

# FLP NEWS

Number 5

February 1984

## Just Outside The Capitol

Bill McMillen

"Vote early and often" has long been the political machine's motto uttered to the faithful on election day in cities such as Albany, the capital of New York State, temporary home of Mario Coumo, and 210 legislators who come here annually to chip away at your freedom.

Last year, the session culminated with a 1.25 billion dollar bond issue proposal, and a taxpayer-financed publicity campaign; which, among other things, predicted the collapse of bridges and threatened to declare our highways unsafe to travel. Not since the mushroom cloud commercial used by the Johnson campaign in 1964, have I seen political advertising appeal to so much fear. The voters bought it, and gave the legislators both an invitation and authorization to raise taxes in future years.

It passed because it's proponents voted early and often. They began to work on key legislators almost before the first gavel fell to open the 206th session of the New York State Legislature in January 1983. They conspired daily, sometimes in secret, but often in full public view. They lobbied daily to create a consensus that the state's infrastructure, the maintenance of which was supposedly being financed by gasoline and highway taxes, was imminently about to result in disaster. Those of us who disagreed, libertarians and others eschewing political involvement, waited until election day to cast our single votes in opposition. In Albany, a small group of libertarians voted the weekend before election day by distributing literature outside the New York State Thruway toll booths. The effort was too little too late.

Once again, the legislators have returned to Albany. From this suburb just outside the capitol, we in the Capital District chapter intend to monitor the legislative program advanced by the governor and the conduct of his office as well as that of the legislature. We hope to establish contact with any group which shares our concern for individual liberty. The information we gather will be communicated through various channels, including this newsletter, to libertarian organizations throughout the state. In short, we will vote early and often.

1984 presents many challenges to the Free Libertarian Party. The primary one is the maintenance of individual liberty for ourselves and to guarantee it in the future. Another is the healing of old wounds which have resulted from the clashing of dynamic personalities.

# Editorials

**Bombing Out On The Nuclear Freeze.** As this year's Presidential election approaches it is becoming increasingly apparent that nuclear proliferation will be among the campaign's major issues. With the economy snapping back and in the wake of our successful occupation of Grenada, Lebanon and the arms race stand as Ronald Reagan's two largest public relations albatrosses. Sensing this fact, the Democrats - with some exceptions - are rallying behind the nuclear freeze movement. Meanwhile, the Libertarians, in spite of our pro-disarmament platform, have remained out of the freeze movement and have generally done quite little in support of arms control.

The Nuclear Freeze Campaign is the most powerful grassroots movement since the sixties. In Westchester County alone, there are 28 local groups and about 300 activists tied in with the national campaign. And unlike the anti-draft movement of the early eighties, the campaign is dominated by non-ideological, non-Marxist elements. Freeze activists are generally left-of-center, but not so far to the left. As a result, they are not nearly as hostile to libertarians as were the sectarian leftists that dominated the anti-draft movement. Indeed, since they are so committed to the disarmament issue itself, most would welcome our support with open arms. In short, the freeze campaign is both capable of making an impact and willing to let us participate. It thus offers the Libertarian Party an important opportunity.

By staying out of the freeze movement we lose an important chance to connect libertarianism with peace in the public eye. We also lose an opportunity to distance ourselves from the Reagan Administration. Finally, we give the freeze movement no reason to not simply melt into the Democratic Party. Unfortunately, this is already happening. With more and more freeze supporters becoming active in the Democratic Party, and with its Presidential candidates lining up behind arms control, the Democrats are gaining a reputation as the peace party. This development is especially tragic in view of the fact that Democratic Presidents have involved us in every war we have fought in this century!

It is time that Libertarians stop talking about peace and start doing something about it. It is time we joined forces with the Freeze Campaign.

**The Ghost of New Deals Past.** For all his faults (and there are plenty of them), Ronald Reagan has at least checked the growth of non-defense federal spending. Taxes, although still at confiscatory levels, are at least not getting any worse. And the economy is snapping back amidst relatively mild levels of inflation.

But this respite from our decades-long trek toward socialism will end if Democratic front-runner Walter Mondale is elected. In order to satisfy a smorgasbord of special interest groups, Mondale is promising everything from socialized medicine to autarky. Mondale's myriad commitments amount to nothing less than another New Deal. And one more New Deal is one more than our economy can stand.

In our zeal to attack the current administration this election year, let's remember that the leading alternative is just as bad - perhaps even worse.

- Marc D. Joffe



# Announcements

Video Cassettes Available. The FLP now has four VHS video cassettes available for local use. They are: THE INCREDIBLE BREAD MACHINE, THE POVERTY TRAP, LIBRA and ONE GOOD TURN. These films are excellent recruiting devices; they may be used at meetings and events or you can air them on your local public access channel. Contact the State Office for details.

Profits. Final figures are in from Prescon 1983: the FLP earned a profit of more than \$20,000 on the event. The money will go into a trust fund, the interest from which will be used to subsidize local projects. About \$2000 will be available each year. If you have a libertarian outreach project in the works and need financial help contact the State Office. We'll need a description of the project, an outline of its expected benefits and a budget. We look forward to seeing your ideas.

A Note to Candidates. If you would like to run for party office please contact Charles Kiessling, RD #1 Box #284, Berkshire, NY 13736. A special candidates' hour and literature table will be provided in order to give you an opportunity to meet convention delegates. Offices up for election are: Chair, Vice-Chair (2), Secretary, Treasurer, State Committee Representatives At-Large (5).

Articles Welcome. The State newsletter welcomes submissions from FLP members. If you have an article you would like us to consider please send it to the State Office.

Bulk Mail. Unfortunately, postal regulations prohibit FLP chapters from sending their own mailings on the State Office's bulk mail permit. However, the law does not prohibit us from including your materials in mailings under our own letter-head. If you would like to do a bulk mailing in FLP envelopes, please note the following:

- A minimum of 200 pieces must be mailed at one time. The mailing need not cover the entire state; it can even go to a single town or city.

- No material may be sent by a candidate for public office. Mailings can include information about educational and social meetings, fund raising campaigns and membership drives.

- Rates change at odd times. Currently, a single piece addressed to a specific person is 5.9¢. A single piece pre-sorted by carrier route is 3.2¢. This latter category includes letters addressed to OCCUPENT. You can thus use 3.2¢ letters to saturate a town, city or district without an accurate mailing list.

- Your local address may not appear on the outside envelope. Although, chapters may count, bundle and pay for the mailing, it must be officially mailed under State FLP auspices.

For more information about bulk mailing contact the State Office.

# Regions

Rochester. The Genesee Region Chapter has won a bid to host the LP's July National Committee meeting. The meeting, which is open to all party members, will be held the weekend of July 27-29 at the Marriot Thruway Inn (off exit 46 of the New York Thruway). The schedule for the NatCom meeting is as follows:

## Friday, July 27

3:00 - 6:00 Check-In  
8:00 - 10:00 Cocktail Party

## Saturday, July 28

8:00 - 5:00 First Session. Open to observers.  
6:00 - 7:00 Social Hour.  
7:00 - 10:00 Campaign '84 Kickoff Banquet  
Featuring Local Candidates  
Guest Speaker: Ed Clark

## Sunday, July 29

8:00 - 5:00 Second Session. Open to observers.

For more information about the meeting contact John Sproul at (716) 647-3575.

In other Rochester news, the chapter is waging what must be the hottest letter-to-the-editor campaign in the country. Several dozen letters from libertarian activists have appeared in area newspapers within the last year.

Albany. The local chapter will once again host the statewide convention. The annual meeting is scheduled for May 4-6 at the Sheraton Airport Inn. Dave Bergland will appear at the convention. More details will be published in the next issue.

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## FLP Directory

John Francis	State Chair	(212) 376-9269
Dottie Lou Brokaw	Vice Chair	(607) 753-9176
Charles Kiessling	Secretary	(607) 657-8330
Bill Stocker	Treasurer	(516) 883-1892
Bill McMillen	At-Large	(518) 371-2366
Chuck Steber	At-Large	(518) 399-9539
Dick Savadel	At-Large	(516) 674-3597

## Chapter Leaders

Bill Stocker	Nassau	(516) 883-1892
David Shatara	Binghamton	(607) 797-1126
Bob Straub	Suffolk	(516) 422-0147
Mark Schonfeld	Westchester	(914) 946-0536
Don Davis	Albany	(518) 399-1293
Dave Hoesly	Rochester	(716) 671-8821
Dottie Lou Brokaw	Central NY	(607) 753-9176
Dale Tierny	Plattsburg	(518) 563-0440
Fred Cookinham	New York City	(212) 226-6483
Arthur Swensson	Orange	(914) 564-2851



## NEW YORK CITY

### Bergland Visits The Big Apple:

On December 10, 1983, Dave Bergland and Jim Lewis visited New York City. A fund raising banquet was held in the heart of Rockefeller Center at the Bombay Palace restaurant.

Amidst holiday cheer and enthusiasm for the coming presidential campaign, both Jim and Dave spoke about the need for strong organizations throughout the country to make this a successful year. They urged that every effort be placed on the petition drive, so that their names would be on as many state ballots as possible. The goal is for all 50, although several states have higher requirements this year than in 1980.

During the question and answer period, Dave fielded questions about Grenada, Lebanon, the nuclear arms freeze, and his campaign strategy.

Over 50 Libertarians turned out for this gala event.

In the spring, Bergland will return for stops in Rochester, Buffalo, Binghamton, Cortland and Syracuse. He will cap his tour with a banquet on May 5th at the annual FLP convention in Albany.

NYC Convention:

On Sunday, January 22nd, 1984, the New York City FLP held its annual convention. Highlighting the event were speakers Peter Samuel and Lee Sterling.

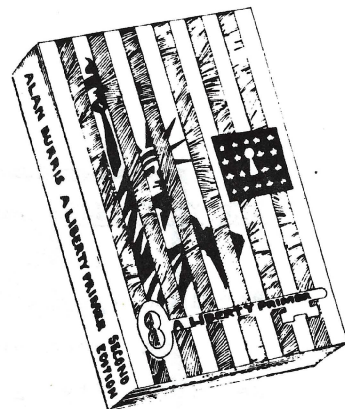
Peter Samuel spoke on the history of mass transit in NYC, and offered several solutions for the problems city residents face with this service. Peppered throughout his talk were odd bits of information about the transit system, e.g., the building of an unlicensed, free market pneumatic tunnel, the city's first subway, in the 1860's-- a sort of "underground Underground."

Equally fascinating was Lee Sterling, executive director of the American Property Rights Association. He provided a litany of horror stories of what rent control has done to the people of New York City and its economy.

# A Liberty Primer

By Alan Burris

Expanded  
Second Edition!



**Primer.** n., 1. An elementary textbook. A book that covers the basic elements of any subject. (from Medieval Latin primarium "basic handbook"); 2. A small amount of explosive used to detonate the main explosive charge.

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- ★ Would you like to have better answers for media interviews?
- ★ Would you like to be more persuasive when explaining liberty?
- ★ Would you like to learn more about libertarian theory and how to apply it to practical problems, but don't have time to read stacks of dry academic books?
- ★ Do you need an easy-to-read book which summarizes the case for liberty to loan to friends?
- ★ Would you like to start a libertarian discussion group?
- ★ Could you use a convenient indexed source of libertarian quotations and ideas for talks and letters-to-the-editor?

If your answer is YES to any of these questions, you should buy **A Liberty Primer**--a book written by a libertarian activist for libertarian activists.

Paperback, 562 pages, 20 illustrations, \$7.95. Over one thousand quotations by 460 authors, indexed for convenient reference. Study guide with discussion questions for each chapter and directions for organizing discussion groups.

To: Society for Individual Liberty of Genesee Valley,  
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"I heartily endorse **A Liberty Primer**. I think it is an excellent tool to deepen the understanding of those who want to learn more about liberty." -- Ed Clark

"...provides a smorgasbord for the intelligent mind." -- Roger MacBride

"fun to read, enlightening, and principled; an excellent, humane introduction to libertarianism." -- Peter R. Breggin, M.D., author of *The Psychology of Freedom*, and psychiatrist, Bethesda, Maryland

"I want to congratulate you on a fantastic book, **A Liberty Primer**. It has been so long overdue and is generally so well done--written with such beautifully simple, yet powerfully clear style--that it will likely do more to advance the cause of freedom than anything written before." -- Donald Cochran, Honolulu, HI, a libertarian for two decades

"**A Liberty Primer** is an excellent introduction to Libertarianism. It is deep without being boring; radical without being alienating....I congratulate the Rochester SIL chapter on this important contribution to the movement." -- Prof. Jennifer Roback, Economics Department, Yale University; Connecticut Campaign '82 Chair.

"When someone who knows nothing at all about libertarianism asks, 'What is libertarianism, anyway?' all you have to do is give him Alan Burris' **A Liberty Primer**. It's simple, it's clear, and all the basics are there. The numerous excellent quotations not only keep up the reader's interest, but illustrate the depth and breadth of the libertarian tradition." -- Dean Ahmad, Platform Committee, Libertarian Party

"Libertarian candidates and armchair debaters alike can make good use of Burris' primer. I recommend it highly." -- Dave Walter, Co-Founder, Society for Individual Liberty

"everywhere I go, I recommend Alan's book" -- Alicia Garcia Clark, National Chairwoman, Libertarian Party

"**A Liberty Primer** is an extremely useful tool for organizing at the local level. I recommend it for activists and 'would-be' activists." -- Howie Rich

"I lend it to newcomers and recommend it to activists in the libertarian movement. It's a substantial compilation of basic issues and concepts that's an excellent resource for candidates." -- Frances Eddy, National Secretary, Libertarian Party

"The book is a 'waker-upper' for sure!" -- Dick Randolph, Alaskan State Legislator

"Highly recommended." -- *Free World Chronicle*

"Next to *Atlas Shrugged*, **A Liberty Primer** is my all-time favorite book." -- Dagny Warner

"The **Primer** has been very helpful in my campaign for the County Council for the Island of Kauai." -- Mike Dyer, Kilauea, Hawaii

"**A Liberty Primer** is an excellent internal education tool for all state parties. It is an engaging treatment of the full reaches of Libertarian thought." -- Emmett Elrod, South Dakota Chairman, Libertarian Party



After these two informative speakers concluded, elections were held for officers. Retiring chair Ms. Sieglinde Kress presided. Fred Cookinham was elected chair, Bob Falk became vice chair; Milton Verstandig is treasurer, and Bob Cogan and Joseph Kleinman were re-elected secretary and representative to the State Committee, respectively.

**Office:**

The FLP office is manned on weekdays, 10-6, at least temporarily. It is also open Tuesday nights, 6-9. Call 212-226-6483.

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This calendar is as good as any muck-raking book around and about. Perhaps even better.

- Studs Terkel

"Bold, uncompromising and scary as hell . . . a fascinating record of American history."

- Patricia Holt, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"This is one calendar that many folks will keep long after the year is gone. Until, maybe, it becomes too dangerous to keep holding on to."

- Nat Hentoff



**1962**—Asst. Secretary of Defense  
Sylvester: " . . . it is inherent in  
government's right, if necessary, to  
lie . . . that seems to me basic—basic."

**May**

**31**

**1971**—CIA director Helms briefs A.G.  
Mitchell on the scope of the CIA  
mail-opening operation.

**1978**—The Supreme Court rules that  
unannounced searches of innocent third  
parties is constitutional.

# LAISSEZ FAIRE

- **THE STATE AGAINST BLACKS** by Walter E. Williams. A distinguished black economist evaluates minimum wage laws, licensing, union policy, trucking and other regulations as examples of systematic impeding of the advancement of minorities. Sees the government as a major perpetrator of racial exclusion. Views the free market as the destroyer of racial barriers and privilege. (hd, 160p) \$14.95
- **FREEDOM FOR ALASKANS** by Richard L. (Dick) Randolph. The 1982 Libertarian gubernatorial candidate gives his blueprint for rolling back the State in Alaska. Randolph, the first Libertarian State Legislator in the country, was responsible for repealing his state's income tax. (pb, 108p) \$ 3.95
- **SOCIAL SECURITY: AVERTING THE CRISIS** by Peter Ferrera. Shows that social security has been established and maintained by deceit. Includes a detailed presentation on how to get out of the system. (qpb, 160p) \$ 6.95
- **PROGRESS AND PRIVILEGE: America in the Age of Environmentalism** by William Tucker. Argues that environmentalists, who like to think of themselves as liberals, have in reality used the movement to protect the status quo at the expense of less-privileged classes. By exposing how they have distorted the issues to serve their own purposes, Tucker reveals why many problems, though serious, are soluable. (hd, 314p) \$17.95
- **A NEW BEGINNING** by Ed Clark. Presents a basic overview of the libertarian approach to the pressing problems facing our nation. By the 1980 Libertarian Party presidential candidate. (qpb, 135p) \$ 4.00
- **TOMORROW, CAPITALISM** by Henri LePage. Already translated into six languages and a bestseller in France and Sweden, this is one of the most controversial books in Europe today. Describes the recent revolution in economics toward the free market. Argues that the science of economics has been reshaped into a coherent, comprehensive approach to the study of human problems. (hd 254p) \$14.95
- **FOR A NEW LIBERTY** by Murray N. Rothbard. A biting attack on the legitimacy of the State, with numerous criticisms of government intervention. Offers market solutions to many social and economic problems and presents a "revisionist" interpretation of foreign policy and the origins of the cold war. (pb, 325p) \$ 6.95
- **THE OMINOUS PARALLELS: The End of Freedom in America** by Leonard Peikoff. Intro by Ayn Rand. What is required to turn a country into total dictatorship? How did the Nazis accomplish it? Is it happening here? Peikoff argues that today's dominant ideas are leading America down the road to a Nazi-type dictatorship in the near future. A profoundly disturbing book. (hd, 383p) \$16.95
- **ECONOMICS IN ONE LESSON** by Henry Hazlitt. Classic primer on the principles of the free market economy and the dangers of government intervention. Discusses minimum wage laws, rent control, tariffs, unions, price fixing, inflation, etc. in an easy-to-understand style. (qpb, 214p) \$ 5.95
- **THE TWELVE YEAR SENTENCE: Radical Views of Compulsory Education**, Edited by William Rickenbacker. A major attack on compulsory education from authors who range across the political spectrum. A legal and general bibliography make this an invaluable tool. (hd, 236p) \$14.50

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# **BERGLAND** **LIBERTARIAN** **PRESIDENT**

## **BERGLAND FOR PRESIDENT CAMPAIGN STATEMENT**

The goal of the Libertarian Presidential campaign is to continue to spread and implement the ideas of individual rights throughout American Society. By being on the ballot in all 50 states David Bergland, and hundreds of other Libertarian candidates, will give every American the opportunity to expand their freedom by voting to cut back the federal government, the principal source of oppression within our country.

Our goal is to remove all controls on the peaceful, voluntary and honest actions of all Americans, to abolish draft registration and the threat of the draft, to repeal the federal personal income tax, and to reform American foreign policy so as to promote peace and better defend Americans.

We seek as quickly as possible the end of all government violation of individual rights, including the end of the seizure of the wages and savings of the American people by income, excise, property, gross receipts, capital gains or any other tax:

As immediate reforms on the route to these goals, we seek:

- A. The expansion of economic freedom and the increase of employment, productivity and prosperity by the immediate:
  - 1) Repeal of laws which discourage work, such as minimum wage laws, licensing and permit restrictions.
  - 2) End of the expansion of the money supply by the federal government, the cause of inflation.
  - 3) Establishment of gold, silver or other commodity money as a further protection against inflation.
  - 4) The elimination of all subsidies to industry and agriculture, and major reductions in social and military spending so as to reduce the federal deficit at the same time the personal income tax is eliminated.

## **BERGLAND FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE**

☐ 1773 Bahama Place  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
714/751-8980

☐ 7887 Katy Freeway/Suite 384  
Houston, TX 77024  
713/686-1776

- 5) Reduction of federal revenues by one-third including an immediate end to the federal personal income tax.
- B. The establishment of peaceful international relationships and the defense of the United States as the principal goals of American foreign policy by the:
- 1) Immediate and permanent withdrawal of the United States from all entangling military alliances to eliminate the risk of involving us in new wars.
  - 2) Returning all United States military personnel to this country to protect Americans and their property here, with total numbers reduced as appropriate for that mission.
  - 3) Development of adequate defensive weapons to protect the United States against nuclear attack.
  - 4) Establishment of a "no first strike" nuclear policy.
  - 5) Incremental reductions in United States nuclear arsenal as part of arms reduction negotiations with the Soviets.
  - 6) Establishment of a firm policy of free trade with all nations and the elimination of protectionist trade barriers.
- C. The establishment of a social policy firmly supporting the right of Americans to control their own lives and to educate and protect their families, including as interim reforms:
- 1) The establishment of a tax credit of \$1500 for anyone who pays for the education of any student in any private school or government operated school, such tax credit to continue until the repeal of the federal income tax. This tax credit will be a direct reduction in the tax liability of any individual or corporate taxpayer who pays to educate a child regardless of whether the taxpayer is related to the student. This plan will introduce competition into the education marketplace and give millions of Americans a better choice in the education of their children.
  - 2) Replacement of the compulsory and deficit-ridden Social Security System with voluntary alternatives while providing present beneficiaries with payments from private annuities purchased



with the proceeds of the sale of land and other assets of the federal government. (The federal government owns one-third of all the land in the United States.) With the end of the income tax and Social Security taxes, younger workers will be able to purchase annuities or alternative private retirement programs providing better benefits than Social Security.

- 3) A firm policy to support the natural and constitutional right to keep and bear arms as a necessary means of self-protection.

The Libertarian Party is the only organized, nationwide political movement in the United States working consistently on every issue for less government and more hope for the American people. The Libertarian Party is now a permanent part of American politics and thus provides, for the first time in a generation, an outlet for all those who share our view that the federal government and its policies have become the principal barrier to a better life for most people.

We believe the implementation of our principles and interim reforms is both possible and practical. Recent declines in the standard of living in the United States caused by rising taxes, inflation and government spending have so alienated voters that barely half of them vote. Millions more have lost any hope that traditional political policies can improve anything.

We believe Americans are looking for the kind of alternative the Libertarian Party offers and that they will increasingly turn to the voluntary cooperative system of the free market to improve economic conditions. As each Libertarian reform of cutting government programs and spending, eliminating government intrusiveness, lower taxes, and deregulation is implemented, we believe the obvious benefits of the Libertarian way will cause the public to want more of the same.

Libertarian candidates will thus give voters the opportunity to cast a truly meaningful vote in 1984. A Libertarian vote will be the strongest statement that can be made that we all want to be free of the crushing burden of taxation, free of social control and free of the U.S. government's dangerous foreign policy with its resultant risk of war. Every vote for every Libertarian candidate will be a powerful message that millions of Americans demand respect for their right to keep their earnings, their right to exercise control over and responsibility for themselves, and their right to have their federal government adopt a foreign policy that will provide a growing hope for peace.

Also, in coordination with other efforts taking place across the nation, there is the challenge of a Presidential campaign and a petition drive which we must approach with enthusiasm.

We have the challenge at the state and local level to be well informed; not only about the way things should be, but about the way they are, and how we might build highways and bridges between the two.

As part of the response to these challenges, we would like each chapter or other libertarian group to designate someone to act as liaison between us and their organization in our effort to disseminate the information we gather about this year's legislative effort. I will be making contact with some people in advance of this publication. The effectiveness of the program will be increased by the communicating to us of any particular piece of legislation or the performance of any particular legislator that you would like monitored. An effective network will enable the state party through local chapters to make a timely media response to statewide issues. An effective network will provide local activists and prospective candidates with accurate information and statistics. An effective network will build a consensus for liberty.

If you wish to participate in this effort, please contact Bill McMillen (518) 371-2366 or Don Davis (518) 399-1293.

The Free Libertarian Party  
225 Lafayette St. #911  
New York, NY 10012