



Libertarian Party

NEWS

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Politics in Action

Privatization Program for Officials

By Philip E. Fixler, Jr.

Tax revolts, cutbacks in federal aid (for infrastructure, transit, and general revenue sharing), and now Gramm-Rudman-Hollings or GRAMBO have left public officials with an unpalatable choice: service cutbacks or tax increases. But privatization—a series of strategies and techniques to save money by transferring activities from the public to the private sector—offers a third alternative.

Privatization at the State Level

Candidates and existing office-holders at the state level can promote privatization or partial privatization in two basic ways: (1) through enabling legislation that permits and encourages local governments to privatize their services and (2) by privatizing the services directly

provided by the state itself.

Legislation to facilitate partial privatization could begin by removing outdated legal barriers against contracting out certain services. It could also modify unrealistic time limits on the length of contracts that especially discourage such things as privatized infrastructure projects. New Jersey, in fact, has done just this in enabling legislation to encourage privatized water supply, wastewater treatment, and resource recovery projects.

States could also help to rectify the unjust treatment of those who already receive some of their local services privately by petitioning the national government to allow individuals who receive such services from neighborhood groups or property owners' associations to deduct their costs from federal taxes—just like those who can deduct local taxes for publicly-provided services. State legislation could furthermore reduce the burden of "double taxation" on those same individuals (i.e., those who receive services from private providers, yet continue to be taxed for public provision) through rebate-like payments. There is precedent in several states.

Enabling legislation, like that passed in New Mexico and Montana, could also encourage such innovative ideas as privately-operated local jails. Legislation could also promote contracting out of mental health services as in Arizona and even some types of probation supervision as in Florida.

Another privatization technique, deregulation, could be applied to mass transportation—where it sometimes seems as if prices are rising as fast as service is declining. Arizona has deregulated transportation across the board and Colorado has given serious consideration to statewide deregulation of taxicabs. Other states, for example California, have helped to relieve urban traffic congestion by allowing private van pools for commuters.

Several states contract out for state health and human services such as psychiatric hospitals (Florida) and mental retardation facilities (Kentucky). Other states, for instance Texas and Utah, obtain savings by contracting out homemaker and chore services. And Wisconsin contracts out for some job-training and placement.

One of the hottest privatization areas is corrections. With some 41 states and the District of Columbia under court order or the subject of litigation to improve prison conditions, it is no wonder that the National Governor's Conference passed last year a resolution recommending that states explore the private operation of prisons. A number of eastern states have strongly indicated an interest in sending costly-to-house protective custody inmates to a proposed private maximum-security

prison in Pennsylvania. One state has even considered having its own private state prison. And several states including Minnesota and Arizona have successfully implemented private "prison industry" programs that rehabilitate prisoners by providing real private-sector jobs.

Privatization of state infrastructure such as highways is becoming almost an absolute necessity as the billions of dollars needed for new development or rehabilitation are often no longer available. Some states are already contracting out highway sweeping, clean-up, and maintenance. But why not provide for new highways or rehabilitation of existing highways by encouraging private financing, design, construction, operation, and ownership of such highways? Private firms could "rent" the high-

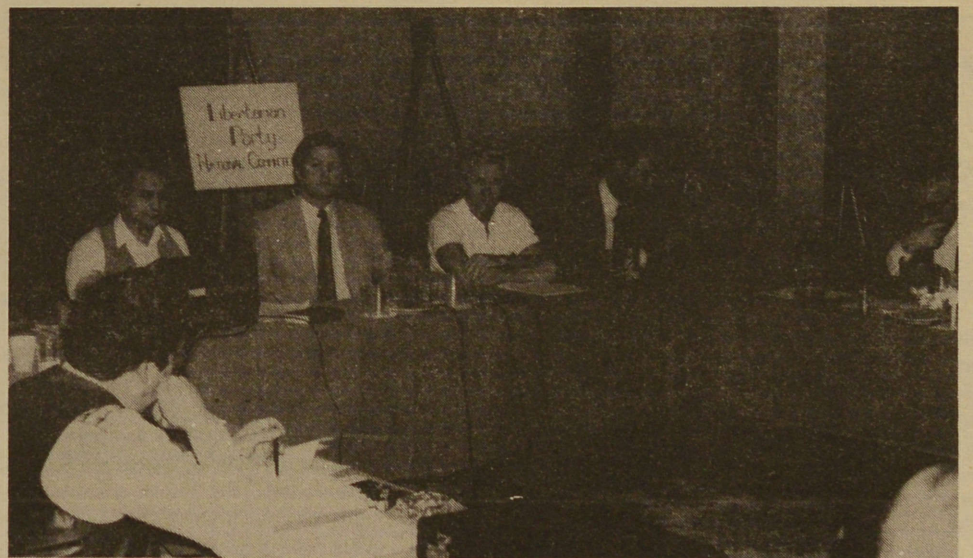
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Next Issue

Response to our recent request for suggestions regarding electronic computer driven communications between libertarians, and to others, in order to advance libertarianism, has brought heartening, imaginative, and expert replies.

In the next issue of Libertarian Party NEWS, we'll present some of those suggestions. They include establishing special interest group status on existing electronic networks, establishing and managing independent libertarian bulletin boards, and creative ways to establish modem-to-modem links among libertarians.

The deadline for our next issue, should you have any other suggestions regarding communication between libertarians and communication to others, is June 7. Please sign on.



Dean Ahmad, Jim Turney, David Bergland, and Perry Willis (L-R) at NatCom meeting in Chicago. See pages 8 and 9 for coverage.

John Wayne Smith: True Grit

Kim Smith talked with the Libertarian Party NEWS in a telephone interview on April 13. Her husband, in jail at the time, was unavailable.

By Randy Langhenry

If you are searching for a man with "grit," you might want to check Ocala, Florida.

In the north-central Florida town where, appropriately, raising horses is still big business, another John Wayne has emerged to fight the bad guys. This time, the bad guys are city hall and the governmental powers.

John Wayne Smith, a representative to the Libertarian Party of Florida executive committee, has been jailed and charged with

violating taxicab ordinances.

Smith and his wife Kim have been operating Town Taxi in Ocala for over nine years. For eight of those years they have had no problems with the city government, but after a run-in with the powers-that-be last year, the Smiths have had nothing but problems.

Smith has been an active Libertarian since the 1970's, and in fact was instrumental in deregulating the transportation industry in Florida in 1980. Although opposed to taxicab regulation of any kind for all his years in business, Smith decided last year to challenge, and try to change, the Ocala city ordinances.

In May 1985, Smith was cited for not having a driver's permit, a permit issued by the city to

taxi drivers. Smith's permit had expired and he had decided that, since he felt the ordinances were unjust, he would not comply.

"The taxi ordinance in Ocala is justified by referencing Florida Statute 323 which was repealed in 1980," Kim Smith said. "So John decided to take the whole ordinance to court. Because the law that justifies its existence was repealed, common sense would have said that [the ordinance] should have been repealed, too," she said.

Shortly after this run-in, the city asked the Smiths for proof of insurance.

We told them no, we are not playing that game with you, and they revoked our operator's

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LaRouche Problem A Ballot Problem

By David Bergland

Democrat and Republican state legislators, in most states, have labored long and hard to make access to the ballot increasingly difficult for people holding minority political views. Lyndon LaRouche is the reward they richly deserve.

Majority party attempts to suppress minority views by restricting access to the ballot will necessarily induce holders of those views to use a variety of guerilla tactics to achieve their ends. The wiser, and more moral, course would be to make the electoral process freely available to all factions and thereby encourage them to operate in the open marketplace of ideas which elections should be.

LaRouche and his followers learned the hard way about the legal obstacles to the formation of a "third party." In 1976 he ran for President as the U.S. Labor Party candidate. But, like other non-majority parties, he and his party found it crushingly expensive and time consuming to do the work necessary to get their candidates on the ballot. Each state has its own laws on ballot access and most require parties (but not Democrat and Republican) to circulate petitions and obtain many thousands of registered voters' signatures to qualify for a position on the ballot. The bulk of a new party's extremely limited resources are used just for ballot access, leaving precious little for campaigning. This is the key mechanism which protects the "two-party system" monopoly from competition.

LaRouche decided he could move faster by infiltrating his minions and their fascist program into one of the major parties; so he ran for President as a Democrat in 1980 and 1984 and plans to do so again in 1988. Two of his group, now called the Democratic National Policy Committee, recently won Democratic primary elections in Illinois for lieutenant governor and

secretary of state. The Democrat Party is in a nationwide flap, seeking ways to undo these events. That LaRouche targeted the Democrats for his purposes should be no cause for Republican smugness. Some elements of the LaRouche program would sit well with many Republicans. It is likely that some LaRouchies have quietly infiltrated the Republicans as well.

Outrage

The response of the Illinois Democrats and their gubernatorial candidate, Adlai Stevenson III, is revealing. Stevenson refuses to run on the same ticket with the man, Mark Fairchild, who was elected by Illinois Democrats in a legitimate primary election to be their lieutenant governor candidate. Stevenson is looking for election law technicalities to disqualify Fairchild. Stevenson has also considered forming a third party or running as an independent. He speaks of asking the Illinois legislature to make this possible. Illinois voters should be outraged.

What possible justification can there be to restrict access to the ballot? If a person wants to run as an independent candidate, or if a group wants to form a new party and run candidates, why should anyone prevent them from offering themselves to the voters? Why should anyone want to prevent the voters from considering them? If those seeking to be candidates are willing to pay the administrative cost—i.e., a filing fee—no justification exists for keeping them off the ballot.

State legislatures have used a variety of tactics to frustrate alternative political ideas and groups: huge petitioning requirements; severe restrictions on the time to petition or limitation to the most inconvenient times of the year; limiting who can petition; fees to count

the signatures; requiring petition signers to promise to vote for the candidate whose name is on the petition; refusal to allow voters to register as anything but Democrat or Republican; reserving top spots on the ballot for Democrats and Republicans; requiring impossible vote percentages in general elections to retain ballot status; arrest of petitioners exercising clear First Amendment rights.

Returning from the Philippines as a member of the Presidential election oversight team, Ben Wattenberg wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*: "Some of us felt that in some important respects the process was more open, more participatory, and, most critically, more public than U.S. elections." How embarrassing!

Over the last decade, minor parties and candidates have brought many lawsuits successfully challenging the unconstitutionality of state election laws and practices. Too frequently, state legislatures have responded by passing new laws to create additional obstacles.

The arguments used by obstructionist state officials to justify legal obstacles to the ballot boil down to two: (1) to qualify, a candidate must show sufficient community support; and (2) many candidates would cause voter confusion. As to the first argument, a Federal Appeals Court, striking down a Washington law in 1984, stated in *Socialist Workers Party v. Munro*: "A state may not require a preliminary showing of voter support as an end in itself."

Paternalistic Pap

The second argument is transparent, paternalistic pap. Any voter intelligent enough to get to the polls has the intelligence, and the right, to decide how to vote, regardless of the number of names on the ballot. Historically, too many names on the ballot has never been a problem that concerned voters. Clearly the Democrat

and Republican Parties are not concerned about it in their own primary elections. In 1984, there were 22 Democratic presidential candidates on the New Hampshire primary ballot. In Los Angeles, a city with a population larger than many states, there were 23 candidates for mayor in 1981. In those states where ballot access in presidential elections is easy, such as New Jersey (800 registered voters' signatures) and Arkansas (merely convene and designate electors), candidates on the ballot usually number less than those in New Hampshire party primaries.

In *Anderson v. Celebrezze*, the Supreme Court said: "A burden that falls unequally on new or small political parties or on independent candidates impinges, by its very nature, on associational choices protected by the First Amendment. It discriminates against those candidates and—of particular importance—against those voters whose political preferences lie outside the existing political parties."

Currently in Congressional committee is a bill, HR 2320, which would increase political participation by putting a cap on state ballot access law restrictions in elections for President, U.S. Senate and Congress. Some states would not be affected because their laws already comply. Under this law, in presidential elections, minor party and independent candidates could get on the ballot by obtaining signatures equal to 1/10th of one percent of the registered voters in that state, or 1,000 signatures, whichever is less. Passage of HR 2320 would help smaller political groups place their views before all of America's voters, so the voters could decide whether those ideas have merit. It would be a significant step toward returning control of American politics to the people at the grass roots.

Bergland was the Libertarian Party's 1984 candidate for President.

True Grit

Continued from Page 1

permit [for companies]," Smith explained.

The Smiths had insurance, but it was equal to that required by the city before a recent change in the ordinance.

"Within a few weeks of their revoking our permit, they did lower the insurance requirements back down," Smith said. "I think what they were trying to do was get us back into the fold, but at that point it was too late."

Town Taxi continued to operate as normal, even though their taxicab franchise was revoked. Even the "Town Taxi" signs stayed on the cab from June through July 4, 1985.

Although their license was revoked, "the police department continued calling us at night to handle [transport] their problem people, people who were either in a place they [the police] didn't consider safe or people who were too drunk to drive home," Smith said.

"The police, in fact, continued to call us up until November," she noted.

Finally, "We went to the city council and asked them to please refrain from giving us that kind of business, because it was embarrassing for us to have to refuse when the people had no other choice," Smith admitted.

Town Taxi is the only 24-hour taxi service in the city.

Ironically, on July 4, 1985, John Wayne Smith was arrested, taken to jail, and booked. There were no new charges; the arrest was for the two previous violations.

In August 1985, Smith was taken to court and both cases were heard at one time.

"They lumped them together, even though they were under completely different circumstances. John was found guilty on both counts," Smith said.

The Smiths filed an appeal themselves, since they couldn't afford an attorney.

While John Wayne Smith was in jail, his wife Kim and other friends started a postcard campaign. The postcard read:

A man has a right to earn a living by any honest means he chooses. John Wayne Smith, an honest man, has chosen to drive a cab. His only crime is living in a city where licensing requirements are so political that it takes a special order of the city council to get a license. The purpose of government is to protect the rights of citizens, not thwart them.

Free John Wayne Smith

Kim Smith estimates that several hundred of these postcards were signed by Ocala city residents and sent to city hall. The postcards and news coverage embarrassed the city officials, Smith said, but "the public pressure is why the city council members are considering changing the law."

"There's a lot of support out there," Smith said.

In November 1985, John Wayne Smith ran for mayor of Ocala. As a candidate, Smith advocated free enterprise, concentrating police efforts on violent crimes, and "letting people creatively solve their own problems and live their own lives, using government as a last resort."

Just a few days before the election, Smith's appeal of the two cases was denied.

Despite the recent publicity of his legal problems, or maybe because of it, Smith received 15 percent of the vote.

Kim Smith also ran as a candidate for city council, and she received 6 percent of the vote.

Through all of this, Town Taxi continued to operate publicly and with the knowledge of the police department and city hall. The Smiths' only concession was to remove the magnetic signs advertising "Town Taxi" from their cab.

They removed the signs from the cab because of harassment, according to Smith.

"When John would go out during the day, he was stopped [by the police] on a pretty regular



Dear
City
Hall

ber 1985 to January 1986. Smith claims he had such a permit.

At the end of March, Smith was released from jail, but he is now back in the Marion County Jail on unrelated civil contempt charges.

"John's big crime is that he opened his mouth," Kim Smith contends.

However, the Ocala taxi ordinance has been rewritten, with suggestions from the Smiths, plus a "few things put in there just to aggravate us," she said.

The Smiths are waiting to read the final draft of the ordinance before determining whether they can operate under it.

Support for the Smiths is coming from other cab companies and the public in Ocala.

"A man stopped John the other day when he was out of jail and said, 'I used to be a city policeman and I used to be a deputy sheriff, but now I work at a factory because I got tired of the politics.' He wished John the best of luck and told him it was a good thing somebody was willing to stand up to the system," Smith reported.

"People are warning us that it's hard to fight the system, but they seem pretty supportive. I think the more supportive they become, the harder the system fights against us."

John Wayne and Kim Smith have no plans to give up their fight, however. In fact, they hope the new ordinance will allow them to apply for a new license under the new name of Liberty Cab.

As Kim Smith puts it, "there are many other cab companies in town, but no Liberty."

Anyone interested in donating funds for John Wayne Smith's legal defense can send them to John Wayne Smith, Box 3973, Ocala, FL 32678.

basis. So he started driving nights."

However, "They never did arrest him again, and they never did find a passenger who was willing to file charges against him," Smith noted.

Kim Smith has been driving the cab every day, but she has never been stopped. She recently received a speeding ticket from a police officer who knew her, and she had a passenger in the cab, but the officer never mentioned Town Taxi's lack of an operating permit.

"It's John they want," Smith explained.

On February 24, 1986, John Wayne Smith was picked up and taken to jail to serve the 30 days for the two earlier charges.

On March 8, Jim Turney, national LP chair, and Robert Vogel, Florida state LP chair, visited Smith in the Marion County Jail and the group held a news conference during the visit.

Smith, who considers himself a "political prisoner," now faces additional charges of failure to have a driver's permit from Novem-

Libertarian Writes

Factions

Congratulations on your second issue. I liked your thoughtful discussion of factions within the LP and the movement, but I want to take exception to your statement of the "radical libertarian" case. As a radical libertarian myself, I don't know a single radical who wants to confine party pronouncements to "abolish the state" or "privatize defense." Radicals stand squarely with the LP platform, which states the radical objective of total privatization, but *also* includes radical "transition demands" for every conceivable political area. I strongly favor transition demands in the direction of the libertarian goal, provided always (1) that the ultimate goal is held forth and not forgotten at the same time, and (2) that the transition demands themselves are radical enough to stir the blood, make a real difference, educate in liberty, and *do not trail behind* other political organizations. Thus, in the tax field, where many non-libertarian organizations exist who advocate abolition of the income tax, it strikes me as criminal negligence for the LP to advocate anything less, even as a transition demand.

Also, there are, and have been in the past, minarchists who are radical abolitionists, down to the tiny, minarchic level (e.g. Cobden, Bright, the radical Jeffersonians and Jacksonians, etc.) There are also a few anarchists who are gradualists (I guess David Friedman would be in that category.) But, of course, it helps one's abolitionist tendencies to be an anarchist.

More in my September article.

Murray N. Rothbard
New York City

Murray Rothbard's point of exception is a well-founded correction of my overly simplified editorial statement. I welcome, accept, and appreciate it. The reference to a September article concerns our next outreach issue in which there will be various statements addressing the concrete question of "how do we get from here to there" in working for a free society.—KH

Letters

I was delighted with Karl Hess's introductory commentary as editor in the March/April issue. In particular I was happy to hear he plans to print letters from ordinary party members.

As the recipient of numerous publications from various alumni associations, trade groups, civic organizations, and organizations reflecting my artistic and recreational interests I have noticed that there is an almost perfect correlation between the liveliness of an organization's letters column and the extent to which it is participatory. If there are few or no letters the organization is simply not participatory, regardless of the reason, whether it is a formal policy, a lack of hospitality to input from the membership, or a membership so alienated that it does not try to make an input.

While there are ways other than a letters column that an organization can employ to get participation from its members, a letters column is such an efficient and broad-based way that its absence is always a bad sign.

Henry Bass
Lowell, MA

Communicating

I appreciated your [Karl Hess] editorial, "Why Me?" because I was wondering why you. Frankly, I had the impression from hearing you speak that your priorities were quite different from those in your editorial. It makes no difference to me whether you have changed or I was misinterpreting you. The important thing is that we have a talented editor to help advance our cause, whose views about the

movement, expressed in his first editorial, are admirable and progressive.

Perhaps needless to say, I also find the views of the editor almost identical to my own. In particular, I believe that facilitating communications between libertarians should be the top priority of the national party. Growth in activism can take place *only* at the grass roots. The purpose of the national party should not be to direct the grass roots, which in any case is impossible, but rather should be to assist the grass roots by doing those things where there is an economy of scale, or which can be done only nationally. Communications through LP NEWS

is one of the few activities that meets these criteria.

I look forward to reading your forthcoming issues!

W. Alan Burris
Pittsford, NY

Annihilator

"The Annihilator," which premiered on NBC on 4/7/86, may have been a rather simple minded spin-off of the wide-screen movie "Terminator." But, it did have one socially redeeming value: the made-for-TV

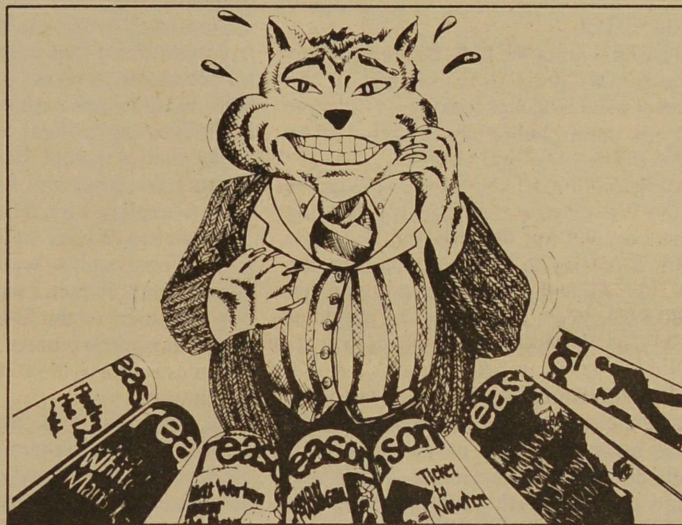
movie's hero, a yuppie turned fugitive from the law, fighting against alien robots masquerading as people, is—according to a police rap-sheet—a former candidate of the Libertarian Party.

Can't you see it...Ed Clark, lurking in the shadows of the urban underground, five-day beard and Uzi submachine gun, surprising a semi-human sent to infiltrate our society from—you know it—the land of Lyndon LaRouche. "C'mon, interventionist, make my day!"

Clifford F. Thies
Baltimore, MD

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INTELLECTUAL AMMUNITION



"You libertarians have great-sounding theories, but I can't imagine how they could work in the real world."

If you're like most libertarians, you hear this kind of objection all the time. Your best way of dealing with it is to have a plentiful supply of *Reason* magazines.

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Ballot Access

Court Disservice, Socialist Dissent

By Richard Winger

The U.S. Supreme Court has shown itself to be even more hostile to small political parties than I had previously thought. It has refused to hear Michael Geison's case.

Michael Geison attempted to become an independent candidate for Governor of Florida. The Florida law for statewide independents (for office other than president) is a petition signed by 3 percent of the registered voters, now over 167,000 signatures. Only one signature is permitted on each petition form. This law is so strict that it has *never been used* by a statewide independent (the presidential independent law is 1 percent, not 3 percent).

Furthermore, no independent candidate for any office in the U.S. has ever managed to meet a petition requirement greater than 101,297 signatures.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said in the past that the history of the challenged law should be a guide to whether or not it is unconstitutional. If independents or third parties qualify with "some regularity," it is likely to be constitutional; if the law is used "only rarely," it is probably unconstitutional. Well, here is a law that had *never* been used in the 12 years it has existed; the lower court upheld it anyway; and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the case.

But, perhaps one can say, "Well, the Court is busy, and it must reserve its time for issues it considers more important; it only reviews 4 percent of the appeals brought to it." That's what I previously thought. But that theory was blown out of existence when the Supreme Court agreed to hear a good lower court ballot access decision, the Socialist Workers Party case from Washington state.

In 1977, Washington state toughened its ballot access laws. The new law provided that minor parties and independent candidates should be nominated in July by convention. The convention had to have a certain minimum attendance equal to one-hundredth of 1 percent of the state's last presidential vote, or 188 people as of 1984. This was easy to meet since signers didn't actually need to come inside the meeting. But a successful convention wasn't enough to get the candidates on the general election ballot. They also had to poll 1 percent of the vote in the state's September primary (although this requirement didn't apply to third party and independent candidates for president). In July 1985, the U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th circuit, struck down the 1 percent vote requirement, noting that this provision had prevented *all* third party candidates for governor and U.S. senator from getting on the

Good News

Michigan. Although the results are subject to change at any time, so far Representative Bennane has failed to persuade the House of Representatives to increase the number of signatures for third party ballot access.

Florida. A bill to change the statewide petition for third parties and independents for all statewide offices to a flat 20,000 signatures, was amended to 50,000 in a House subcommittee. Even 50,000 is far better than the existing 167,000.

Georgia. A bill has passed to set the statewide petition at a flat 25,000 and to set the vote requirement for a party to remain qualified at 2 percent for any statewide office. This is far better than the existing 62,000 signatures (and a separate petition for each office), and vote of 20 percent for governor or president in the entire nation, to remain on.

November ballot.

It is very likely that the U.S. Supreme Court will reverse this good decision, and in the process will write language making it even more difficult for unfair ballot access laws to be overcome in lower federal courts.

The decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Washington state case is especially troubling because the Washington state law forces third parties to nominate their candidates in July, while the major parties nominate theirs in September. According to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Anderson v. Celebrezze* (a good decision won by a 5-4 vote), it is unconstitutional to force supporters and independent candidates to decide whom to nominate, before the major parties have made that same decision for themselves. The Washington law suffers from this defect and this was the reason the U.S. Court of Appeals struck it down. So the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to review this decision may mean they plan to undo *Anderson v. Celebrezze*.

There will be attempts made to get a group of political scientists to submit an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that small political parties are good for the U.S. political system and should not be kept off the ballot. But more important than that, we need to get the attention of the nation onto ballot access, and the best way to do that is through agitation for HR 2320.

Some political parties who would not be

benefitted greatly by HR 2320 are working hard for it, but others have not helped at all. It's difficult for me to know why some parties do not support it. However, Robert Bills, national secretary of the Socialist Labor Party, in a letter dated January 22, 1986, has spelled out why the Socialist Labor Party does not support HR 2320. Bob Bills writes: "Frankly, the prospect of the ballot falling under the control of the central government does not sound particularly attractive to us. Does the idea of a Ronald Reagan, or a Warren Burger, or a collection of petty-minded, self-interested lawyers and capitalists such as make up the Congress deciding who shall or shall not get on what would then be *the* ballot really excite you that much? That is precisely what support for HR 2320 implies."

I appreciate the record of the Socialist Labor Party in fighting bad ballot access laws. The SLP was the first political party to file a lawsuit against unfair ballot access laws in federal court during the 1960's, and it was successful. Furthermore, during the 1950's, the SLP was frequently the only third party which even attempted to get on the ballot in many important states, and that activity was very helpful for keeping the process open. I also appreciate Bills' readiness to explain the SLP's position. It's refreshing to hear an explicit argument, rather than a wall of silence.

But I disagree with Bills' reasoning, and I want to explain why. The record shows that of all branches of both state and federal government, Congress has been the best defender of voting rights. In fact, I would rate the branches of government in the following order, in terms of protection for voting rights: (1) Congress, (2) federal courts, (3) state courts, and (4) state legislatures.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld literacy tests for voters in *Lassiter v. Northampton County Board of Elections*, 360 US 45. State legislatures had, of course, imposed these literacy tests in the first place, and no state court had invalidated any of them. Only Congress was willing to act, and it did, outlawing these tests in the Voting Rights Act.

In 1970, when it was clear that not a single state legislature in the country was willing to extend the vote to 18-year-olds (other than the state legislatures of Georgia and Kentucky, which had done so decades earlier), it was Congress that set the voting age at 18, in an amendment to the Voting Rights Act. In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Oregon v. Mitchell*, 400 US 112, struck down the congressional action relative to state and local elections, but

permitted it for federal elections. The states then passed the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, setting the voting age at 18, only to avoid the confusion that would have resulted from the split voter registration rolls.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court made it more difficult for racial minorities to defeat at-large election systems. In response, Congress in 1982 amended the Voting Rights Act to eliminate the need to prove discriminatory intent.

Why should Congress be better than the other branches of government? I don't know. Some Congressmen were former state legislators. I don't think the average member of Congress is any more moral than the average state legislator. Perhaps it's because Congress is carefully watched by the national news media, whereas state legislatures frequently operate in obscurity.

I hope it's clear that HR 2320 would not set up a federal ballot. HR 2320 would not supersede state ballot access laws. It merely sets a ceiling on state requirements. States which chose to be easier than one-tenth of 1 percent of the total number of registered voters, could continue to be easier if HR 2320 were in effect.

And I can't understand the reference to being under the control of Justice Burger. Third parties are *already* under the thumb of the U.S. Supreme Court; HR 2320 is an attempt to get *out* from the reach of the U.S. Supreme Court. Since the Socialist Labor Party has in the past filed ballot access lawsuits in federal court, and has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, it seems inconsistent to now argue that the federal government should not be involved in ballot access. Federal courts are an arm of the federal government no less than Congress is.

I welcome the association and friendship and solidarity of all those who care about free elections, regardless of any opinions about HR 2320. There are other ways to fight for fair ballot access, as these examples show, and I hope we can avoid any breach or any bad feeling.

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Ballot Access

Disenfranchising the Franchise

U.S. population in 1930 was 122,775,046; on December 30, 1985, by official estimate of the Census Bureau, it was 238,740,000. In other words, population today is almost double what it was in 1930. But look what has happened to requirements to get a new party's statewide candidate, with the party name, on the ballot:

	1930 REQUIREMENT		1986 REQUIREMENT	
	No. of sig.*	% of reg.**	No. of sig.*	% of 1984 reg.**
1. Alabama	0	.00%	11,286	.53%
2. Alaska	2,132	.79%
3. Arizona	198	.13%	20,518	1.69%
4. Arkansas	0	.00%	26,597	2.29%
5. California	12,125	.55%	80,644 reg.*** or 806,432 sig.	
6. Colorado	300	.06%	500	.04%
7. Connecticut	1,514	.25%	10,839	.60%
8. Delaware	750	.54%	140 reg.	.05%
9. Florida	1,675	.47%	167,237	3.00%
10. Georgia	0	.00%	27,324	1.00%
11. Hawaii	4,190	1.00%
12. Idaho	250	.15%	8,223	1.57%
13. Illinois	1,000	.03%	25,000	.41%
14. Indiana	7,047	.41%	35,040	1.18%
15. Iowa	500	.05%	1,000	.06%
16. Kansas	0	.00%	15,266	1.18%
17. Kentucky	100	.01%	5,000	.26%
18. Louisiana	1,000	.29%	109,143 reg.	5.00%
19. Maine	1,000	.31%	23,012	3.09%
20. Maryland	2,000	.29%	71,366	3.37%
21. Massachusetts	1,000	.06%	41,006	1.35%
22. Michigan	100	.01%	19,963	.36%
23. Minnesota	2,000	.15%	2,000	.08%
24. Mississippi	0	.00%	0	.00%
25. Missouri	0	.00%	21,083	.76%
26. Montana	0	.00%	13,329	2.76%
27. Nebraska	750	.12%	5,480	.66%
28. Nevada	1,606	3.21%	13,532	3.80%
29. New Hampshire	1,000	.56%	3,000	.61%
30. New Jersey	800	.04%	800	.02%
31. New Mexico	0	.00%	2,537	.45%
32. New York	12,000	.30%	20,000	.27%
33. North Carolina	10,000	1.43%	44,535	1.50%
34. North Dakota	300	.10%	1,000	.22%
35. Ohio	24,740	.82%	45,476	.79%
36. Oklahoma	5,000	.71%	62,784	3.68%
37. Oregon	14,680	4.32%	60,175	4.38%
38. Pennsylvania	6,354	.21%	36,721	.64%
39. Rhode Island	500	.15%	1,000	.19%
40. South Carolina	0	.00%	10,000	.83%
41. South Dakota	7,775	2.59%	6,960	1.67%
42. Tennessee	0	.00%	30,974	1.29%
43. Texas	0	.00%	31,909	.44%
44. Utah	500	.24%	300	.04%
45. Vermont	1,292	.77%	1,000	.33%
46. Virginia	250	.07%	12,693	.50%
47. Washington	25	.00+%	188	.01%
48. West Virginia	6,460	.76%	7,044	.71%
49. Wisconsin	1,000	.09%	2,000	.06%
50. Wyoming	100	.09%	8,000	3.33%

TOTAL 127,741 Either 961,019 sig. & 189,927 reg. or 1,767,451 sig. & 109,283 reg.

*Number of signatures of eligible voters required to get on the ballot.
 **Percentage of total voter registration represented by the number of signatures required to get on the ballot.
 ***Number of people who must register as members of a certain political party to qualify it for the ballot.

Libertarian Writes

Continued from Page 3

Traveler

I am a writer and a Libertarian from Los Angeles. I am leaving on an around the world journey in May, which should last at least one year.

I would very much like to visit fellow Libertarians around the world. If anyone knows of Libertarians in the following places—Europe, Bombay, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii—or wherever, I would greatly appreciate a name, address, and telephone number. Thank You!

Kerry Welsh
 4842 Theo Avenue
 Torrance, CA 90505
 (213) 377-5251

Your best bet is to contact *Libertarian International*, 9 S. Belmont Ave., Richmond, VA 23221.—KH

Babbitt

The newsletter of the City Club of Cleveland listed Bruce Babbitt, its March 7th Forum speaker, as having received the National Thomas Jefferson award for the public official who has done the most to preserve freedom of press and speech.

Ken Sturzenacker, in his article "Roads: Hot, New LP Arena" printed in the March LP NEWS, associated Governor Babbitt with a libertarian position on roads.

These credits seemed innocuous enough for a democrat who had captured 63% of the vote in a state which had produced Barry Goldwater.

What I have seen and heard was a man with an agreeable manner who said some of the most *frightening* things I have heard in a long

time. Among the sayings of Bruce Babbitt are:
 (1) Health care is the most basic right of any human being,
 (2) We can use the power of the federal government to redress those economic inequities,
 (3) Recent widened income distribution in this country is a grave issue—we have an obligation to do something about it,
 (4) The flip side of freedom and free enterprise is an obligation to the poor,
 (5) Questions about the poor are being buried in the rhetoric of individualism.

Bernard Baltic
 Lakewood, OH

Children

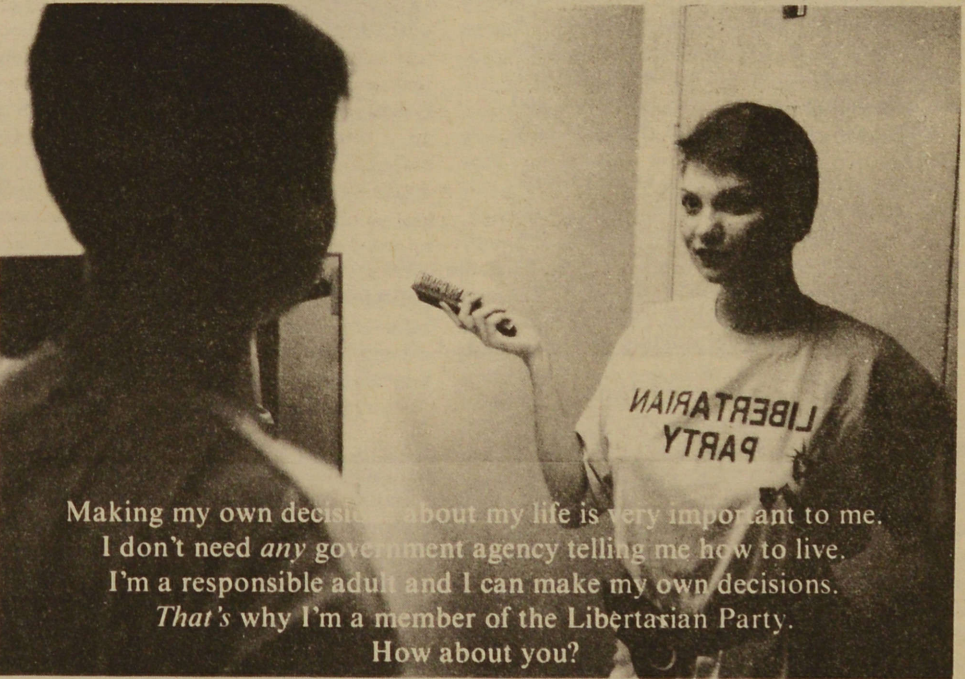
In response to Carol Webber's article, "Why Should a Parent Work for Liberty?", I can say only "hear, hear!" It is precisely the issue of child-rearing that gives focus to our efforts, for freedom of growth and development as an independent human being is posterity's only hope for the future. The alternative to this freedom is constriction and limitation, resulting in sheep-like souls incapable of sight or action beyond their blinkered vision.

On one point, however, I believe Ms. Webber is mistaken. When she desires a world wherein her daughter might "vote against the bomb that threatens her life," I would mention that *the weapons actually threatening us* are Soviet in origin...and we cannot expect the Kremlin to offer us a referendum on their existence or use. Though we may wish liberty as our children's inheritance, we must remember that such freedom is not risk-free.

Michael J. Dunn
 Editor, *American Defense*
 Auburn, WA

Continued on Page 6

Freedom of choice —
 Isn't just picking tonight's lipstick.



Making my own decisions about my life is very important to me.
 I don't need *any* government agency telling me how to live.
 I'm a responsible adult and I can make my own decisions.
 That's why I'm a member of the Libertarian Party.
 How about you?


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A Lesson from LaRouche

By Jorge A. Amador

The victories by two supporters of obscure ideologue Lyndon LaRouche over the endorsed Democratic candidates in the Illinois primary, stunned both the party regulars and the LaRouche camp, sending them and news analysts into a frenzied search for explanations to the surprise result. In the process, LaRouchians became the focus of a level of media attention and scrutiny that they had not been able to buy prior to the primary upset. There is a lesson here for Libertarian Party activists.

Hypotheses for the result are many and varied. Jesse Jackson suggests that the "traditional Democratic coalition" is breaking down, leaving the field wide open for extremists. Even as Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic nominee for Illinois governor, dismissed the LaRouchians as "bigots," other Democratic leaders pinned the outcome on the equally bigoted opinion that voters had a "tendency to vote for the more Anglo-sounding names," Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, of the LaRouche candidates.

Perhaps the most fascinating theory, however, was that espoused by Tom Braden in Cable News Network's "Crossfire" program, March 21. Braden blamed the media for not having given the LaRouche candidates enough attention—for not exposing their questionable beliefs so that voters knew who they were voting for.

Braden's view is interesting in light of the standard mass-media position on covering the

activities of small political groups, which is generally to ignore them because they represent too small an audience to be worth spending media time and space on. These groups, including the Libertarian Party, frequently exploit this lack of media coverage as a convenient excuse for their lack of growth and use it to paint the media as "liberal-leftist" (if they are right-wing) or as "dupes of the capitalist class" (if they are left-wing). Now that one such group has beaten major-party regulars in spite of the news "blackout," the media's lack of coverage again gets the blame, but this time for the group's success.

In reality, the media's attitude toward small parties and factions could hardly be any different. Newspaper space and broadcast time are limited and editors, in order to serve their readers and viewers best, must allocate their limited resources to topics they believe will interest their audiences most—even if it means that the harvest festival will make the news instead of the Revolutionary Cadre's presidential convention. New or unknown groups with unproven audience interest must first do something newsworthy, unaided by the media's free publicity, before they get that attention. They must do something controversial, for instance, such as the neo-Nazis' march through largely Jewish Skokie; or grow in membership and significance from their own efforts, like the Moral Majority; or defeat a major-party candidate in a significant contest. The last is just what LaRouche's people have done in Illinois,

and as a result they are now receiving the scrutiny of the media. The lesson for Libertarians is that we're on our own until we grow or do newsworthy things. We cannot expect the newspapers and TV crews to flock to our protests or press conferences just because we're there.

Would adequate coverage before the primary have exposed the LaRouchians and warned voters to avoid them? Perhaps. But their victory could not have been predicted. Not knowing that Fairchild and Hart were about to get more votes than the party-endorsed candidates in what are readily recognized as low-profile races, the media can hardly be blamed for having ignored them. For newspapers to have devoted space and time to them at the cost of other news with known audience appeal would have been a disservice to their readers.

When LaRouche's people unexpectedly defeated the party organization's choices, regular Democrats and curious observers wanted to know what happened and how, so LaRouche and his followers became newsworthy. Now that they are in the spotlight, there will be time enough to discuss their beliefs and policies before the world, or at least before Illinois voters. Prior to their victory they simply weren't worth the effort.

Jorge Amador is a columnist and editor of The Pragmatist, a current-affairs commentary newsletter.

Disclaimer

The phone was ringing off the hook at Libertarian Party headquarters in Illinois the day after the primary election because journalists were confused about the identity of the LaRouche candidates who were the surprise winners in the Democratic primary, according to Lyn D. Tinsley, State Chair of the Libertarian Party. "They are definitely not Libertarians," she said.

According to Tinsley, the LaRouche National Democratic Policy Committee "wants to control even more aspects of everyone's lives than the 'regular' Democrats and the Republicans," she said. "They differ from the 'regular' politicians in that they are blatantly outspoken about targeting particular groups for oppression and they advocate stormtrooper tactics, while the politicians in the major parties go in for vacuous talk designed to hide the people-control nature of their policies, and prefer gentlemanly enforcers wearing gray flannel suits."

"It's not surprising that a minority faction, despised by the regular party people, captured two of the Democratic nominations," she said, "because the voters did not know what they stand for."

"On the other hand," according to Tinsley, "the more people who know what Libertarians stand for, the more votes we get, because we stand for the values by which most Americans guide their own lives."

Libertarian Writes

Continued from Page 5

LaRouche

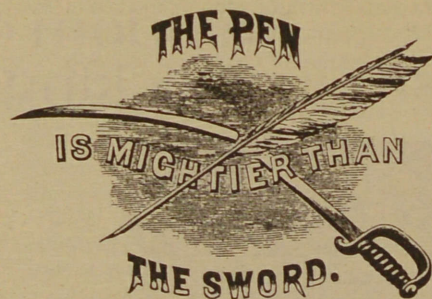
Adlai Stevenson has only himself and his party to blame for the fiasco in the March 18th Illinois Democrat primary. I see the event as a tragic, inevitable result of the laws enacted by the legislatures of the several states, laws meant to deny ballot access to minority parties, to exclude unpopular political expression, and to stamp out democracy in the electoral process.

Now we read of witch hunts to identify the heretics; attempts to purge the party of the "crazies"; searches for reason to disqualify the winners of the primary in Illinois. Worse yet, Democratic National Chairman Paul Kirk has suggested state legislation that would prevent extremist candidates from running as Democrats.

I must speak in support of Lyndon LaRouche's right to participate some way in the political process. I should also applaud his success of his Democratic National Policy Committee in having 800 candidates on ballots across the nation running mostly as Democrats. To have a voice in Illinois politics his party has done the only thing possible under their (and most other states') restrictive ballot access laws, that is, to infiltrate one of the two parties that enjoys a favored status and is already on the ballot.

What I fear will happen is a further tightening of control by the two parties including even nominations by only the central committee or approval of candidates by the politbureau of the ruling parties, a further exclusion of the citizen from any meaningful participation in his government except to rubber stamp at the polls the choices of the party rulers.

The pity is it is all so unnecessary. All that needs be done is for the legislatures to adopt full democracy for all the people; allow full political expression on the ballots. Instead of tightening controls the legislature should now stop trying to stifle the many voices of a diverse people. Another way of saying the above to the legislature is, "if you won't let the crazies on



the ballot you might eventually find them in your own party, take your choice."

Douglas N. Merritt
Atchison, KS

Advertising

The statement of policy on the "Advertising Rate Card" (on page 3 of the March/April 1986 Libertarian Party NEWS) puzzled me at first, but eventually I caught on. It's a joke, isn't it? Or, perhaps you are running a test to see if readers can recognize a definition of censorship when they see it. But I prefer to think that it is an April Fool's Day joke.

Thomas R. Lawrence
Durham, NH

The advertising policy of the NEWS is not meant to censor any legitimate ad. However, Lysander, Inc., the publisher of the NEWS, and not the Libertarian Party, is legally responsible for the entire content of the NEWS. In this era of litigation, one lawsuit, justified or not, could conceivably put Lysander out of business. We will not refuse advertising for frivolous or personal reasons, but we must reserve the right to use common sense in protecting our own interests.—RL

It has come to my attention that while the LP

NEWS accepts advertising by space, the paper does not accept classified advertising. We all have also noticed the recent absence of the LP NEWS in our mailboxes for financial reasons previously discussed elsewhere. I agree wholeheartedly with the memorandum recently received regarding the party's financial status as slightly in the hole, and the actions that are being taken to ensure a stable, well financed organization.

I propose to help our financial woes by allowing the LP NEWS to accept classified advertising. Not only earning money for the party and helping the paper pull its own weight, but the communication and correspondence between party members in our nation would be of great good. The rates, of course, should be competitive. Another method to reach party self-sufficiency.

Dean Haskell
Atlanta, GA

At the present time, the NEWS simply does not have the staff or equipment to handle classified advertising. However, one inch ads cost only \$10, and if sent to us neatly typed and the correct column width, as several have (see Free Marin ad on page 4), we will gladly accept and print them. Even to pay for themselves, classified advertisements would have to be priced at about the same cost as a one inch display ad.—RL

Activities

I wonder if the Libertarian Party has any information on how to provide continuing activities so as to keep old members around and alive, and to attract new members? I've contacted several of the state parties already such as the Vermont Libertarian Party on producing a tabloid-type newsletter, and the California Libertarian Party (though they have never returned any of my calls). It would be appreciated if you could let me know if you

have any such information that could assist in these tasks.

Richard L. Duprey
Chairman, Bergen County (NJ) Party

Vermont's experience with a tabloid newspaper, in revitalizing interest, is surely notable. And note the emphasis on newspaper, rather than on newsletter. Newsletters have their strongest appeal in keeping existing Libertarian Party groups active and informed. They are essential. Newspapers, containing more information of general appeal, and in a format that is able to be distributed readily in bookstores, on magazine racks, or in other places of business, have strong appeal for reaching out to attract newcomers. Also, and in heartening response to your last question, some veteran Libertarian Party activists such as Bill Evers, are now embarked on a project specifically to design activities and materials for reviving Libertarian Party groups. Their work and suggestions will be covered regularly in the Libertarian Party NEWS.—KH

Anti-Prison

As a libertarian ex-con (tax protest, contempt, etc.) I oppose private prisons. Free market advocates want politicized services privatized (mail, education, transportation, etc.) to make them more efficient...and shrink governments.

But given the current diarrhea of laws, we don't need more jails to oppress people, or a world-wide business lobby with an interest in keeping prisoners.

We can start to solve the problem by abandoning the recreational drug prohibition that only repeats all the mistakes of alcohol prohibition. We don't have too many prisoners—WE HAVE TOO MANY LAWS!

Stormy Mon
Denver, CO

Viewpoint

Essential Difference

By Karl Hess

Sometimes there are public statements that so succinctly sum up the difference between a libertarian and a collectivist outlook that they deserve to be pasted in one's philosophical scrapbook.

One such, for my money, occurred recently in a book review in the *Washington Post*. The review was written by Beryl Lieff Benderly and was of the book *A Lesser Life* by Sylvia Ann Hewlett.

Benderly, herself the author of *Thinking About Abortion*, is greatly enthusiastic about Hewlett's central thesis, which seems to be that American women are being dreadfully short-changed by state policies which do not subsidize childbearing. The result, as the reviewer, in alarmist italics, puts it is that *Very few middle-class American women can pursue fast-track careers while also fulfilling the responsibilities of motherhood.*

It is the reviewer, Benderly, who provides the gem that has so aroused my own interest. Toward the end of her review she says: "Where we differ from the Europeans seems to lie deep in our attitudes toward ourselves as individuals, as parents, as workers and as citizens. We see the decision to bear children as a purely private concern; they see it as a service to the community, rather analagous to military duty. Far from losing their jobs, a common fate of American mothers—Italian women receive two months of additional job

seniority for every child they bear their grateful nation."

It is breathtaking. Look at how much sheer anti-individual, collectivist power she packs into the single paragraph.

The collectivist does not consider individuals to be important except as they serve the state.

The collectivist does not consider children to be individuals at all. They are merely a product for the service of the state. (The reviewer refers to service to the community but she makes crystal clear that the community is the state.)

The collectivist regards military duty and the bearing of children to be similar forms of service to the state. Heil strength through reproduction or strength through rapid deployment. All the same.

The collectivist says that the state needs more and more children and should obtain them by subsidy or, presumably, any other means that works. (There is, one is reminded, the Chinese variation, in which male children are wanted by the "grateful nation" so that female children are simply killed.)

The reviewer says that the picture drawn in the Hewlett book of American mothers in 1986 is "stark, scary, and utterly convincing."

The collectivist mentality displayed in the review is, also, "stark, scary, and utterly convincing."

Rarely have I read such a stark reminder, in

so few words, of why some of us have spent our lives defending our individuality, seeking to live as individuals, and trying to encourage the individuality of all other people. The alternative is the Benderly world of state-owned women marching to the state's clinics where they will give birth to little soldiers and then receive a promotion in their part of the state's ant heap productive system. Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin dreamed of that also.

For Libertarian Party members, however, there is more than outrage that can be prompted by reading such a stark and scary expression of American collectivism. There are practical reactions quite in keeping with practical, Libertarian Party activism.

On principle, of course, Libertarian Party members oppose state subsidized activities that provide services for children, no matter how benign they seem. This hardly means that Libertarians oppose assistance for parents who cannot or do not wish to spend the day at home taking care of their children.

Private day care facilities present a wide-open opportunity for libertarian entrepreneurs—and exactly the sort of persuasive base that the state operated day care facilities provide. The state facilities, whether overtly or not, teach the lesson of collectivism. Private facilities should provide encouragement of individualism.

Private facilities are not the only course

open to libertarian parents, acting as volitional individuals. Agreements can be made, between consenting adults, for true community day care facilities—not the garrison version of the collectivist "community."

It may be sensed, that the care of the children of working parents is going to be an increasingly important one. It is, surely, one in which the most essential issues of individualism and collectivism will be joined—or should be. It is, surely, one in which Libertarian Party members can take an honest, active interest.

Florida

College Contact

Reaching out to college students, the Northeast Florida Libertarian Party has sent information packets to all of its area's campuses. The package includes "Libertarianism in One Lesson," by former presidential candidate Dave Bergland, a Q & A brochure about libertarianism and libertarian politics, business cards giving Libertarian Party contacts in the area, and a general description of the local Party's activities. The action has already produced requests for speakers and, at the very least, a way to let college students know that there is an alternative to status quo politics.

Thanks

I think the new LPNEWS is a great paper! It looks real good and reads fine. The layout works well and is pleasing on the eye. Keep up the good work. Peace and Freedom.

Ron Heaton

Chair—South Carolina L.P.
Aiken, S.C.

Your [Karl Hess] personal commentary in the LP NEWS really hit home with me. I was about to write the LP off. Because of you I re-subscribed.

Will Ferrell
High Point, NC

I've just renewed my membership in LP, largely out of anticipation of a new, *readable, thoughtful literary* newsletter!
Congrats!

Michael Allen
Assistant Professor
Tennessee Tech University
Cookeville, TN

I'd like to thank you for bringing LP NEWS down to a size where I can read it.
Please keep it short and regular.

Gerry Walsh
Roselle, IL

Here is some fan mail from Utah.
I really enjoyed the latest issue of the NEWS, and I think that you [Karl Hess] are the best editor we've had yet.

I'd personally like to see more articles which concern internal education—the Ken Sturzenacker piece was especially good.

Reid Judd
Salt Lake City, Utah

I recently received the March/April 1986 issue of Libertarian Party NEWS and read it all the way through. Upon reading your [Karl Hess] article I felt I had found a friend, if you will. I must confess to having not read anything of yours before, although I am familiar with your name, having read a fair bit of libertarian and anarchist literature. I see I have indeed missed something.

Your article echoed my own basic thoughts and feelings concerning libertarianism, party affiliation, and relationships. I had a feeling of someone who is successfully balancing the intellectual aspects of his philosophy with humanity. (I am disheartened by what I think to be too many old (cold?) school libertarian politicians trying to drape themselves in the language of liberty, stressing the political aspects of libertarianism while it seems divesting it of its humanness—its essence.)

I wish you well on your new endeavor as editor and look forward to future articles by yourself or others, that reflect the thoughts expressed in your personal commentary, that suggest to me the best in libertarianism.

James A. Malody
Decatur, GA

Counter Code

Ken Sturzenacker ("Roads: Hot, New LP Arena," LP NEWS, Mar/Apr 1986) wants highways sold off to private owners, who would charge tolls and user fees. Toll collections wouldn't create traffic jams, he tells us, because We could Force all vehicles to bear computer-readable codes, and We could bill their owners monthly for road use.

Anyway, Sturzenacker also tells us that as a side benefit, the computer traffic records will help Us locate stolen cars. Never mind the possibilities of computer wits using the system to steal cars. (Railroad cars use a system like this, and computer wits have been known to manipulate the system to "lose" (read "temporarily steal") large numbers of cars.) And

never mind the possibilities of governments using the computer traffic records to keep tabs on people's movements and violate their privacy—for the computer records would belong to private companies, and private companies would never invade anyone's privacy. Oh, no.

Maybe we should also sell all the *sidewalks* to private businesses, which could charge people tolls and user fees to walk from one place to another. And We could make everybody have computer-readable bar codes tattooed on their foreheads to bill them monthly. And then We could really keep tabs on people's travels. Or rather, the private sidewalk companies could, and they could make extra money by selling information to suspicious husbands about their wives' movements.

Possibly this is really going too far. Possibly the communist system of roads and sidewalks we have now is not too bad. Perhaps there are other causes more deserving of the time and energy of libertarians.

Richard Sharvy
Eugene, Oregon

The use of any technology for the coercion of people should be of constant concern to every libertarian. In the case of bar codes used for counting cars on private highways, of course, every user is a volunteer. Nonetheless, the point raised in this letter about the possible abuse of even such seemingly innocuous information seems appropriate. Suggestions for the prevention of abuse by an unscrupulous highway owner would be of interest. As for the private ownership of sidewalks, some communities already have achieved that happy libertarian status without adverse effects. As for tattooing identifications on foreheads, it is a terrible idea if done against the will of the owner of the forehead, a merely odd one if done by consenting individuals.—KH

Privacy

Mathematical developments (public-key

cryptography) and technological progress (small, cheap, personal computers) have combined to bring about a situation wherein *government will never again control information transfer*. It will not spy upon you by seizing your private papers, because they will be encrypted. It will not eavesdrop on your sensitive telephone conversations even if it wiretaps your phone, because your data (and in a few years, your voice) will be digitized and also encrypted. No one will be able to arrest the owner of a floppy disk whose contents are indistinguishable from random noise—even though the appropriate decryption might disclose a contraband copy of "Lolita" or even Don Corleone's business records.

It is possible *right now* for a thousand-dollar personal computer to perform a public-key data encryption so secure that a multi-million dollar Cray supercomputer couldn't crack it in a decade. The process is just a tad unwieldy, however, as a brief message may take hours (or days) to process. (In fairness, many messages do not really need that degree of protection; if the subject is a rendezvous in a week's time, then the message need only remain secret until that week has passed.)

One of the chief priorities of my LiberTech Project will be to develop and disseminate an inexpensive, efficient, self-contained set of encryption and decryption algorithms for the purpose of once again re-introducing the notion of *privacy* into our relationship with the state. (Though it will of necessity be *developed* by technical types, the goal will be to create a "turn-key" system which will require no mathematical or computer expertise from the end-user.) Libertarians with computer backgrounds are most eagerly welcomed to assist.

Chuck Hammill
The LiberTech Project
Suite B-253
8726 Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Continued on Page 10

Ballot Access Dominates NatCom Meeting

By Mark Lisheron

Chicago—The Chairman of the Ballot Access Committee for the National Libertarian Party pledged here April 5 and 6 to put Libertarians on the ballots of all 50 of the United States by 1988.

Stephen Fielder of Shepherdstown, WV, told the Libertarian National Committee that he will have failed as chairman of the committee to try for anything less in 1988.

Ballot access became the pivotal issue of the two-day convention and as such became the focus of national Party concern. Critics of a plan to petition successfully in every state told Fielder that the goal may be too ambitious and impractical. The National Committee, in fact, tabled until the August meeting in Baltimore a motion from Fielder to approve a 50-state plan.

The critics took aim at the bungled ballot drives of the 1984 election that cost the Party thousands of dollars and credibility among voters who might have otherwise voted Libertarian. Though the Party's candidates were on ballots in 38 states and Washington, DC, in 1984, even Fielder admitted the Party squandered enough money in some states to allow them access to the ballots of as many as 10 others.

Still, Fielder and his committee set as its ultimate goal complete ballot access.

"I've already said we will go for 50," Fielder said during a committee caucus on Saturday. "My feeling is that if we don't get 50 I will think I have failed."

So pervasive was the discussion of ballot access that challenges to the Party's approach to it made their way into reports from National Director Perry Willis, from Dave Walter of Warminster, PA, chairman of the Management and Audit Committee and the Mailing List Committee.

The discussion over who should have access to Libertarian fundraising mailing lists—Willis or Fielder or both—uncovered the internecine struggle within the Party.

The discussion during the two days of the convention, held at the Americana Congress Hotel along the city's Magnificent Mile, was spirited, but amiable. The committee met for cocktails, dinner and a party at the close of the Saturday session.

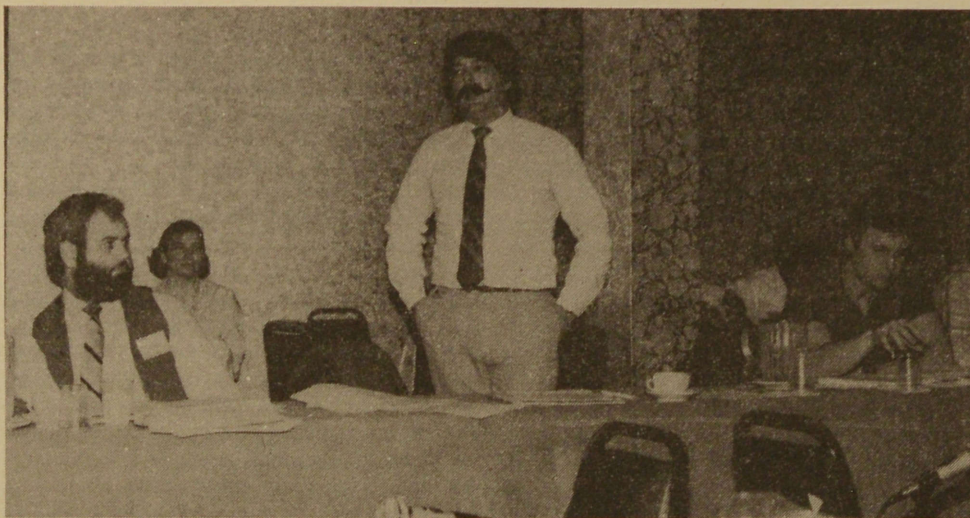
The committee met again into the afternoon Sunday.

The convention was not yet 20 minutes old Saturday when a motion to break into subcommittees was approved.

Sixty minutes later, Fielder and the Ballot Access Committee emerged with a plan of action foregoing 1986 and setting the Libertarian Party's sights squarely on the presidential election of 1988.

In addition to approving its nationwide drive strategy, Fielder's subcommittee hammered out a rudimentary plan to get onto all ballots.

"At this point, overall, I think we should



Stephen Fielder addresses meeting on ballot access concerns.

strike the best targets of opportunity along the lines of least resistance," Fielder said. "Go for the states that are most convenient for us."

By starting a ballot drive now for 1988, Fielder said, the Libertarian Party will buy itself time to reach all of the states, each with its own rules governing the collection of signatures on ballot petitions.

Crucially though, the long range planning ensures that the Party can raise the funds necessary to hire petitioners and to put them in the states where the ballot requirements make Party efforts more urgent.

Fielder said the Libertarian Party must raise \$600,000 and distribute it wisely to take its shot at complete ballot status. The Ballot Access Committee has \$10,000 in its budget, Fielder said.

"We'll get halfway through Georgia with that," Fielder said.

Raising money for the ballot access drive was not as important to some National Committee members as how the drive would be carried out, who would carry it out, and whether or not it was proper for the national Party to assist a self-funded subcommittee like the Ballot Access Committee.

The Party freed the committee, in part to avoid tangling its efforts in the political machinations of the National Committee. National Committee member William Evers of Palo Alto, CA, a harsh critic of the 50-state plan, said the National Committee should not involve itself until the subcommittee can eliminate the \$19,000 still owed for the 1984 campaign.

"I do think the National Committee should be allowed to deliberate on the 50 states plan," Evers said. "The whole idea of 50 states is too tough. I think we should shoot for 40 states and then rank the states according to importance after that."

Member Paul Kunberger of Marlow Heights, MD, said the national organization had an

obligation to mobilize state organizations for a ballot drive. Kunberger also called Fielder's 50-state plan a mistake.

The Ballot Access Committee will also discuss at the August meeting a plan to hire a professional company to collect signatures for the ballot petitions.

Willis suggested the Party hire Kimble Company of California, professionals who could help the Party avoid its 1984 mistakes.

"These guys have done hundreds of drives and have only missed maybe a couple of times," Willis said. "The job you have is immense. It is beyond our capacity."

Libertarians are also considering sending an organized band of national Party signature collectors into targeted states, Fielder told the committee.

The "roving band" of petitioners would be sent into those states whose Libertarian Parties are in disarray and coordinate drives.

In better organized states, the national and state volunteers could split duties and costs. Only in those states with a well organized Party would the states handle their own petition drives, Fielder said.

Fielder proposed that Texas, Georgia, and Michigan be the first three states targeted. Texas and Georgia should begin when money is available because they are difficult, Fielder said. Work on ballot status in Michigan is under way and should be finished before moving on, he said.

However, the National Committee cooled to the request of San Antonio Libertarian Theresa Doyle's request for as much as \$20,000 of national Party money to start a ballot drive in Texas for 1986. Doyle said the Libertarian Party would benefit from the support of tax protestors in the state who are backing candidate George Meeks.

Fielder and Evers agreed that the Party does not have the money to begin a Texas drive. Fielder estimated that a total of \$30,000 would

be needed to acquire the necessary signatures in Texas.

Evers said that should the Party spend the money and fail in Texas, the 1988 campaign could be severely damaged.

Doyle's request for money was denied.

The independence of the Ballot Access Committee passed its first major test during the convention. The committee voted to allow Ballot Access to use the national Party's mailing list from which a significant amount of its operating money is raised.

Permission was not granted before a lengthy and sometimes bitter discussion. Though no one was accused of undercutting the efforts of the national director or the Ballot Access chairman, committee members made it clear that the mailing list has become the object of some infighting.

Previously, Willis had charge of the list from which he told the committee he had sent out mailings to keep the national Party office operating. Willis told the committee that the Party's financial woes started in its headquarters and could only be solved by channeling all Party money into it.

With the focus shifting to ballot access, Willis said, he had offered the list to Fielder.

Some committee members were incredulous.

"Ballot status is one of the most important functions of the National Committee," said Dale Pratt of Honolulu, HI. "To turn Ballot Access into a self-funded committee and say 'I hope you can make it, but we're not going to help you,' is preposterous."

Hugh Butler, a member from Salt Lake City, UT, said the committee members were masking their opposition to releasing the list by trying to set a dollar value on it, then quibbling over whether to give the list to its subcommittee or rent it.

However, Butler said that the committee should rent the list from the national Party to ensure, in procedure at least, that it remains an independent subcommittee.

Though the committee accepted the motion of member-at-large Peter Breggin of Bethesda, MD, to table ballot access until August in Baltimore, Fielder said decisions must be made soon. National Party Vice-Chair Sharon A. Ayres said an orderly budget projection, a list of states, and the order in which they will be attacked are vital.

"We do not yet have a practical plan. We need money first," Fielder said. "We have to strike targets of opportunity. I am not going to plan on sending these people out knowing what interstate they will travel on. That is not practical. The committee will make every effort to assure full funding before proceeding with this ballot drive."

Mark Lisheron is a journalist on one of Milwaukee's major daily newspapers.

Staff Raises Turned Down

By Mark Lisheron

Chicago—Though National Director Perry Willis said he was proud of having held the headquarters together "with paper clips and bubble gum" the National Committee balked at raising his salary.

In his report to the committee, Willis said raises of \$200 a month to his \$1,800 a month salary and a \$200 a month raise for the Party's finance director, Terry V. Mitchell, were the most pressing needs for the headquarters to do a better job.

The committee deferred a decision until its August meeting in Baltimore. Several members supported the raises, but several others said the Party could not justify raises for administrators while income continued to lag behind projections.

"I'm not being paid enough to do the job

mandated by the Party," Willis told the committee. "I took a \$1,000 a month pay cut to help the Party, but I cannot continue at my present rate of pay."

Since heading the Party staff in July, 1985, Willis said he has worked to solve the Libertarian Party funding problems.

Willis said Party members will be put on a regular mailing schedule for contributions. Willis said he has inaugurated a monthly schedule for major contributions and a three-week schedule for smaller contributions. Each mailing is directed at Party members who have contributed in the past, Willis said.

"The biggest problem we've had is in sticking to the mailing schedule," Willis said. "I think you will find the financial picture improving."

The financial condition of the national Party will not markedly improve until membership and the contributor base increase, Willis said. Willis is expecting paid memberships nationwide to be more than 6,000 by the end of April. Still, March figures showed that in 35 states, including populous Massachusetts, membership is below 100.

California's Party membership at 1,379, is more than four times that of New York, the second strongest Libertarian stronghold.

"In terms of membership ranking, some states are very bare," Willis said.

Willis was also critical of the relationship with the state and local parties. In his report, Willis said he would try to resume better communications.

Willis said improvement in efficiency could

be made by raises for all of the staff in the near future. Willis asked the National Committee to provide him with a secretary, a better copier, and a fire-proof file cabinet.

Since July, Willis said, the national headquarters has made progress. The debt for the headquarters was reduced to \$23,651, in part by two of the most successful fundraising mailings in the history of the Libertarian Party. The mailings earned \$44,000, Willis said.

"If our next two major appeals do this well," Willis said, "then we could expect two-thirds of our direct mail income budget to be covered by only two letters."

Willis said the headquarters has undertaken creating new information packets, a welcoming packet for new Party members, and an operations manual describing how the office is run.

State Party Rejuvenation Launched

Chicago—Veteran LP activists David Walter and Bill Evers launched an effort April 6 to aid the rejuvenation of those state-level LPs that are in trouble or in decline.

Walter, current chair of the National Committee's management committee, said that the current effort is primarily one of gathering information. "We want to get a better idea of what the situation is at the grass roots," Walter said.

Evers said that he and Walter would be surveying current state leaders and veteran activists around the country to get their self-assessment of the situation and obtain "some objective measures" that will show how the smaller state LPs are doing.

Part of the effort, Evers said, will be to ask state-level leaders what the national LP can do to help state leadership rebuild state organizations.

Such information, Walter points out, may be valuable to the LNC's management committee. The management committee may want to recommend changes in national headquarters procedures in order to improve the health of state parties.

In addition, Evers points out, information gathered may be useful to regional representatives on the National Committee. These

regional representatives may wish to work on building up the LPs in their regions.

Already, Evers said, he and Walter are working with National Committeeman Karl Wetzel, who represents Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin, in order to obtain a picture of the situation in Iowa. They are also, according to Evers, working with National Committeeman Paul Kunberger, who represents West Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, to assemble information on the situation in DC and in Delaware.

National Chair Jim Turney and National Director Perry Willis will be assisting the project by supplying Walter and Evers with information gathered in their travels or available at Houston headquarters. Willis will also be advising Walter and Evers on the design of their survey. In particular, Willis will be helping them choose objective measures that will best show the condition of the smaller LPs.

The current program is a continuation, at present in more modest form, of an effort to aid state LPs that former National Chair Alicia Clark developed and worked on in recent years.

Clark's approach had been to find state LPs that wished to strengthen themselves. She would then visit the state and chair a day-long intensive seminar on organizational development and party-building. Evers and Walter plan to seek out LNC regional representatives and other qualified activists who would be interested in undertaking training in the presentation of such seminars or similar organizing and party-building efforts.

Personal Conviction

Why I'm a Libertarian

By Betty Stram

When I was young, I lived in a suburban area where we explored the woods, waded in the creek, climbed trees, planned our own games and ran everywhere. My mother, being wise and tolerant, let me do what my brothers did and allowed me to be a tomboy. Most girls were not.

I was ten years old when I overheard my grandfather, who was a devout man, discussing religion with a woman relative who was a non-believer. I never forgot that conversation—it was probably when I first learned the value of skepticism.

During my high school years, I read many books from our school library and also began to read what we had at home. I read Elbert Hubbard's writings and was introduced to Robert Ingersoll and some (at that time) radical ideas. In college, I wrote a term paper on Thomas Paine.

All this time, I was never really interested in politics although I always voted Republican.

To make a long story short, my husband died and I became a teacher. I needed extra money so I decided to also sell mutual funds. I

subscribed to *Barron's* and started to read Robert Bleiberg.

Were my eyes opened! What he said about the doings in Washington and the economic situation was quite different from what I had been reading! I began to worry about my country.

Then one day, my daughter, who was studying at Penn, brought home *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand and asked me to read it. What exhilaration! My doubts and questions were answered! I read all of Ayn Rand's works, subscribed to the *Objectivist*, and attended meetings.

I subscribed to *Reason* when it was first published, had meetings with some other *Reason* readers and learned from one of them about the Libertarian Party.

It was easy for me to become a Libertarian because, just as Ayn Rand was the most logical of all the philosophers I had read, so were Libertarian ideas the most logical and idealistic of all political ones.

I think to be a Libertarian, one must have a basic love for living and for freedom.

Betty Stram, who will be 78 in February, is a Libertarian activist who lives in Mechanicsburg, PA. Her article is reprinted from Pennsylvania Liberty. Similar statements of Libertarian conviction and conversion are welcome from party members everywhere.

News for The NEWS

Here are some guidelines for gathering news for the Libertarian Party NEWS. They are offered in hope of inspiring more people to send more and also better news for sharing with other libertarians.

If you send clippings, be sure they are dated and the source is clearly stated. A note giving your impression of why the clipping should interest other libertarians would be helpful. The situation covered in the clipping may not be clear to someone totally unfamiliar with it.

All state and local newsletters are welcome and the editors of the Libertarian Party NEWS hope that every single libertarian editor will send a copy of their product regularly to us. But, newsletter coverage also may assume familiarity which, it is best to assume, we do not have. Please, if there's an item that you want to suggest for publication in the NEWS but that could be subject to misinterpretation or that requires some background knowledge to make it clear—please add a note supplying pertinent facts and background.

If you want to talk over a story by phone but don't want to spend money for a long distance call, just drop us a postcard about the situation you want to discuss and we'll contact you for that discussion.

Sometimes a short but significant story on something you or a local group is doing can best be summed up in a letter to the editor. That section of the paper is well read and is a prime vehicle for libertarian communications.

If you can possibly send typewritten material rather than handwritten, our weary eyes would deeply appreciate it. If it's double-spaced, our typesetter will appreciate it even more. Sheer physical limitations make handwritten material hard to get to and to get through.



Libertarian Party NEWS
Information for Freedom

Be on the alert, particularly, for information that will help other Libertarian Party members in their practical political work—reports of successful campaigns, analyses of failed ones, for instance.

Running debates on policies and practices inside the Libertarian Party often may be handled by letters to the editor but there may be times when issues such as this become major and demanding of larger debate. At such times we will try to present substantial opposing views so that libertarians may make up their own minds. If there are issues that you feel merit such debate, suggestions both of topic and of persons able to represent the various views would be appreciated.

Rumor clarification is another area of interest to the editors. If you know of a rumor that is proving irritating or destructive to libertarian activity, please let us know. We'll try to track down the facts. If you already know the facts, we'd like to hear about that as well.

And always remember, one of our favorite injunctions is to "question authority." We want that to apply to the Libertarian Party NEWS and to the Libertarian Party leadership as well as to any other persons, places, or things. If there is something you want to know about your Libertarian Party or your newspaper, feel free to ask. We will answer.

Free Lunch?

W. Glenn Campbell, the director of the Hoover Institution, was recently asked an intriguing question. Hoover is an academic think-tank at Stanford University that has seen many members of its staff serve in prominent positions in the Reagan administration. A magazine asked Campbell where he would take left-liberal economist John Kenneth Galbraith for lunch. Campbell's answer: The annual convention of the Libertarian Party.

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NEWS Photos by Mark Lisher

Bill Evers, second from right, urged group to set goal of ballot access in 40 states.

Financial Status

Chicago—The Libertarian Party is operating at virtually even through the first months of 1986, according to a treasurer's report released at the National Committee meeting.

In its operations from Jan. 1, 1986, the National Committee has a balance of \$783.51, with a carryover from 1985 of \$35,859.54, according to Sam Treynor, Party treasurer from Manhattan Beach, Calif. Treynor said income for the year of \$52,876 is 10.8 percent behind the Party's projected \$355,500 income for 1986.

"We're operating at break-even," Treynor told the National Committee at its meeting April 5 and 6 at the Americana Congress Hotel.

The financial report by Treynor showed the Party on schedule with its fundraising goal of \$265,000 for 1986, having raised \$43,756 in the first two months of the year.

However, the Party is also meeting or exceeding its budget projections for large expenses such as fundraising costs and salaries for employees at the National Headquarters.

Through February, Treynor's report said,

the \$52,093 spent by the Party is 2.3 percent under projected spending of \$319,950 for all of 1986. The figure is a bit skewed, because a projected \$50,000 in employee benefits and other salaries for 1986 has yet to be paid, he said.

The Libertarian Party earned its slight surplus through \$29,037 in telephone fundraising, \$10,111 in outright contributions, and \$4,157 in monthly pledges.

So far in 1986, direct mail contributions, major contributions, targeted contributions, convention fundraising, Libertarian Party NEWS income, and rental of its name list have each earned less than \$1,000.

The Party spent \$25,339 to operate its National Headquarters in the first two months. Salaries accounted for \$12,217. Rent, telephones, and equipment accounted for \$8,348 in spending. The balance was spent on administrative expenses and data processing.

The Party spent another \$17,179 on its fundraising, \$16,023 of that on its fundraising contract.

The Libertarian Party NEWS cost \$9,000 in January and February, according to the report.

Movement Groups

The Familist Movement

Groups with a distinctly libertarian outlook, whether involved with Libertarian Party activities or not (or even if hostile to them), are of importance to all who are working for a libertarian world. Henceforth, the Libertarian Party NEWS will present sketches of such groups so that wider and stronger networks of libertarian interest may be possible.

With familiar libertarian names such as Dean Ahmad, chairman of the Maryland Libertarian Party, as contributors to the group's bi-monthly publication, "The Familist," the Familists are "family oriented children's rights advocates."

The group's publication is mailed free to members and is not available by subscription nor, at the moment, are members even asked to pay dues. The group welcomes contributions, however, of books, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and reports on family activities, meetings, and projects.

Here is the group's complete "Statement of Position":

"We, the members of the Familist movement, are family oriented Children's Rights advocates. We recognize family and kinship as social systems designed by Nature to foster the self-reliance and independence of children.

"Statism and Welfare/Warfare Nationalism have distinguished themselves throughout history as the arch-enemies of Familism by regimenting and regulating families with patriarchal laws and intrusive bureaucracies. Women and children, in particular, have been denied not only equal protection by government but also independence in the job market and before the law.

"Since Familism is a child centered social pattern which stems from the basic inclinations of Human Nature and lays the foundations for



civilization in all times and places, no outside institution has the right to disrupt the spontaneous order of a Familistic Society.

"If government has any legitimate function, it is to help protect the Life, Liberty and Property of family members, without regard to age or sex. In all other respects there should be complete separation of Family and State."

The Familist Movement headquarters is at 5324 Sun Valley Drive, El Paso, TX 79924. The phone (which may be answered by a Spanish speaking person) is 915-755-7045.

Florida

Democracy in Duval

After addressing Duval County (FL) legislators in regard to ballot access for the Libertarian Party, North Florida Libertarian Party Chairman Nick Dunbar discussed the ethics of ballot access with Duval County Democratic Chairman Lowell Lorber. Here, as transcribed in the North Florida Party's newsletter, is how it went:

Lorber: There is no way that those guys are going to let you Libertarians on the ballot. Dunbar: You are the one who is going to make sure that we do not get ballot access. Don't you care about what is fair?

Lorber: Don't use that word fair with me. Fair is a four letter word.

Dunbar: Let's go. This guy thinks that fair is a four letter word.

Lorber: It is a four letter word. I don't let people use that word with me, especially women.

During the same exchange, a city councilman chimed in with: "I know what you Libertarians stand for. I just wish you all would make up your minds whether you're conservatives or liberals."

Libertarian Writes

Continued from Page 7

Radio

There is a great body of fiction which is based on libertarian themes. Most of these works would be classified as science fiction: Orwell's *1984*, Heinlein's *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* and *Franham's Freehold*, Van Vogt's *The Weapon Shops of Isher*, and Niven and Pournelle's *Oath of Fealty*. Other works of fiction also explore these themes—Lucille Kallen's detective novels *Introducing C.B. Greenfield* and *The Tanglewood Murder*, for example.

At the same time there has been an increasing demand for good radio drama, especially science fiction radio drama. The enormous popularity of the radio versions of *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back* attests to this. Why not, therefore, use the potential audience to promote libertarian ideas of individual freedom as detailed in the books mentioned above?

With this in mind, I conceived the concept of a "Libertarian Radio Theater." Radio drama is (relatively) easy and inexpensive to produce. Potentially such programs could reach a large and loyal audience. Scripts for 1984 have already been prepared, and a recording of the first episode has been made.

While I would not expect the Libertarian Party to provide funds for this project, it would be helpful if you could put me in touch with people who might be interested in sponsoring these programs. Copies of the first episode of 1984 are available for audition, and a detailed budget for each program in the series will be provided to potential sponsors.

Tom Godell

Radio Station WLRH
222 Holmes Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Oops

Wait a minute! Libertarian Party Alderman Tom Westgaard (in Greenfield, WI), serving a majority, wants to widen a road in his district over the opposition of the people who live on the road (Libertarian Party NEWS, Nov./Dec. 1985). Presumably this would mean taking their land by eminent domain. Since when are Libertarians championing eminent domain?...If "majority rule" is more important to Westgaard than property rights, then he should join another party.

George N. Smith, Jr.
New Hartford, CT

Reader Smith's irritation is understandable. But, happily, Westgaard is still in the right party. The NEWS story, sad to say, wasn't altogether clear about the road widening dispute which was a major item in Westgaard's successful bid for the city council. Actually, Westgaard was representing the wishes of the property owners who wanted to widen the road, but only to 34 feet. The city wanted to widen it to 44 feet. The NEWS story simply said he was advocating widening the road and Reader Smith is certainly justified in having drawn an unfortunate conclusion from that. Westgaard, on April 1, lost his council seat in a campaign that was so smear-filled that he has gone to court over it. The road, in the meantime, hasn't been widened at all.—KH

Terrorism

I enjoyed reading your [Murray Rothbard] article on terrorism that just appeared in Libertarian Party NEWS.

You raise the question of why assassinations here in America are always written off as acts of individuals while similar acts abroad are

always ascribed to organized conspiracies.

I think that there is a simple answer, namely that to attribute assassinations here to organized conspiracies would reflect badly on the political process and government.

The state and its favorites want people to believe that the leaders of the government are wiser and nobler than others and ought to be revered. The notion that assassinations are planned and orchestrated by *other* politicians raises questions about the whole nature of the political system.

To prove the point, attributing assassinations to lone nuts is no mere fad or invention of Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Quite the contrary. I cannot think of any important political assassination in American history that has ever been attributed to any conspiracy.

Chris Condon
The Woodlands, TX

Fact Finder

One service LP Headquarters could provide to libertarians is a "Fact Checker." This person or committee would seek out answers to questions from appropriate sources and provide authoritative references or documentation the questioner could cite.

For example: I think I read somewhere that the return today's workers are getting on their FICA taxes is about 1 percent, but I can't remember what the actual figure is or where I read it. I would like to use this figure in a letter-to-the-editor on Social Security, but I certainly don't want to unless I'm sure of my facts.

A service like this should encourage more letters and political office candidates. LP NEWS could also print the answers to questions considered to be of widespread interest.

John C. Sproul
Rochester, NY

The idea presented above is a good one and the editors of the NEWS will attempt to do it justice. Just send your inquiries to us. The reference to the low value of an "investment" in Social Security, as compared to market yields, refers to people now entering the system and is completely analyzed in probably the best, current book on Social Security that a Libertarian Party member could use for reference: "Social Security: Prospects for Real Reform," edited by Peter J. Ferrara, published by the Cato Institute, 224 Second Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003, \$20/cloth, \$8.95/paper.

The first chapter of the book, which bears directly upon the one percent question, is entitled "Rates of Return Promised by Social Security to Today's Young Workers." Another chapter in the book analyzes private alternatives to Social Security and should be of particular interest to Libertarian Party members talking about or campaigning on the differences between free market and socialized income security systems. It is a political issue of major importance.—KH

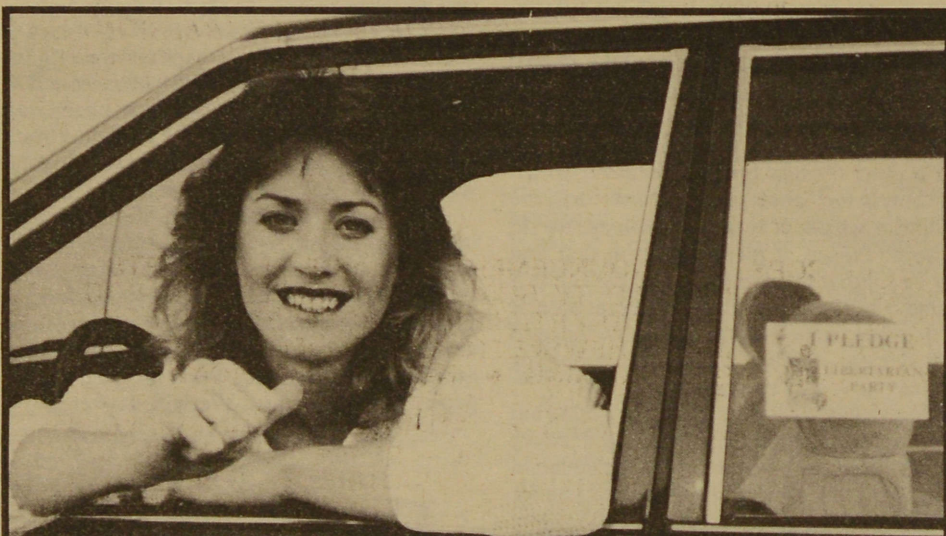
Hurrah

The LP of North Fla. has signed up its first 16 year old member, Larry Wine of Callahan. Larry read the Pledge statement out loud. He was asked if he understood what the pledge meant. His reply "Sure, it means I'm not going to help the government rip people off."

Larry is the youngest member of LP Florida. He attends Callahan Junior High School.

Larry is going to be helping Captain Flashback in producing a "Let Freedom Rock" music video.

Nick Dunbar
LPNF
Jacksonville Beach, FL



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Privatization

Continued from Page 1

ways to the state for a fixed amount or be paid according to usage. Better yet, why not allow private firms to recoup their investment by collecting tolls? Electronic road-pricing is a technique whereby a vehicle's road usage is recorded by means of electronic signals and users are periodically billed, thus substantially eliminating the need for costly, inconvenient toll booths.

Of course, almost all state and local government housekeeping and support services can be contracted out for substantial savings—janitorial service, building and grounds security, landscaping, engineering, fleet maintenance and management, food provisions, computer processing, etc.

Privatization at the Local Level

At the county level, welfare costs could be reduced by referring able-bodied recipients to private workfare agencies that furnish jobs and training, as is done in Alameda County, California. And why not contract out for mental health services as a number of other California counties are doing?

County government could also achieve a significant savings (over 10 percent or more) by contracting out for court marshals and bailiffs, as do many federal courts. Los Angeles even contracts out public defender services in some county areas.

Several counties have contracted out some probation services to community-based groups. And some local courts such as in Erie County, Pennsylvania, are sending juvenile offenders to innovative private-rehabilitation programs such as VisionQuest, which teaches delinquent youth individual responsibility by taking them on arduous wagon train expeditions. In Tennessee, Shelby County has contracted out its juvenile detention facility for a 25 percent savings and nearby Hamilton County has contracted out the operation of its medium-security county prison.

Many cities save as much as 60 percent or more by contracting out for residential solid waste collection. Other local governments rely on private franchising. One Arizona jurisdiction has had particular success with *minimal* regulation and *non-exclusive* franchise areas. Wichita, Kansas, even shed its entire garbage collection operation *completely* to the private sector.

Private provision of wastewater-treatment services began with contracting out for operation and maintenance. But, with federal construction grants being reduced to a trickle of what is needed, many jurisdictions are now participating in privatization projects whereby the private sector finances, designs, constructs, operates, and owns the treatment facility with a long-term service contract for treatment services.

Local transit is an area ripe for privatization with dozens of cities deregulating taxicab prices and entry restrictions during the last few years. In light of drastic cutbacks in federal mass-transit funding, more and more cities are discovering how deregulation can encourage more service providers, usually at much less cost. San Diego, for instance, as a part of its overall taxicab deregulation, has even permitted jitney service. And an increasing number of cities are contracting out for special paratransit and transit services for the elderly and handicapped. Westchester County, New York, contracted out its *entire* bus system. A growing list of big cities are contracting out for (or otherwise encouraging) private commuter-bus service.

Street maintenance and cleaning is contracted out with significant savings by many cities already. But why stop there? Why not turn over the ownership and maintenance responsibility of certain residential streets to adjoining property owners as in St. Louis, New York, and other cities?

Some cities have turned over building inspec-

tion and code enforcement to the private sector. For example, one California city, Loma Linda, contracts out for the enforcement of all city and state building and land-use codes. But Harris County, Texas, encompassing Houston's rapidly growing suburbs, gets along quite well without any building or land-use codes.

Private fire companies are a well-publicized phenomenon and now even have their own trade association—the Private Sector Fire Association. Arizona's Rural/Metro Corporation, for instance, provides high-quality, low-cost services to municipalities on a contract basis as well as to individual subscribers. But another quasi-privatization concept could also be applied to fire protection—user charges for other-than-basic services according to the degree of fire risk, as Boston and several other jurisdictions have done.

Even the police function can be partially privatized by contracting out for special services such as prisoner transport, and patrol of public buildings, parks, and housing projects. In some cities, the police have even shed some police powers such as apprehension, prisoner transport, and evidence presentation to private-security personnel guarding retail establishments. A handful of small U.S. jurisdictions have gone as far as contracting out for their entire police force for periods as long as 18 months and have been quite satisfied with the results. In Switzerland, over 30 jurisdictions have successfully contracted out for police service on a long-term basis. And San Francisco allows private entrepreneurs to go through the police academy and thereafter bid for private police "beats."

Contracting out for park landscaping and maintenance often leads to significant savings. Some jurisdictions even contract out recreation services to nonprofit agencies and, in at least one case, a for-profit firm. Another partial privatization technique—user charges—is easily applied to parks and recreation. One California city, Glendora, has even recovered 100 percent of its recreation-program costs from user charges.

In sum, the development of privatization and partial privatization techniques has progressed to a point where all state and local officials can promote privatization as a comprehensive, realistic alternative.

Philip Fixler is director of the Local Government Center, 1018 Garden St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 963-5993. The Center publishes many worthwhile publications concerning privatization, holds seminars on the subject for municipal officials, and maintains a privatization data base covering public services which have been privatized by specific local governments across the country.

California

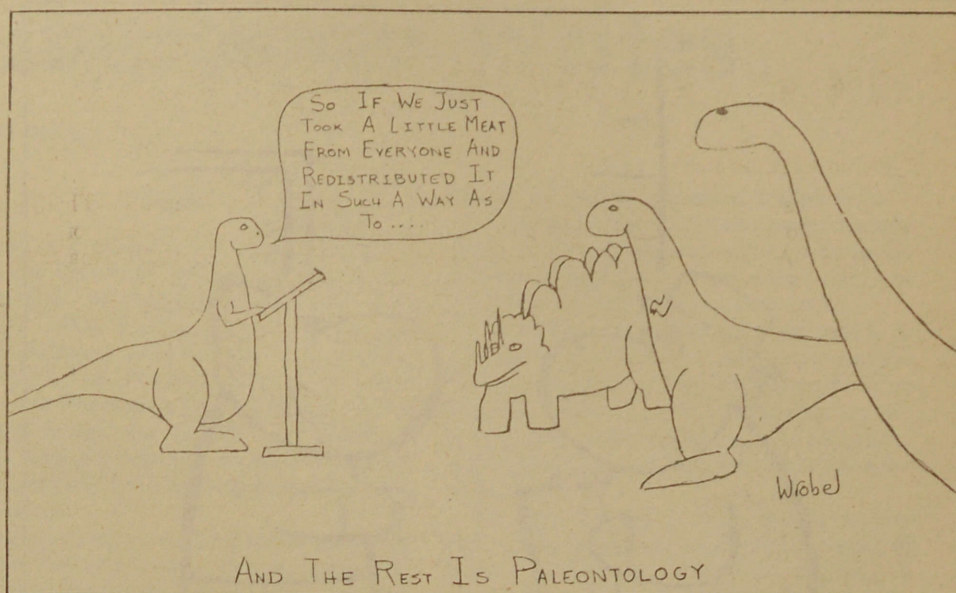
Bare Facts

California newspapers recently reported that the Libertarian Party candidate for lieutenant governor, Norma Jean Almodovar, would publicize her campaign by doing rock videos and posing nude for a campaign poster.

Not quite true.

According to the candidate: "I told the news media at a recent press conference that I wanted to do a series of posters that conveyed the idea that our bodies are not considered personal property by the state and federal governments. My body, in one poster, will be nude, but tangled in 'red tape' placed to cover certain areas of my body so that no one will be offended. The press left out the part about the red tape."

The poster series will be offered for sale to help finance her campaign.



Can Freedom Rock?

By Perry Willis

Rock and roll has always been associated with rebellion, and rebellion has at least a tenuous relationship to freedom, particularly in the American tradition. We Americans, however often we may succumb to government propaganda and nationalism, have so far been the human species' most willing rebels. And in no other country has music played so large a role in the process of rebellion and dissent.

The French revolution has the "Marseillaise," and the Communists were hearty singers of the "Internationale," but can any country or historical period match the outpouring of rebellious music created by Americans during the 1960's? Perhaps it is true that much of the best music of the period was created by the English, but it is also true that most of the inspiration came from cultural and political upheavals happening primarily in the United States.

And haven't many foreigners been among the best prophets of the American brand of freedom, and rebellions? Tom Paine, after all, was an Englishman, and to him being an American and being a lover of freedom were virtually equivalent. In other words, Tom Paine considered himself an American by virtue of his love of freedom.

Tom Paine was not a composer of music, but he did write "The Crisis" on the head of a drum, and I'm sure that in singing "Yankee Doodle" as he marched with the troops he must have given some thought to the importance of that song to the American Revolution.

We Libertarians, like Tom Paine, are philosophical revolutionaries. We want to turn the world on its ear, or, more properly, set it up straight for the first time. How are we going to have the gumption to do it unless there are songs to bring us together and songs to spur us on? What lover of freedom, of whatever nationality, will write anthems for the American Libertarian movement of the 20th century?

It may also be that music has a role beyond that of the anthem. Marshall Fritz, founder of the "Advocates for Self Government," has given this matter a great deal of thought. It is his contention that all ideological revolutions go through certain stages. In Fritz's conception, all of these stages have to do with different methods of persuasion. The final stage is called the Popularization stage, and in it, novels, plays, movies, and particularly music are employed to make the ideology in question an ingrained part of the culture.

Now obviously, any method of persuasion that is considered the last stage of the revolution is probably not what's "going to make it all happen." It may place the finishing touches on the revolution, it may even give it staying power, but it's not going to get us there. However, there is nothing in Fritz's conception, or in reality for that matter, which dictates that popularization methods cannot be used right now. There can, will, and probably should be overlaps between these stages.

And so there are. Many plays, novels, and

stories have overtly libertarian themes, and there is even a great deal of libertarian music. Former NatCom member Craig Franklin has been writing libertarian songs for years, and even has a song book available.

But there's something missing. Where's the rock and roll? Where's the music that gets down inside you and turns on that emotional switch that makes you want to stand up and shout, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore?"

Well, it exists too. "Rush" and "Oingo Boingo" are notable examples of rock groups which have produced music with overtly libertarian themes. (Take note that "Rush" is a Canadian band.) Some members of these bands even refer to themselves as "small 'l' libertarians." These groups have produced no libertarian anthems, however.

So along comes Steve Peppers, AKA Captain Flashback, to fill the need for libertarian rock and roll. He has produced a seven-song album of surprisingly good quality called "Let Freedom Rock." And for those of you who think of libertarianism as some dry intellectual construct, get ready, because freedom can indeed rock.

This album demonstrates a great deal of musical competence. What is most amazing is that, except for some assistance on piano from Rory Moore, Peppers handles all of the musical chores. He also composed and wrote the lyrics for all of the songs, three of which dominate the album.

"Can't Kill It With Kindness" is a bluesy piece reminiscent of the Doors. "Time Enough for Love," apparently written in homage to Robert Heinlein's great novel of the same title, is a moving song which I interpret as dealing with the familial aspects of our individualistic movement. The title song, "Let Freedom Rock," overcomes my aversion to songs about rock and roll by being a great deal of fun. The song is lighthearted and irreverent. "If it's peaceful, make it legal," the song challenges. It has a great sub-chorus, and I predict that if there's any song that may catch on among libertarians, it's this one.

There are several other notable songs on the album. The one about Paul Jacob failed for me personally. There is also a song called "We The Living," and a rather nice little speech by Bruce Crichton about the relationship between freedom and rock music. An electric version of "The Star Spangled Banner" serves as a nice backdrop to this speech.

I am very pleased by this first public work of a freedom-loving musician. Captain Flashback will need to diversify if he hopes to make it in the world of commercial music. I for one hope that that is his intention. "Let Freedom Rock" carries a \$7.00 price tag. That's a bit stiff, but I think all who are interested in patronizing the development of this sort of artist should pay the price. Keeping Mr. Peppers fed seems like a good way to get the next rock and roll rebellion under way.

Free Trade Matters

By Sheldon L. Richman

What are those celebrities on the commercials trying to tell us when they show the "Made in the USA" label on their clothing and say, "You better believe it matters to me"? Why are we consumers constantly hounded by them and their sponsors to Buy American? Can't we be left in peace to spend our money as we like? I don't mean to sound ornery, but enough is enough. Americans buy foreign-made products because they think they're a better value than any competing alternatives. They aren't in the habit of throwing money away.

Now comes a group of American manufacturers who imply that there is something wrong with buying imports. What could be wrong? Let's examine their slogan, "It matters." What does that mean? Surely not that it is important to get the most for your money. We already know that; it's too obvious to require an expensive ad campaign.

Could they be saying that some American products are better than we consumers think? If so, why don't they just say it? Probably because that's not it either. No, the people responsible for this ad campaign have a less constructive agenda. What matters—to them—is that we find that too many foreign products are a better value than American products. They want us to put aside our best judgment about how to spend our money and subsidize producers who aren't up to snuff.

Now they can't just come out and say that. How would it sound? "Hey, Mr. and Mrs. American, have a heart. Stop shopping for the best quality at the lowest price. Buy American!" That wouldn't get far because it is too transparent. So they have to camouflage the message. If they can get us to believe that buying American "matters" to the United States of America—the same USA we're all part of, right?—then maybe we'll do it.

What's going on here is a subtle bit of demagoguery. By cashing in on people's patriotism, even nationalism, the manufacturers hope to make you think that buying American-made products is in itself good for everyone. But this is not so.

Think about it: when you buy a foreign product, you pay in dollars. Where do those dollars go? Some go to the local—that is, American—seller. These people would miss

out if you always Buy American. The other dollars go to people in the country of origin. That's supposed to be bad. But what really happens? First, foreigners don't use dollars in their home countries. Japanese citizens can't spend dollars in their supermarkets. They must use yen. So they have to convert dollars into something more useful. Their options are limited. First, they can trade dollars for yen in the foreign-exchange market. But that only shifts the focus to the new receiver of dollars.

The second option is to invest in business enterprises in the United States. This, of course, creates jobs and brings new products to the American marketplace. Third, they can buy American exports; presumably, the sponsors of the ad campaign wouldn't object. There is nothing else to be done with dollars. Foreigners don't burn them or stuff their mattresses. But if they did, it wouldn't be so bad. We'd get color TVs and VCRs for green paper with president's pictures, that is, for next to nothing. It would be a great deal.

Notice what any of these options entails: dollars come home to benefit Americans. But if that is so, why all the concern about Americans buying imports? No matter what foreigners do with their dollars, some Americans will profit. If we buy imports we help, as an unintended consequence, one group of Americans. If we shun imports we help, temporarily, another group. But in helping this second group, we lose a great deal. Money spent on expensive domestic products would have gone to creating new opportunities for people, including some of those now outcompeted by foreigners. Instead, the new opportunities remain unborn and Americans remain in industries that can't cut it on their own merit.

The Buy American campaign is bad policy. It is a bid to favor workers in inefficient American industries not over foreigners, but over workers in efficient American industries, actual and potential.

So buy what you want—and guilt-free. The economy works best when people are free to spend their money in their own best interest. That's what really matters.

Sheldon L. Richman is director of public affairs of the Institute for Humane Studies.

Cash-and-Carry Judicial System

For the past 10 years, Californians have been able to avail themselves of a private judicial system which the state Bar Association has said "promotes the public interest" by freeing up courtrooms that otherwise would be bogged down by "difficult, expensive, time-consuming cases."

The system, which employs 58 retired judges, permits litigants to agree on a judge, remove their case from the formal court docket, pay a fee to the agreed-on judge of \$100 or more an hour, and look forward to the speedy resolution of disputes that otherwise could take months of court time and legal fees. The "trials" can be held at night, on weekends, or whenever convenient, and judges who are expert in a particular field of litigation may be selected to further speed things along.

The law permitting the private judicial system was enacted in 1872 but it wasn't used until 10

years ago when lawyers began seeking ways to get things done faster for their clients. Some law firms in California now claim that as much as 25 percent of their business is being given to the private judiciary. According to a report in *The New York Times*, "Federal law and the laws of all but a few states permit some form of private judging, usually a variation on mediation or arbitration. But California is the only state that has institutionalized a private judiciary. Unlike arbitrators, private judges have the powers of the state to enforce their orders. And where arbitrators' decisions are final, these rulings may be appealed."

Some celebrity examples of the private judiciary at work include the divorces of John DeLorean, Johnny Carson, and Ben Gazzara, all resolved before private judges. Private judges also take cases involving companies suing other companies, custody cases, and medical malpractice claims. Of particular interest to many of the clients is that the trials are private, thus avoiding widespread disclosure of commercial information or private behavior.

You've got to stand for somethin', or you're gonna fall for anything.

—John Cougar Mellencamp

Terrorist Escalation?

The American invasion of Libya will be debated for years. Libertarian Party members undoubtedly will join that debate.

If they do, along with their particular views of armed strategy, they also should take with them a far better understanding of the status of terrorism than that displayed by the officials justifying the invasion as the result of Libya's "escalation" of terrorism.

The fact is that terrorism has remained a fairly stable element of world unrest throughout the decade. And the facts should influence the debate. Here are some, from recent news reports.

- More Americans died as the result of terrorist attacks in 1972 than in the past year. There were 42 killed in 1972; 23 in 1985.

- American businessmen, and not diplomats or military personnel, are the main targets of terrorist attacks.

- Airline bombings have not been increasing. There were 44 explosions during the 70's; 11 from 1980 to 1984.

- Bombings of all sorts have remained fairly constant. There were 104 bombings last year, according to the State Department itself. But there were 452 in 1972.

- Non-Americans have been hit harder than Americans. Since 1981, Americans have been less than 10 percent of the 7,260 casualties blamed on terrorist actions.

Seatbelt Surprise

In the year since it enacted a seatbelt law, New Jersey has experienced:

1. An increase in traffic deaths. The death rate had been going down for four years prior to the seatbelt law.
2. An increase, specifically, in the deaths of drivers and front seat passengers, the very ones required by law to buckle up.
3. An absolutely unexpected and significant increase in pedestrian deaths. (At least one commentator has brought up the possibility that seatbelt use may provide a strong sense of security for drivers and could lead to increased carelessness generally and decreased alertness in situations involving pedestrians and cyclists.)

A report on the unexpected figures, in *The Boston Globe*, warned, however, that there is no way to know what the death rate would be without the seatbelt law. With the statistics indeterminate, the Libertarian Party position questioning only the principle of official coercion of personal behavior remains as valid as ever.

A story from the Western New York Libertarian Party News adds a comment on another part of the "for your own good" safety movement:

"By 1986 almost every state has mandated that motorcyclists wear crash helmets.

"Although it is very possible that crash helmets save lives (that of the cyclist), as with seatbelts, the exact opposite could also be true. Opponents of crash helmets argue that wearing a helmet reduces the cyclist's peripheral vision and actually is a leading cause of accidents.

"In either case the main point is again overlooked, that of the government's right to interfere with how we go about our own lives. There would seem to be absolutely no risk to anyone other than the cyclist himself/herself. Therefore the cyclist does not violate the rights of anyone else and should certainly be free to decide for themselves whether they are safer with or without a crash helmet.

"Can you imagine telling Thomas Jefferson that if he didn't ride his horse with both feet in the stirrups he would be subject to a fine or imprisonment? Or that riding a horse was a state-granted privilege and not his God-given right! Enough said?"

The Economy Is No Game

By Donald N. McCloskey

If you haven't had enough sports this year, Lester Thurow's latest book, *The Zero-Sum Solution: Building a World-Class American Economy* (Simon and Schuster), is for you. He's written a sports-minded playbook for Democratic victory in the divisional contests coming up in 1986 and 1988 and a conditioning plan for the World Super Bowl of Nations in the year 2000.

According to Thurow, America is falling behind other nations in the race for economic supremacy. Our industrial muscles have atrophied. Mickey-Mouse schooling, adversarial labor relations, and low incentives to save have all hamstrung productivity. Our competitors—and not only the courteous Japanese—race on ahead, assisted by value-added taxes (VAT), MITIs (Ministry of Trade and Industry), and other tricks that we're too disorganized or too nice to use.

Nice nations finish last, Thurow would have us believe. International competition is pushing us into the second division, and no whining about the exchange rate or the budget deficit can excuse it.

So what do we do? Replace the personal and corporate income taxes with a VAT. Install a federal industrial policy—don't sneer; we have one anyway—to help private industry and banks direct capital investment. Slap a dollar-a-gallon tax on gasoline. And give the President control of the Federal Reserve System.

What's good about the book is that it is warmly written, smart, and filled with facts, most of them true and some of them germane. What's bad about the book is its central claim: that we are about to go down the tubes. If We Don't Do Something About It. Thurow's big errors come from his choice of metaphors. He has three: voluntary trade with foreigners is a zero sum "competitive game" (one man's gain is another's loss); the people with American passports, "we," are morally special; and in this "competition," "we" have "a problem," namely, that we're not beating up on the foreigners.

"Problems," of course, have solutions, and you get one guess who the great Solver is: the government. The rhetoric of "we" is alarming. One might ask soberly and mildly, intending only to invite reflection, whether there isn't perhaps a faint whiff of fascism in such appeals to "us": "Nations have to organize and struggle to maintain their positions of economic leadership. America can lose a fair economic game."

The strangest and most important metaphor is that of competition. To Americans making autos it looks like they are engaged in a "competition" with Japan, and it sounds like a neat idea to build a "world class economy" and "beat them." But economists usually take a wider view. The narrow metaphor sees only half the transaction. Export or die.

On the wider view, though, American people exchange with Japanese people, giving up something and getting something in return. By such happy foreign exchanges, Americans do not become metaphorical "hewers of wood and drawers of water"; if Americans were good at doing things before exchange, they will be good after. Exchange is no game, and it certainly is not zero-sum.

The point is not that Thurow is rhetorical and free traders are not. Both have metaphors, inevitably and desirably. But some metaphors are better than others. Thurow complains that more people don't appreciate the sporting metaphor: "For a society that loves team sports...it is really surprising that Americans won't recognize the same reality in the far more important international economic game." Considering that it is a wholly invalid metaphor, we should hope that more people don't come to appreciate it.

Professor McCloskey teaches economics and history at the University of Iowa and is a fellow of the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.

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Libertarian Candidates

The very first list of announced Libertarian candidates for public offices, presented below, is short but significant. It represents candidates who have made early announcements. From an informal canvass of the states in which they are running, and of other states, it now seems safe to predict that the Libertarian Party is going to have literally hundreds of candidates across the country. It is possible, for instance, that California will have candidates for every Congressional seat. In one town in Utah there is a Libertarian Party

candidate for every single seat on the local governing council and the Libertarians are accorded good chances of winning. Other exciting reports keep coming in about candidates even as the NEWS goes to press. They will be listed and discussed in subsequent issues. Every Libertarian group is urged to send the NEWS as much information as possible on candidacies. We can only cover the exciting nationwide efforts of Libertarians with the volunteer help of party members everywhere.

Alaska

Andre Marrou—Alaska House of Representatives, District 5B

California

Norma Jean Almodovar—Lieutenant Governor

Dustin Baker—State Assembly, 22nd District

Robert Bakhaus—State Assembly, 35th District

Perr Cardestam—U.S. House of Representatives, 10th District

Dante DeAmicis—Mayor, San Jose

Bruce Driscoll—State Assembly, 36th District

Greg Dull—State Assembly, 37th District

Tom Grey—State Assembly, 21st District

Charles Hanes—State Assembly, 18th District

George Hasara—U.S. House of Representatives, 19th District

Mark Hinkle—State Assembly, 25th District

Bill McCord—State Assembly, 12th District

Kennita Watson—State Assembly, 23rd District

John Webster—State Assembly, 24th District

Dan Wiener—U.S. House of Representatives, 21st District

Bill White—U.S. House of Representatives, 12th District

Jay C. Wood—State Senate, 18th District

Colorado

David Aitkin—U.S. House of Representatives, 6th District

Florida

Tom Wurster—City Commission, Largo

Idaho

Butch Otter—Lieutenant Governor

New Jersey

Richard Duprey—Town Council, Waldwick

Rick Hoegberg—Town Council, New Brunswick

Stuart Swirsky—Sheriff, Monmouth County

Jerry Zeldin—U.S. House of Representatives, 5th District

New York

Elizabeth Greene—State Legislature, 61st District

Vicki Kirkland—State Legislature, 64th District

Texas

Joe Paul Barnett—State Railroad Commission

Theresa Doyle—Governor

David Guier—State Commissioner of Agriculture

Bill Howell—Lieutenant Governor

Honey Sue Lanham—State Land Commissioner

Vincent May—Travis County Surveyor

George Meeks—State Comptroller

Wiley H. Rawlins—State Supreme Court

Robert F. Reid—State Treasurer

Mike Stephens—State Attorney General

Super Suppers

Libertarian supper clubs are becoming more popular around the country. Here's a short history of one of the oldest and most effective; a history that might be inspiring and informative for others thinking about going the supper club route.

On January 18, 1979, 50 libertarians gathered for the first official meeting of the Libertarian Supper Club of Orange County (CA) at The Revere House in Tustin. Since then, the Club has featured outstanding speakers on a variety of topics at 73 different events—66 dinner meetings and 7 special programs—involving nearly 4,200 people.

The Club was organized in late 1978 by Jack Dean and Dyanne Petersen, who recognized a need for an ongoing social and educational program designed to: a) provide long-time libertarians with a vehicle for social and intellectual interchange, and b) provide a pleasant social setting in which newcomers could be introduced to libertarian ideas.

Explicitly non-political in its goals, Orange County's Supper Club has earned a special reputation for good programs, good food, and good fellowship. Members are always urged to bring guests and all meetings are open to the public. Representatives of the local media are also frequently in attendance. In 1983, the Club adopted the name "Liberty Forum" to describe its purpose more accurately.

The goals of the organization are best summed up in this "Statement of Purpose" authored by club member Less Antman: "We of the Libertarian Supper Club of Orange County are engaged in a mutual search for truth. We are devoted to the principles of individual

liberty and personal responsibility, and seek the proper application of those principles in our own lives. We do not presume to agree on everything, and come here not to do battle, but to learn from each other. We are united in our belief in diversity and in the value of a free exchange of ideas."

Numbers Game

California's Libertarian Party has a phone number that opens up electronic lines of opportunity for Libertarians across the country—if they're prepared to try to argue some new numbers out of the phone company.

The Libertarian Party phone number in California is 408-CRY-FREE. In numbers that's 279-3733. (Actually, the number is maintained for California Libertarians by the Libertarian Party of San Jose. Its answering machine gives times and places for local events.)

Some other phone possibilities:

FREEDOM would be 373-3366. LIBERTY would be 542-3789. Any prefix followed by 3733 would make the last part of your phone number FREE. Objectivists could strive for the number 296-7263 or AYN RAND. Others might settle for a truncated version of a name they admire: 768-4227 would be ROTHBAR. If you could convince your friends that the prefix didn't stand for "liberal" or did stand for classical liberal, you could go for 542-7278 or LIB PART. The Ballot Access Committee could try for 578-6837 or LP-VOTES. Are there any other interesting Libertarian Party or libertarian phone numbers?

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Texas

Big Chance

By Dianne Pilcher

This year presents the Libertarian Party of Texas with a unique opportunity. Not only do we have a competent slate of statewide and district candidates but we also have an opportunity to secure our ballot position for 1988.

Texas election law requires that "minor party" candidates petition for ballot access by gathering the signatures of 32,000 registered voters who did not vote in either the Democratic or Republican primaries. Then, to obtain a ballot position in the next election, the "minor party" must receive at least 5 percent of the vote in a statewide race in the November election. This year is unique because there are two statewide races where Libertarian Party candidates are the only opposition to Democratic incumbents.

National ballot access consultant Richard Winger says that, historically, statewide races in which only Libertarians oppose incumbents are rare and that we should do everything possible to use the situation to achieve ballot status this year. In several elections around the country recently, Libertarian candidates have received 6 percent to 7 percent in comparable races. Here in Texas we have received as much as 20 percent in two-way races on the district level.

The two Libertarian versus Democrat races are for state treasurer and state comptroller. For treasurer, the race is between the incumbent Ann Richards and Fort Worth Libertarian Robert Reid who will campaign to abolish the office. For the comptroller's position, Democrat Bob Bullock's only competition is San Antonian George Meeks, a long-time outspoken foe of taxation. Meeks recently spent 14 months in jail for refusing to turn over records to the IRS. Never formally charged, he remained incarcerated until an

impending "60 Minutes" story threatened to reveal this IRS fiasco.

Obtaining 5 percent of the vote in either of these two races would mean a 1988 free of ballot drive burdens. We could then devote our finances and manpower to the presidential election and the efforts of our state candidates.

Full-time Texan

Another state Libertarian Party has decided to hire a full-time executive director. The Texas party has hired former Florida State Chairwoman Dianne Pilcher to be the executive director in the Lone Star State. Pilcher will work from her new home in San Antonio, 11707 Vance Jackson Road, #416, San Antonio, TX 78230. Among other things, she will direct the petition drive, beginning in May, to qualify the Libertarian Party and its candidates for the November 4 general election.

Freedom's Heights

By Stormy Mon

Once upon a time, four groups lived on the plains. It was late spring, and they looked toward the mountains; they had heard of cool air, water, and plentiful wild game there.

The first group was headed by a dictator king. As he lead his people into the mountains for the first time, a messenger warned them of wild animals, and fierce thunderstorms appeared ahead. Most wanted to turn back but some desired to continue, so the king consulted with his court intellectuals and mystics. Then he proclaimed, "By royal decree and Divine Right, anyone who goes into the mountains will have their head cut off." No one went into the mountains and teachers warned their students.

The second group was headed by a communist central committee and had also heard of the beasts and saw the lightning. The people were divided—many wanted to turn back and a

Enterprise In Space

With a huge federal deficit likely to force major budget cuts, and other projects requiring NASA's resources, the \$1.5 to \$2 billion a new shuttle would cost may be elusive.

However, the private sector might have the answer.

A Pittsburgh company, General Space Corp., has submitted a plan that may solve the problem. The company has offered to raise the cost of a new shuttle through private sources and then lease the shuttle to NASA in order to pay back the cost.

The advantage is that this would effectively give NASA a new orbiter while spreading the cost over the life of the lease—in this case about 15 years.

Reportedly, some members of Congress are skeptical of the plan. But NASA, as well it

should, is studying the proposal.

It sounds like a reasonable idea. Moreover, the firm proposing the plan ought to be well acquainted with its feasibility. General Space's chairman is Willard F. Rockwell, formerly the chairman of Rockwell International, the shuttle manufacturer, and the vice chairman is James C. Fletcher, who was NASA's top administrator from 1971 to 1977. Mr. Fletcher is also President Reagan's choice to head the space agency once more. If confirmed, Mr. Fletcher has said he would resign from General Space and abstain from participating in any decision regarding General Space to avoid a conflict of interest.

On the face of it, this proposal looks like a sound means for NASA to restore its fleet. It would also involve the private sector in space exploration to a greater degree, which is, after all, one of the purposes of the shuttle program. This plan should be carefully studied.

From an editorial in The Winchester (VA) Star.

few chose forward progress. The central committee met and issued a law; "For the public good, no one shall go into the mountains. Violators will be sentenced to ten years hard labor." Two mavericks escaped into the hills. One was caught and confined for ten years, as an example. The other was never seen again and the party newspaper said he had been eaten by wild animals. School textbooks parroted this for future generations.

The third group settled disputes by vote. After intense lobbying by conservative entrenched special interests, a majority voted to turn back due to wild animals and hostile weather. So a law was passed: "For the public health, safety and welfare, mountain living is punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$5000 fine." Two individualists drifted toward the heights. One was apprehended and sentenced to a year in prison, as an example. The government issued a press release stating that experts had conducted a study: the missing person was probably killed by wild animals or

lightning. The newspapers published the findings of the government study; one headline read: "Mountain Man Eaten Alive By Wild Animals." Compulsory government schools echoed, "highs are unsafe and illegal."

The fourth group was libertarian. Some chose to turn back. Many went into the mountains, met the two surviving mavericks, and thrived on the cool air, water, and plentiful wild game. One was mauled by a bear and survived. Another was killed by lightning while flying a kite on a mountain; she was conducting electrical experiments during a thunderstorm. The libertarian newspapers printed warnings about bears and standing on mountaintops during thunderstorms. The children learned freedom and the libertarians lived happily ever after.

Which group is the best way to organize a society?

Which group would you choose to be in?

Stormy Mon is a Libertarian activist who maintains the Libertarian Library in Denver, Colorado.



Libertarian Party

NEWS

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