meetings. While we thought we'd beaten the problem by scheduling interesting speakers and topics, little time over-runs for voting issues, or windy speakers, really messed up the scheduling. No particular effort or advertising was made to attract the general public. This was a mistake since "outside" attendance is not only a source of income, but also a means of educating more potential libertarians.

5. Finances: Delayed the start of operations for us, to obtain materials, air fares, etc. A raffle or some other fund-raiser, to have a \$1,000 "kitty" would have enabled earlier mailing and purchases of needed items. Sure helps to take the pressure off the last few weeks!

6. As expected, a late start in contacting "name" personalities for speaking slots restricted us severely in choices available, particularly for the keynote address. Luckily, Robert Ringer's availability--plus his offer to waive his usual \$10,000 fee--really saved the day! Six months is none too soon to make key reservations.

7. Tim Dove's idea of having a fund-raiser after the keynote addresses (for a warm-up) was the icing on the cake! The only suggestion there is to have someone spend more time on the particulars of what to write on the pledge sheets, when they'll be picked

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Calendar

August 5 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

August 17 - Deadline for articles for the September newsletter.

August 5 - Libertarian Party of Fairbanks meets in the Arctic Room of the Polaris Hotel, Fairbanks.

August 19 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

August 10 - Libertarian Party of Anchorage meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer School House on Third and Eagle.

August 20 - Kenai area Libertarian Party meets at the Golden Nugget Bakery, Soldotna.

August 12 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

August 26 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.

LATE UPDATE: THE "NEW" MAT-SU LIBERTARIAN PARTY RECENTLY FORMED
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