

Libertarian Party

NEWS

August 1995 Vol. 10, No. 8

Face off

Browne set for CityVote debates

“Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne will be included in the first televised presidential debate of the '96 election season this October 8,” according to national campaign director Sharon Ayres. “This is an exciting first for a Libertarian presidential candidate.”

Browne's participation in the debate results from his campaign qualifying for participation in the nationwide CityVote preferential primary scheduled for Nov. 7.

CityVote, which bills itself as “A National Urban Presidential Primary”, is a multi-city, non-binding presidential preference poll that will be conducted in conjunction with local elections taking place on Nov. 7 in at least 16 cities across the country. Preceding the balloting will be a series of three televised debates, the first of which is scheduled to be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul on Sunday, Oct. 8. Coverage will be by Twin Cities Public Television KTCA/KTCI (a PBS affiliate) and by C-SPAN. The second debate will be in Spokane on Oct. 22. A likely site for the third debate on Nov. 5 is Boston.

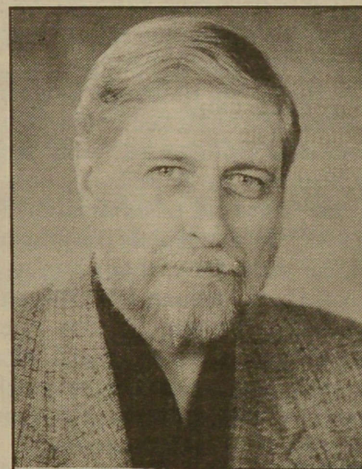
“I'm delighted that we've already qualified to participate in CityVote,” said Browne. “I look forward to the debates with the other candidates—the Republicans and possibly even President Clinton.

“We've waited a long time to be able to confront them directly—and to make them justify their spending programs, the taxes they've all voted for, and the intrusions on our liberties,” said Browne.

“I'd especially like to thank our campaign donors,” he added. “It's obvious now how important early support can be. Without it, we wouldn't have qualified for this program.”

Libertarian Party National Chair Steve Dasbach said, “This marks the first time that a candidate seeking the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination will appear in debates with candidates seeking the nomination of the Democratic or Republican parties. Harry Browne's inclusion in these debates points out the value of the Libertarian Party's record of ballot access achievement, and the importance of early success in fund raising. It also demonstrates the opportunities created by moving our nominat-

see **Browne** on page 8



Harry Browne

LP advises Congress

A powerful congressional committee—ordered by House Speaker Newt Gingrich to propose ways to downsize the federal government—has asked the Libertarian Party for help.

Rep. William Clinger (R-PA), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, invited the Libertarian Party to join a coalition of groups to support the committee's efforts.

“This is exciting,” said LP Director of Communications Bill Winter. “It gives us an opportunity, however small, to encourage the Republicans to actually fulfill their promise to reduce the size of government.”

Winter represented the LP at the first meeting of the coalition on June 28 in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Other organizations represented included such lobbying heavyweights as the National Taxpayer's Union, Citizens Against Government Waste, the Business Roundtable, and Citizens For A Sound Economy.

Clinger told the assembled group that the Reform and Oversight Committee's efforts are “the centerpiece of what the Republican majority is trying to do.” He said the committee has been asked by Gingrich to “ultimately create a new 21st Century government . . . that is smaller, more responsible, and more fiscally accountable.”

At the top of the committee's agenda, Clinger said, will be a series of public hearings around the country to generate government downsizing ideas and “attract some [media] attention.”

The hearings will focus on success stories. Speakers will include big-city mayors, state and local officials “who have restructured their own organizations to meet demands for smaller and more responsible government,” and large corporations that have become “more efficient and productive,” Clinger said.

There also will be an opportunity for ordinary citizens to speak. “The committee will offer a chance for the public to provide their ideas on cutting the size of government through an open mike forum,” promised Clinger.

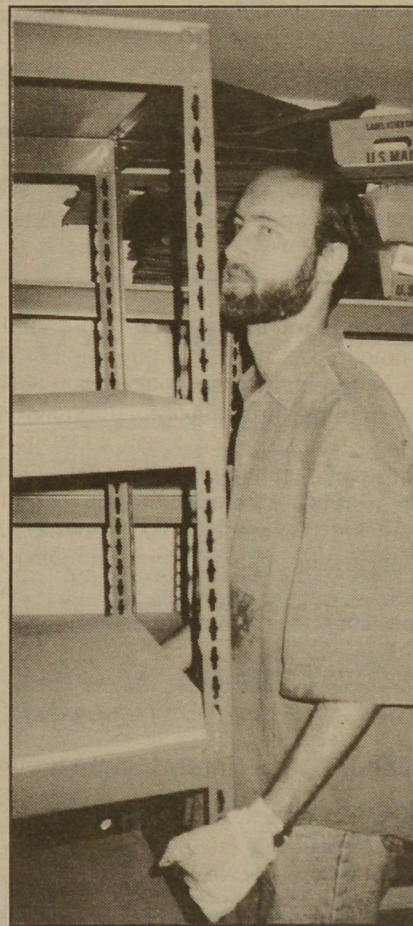
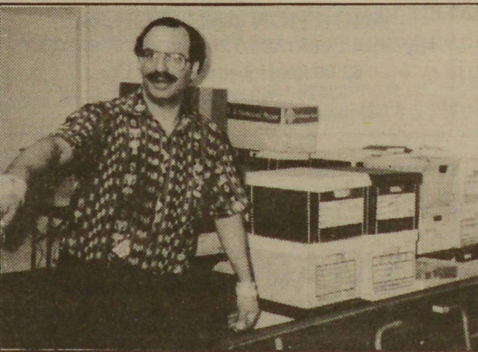
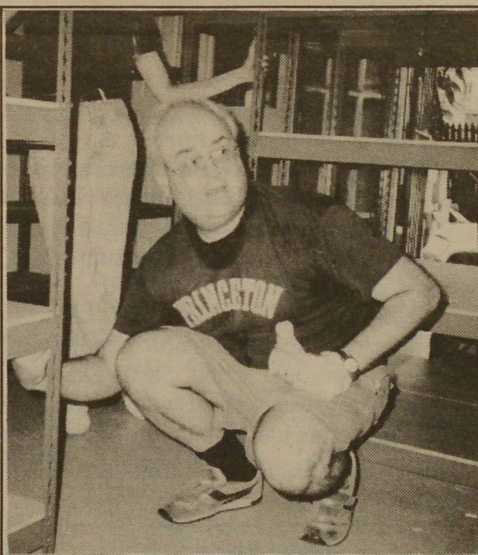
Clinger said members of the coalition—including the Libertarian Party—could help by suggesting potential witnesses, publicizing the hearings, and by circulating petitions and generating phone calls to Congress in support of smaller government. “You people are really critical to this effort,” he stressed.

The first public hearing was quickly scheduled for July 14 in Parma Heights, OH, and the second in Charlotte, NC, on July 28.

Winter said the national LP would try to notify state parties about hearings, and attempt to arrange for Libertarians in public office to attend the hearings as expert

see **Coalition** on page 2

LPHQ moves



NEWS photos by Bill Winter

MOVING DAY - (top left) National Chair Steve Dasbach pauses while dismantling shelves at the old office, before loading them into a moving van for transport to the Watergate Office Building. Also helping with the move were NatCom member Sharon Ayres, National Secretary John Famularo, and Director of Communications Bill Winter. (bottom left) NatCom member Dan Karlan, left, and Dasbach carry a folding table into new offices. Until the new office furniture arrived a week later, the headquarters staff worked on tables and out of boxes. (right) National Director Perry Willis sets up shelves in the storage room of the new office. Within 24 hours of the move, the office staff was shipping out orders for LP literature and other materials.

see **page 9**

Libertarians seeking to end SSS

After years of urging the end of the Selective Service System (SSS) and draft registration, Libertarians finally have some real backing in the U.S. House.

The House VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee voted in July to allocate only \$6 million for the SSS for fiscal year 1996, and the \$6 million is only to be used for "close-out costs associated with the orderly termination of the program."

At the same time, there also is a bill currently in the House, HR 1709, entitled the Selective Service Standby Act, that would end peacetime draft registration and establish a standby system that would not be put into use except by a presidential declaration of national emergency.

HR 1709 was sponsored originally by

Reps. Rohrabacher (R-CA), Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Metcalf (R-WA), Bilbray (R-CA), and DeFazio (D-OR).

Libertarian Party members Scott Kohlhaas, who is also the executive director of Volunteers for America, and LP National Committee member Don Ernsberger have been instrumental in lobbying Congress for this action.

"Support for HR 1709 is urgently needed," said Kohlhaas. "Enough support has been received that it has been defunded in appropriations and is currently headed for a floor vote."

"The issue is reaching critical mass," he said.

Kohlhaas said he urged Libertarians to call and write letters to both senators and



representatives requesting "support for the current language in the Appropriations Committee to defund SSS, and support for HR 1709, which is currently in the National Security Committee."

A letter, signed by DeFazio, Rohrabacher, and Metcalf to their fellow representatives, stated that "considering the financial costs, Congress should replace the current system with a less expensive, more effective, and less intrusive alternative."

The letter also quotes the secretary of defense as saying, "peacetime draft registration could be suspended with no effect on military mobilization requirements, little

effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment."

HR 1709 is receiving bipartisan support, but it also faces bipartisan opposition.

President Clinton, whose draft status during the Vietnam War has been a major political issue, has now become "the chief protector of the Selective Service System," according to an article in *The New York Times*.

Clinton wrote in a letter to SSS employees, "As fewer and fewer members of our society have direct military experience, it is increasingly important to maintain the link between the all-volunteer force and our society at large. The armed forces must also know that the general population stands behind them, committed to serve, should the preservation of our national security so require."

To make your opinion known to your congressperson, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Coalition

continued from page 1

witnesses.

"We want the Libertarian perspective—the true voice of downsizing government—to be heard," he said.

Future hearings were promised in the autumn, but locations and dates have not yet been set. Possible cities include Seattle, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Boston.

After the public hearings, the Committee will review all the downsizing suggestions, said Clinger, and present a comprehensive proposal for next year's federal budget. He said one goal of the Committee is to "take one Cabinet nameplate off the table by the end of the year," probably the Department of Commerce.

Winter said he left the meeting optimistic but cautious.

"We have to be realistic," he said. "We know most Republicans aren't completely

serious about cutting the size of government. And to the degree they do trim government, they're certainly not going to go as far as we Libertarians would like. For example, they kept mentioning that their cuts would be 'careful' and 'sensible,' which are frequently Republican code words for 'let's not cut very much.'

"We're also leery of Republican promises to make government more efficient or productive," he said. "We Libertarians don't want a more efficient IRS, or a more productive BATF. We want those agencies abolished."

However, said Winter, "I'm glad we were invited to be part of the process. This means we will have input, rather than be left standing on the outside looking in."

This is the second time in a year the national Libertarian Party has been solicited by a member of Congress for help. In 1994, Rep. Bill Zeff (R-NH) asked the LP to help lobby for his "A-Z Spending Cut" bill.

"This is another example of the Libertarian Party's increasing stature and clout," said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach. "Even Congress is starting to understand that libertarian ideas—and the Libertarian Party's growing political power—can't be ignored."

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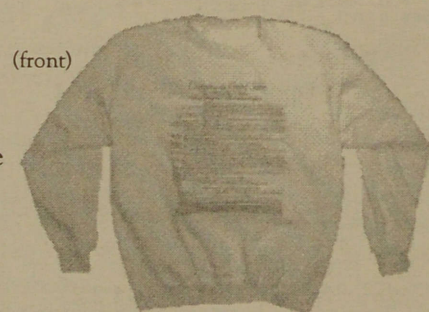
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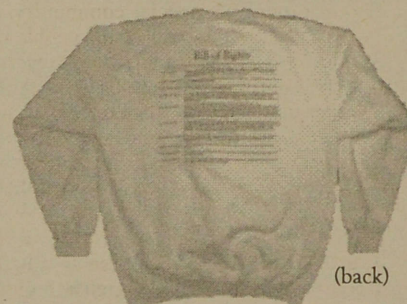
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Toward '96

Lord joins Jorgensen VP campaign as chair

It was announced recently that Nancy Lord, 1992 LP vice presidential candidate, has agreed to serve as campaign chair for Jo Jorgensen's campaign for the 1996 Libertarian Party vice presidential nomination.

"In 1972, Tonie Nathan was the first woman to ever receive an electoral vote," said Lord. "In 1996, Jo Jorgensen will be the only woman in the presidential debates."

Lord and Jorgensen campaigned in South Carolina together during Jorgensen's 1992 congressional campaign. Lord said she joined the Jorgensen campaign because she shares Jorgensen's belief that it is essential to the success of the Libertarian Party that the national candidates be both credible and articulate.

"Jo Jorgensen would make a splendid candidate. The Libertarian Party couldn't ask for anyone better," said Lord.

Lord said her first task will be to work with Jorgensen's campaign manager, Joe Hauptmann, to put together an advisory committee.

According to FEC reports, Jorgensen is the second Libertarian Party presidential/vice presidential candidate to file as an

official candidate after reaching the \$5,000 fund-raising threshold requiring candidates to file. The other FEC-recognized LP candidate is Harry Browne.

Campaign Quote

"Republicans are like 900 number phone sex. They tell us we're special, ask us what we really want, and say they want it, too. They tell us how much they want it, and how good it's going to be. But when it's over, we find out it cost us a lot of money, was not as good as the real thing, and they're never going to come over."

— **Jo Jorgensen, candidate for LP vice presidential nomination, at the 1995 LP of Texas state conference**

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My foreign language skills are poor, but being in another country where few people spoke English was no problem. Many attendees were fluent in Spanish, and more than willing to interpret as we strolled around the city, sightseeing and shopping.

No words can express the excitement of climbing a 1,000 year-old Mayan pyramid and seeing a light show in the middle of the Yucatan jungle. My only regret is I didn't start going to these conferences sooner.

Don't miss out. Consider this my personal invitation to our 1995 World Conference in Athens. I hope to see you there.

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Affiliates

Campaigns gear up, new affiliates, and more

Arizona

► **Gary Fallon** is running for mayor of Phoenix because, he said, "like our federal, state, and county governments, Phoenix city government has grown far beyond the reasonable confines of limited government."

Fallon is highlighting the "mismanagement" of taxpayers' monies. Spending and taxes and fees in Phoenix have been rising at alarming rates, Fallon points out.

Fallon drew up and signed—on July 4 at Phoenix City Hall—a contract that he calls the "Phoenix Taxpayers Emancipation."

"Unlike the Contract With America, the Phoenix Taxpayers Emancipation will actually reduce government spending, not just slow its growth," Fallon said.

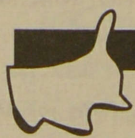
The document addresses five items, although additional items will be considered after the original five items are fulfilled, Fallon said.

The five items in the original document are: 1) Repeal unfunded federal and state programs; 2) End city infrastructure subsidies to new home development causing urban sprawl; 3) Eliminate the primary city property tax; 4) Prioritize Police Department to apprehend criminals of violence, theft, and vandalism; and 5) Reduce General Purpose Fund spending to 1993-94 levels.

For more information on the Fallon campaign, call 602-248-8425 or 602-493-8969.

► **Ed Kahn**, who has received more than \$8,000 from 400 contributors in his race for mayor of Tucson, has now qualified for city matching funds. All matching funds will be put toward the voter registration drive to place the LP on the ballot in the state.

► Two other Libertarians have filed as candidates for Tucson City Council—**Scott Stewart** in Ward 1 and **Tim Loomis** in Ward 2.



National pulse

News from the states

California

In early June, Libertarians in Lake Elsinore scored a major victory by successfully defeating a \$34 million general obligation bond.

The bond measure would have provided funds for school construction and repairs.

Riverside County LP Southern Vice Chair **Gene Trosper** and his wife **Shannon** organized STOP (Stop Taxpayer Obligation Propositions) as the official opposition. Among activities undertaken were distributing flyers, posting signs, and writing ballot statements and letters to the editor.

While hitting the usual "no more taxes" argument, STOP effectively focused on non-classroom projects, including "wasteful and needless projects" that were included in the bond measure.

Local Libertarians **Mike** and **Lisa Snell** and **Lorna Spangler** also were instrumental in the measure's defeat.

In the election, the bond measure was defeated 55.5 to 44.5 percent. There is, however, discussion by local school officials to place an identical bond on the November ballot.

Colorado

New state affiliates are being formed all across the state. Here is a list of new affiliates and the organizer: Adams County, **Earl Allen**, 303-254-4978; Southwest Colorado, **Bill Zimsky**, 970-385-5107; San Luis Valley, **Bob Johnson**, 719-379-2707; and Garfield and Eagle counties, **Tom Peckham**, 970-925-6027.

Florida

► The state party recently elected the following new officers: **Dominick J. Dunbar**, chair; **Dianne Pilcher**, vice chair; **Wayne Harley**, treasurer; and **Susan DeBusk**, secretary. Dunbar is a former LP national director.

► Broward LP Vice Chair **Jim Weber** recently received more than 40 percent of the vote in his race for commissioner of Cooper City.

Idaho

In mid-August, the state party will staff an outreach and information booth at the Western Idaho Fair in Boise. Over the nine days of the fair, state LP members expect to meet thousands of people and find up to 1,000 new libertarians for the mailing list. The outreach effort is being organized by **Joe Rohner**. For more information, contact Rohner at 208-343-8787.

Illinois

► **Robin Miller** has kicked off his campaign for U.S. Senate. The election is in 1996.

In his race for University of Illinois Board of Trustees, Miller got almost 200,000 votes, the highest total for any candidate in LPI history.

Since the LP is now an established party in Illinois, "we get the chance to have a primary," said campaign manager **David Fry**. "While this will take some work to get on the primary ballot, it has many advantages. Not only do we look more 'legitimate' in the eyes of voters, but we get the name and address of each person who votes in our primary. This will be a great tool for us to use in the campaign, and for the Libertarian Party of Illinois to use in

increasing its membership."

Since Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) is retiring from his position, there will be no incumbent running in this election.

"Voters are beginning to realize that government does not work," Fry said. "They are slowly starting to understand that both the Republicans and the Democrats are to blame. They are looking for a better option. Robin Miller is that option."

For more information, contact Citizens for Miller, P.O. Box 5424, Peoria, IL 61601-5424; or call 309-699-6236.

► The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has directed WTTW television in Chicago to respond to the complaint filed on behalf of 1994 LP gubernatorial candidate **David Kelley**. The complaint alleged Kelley was illegally excluded from the "Candidate Free Time" program sponsored by WTTW prior to the November election. WTTW allowed the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor to participate, but specifically excluded Kelley.

WTTW was asked to respond to the following: "1) Describe the program in question and its basis for believing that the program qualifies for the 'on the spot coverage of a bona fide news event' exemption under the Federal Communications Act; 2) Describe the station's basis for including some, but not all of the candidates running for office of governor in the program at issue."

The state party achieved established party status as a result of the November 1994 general election. This means the LP of Illinois will have automatic ballot status for the 1996 statewide elections.

Michigan

Glenn Barr, chair of LP West Michigan, is running for Walker City Commissioner. See **Affiliates** on page 5

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Affiliates

continued from page 4

sion, Ward 1. Three major thrusts of his campaign are to repeal the city income tax, reform the city zoning code, and seriously investigate land use management alternatives to zoning.

If Barr garners a minimum of about 600 votes in the Sept. 12 primary, he automatically will become the First Ward Commissioner of Walker and will not have to go on to the November election.

For more information on the Barr campaign, call 616-452-4214.

Minnesota

Larry Fuhol of Isanti is running for U.S. House in District 8. Fuhol is a 41-year-old factory worker and a first generation American of Ukrainian parents. He is married and has two children.

Although he realizes he is a long shot, Fuhol said he should not be considered simply a "spoiler" in the race.

"I am seriously running," he said. "I'm sick of the way things are and believe the system can work with a constitutional government."

Fuhol added, "I'm a factory worker. I get my paycheck and they say they've cut taxes. And I look at my paycheck and I wonder . . . where?"

For more information on the Fuhol campaign, call 612-444-9008.

Missouri

The state party recently elected the following new officers: **Kay Sheil**, chair; **Jim Givens**, vice chair; **Jeanne Bojarski**, secretary; **Karl Wetzel**, treasurer. **Bill Johnson** was re-elected to the executive director's post.

Nevada

Ernest Walker was defeated in his re-election bid for Sparks City Council. He received 49 percent of the vote.

New Jersey

► Libertarian **Ron Wishart** is serving on the Manalapan Zoning Board of Adjustment.

► **Ed Weissmann**, state LP vice chair, is encouraging state party members to get involved with a new government program through the state's municipal courts. A Community Dispute Resolution Committee, soon to be in every municipal court in the state, is a body of volunteer citizens who receive training in conflict resolution techniques and are assigned a number of cases from the municipal court docket. The purpose is to help citizens resolve disputes themselves without resorting to lawyers and the coercive hand of the courts.

North Carolina

The state party's appeal against the state board of elections is still pending in the 4th District U.S. Court of Appeals. The state requires a party to receive 10 percent of the vote in the governor's race to maintain ballot status, and also requires new parties to gather signatures from 2 percent of the registered voters.

State LP officials say that the combined 10 percent and 2 percent requirements constitute a double barrier to ballot access. They also note that the 10 percent requirement in the governor's race unconstitutional-

ally restricts the number of official political parties to nine or fewer.

State party officials say that a decision from the appeals court could come at any time. If the appeal is denied, the party already is planning an additional appeal to the Supreme Court.

Ohio

Libertarian **Ralph Mullinger** is an independent candidate for Findlay City Council. Mullinger is running as an independent because the LP does not have ballot status in the state.

Mullinger has received the endorsement of the Republican incumbent, who is not seeking re-election. In addition, the current Republican candidate has withdrawn from the race, although the GOP will choose a replacement.

"My primary objective in this race is to win," said Mullinger, "not to educate."

For more information, call 419-425-2702.

South Carolina

► After a hiatus of several years, the state party has reactivated the state LP quarterly newsletter. The summer edition

already has been mailed to members.

► In May, the state executive committee appointed **Walter Rolandi** of Columbia as executive director. Rolandi will be responsible for developing projects and raising funds.

► Local party members and citizens met recently to discuss forming a new affiliate in Anderson County. The meeting was arranged by **Marion Slater** and **Doug Taylor**. The next meeting is being organized by **Vaughn Harris** and **Mike Morris**. For information, call Taylor at 803-847-9820.

see **Affiliates** on page 6

FOR THOSE WHO FEEL THAT EVERY TIME THEY STEP OUT OF THEIR HOUSE, THEY'VE JUST LANDED ON :

PLANET MORON

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3

A HUMOR RAG FOR
THE REST OF US

\$2.95 JUL/AUG 1995

THIS TIME

Give Me Liberty..., Or Not
1

G-Men
5

Statisfiction
7

Hollywood Dole
10

Clinton-san Gets Mad
11

I Pledge Allegiance, To
The Ashes...
12

Bright Idea
13

Blather.....2
Other Blather.....2
The Art Gallery.....8
Rants.....15

Give Me Liberty..., or Not

The tragedy of the Oklahoma City bombing startled Americans like no other event since perhaps that tragic day when John F. Kennedy was brutally elected President. Americans were shocked to find that they lived in a country with such radical freedoms that non-governmental personnel are allowed to rent trucks without so much as a background check and fuel oil is peddled as if it were gasoline. The American people were even more startled to discover that freedom might entail some danger and risk. As we know, nothing is more highly valued by Americans than safety. Is that not what our forefathers fought for? What better sums up the American spirit than those renowned words of Benjamin Franklin: "Those that would give up mandatory motorcycle helmet laws for liberty, deserve neither helmets nor liberty."

In this spirit, the Clinton Administration put forth a plan to rein in all this unfettered freedom. The Republicans strongly objected to his plan, pointing out that they had not thought of it first.

(Continued on page 3)

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Affiliates

continued from page 5

Another new affiliate is being organized in the Beaufort/Jasper area. These new LP groups will bring to 10 the number of organized county affiliates.

Texas

► "Benjamin Franklin" was denied access to the Dallas Public Library during a ceremony enshrining an original copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Libertarian **Bill Bunch**, who was attired as Ben, was distributing copies of the Declaration of Independence, and when the ceremony moved inside to the actual enshrining, officials refused to allow Bunch to attend.

"Political activity is not permitted on the library premises," Gail Bialas, public relations director of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library, said. Bunch was the only person denied entry into the ceremony area.

Attending the event were Laura Bush, wife of Gov. George W. Bush, Dallas mayor pro-tem Max Wells, and other dignitaries.

Bunch had no problems distributing approximately 200 copies of the historic document while outside the building. "One can only hope that the Friends of the Dallas Library come to realize that the document is more than merely valuable, it is priceless," Bunch commented.

► There would be no lucrative tax funded pensions for elected officials if Libertarians were elected to public office in Texas. That's the message issued recently following the state party convention in Houston.

The LP-Texas executive committee approved a resolution calling for abolishment of all tax funded pension and benefit packages for elected officials in Texas.

"And when Libertarians are elected to public office," LP-Texas Chairman **Jay Manifold** said, "Texans will see a dramatic change in the wasteful and lavish pensions paid out to their elected officials."

The Libertarian resolution reminds Texans that the state constitution provides for minimum compensation for its public servants, with the expectation that these elected positions be temporary.

"In recent years elected public servants have granted themselves pension and retirement benefits far exceeding compensation allowed directly under the Constitution of Texas," the resolution states.

"We believe those extravagant benefits provide an inducement for permanent, career oriented government officials, promoting an entrenched government of bureaucrats," Manifold added.

Without the tax funded pension and retirement benefits, there would be less incentive for career politicians, and allow for political diversity in elected offices.

"This present scheme exposes the taxpayer to future taxation with ineffective future representation," the Libertarian resolution says. "Libertarians insist on less government, and individual responsibility . . . from ourselves and our elected officials," Manifold stated.

"... the Libertarian Party of Texas advocates and calls upon the State of Texas to end all government funded pension plans and other retirement benefit programs

funded by tax revenue for all elected officials in the State of Texas," the resolution concludes.

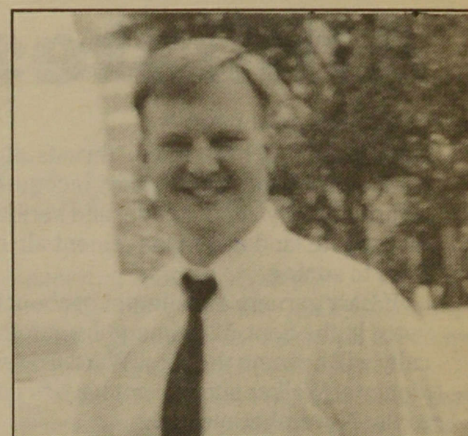
Virginia

In mid-June, Libertarian **Eric Strzepek** announced his candidacy for the 25th State Senate District in Virginia and his bid to unseat a big government Republican, Ed Robb. The election is this November.

Robb is a former FBI secret agent and narcotics investigator. Since he's been in office, Robb has sponsored Virginia's "One-Gun-A-Month" gun registration law, and other laws including drug trafficking bills, bills that allow police to arrest a person without a warrant and without regard to witnesses, bills that grant the government new powers of eminent domain, and introduced a bill intended to establish a State Bureau of Narcotics—a special DEA just for Virginia.

Strzepek, 24, was born and raised in Charlottesville, VA. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara and just finished a research assistantship working on environmental issues at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. He's been a substitute teacher at Charlottesville and Albemarle high schools, taught high school students at the University of Virginia's Young Writers' Workshop, and has hosted a radio talk show called "The New American Underground."

Strzepek will focus on three issues in his campaign: The right to protect one's family by owning guns; the right to educational



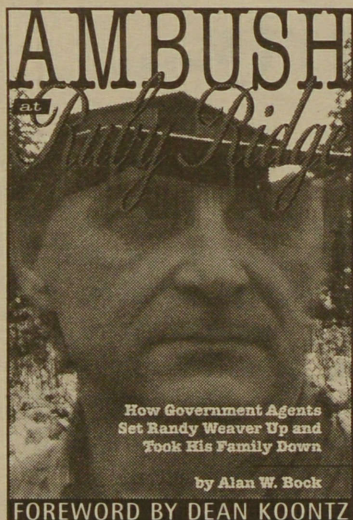
Eric Strzepek

choice; and the right to hold and control private property.

The Democrats and Republicans see this Senate race as the key for control of the Virginia Senate, explained campaign manager **David Morris**. Because of this, the race is highly publicized, with both the powers-that-be and the media paying close attention. *The Charlottesville Daily Progress*, the dominant newspaper in the district, already has said in an editorial that Strzepek should be included in all debates.

Strzepek has received a lot of media coverage—the local NBC station's nightly news, the front page of the local section of the *Daily Progress*, an article in the largest statewide newspaper, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and an interview on the most popular news-talk radio station, WINA-AM. There was even a political cartoon about him published in the weekly news and entertainment magazine, the *C-Ville Review*, with a readership of more than 30,000.

For more information, contact Strzepek for VA Senate, P.O. Box 884, Charlottesville, VA 22902; or call 804-961-8560; or e-mail: STRZEPEK95@aol.com



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'96 LP convention

Committee members sought

The 1996 LP national convention will be held two months earlier in the calendar year than past conventions. Among the dates made earlier by this shift is the deadline for the LNC to select members for the three convention committees: Platform, Rules and By-Laws, and Credentials. The LNC selects 10 of the 20 Platform Committee members, five of the 10 Credentials Committee members, and all 10 of the Rules and By-Laws Committee members. In past convention years, the LNC has made those decisions at the April meeting before the convention. This time around, the decisions are to be made at this *December's* meeting, which will be held in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing that the report of the Rules and By-Laws Committee will be considered only by a suspension of the rules, anyone interested in seeking appointment by the LNC to one of the convention committees should submit a resume to the National Office no later than Nov. 1, 1995. It should be sent "Attention: xxx Convention Committee", where xxx is the specific committee you are seeking appointment to. The LNC will give particular consideration, in regards to the Platform Committee, to individuals with special expertise or knowledge pertinent to the Platform — public policy experts, skilled writers, experienced campaigners, etc.

Members of the 10 largest affiliates also should be aware that they get to select one appointee each to the Platform Committee, and selecting that individual should be arranged so that he or she can start work with the LNC-selected members as quickly as possible. And members of the five largest

affiliates should apply the same foresight to the selection of their appointees to the Credentials Committee.

As of April 30, 1995, the top 10 affiliates, in order of membership, were CA, PA, TX, MI, FL, IL, NJ, NY, CO, and OH. Other affiliates with a shot at the top 10 slots are MA, WA, VA, AZ, and MD. This list is subject to change as you prepare for the convention by launching membership drives to increase your delegate allocation.

Finally, the deadline for determination of the relative strengths of the affiliates, for committee appointments as well as delegate allocation, is Dec. 31, 1995. Therefore the decisions of the LNC will all be tentative, pending final determination of the top five and 10 affiliates. The convention committees will not be able to start work, therefore, until 1996 begins. We would like to minimize any delays. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Speakers sought

The convention organizers want to present knowledgeable and interesting speakers at the July 1996 presidential nominating convention. Do you have the credentials to speak on a topic? Do you know of someone who does? To volunteer your services as a speaker, or to have us contact a potential speaker, please write with details to: Dave Walter, Speakers Coordinator, 1505 Cotswald Court, West Chester, PA 19382.

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- Marshall Fritz, founder of Advocates for Self-Government, Founder of Separation of School and State Alliance, and Black Belt Communicator
- John Fund, *Wall Street Journal* writer and ghost-writer of Rush Limbaugh's *The Way Things Ought To Be*
- Jacob 'Bumper' Hornberger, Founder and President of the Future of Freedom Foundation
- Carole Ann Rand, Advocates for Self-Government President
- Michael Rothschild, author of *Bionomics: Economy as Ecosystem* and President of Bionomics Institute
- Joe Sobran, syndicated columnist and editor of *Sobran's*, a monthly newsletter

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We're limiting enrollment in this One-Day Friday Workshop so that everyone can personally work with both Marshall and Michael. This experience will be unique and unforgettable.

As a special bonus attraction, Carole Ann Rand will personally conduct a section of the workshop entitled, *Assertive Listening: The Ear is Mightier than the Mouth*.

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Q & A:

The new Libertarian Party Headquarters

The Libertarian Party headquarters in Washington, DC, is now located in the Watergate Office Building. The move was completed in early July, thanks to the work of office staff and volunteers. The new office furniture did not arrive until after NEWS deadline, but expect to see photos of the newly finished headquarters in next month's issue.

In the meantime, here are some of the most commonly asked questions about the new headquarters—answered by LP Director of Communications Bill Winter.

Q: How do we contact you at the Watergate?

A: Our new mailing address is: Libertarian National Committee, Inc., Watergate Office Building, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037.

Our new phone number is 202-333-0008. Our new fax number is 202-333-0072.

Q: Why "Libertarian National Committee, Inc."? I thought we were the Libertarian Party.

A: We are. But "Libertarian National Committee, Inc." is our official business name, since we incorporated earlier in 1995. Of course, any mail addressed to "The Libertarian Party" will still reach us.

Q: What will happen to mail sent to your old address?

A: Mail will be forwarded from the old Pennsylvania Avenue address for at least a year. So, it will get to us—although it may take a few extra days.

Q: What about your old phone number and fax number?

A: If you call the old phone number, you'll get a recorded message giving our new number. Calls to the old fax number will be automatically routed to our new fax number for the next six months. After that, the old fax number will be disconnected.

Q: How does the move affect the party's toll-free 800-number information hotline?

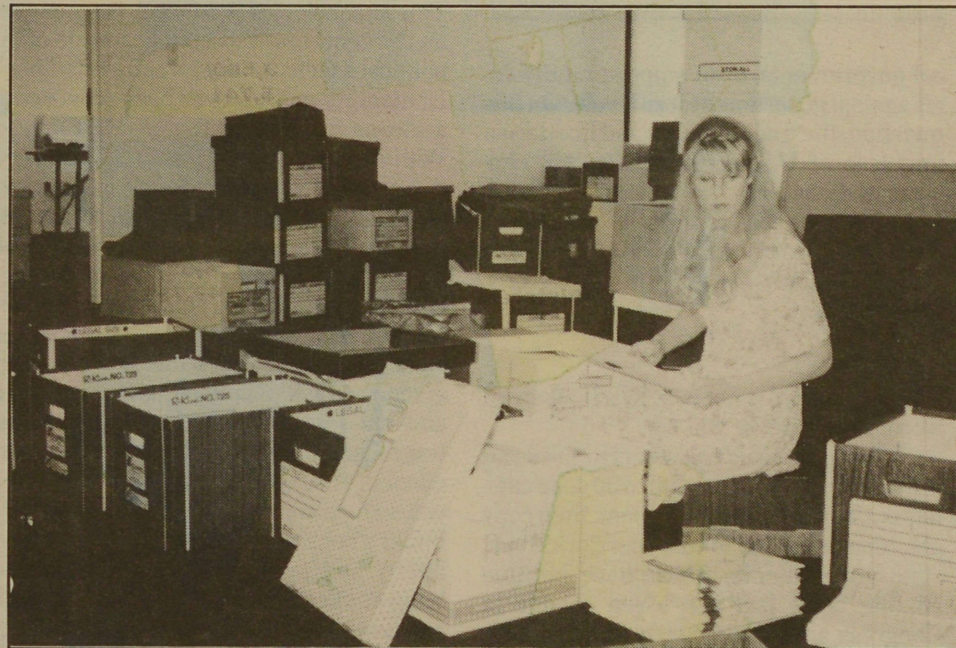
A: It doesn't. It remains the same: 800-682-1776.

Q: What about your e-mail address?

A: No change. The party's Internet address remains: "lphq@access.digex.net". Personal e-mail addresses for HQ staff remain the same.

Q: What will happen to all the national LP literature with the old address?

A: We will continue to use it. We're



NEWS photo by Bill Winter
UNPACKING - Project Manager Cynthia Fellows sorts through a few of the dozens of boxes of historical archives party materials. Important documents, photographs, press clippings, and other material will be organized and stored at the new office.

gradually using up our supplies of old material, and, as it runs out, we'll get it reprinted with the new address. (This includes brochures, platforms, Liberty Today, bumperstickers, Project Healthy Choice packages, Operation Safe Streets packages, etc.)

In the meantime, you can keep distributing all our literature, since any mail sent to our old address will be forwarded. (We have tens of thousands of pieces of literature in circulation, so we'll make sure it continues to reach us!)

Q: Are you going to have a "close-out" sale to get rid of old literature?

A: Probably—but only for those brochures we have in over-abundant quantities. Any special discount prices will be advertised in future issues of the NEWS.

Q: What about your old Business Reply Envelopes (BREs)?

A: Keep using them. We're running down our current inventory, and all BREs with the old address will be forwarded to us. We have in stock or in the mail a number of packages—including fund-raising letters, prospect information packages, and membership renewal packages—with the old BREs. So, don't be surprised if you see our old BREs in circulation for another six months or so.

Also, we will continue to use up old stationery, envelopes, and so on until new supplies arrive.

Q: Does this move affect the NEWS at all?

A: No. The address, phone, fax, and e-mail numbers for the NEWS remain unchanged.

Q: Will I receive a new LP membership card with the new address?

A: No. Next January we will mail the 1996 membership cards, and those cards will have the new address.

Q: What are your office hours?

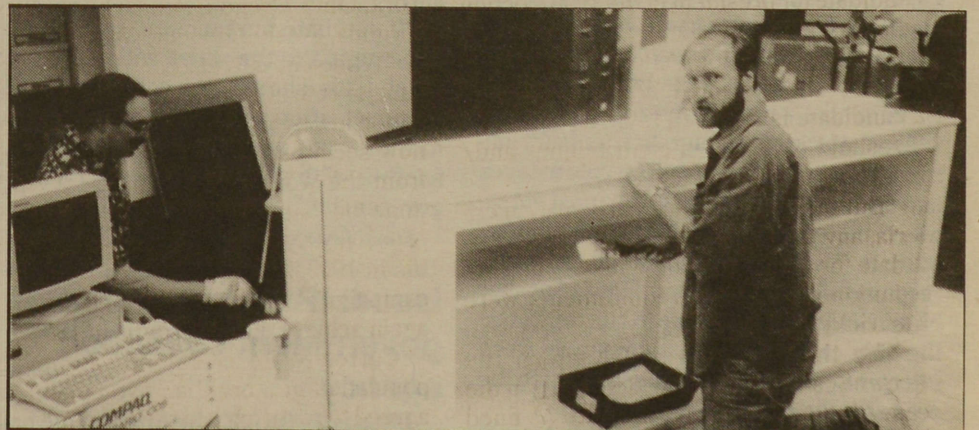
A: Same as at the old location. The office is open for business from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday to Friday.

Q: When will you have your Open House for the new office?

A: We're planning it for some time in September. We want to give ourselves plenty of time to get settled, get the office up and running normally, and plan the event. We'll send out invitations, well in advance, to everyone who contributed to the office furniture fund.

Q: Can I stop by the new office to visit?

A: Sure. But remember: We're perpetually busy, so we can't spend as much



NEWS photo by Randy Langhenry
THE WATERGATE PAINTERS - LP National Director Perry Willis, right, and NatCom member Dan Karlan repaint old shelves for the new office. Karlan volunteered his vacation time to help with the move, as did Steve Dasbach, Sharon Ayres, and others.

time with all our visitors as we'd like!

Q: Where is the office located in the Watergate Building?

A: That's a good question, since the Watergate is a sprawling structure, covering most of a city block, and including offices, apartments, shops, restaurants, and a hotel. We are located directly across from a Howard Johnson's hotel on Virginia Avenue, directly under the Riggs Bank. There's a sign outside our front entrance that says "WATERGATE OFFICE BUILDING." Take the elevator down to B1. (We are at semi-ground level, with office windows that look up to street level.)

To get here via Metro, take the Orange or Blue line to the Foggy Bottom/GWU stop, and walk down New Hampshire Avenue. We're a six- to seven-minute walk from the Metro.

If coming by car, parking is limited but is sometimes available at metered spaces on the street, or in the underground parking garages at the Watergate or the nearby Kennedy Center. (Parking costs more than at the old office, but it is safer.)

Q: The move must have been quite disruptive. Is the new office functioning normally yet?

A: Almost. Our new office furniture arrived on July 11, and we're still getting it all set up. However, our phones, faxes, mail deliveries, and computer systems are up and running, so most office activities continue as normal. By the end of July, we expect to have the office completely organized and operating at 100 percent capacity.

Q: One final question: How does the staff like the new office?

A: We love it! It's clean, professional looking, and respectable. It's also more efficiently laid out than the old office, with more usable space.

It is also, as we promised, the kind of credible and professional office that we can confidently invite the media to visit. In fact, a television documentary producer already visited us on July 10.

Talking points

Federal vs. state power, IRS role, new regulations

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty).

Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Issue: Federal power vs. state power

One important aspect of the conservative political tide that swept a Republican majority into Congress is the belief that much of what government does at the national level should be transferred to the states. Republicans who make proposals to this effect are quick to condemn various aspects of the federal government, and in so doing may seem at first glance to be supporting the Libertarian point of view.

Those who wish to replace federal power with state power do not, however, necessarily favor any net reduction in the power of government or any net gain in the autonomy of the individual. Moral and social traditionalists, for example, who generally have little or no enthusiasm for democratizing much of anything down to the individual level, tend to look on state government as a political arena in which important components of their agenda can be more effectively pursued than they can be at the federal level. In such instances state-level lawmaking represents not the reduction of government power but merely the more effective use of it. Another point that Libertarians should keep in mind is that regardless of how its power is used, state government is, despite its greater geographical proximity to the people it represents, no more honest or responsive to the popular will than is the U.S. Congress, and is often less so.

"With the exception of Arlen Specter, the GOP contenders are scrambling to get to the right of one another. For example, Pat Buchanan, Bob Dornan, and Alan Keyes emphatically object to abortion, homosexuality, and declining U.S. patriotism as signs of statist corruption. Pete Wilson and Phil Gramm take a more libertarian tack, with Wilson attacking immigration and affirmative action and Gramm urging cuts in taxes and spending. Bob Dole is the most versatile, combining support for fiscal responsibility in Washington with a call for moral responsibility in Hollywood. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, if he were to run, might be the only candidate with a genuinely fresh interpretation of conservatism, which he sees as a form of progressivism.

"The difficulty for all these candidates is that opposition to Washington begs a crucial question: Is devolution of federal authority designed to empower state and lo-

Libertarian talking points

Charles D. Poe
Editor

cal governments, or to empower individuals against government at all levels? On this question, the traditionalists and libertarian impulses of U.S. conservatism will continue to do battle."

Charles Kesler, director of the Henry Salvatori Center at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, CA, in *USA Today*, June 9, 1995.

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"Devolution' is not exactly a household word. Pray it never will be.

"If the large scale transfer of monies and missions from Washington to 50 state capitals is a way to curb government, then copy machines are a way to cut paperwork. True, state governments, which have become popular since last year's sea change in Congress, are not completely without merit. They can experiment in various ways to end welfare and reduce health care costs, before the whole nation becomes committed to a new course.

"Furthermore, the states are closer to the people, at least in the narrow sense that citizens have to travel fewer miles to get to their state capital than to Washington. However, those who do make the voyage find it is no pilgrimage. By practically any measure the typical state government is even less responsive to its citizens than Washington. The major reason is that state legislatures are much less accountable than Congress and many are even more corrupt. . .

"In many state legislatures written records of votes are not kept, making it possible for legislators to vote for special interests, while informing the citizenry they voted in the public interest. . .

"Outright corruption is far from unknown in Washington but distressingly rampant in the states. When the Maryland assembly allocates scholarships, many are given to children of politicians, their friends, and supporters. Arizonan legislators have been indicted for accepting bribes to support a gambling bill. When the FBI set up a sting in South Carolina, so many legislators showed up, they practically caused a traffic jam. . .

"If you hate bureaucrats, shifting from Washington to the states will hardly spell relief. This should not come as a great surprise; after all, devolution is simply moving from one level of government to another, with little, if any, net reduction in government."

USA Today, May 25, 1995.

Issue: IRS as all-purpose government collection agency

Most criticisms of the Internal Revenue Service pertain to its actions in tax-related matters, but, as bad as these actions have sometimes been, there is now an even more

serious threat to liberty from politicians who believe the IRS should be used for purposes that far exceed the scope of its original function as a collector of taxes. This expansion of IRS power is supported on the conservative Republican side of the political spectrum as well as among liberal Democrats, and has even been proposed as a means of fulfilling the GOP's Contract With America.

"Just as a great many people in Washington think that it makes sense to use the military to deliver humanitarian aid, because it is more efficient than the average relief organization, so politicians are enamored of using the IRS to deliver social services. In recent years the IRS has been given the task of collecting student loans and child support payments, garnishing wages, and the like. IRS may well be more efficient than the Health and Human Services Department (who would doubt it?), but in a society based on a high degree of liberty and privacy, there are very troubling implications to broadening the scope and power of the institution most hostile to privacy, one that already has the coercive power of the state behind it.

"Do we want the already overly powerful tax collection agency to have additional enforcement powers? Isn't this ultimately the most pernicious cost of the welfare state? Corruption increases because the government is giving away money. So the government increases its size, power, and ability to intrude into citizens' private financial affairs in order to fight the corruption. As former deputy assistant attorney general Bruton put it, 'Every time we establish a new crime, we're creating a new mechanism for the government to check up on you.' Adding more auditors imposes a non-monetary cost that citizens interested in liberty should find unacceptable."

Lisa Schiffren in "America's Best-Kept Welfare Secret," *The American Spectator*, April 1995.

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"The Contract With America is looking more and more like an election-year gimmick. Consider the strange alliance that Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) has made with freshman Rep. Lynn Woosley (D-CA) to federalize the collection of child support payments. If Congress ever passes the "Uniform Child Support Enforcement Act" as part of the GOP's "welfare reform" package, then every state in the Union will be required to notify the Internal Revenue Service of all court-ordered child support decrees. Thereafter, the IRS will act as the collection agent.

"Sound like a good idea? Consider this, from a Hyde-Woosley briefing paper on the bill: 'Custodial parents will be presumed to have assigned the right to collect support to the IRS unless they affirmatively elect to retain such rights.' More insidiously, the IRS really won't 'collect' anything. Employers will. 'Wherever possible, collections shall be made through wage withholding or through estimated tax payments for the self-employed.' To make the bill more attractive to those who might not support it, 'when not enough money is collected to

pay both child support and taxes, child support payments will have priority.'

"As far as enforcement goes, the scary stuff is in the large print. The IRS will collect child support the same way it collects taxes: 'without judicial intervention. . . summarily. . . by seizing the taxpayer's property.' In short, it will use the same Gestapo-like tactics to hound 'deadbeat dads' that it uses to hound law-abiding taxpayers. That's exactly why we are doing it,' Hyde's spokesman Tom Chesno says. 'It's the most feared [and efficient] collection agency in the world.' And to show how fearsome and efficient the IRS can be, Hyde and Woosley quote an article from Reader's Digest that documented the agency's abuse of taxpayers.

"Most people don't know it, but in some circumstances it's already a federal crime not to pay child support, and the IRS collects child support from deadbeat parents if a state supplies the names. Yet it seems the party of Alvin Toffler and its futurist monarch aren't much concerned about the promise they made to diminish the power of the state. Instead, they will increase it by allowing the IRS to poke its nose further into the affairs of the American family and its hands deeper into the pockets of the working man.

"The Democrats were right. The GOP didn't offer a Contract With America. They put a contract out on America."

R. Cort Kirkwood in *Chronicles*, June 1995.

Issue: Anti-smoking regulations

The supposed danger of secondhand cigarette smoke is an ideal issue for bureaucrats who seek to enhance their power by reducing the options available to private individuals, and if scientific research into the matter fails to indicate a degree of danger sufficient to justify bureaucratic meddling, then so much the worse for science. The fact that the anti-smoking crusaders have in some states even succeeded in banning cigarettes for prisoners on death row makes it clear that anti-smoking zealotry is an exercise in social engineering for its own sake rather than a sincere attempt to make people healthier.

"A still-to-be-formulated OSHA measure seeks to virtually extinguish smoking from the workplace—bars and restaurants included.

"Its determination to intervene is based on a controversial January 1993 Environmental Protection Agency report that concluded that environmental tobacco smoke—also secondhand smoke, ETS, or passive smoke—is responsible for approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually, as well as EPA's classification of ETS as a Group A, or 'known human,' carcinogen.

"But critics, not all of whom hail from the tobacco industry, charge that the EPA massaged the scientific data in order to reach a desired conclusion.

"EPA's findings indicate a relative risk factor of 1.19. A risk ratio of 1 indicates the absence of statistical evidence of an illness—see **Talking points** on page 11

Lord joins militia shooting case in OH

Nancy Lord, the Libertarian Party's 1992 vice presidential candidate and a representative of Lawyers for Liberty, has taken on the case of Michael H. Hill, who was shot and killed by a police officer in Frazeyburg, OH, on June 28.

Hill, 50, was the chaplain of the Ohio Patriotic Unorganized Militia. He was described by friends as "very peaceful and very religious."

Hill was stopped by local police for driving a car without a proper state license plate. According to reports, the license plate on Hill's car read, "Militia Chaplain 3-13."

According to police, after he was stopped, Hill got out of his car holding a ".45 caliber semiautomatic. He was in a firing stance."

The police officer who stopped Hill shot four times, and Hill was struck three times. Hill did not fire his weapon.

Witnesses, other militia members, have surfaced who claim they were riding in a following car and saw what happened. They claim that Hill never drew his weapon; they agree that Hill was armed, but say the gun was in Hill's waistband underneath his shirt.

The incident has caused quite a stir in the small Ohio community, and a grand jury was convened in mid-July. Reports from the grand jury hearing will not be

available for some months.

Lord said she would be filing a "violation of civil rights suit" on behalf of Hill's wife.

Lord and Ken Adams, executive director of the National Confederation of Citizen Militias, are also urging that the investigation be moved to the state level.

"We can't trust the county to prosecute this case," said Lord.

Talking points

continued from page 10

producing agent. By way of comparison, a smoker's risk ratio for developing lung cancer is in the neighborhood of 10 or more.

"Various sources also point to a unique deficiency in the EPA's report, which allowed them to reach the risk factor of 1.19.

"Scientific studies publish results with confidence levels set at 95 percent, meaning that a 5 percent possibility exists that the study's findings occurred purely by chance. EPA's ETS report relaxed this measure to 90 percent, thereby doubling the chance that its reported findings of elevated risk for nonsmokers could have occurred randomly.

"In fact, of the 30 studies the EPA used in its analysis, only six reported a statistically significant association and 24 reported no correlation between ETS and lung cancer. Indeed, nine of the 24 studies reported that nonsmokers in smoking households expe-

rienced a lower-than-expected rate of lung cancer.

"The irony of federal manipulation of the science on secondhand smoke is that survey data show the marketplace continuing to adjust to its customers' desires.

"The National Restaurant Association reports a developing consensus in the fast-food industry demanding the absence of smoke in its establishments.

"The trade group also reports in a survey of its restaurateurs offering table service that 'approximately eight out of 10 respondents stated that they do have separate smoking and nonsmoking sections.'"

Daniel J. Murphy in Investor's Business Daily, June 14, 1994.

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"We had thought of a dozen amused things to say about reports of prisons that are banning cigarettes for inmates awaiting execution: healthy dying, smokeless

frying, no coffin nails before the coffin, any other last request? etc. But as we receive more reports of the successful banning of cigarettes throughout prisons and mental hospitals, we find ourselves less amused with the self-righteous forces of right-thinking about health. As the kids say, get a life. Prisoners and the mentally disturbed, to say nothing of felons on death row, should not have their more important anxieties complicated by being deprived of a cigarette. Denying cigarettes to the condemned makes it obvious, if anyone had not noticed before, that the antismoking zealots are less interested in health than in punishing behavior of which they disapprove."

First Things, June/July 1995.

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Thanks to the following for clippings used this month: Melissa Ryan, Chicago, IL; Scott Shreckhise, Roanoke, VA; and Research Etc., Princeton, LA.

LP in DE special race

Longtime Libertarian Larry Sullivan, who ran for Delaware lieutenant governor in 1992, is running in a special election for state representative on Aug. 12.

Sullivan is a seasoned campaigner and presents a strong, solid Libertarian image. His past campaign gives him a leg up on name recognition, while his opponents have never run for public office before.

Sullivan's campaign will focus on the issues of crime, education, and taxes.

LP state Chair Dan Beaver forecasts a voter turnout of about 2,000 with the Democrats splitting their votes between the other two candidates. That split, along with GOP defections and a good turnout by independents, should give Sullivan second place, if not victory.

For more information, contact Friends of Sullivan, c/o Dan Beaver, The White Clay House, 367 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19711.

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Letters

Comments on land tax, VAT, ballot access, more

Count me in

I am an 18-year-old high school graduate from Cincinnati, OH. As I have only been a dues-paying member since March, I am clearly not your average libertarian. I am writing this letter to show older libertarians that, yes, there is hope for the future, and to personally thank the LP for opening my mind on a great number of issues.

I first learned of the LP in September of last year, from (believe it or not) my Citizenship II text. Although I had grown up in a mostly Republican family, I had met a few anarchist-decentralist friends during my "heavy metal" years, and I had worked at a union shop during the summer of 1994, so I knew what was out there when it came to politics. But after I received more information, I found the LP's platform was much more radically freedom-oriented. In some ways, the LP sounded "politically correct" because of their pro-choice stand on abortion and support for legalizing marijuana, but then again, they also believed in "politically incorrect" things such as choice in education and the right to own firearms, two areas where I always had my own opinions. Well, I suppose that all I really needed after that point was sufficient time to make up my own mind. After I had seen the extreme left-wing agenda with ClintonCare and gun control this summer, and the extreme right-wing backlash by the Republicans in November, I knew that the LP was my only alternative to the two establishment parties, neither of which seemed to care about the average American as an individual.

It's good to hear that the LP is finally gaining ground at the national level. We need a major new third party in this country, big enough that the Democrats and Republicans in Washington will go down to defeat.

Here in Cincinnati, we are definitely very active, especially on taxes and the Second Amendment. The next time you see an anti-drug war demonstration on Fountain Square, I'll probably be there. . . just one more reason why I joined the LP. I love my country, but I fear my government. Legalize freedom!

Adrian C. Hinton
Cincinnati, OH

Flag

Recently Congress interrupted debate on a foreign operations bill so that they



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

could vote on an anti-flag desecration amendment in time to brag about it on the 4th of July. Afterwards, they resumed debate on foreign aid.

First they took away some of our freedom, then they gave away some of our money.

Why don't we just go all the way and amend the Constitution such that it is illegal to hurt people's feelings? That is what this is really about.

If this amendment is ratified, my flag will forever fly at half-mast, because a part of our Constitution will have died. The flag will represent an exception to the Bill of Rights. Both will be irreparably diminished.

The Constitution is supposed to protect the individual from the tyranny of the majority. It was never meant to be a laundry list of prohibitions.

Putting the symbol above what it stands for is illogical and perverse.

Scott Frost
Seattle, WA

Land tax

Harold Kyriazi's spirited defense of the land value tax (July 1995 NEWS) is worthy of consideration by all libertarians. Henry George crystallized the Lockian idea that government should not touch labor or the value from the occupation and use of land but only ground rent. We must convince our fellow Americans of the immorality and economic harmfulness of taxing income, investment, and savings, yet we must provide for revenue for minimal government at the local level. Privatization and user fees will not be enough. A land value tax will give us the moral high ground and a plan.

On a tactical level, libertarians must realize that America is not willing to jump on our bandwagon despite the popularity of our rhetoric. If we are to be successful in completing America's libertarian revolution of 1776, we must be able to provide transitional steps to a minimal government. The land value tax gives us a tool for discussing the human right to own one's labor.

As a candidate for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have added the land

value tax to my arsenal. I find it a useful means of discussing the elimination of taxing buildings. Discussing community ownership of ground rent allows me to be heard by the left and makes it possible to discuss libertarian ideas of community. I would be interested in talking with other libertarians about this issue.

Paul E. Gagnon
Fairfax, VA

74633.3520@compuserve.com.

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

A tax on land is a tax on living. No individual or group can escape the net by just living peacefully and honestly, or even self-sufficiently. In effect, it makes everyone tenants of the group powerful enough to impose their valuation of land and punishment for not paying. And the tenants are subject to rent increases that could force them to alter their ways of making a living and even force them from their homes. Some of them might not even value the "efforts of an entire community" that cause their land to increase in value in the estimation of their landlords. (An acquaintance from South Africa said the British initiated property taxes there ostensibly to pay for unrequested "improvements" and "services," but actually to force the tribal populations into the British money economy and therefore into working for the British.)

Not only does no person or group, including a majority, have a right to own land, but no one has any more right than anyone else to use of a particular piece of land. Since many people want to use the same pieces of land, all we can do is try to have a system of land use allocation that brings the most peace, security, prosperity, and freedom. I believe (and assume Dr. Kyriazi believes) the best system is one of mostly private property (i.e., exclusive access and transfer privileges) purchased or inherited by individuals or groups. (Ideally, free exchange would begin with the initial users of land, but alas, it's too late for that in most places.) Taxing land keeps us from having that system of free exchange and its advantages.

Kelly Russell Simpson
Redwood City, CA
krs@igc.apc.org

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To say the least, the letter by Harold Kyriazi (July 1996 NEWS), the Libertarian candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, was quite unnerving.

In my opinion Mr. Kyriazi seems to be a "compromising Libertarian". The political platform of a true Libertarian candidate would show support for less taxes, coupled with user fees for certain services that are

now being paid for by tax dollars. I wonder if Mr. Kyriazi fully thought out some of the quotes in his letter? For instance: "Ground rents are a species of revenue which the owner, in many cases, enjoys without any care, or attention of his own. Ground rents are, therefore, perhaps a species of revenue which can best bear to have peculiar tax imposed upon them." - Adam Smith

How does this relate to his support of land value tax? This quote relates to taxation of revenue. Is Mr. Kyriazi supporting what most Libertarians have been fighting desperately to destroy—taxes on our income? Here's another quote he did not think out: "The earth is given as common stock for men to labor and live on...whenever in any country there are idle lands and unemployed poor it is clear that the laws of property have been extended beyond human right" - Thomas Jefferson

Did Mr. Kyriazi ever hear of farm subsidies? Aren't these a cause of farms to lay idle? What about high taxation of farmland. Farmland today, depending on its location, is often assessed high because of its developmental potential. Is Mr. Kyriazi in favor of taxing farmland according to its development potential? Apparently so—here's a quote found in his letter to show support of this: "Landlords grow richer in their sleep without working, risking, or economizing. The increases in the value of land, arising as it does from the efforts of an entire community, should belong to the community and not to the individual who might hold title." - John Stuart Mill

What about the farmland preservation program? Wasn't this all brought on by representatives in government who to some extent unknowingly practice Mill's philosophy. Farmers sell out development rights to the government—Why? They are forced or else sell their farms because of high taxes. If these farms were taxed strictly agriculturally, not because of their development potential, the government would not be perceived as the farmers' best friend. This is yet another topic of discussion.

Since Mr. Kyriazi's campaign is based on that of a philosopher, I'm sure he won't mind my suggesting that he study the following quote. It truly is more in line with a true Libertarian.

"The healthy state of industry and wealth is the state of absolute liberty, in which each interest is left to take care of itself. The only useful protection authority can afford them is that against fraud and violence. Taxes and restrictive measures never can be a benefit: they are at best a necessary evil: to suppose them useful to see **Letters** on page 14

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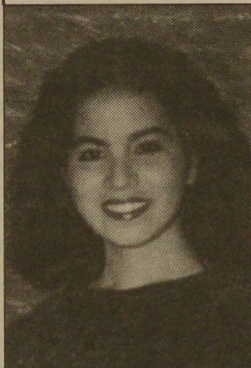
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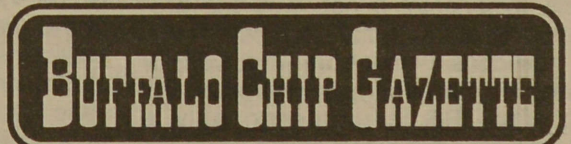
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Letters

continued from page 12

the subjects at large, is to mistake the foundation of national prosperity." - Jean Baptiste Say, from a Treatise on Political Economy.

H. Antoinette Hilmer
Vice Chair, Bucks County (PA) LP
♦ ♦ + ♦ ♦

I am perplexed by the letter from Harold Kyriazi regarding land value taxes. Kyriazi, an avowed libertarian, seems to be advocating a socialistic system of land ownership.

If the individual has no right to claim ownership of land, on what grounds does the "community" claim ownership and the right to charge rents? Who is this "community"?

Although it may be true that man did not make the Earth, ultimately he didn't make anything; he just manipulated what was here, using materials found on the Earth. To hold that he cannot own what he did not "make" would seem to obliterate all private property rights, with the possible exception of those items he was able to bring in from another planet.

Also, in instances where "... there are idle lands and unemployed poor..." does that condition coexist with a system of free and open markets in land? Or, is that condition an outcome of an elite few benefiting from a tyrannical government; a government that denies private property rights to its citizens?

And, how is it that increases in land values result from the efforts of an entire community; while increases in the value of other goods derive from individual effort? If landowners deserve an extra tax for growing richer in their sleep, how about bankers? Leasing companies? Shareholders in corporations? Beneficiaries of IRAs and savings accounts?

I fail to understand how one can except land ownership from other types of private property ownership, and quoting from "intellectual heroes" does not help me perceive the logic of the argument.

Mr. Kyriazi, please enlighten me. Or I will find an "intellectual hero" who will denounce your candidacy for Pittsburgh City Council.

John L. Pehrson
Grand Rapids, MI

More taxes

The July "Talking Points" describes flat (income) tax and a national value-added tax as potential options to support. If we take the position that for now some tax is a reality, then we clearly should support the VAT/Sales tax proposal, and not any form of income tax. Here are two reasons:

1. A flat income tax isn't, and is no simpler. And can't be either. Under a "flat tax" system, how does a business determine "expenses" for the purposes of taxation? Can an individual claim these same expenses? If not, why the preferential treatment for artificial persons? If so, how does it differ from what we now have, except in the number of tax brackets?

2. The IRS is unquestionably a government agency that abuses, ignores and otherwise debases our Constitution. The IRS is, by fiat, *right now* building a national taxpayer financial database with computerized links to legal and financial databases. I certainly don't want any federal agency with that kind of information—especially one with the record of the IRS. I'm willing to deal with the agonies of sales or value-added tax in

exchange for the demise of the IRS.

Richard Johnson
rdj@plaza.ds.adp.com
♦ ♦ + ♦ ♦

The value added tax ("Talking points," July 1995 NEWS) has indeed been mentioned from time to time as (supposedly) an alternative to the current system of taxes. But it is not an alternative that Libertarians should embrace!

There is of course the general issue that advocates of smaller government should not advocate new taxes. Even if we say "... but only if the old tax goes away," that's going to be overlooked, and our message gets all muddled. (Headline: "Libertarians support Democrat's new tax proposal." Ugh.)

However, the really important issue with the VAT is that it's a very bad tax. It's a politician's dream and a bureaucrat's delight.

VAT is usually described as "a national sales tax" but that's misleading. A conventional sales tax is imposed at the final sale to the consumer, and normally shows up as a separate item in the sales slip. So it only introduces red tape in one place, and people can tell how much tax they are paying. It isn't all that intrusive—certainly less than income taxes—and it's hard for the politicians to hide what they are doing.

A VAT is a very different beast. It hits at EVERY stage in the creation of a product or service. For example, suppose you buy a box of paper clips. Someone mined the iron ore, someone made the steel, someone turned the raw steel into steel wire, someone bent those into paper clips and put them in boxes, someone distributed those boxes to the stores, and finally you bought them. With a VAT, EVERY one of those stages is taxed. At each stage, some bureaucrat decides how much "value is added" there—in other words, how much more is the wire worth than the raw iron from which it was made? Then that added value is taxed.

The result: Now every one of those stages has to do more bookkeeping. Every one of them is going to be visited by snoopy tax officials. And the tax amount no longer shows up on your sales slip, it is just hidden in the price tag of the paper clips.

So the VAT is a bureaucrat's delight because it justifies an enormous bureaucracy with enormous powers. And it's a politician's dream because it's hidden; the victims can't easily tell how much they are being taken for.

In Europe, introduction of a VAT is a prerequisite for joining the European Union. That alone should make us suspicious. The VAT rates there have been climbing steadily, and are almost always in the double digits, often over 20 percent. But when prices go up because of the VAT, consumers tend to blame "those greedy merchants"—no doubt the politicians are smiling at that.

Make no mistake, even in the unlikely case that a VAT were to replace existing taxes rather than simply adding to it, it is something we should fight, not something we should support even slightly.

Paul Koning
Wilton, NH
pkoning@chipcom.com

Ballot access

The outrageous ballot access restrictions that Democrats and

Republicans are attempting to impose in several states has, at least, attracted media attention. Gerald Seib's "Capital Journal" column in the June 14 *Wall Street Journal* was devoted to their attempts to "strangle the competition."

The "old parties" think that measures such as quintupling the signature requirements (Alabama) will keep new parties off the ballot and eliminate a source of irritating questions and new ideas.

Through legal action and publicity, the Libertarian Party has demonstrated it won't roll over on these attempts. One further action should be taken: State parties facing high ballot requirements should vigorously point out to the sponsors of this legislation the consequences of driving the LP off the general election ballot. Namely, that it will just drive us into the Democrat and GOP primary elections! If they think the LP is an irritant now, just wait until they have to defend against LPers within their ranks. Here in Chester County, PA, the endorsed Republican slate for county commissioners had to spend an extra \$130,000 to defend against a rare primary challenge by a weak slate of anti-abortion candidates. Do Alabama Democrats and New Hampshire Republicans really want to start shelling out big bucks in primaries to defend their candidates against Libertarian upstarts?

If they won't play fair with the LP, then let's take full advantage of the easy rules they set for themselves.

Dave Walter
West Chester, PA

Paul

Silly season is here again for the LP and, as usual, these are the times that try the souls of real Libertarians.

Silly-of-the-Month Award goes to Ron Paul, erstwhile Libertarian stalwart and our 1988 candidate for president.

Rep. Paul, you'll remember, stormed out of Congress and the Republican Party in 1985, crying abhorrence of big government and burgeoning spending.

Now we see that Dr. Paul is contemplating running as a Republican candidate. In backsliding to the GOP, he is quoted as saying, "people are more receptive to the limited government idea." It would seem that when the Beltway beckons, LP principles can take a hike.

Yesterday's Libertarian standard-bearer becomes tomorrow's retread office-seeker on the very Tweedle-Dum-Tweedle-Dee ticket he derided in 1988.

Don L. Richards
The Woodlands, TX

Fallout

A friend of my brother ran a military surplus company in Bangor, NY, for a number of years with no problems. Last year he decided to move from the cold of northern New York to the open sunny climate of Kingman, AZ. Business was great.

Then he had the misfortune of having a customer come in the store to buy some clothes, someone named Timothy McVeigh. After the Oklahoma City bombing, federal authorities traced McVeigh's actions prior to the bombing, and decided to check out what was obviously a "terrorist supply house" in a town where McVeigh had been for a short time. The surplus store owner gave the police what little information he had, and presumably thought that would be the end of it.

No such luck. The government decided to park a surveillance van outside of his store. No one wanted to do business with him, for fear of being tracked and investigated as well. Now he has been forced out of business, all because of some casual business transaction with a customer who appeared no different than any other. This is an example of what's in store for us in the future.

James E. LaBarre
Chappaqua, NY

Secession

I am embarrassed by David Nolan's endorsement of political secession (July 1995 NEWS). How can we hope to succeed when our leaders express such a preposterous viewpoint? A breakaway region could very likely be hostile to individual rights...

If, today, one of our states wanted to break away and form a socialist dictatorship, would David Nolan and other LP leaders say "OK"? If the majority in another region wanted their own religious-based republic, would the LP say, "Sure! Go ahead!"?

Political secession should be rejected by Libertarians because it is not in the best interests of liberty...

When the libertarian revolution transforms America, it will encompass one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!

John DeMeo
Cumberland, RI

Editor's note: On the topic of secession, the LP's 1994 national platform states: "We recognize the right to political secession. This includes the right to secession by political entities, private groups, or individuals. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others."

New hope?

The recent Supreme Court decision striking down term limit laws may be exploited by the LP in its constant fight for ballot access. My understanding of the reasoning behind the Supreme Court decision is that the states do not have the power to regulate who may become a congressperson since they, the states, could not have been reserved such power under the 10th Amendment to the Constitution since the issue of Congress is created by the Constitution.

Similarly, might we, the LP, using the same reasoning, bring a suit in federal court seeking to overturn any discriminatory ballot access for our candidates for federal office?

That such blatantly discriminatory laws have stood this long is an example that power corrupts. I believe we may very well succeed if we seek to strike down such laws not on a state basis but in federal court using the new tool the Supreme Court has handed to us. Though challenges have had limited results in the past, the Supreme Court has just taken away state power over federal elections. Let us try anew.

The end result may be either uniform rules written or sanctioned by Congress, and though written by the same two parties that have written the laws in the 50 states, at least such new laws would be written on the national scene where wider public scrutiny and involvement is possible.

Daniel Gubin, M.D.
Coosada, AL

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Upcoming Events

July 29, 1995:

Alabama LP Convention, Montgomery; for information call 334-265-1770. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jo Jorgensen, and Jacob Hornberger.

Aug. 19, 1995:

Brass Roots '95—Second Annual 2nd Amendment Rally, Capitol building, Lansing, MI; for information call 810-399-9177 or write Brass Roots, P.O. Box 246, Hazel Park, MI 48030. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jon Coon, and Larry Pratt.

Aug. 26, 1995:

South Dakota LP Convention, Radisson Hotel, Sioux Falls; for information call 800-639-2623 or 605-255-4032. Speakers include Tim Slagle.

Aug. 26-27, 1995:

Libertarian Party National Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL; for information call 202-543-1988.

Sept. 9, 1995:

Second Annual Liberty Fair, sponsored by the Miami Valley Libertarian Party, Enon Beach, Dayton, OH; for information call 513-845-9980 or 513-335-8297.

Sept. 23, 1995:

Connecticut LP Convention, Tara Stamford Hotel, Stamford; for information call Mark Tuniewicz at 203-777-7498. Speakers include Harry Browne, Rick Tompkins, Irwin Schiff, Jo Jorgensen, Perry Willis, Tamara Clark, and keynote speaker Gene Burns.

Sept. 30, 1995:

West Virginia LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Clarksburg/Bridgeport; for information contact John K. Brown at 800-950-3421 or 304-757-3821. Speakers include Harry Browne, Irwin Schiff, Jo Jorgensen, and Bill Winter.

Oct. 6-8, 1995:

The Advocates for Self-Government's 10th Anniversary Summit Conference, Atlanta Airport Hilton & Towers Hotel, Atlanta, GA; for information call 404-471-1304. Speakers include Marshall Fritz, Jacob Hornberger, Doug Bandow, John Fund, Joe Sobran, Mary Ruwart, Doug Casey, Michael Rothschild, Michael Emerling Cloud, and more.

Oct. 6-8, 1995:

FIJAcon III - Fully Informed Jury Association third national conference, Crystal Inn, Salt Lake City, UT; for information call 406-793-5550. Talks, panels, debates on jury veto power.

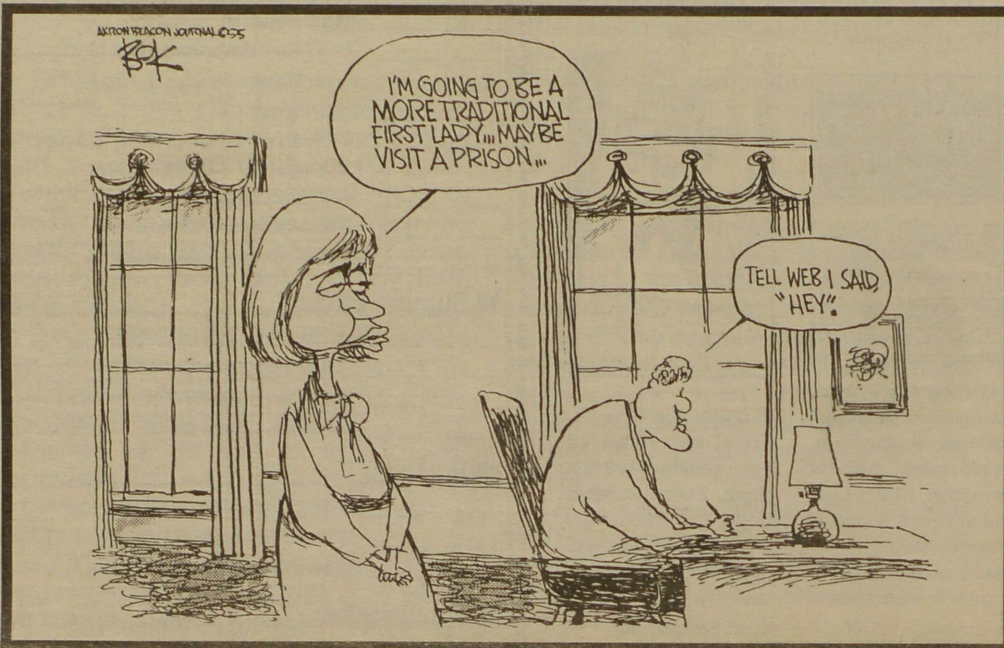
Oct. 14-19, 1995:

ISIL 1995 World Libertarian Conference, Hotel Zafolia, Athens, Greece; for information call 416-964-0142. Speakers include Barbara Branden, Jarret Wollstein, Louk Jongen (Holland), Constantine Christide (Greece), and more.

July 3-7, 1996:

1996 LP Presidential Nominating Convention, Washington, DC.

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



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Browne in
debates
page 1**

**LP joins
coalition
page 1**

**LPHQ to
Watergate
page 9**