

## Teaching Liberty to Brainiacs

## My Talk With Mensa

by Joseph Leibrandt

I was a guest speaker at the Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa Regional Gathering that occurred between February 15 and 18.

Mensa, an international organization for people who score at or above the 98th percentile on IQ tests, is friendly to libertarian views. The July 2007 issue of *Mensa Bulletin* contained such libertarian-themed articles as "Creeping Cryptofascism" and "The Second Amendment." The cover featured the Liberty Bell.

My audience contained about 15 to 20 lively people, so it was good that I'd planned an interactive discussion rather than a monologue.

I began with the World's Smallest Political Quiz. I didn't ask anyone to share their scores. Even so, someone proudly blurted that he'd scored a perfect 100 in both areas!

I recounted how I came to the Libertarian Party. How my

political beliefs have evolved since high school. I explained the origins of American libertarianism. That the introduction and preamble of the Declaration of Independence effectively summarizes our political philosophy. That the Founding Fathers, while defining the parameters of the federal government's powers in Article I, section 8 of the Constitution, still took great pains to specify individual rights in the Bill of Rights.

The longest portion of my talk was devoted to the LP, specifically to the national platform. I discussed each plank with regards to its underlying principle, and the LP's proposed transitional action. The audience responded favorably to the platform. One attendee recognized some differences between it and the previous platform, but most of my audience were hearing it for the first time.

I concluded by promot-

ing the websites for the Los Angeles County, California, and national LPs.

With all the questions and comments, I nearly overran my hour and fifteen minute time allotment. In the future, I mustn't waste time arguing with people who I probably can't convert overnight. Such as the woman who defended Aid to Families with Dependent Children. (At least, I think that's what she was defending.) Interestingly, the war in Iraq was never brought up.

I probably learned as much from the Mensans as they did from me. I'm glad I "lit the fires of Liberty" for such bright and receptive people.

Special thanks to Beau Cain and the LPC for the loan of the projector!

Joseph Leibrandt is Chair of the Orange County LP. Their website: [lpc.org](http://lpc.org). His email: [josephleibrandt@yahoo.com](mailto:josephleibrandt@yahoo.com).

## Los Angeles Events

## • Election Night Party

Philippe's Restaurant,  
1001 N Alameda Street, Los Angeles.  
Across the street (and a few blocks north) of  
Union Station.  
June 3rd. 6 - 9 pm

## • County Convention

The Los Angeles County LP will have its County  
Convention at Shaker's Family Restaurant,  
801 N. Central Avenue, Glendale.  
Lunch is \$20, open menu.  
Shaker's phone: 818-246-4994.  
June 7th. 1 - 4 pm

*"Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots who may resist the intrigues of the favorite are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests."*

~ George Washington

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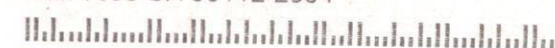
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California Freedom



Mark Hinkle, Barbara "Joy" Waymire, and Kennita Watson at the JSA convention, page 1

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# California Freedom

June 2008 The official publication of the Libertarian Party of California

## Teaching Liberty to Youth

## Libertarians Active at JSA Convention

by Barbara "Joy" Waymire

Seven libertarian volunteers staffed two tables at the Junior State of America's (JSA) Northern California convention, which met on Saturday, April 26th, at the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara. These volunteers distributed literature, collected email addresses for future contact, and engaged high school students by answering their questions on specific issues.

JSA conventions provide a meeting ground for politically interested students to learn about political parties and activist groups. The conventions are a great opportunity for libertarians to learn about the concepts and misconceptions held by today's youth—and to steer them back in the right direction.

I had a great time. The young adults attending it are such a welcome change from the crowds at most other political events. *They actually let you answer their questions!*

The event also proved to be popular with the students. It was scheduled to end at 4 pm, but was still going strong at 4:30.

"The most interesting new development," said LPC volunteer Lawrence K. Samuels, "is that many students showed an interest in reading a rather large, black-covered book, Robert LeFevre's *Fundamentals of Liberty*. This 487-page tome elicited smiles and appreciation when we gave it to students at past conventions, free of charge. This time around, students have returned to our

booth, and told us that they'd read the entire book and enjoyed it."

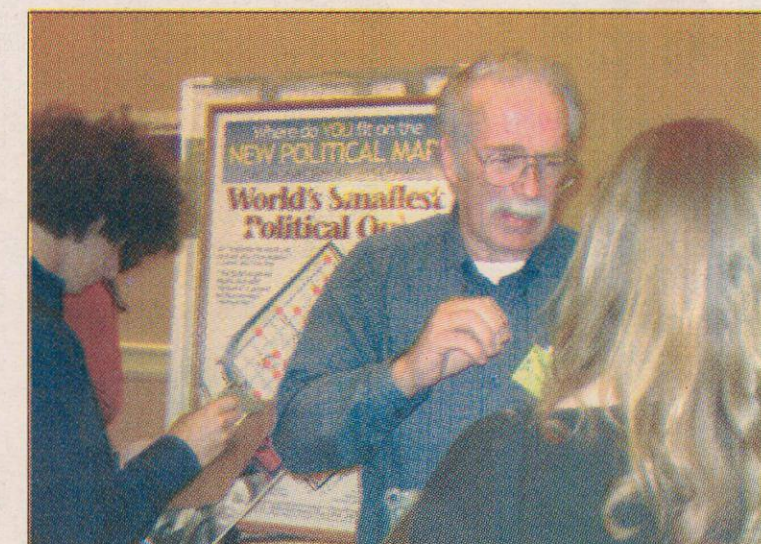
These young people will determine our future, and I'm confident that the Libertarian volunteers helped these students gain the necessary insight to make sound decisions for our future, and the future of generations to come.

JSA conventions are held twice a year. A Southern California JSA convention was held on April 12th.

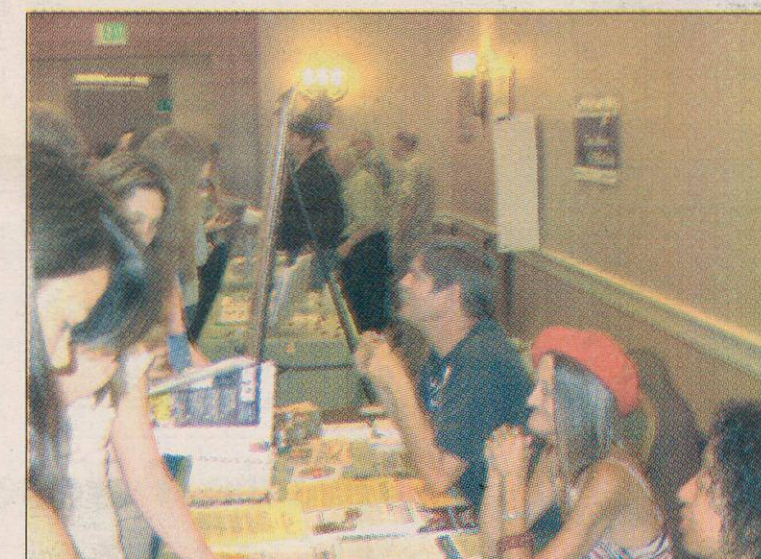
I look forward to participating in future JSA conventions, and urge other Libertarians to participate as well.

Details about the JSA at: [www.jsa.org](http://www.jsa.org).

Barbara "Joy" Waymire is Secretary of the Gold County LP. Her email: [joys\\_jpcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:joys_jpcnews@yahoo.com).



Tom Branson doing youth outreach with a Nolan Chart



Mark Hinkle, Barbara "Joy" Waymire, and Kennita Watson service the LPC's outreach table

## Left/Right Unite to Honor Congressman Farr

by David R. Henderson &amp; Lawrence K. Samuels

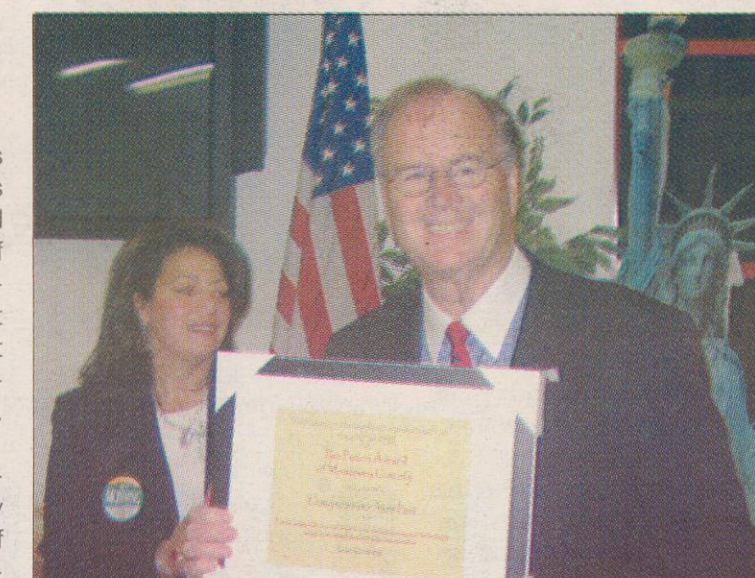
On March 29th, Monterey County libertarians and peace activists organized a Peace Feast to honor Democratic Congressman Sam Farr for his opposition to the war in Iraq and the US Patriot Act. Joyce Vandevere, founder of the Peace Calendar for Monterey County, also received a peace award for her work in the community.

The event was held at the Boys and Girls Club in Seaside. Over 70 peace activists attended. Attendees were treated to a big spread of Middle Eastern food prepared by Hanan Shawar, leader of Monterey CodePink.

The event was an opportunity for peace activists of

the Left and Right to discuss their similarities and differences about the causes of war and conflict. One tragic result of World War I was that those favoring economic freedom quit talking to those on the Left who opposed economic freedom but also opposed U.S. imperialism. And vice versa.

Today, many peace activists on the Left are generally ignorant about the causes of conflict. They do not understand that *increasing liberty helps mitigate the antagonism that can lead to violence*. Of course, many conservatives have likewise forgotten that Old Right principle, and are eager to trade liberty for an illusion of security.



Hanan Shawar of Monterey CodePink and Congressman Sam Farr

Yet even President Reagan (for all his faults), in his November 1981 Thanksgiving interview with Barbara Walters, said that governments in the U.S. were a greater threat to

our freedom than the Soviets. War and peace are the greatest issues facing our nation today. It's vital that peace activists of the Left and Right

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Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

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## From the Editor

# Both. And Neither.

by Thomas M. Sipos

In 1977, a high school buddy and I entered the West 38th Street headquarters of the Free Libertarian Party (as the NY affiliate was then called). I was visiting all the third parties that year, my curiosity piqued by the citywide elections. The FLP's office was occupied by some half dozen middle-aged white guys (some things never change), sitting around a table, drinking coffee and shooting the breeze.

Knowing nothing about the LP, I tried to understand it by first locating it on the political spectrum. I asked these guys: "Are you left-wing or right-wing?"

"WEEEEELL..." one of the men pondered. "We're both. And neither."

In over thirty years, I've yet to hear a better reply to that hoary question. Those few words sum it all up.

We are both. And neither. Consider this issue of *California Freedom*, which features both CodePink and the American Enterprise Institute. Antiwar socialists and pro-war neoconservatives, respectively. Where else can you find that?



Yet it's not so strange. Most libertarians are antiwar, as is CodePink's Hanan Shawar [page 1]. Most libertarians disbelieve in a manmade global warming crisis, as does the AEI's Kenneth P. Green [page 5]. Where libertarians find common ground with other political groups, Left or Right, it makes sense to cooperate—provided we never forget or compromise our own principles.

Of course, some libertarians support the war. And some libertarians not only believe in manmade global warming, they think government should do something about it. Not just "left-libertarians"—I've met a pro-war "eco-libertarian" who thinks so.

I've often said, there are more factions in the LP than actual members.

I'm writing this on May 10th, before the Denver national convention. By the time you have a paper copy of this issue in your hands, you'll likely know who is our presidential candidate. Conventional wisdom on

the libertarian blogosphere and supper club circuit says that, of the over dozen LP contenders, only six have a real chance of winning: Bob Barr, Mike Gravel, George Phillies, Steve Kubby, Wayne Allyn Root, and Mary Ruwart.

Conventional wisdom adds that, of the Likely Six, the Most Likely Three are Barr, Root, and Ruwart.

It will be interesting to see if there are any upsets. In 2004, Gary Nolan and Arron Russo were the Most Likely Two. The winner was Michael Badnarik.

Conventional wisdom (which is very talkative) also says that on the *libertarian spectrum* (as opposed to the traditional left/right spectrum), Barr and Root are preferred by the LP's reformer/pragmatarian wing, Kubby and Ruwart are favored by the radical/purist wing, and Phillies and Gravel are the "libertarian moderates" occupying some space between the pragmatist vs. purist extremes.

I don't yet know how I'll vote at the convention. As of today, I plan to cast my *token* for Mike Gravel.

You see, each delegate will receive a token, to cast for the candidate he or she would like to see participate in Saturday's presidential debate, to be broadcast on C-SPAN. A candidate must collect tokens from at least 10% of the delegates to be included in that debate.

This doesn't mean I'll vote for Gravel on the following Sunday,

changed to *Only in the good times and when you are well, or until I get tired of you, then we can get a divorce. I do!*

Of course, there are exceptions, such as mental or physical cruelty, that would justify a divorce. Some others as well. But nowadays, if you believe that your partner does not provide you with sex as you wish, that's a reason to get divorced. We've lost sight of the big picture behind marriage in the first place.

We seem to be doing the same thing in the Libertarian Party. We focus on all the little issues. Our goal should be focused on the big picture: *getting our candidates elected!* Working united in this effort, not divided between all the other issues. The small issues will not work out until we accomplish the big picture. Having our candidates elected will solve the small issues, not the other way around.

Are you in this to bring about change, as our country desperately needs? Or just to

when we select our presidential candidate. I may. Maybe not. But I'd like to hear more from this antiwar former Democrat, and I figure Ruwart won't need my token, so Gravel gets it. As of today.

Of course, Kubby or Phillies (or even Ruwart) may yet persuade me to surrender my token. We'll see.

This issue of *California Freedom* marks my one-year anniversary as editor. June 2007 was my first. Although everyone's welcome to submit, much of the material in this issue comes from the usual suspects. It seems not an issue goes by without Lawrence K. Samuels reporting on his activism—no wonder he won a Bray Award! Laura G. Brown's back with another film review. And we've two articles from Albert J. Segalla. Barbara "Joy" Waymire is a newcomer, but she'll likely remain a presence for many issues to come.

Former *CF* editor Elizabeth C. Brierty submits another piece from the Independent Institute. It appears to be her last. She writes: "I have departed the Independent Institute as of May 16, 2008 to launch a new, related enterprise." I'm sure all *CF* readers wish Elizabeth good luck in her future endeavor—and look forward to hearing all about it!

The July issue should contain many articles and photos about the Denver convention—but only if you provide them!

play around in politics, figuring it won't make a difference anyway? It is time to choose the direction you want to take in our struggle for Truth, Justice, and the American Way.

I'm shooting for the big picture. What about you?

The LP Women's Caucus has a website: [lp.org/mailman/list-info/lpwomen\\_lp.org](http://lp.org/mailman/list-info/lpwomen_lp.org). Barbara "Joy" Waymire is Secretary of the Gold County LP and a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Her email: [joys\\_lpcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:joys_lpcnews@yahoo.com).

*"When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one."*

~ epitaph of  
Leonard P. Matlovich

## Alternative Medicine

# FDA Doesn't Care About Your Eyes

by Thomas M. Sipos

Someone told me that at every Libertarian supper club, he sees people opening pill boxes full of vitamins, minerals, amino acids, herbs, and other health supplements. It's true. We libertarians distrust "established authority" with our health. Just see how they treat medical marijuana.

It seems there's also an eyedrop that may prevent cataracts and even regress existing ones to a degree. It may also assist in the treatment of glaucoma (the data is less certain on that). Europeans and Japanese have been using this eyedrop for years. Yet American ophthalmologists *can't* tell you about it—because it's not FDA approved.

I learned this from libertarian novelist and filmmaker J. Neil Schulman at Los Angeles's libertarian Karl Hess Club, on April 20, 2004.

In 1997, Schulman's mother, Betty (now 83), was diagnosed with cataracts. She was a poor candidate for surgery, because she was already suffering from thrombocytosis, an elevated blood platelet count that may result in haemorrhaging or blood clots if left untreated. Betty had been prescribed hydroxyurea to control her platelet count.

By September 1999, Betty's right cataract had worsened so that surgery was unavoidable. A haematologist assured Betty that her platelet count was currently normal, thanks to the hydroxyurea. Yet during surgery,

clotting developed in the blood vessels feeding the retina. The retina died within three to six minutes due to lack of oxygen. The next day, Betty was blind in her right eye.

The cataract in her left eye continued to worsen. In December 2003, at an eye exam at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Center, Betty was told that if she didn't have surgery in her remaining good eye, she'd go blind in four to five years. Yet there remained a risk that the same complication—blood clotting and blindness—would reoccur. Her physician dare not overdose her on hydroxyurea to control her platelet count, because that could lead to fatal internal haemorrhaging.

Schulman refused to accept this dire prognosis. He did a Google search and found that for the past several years, Europeans had been treating cataracts with an eyedrop developed in Russia by Mark Babizhayev.

The key ingredient is N-Acetyl Carnosine, a natural, non-controlled enzyme that may be sold without a prescription, over the counter. Several American companies sell it, but because it lacks FDA approval, they're wary of making claims, other than that it helps "soothe tired eyes."

Rather than surgery, Betty began using the eyedrops at the end of December 2003. Within three months, she noticed an improvement in her left eye's vision. To this day, she

sees. And without any negative side effects.

These drops may also improve overall eye health. I've used them for the last four and a half years as a preventive, and my vision *seems* clearer. My ophthalmologist has not noticed any harm to my eyes, so these drops don't hurt. Yet when I told him about these drops, he confirmed that he can't legally recommend them.

These drops are available through the internet under various names, such as *Can-C* and *Eye D'Clare II*. The latter is sold by Life Enhancement, which is associated with the libertarian-leaning Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw. I saw them talk at the Karl Hess Club back in the 1990s, on other health topics.

Info on the Karl Hess Club at: [karlhessclub.org](http://karlhessclub.org). Schulman may be contacted at: [pulpless.com](mailto:pulpless.com). Life Enhancement at: [life-enhancement.com](http://life-enhancement.com).

Or Google "N-Acetyl Carnosine" and shop for your best price.

### The Deniers

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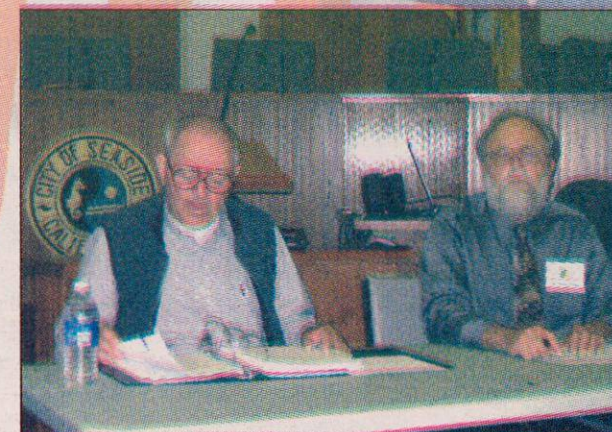
have read past that title.

It's a shame one has to resort to such tricks, but we cannot argue with success: *The Deniers* made it into the newspaper, and then into a book, which is a great achievement in these days of climate alarmism and intellectual bullying.

**Kenneth P. Green** is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. His email: [kgreen@aei.org](mailto:kgreen@aei.org).

## Fighting Eminent Domain

LPC activist Lawrence K. Samuels chairs Seaside's Project Area Committee (PAC), which advises elected officials in the city of Seaside. The PAC recently voted 7 to 1 to oppose extending eminent domain powers in Seaside. Because of this vote, the Seaside city council requires a super-majority vote to use their eminent domain powers.



PAC vice chair Albert J. Raska (left) with Lawrence K. Samuels

## Raise your Cup to Coffee Club Members!

We want to thank the following members who have stepped right up and joined the LPC Coffee Club since its kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

Kelly Barnes	Brian Foster
Bob Barr	Daniel Imperato
Suzanne Bell	John Inks
Philip Berg	Brian Miller
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Terry Floyd	

## Here's My Pledge to the California Coffee Club!

☐ **Yes!** I'll donate the price of a cup of coffee every working day and pay for it with a monthly pledge.

☐ One cup a day = \$ 42 monthly

☐ Two cups a day = \$ 84 monthly

☐ Three cups a day = \$ 126 monthly

☐ Five cups a day = \$ 210 monthly

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More Services, Less Taxes  
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airports provides savings that typically range from 15 to 40%. California general aviation airports presently managed by private contractors are Brackett Field, Compton, El Monte, Fox, and Whiteman

**Public Transit.** Competitively outsourced public-transit services have achieved an average direct cost savings of over 30%.

**Tree Trimming and Landscaping.** Cost savings from outsourcing these services typically range from 16 to 35%. In the past decade, private tree trimming has become more competitive, forcing contractors to reduce prices.

**Building Maintenance and Janitorial.** Cost savings from outsourcing these services typically range from 32 to 40%.

**Police Services.** Outsourcing police services such as funerals, directing traffic, responding to burglar alarms, citing parking violations, prisoner transport, dispatching, and other duties that do not require sworn officers, can reduce costs up to 30%.

**Fire Services.** Scottsdale, Arizona has outsourced fire services to the private firm of Rural/Metro since 1948. A five-month study concluded that Rural/Metro's "model prevention and inspection program provides citizens with higher degree of safety than that which was available in most communities... It has one of the lowest structure fire rates and fire dollar loss rates in the valley. At the same time the costs for services are low compared to other communities."

Westminster, California was

the first city in our state to contract with Rural/Metro, saving the city some \$11 million over the five-year contract term.

**Health Care.** Leasing or selling public hospitals typically results in substantial one-time revenues, plus increased ongoing property and sales tax revenues. Cost savings from outsourcing the operation and management of hospitals typically range from 20 to 55%.

Tuolumne County suffered massive financial losses over many years before quitting the hospital business. County leaders had wanted to expand their hospital services, but the county hospital had squandered so much money, less and less remained for other truly needed government services.

Let's encourage public officials to provide better services at lower costs. A first step may be to get the Reason report *Cutting Local Government Costs Through Competition and Privatization*, available online from Cal-Tax Digest, published by the California Taxpayers' Association. This book is also available from the state Chamber of Commerce.

Can we lower taxes, yet have better public services? Yes, we can!



**Join the LPC!**  
**Libertarian Party!**

Congressman Farr  
continued from page 1...

cooperate again. The Peace Coalition of Monterey County and Antiwar.com are doing just that.

In co-sponsoring the Peace Feast, Left and Right honored Congressman Farr for his work promoting issues on which both sides agree:

Farr has been a leader, along with GOP Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, in fighting to get the federal government to stop interfering with people using medical marijuana.

Farr has been a defender of civil liberties. He showed great courage, not just in voting against the *extension* of the Patriot Act, but in voting, shortly after Sept. 11, against the *original* Patriot Act. One of only 66 members of the House of Representatives to do so. Not for him that mealy-mouthed, "I voted against it after I voted for it."

In 2002, Farr showed a healthy skepticism about George Bush's "I'm the president, trust me" foreign policy approach. Farr voted against the blank check that Congress gave to Bush to make war on Iraq.

On Jan. 11, 2007, Farr authored a bill to remove Bush's authority to make war in Iraq.



Mark Hinkle and David R. Henderson enjoying the Peace Feast

Sadly, the bill did not pass. Although Democrats have a majority in both the House and the Senate, not enough of Farr's Democratic colleagues voted for his bill, and very few Republicans did.

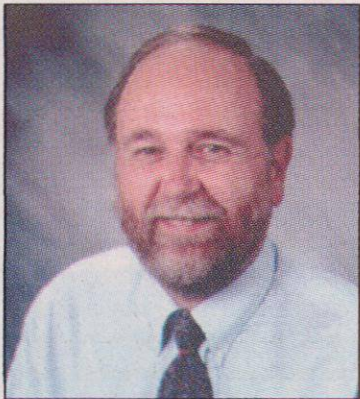
On Iraq, Farr co-sponsored H.R. 2929, a bill "To limit the use of funds to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq or to exercise U.S. economic control of the oil resources of Iraq."

On Iran, Farr cosponsored H.R. 770, a bill "To prohibit the use of funds to carry out any covert action for the purpose of causing regime change in Iran or to carry out any military action against Iran in the absence

of an imminent threat." On civil liberties, Farr voted against H.R. 3773, the ironically named Protect America Act, which passed 227-183 on August 4, 2007. This measure extended by 180 days an existing law enacted in the previous Congress that allowed the administration to avoid FISA court review for most telecom and data surveillance.

On torture, Farr voted for H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2008. This would have barred the CIA and others from using certain interrogation techniques, such as waterboarding or sleep deprivation, that are barred by the *Army Field Manual*, regardless of whether the intelligence community had deemed such techniques as legally permissible. Unfortunately, though the bill passed, Bush vetoed it.

David R. Henderson is a fellow at the Hoover Institution, and associate professor of economics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He's the editor of *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*. His email: davidrhenderson1950@gmail.com.



Lawrence K. Samuels is Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Monterey County, and a member of the LPC ExCom. His email: lawsamz@hotmail.com.

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Letters to  
the Editor



Ethanol, Gov't's  
Biggest Mistake

Ethanol may be the biggest mistake ever made by government. Ethanol subsidy has created shortages and raised the price of all fuels, because it takes more energy to make it than you get. On top of that, it's a weak fuel and

corrodes everything it touches. It has [also] caused worldwide food shortages because every calorie used for fuel is no longer available for food.

In a misguided effort to have greener cars, we burn more sooty-diesel fuel, making the air dirtier, starve the poorest people on the planet, bankrupt our airlines and who knows how many smaller companies. The fuel that could have

gone to make food is inefficiently turned into a less useful fuel, plus tons of useless rotting waste, decomposing into methane, a greenhouse gas.

Ethanol has half the energy content of gasoline, so we can only use 10% of our cars would not run on it. That 10% will ultimately corrode our engines into junk.

Yes, I know about the Brazil experience, but it does not translate well. Brazil is a tropical country where sugar cane grows like a weed, and they have no oil. It also took 20 years to work out the prob-

lems, and that included replacing everything that ethanol touched, every engine, every pump, every pipe, every tanker truck, every gas tank.

Congress and the state legislatures must act quickly to end this madness. When you find yourself on the wrong road, the answer is to turn, not to run faster.

— Ken Obenski  
Opihihi, HI

Because Ideas Matter  
Toward the Rule of Law in Foreign Affairs

by Michael T. Hayes

Presidential election year 2008 marks the 55th anniversary of the death of Robert A. Taft, who represented Ohio in the U.S. Senate from 1939 to 1953. If Taft were alive today, he could offer all the U.S. presidential candidates sound advice on how to move toward a safer world, without overextending our military capabilities.

Although Taft is often dismissed as a naive "isolationist" on foreign policy, his critique of internationalism has been vindicated on many points. He warned that even a well-meaning internationalism would degenerate over time into a form of imperialism, eventually breeding resentment against the U.S. around the globe. He also predicted—correctly—that a steady rise in defense outlays would inevitably lead to a "gar-

son state" and the erosion of civil liberties.

Journalist Nicholas von Hoffman, writing in the midst of the Vietnam conflict, accurately characterized Taft's foreign policy vision as "a way to defend the country without destroying it, a way to be part of the world without running it."

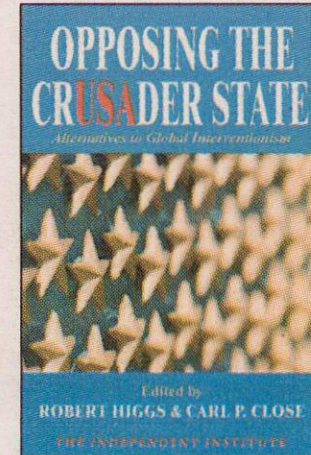
In opposing much of the New Deal and Fair Deal, Taft consistently sought to maximize individual liberty, while minimizing relationships based on power and control. He saw in the U.S. a society of free individuals pursuing their own diverse goals under the rule of law. He favored a free-market economy, less because it was efficient, than because it was founded on liberty.

Taft approached international affairs with this same libertarian philosophy.

After World War II, Taft called for an international tribunal founded on the rule of law. This would have established within the international arena the same regime he espoused in domestic affairs, maximizing the freedom of individual states to pursue their own national objectives, subject only to universally accepted rules of international conduct. This would have subordinated power politics to the rule of law and established genuine equality of all nations under international law.

As Taft observed, the United Nations was not founded on any underlying body of international law. Even worse, Security Council members' ability to veto resolutions cemented into place a permanent regime of inequality under the law.

While Taft's proposal for an



international tribunal may seem utopian, he was correct in noting the gap between the U.N. as we know it, and a regime that really incorporates the rule of law into international affairs.

As the world's only remaining superpower, the U.S. could lead in transforming the U.N. into a body which establishes in international relations equality under the law. Although prog-

ress would be slow and difficult, we could judge whether particular foreign policy actions move us closer to, or further away from, the kind of system Taft envisioned.

Clearly we are moving in the opposite direction, pursuing homeland security through overwhelming military capability and the threat of preventive war. When the U.S. engages in preventive war, as it did in Iraq, and is considering in Iran, it asserts the right to indict other nations, to try them, convict them, and then to render punishment—all functions which, under the rule of law, would be placed in independent institutions.

Preventive war—read aggressive war—is inconsistent with the ideals for which we claim to stand as a nation. Both homeland security and international stability are more likely to be attained through the patient, incremental pursuit of the kind of regime Taft envisioned.

Will the U.S. prove willing to forgo empire for a different kind of system, one in which equality under the law begins to supersede power as the basis for international relations? Can we afford not to?

Michael T. Hayes is a professor of political science at Colgate University. This article draws from his chapter in *Opposing the Crusader State: Alternatives to Global Interventionism*, edited by Robert Higgs & Carl P. Close (Independent Institute, 2007). Publisher's website: Independent.org.

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## Understanding Property Rights Land Use Liberation

by Albert J. Segalla

Our current system is based on the assumption that government can and should control and direct human activity to meet socially acceptable goals, such as "preserving our rural character."

In 1970, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) codified the standards for all local zoning laws. Enforced under the state's police powers, zoning regulations create unintended negative consequences and problems that, in the public's mind, are unconnected to zoning regulations. This leads to more attempts at regulatory solutions, which exacerbate the problems.

For example, most high housing production costs are created by former or existing government actions. Zoning regulations restrict reasonable land use and density. Building code requirements discourage innovation and create delays. Uncertainties make land development and building a risky adventure.

We must examine the purpose of government in a free society, and, if government activity has strayed from that purpose, find ways to get back on track to preserve human rights.

The best example of a totally regulated society is the failed Soviet Union with its massive oppression of human rights. Do we want that here?



On the bright side, our Founding Fathers built a nation upon the premise that human beings have God-given or natural rights, and that the purpose of government is to protect those rights. Government, which is organized force, should never oppress our rights.

George Washington said: "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master."

Our human rights are best identified as the rights to life, liberty and property. This concept is defined in Fredrick Bastiat's *The Law*. Western civilization has over the centuries developed a body of law recognizing and protecting those rights, called common law or civil law.

Criminal law can protect our rights or oppress them. This is also true of regulatory law, though regulatory law is more likely to oppress our rights. Historically, all despotism has been founded upon regulatory law.

Property rights allow you full control over your own property, provided you respect the rights of others. Property rights together with the right to liberty create the right to contract with others—which is the foundation of the free market. Common law recognizes this, but regulatory law does not.

Advocates of expanding government regulation usually ask: But, what about the environment?

Free market environmentalism better preserves the environment than does regulation. Free market environmentalism suggests that environmental values are best advanced through private property rights, competitive markets, and common law liability rules—not po-

litically determined regulation and government ownership.

Only such a decentralized institutional framework for expressing environmental values offers any hope of integrating our environmental values into our modern world. Only private ownership allows for a system of voluntary exchange that allows environmental values to compete with other human values. Free market environmentalism is a radical departure from status quo environmental policy, yet it's based upon sound principles.

What does this have to do with raising cattle, selling widgets, or building homes? Simple. Prosperity and economic vitality do not derive from natural resources, otherwise, nations rich with natural resources would not live in squalor. We are prosperous because we are free! San Francisco was not built by the California gold rush, but by the fact that human beings could keep the gold they found. Property rights were respected.

In George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the socialist pigs seized power and special privileges because they were "more equal" than other animals. Are some special interest groups in our country "more equal" than others? How about the grocer who sells our food? The developer who provides our shelter? The widget maker who provides widgets and jobs? The rancher who raises cattle and provides rural character as a byproduct?

Government has become so expensive, extensive, and intrusive that many groups form lobbies to protect themselves. Today, lobbying is necessary; but sometimes these groups seek special privileges at the expense of the public treasury, their competitors, or their neighbors' property rights.

Orwell was right. All zoning ordinances should be rewritten for the purpose of preserving and protecting private property rights. We must find consultants with the background and ability to do so

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## Finding Solutions More Services for Less Taxes

by Albert J. Segalla

Our growing population requires more schools, roads, sewers, and prisons. Private sector advances in customer service and technology has raised expectations for more responsive, higher quality government services, at reduced costs. Yet raising taxes has become more difficult due to the 2/3 majority vote requirements imposed by California voters in Props 13 and 218.

A current approach to raising money for public services is to increase taxes for specific purposes by a simple majority vote, such as sales tax increases for roads and fire protection. Another approach is to raise user fees.

Yet one logical question is usually ignored: Can local governments reduce expenses to the extent that a tax increase is not needed?

Many communities have done just that. But it's not easy. A community must think "outside the box" of old government bureaucratic thought and tax-and-spend addiction. But communities which succeed go on to enjoy higher levels of public participation, more business opportunities, and less taxes and regulations.

Let's examine where this dream has become reality. The

following data are excerpted from a Reason Foundation study called *Cutting Local Government Costs Through Competition and Privatization*.

Houston. Eighty million-gallon-per-day Southeast Water Filtration Plant. The city put operations and management out to bid in a five-year contract, expecting savings of a conservative 10%. The winning bid came in with savings of 43%.

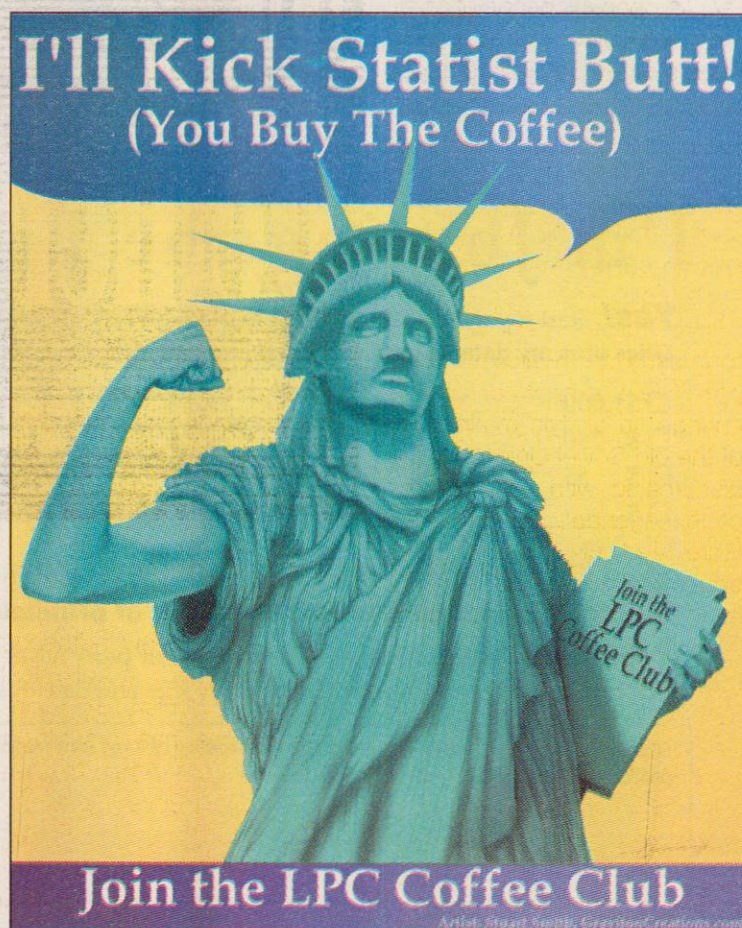
Franklin, Ohio. The city sold its wastewater treatment plant to a private company for \$6.8 million. Ratepayers are now paying 23% lower rates.

Outsourcing of road maintenance services typically saves from 25 to 50%. One study showed that contracting for private highway maintenance typically saves half the cost of delivering these services in-house.

Laguna Niguel, California. The city contracted for private street maintenance and saved 25% from previous costs—and citizens now enjoy cleaner streets. Response time in resolving customer complaints was reduced from 56 to 7 days over a six-month period. Number of complaints was reduced by 44%.

Airports. Contracting out the private management of

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## Film Review A Woman's Choice Under Communism

Review by Laura G. Brown

4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days. Director: Cristian Mungiu. 113 minutes. Romanian. Subtitled.

A desperate college girl and her resourceful friend must procure an illegal abortion during the last days of Ceausescu's Communist regime in Romania. You're not likely to see a clearer indictment of life under totalitarianism than in this engaging story, which won top prize at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

All events occur during one day, beginning with the pregnant Gabita and her smart, take-charge friend Otilia awaking in their cramped dorm room, as director Cristian Mungiu follows their plight in documentary fashion.

Remember the army recruiting slogan, *We do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day?* The U.S. Army has nothing over your average Eastern bloc citizen of 1987. One's daily struggle to survive requires a Rube Goldberg



setup of black market negotiations and deals. It's exasperating to watch, much less going through on a daily basis. Add in an abortion—punishable by jail time—and the task becomes Herculean. Otilia implacably

trades for soap and cigarettes, but also borrows money and books a hotel room while Gabita looks on, muted and immobile.

One of the glaring deficits of Romanians' daily lives as shown in the film is the absence of privacy. Bureaucrats dully demand to know your business at every turn. IDs are constantly checked. A general "it's not my job, it's not my concern" attitude prevails.

Booking the hotel room for the abortion proves to be a huge stumbling block. A series of snafus leads to a devastating sequence between the two friends and the abortion "doctor." This syringe-for-hire might be no less creepy that

your average neighbor but for the fact that state mandates have made him a criminal. He's equal to the label, calculatedly playing on the girls' fears about the late state of Gabita's pregnancy.

Libertarians will cringe at the debasing situations these women and their countrymen endure under a dictatorship posing as an egalitarian society. Some citizens of this Orwellian warren are more equal than others. Otilia goes to her boyfriend's family party, where we see a well-dressed, animated group laugh, toast, and bemoan the travails of the professional class. You too can have a slightly larger apartment and drink wine in crystal stemware if you play the angles of the Communist system. Otilia's worry for her friend, still back at the hotel, stretches the social veneer to the breaking point as

the parents grill Otilia about her family connections.

This director knows how to distill tension from real-life events, as when Otilia handles the last grim detail of Gabita's ordeal. Never have empty streets, random noises, or dark corners seemed so threatening. Without intending to, the film makes an excellent case for clean, safe abortions, and could encourage some enlightened discussion on this issue which has divided libertarians.



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## Book Review The New Dissidents

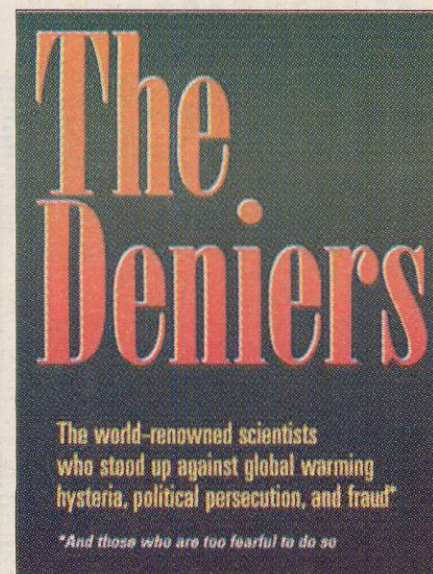
by Kenneth P. Green

The Deniers, by Lawrence Solomon, 240 pp, Richard Vigilante Books, 2008.

Once upon a time, the media believed in the open exchange of opinions regarding public policy. People who had doubts about one or another claim advanced by activists and crusaders could express those thoughts without fear of censure or ridicule. And, to be fair, that is still the case in many areas of social policy.

But there's one hot-button issue on which virtually no dissent is allowed: climate change. In a style reminiscent of the old Soviet Union, people disagreeing with any element of the agenda pursued by Al Gore and his climate catastrophists have been derided as "deniers," a term clearly intended to equate dissent with mental illness, if not *post hoc* complicity in atrocities (as in "Holocaust denial").

"Fifteen per cent of the people believe the moon landing was staged on some movie lot and a somewhat smaller number still believe the Earth is flat," Gore says. "They all get together on a Saturday night and



party with the global-warming deniers."

While only a few hotheads have proposed a physical gulag for the deniers, the mainstream press has created a media gulag. Former *Boston Globe* editor Ross Gelbspan urged the media to do just that in July 2000: "Not only do journalists not have a responsibility to report what skeptical scientists have to say about global

warming, they have a responsibility not to report what these scientists say," he told a Washington audience.

Analyses of media coverage show the three big U.S. television networks (CBS, NBC, and ABC) have taken Gelbspan's message to heart: in the last half of 2007, only 20% of stories about climate change mentioned skepticism or dissenting viewpoints. Essentially, climate catastrophism is treated as fact.

Fortunately, not all journalists have bowed to the politically correct climate crusade. Lawrence Solomon, a columnist for Canada's *National Post*—and the victim of an earlier smear campaign—decided to ask who these "deniers" really are and what they really believe. What he found is telling: "Among all the deniers I have profiled," Solomon writes, "I have never encountered one

who disputes that there is such a thing as a greenhouse effect, or that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas.... The arguments are all about how powerful the effect is, especially when considered in combination with other factors, various feedback mechanisms both negative and positive, and other influences that might or might not overwhelm the effect of CO2."

Solomon found that the "deniers" are, in fact, not in denial at all. They are merely dissidents from the political orthodoxy of climate catastrophism.

Gore would have you believe that these dissidents are marginal players in the scientific community. Solomon shows otherwise. In *The Deniers*, a compilation of his *National Post* columns, Solomon profiles 34 global warming dissidents who boast impeccable scientific credentials and, in some cases, mind-boggling accomplishments in the field of climatology. By my calculations (supplemented by Googling), Solomon's "deniers" have published nearly 4,000 articles in peer-reviewed journals and over 100 books. A list of their academic honors and high-level appointments would be longer than this entire review. The dissidents often have much more impressive qualifications than the climate catastrophists.

I wish Solomon's book were titled *The Dissidents*, so it could have been accurately judged by the cover. I only figured out why he didn't choose this title when writing this review: Solomon wanted his columns to be read, and he knew that many people have bought into global warming propaganda so deeply that they would not

been slandered as a global warming "denier" in the blogosphere, despite having never denied manmade climate change. I have felt the urge—as Solomon says his deniers have—to downplay my dissidence. Reading *The Deniers*, however, has strengthened my resolve. It reminds me that in dissent against catastrophic predictions and wrongheaded carbon-regulation schemes, dissidents are in prestigious and courageous company. It reminds me the stakes are high: misguided carbon controls have not only damaged economic growth, they have also caused environmental harms, from deforestation, to overtaxed aquifers, to the damming of massive rivers. More recently, misguided bio-fuel programs—which can be traced at least partly to climate change fears—have contributed to rising food prices and global hunger.

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