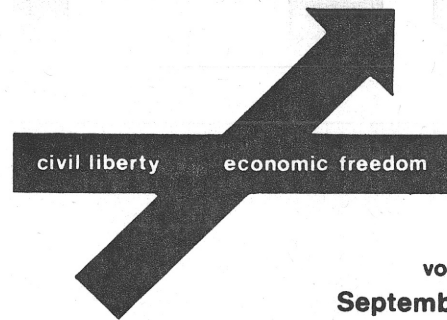


The Illinois Libertarian



vol. 1, no. 9
September 1975

THIS IS IT, FOLKS--

The Petition Drive and Campaign

The 1976 ballot drive is the most important project the LPI has ever faced. It is also the most vital, for without a ballot drive there will be no campaign--and without a campaign, there need be no party. Since thousands of hours of effort will be wasted --and our primary purpose defeated--if we fail to get on the ballot, it is most important that our petition drive be well organized. The suggestions that follow are from a convention seminar headed by Howie Rich of New York, temporary National Ballot Drive Coordinator [as recorded by Jeff Smith]:

There are three main positions in the organization: field director, inside coordinator, and legal expert.

The field director has general responsibility for the campaign and, in particular, directs the actual signature gatherers. Under him are six or seven zone captains, each with responsibility for gathering signatures in a different area of the state. If possible, they should meet weekly with the field director. The individual signature collector turns his/her signatures in daily to the inside coordinator.

The inside coordinator is responsible for whatever processing must be done to the signatures. He keeps a tally, and might check how many signatures are good (i.e., are not challengeable). In Illinois door-to-door campaigns, he would prepare from the list of registered voters a list suitable for the individual field workers, hopefully indicating who has not voted in the primary and is therefore eligible to sign our petition. He also has responsibility for collating, xeroxing (important both for

(continued on page 6)

LP CONVENTION REPORT

by Jeff Smith, Delegation Sec'y

After a series of machinations that many of the 248 delegates to the LP National Convention were distressed to find in their party, the 1976 Presidential ticket emerged as Roger MacBride of Virginia and David Bergland of California.

The convention proceeded surprisingly smoothly until Saturday afternoon. The question of the size of the Virginia delegation, which had plagued the National Ex-Com meeting in Chicago, was resolved in the Credentials Committee and unchallenged on the floor. (Virginia was given 5 delegates of the 7 they claimed.) Changes in the Constitution, By-Laws, and Convention Rules, instead of being considered all at once, were taken up only as they affected convention business. It turned out that only changes which did affect convention business were considered. Of these, the most important were provisions inserting a "None of the Above" alternative in elections for President, Vice-President, and party officers, and providing for cumulative voting for ExCom members-at-large.

The platform was generally conceded to have become more radical, due to the influence of Murray Rothbard and Bill Evers. It also became longer and more specific, listing more examples of victimless crimes, military injustices, gun laws, treaties, etc., that we oppose. Areas with their own new planks include freedom of religion, internal security, postal service, Social Security, civil service, campaign finance laws, law of the sea, international money, disarmament, the Middle East, and independence of American colonies. Dropped were planks on the volunteer army, interim economic reforms, and currency exchange rates.

(continued on page 5)

THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE--
WRITING HISTORY

by Joe Cobb

The Libertarian Party Platform consumed two full days and nights at the 1975 National Convention, and before that, two days and nights in committee. Libertarians are concerned with ideas and principles, and the four days are evidence of the seriousness with which the choice of words is taken. The 1975 Platform is different in subtle ways from the 1974 Platform, which in turn was different in subtle ways from the 1972 Platform. Copies of the new Platform will be available from the national office late in October.

The Libertarian Party Platform is a "purist" document this year. This convention was the first that Prof. Murray Rothbard had been able to attend, and he and Bill Evers, Editor of the LP News and an historical scholar of extensive reading from Stanford, came prepared with a set of proposed amendments, additions, and rephrasings, which ran for seven pages and touched on almost every plank. Most of Rothbard's ideas were adopted--they were good suggestions. When the 1975 Platform is available, we recommend that you read the 1974 and 1975 versions plank-by-plank for a comparison; you will find the modifications interesting. Bill Evers is preparing a manuscript which will give footnote references and commentary on the historical meaning of certain positions, and a reference bibliography. This will be an interesting document for students, of course, but it will not be included with the basic Platform available from the National LP.

Unlike last year, the 1975 Platform probably should not be used as the basic document for introducing non-Libertarians to the Party. Roger MacBride will have his new book, The Libertarian Challenge to America, available by the first of the year. The first two chapters of this book were available at the banquet following the convention. MacBride's book is an excellent political monograph for new recruits. The national office has developed various single-issue position papers, which are also very well done and make the case for liberty in step-by-step analysis. The 1975 Platform

is short, direct, and uncompromising--typically without background discussion of the issues. It is not a good introductory document.

The Platform is meant to be an elaboration and specification of the Statement of Principles (which was not changed from 1974). As such, it gives an interesting juxtaposition of issues. Every plank is a libertarian statement. Conservatives would agree with about 60%, Liberals would agree with about 60%, and wishy-washy people would agree with about 60%. The reason these people would disagree with the balance (and with each other) is unfortunately because only serious Libertarians place a high value on consistency and principle. You might have some challenging discussions with your friends identifying the principles behind the issues they may disagree or agree on--and getting them involved in studying or reading more about those issues. Among other subtle points underlying certain Platform Committee proposals was a consideration of the "entitlements"-vs-"expectations" theory of contract (a legal issue as ancient as the Norman invasion of 1066) and the history of American international relations (the Logan Act, colonial acquisitions by Admiral Perry and Teddy Roosevelt, and the Atlantic Charter, NATO, the UN, etc.). This writer could certainly profit from homework on some of these issues.

One thing was clear from observing the arguments and proposed amendments during the Platform Committee and subsequent floor debate: the 1975 Platform was less time-consuming and divisive than the 1974 Platform. In 1974 almost every proposal was met by passionate and heated debate, and it dragged on 'round the clock. In 1975 the proceedings were almost never off schedule. The debate was fierce, but nobody seemed to feel that issues which would split the Party were at stake. What is occurring, year by year, is the gradual evolution of a unified Libertarian perspective on the issues of the day. This will prove vital as the Libertarian Party begins to wield leverage against the Big Two, and to influence their rhetoric--if not their candidates. The reason for this gradual process is that at each convention the Platform Committee never starts de novo, but always takes the prior convention's

(continued on page 4)

LIBERTARIANS AT YAF

by Richard Suter

A dozen LPI members helped radicalize members of Young Americans for Freedom to the truth of Libertarianism at the YAF National Convention in Chicago, August 13-17. In the process, over 200 National LP membership forms were distributed, and hundreds of "Laissez Faire" and "Vote Libertarian Party" buttons were given out and subsequently worn by the assembled YAF delegates. LP Platforms and back issues of Reason were also disbursed to the crowd of supposed traditionalists--"trads" for short.

At the Libertarian Hospitality Suite, open nightly during the four nights of the convention, over 300 cans of beer and soft drinks were given away. The trads who dared to enter the hospitality suite didn't leave with the thought that the traditional sentiment was the only one; at least, the seed of doubt was planted in their heretofore thoughtless minds that there was something good about the prima facie logic of the Libertarian Party--the absolute free choice of man! Interestingly, some clearly senior citizens found their way to the LP Suite (probably because of the signs plastered all over the hotel) and came for what they, no doubt, thought was a free beer, and that's all.

The seniors had journeyed to McCormick Inn from Wisconsin, Indiana, and Iowa to get the word from Mr. Conservative, William F. Buckley. They found themselves in the hotbed of a political philosophy that does not make compromises on the basis of "what is appropriate." To the disbelief of many an observer, the old-timers, whose youthful passion had passed several score years ago, became believers, taking LP membership applications and promising to promptly post them with more than the minimum required tribute. In leaving, a small couple from Indiana, who must be winking at 80, confessed they were members of the John Birch Society, but that night had "climbed the mountaintop and found new hope for the young people of America--the Libertarian movement!"

William F. Buckley, the always-invited and always-appearing banquet orator at YAF conventions, made the appropriate brownie

points with establishment conservatives with his castigating of Betty Ford's comments on premarital affairs. I had always wanted Bill's opinion on extramarital affairs; but my timidity prevented me from making the necessary inquiry. The new twist in the Buckley line, the twist that caught my ear and disarranged my entire head (coming as it did from Buckley) is that "there must be a difference between what is appropriate and what is legal." To be sure, Buckley wants YAF to propagandize for what is appropriate, but admits that although an act may be "inappropriate" it should not be illegal unless it hurts someone else's body or property. This is the greatest concession that Buckley has ever made to the Libertarian philosophy.

Even more libertarian headway was made by Ronald Reagan, in his filmed address. Reagan, a YAF institution, didn't show at the 1975 convention because of the internal political strife within YAF, which saw California's State Chairman (a personal friend of Reagan) deposed seven weeks before the convention when the national office learned that California was bringing a chartered jet of delegates to the convention to vote against national office candidates. The principal "public" crime of the group purged was that they were libertarians. Possibly because of this, Reagan announced that "libertarianism is the very heart of conservatism."

At best, only 25% of the YAF delegates fully understand what Libertarianism really is, and probably less than 10% of the practicing conservatives (members of the American Conservative Union or the Conservative Caucus) realize that the Libertarian Party exists. This situation presents a great challenge for Libertarians to convert the already initiated conservatives; Libertarianism is the very heart and soul... In fact, YAF's current major drive, Zero Government Growth (ZGG), and a similar drive by ACU give Libertarians the best material possible. Every argument used for the limitation of further government growth can be used to argue for the abolishment of government interference in citizen's lives. What preconditioning, what a challenge! (The Conservative Caucus has signed up 49,000 members in the past 12 months.)

Libertarians bloom in conservative organi-

(continued on page 4)

PLATFORM (Cont'd from page 2)

platform and considers revisions. Any proposed additions to the platform must receive 2/3 support of the delegates. In the Committee, the new proposals had to pass unanimously in order to be reported out first. Those proposals with negative votes were reported out last, and the last ones ran the risk of not being considered by the convention for lack of time. In 1974 half of the proposed revisions were never considered for this reason. This year everything was considered by the convention within the available schedule because the Platform Committee spent more time and developed its choices of wording with greater care. Most of the proposals emerged from the Committee with unanimous support.

What are the most significant new platform issues? Here is a cursory list:

- 1) A stronger statement on victimless crimes and gay rights.
- 2) A stronger statement on "mental health" incarcerations.
- 3) A stronger statement against government secrecy.
- 4) A new plank explicitly favoring freedom of religion.
- 5) A more detailed statement about the rights of military personnel.
- 6) A slap at Right to Work laws as infringements of the employer's freedom of contract.
- 7) A new plank opposed to the Social Security System.
- 8) A new plank opposed to the Civil Service System.
- 9) A new plank opposed to the Campaign Finance laws.
- 10) Several new planks on foreign policy, giving a more explicit statement of noninterventionist principles.

This list is embarrassingly incomplete, and this report has been unsatisfactorily short. Unfortunately, I have forgotten many anecdotes and events which would be of interest to those who could not be in New York. It was a fantastic, stimulating experience to realize that we are now on the edge (if we all circulate petitions and do our political legwork) of making a major impact on the ideology of American government. Individual liberty was the idealistic principle of 1776, and nobody today takes that

YAF (Cont'd from page 3)

zations as petunias in a petunia patch. Ever since 1967, one of National YAF's principal tasks has been to keep the Libertarians under cover. The excuse for the cover-up is that members from the Bible Belt and those who hold allegiance to the Catholic Traditional Movement would be offended. Playing the role of being covered up is not altogether bad; probably 50% of the delegates at the LP convention in New York are former members of YAF. Let YAF recruit trads--the Libertarian covered-ups will convert them to the "truth"!

Even in the Bible Belt, YAF trads are becoming Libertarian activists. David Boaz of Kentucky, founder of YAF at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, is one of the most outspoken and persuasive Libertarian activists. He, too, is a very clever politician. He got himself slated as a national office hack for the National YAF Board. Having his election assured, he spent the convention pushing hard-line Libertarian philosophy and meeting the open hostility of YAF's Executive Director, Frank Donatelli, and a Senior Board member, Dan Rea of Boston.

Joe Cobb's fiery (literally: he burned his Social Security card) nominating speech and a seconding speech by Dave Boaz of 1972 LP presidential candidate John Hospers caused a stir. To the amazement of the National YAF staff, Hospers came in second, behind Ronald Reagan, in the YAF presidential preference poll. Paradoxically, National YAF's latest hero, George Wallace, came in fourth.

From the Libertarian perspective, YAF is becoming an ever-better organization. The neo-Nazis have dropped out of sight, and all the traditional thinkers are becoming increasingly Libertarian. YAF, with its \$2 million yearly budget (including subsidiary foundations), is a handy thing for the Libertarian Party to recruit seasoned political activists from.

* * * * *

idealistic principle seriously except the Libertarian Party. We can make a difference in our own lifetimes, if we try. For one, this writer returned from New York with a sense of commitment approaching that of a door-to-door life insurance salesman. The Presidential Campaign will be fun.

LP CONVENTION (Cont'd from page 1)

There were also several proposals of the Platform Committee that were adopted in less radical form by the convention. The committee proposals included support of the right to publish any information about government activities, approval of the abolition of federal secret police agencies, the FBI, and the CIA, reversion of all stolen property (e.g., Indian lands) to its rightful owners, recognition of Social Security obligations as a prime claim against proceeds from the sale of government property, and the disarmament plank. One radical proposal that was adopted reads: "We call for the repeal of all prohibitions on individuals and firms contributing or selling goods and services to any foreign country or organization." The Statement of Principles was not changed. [For more on the platform, see page 2.]

Roger MacBride was selected on the first ballot over Kay Harroff of Ohio, Guy Riggs of New York, and None of the Above [national and Illinois totals on roll call votes can be found on page 6]. Manny Klausner of California, rumored to be MacBride's favorite, had announced for VP at the convention, joining Tonie Nathan of Oregon and Jim Trotter of California. Trotter led after the first ballot, but was over 20 votes short of a majority.

At this point, MacBride, who in talking to the three VP candidates had been disturbed by Trotter's admission of a failure to pay income tax for the last 3 years, appeared before the convention. He said that he would use the power given him by the LP Constitution to veto Trotter, and would resign as candidate if this power were taken away. MacBride stated his fear that the single issue of tax resistance would dominate the campaign.

Trotter then spoke, respectfully disagreeing (all disagreements herein noted were respectful). He stated that in 1972 he made too little to have to file, and that in 1973 and 1974 he could not afford to pay. But he withdrew, leaving Klausner, now tagged as MacBride's man, and Nathan, who had received Trotter's endorsement. The results of the second ballot were: Nathan 110, Klausner 87, NOTA a meaningful 30, with 8 abstentions, leaving Nathan 8 votes short of a majority.

The growing NOTA sentiment indicated a deadlock to some, so nominations were reopened. By this time emotions were high, and people were searching frantically for a compromise candidate. Chairman Ed Crane sought a recess until Sunday morning, and after three tries and the nomination of John Vernon of Oklahoma, obtained it.

Saturday evening, the action, politicking, and rumors were fast and furious. Rumor had it that Walter Block of New York was being approached. That Jeremy Millett of Louisiana was being talked to. That David Bergland was flying in from the West Coast. That MacBride was going to veto John Vernon because of his identification with the single issue of gay rights.

Sunday morning began in a businesslike manner. The Chair ruled that the next ballot would be considered a first ballot (the new LP Constitution requires dropping the lowest vote getters after the fourth ballot) and that only Klausner and Nathan had been nominated. Then Block, Bergland, and Vernon were nominated, Vernon by an impassioned Robert Nozick speech, and all nominees were allowed to speak. Finally, MacBride appeared and withdrew his objection to John Vernon.

There were five candidates, but in the roll call it soon became clear that Bergland was flirting with a majority. He did not get it (your reporter gave him 109 of 233), but delegations soon began changing their votes, putting him over the top.

The next (and as it turned out, last) order of business was the election of party officers. Crane, Andrea Millen and Greg Clark were re-elected Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman and Secretary, respectively, and Fran Youngstein was elected Treasurer, all by voice vote. Crane received a few Nays; the other elections were unanimous.

A total of 16 people, including LPier J.D. Webster, were nominated for ExCom member-at-large. The balloting was secret, but it was eventually decided to report it by state. The cumulative voting system helped J. D., Frank Horn, Rich Kenney (Mass.), and Jim Blanchard (La.), but only the latter two won. The other winners were David Nolan (Colo.), Ed Clark (Calif.), John Hathaway (N.Y.), Phil Manger (Md.), and Bill Susel (Calif.). The convention then recessed to

(continued on page 6)

LP CONVENTION (Cont'd from page 5)

elect regional representatives, and was never able to muster a quorum again.

In Region IV (Ill., Ia., Minn., Mo., and Wis.), Dale Hemming of Minnesota defeated J. D. Webster 19 to 10 for the single regional seat. [Hemming's address is: c/o LP of Minnesota, Box 774, Minneapolis, MN 55440.] Winners in the other regions were never officially announced.

The convention has completed its important task. It is now our job to get Roger and Dave on the ballot so that the now mighty voice of Libertarianism can be heard in Illinois.

ROLL CALL VOTES:

President, 1st Ballot: MacBride 142, Harroff 62, Riggs 34.

Illinois Vote: MacBride 8 (Cobb, Cody, Dehn, Nelson, Osterlund, Smith, Suter, Webster), Harroff 4 (Boydston, Brockus, Kaplan, Parrish).

Vice-President, 1st Ballot: Trotter 97, Klausner 85, Nathan 45.

Illinois Vote: Trotter 7 (Boydston, Brockus, Cody, Dehn, Kaplan, Osterlund, Smith), Klausner 5 (Cobb, Nelson, Parrish, Suter, Webster).

Vice-President, 2nd Ballot: Nathan 110, Klausner 87, NOTA 30, Abstentions 8.

Illinois Vote: Klausner 7 (Cobb, Nelson, Osterlund, Parrish, Smith, Suter, Webster), NOTA 1 (Kaplan), Abstentions 4 (Boydston, Brockus, Cody, Dehn).

Vice-President, 3rd (and final) Ballot (after changes): Bergland 137, Vernon 36, Nathan 21, Block 19, Klausner 19, NOTA 2, Abstentions 1.

Illinois Vote (before changes): Bergland 5 (Brockus, Cobb, Smith, Suter, Webster), Vernon 1 (Osterlund), Nathan 2 (Bragan, Kaplan), Block 2 (Cody, Dehn), Klausner 2 (Nelson, Parrish).

Executive Committee (with Illinois vote): Manger 135 (2), Kenney 119 (1), Blanchard 119 (7), Nolan 118 (2), Susel 116 (3), Clark 115 (2), Hathaway 114 (6), Bobbi Jahn 95 (2), Bob Meier 91 (6), John Vernon 89 (2), Frank Horn 83 (0), J.D. Webster 79 (42), Porter Davis 75 (4), Bob Steiner 61 (3), Leland Schubert 34 (2), Martin Nixon 31 (0).

PETITION DRIVE (Cont'd from page 1)

possible legal challenges and for campaign follow-up), and delivery of the petitions.

The legal expert, if at all possible, should be an election law specialist. His most important work is done before the drive itself. If petition language isn't checked, and other possible pitfalls not examined by a legal expert, one may have to be called in later at a much greater cost.

These positions should be filled at an organizational meeting which should have the widest possible attendance. A questionnaire should be circulated to find out what days and in what zones people prefer to work. Volunteers should expect to work two nights and one weekend day per week. Even those with "inside" positions must take their turns in the field, since without raw signatures, all other jobs are meaningless.

Joe Cobb, head of the petition drive caucus, has appointed J. D. Webster as provisional field director and Jeff Smith as provisional inside coordinator until such time as they or someone else are approved at a full organization meeting. We do not have a legal expert as yet, but several people are being asked and we should have one shortly.

At the banquet following the LP Convention in New York, \$15,000 (\$1,100 of that from Illinois) was collected for the "30 in 76" Fund, the effort to get the LP on the ballot in 30 states in 1976. Here in Illinois, we have a similar fund; send your contributions and/or pledges to: the Illinois Libertarian Ballot Committee, c/o LPI, Box 1776, Chicago, 60690. LPIer Don Parrish has already offered to match the first \$500 collected within the state. (The national office has requested that we hold off accepting contributions for the candidate until all legal angles have been explored--but that still leaves us free to accept money for everything else, including a petition drive.)

No doubt this will all come up at the next general meeting (see p. 9). Do be there.

One more thing: We need 26 electors for the petition. The qualifications are: (1) that you be a registered voter who (2) will not vote in next March's primary and (3) will not be moving in the coming year. If interested, contact Chairman Steve Nelson c/o the Party. (We need candidates too.)

AN ANARCHIST CONTRIBUTION

by Steve Nelson, Chairman

LPI has been growing at a rate of 5% per month for over a year now and consequently suffers a certain number of growing pains. The organizational structure has shifted from the casual control of the officers and other volunteers to control by the monthly general meeting, and it seems needful to change this still again since the general meetings are populated only by a small majority of LPI's members, mostly from the Chicago area.

The small size of the meetings is a result of two interconnected attitudes: the desire on the part of a considerable and vocal faction to have formal meetings conducted according to Robert's Rules, and the desire by a largely overlapping faction to debate the minutiae of administration at considerable length. The resulting lack of informal interaction, combined with the protracted meetings, has made it difficult for new members to become acquainted socially and disenchanted many old members who valued the comradeship of the informal meeting.

Since these meetings are, after all, open to those who wish to come and change things, the situation is not intolerable. But this year's state convention will be another matter. This convention must elect new officers, choose state candidates, and adopt by-laws. Considering the protracted debate that accompanied the relatively simple matter of selecting delegates to the Presidential Convention, one may confidently estimate the time required for this last operation to be in excess of 10,000 hours --unless something is done to speed matters up. Further, if the convention is to be combined with a conference (and that would seem desirable, since the conference is the best recruiting device we have, and few people would care to make two trips to Chicago), it must necessarily be limited to a single day of perhaps eleven hours (!). No simple surgery will accomplish this.

When radical measures are needed, one tends to turn to the radicals--and the anarcho-libertarians have an answer that simultaneously provides for sharply limited debate and individual, voluntary representation. It goes like this:

- a) One first determines the total time available--eleven hours.
- b) One then subtracts the estimated time required for procedural matters; let us say one hour for all the elections and three hours for points of order, roll-calls, etc. The remaining seven hours represent the estimated time available for actual speaking by members.
- c) One then divides the total speaking time by the number of people eligible to speak (185 members by December); if each member desires to speak, they can do so for only 136 seconds.
- d) Each member on the rolls then gets a letter, exchangeable at the door for a pad of ballots and (let us say) five counters good for thirty seconds speaking each. The understanding is that the letters are freely exchangeable among members. If one wishes to be represented by another person, one simply gives him/her the letter. The outlying branches of LPI can send representatives using the same system.
- e) If the number of people actually attending the convention is sharply different from the full membership, so that speaking time must be cut or extended, the time value of the counters can be changed by the Chair, subject to appeal (the anarchists use a bidding system that closely approximates free market practice but consumes considerable time).

All things considered, this would seem to be the fairest way of dealing with our problem. Perhaps we should consider holding some of the intervening general meetings in this fashion, too, in order to practice speaking concisely and to work the "bugs" out before the convention.

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TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

In order that all interested persons in LPI have time to campaign on an equal basis, I wish to announce that I will not run for re-election as Vice-Chairman of LPI. My personal schedule has not left me with the time to attend the functions and meetings required of a state officer. I am continuing as an LPI member and remain dedicated to Libertarian principles.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Reis

"DEAR OVERTAXED"

by Richard Latimer

Thank you for sharing in the fun of our DuPage County Fair. We wanted to let you know the outcome and explain the basis for our judges decision. The contest asked, "Can you name one thing you own that has not been directly or indirectly taxed?"

First, the non-winners: Many entries named items of property which were obtained without charge, such as prizes, gifts, found items, pet animals, illegal property (?) (fireworks, marijuana), and even stolen property. All have not been directly taxed, but all have been taxed indirectly (not necessarily paid by the contestant). It is good to be reminded of the indirect taxes imposed on each stage of manufacture, on the tools of production, on the salaries of producers, on the purchase of raw materials, on business property, on the transportation, storage, distribution, packaging, and sale of the product. . . . All of these indirect taxes add up to an estimated 50% of the price of many products. After obtaining the product, you still continue to have taxes imposed on ownership, transportation, and maintenance. Had enough? Read on!

Many other entries named parts, activities, or aspects of individual lives, such as "me," "my soul," "my psyche," "my big toe," "love," "sex," and even "knowledge." Libertarians would be first to recognize an individual's sole ownership of his/her life; but does this ownership escape the tax imposers? Life, love--existence itself is hit hardest by taxation! If you produce for yourself or others, if you entertain yourself or others, if you travel, if you communicate, if you buy or sell a service, if you offer employment to others, if you give or will a gift, even if you advertise for a possible sale, the tax imposers are there at each turn with their hands out (and their guns to back it up if needed). LIFE is literally taxed "from cradle to grave," from delivery care to funeral arrangements. Had enough? Libertarians have!

And now, the winning entry (there was only one): "There is no such thing!" After reviewing all the entries, the judges found only one correct answer in this country at this time. Everything is taxed, and the

AN EDITORIAL REPLY: NO CONTROLS!

by Joe Cobb

In a recent editorial, WGN-TV argued that Congress has failed in its responsibility to formulate a national energy policy. I disagree with the WGN editorial. On the contrary, we should all be grateful that Congress has not adopted a new scheme for regulating the petroleum market. Oil price controls will expire on August 31.

Contrary to popular belief, price controls are not keeping the price of gasoline and fuel oil down. The elimination of controls will not cause prices to rise. The price of petroleum may increase this year because of an increase in world demand, but retail prices are not under government control even now. Eliminating controls immediately and completely is what Congress seems to want, in spite of all the rhetoric about the little consumer. Look at their actions, not at their words.

The allocation program for so-called "old" oil does not apply to the price of imported oil or newly discovered oil. The price at the gas pump is already determined by supply and demand, and it will continue to be determined by supply and demand. What will change on September 1 will be the elimination of a tangled maze of bureaucratic meddling in the petroleum industry. Getting rid of government controls will certainly not hurt the American consumer. In all probability, the expiration of controls will increase the supply of "old" oil available. If demand doesn't change and the supply increases, the price at the gas pump might even fall.

We should be grateful to Congress for doing nothing. A do-nothing Congress is a Congress which doesn't hurt anyone.

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politicians today (both Republican and Democrat) only discuss how much to increase which taxes at what time. Libertarians have a different set of ideas about what a government should be and how it should be severely limited. Ask us more about our principles; maybe they're yours too?!

ECONOMIC FREEDOM & CIVIL
LIBERTIES IN OUR TIME,

DuPage Libertarians

MINUTES OF THE LPI MEETING

August 17, 1975

C A L E N D A R

Bob Randall, the Secretary, being out of town on business, Dale Nelson offered to take minutes.

July minutes approved per July newsletter.

Fran Holt stated that expenditures ran as follows: \$51.41 telephone, \$88.73 fair booth, \$66.55 ballot mailing. Net cash on hand: \$735.77. Room rent donation: \$8.50. Total Treasury: \$744.27. The Treasurer's Report was accepted on the explanation that National will reimburse fair booth expense.

The Will County Fair booth was cancelled due to the Fair Board's renegeing. Funds have been returned.

Mailbox mess continues.

The incorporation issue (which I have never really understood) was brought up to no very clear point.

John Reis will not run for re-election.

The December convention plans should begin now. All interested parties should attend the next meeting to get in on this.

The attenders then heard tapes from the three presidential contenders: Harroff, MacBride, Riggs. A general discussion followed on the merits of each.

Refugees arrived from the YAF Convention. The booth was a great success: all the buttons, literature, and general freebies vanished although nobody wore them at the convention. 1972 LP Presidential candidate John Hospers finished second in the YAF presidential preference poll.

Bob Osterlund moved and Steve Boydston seconded a motion to send a LPI recruitment package to all Illinois YAF members, subject to getting funding. This will also announce the LP national ticket. A cover letter signed by Fran Griffin (deposed Illinois YAF Chairwoman) or Rich Suter or Joe Cobb emphasizing the difference between Conservatism and Libertarianism shall accompany each package. Passed unanimously.

The topic of openings to the left came up but got nowhere.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Nelson, Acting Sec'y

28 Sept (Sun.), 2 PM, Riggio's Restaurant, 7530 W. Oakton Ave. (just west of Milwaukee), in Niles. In the basement, the LPI GENERAL MEETING for September. To be discussed: (1) Lending LPI's mailing list to the national party. (2) Selection of two delegates to the regional LP meeting in Des Moines October 4 or 5. (3) Organization of the petition drive. (4) Organization and planning of the December state convention/conference.

1 Oct (Wed.), 8 PM, at J. D. Webster's, 746 N. Lombard Ave., Oak Park (386-6148), a meeting of TANSTAAFL, the libertarian science fiction club. Come help make plans for the club and/or volunteer for WINDYCON (see below).

2 Oct (Thurs.), at the Randall's 1536 W. Farwell, 2C, Chicago (312/973-2199). A meeting of the NOTA CLUB (north Chicago and north/northwest suburban libertarians). 8 PM business, 9 PM socializing. (Anyone interested in manning/womaning tables at university orientation nights should call Mike Kostka at 312/248-2280.)

3-5 Oct (Fri. thru Sun.), The Ascot House, 11th Street & Michigan Ave., Chicago. TANSTAAFL, the lib sci-fi club, will host a table and hospitality suite at the WINDYCON sci-fi convention. Call Mike Kostka (see above) for more info.

7 Oct (Tues.). LPI OFFICERS MEETING. For t & pl, call Steve Nelson, 312/969-1088.

11 Oct (Sat.). NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.

18 Oct (Sat.). Publish ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN.

19 Oct (Sun.), 2 PM, The Pickle Barrel, Howard & Western (SW corner), Chicago, a LUDWIG VON MISES BIRTHDAY PARTY. All the bagels and lox and scrambled eggs you can eat for \$6. Come after brunch (3 PM) and hear the speaker for free. Inaugurating a monthly speakers program by NOTA, ALEXANDER P. (Perry) PARIS, VP of a leading institutional brokerage firm and author of The Coming Credit Collapse and Reason articles, will speak on von Mises and Austrian economics. Send brunch reservations and payment to Carolyn Randall, 1536 W. Farwell, 2C, Chicago 60626, or call 312/973-2199 by October 10.

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N E W S N O T E S
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WHIRLIGIG: Joe Cobb appeared on Bill Men-
carow's "Dialogue" show (WYCA-FM) on Sept.
8, handling the usually difficult call-in
audience with an unaccustomed ease. Before
that, on August 22, Joe rebutted a WGN edi-
torial on both radio and TV (see page 8 for
text). He also gave the nominating speech
for Roger MacBride at the LP Convention in
New York, not to mention the nominating
speech for John Hospers at the YAF Con-
vention in Chicago. (Where's he get his go?)

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SORRY, SARAH: You remember Sarah, the 24-
foot long reclining pinup at the construc-
tion site of the new Federal Home Loan Bank
Board Building in Washington, D.C. Remember
the hue and cry from feminists that the
plywood pinup was "sexist" and degrading
to women? Well, as usual, most everyone
missed the point: In these economically
depressed times, and with a federal budget
deficit of \$60 billion and rising, for what
is the General Services Administration
wasting thousands on such frippery? De-
grading the taxpayers is what! Better that
the government do something really useful
with its (our) money. Like putting un-
employed men and women back to work. Or
subsidizing struggling young artists? Lady
pornographer Erica Jong got a \$5,000 grant
from the federal government (not the FAA)
to write her novel, Fear of Flying. Sigh.
Hey! I got a great idea. I'll quit my job,
write a book about the nation's capital
being terrorized by a great white loan
shark, call it Fear of Fiscalism (by I. M.
Bankrupt, my pseudonym). Think the GSA
will buy it? Why not? They bought Sarah.

* * * * *

TISATAAFL: There Is Such A Thing As A Free
Lunch, after all. It's official: the Chi-
cago City Council has repealed a 1933 ordi-
nance outlawing free food at taverns.

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EERF: Enclosed with this issue is an an-
nouncement for the Economic Education &
Research Forum, a tax-exempt foundation for
the promotion of economic analysis and re-
search among students, managers, investors,
and academic economists from a free-market
perspective. In addition to the EERF Month-
ly Bulletin, the participation fee (\$25,
tax-deductible) entitles you to attend a
luncheon with Robert Bleiberg, Editor of

Barron's Financial Weekly, Nov. 18. This
will be the first in a series of luncheons
and seminars which will prove to be of major
importance to the spread of libertarian
economic ideas among potential contributors
and "Establishment" supporters in the Mid-
west. Among the incorporators of EERF are
Joe Cobb, Bob Meier, Mark Wallace, and Rich
Suter, all of LPI; and the President and
Chairman is Alexander P. Paris (see p. 9).

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LAISSEZ FAIRE, LAISSEZ PARLER: The Quebec
government has passed a law making it il-
legal for anyone to protest or demonstrate
with English-only placards. Sacrebleu!

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ON THE MOVE: The national office of the
Libertarian Party (and Chmn. Ed Crane) is
moving to Washington, D.C. this month (new
address in the next LP News). According to
National Executive Director Bob Meier, the
city is "ready for us"--and with the nomi-
nation of our 1976 candidates in N.Y. last
month, we are ready for Washington.

* * * * *

HEY, BEN, GO FLY A KITE: Postmaster General
Benjamin F. Bailar has announced that the
price of a first-class postage stamp will
go up to 13¢ after Christmas. This on top
of a requested doubling of the \$1 billion
annual taxpayer subsidy to the U.S. Postal
Service. Without the subsidy, Bailar claims
it will be impossible to keep rates "at a
level that both business and individual
citizens can afford." So what if they
can't afford the taxes. Taking a cue from
the borrowcrats in West Virginia, New York,
and everywhere in between and beside, who
are pushing travel, clothing, and food
stamps (respectively), we've got the perfect
solution for you, Ben [yup, you guessed it]:
"stamp stamps." [No, this is not to hint
that we're raising subscription rates.]

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