

House call

LP candidates gear up for races

Although much of the focus leading up to the Libertarian Party National Presidential Nominating Convention has been on those seeking the presidential nomination, from now through November hundreds of other Libertarian Party candidates will be getting their share of coverage.

The Libertarian Party hopes to field more than 200 candidates for the U.S. House this year. If the number reaches 218—more than half of the U.S. House total—it will be the first time a third-party in the U.S. has run that many candidates since 1920.

In many states—some for the first time ever—the party already has a full slate of candidates for U.S. House. The line-up includes such states as Missouri with nine candidates, Indiana with 10 candidates, Tennessee with nine candidates, Michigan with 16 candidates, and Mississippi with five candidates. Libertarians also will be contesting at least 10 of 13 districts in New Jersey and 46 of 52 districts in California.

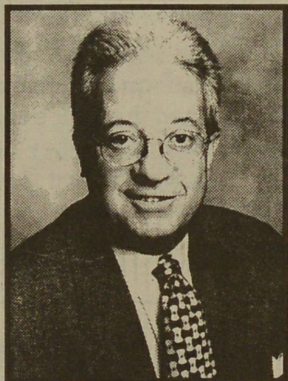
And many of these Libertarian Party candidates already are campaigning in their congressional districts.

In New Jersey's 13th District, Mike Buoncristiano of

Hoboken is running a very active campaign for Congress because he wants "to set an example for others to take a more active role in our government," he said. "Our federal

government is too big, too intrusive, and much too expensive. The proper goal of public policy should be to minimize our coercive political society and maximize civil society."

Buoncristiano has produced excellent campaign outreach material and is receiving media attention. His campaign platform hits all the major issues including: ending deficit spending, cutting government agencies, abolishing the IRS, protecting private property rights, ending



Mike Buoncristiano

see **Congress** on page 3

Libertarian Party NEWS



July 1996

The Party of Principle

VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 7

Stand-up Mayor

Flickinger helps save \$7.5 million

Libertarian Mayor Pro Tem Bonnie Flickinger helped save taxpayers more than \$7 million last month—overcoming fierce opposition from Republican and Democratic city council members who didn't want residents to be allowed to vote on the fate of two city taxes.

Flickinger's victory left her facing a possible censure from the city council and a potential recall election from supporters of the higher taxes.

But her persistence also saved residents of Moreno Valley, CA, \$7.5 million annually in reduced utility and business taxes. Town residents rejected both taxes by popular vote on June 4 by similar 52 percent to 48 percent margins. Both taxes will no longer be collected after this calendar year.

The drama began last year when Flickinger tried for five months to convince her Republican and Democratic colleagues on the city council to allow the city's voters to decide the fate of two town taxes—a Utility Tax and a Business Gross Receipts Tax.

"I finally succeeded in February, but only after being forced to vote for a unanimous council resolution supporting the taxes," she said.

"The City Attorney advised the Council that four of the five council members would have to approve putting the taxes on the ballot," Flickinger explained. "Two of the council members steadfastly refused, stating publicly that they had been elected to make those decisions on behalf of their constituents. Finally, one of the holdouts relented, but only under the condition that I endorse the taxes."

That piece of political maneuvering left Flickinger in a quandary, she said.

"Should I violate the principle of honesty in government, or violate the principle of government by the people?" she said she asked herself. "If I had stayed true to my conscience and refused to vote for the resolution of support, I would have deprived the voters of the right to repeal the



Bonnie Flickinger

see **Flickinger** on page 7

Ballot access on track for 50+

The Libertarian Party is on track to achieve ballot status in all 50 states plus Washington, DC, this year, according to LP National Chair Steve Dasbach.

As of early June, the Libertarian Party was certified to be on the ballot in 31 states, and petitioning was complete in Oklahoma—with 79,500 signatures submitted, North Carolina—with about 80,000 signatures submitted, and West Virginia—with about 20,000 signatures submitted. Two additional states, Maine and Tennessee, have qualified Harry Browne as the LP presidential candidate.

The ballot drive in Florida was nearly complete, with more than 90,000 signatures collected.

"We are definitely on track for finishing petitioning in about 40 states by the convention, and we will have all but one—New York—of the really tough states done," Dasbach said.

"The key to our getting 50 states is to stay ahead of the game and stay ahead of Perot so that we are not in competition with him for petitioners," he said.

"This is an example of our years of effort at building a grassroots organization, and the expertise we've developed in ballot access paying off," Dasbach said. "We are able to do this now and not consume all of our resources. In fact, we've been able to maintain the ballot drive and continue to do membership prospecting and other efforts to build the party."

No confidence in any government

When a Washington, DC, research group asked Americans: "In general, do you have more confidence in local, state, or federal government?"—the response stunned them.

Almost one in five Americans—black and white—volunteered that they had no confidence in the government at any level.

"We were surprised that 19 percent of blacks and 17 percent of whites said they have no confidence in any level of government," said Katherine McFate, associate director of research at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (JCPES). "This is a very high level of volunteered response. It seems clear that these attitudes on government are deeply felt and widespread."

"Actually, it tracks very closely with the 20 percent of the population identified in a recent Gallup poll as politically libertarian," LP Chair Steve Dasbach said.

"That 20 percent equals 50 million people who don't think the government should try to solve economic problems, or morality problems. And that makes sense. As this new survey shows, millions of Americans don't think government works, they don't trust it, and they have no confidence in it," he said.

The JCPES is a non-partisan research organization. It conducted its poll in January.

Dasbach said the JCPES results have been confirmed by two other recent surveys. For example:

- What has caused incomes for working Americans to remain stagnant for the past 15 years? Government, say a vast majority of Americans. In a survey taken Feb. 23-26 by Louis Harris & Associates, 92 percent point a finger at "increased government spending," and 91 percent say "high taxes" are to blame for stagnant wages.

- Do Americans want to "soak" the rich with more taxes? Not according to a survey from Grassroots Research. The group polled 1,000 voters March 4-7, and found that 51 percent believe families earning \$200,000 pay too much in taxes. And a whopping 90 percent of Americans say that if politicians claim taxes are being increased only for the wealthy, then taxes will actually go up for most Americans.

Jorgensen candidacy gets endorsement

David Nolan, often referred to as the father of the Libertarian Party, has endorsed Jo Jorgensen as the Libertarian candidate for vice president.

Nolan is also known for inventing the two-dimensional "mapping" system used in the World's Smallest Political Quiz.

In making his endorsement, Nolan cited Jorgensen's unique ability to reach a vast, untapped portion of the voting public, as well as reaching and communicating with the existing Libertarian base of voters.

"Jo has done her homework and paid her dues; she knows her stuff and is an attractive, articulate presenter of our philosophy," Nolan said.

Jorgensen has campaigned in 31 states and made numerous radio and television appearances nationwide, presenting the Libertarian Party's message of limited government, individual responsibility, tolerance, and peace. The campaign has been written about in newspapers across the country, including *The Chicago Tribune*

and *The Washington Post*.

Jorgensen, who probably is best known for her speech comparing Republicans to 1-900 phone sex (their tax cuts are not nearly as satisfying as the real thing) said, "I've worked hard these past two years campaigning to move the Libertarian Party from being the largest minor party to the third major party. I'm glad that my work has been noticed and endorsed by the founder of our party, David Nolan. His endorsement means a great deal to me. We are now positioned to capitalize on the voters' dissatisfaction with the two major parties."

For more information about the Jo Jorgensen for Vice President campaign, visit the Jo Jorgensen for Vice President web site at: <http://gramercy.ios.com/~ragnar19/jo>, or contact Campaign Manager Howard Lichtman at 3404 Golfview Drive, Newark, DE 19702; or phone 302-737-3732.

This article was provided by the Jorgensen campaign.

Hot platform topics: kids' rights, abortion

Judging from the amount of discussion in the LP on-line platform area, the subjects sparking the most interest this year are: children's rights, abortion, and family life.

"These issues are always topical," noted Platform Committee Chair Dave Nolan, "and this year's convention will be no exception. They are emotional issues that principled people can have differing views on."

Other topics drawing interest are NAFTA and GATT, where debate centers on whether they are really "free trade" agreements, and the perennial discussion on dropping the "cult" language from the Statement of Principles.

"By and large, however," Nolan said, "there doesn't seem to be a lot of sentiment for major changes in the platform. Most people seem to be largely satisfied with it as-is."

NEWS deadlines

The deadline for receiving advertising for the NEWS is the 1st day of the month prior to publication date. For example, the deadline for the August issue is July 1.

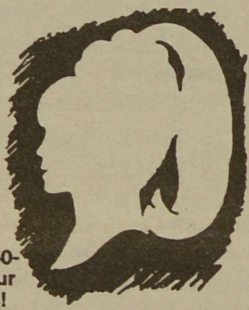
The deadline for receiving editorial material—such as news releases, affiliate news, photos, letters, etc.—is the 7th of the month prior to publication date. For example, the editorial deadline for the August issue is July 7.

If you have late-breaking, important news between the 7th and 15th of the month, please call, fax, or e-mail the material. Critical, timely information may be accepted past the deadline.

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Editor • Randy Langhenry

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Lennice Werth

Congress

continued from page 1

the welfare program, replacing Social Security and Medicare with private programs, opening immigration, ending prosecution of victimless crimes, term limits, and other issues.

"It's not too late to rebuild our society, get out of debt, and let freedom ring once again," Buoncristiano said. "Instead of placing blame on our favorite scapegoat—be it the immigrant, the poor, big business—let's own up to the real problem. . . we have let government become a fearful master."

Buoncristiano, a successful small businessman, is president of a direct marketing company and active in community affairs. He is married and has four daughters and four grandchildren.

For more information, contact Mike Buoncristiano, 450 Seventh St., Suite 8, Hoboken, NJ 07030, or call 201-217-0744, or e-mail MTBin96@aol.com.

In California, 35-year-old Erich Miller is running for Congress in the Los Angeles area in District 24. Miller, a musician and teacher, said, "I was a Republican, my wife was a Democrat, and as we both struggled to try and defend our respective positions we realized two things: 1) We both agreed on the same political goals—government should without prejudice defend personal rights, and that government should stay out of our pocketbook; and 2) we both realized that those two parties were taking us further away from these goals. They were producing the same results—a government which was more costly and more intrusive. Voting for either party changed nothing. So we had to change the way we voted."

Miller said he and his wife "both found the same new political home, the Libertarian Party."

Miller ran for the U.S. House in District 26 in 1994.

For more information, contact Erich Miller, 19540 Sherman Way, #603, Reseda, CA 91335, or call 818-708-7925.

In Indiana, Thomas E. Lehman is running for Congress in District 5. Lehman is a fully licensed insurance agent in the state of Indiana and has more than five years' experience in the financial services and financial consulting industry. He also serves

as an adjunct professor of economics and history, and teaches courses in microeconomics, money and banking, entrepreneurship, and other subjects. Lehman writes, edits, and publishes a monthly newsletter that addresses economic and political issues from a Libertarian perspective.

Social Security is one issue Lehman is addressing in his campaign, and one for which his professional and educational background makes him an important spokesman.

"If elected, I promise to support legislation which would immediately privatize the current Social Security system and make

participation completely voluntary," Lehman said. "In this way, citizens could once again plan for their own retirements through private investment vehicles in whatever manner they freely choose."

For more information, contact Thomas E. Lehman, 3728 S. Nebraska St., Marion, IN 46953, or call 317-674-0053, or e-mail: tlehman@comteck.com.

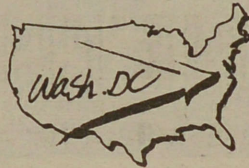
In Missouri, Mike Harman is running in District 7 to fill an open seat resulting from the retirement of Rep. Mel Hancock.

"I grew up on the 'mean streets' of Kansas City and St. Joseph, and I learned what it is to be poor by living it," said Harman. "I

became proficient in automotive mechanics and sales, then in farming and auctioneering. I came to southwest Missouri in 1979 and now reside near Bolivar and own a hubcap and wheel store. I mention all of that so that you will know I am not exaggerating when I say I am truly a 'man of the people'."

For more information, contact The Friends of Mike Harman for Congress Committee, P.O. Box 158, Humansville, MO 65674 or call 417-754-2597.

Many other LP candidates are actively campaigning, and the NEWS will be covering many of them in future issues.



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R.C. Sproul, Jr. Table Talk Magazine
Dana Stewart former NY Child Protective
Services Caseworker
Lon Woodbury, Places for Struggling Teens

Notice to LP presidential candidates

According to Article 5 of the By-laws of the Libertarian Party adopted September 1993 in Convention at Salt Lake City, UT: "Each candidate seeking the presidential nomination of the Party shall provide the delegates with a copy of a proposed National Campaign Platform at least 48 hours prior to the delegates selecting the nominee."

The secretary has determined that at least 750 copies of each candidate's proposed National Campaign Platform must be delivered to the secretary no later than 9 a.m. Thursday, July 4, 1996. The secretary will record the order in which the candidates have met the by-law requirements, and will provide this information to the chairman at the opening of the convention.

John D. Famularo
Secretary, National LP

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Affiliates

Elected Councilman Carlsten joins LP in Colorado

Arizona

A joint effort to campaign for state house office and start a new party in Gila County is under way. **Michael Haggard**, candidate for state house, District 4, and Navajo County party chair, and **Fran McHugh**, Haggard's campaign manager and Navajo County vice chair, are setting up meetings in Gila County that, it is hoped, will result in the establishment of a Gila County LP affiliate and also gather support for Haggard's campaign. **Michael Voth**, Coconino County LP chair, also has been instrumental in the efforts.

Source: state newsletter

California

The LP of **Sutter/Yuba County** increased LP registration by 56 percent in the past 16 months. During the same time, the Republican Party numbers decreased by 1.7 percent, and the Democrats had virtually no growth.

Source: affiliate party release

Colorado

Brighton City Councilman **Doug Carlsten** became the first ever "sitting public official" to join the Libertarian Party, according to **Larry Hoffenberg**, state party information director.

"I joined the Libertarian Party just trying to make a statement over the next four years," Carlsten said.

Elected to the council last November, Carlsten switched from unaffiliated status to Libertarian Party membership last month.

Carlsten said he has "always had Libertarian leanings," believing that government's role should be limited.

Source: affiliate officer

About 350 people attended the Liberty Alliance's annual Right to Bear Arms Rally



National pulse

News from the states

in Denver in late April. The rally organizer was former Denver LP Chair **David Segal**. LP State Chair **David Aitken** presented the LP's annual Friend of Liberty Award to State Rep. **Ken Chlouber** for his support on easing concealed carry restrictions and his opposition to the ban on homosexual marriage. A number of LP candidates spoke at the rally.

Source: state newsletter

Delaware

At the recent state party convention, the following state officers were elected: **Dan Beaver**, chair; **Rich Schwartzman**, vice chair; **John Reda**, treasurer; and **Darlene Lake**, secretary.

Source: state newsletter

Florida

Chris Carman, Manatee County LP chair who was appointed to serve a four-year term on the Manatee County Historic Preservation Board last October, was elected unanimously in May to the office of third vice chairman of the same board.

Also in May, Sarasota attorney and LP member **Andrew B. Spark** was reappointed to the Consumer Protection Law Committee of The Florida Bar for an additional two-year term. The Florida Bar is an arm of the Supreme Court of Florida. Spark has been a member of the committee since last year.

Ten Libertarians in Manatee County have formed a corporation—Voice of Freedom, Inc.—with the purpose of producing a radio program beginning the first of this



AWARD WINNER - George Watts, right, a prominent Milwaukee businessman, received the 1996 Libertarian Party of Wisconsin's Liberty Award at the LP state convention from Ron Emery, LP state chair. Watts was given the award for his efforts in challenging the stadium tax in Southeast Wisconsin and the Milwaukee light rail fight.

month. The call-in talk show will focus on the LP and the freedom philosophy. The show will air on WTMJ-1280AM in Sarasota on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. "We plan on this being a long-term venture," said Carman, who is coordinating the effort along with **Eric Glumpe** and **Alan Hunter**.

Source: affiliate contact

The LP is about to file a lawsuit against the secretary of state who refuses to let the party substitute its actual presidential candidate (chosen this month) for the stand-in who is listed on the party's petition.

Source: Ballot Access News

Georgia

The state party will file a lawsuit contesting the state law that forces the LP to submit petitions signed by 5 percent of the number of registered voters if it wishes to run candidates for U.S. House. A similar lawsuit filed in 1994 was not pursued.

Source: Ballot Access News

LP member and radio talk show host **Neal Boortz** now has his own section on the Broadcast Professionals Forum on CompuServe. If you have access, you can leave messages for Boortz and access the Boortz libraries, which include Boortz's list of banned books, the World's Smallest Political Quiz, and the now-world-famous "Boo got shot" sound clips. To find the section, simply type GO BOORTZ once you access CompuServe.

Hawaii

The following state party officers were elected at the recent convention: **Dick Rowland**, chair; **Roger Taylor**, vice chair; **Dick Halverson**, secretary; and **Karen Scott**, treasurer.

State party membership is up about 170 percent since 1995.

Source: state party newsletter

Louisiana

Several months ago LP state Vice Chair **Jeffrey Diket** participated in an anti-Castro rally in New Orleans. The rally was held to protest the shooting down of a civilian Brothers to the Rescue plane by the Cuban military. Diket was one of only three Americans of non-Cuban origin participating in the rally and 6-mile march.

Source: state party officer

see **Affiliates** on page 6

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GOVERNMENT MANDATED NOTICES

The United States Postal Service requires us to notify you that LP NEWS subscription cost of \$25 per year is included in your membership dues. The Internal Revenue Service requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fund-raising appeals. Federal Election Commission requires us to ask for your employer and occupation.

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Johnson running for national secretary

Gary E. Johnson has announced that he is seeking the office of LP national secretary.

Johnson is an at-large member of the Libertarian National Committee and the recording secretary of the LNC Executive Committee. He has served as state secretary of the Texas LP and as a member of the

Credentials Committee at five LP national conventions.

Johnson has been a Libertarian candidate for public office several times, receiving 17 percent of the vote for Texas state senator, District 14, in 1994. He produces a weekly libertarian-oriented public access cable television series.

Index now available for NEWS on-line

An index has been added to the on-line Libertarian Party NEWS that allows you to search for words that occur in articles.

This is most likely to be useful when trying to identify articles that mention a particular person, place, or other thing that has a specific name (e.g., looking for articles that mention a certain candidate). It also may be useful if you remember that there was an article about a more general subject but can't remember when it was published—searching for one or more words relating to that subject should in most cases produce a listing that includes the article you are looking for.

You can search the whole collection or limit the search to a particular year. The collection currently includes most articles

from January 1994 through May 1996.

This index can be accessed through a new section on the main NEWS table of contents page at

<http://www.lp.org/lpn/>

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Libertarian Party Affiliates

<http://www.lp.org/lp-aff.html>

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Butler seeks re-election as LP national treasurer

Hugh Butler announced recently that he will "stand" for re-election to the post of Libertarian Party national treasurer at the convention in DC this month.

"I have been privileged to participate in one of the landmark administrations in LP history," said Butler in a prepared statement. "As the party grows in size and influence, we must have continuity of planning and leadership in key positions. I am pleased to offer myself to the convention delegates if they agree with me that we have achieved much, but much remains to be done."

A 20-year LP member, Butler set an early record for votes in the Utah LP in a 1982 run for the Salt Lake County Commission. He also ran for U.S. Senate against Jake Garn, and he is now the Libertarian candidate for Utah state treasurer. Butler has served as Utah state chair and two terms as regional representative to the LNC. Elected national treasurer in 1993, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the national LP.

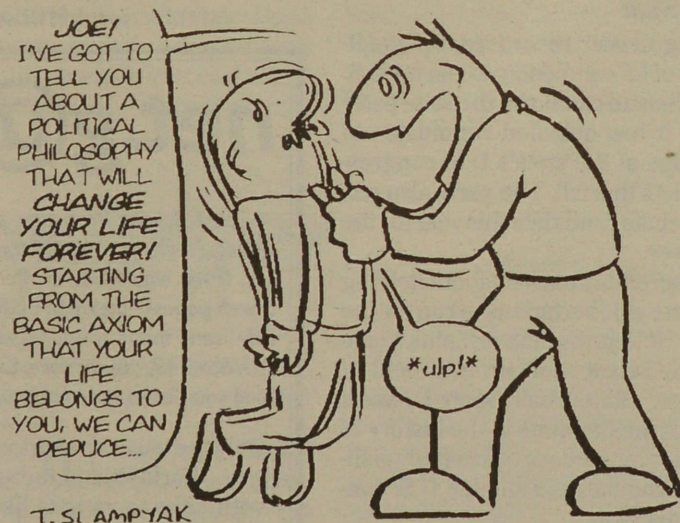
"It is imperative that we continue to marshal our cash resources for the battles ahead. This administration has broken with the past, guarding our resources carefully and using them effec-



tively. It is only our own growth or ennui which can stop us now," Butler said.

In December, Butler announced to the LNC that he was forming an Affiliate Empowerment Study Group for the purpose of aiding affiliates in By-Laws and Constitutional issues. He currently is serving for the second time on the national LP's Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

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continued from page 4

Source: state party officer

Source: affiliate newsletter

Source: project news release

Source: state party newsletter

Freedom Fighter Awards are given in memory of **John Harlee**, founding mem-

Source: state party officer

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Source: state newsletter

Source: state party release

see **Affiliates** on page 7

Rules of Baseball



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Cost of Government Day

Cost of Government Day is July 3 this year. "This is an opportunity for the Libertarian Party and its candidates to receive 'earned' press coverage nationwide," Dave Shanklin, former state chair of the LP of Delaware, said.

Cost of Government Day (COGD) is an extension of Tax Freedom Day—the day the average American has earned enough to pay his or her taxes for the year—which occurred in May this year.

But Tax Freedom Day does not take into account the costs of computing taxes and the costs of complying with regulations.

Americans for Tax Reform, sponsors of COGD, calculates the cost of complying with federal and state regulations, state workers' compensation, and higher interest rates as a result of defi-

cit spending, and adds those figures to federal, state, and local taxes.

The message? "COGD is too late in the year," Shanklin said. "More than half our earnings are wasted by trying to comply with regulations and by taxation."

The solution? "The Libertarian Party and our stated goals," he said.

Shanklin suggests that all LP affiliates and candidates fax press releases to local media commenting on this subject. The LP of Delaware received television and radio coverage when it highlighted COGD in 1993.

"It worked in Delaware," Shanklin said.

For more information on COGD, call Americans for Tax Reform at 202-785-0266.

Spangler elected in MO

Libertarian Party member Brad Spangler won a three-way race for the North Kansas City (MO) City Council in April. Spangler won with 53 percent of the vote.

Spangler, 27, is a material handler for an office products company. He is a longtime LP activist and "was a stalwart of our successful 1992 ballot petitioning effort," Jeanne Bojarski, Missouri LP state secretary, said.

Spangler won his seat "by being a 'nice young man' who took the time to speak to virtually every constituent in his district," Bojarski said. While his literature didn't mention any issues at all, he did speak out on a number of "hot" topics.

Many of Spangler's constituents are retirees who receive subsidized taxi cab service. The service is provided by a monopoly franchise and the service is very poor—often waits of two or three hours. Spangler recommended a new voucher system, with any cab that responds being able to collect voucher payment. Spangler feels his new

system would introduce competition and thus better service.

Spangler also was elected "partly because the firefighters' union did not oppose him," Bojarski said. The union is "concerned they are going to be privatized or merged with the police to save money. Brad suggested they be 'spun off' into a private corporation, with 51 percent of equity remaining with union members, the rest being raised from outside investors."

Union members were intrigued by Spangler's proposal. Spangler said the privatization being done by Republicans is based on their coziness with big business—letting some big corporation take over the service as a monopoly franchise.

Spangler told the firefighters, "Libertarians aren't in bed with business interests and could support an employee-owned alternative which would bid competitively to provide the service," Bojarski said.

Spangler believes this idea has potential for wider application across the country.

Affiliates

continued from page 6

way race against only a Democrat.

If Johnson receives 1 percent of the gubernatorial vote in November, the LP will gain permanent ballot status through the next gubernatorial election. A recent poll by the *Charleston Gazette* showed 17.4 percent of the voters were "unwilling to vote for the two" older party candidates.

Source: state party officer

Wyoming

State party activists literally went into the lion's den by setting up an Advocates for Self-Government information booth at the state Republican Party convention in Riverton. State Party Chair **Dennis Brossman**, U.S. House candidate **Dave Dawson**, and former congressional candidate **Craig McCune** administered the quiz and delivered the Libertarian message.

Dawson said many rank-and-file members expressed whispered interest in the alternative of a party of principle.

Although formed just this February, the Laramie County Libertarians took an active role in a county optional sales tax defeat on May 7 (ironically, Tax Freedom Day). Voters defeated the tax measure 2-1. Libertarians rallied to the aid of a grassroots political action committee, Citizens Opposing Spendthrift Taxation (CO\$T).

LP affiliate Chair **Kevin J. Burt** said the efforts focused on attendance at public meetings, a letter-to-the-editor campaign, and a Tax Day Rally. LP activists **Claire Wolfe**, **Craig McCune**, and **Rhonda McCune** were instrumental in the successful efforts. Laramie County LP membership has more than tripled since its February founding.

Source: state and affiliate officers

Flickinger

continued from page 1

taxes. Struggling with my conscience, I decided on behalf of my constituents, and agreed to the unanimous resolution of support for the taxes."

That put both taxes on the June ballot—and left Flickinger planning her next move.

"I subsequently announced to my colleagues on the council that I was not going to campaign for or against the taxes, but would remain neutral and spend the campaign period correcting any misinformation that was disseminated by either side," she said.

"This position so angered the other council members that three of them spent almost an hour of a televised council meeting viciously tearing me down. Two of them threatened to censure me and remove me from all of my appointed positions, including the position of Mayor Pro Tem," she said.

The public response to these vitriolic attacks was tremendous, Flickinger said.

"My phone rang more in the next two days than it had in the prior two months. All the calls were expressions of support and of anger at the brutal attacks [from] the

other council members," she said.

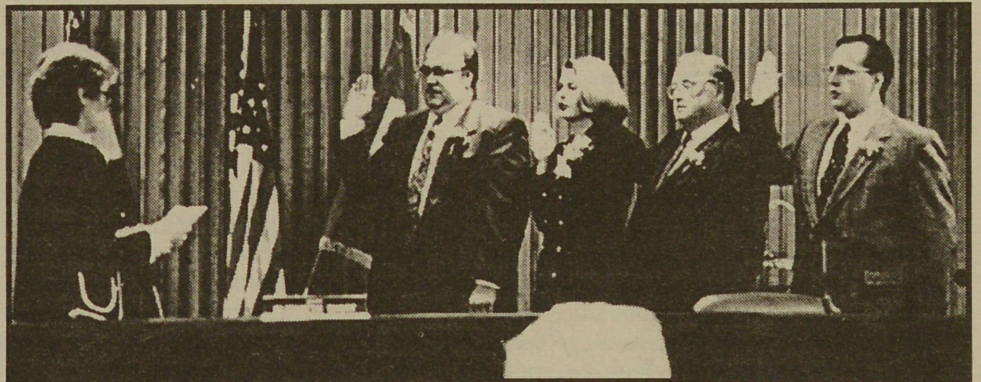
That voter anger also translated into opposition to the taxes at the polls—and voters rejected Republican and Democratic arguments that a "no" vote on the taxes would result in the layoff of police officers and firefighters.

In the aftermath of the election, "I am now devising methods of balancing the city's budget without the repealed taxes," Flickinger said. "The three critical Council members are all up for re-election in November. [And] rumor has it that someone is planning to try to recall me from [the] city council after the November elections."

Moreno Valley is the largest American city (pop. 136,000) ever to have a Libertarian mayor.

"Now, it is perhaps also the only American city where the taxpayers had the opportunity to repeal their own taxes, thanks to the Libertarian they elected to their city council," Flickinger proudly noted.

Contributions to fend off a recall campaign can be mailed to *Friends of Bonnie Flickinger*, Box 1492, Moreno Valley, CA 92556.



TAKING OFFICE - Brad Spangler, far right, being sworn in to office as a member of the North Kansas City (MO) City Council.

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David Carew is Communications Director for the LP of Tennessee.

Tompkins

Government has no role in blocking gay marriages

As the national headlines reflected the manufactured tempest over the mayor of San Francisco telling the president to "stay away" after he reversed himself on the issue, Rick Tompkins, candidate for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination, condemned the grandstanding of both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole on the subject of "gay marriages."

"The federal government has no business interfering in the personal affairs of individuals who want to publicly announce they've formed an association," Tompkins said.

Rick Tompkins is married and has raised six children—some of them adopted—but insists the government only inflames existing prejudices when it interferes to either subsidize or penalize conventional marriage.

"At one time, inter-racial marriages were forbidden in most states. Even today, Mormons who practice polygamy are subject to arrest," the candidate said. "Common law marriages are recognized in many states, while in other states 'anti-cohabitation laws' remain on the books. And we won't even get into the high regard in which most folks now hold our wise and efficient divorce courts. This is not exactly an area where government intervention has done itself proud."

Asked about the role of religious beliefs in the institution of marriage, Tompkins insisted that re-privatizing marriage would

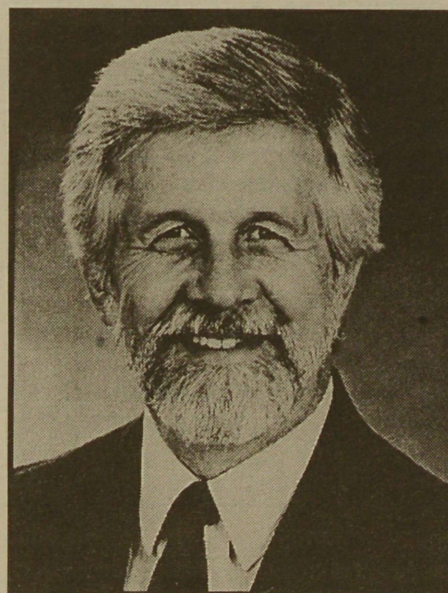
make the religious component stronger.

"Our politicians today are getting more and more desperate to dig up new fears and scandals, all to keep us distracted from the real issue—the way they keep raising taxes to hire more police and regulators to strip away our liberties," Tompkins said. "They've gotten to the point where they make a huge show of sneering at action movies they haven't seen, criticizing fictional TV characters for getting pregnant, and trying to censor an Internet that 98 senators out of 100 couldn't log on to if their lives depended on it."

"It's not much different for these con men and bunko artists to whip up fears and ancient prejudice by pretending to debate whether homosexuals should be 'allowed' to marry one another."

People should "think about that word," Tompkins said. "Who's going to do the 'allowing,' and how were they delegated the power to make that decision?"

Marriage started out as a sacrament of the church, said the four-time former chairman of the Arizona state Libertarian Party, who gave up his job hosting a Libertarian talk-radio show last year to run full-time for his party's presidential nomination. "Churches are private, voluntary associations," said the 20-year Air Force veteran, who's been campaigning full-time since last summer. "In this great nation, with our well-established freedom of religion, no government, no candidate, should even hint that he intends to tell an individual church or temple or congregation whether they should allow gay people to enter into their sacraments of matrimony."



Rick Tompkins

That's up to them."

In modern times, the concept of "state marriage" has been superimposed over the old sacrament of religious marriage, Tompkins pointed out, "to help an ever-more-intrusive government decide who's responsible for seeing the children submit to mandatory government schooling, so the courts can more easily decide the division of assets, and so forth."

"But that's not a religious matter," said the former national spokesman for the Fully-Informed Jury Association. "It involves the routine duty of the county clerk to record a private arrangement, the same way the clerk records the transfer of the deed to a

home. The clerk isn't expected to inquire whether the person buying the home is of the 'right' race or leads the 'right' kind of sex life, and he or she has no more business asking any such questions before recording a marriage."

"As a Libertarian, it's my hope that someday such government sanction of marriages will be less and less important," added Tompkins, who serves on the board of directors of the Arizona School Choice Trust, arranging private scholarships so poor children can attend non-government schools. "Once government is pruned away from its monopoly on education, for example, it will be no business of the state to inquire who's educating our children."

"In that way, one step at a time, Libertarians hope to prune away all the government interventions into our private lives which supposedly 'necessitate' the state keeping track of who's married to whom, in the first place. And believe me, that will benefit religious freedom, too," Tompkins said.

"But today, in the world as we find it, real people are suffering if the state refuses to record their marriages. I don't find there's such an excess of love and commitment in this world, or that any of us enjoys such a certain moral superiority to our brothers and sisters, that we can decide for them what path their lives should take. I fail to see what's charitable or compassionate about arguing that any sincere expression of love or concern or mutual commitment should be banned by an all-powerful state."

"Church and state must be separate," Tompkins concluded. "Gay marriages must be allowed."

LP: Reject 'Defense of Marriage Act'

The government should get out of the business of deciding who can fall in love and get married—and should eliminate all laws that prohibit same-sex marriages, the Libertarian Party said today.

"If two adults want to legally say 'I do,' the government shouldn't have the right to say, 'No, you don't,'" Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach said.

"Marriage should be a private contract between two consenting adults and their church. Intolerant laws shouldn't be part of the picture," he said.

To help end marriage discrimination, Dasbach urged Congress to reject the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. The bill, inspired by reports that Hawaii may legalize same-sex marriages, would exempt states from having to recognize same-sex marriages under another state's laws.

"We're not advocating special rights for any group, just equal rights under the law," said Dasbach. "Basically, Libertarians believe the government should

stay out of personal romantic, religious, and legal decisions of adults.

"If Congress genuinely wants to promote and protect marriage, they should start by lowering the burdensome taxes that have busted the family budget, and ending the harmful welfare system that has rendered marriage obsolete," he said.

Dasbach downplayed some Americans' fears that legalizing same-sex marriage would somehow corrupt or tarnish heterosexual marriages.

"Marriage between men and women is a social and religious institution that has thrived for thousands of years," he said. "Marriage is not so fragile that it will be undermined by extending the franchise to the small percentage of the population that is gay."

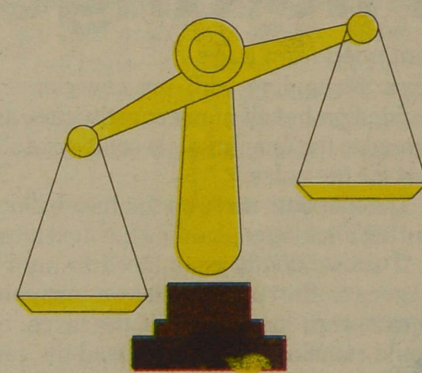
On the topic of equal rights for gay people, the Libertarian Party Platform endorses "the cessation of state oppression and harassment of homosexual men and women, that they, at last, be accorded their full rights as individuals."

Court OKs monopoly in NH LP challenge

On May 23, the First Circuit upheld a New Hampshire law that provides that only members of the two largest parties may serve as polling place officials. The decision in *Werme v Merrill* was written by Judge Bruce Selya, a Reagan appointee, and signed by Judges Frank Coffin and Walter J. Cummings, Johnson appointees.

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire was a co-plaintiff. Even though it is a qualified party in New Hampshire and elected state legislators in both 1992 and 1994, no Libertarian may serve as an election inspector or ballot clerk. The law says that these positions must be filled equally from the ranks of the two largest parties.

The decision scoffs at the idea that Democratic and Republican polling place officials might ever perform their duties in a manner that harms other parties. It says, "We refuse to indulge so cynical a view of the electoral process." But the decision refuses to grapple with the reality of the law itself. If the idea that polling place officials might ever behave in a partisan manner is so preposterous, why does the law mandate that the number of officials must be balanced equally between the two largest parties?



The decision is written in a somewhat mocking, sardonic style. On the one hand, it uses an overblown vocabulary, e.g., "anodyne," "tamisage," "palsgrave," "apodictic"; on the other, it sometimes uses oddly informal language: "New Hampshire's electoral machinery is pretty standard stuff"; "one should keep no more cats than will catch mice."

No appeal is planned. The First Circuit is the only circuit that has never ruled in favor of any third political party in an election law case.

This article first appeared in the May 28, 1996, *Ballot Access News*, Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147.

A critique of impure Reason

By DAVID F. NOLAN

Let me say at the outset that it pains me to write this article. I have known Bob Poole, president of the Reason Foundation, for a third of a century and consider him a friend. He is a sincere and honest man who has labored long and hard for "free minds and free markets," to use his own phrase.

But somehow, in the last few years, the Reason Foundation in general—and its monthly magazine, Reason, in particular—seem to have lost their way. Beguiled, perhaps, by the superficial acceptance that some of their suggestions have found in the corridors of power, Poole & Co. have largely abandoned the uncompromising defense of liberty and redefined their role as that of "policy advisers"—producers of "how-to" manuals for the movers and shakers in the new Republican Revolution.

Unfortunately, said "Revolution" is a sham. Despite all the hoopla and bluster, Newt & Co. have wrought no great changes. No cabinet post has been eliminated. Term limits, the balanced budget amendment, and other limits on the power of the political class have been shelved. Government at all levels continues to grow, as the Demos and Repos fall over one another to pass the anti-terrorism bill, implement the V-chip, and float trial balloons about curfews and school uniforms.

Steve H. Hanke—himself an erstwhile Reason contributor—summed it up quite nicely when he wrote in the May 20 issue of Forbes magazine: "America's freshman Republicans of 1994... have spent two years getting exactly nowhere."

This is not the Reason Foundation's fault, to be sure. I have no doubt that they've done their best to push the Repos in the right direction. But their efforts are doomed

Commentary

to failure because the Repos really don't want to roll back the leviathan state.

In his book "The Triumph of Politics," former OMB Director David Stockman writes about "the modern dirty little secret of the Republican Party: The conservative opposition helped build the American welfare state brick by brick during the three decades prior to 1980. The Reagan Revolution failed because the Republican Party decided to stick with its own historic handiwork." I couldn't have said it better myself.

Given this historical context, we cannot fault the Reason Foundation for the failings of the GOP. However, we *can* (and should) fault them for turning their backs on their fellow libertarians as they seek to curry favor with people who are never going to pay more than lip-service to the ideal of "free minds and free markets." And this, sadly, is just what our former friends at Reason have done.

The June 1996 issue of Reason contains a six-page article by Senior Editor Nick Gillespie, belittling the Libertarian Party and the Browne Campaign. It is filled with disparaging words like "quadrennial train wreck" and "yet another dispiriting performance." Harry Browne is labeled a "sad-sack third-party presidential hopeful," and a "clown"; other choice phrases include "like a drunk," "ridiculous," "ludicrous," and "a one man wrecking crew." Browne is quoted out of context, and phrases from different sentences are juxtaposed to create the impression that he is "uncomfortable" with being the party's candidate.

Gillespie quotes Insight magazine, but neglects to note that the quote is taken from an issue whose front cover heralds "The Stature of Libertarians." His article makes no mention of the LP's record-high



membership, contribution levels, and media acceptance; the tone is almost entirely negative. When asked to run a rebuttal piece, Reason Editor Virginia Postrel refused. (This is the same Virginia Postrel who waxed lyrical over quasi-libertarian Steve Forbes as recently as April—even though Forbes was an equally long-shot prospect to actually win the presidency.) And while Bob Poole has been personally apologetic, he claims that he "cannot" overrule Postrel's decision. Odd, to say the least!

Another indication that the editorial staff at Reason are no friends of the Libertarian Party is an article by Reason's Assistant Editor, Brian Doherty, in the March 31 issue of the *Los Angeles Daily News*. In this 1,000-word piece, titled "Time seems right for a third party," Doherty somehow fails to even mention the fact that we *have* a third party—one that is fielding close to a thousand candidates this year! The LP is not mentioned at all; Harry Browne is mentioned once, in passing, along with Ross Perot, Ralph Nader, and the Rainbow Coalition.

Antipathy to the Libertarian alternative is pervasive at Reason. As public acceptance of the LP has waxed, Reason's support has waned. And now, when poll after poll shows that a great majority of American voters actually *want* a third party, Reason openly attacks the LP for the first time!

Which raises the question: why do we need Reason? Publications like The Freeman and Freedom Daily do a far better job

of presenting libertarian ideas; National Review and The New Republic offer livelier (and more timely) insights into the world of politics; Forbes provides more and better information about the virtues of free enterprise and the failures of socialism. The sense of excitement that prevailed in the days when Poole ran the magazine himself is long gone. Today, Reason is... well, boring. Most of its articles are tepid, turgid, and overly long; grim, gray graphics only compound the problem. On more than one occasion, I have found myself losing interest in an article long before it reaches its (usually predictable) conclusion.

This lack of sizzle no doubt explains why Reason's circulation has flattened out in recent years. Since the end of 1992, Reason's subscriber base has increased by only 6 percent. During this same period, LP membership is up by more than 51 percent, newer publications like Liberty and Freedom Daily have grown substantially, and acceptance of libertarian ideas has gained wider acceptance than ever before—largely as a result of the LP and its candidates!

It seems clear that Reason is now out of step with the rest of the burgeoning libertarian movement. The magazine needs to return to its roots and give full and fair coverage to the only political entity that genuinely represents "free minds and free markets"—the Libertarian Party. Until it does, libertarians should withhold their support for the magazine and its publisher, the Reason Foundation.

Browne

For help, look to the mainstream, not our friends

By HARRY BROWNE

Reason magazine's denigration of the LP and me (effectively described in David Nolan's article "A critique of impure Reason") is an indication of how far the libertarian movement has progressed. If libertarianism weren't on the verge of big gains, and if the LP weren't an important force in the libertarian movement, Reason would feel no need to try to write us out of respectable company.

The further away a crusade is from success, the easier it is for participants to overlook their different goals—since no individual goal is likely ever to be achieved. But when success is on the horizon, the

particulars begin to be important.

Reason stands for, in the words of its editor, Virginia Postrel, "incremental change." Like so many people who are ostensibly on our side, they see this change being implemented by a faction of the Republican Party. They overlook the fact that those very Republicans are moving in the wrong direction—voting to enlarge the government by \$45 billion a year for the next seven years, to raise the minimum wage, to censor the Internet, to take away more civil liberties in the guise of fighting terrorism, to drive the health insurance companies out of business with oppressive new regulations. This may be incremental change, but it's change in the wrong direction.

We, on the other hand, propose to actually bring about the goal of "Free Minds and Free Markets" that Reason displays

every month on its cover. And so they must label our proposals "ludicrous" or "ridiculous":

- They apparently don't want to repeal the income tax. They'd rather rearrange today's large tax burden through a flat tax.
- They apparently don't want to get the government completely out of Social Security. So they study proposals that would allow an individual to invest a small part of his own money under government supervision.
- They apparently don't want to end the insane War on Drugs. To discuss any positive, effective libertarian solution to the crime problem would jeopardize their standing as a serious player in the Beltway.

The "incrementalists" fall for the notion—promoted effectively by the Wash-

ington establishment and the national press—that since the Republicans couldn't even slow the growth of government, any proposal that would actually reduce government has no chance of success. Of course, this overlooks the fact that the Republicans offered the American people nothing in return for the minor "cuts" they were advocating.

We, on the other hand, make this offer to the voters: "Give up your favorite federal program—whether a farm subsidy, a student loan, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, or whatever—and you'll never have to pay income tax again." We will eliminate all programs not specified in the Constitution—all at once—and repeal the income tax simultaneously.

This is the only proposal that gives voters a powerful motivation to reduce government. See **Mainstream** on page 10

Mainstream

continued from page 9

ernment. So anything less radical has no chance to succeed, because the average American won't see how it will improve his own life substantially.

Getting press coverage

We need to realize that we won't get much help from ostensibly libertarian publications and organizations. There is too much philosophical and commercial competition involved.

Although there are several nationally syndicated libertarian columnists, only one has ever mentioned my presidential campaign in an article (which, however, was a very kind article by Joseph Sobran). Some of these columnists will be speaking at the Libertarian Party convention, and yet they never mention the LP in their columns.

No libertarian magazine has reviewed my book "Why Government Doesn't Work," and none of them bothers to seek out news about the LP to report.

No, we can't expect much aid from libertarians in the press. But that's all right. We don't have to beg for help from friends. Our ideas are powerful and thought-provoking, and so we offer the one thing reporters of any ideological stripe crave—news and controversy.

Over the past year, I've received accurate and respectful coverage by daily newspapers all over the country. From the *Seattle Times* to the *Tampa Tribune*, from California to New Hampshire, reporters

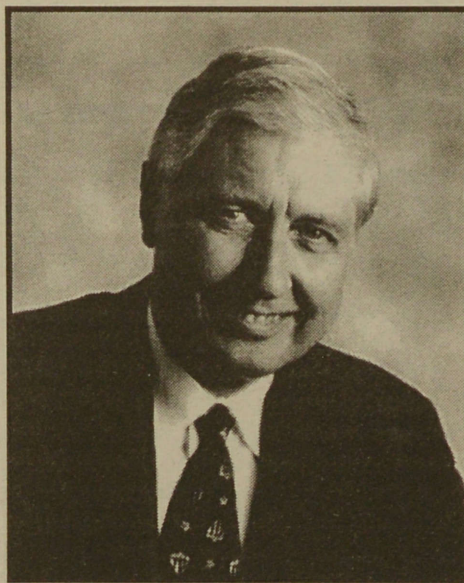
have interviewed me at great length, and on the whole given their readers a very accurate picture of what I stand for. They treat me with far more respect than Reason magazine did (which is ironic, since Reason maintained that my radical proposals made us seem "ridiculous" in the eyes of the mainstream press).

Talk radio has welcomed me with open arms. In recent months, I've appeared on more than 150 shows. I do most of them by phone—from home or a hotel room. The interviews usually last an hour, and they discuss my ideas in depth; they are far more valuable than 10-second sound bites. I have talked to more than 15 million people this way.

And the results are exciting. More than two dozen talk-show hosts have said on the air that they're supporting me for president. This includes hosts on important stations in major cities—David Brudnoy in Boston, J.R. Gach in New Orleans, Cheryl Godfrey in Las Vegas, Carl Wigglesworth in San Antonio, and many others.

In addition, dozens of talk-show hosts have said they want to see me in the presidential debates in October. Imagine the possibilities: In September we ask these hosts to urge their listeners to write to the Debate Commission and the TV networks, demanding that I be included in the debates.

The radio and newspaper publicity is bearing fruit. On the Internet, I'm currently No. 1 in three prominent presidential polls



Harry Browne

(including the CNN/Time poll), running ahead of both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. And I'm No. 2 in three other polls. "Why Government Doesn't Work" continues to sell well around the country, converting more and more people from a vague, anti-government position into energetic Libertarians.

What we have to do

No, the national press hasn't latched on to us yet. They are preoccupied with known personalities—not "minor" parties or unknown candidates. And so they won't pay attention until I start showing up in the polls. But when that happens, they'll follow us around like puppy dogs.

To get to that point, we have to continue building name recognition. And there's a great deal you can do to help make that happen:

1. Write letters to your local newspaper and to the national news and political magazines. If the publication has had an article on Social Security, for example, point out that a Libertarian presidential candidate proposes to solve the Social Security mess once and for all by getting the government out of it, without leaving anyone holding the bag. Do the same with other issues that have been raised in articles and editorials.
2. Call in to talk radio shows when there's a topic for which we have a powerful proposal. Don't waste your ammunition on just any issue; look for ones in which we can make an important difference in the listeners' lives—the income tax, Social Security, reducing crime by ending the insane War on Drugs, and so on.
3. Post messages in computer forums and on the Internet. Don't limit your activity to libertarian forums; leave messages where they'll be read by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.
4. Vote in the Internet presidential polls. Many people in the national media see these polls, and they can't help but wonder about this fellow Harry

Browne who has so much support.

5. Obtain bumper stickers, buttons, brochures, yard signs, and other campaign items to display and give to your friends and co-workers. If they respond favorably to libertarian ideas, enlist their help in the letter-writing campaign.

6. Contribute money to the presidential campaign—to pay to keep the talk-radio campaign going, to buy radio and TV ads, and to keep the candidate on the road.

7. Write to national TV shows, urging them to interview the libertarian presidential candidate. Here are the addresses for four such shows:

Larry King Live

820 First St. NE

Washington, DC 20002

The Tom Snyder Show
CNBC

3000 West Alameda Blvd.

Burbank, CA 91523

The Charlie Rose Show
WNET-TV

499 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10022

C-SPAN

400 North Capital St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

Use "Why Government Doesn't Work" as a source for ideas you can discuss in letters to editors and on call-in shows. Quote freely from the book, if you like. For campaign materials, call 703-222-9189.

These activities will build public awareness of what we offer—much smaller government—which is, in general, what 75 percent of Americans want today. Name recognition of the candidate and the party will lead to a position in the public opinion polls. And if we get to 10 percent or more in the polls, it will be very hard to keep us out of the presidential debates in October.

And if we get into the debates, we can change the face of politics in America forever. Imagine, before an audience of 60 million people, the Libertarian presidential candidate proposing:

- to reduce the federal government to just those functions specified in the Constitution,
- to repeal the income tax and replace it with nothing,
- to get the federal government completely out of Social Security,
- to do something positive about crime by ending the insane War on Drugs.

Can we bring this about? I don't know. But even if we fail to get into the debates, everything we do will contribute to a Libertarian breakthrough this year. And if we break out of the 1 percent class, we lay the groundwork for a vastly increased LP membership, hundreds of thousands of Americans changing their registration to Libertarian, and tens of thousands of new major donors to the LP.

And that, in turn, can lead to Libertarian congressional victories in 1998 and a Libertarian president in 2000.

Is the goal worth the effort?

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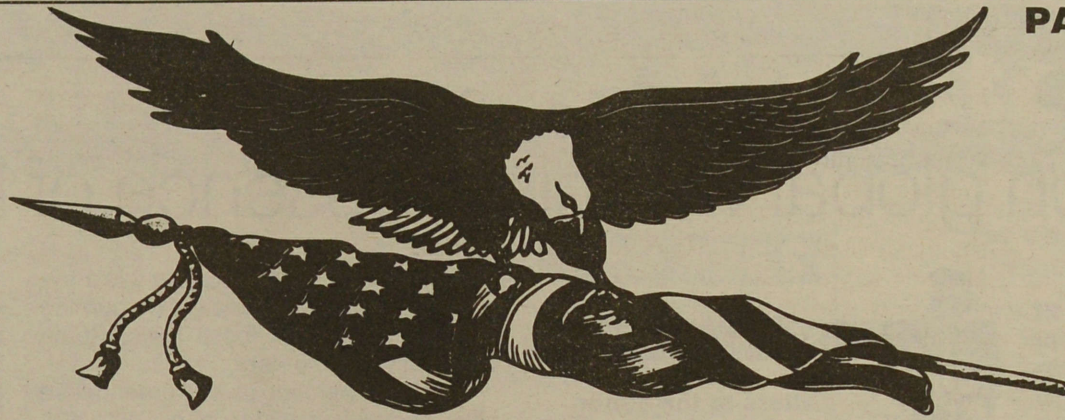
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Political Agenda
Domestic Tranquility

1. To maintain the underpinning financial position of this country, gold and silver must be standard to hedge any deflating currency; numismatic
 2. Education needs stimulation at all levels
 A. Public., B. Private., C. Other/Technical
 3. Downsize Gvmnt growth and spending i.e., define seperation of powers thus hauling gvmnt abuse. Emphasize free market with recipricating value.
 4. Decriminalize all drugs and relegalize all natural drugs/plant life as natural resource. Farming/manufacturing.
 5. I'm pro choice by law, however, I do not agree with abortions and not with tax dollars. Issue lacks proper communications conversly.
- NOTE: One can't edict morality within gvmnt and subsequently repugnance within the law.
 Environmental: Water must forever be priority #1. Key element to survive today and generations to come.

I feel that the pearl of politics is upon America. The understanding of this Constitution becomes clear for I have studied this country since age 15 yrs.. The culmination of this campaign is to establish direction for the United States with sound underpinning for longevity.

CHECKS AND BALANCE CAMPAIGN
 TO PUBLIUS AMERICA
 TO ELECT CARL KRAMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO PUBLIUS AMERICA
LIBERTARIAN PARTY
CHECKS AND BALANCE CAMPAIGN

CARL KEITH KRAMER
 BORN: PAOLA, KANSAS., SEPT. 03, 1960., 8:29 AM
 RAISED: OSAWATOMIE, KANSAS., HISTORIC CRADLE OF CIVIL WAR, HOME OF JOHN BROWN
 GRADUATE: OSAWATOMIE HIGH SCHOOL 1979
 BAILEY TECHNICAL SCHOOL {ITT} 1980
 SOME COLLEGE CLASS CREDIT
 MILITARY: U.S. AIR FORCE 1981-1986, 4 YRS. 9 MTHS,
 HONORABLE SERVICE; GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL,
 A.F. ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
 EMPLOYMENT: LOCKHEED SUPPORT SYS, 1986-1987
 CURRENT: BOEING AIRCRAFT CO, WICHITA DIVISION 1987-

The United States demands *ethos & *pathos of communications unparallel thats been available;. local gvmnt fraudulent, perniciously encrouched upon my personal property {deprivation} violation of substantive rights [due process] under a free republic, I've come forward to redress this gvmnt {Locke 1703} as a incomplete quadra-paligic, fully recovered with sensitivity to low pressure cold weather, my needs on my property rights were in demand, outlined by Locke, and our Constitution., Bill of rights., 5th, 7th, & 14th Amendments.

* ethics and directional path for resolutions

Note: If the truth was self-evident, eloquence would not be needed.

-Cicero-

Your compassion and love for your country is in demand and I wish for your nomination & confirmation to the Presidency. Please consider the youth in your nomination so the party will be attractive to the voters and our youth for the betterment of the Libertarian Party as a whole.

TO ELECT CARL KRAMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
 CHECKS AND BALANCE CAMPAIGN

Letters

Comments on global warming, essence of liberty, more

Join the party!

Although I had voted Libertarian for 12 years, I had never joined the party or attended a Libertarian function until I was invited to speak for the Macomb County Libertarians in June 1995. My topic was education.

Since then (it's been a year), I was elected vice chair of the Macomb County group and I am running for state board of education! I am proud to be an active member of the Libertarian Party. I no longer sit around listening to talk radio and complaining about the way things ought to be. I am doing something positive to change them.

The LP has given me the opportunity to express myself openly. My voice matters within the party itself. Those of you who attended the Michigan LP state convention may remember I was the one who was so determined to change the party's platform on education. And I did!

I am excited about the many things our group is doing. I love being involved in planning events like the state convention and Libertarian Week/LibertyFest. But most of all I enjoy the association with other free and independent thinkers who are making a difference in American politics.

During Libertarian Week (Oct. 13-19) or your next opportunity, bring a friend to a Libertarian meeting, write a letter-to-the-editor, call talk radio and discuss



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

Libertarian principles. If you are a member, get involved with your local affiliate. There are many places your talents can be utilized.

Looking back over my year as an active member I can say it is one of the more significant decisions I have made in my life. I recognize it is my responsibility to uphold the libertarian precepts of our forefathers.

Diane Barnes
Eastpointe, MI

Warming up?

I cannot let Bradley Berg's misinformed letter on "global warming" (June 1996 NEWS) pass uncorrected. The "preponderance of scientific data" does not support the warming hypothesis. Contrary to the impression given by the popular press, the overwhelming majority of climate scientists are highly skeptical because the temperature data for this century exhibit no meaningful secular trend.

The whole "global warming" panic is no more than a cynical pretext for a power grab. The "greenhouse" gas, carbon

dioxide, is the handle because it is a by-product of liberating energy by burning organic matter and fossil fuels. Some perspective is in order:

1. Eighty percent of the greenhouse effect comes from water vapor. Without it we should all freeze.

2. Natural water vapor level fluctuations are much more significant than man's carbon dioxide perturbations.

3. The earth possesses many complex feedback mechanisms which require much more understanding before we can hope to model climate properly. Focusing on one feature alone has zero predictive value.

4. Weather fluctuations (drought, flood, heat, cold, etc.) have been the fuel for superstition and pensions of priests throughout history. This one is no different.

5. There is no such thing as climate stability. In the past we have experienced periods both much hotter and much colder than now. We adjusted then. We are even more capable of adjusting now.

The panic mongers often peddle the specter of coastal flooding—citing melting ice-caps. Apparently, they have never heard of Archimedes. The "vulnerable" arctic ice-cap floats on the sea. I invite the reader to float ice cubes on a glass of water and observe the water level as they melt.

With our present state of knowledge, one can construct a plausible scenario whereby a warmer earth would have lower sea-levels but thicker glaciers on land.

The conservative hopes, vainly, to halt change, because he fears the dynamic world. We libertarians, on the other hand, celebrate man's ability to enter the fray and turn challenges into opportunities. So let it be if there is a long-term climate change—hotter, colder, wetter, drier; but there is scant evidence of it yet.

David Barnett, Ph.D.
Dept. Physics, U.T. Austin
Austin, TX

Essence

I enjoyed reading "The Essence of Liberty" by David Nolan (May 1996 NEWS). However, I don't agree with his description of what constitutes "a sound money system".

As I understand him, Mr. Nolan calls for a government-issued currency defined as so many ounces of gold (or something else "of true value") and no legal tender law. That arrangement worked well prior to FDR's criminalization of gold ownership.

But to me, the true libertarian monetary position is completely free banking with no government money of any kind. Individual banks would issue bank notes redeemable in whatever the market dictates, and there would be no central bank, no legal tender law, no government regulation of banking, and no government "deposit insurance".

Banking and money are creations of the free market. There is no need to get the government involved with these at all. While "the gold standard" worked well earlier, it may not be the best arrangement in the future.

J. David Ekstrum
Cincinnati, OH

Always I had supposed that when we say, "Every educated man is a liberal," we mean that she reasons deductively from first principles. The five points proposed by our founder, David F. Nolan (May 1996 NEWS) are, surely, true but only trivial—particularly the second and third, "self-defense" and "criminal possession."

A modest proposal for an American political party might be to say instead as follows: "Defense. All competent individuals are equal. A crime is—and is nothing other than—an attempt to deny equality, as by upholding special privileges or titles of nobility. Every such attempt requires to be opposed by all sovereign citizens, by any means including armed force." And, "Government. Government, if any, is the creature of the citizens or of more numerous governments, and eternally subject to abolition, alteration, or secession on occasion of disobedience."

Incidentally, Nolan's "stuff about a 'well-regulated militia'" means that the states recognized that their militia was their "security" against the U.S.: hence they reserved to themselves the appointment of the officers of the militia.

Brian W. Firth
Bronxville, NY

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

What's this business about a sound currency (May 1996 NEWS) being one of the precepts of libertarian philosophy? We might as well as try to mandate good health.

Money is not a simple concept—it is at once a unit of account, a store of value, and a medium of exchange. Certainly there is no reason why the federal government need dictate what money is nor monopolize it; it did neither when the country was founded. Neither is it reasonable or even possible to demand that other primary money creators (which can and have included banks, gold and silversmiths, retailers, manufacturers, and wholesalers) follow some rigid bureaucratic guideline. Throughout the early to mid-1800s, scores of different bank notes circulated, and books were published which identified them and graded them: needless to say, some traded at a discount, just as other securities may do. There is absolutely no obvious reason why money in this country must consist solely of liabilities of the Federal Reserve Bank, or any other centralized banking authority.

Finally, this broadly accepted idea that gold and silver somehow represent "true value" (using Nolan's words) is simplistic. Severe inflations and deflations—helping to fuel temporary booms and recessions—have taken place in this country due to sudden changes in the supply of these commodities (most notably, silver in the late 1800s), and with both technology and environmental concerns constantly changing, it's naive to think that supplies will remain stable in the future. Turning to the demand side, I would argue that the price of gold would be lower than \$400 an ounce if based solely on the element's metallurgical qualities; although you can pound it really flat, most would have to agree that its high price is at least partially

see **Letters** on page 15

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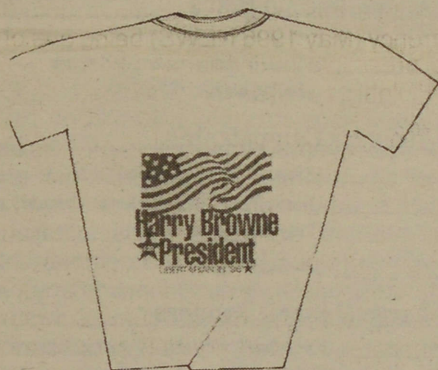
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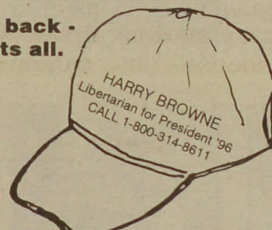


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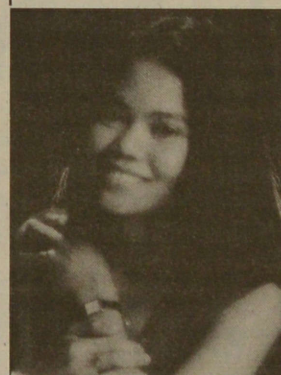
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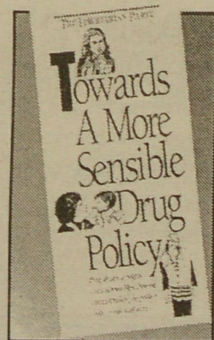
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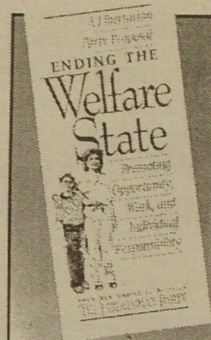
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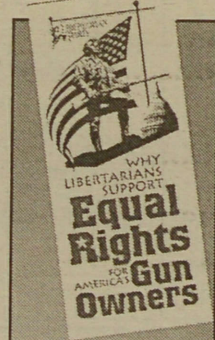
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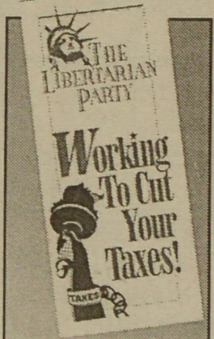
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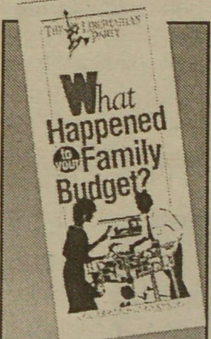
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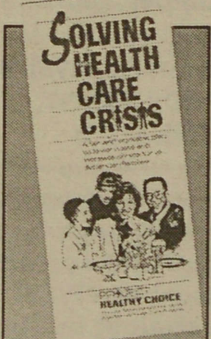
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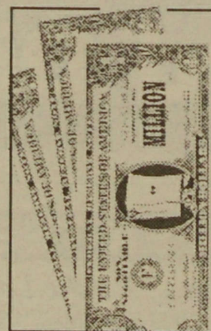
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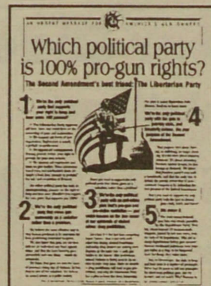
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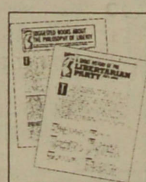
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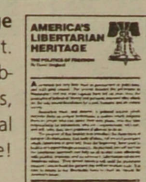
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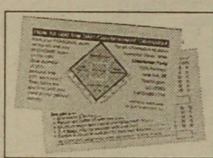
■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights from 1971 to 1995) and 2-page bibliography (over 150 books about Libertarianism, from economics to history to social issues). Sold as a set only. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100



■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. An excellent, concise overview of Libertarian philosophy, covering politics, free markets, social issues, personal liberty, political action, and more! Cost: \$1 each



■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths, and an excellent low-cost hand-out! Cost: \$1 for 100



Tools for Campaigning

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning or cutting and pasting. Cost: \$1 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party—Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each: general, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. Cost: \$3 for set

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape compilation of TV ads by LP candidates, from State Representative to President. (For information only; not broadcast quality.) Cost: \$20.00 each

Buttons

Cost: All buttons are \$1 each or 75¢ for 5 or more.

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

Miscellaneous Items

■ **High-quality, lined windbreaker,** blue with LP logo and party name on front. Available in M, L, XL. (Specify on order form.) Cost: \$25 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk, with several different sizes and versions of the LP's Statue of Liberty logo. Cost: \$3 each

■ **Liberty Teddy Bears** 12" high. Cute brown bear with blue shirt. "Liberty Bear" on front, LP logo on reverse. Makes a wonderful holiday gift! Cost: \$20 each

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Enough is Enough/Vote Libertarian** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-672-1776** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." Cost: \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party," second line your choice (specify on order form): ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." Cost: \$40 each

To Order:

Indicate quantity you wish to order below. There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add 15% for Post Office box addresses.

Reduced Price Brochure (300 for \$5)

Quantity Amount
Brochure: "Solving the Health Care Crisis."

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Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?"
Brochure: "Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners"
Brochure: "Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again"
Brochure: "Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy"
Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
Brochure: "What Happened To Your Family Budget?"
Flyer: "Which Political Party / 100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
Tax Day Flyer: \$1,000,000 Bill
1995 LP Program
1994 LP Platform
2-page LP history/2-page bibliography. (Package only.)
World's Smallest Political Quiz
Libertarianism in One Lesson book
America's Libertarian Heritage booklet

Bumper Stickers

Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian
Enough is Enough/Vote Libertarian
Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776
I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!

Buttons

Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian
VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776
Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL
LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
Liberty Teddy Bear

Tools for Campaigning

LP Statue of Liberty logo master
Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.
Libertarian TV Ads

Large & Small Banners

Large: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" x 5')
Please check preferred second line:
☐ "Defenders of Liberty"
☐ "1-800-682-1776"
Small: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (12" x 5').

Total Due

Merchandise Total
RUSH handling: Add \$5 for same-day shipping
RUSH shipping: Call office to arrange
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE

[] Cash, check, or money order enclosed (No corporate checks!)
[] Bill my Visa [] Bill my MasterCard

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Signature

Name

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Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 • Washington, DC 20037

To Order by Phone: Call (202) 333-0008

Letters

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attributable to some variant of the notion that many thousands of years ago somebody said, "Gee, this stuff looks really neat." Having various amounts of people agree in varying degrees throughout history, the demand line shifts about a sharply upward-sloping supply line (the cost of extraction rising without output).

If people were to tire of gold relatively (or grow even more fond of it), or if super new extraction techniques were found (or governments decide to curtail existing techniques), we will see what a stable store of value gold can be.

Paul N. Evans
Montebello, VA

Ponte on radio

I've been a member or supporter of the LP for 20 years, and out here on the West Coast we have a nationally syndicated talk show host by the name of Lowell Ponte who is doing a terrific job recruiting more Libertarians to the cause. If you don't have him in your area yet, call your local radio station and demand that they put him on.

Ponte has attended both the Utah and Washington state [LP] conventions where he was warmly accepted, and in Washington the Libertarians gave him a Radio Broadcaster of the Year Award.

Ponte can be called toll-free every night at 1-888-664-3434. He is also on America Online at "AEN."

This is one terrific opportunity and adventure you shouldn't miss.

Marc L. Robinson
Tacoma, WA

State manual

Do you have a copy of your state's manual? You can get a copy from your state representative or senator. In the state manual you'll find your state constitution and probably the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Also, you'll have the names and addresses of your legislators. Wisely used, this information can make a difference as to how your state is run. Also, locate those libraries that carry volumes on court decisions, for this information will give your statements strength. There's too much to lose.

Don Schwarz
Stoughton, MA

Personal choice

In her June letter, Doris Gordon writes about victims of abortion. However, she neglects to mention the hundreds of thousands of women who died as a direct result of illegal abortion. Women who died alone, bleeding to death in back alleys or in seedy hotel rooms. Gordon does not mention these victims because their body count does not support her position.

While I feel sorry for Ana Rosa Rodriguez and Gianna Jessen, I know they are not victims of abortion, but rather victims of unethical, poorly trained doctors. Bad doctors practice in every field of medicine. There are bad pediatricians, bad family practitioners, and yes, bad abortionists, yet I don't see Libertarians calling for a ban on appendectomies.

Abortion is a safe, simple, medical procedure when it is performed by a competent professional. The anti-choice movement shoulders a large part of the blame for bad abortionists. They wrote the laws that restrict hospitals from teaching

safe abortion practices and procedures to doctors and medical students. Also, anti-choice individuals terrorize and occasionally murder our best abortion practitioners.

Gordon states that many Libertarians, including David Nolan, are willing to drop the pro-choice plank from the party platform. If this is true, I have a question for David Nolan and his ilk. If you are willing to have the party fall silent on abortion to placate these bible-banging thugs, what other individual rights are you willing to sacrifice? Will you fall silent on the issue of same-sex marriages? Will you fall silent on the issue of forced school

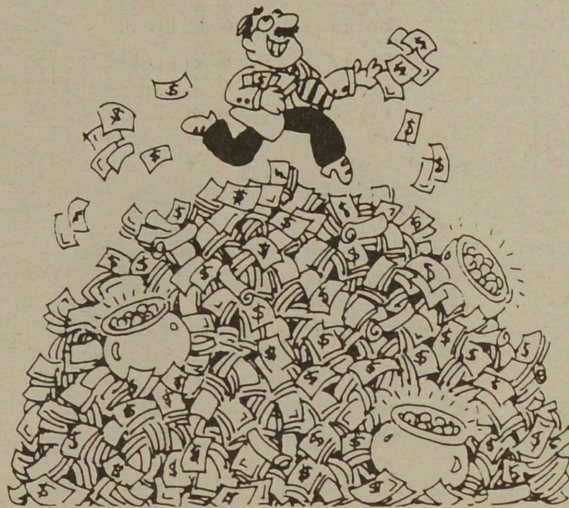
prayer? Will you fall silent on drug legalization? How many individual rights are you willing to trade for votes and cash contributions?...

Are we as Libertarians willing to sacrifice our principles for political expediency? If we are, then we are no better than Republicans or Democrats. In the June NEWS, National Chair Steve Dasbach states that the Libertarian Party favors eliminating laws that "control people's personal choices." I ask what could be more personal than the choice of terminating a pregnancy?

Christine Krof Shock
Thornton, CO

Photographer needed

The Libertarian Party is seeking a volunteer professional photographer to document the 1996 LP National Presidential Nominating Convention this month in Washington, DC. If you are a professional photographer, will be attending the national convention, and would like to volunteer your services, please contact Kris Williams at the LP national headquarters at 202-333-0008.



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-Sherri Hunt

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Randy Langhenry, editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 3-7, 1996:

1996 LP National Presidential Nominating Convention, Hyatt-Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Aug. 19-24, 1996:

ISIL World Conference, Whistler Conference Centre, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada; for information call 604-224-4628. Speakers include Leon Louw, Frances Kendall, Ken Schoolland, and Jarret Wollstein.

Aug. 24, 1996:

Third Annual Liberty Fair, sponsored by Miami Valley (OH) LP, Enon Beach Campground, Dayton. For information call Mary Pacinda at 513-845-9980 and leave a short message.

Sept. 8, 1996:

Brass Roots Rally, Capitol Building, Lansing, MI; for information call 810-399-8333 or 800-555-GUNS. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jon Coon, and Samuel Francis.

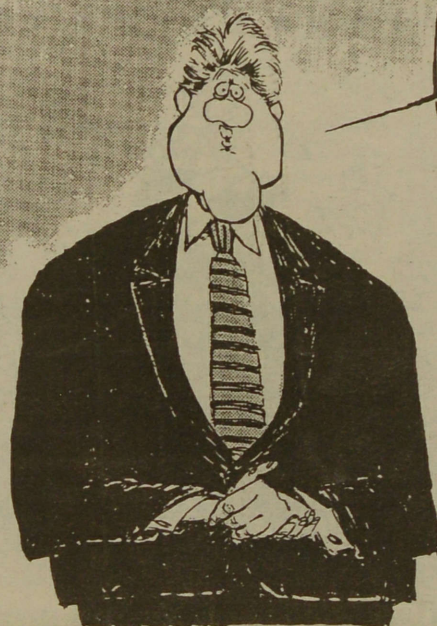
Oct. 19, 1996:

Maryland LP Convention, Columbia Hilton, Columbia; for information call 410-730-7117 or e-mail: AmyRule@aol.com

Nov. 24-26, 1996:

Separation of School & State Alliance conference, Washington, DC; for information call 209-292-1776. Speakers include Peter Breggin, John Taylor Gatto, Sheldon Richman, and Joseph Sobran.

Send upcoming event notices **early** to:
Libertarian Party NEWS, P.O. Box 3391
Gainesville, GA 30503



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It takes just one...

**Mayor Flickinger stands up for
Libertarian principles**

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Keep out

**Tompkins says government has
no role in blocking gay marriages**

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unREASONable

**Nolan and Browne comment on
Reason magazine's article on LP**

Enlightened

SOMERSET (MA) MESSENGER-GAZETTE —
editorial in the April 4, 1996, edition of the newspaper:

“National polls are showing that many Americans are tired of the choices being offered by Republicans and Democrats and want a third political party to emerge as a legitimate political alternative. Americans want a political party not beholden to any special interests or afraid to rock the boat... That alternative may finally be emerging. Unbridled by the traditional obligations of political contributions, the Libertarian Party has the freedom of saying what others may fear to express. Libertarians [are] not afraid to rock the boat.”