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# Libertarian Party

# NEWS

## NH State Rep. Finlay Rothhaus Joins LP Marrou Says More Defections to LP Soon

Following in the footsteps of other discontented Republicans, another New Hampshire state representative, Finlay Rothhaus, resigned from the Republican Party in order to become a Libertarian Party member.

Rothhaus, a first-term legislator from Merrimack, announced his change at a news conference Dec. 12, 1991, in the lobby of the Legislative Office Building in Concord. Attending the news conference with Rothhaus were Rep. Calvin Warburton (L) of Raymond, who was the first New Hampshire legislator to resign from the Republican Party earlier last year, and the LP candidate for president, Andre Marrou.

"The Libertarian Party is built upon the original ideas of liberty held by the men who first conceived of this nation over 200 years ago," Rothhaus explained.

"The Republican Party is not willing to respect and preserve freedom. I once believed that the Republican Party shared the same ideals as the Libertarians: a free market economy, small government, low taxes, and the right to keep and bear arms. I have watched, however, as the president [George Bush] has added more and more government to our lives, raised our taxes, limited our right to keep and bear arms, and spent our hard-earned dollars on a binge of global gamesmanship," he observed.

"Libertarians are not afraid to stand

their ground on tough issues, even when the majority of voters may disagree. They are certainly not wishy-washy as President George Bush has been," he added.

Marrou said he was delighted with the announcement.

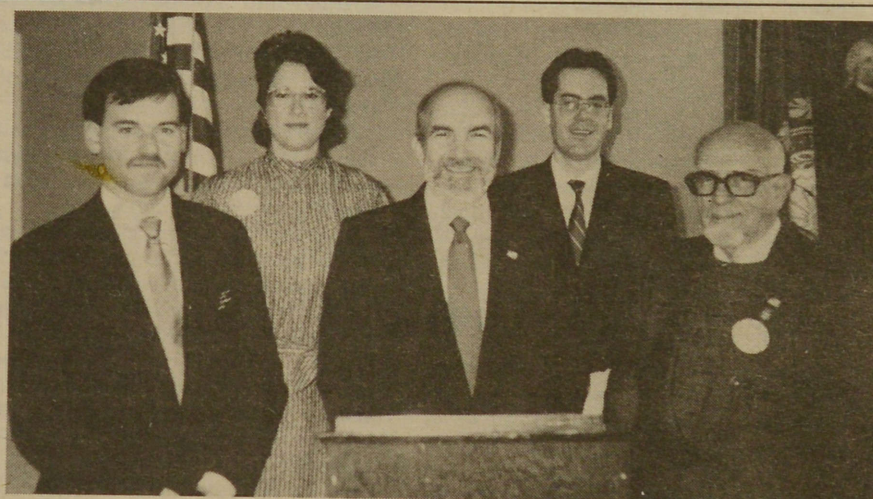
"It takes a lot of courage to change political parties. Changing from an older, establishment party—Republican—to an up-and-coming party—Libertarian—means choosing a party based on principle rather than political expediency," Marrou said.

"This addition of yet another legislator to the Libertarian ranks indicates that we are growing by leaps and bounds," Marrou said. "It demonstrates that we are the party of the future."

"Both the Republican and Democrat parties are losing supporters; the Libertarian Party is gaining them," Marrou declared. He said he expects that many more concerned legislators, who are "sickened and disheartened by the lack of principle displayed by their leaders, will join the LP ranks during the coming year."

According to Marrou, this public defection is expected to be followed by six additional state legislators across the country, "... both senators and representatives, both Republicans and Democrats, both male and female—and those are just the ones of whom I'm personally aware."

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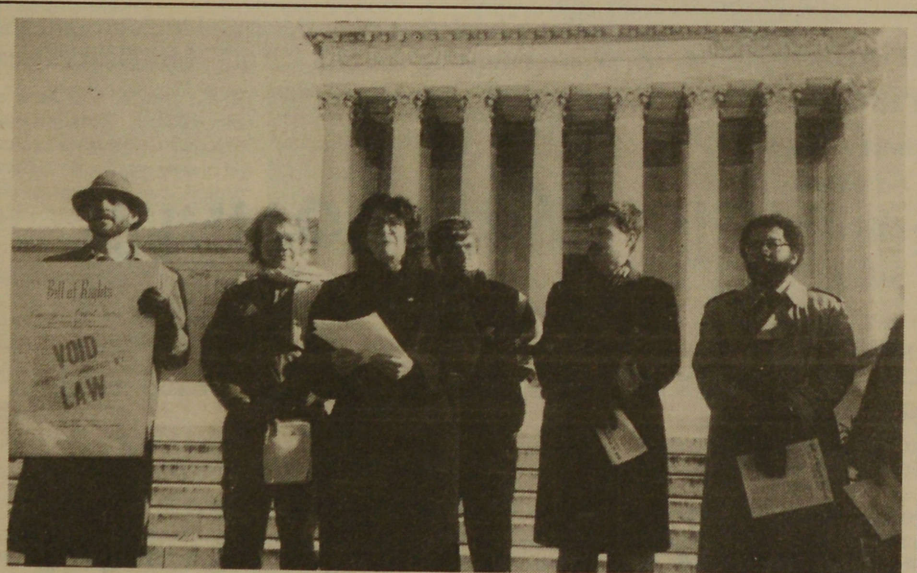


NEWS photo by Jim McClarin

From left to right: State Rep. Finlay Rothhaus (L-Merrimack), 1990 LPNH gubernatorial candidate Miriam Luce, Andre Marrou, LPNH Chair Bill Winter, and State Rep. Calvin Warburton (L-Raymond) pose following the press conference.

“This addition of yet another legislator to the Libertarian ranks indicates that we are growing by leaps and bounds,” Marrou said. “It demonstrates that we are the party of the future.”

## LP Celebrates Bill of Rights Anniversary



NEWS photo by Randy Langhenry

LP vice presidential candidate Dr. Nancy Lord addresses a gathering on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court building. Waiting to recite the Bill of Rights are from left, LP national director Nick Dunbar, and NatCom members Ron Crickenberger, Bill Redpath, Bill Hall, and Joe Dehn.

Libertarians across the country, from Massachusetts to California, came together in their own states to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights last Dec. 15.

In Washington, DC, the Bill of Rights Committee of the LP, headed by Don Ernsberger, held a conference that addressed governmental assaults on the 10 amendments. Once again the Libertarian Party received some excellent publicity, as the conference was videotaped by C-SPAN, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, and shown nationally later in the week. The LP's toll-free telephone number was again prominently displayed.

Dr. Nancy Lord, the LP's 1992 vice presidential candidate, led a group of about 100 Libertarians to the U.S. Supreme Court building to highlight the Bill of Rights anniversary.

"Freedom and liberty are our legacy, but that legacy imposes a special obligation on us—to be the defenders of liberty," Lord said.

"We are called upon once again to defend freedom. Not this time from foreign aggressors, but from a threat whom our

Founding Fathers would have recognized all too clearly. A government grown too big, too powerful, and too arrogant," she said.

"From both the left and the right, from both liberals and conservatives, our constitutional rights are under assault as never before.

"We must remember that no good cause is worth violating somebody's constitutional rights. Not protecting the family, not cultural diversity, not fighting crime, not the War on Drugs, not protecting the environment—nothing! Because if you can violate someone else's rights for your good cause, they can violate yours for their good cause," Lord stated.

"As far as the Bill of Rights goes, we must understand that every amendment is vital.

"Words on paper mean nothing. To be real, the words must live in the hearts of the people. Let the Bill of Rights live in our hearts," she declared.

Following Lord's address, 10 members of the LP National Committee read aloud the 10 amendments.

The conference brought together LP

*continued on page 4*



# LP Future Up to You

The Libertarian Party celebrated its 20th anniversary last month on Dec. 11, just five days before the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

That same week, New Hampshire State Representative Finlay Rothhaus announced his switch to the Libertarian Party, joining fellow legislator Calvin Warburton, who joined with us last summer and attended our national convention in Chicago.

Andre Marrou and Nancy Lord are swinging into high gear in their New Hampshire primary race, and their campaign has raised more money to date than several of the Democratic presidential contenders.

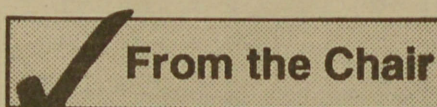
The LP is real, the LP is happening, the LP is starting to compete head-to-head with the "big boys."

But the financial reality of this effort hit home to me and the other members of the National Committee at our 1992 budget-setting meeting in mid-December.

After countless hours of number crunching by the Budget Committee and the officers, we were pleased to present our budget proposal to the full National Committee. By developing innovative fund-raising and cost-cutting plans we had figured out how we might be able to raise enough money over the course of the year to fund 50-state ballot access as well as an aggressive membership recruitment program. We had budgeted funds to send information packets to the huge number of interested people Andre and Nancy expect to reach during their campaigns.

Then, at 9 p.m. on Saturday night, at-large committee member Steve Givot, Vice Chair Steve Dasbach, and I began doing a month-by-month cash flow analysis. Secretary Joe Dehn joined us several hours and many calculations later. And by the time we got finished, grim reality had really set in.

The bulk of our ballot access petitioning costs must be paid early in the year, between April and July. The next big expense, mailing out information packets, peaks in the last few months of the campaign, between September and November. But our expected income peaks late in the year, as prospects become members and contributors. And combining these patterns of income and expense is a recipe for



## From the Chair

**Mary Gingell, LP National Chair**

disaster.

Although our projections told us we would end the year with cash in the bank, our May 31 bank balance was in the red, and at the worst point, we would be in the hole \$77,000 during July and August.

Which means we have to borrow money, hoping to repay it late in the year with projected but uncertain revenues. A risky strategy and one I do not want to have to follow. And I can't just do that: according to LP Bylaws, such borrowing requires a two-thirds vote of the entire National Committee.

Alternatively, we need to get a jump on the shortfall. And that means asking you to dig deeper and sooner and send every penny you possibly can.

Because if you don't, and our revenues do not jump up significantly over the next few months, we will face some very serious decisions at our April National Committee meeting. We will have to figure out where to cut the budget, and frankly, the only way we can cut enough to reduce our mid-year expenditures by almost \$80,000 is to give up our 50-state goal.

Andre and I both pledged our full support for 50-state ballot access at the national convention. I am convinced that the only way to go head-to-head with the big boys and make a real impact is to be on the ballot as a choice for every American voter. I will be working, as will Andre and his campaign staff, many hours a day from now until April to find the contribution money to make it happen.

But the choice is really up to you.

## HQ Volunteers

The LP national headquarters staff wishes to thank the following volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the LP and liberty: S. Becker, G. Call, M. Trump, B. Earnheart, C. Walker, A. Campbell, B. Foster, J. Long, and two anonymous volunteers.

# Rothhaus Joins LP

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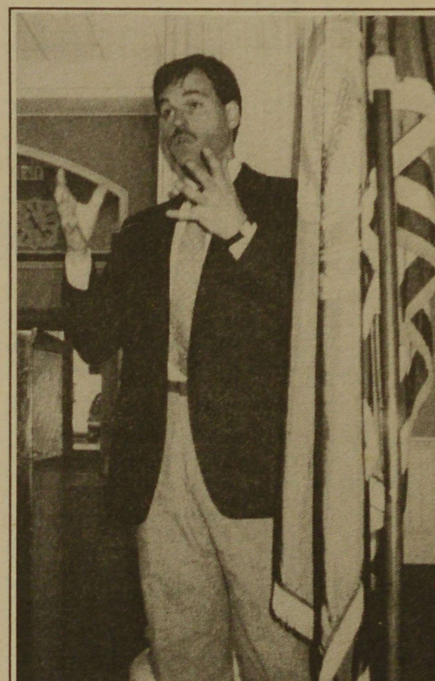
Rothhaus said he changed parties primarily because the state Republican Party leadership was willing to support new broad-based taxes. New Hampshire is the only state with neither an income nor sales tax.

"I noted among my colleagues in the state house an increasing tendency to favor a state income or sales tax, and a practically boundless enthusiasm for creating more and bigger government," Rothhaus said.

Bill Winter, New Hampshire LP state chair, welcomed Rothhaus to the party. "The political climate of New Hampshire and the United States is changing towards freedom," Winter said. "Rep. Rothhaus is a vital part of this important change."

"As the 'new kid on the block' of American politics—with a message as old as the American Revolution—the Libertarian Party is injecting fresh ideas and a vibrant new energy into the political arena," Winter said. "And this greater competition in the marketplace of ideas, thanks to the emergence of the Libertarian Party, is sure to help the level of all political debate."

Rothhaus owns a wood-burning stove store, called The Red House. He and his wife have two daughters.



NEWS photo by Jim McClarin

State Rep. Finlay Rothhaus answers questions from the media at the press conference in Concord on Dec. 12.

## Special Announcement

Once again the bureaucracy strikes! LEI, Ltd., which operated the 1991 LP convention in Chicago, has learned that it should have asked each attendee who purchased more than \$200 in goods or services from LEI for his or her occupation and name of employer.

Anyone who spent more than that amount is asked to submit this information along with his or her name to: LEI, Ltd., P.O. Box 186, Evanston, IL 60204, or send it via fax to 708-475-3776. The deadline for providing the information to the Federal Election Commission is Jan. 20, 1992.

## Bulk NEWS Plan

The LP is still offering a bulk subscription plan that will allow affiliate parties to use the NEWS for outreach to selected organizations.

If your affiliate party puts together a list of 25 or more qualifying organizations (public and school libraries, news media, or League of Women Voters chapters), you can give them a year of the NEWS for just \$4 each.

In most states, you will be able to identify more than 25 newspapers alone that would be suitable for this kind of outreach.

If you'd like to take part in this program, or want more information, call Joe Dehn at 303-972-8094.

## Libertarian Party NEWS

Libertarian Party NEWS is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party of the United States. Opinions, articles, and advertisements contained herein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

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# More Victories Noted In Election '91 Update

Additional results from November's election have been received, and the news continues to be great for Libertarian Party candidates.

In California, four members of the Placer County LP were elected to non-partisan offices.

Dennis Schlumpf was elected to the Tahoe City Public Utility District board. He received 58 percent of the vote and defeated a two-term incumbent. The board has a \$5 million budget and concerns itself with sewage, water, and recreation issues in the Lake Tahoe area.

Schlumpf ran an active campaign, focusing on the issues of the incumbent's support for budget-busting projects, the cost of the board's office space, and salaries and expenses.

Erik Henrikson, a registered Libertarian, also won an open seat on the same board. Henrikson defeated his opponent by only one vote.

Robert W. Page was elected to the Midway Heights County Water District board. Page finished second out of four candidates for two seats. Page also defeated an incumbent to the board.

Nyle A. Keller won a seat on the Loomis Union School District board. Keller defeated an incumbent by two votes in the election. He had previously held the same position from 1985-89.

Two victorious races in two different parts of the country are especially noteworthy.

In Pennsylvania, Fred Crocker was elected to a six-year term as borough constable in Martinsburg. In New Hampshire, Tom Alciere was elected ward selectman in Nashua. Both of these races were won by one vote—and the one vote was the candidate's own!

Crocker said that he went into the vot-

ing booth and saw that no one was running for either constable or auditor, so he wrote in his own name. After the election, he was contacted and told that he had won the constable position and tied for the auditor's spot. A lottery was conducted to select the new auditor, but Crocker lost that title.

Crocker said that while his victory is somewhat humorous, it is also educational. "It's a way to infiltrate," Crocker said. Libertarians should watch for such opportunities and take advantage of them, he explained. A number of people have since told Crocker they would have voted for him if they had known he was going to run for borough constable, but of course he didn't know until he entered the voting booth.

Alciere, in New Hampshire, also took advantage of a similar opportunity. When he went into the voting booth, he received a ballot that said, "Ward Selectman: Vote for Three." There were, however, only two names listed. Alciere proceeded to write his own name in on the ballot, and like Crocker in Pennsylvania, he was elected.

Also in New Hampshire, Paul Siegler received 26 percent of the vote in a two-way race for the Concord City Council. Siegler's opponent was a four-term incumbent who received the backing of the local newspaper. Siegler said he learned a lot from the race and looks forward to running for state representative this year.

In Illinois, Ken Wolin made a strong showing in the non-partisan race for the Wheeling Township board. Wolin received about 20 percent of the vote. Out of 58 precincts, Wolin and his volunteers canvassed in about 21. The election results showed that Wolin outpolled all of the other three candidates in several of those 21 precincts where he made a serious effort.

## Duke Not Libertarian

LP Chair Mary Gingell issued a news release in early December denouncing David Duke for claiming that he is "basically a libertarian." Duke made the claim during a news conference announcing his bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

"David Duke is not a libertarian," Gingell said.

"He is nothing but a populist who is for, not against, big government," she stated. "He was the Populist Party candidate for president in 1988. He appeals to those who voted for Alabama Governor George Wallace, the David Duke of the 1960s."

Gingell said that "Duke is a charlatan who twists words to appeal to whatever audience he happens to be addressing. But there is a lot more to being libertarian than just saying you believe in freedom."

Gingell also said that Libertarians differ with Duke on many central issues.

"He is for immigration controls based on race; we are for open borders. He is a Japan-basher, a protectionist, and for building tariff walls; we are for free trade," Gingell said. "He says big government is the answer to environmental problems; we say property rights are the answer. He wants his supposedly Christian religious views imposed on all public school children; we are for privatizing schools so that all families, regardless of their religious beliefs, can have the education they want for their children. He is for compulsory drug-testing; we are for legalization. He wants less welfare subsidies for blacks, and he wants more for whites; we want to replace the welfare state with private enterprise and private charity."

## 1993 LP Convention Set For Salt Lake City, UT

The LP National Committee has approved Salt Lake City, UT, as the site for the 1993 LP national convention.

The convention will be hosted by Morning Glory Productions, headed by longtime LP activist Bob Waldrop.

Tentatively scheduled to be held the week of Aug. 31-Sept. 5, 1993, the convention is being planned for the Salt Lake City Salt Palace.

The Salt Palace is the large downtown convention complex offering a multitude of convention facilities. The main room for the LP convention will have approximately 18,000 square feet, as well as a full stage with built in sound system.

Waldrop has promised an exciting and unique convention, so mark your calendars well in advance for the big 1993 event!

More details coming in the NEWS.

## What do three of the nine sitting U.S. Supreme Court justices have in common?

Here's a hint: It's something they share with the editors of Time and Newsweek. It's also something they share with thousands of other people in extraordinary positions of power and influence: They're all graduates of Stanford University, and they're not Libertarians.

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### Ron Paul Won't Run

Ron Paul has announced that he will not run against President George Bush in the Republican primaries.

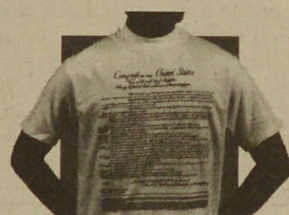
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# A Tax Is a Tax Is a Tax, Except. . .

By Steven I. Givot

"Should Libertarians Favor a Sales Tax?" (Dec. 1991 NEWS) suggests that perhaps libertarians should consider favoring some form of taxation. The author also suggested that all taxes are not necessarily equally bad.

As a libertarian I have little difficulty with the notion that some taxes are worse than others. For example, a 91 percent maximum income tax rate (such as existed mid-century) is clearly worse than a 33 percent maximum tax rate. Different tax rates for people of different gender, age, race, or religion are clearly worse than taxing all persons using rules neutral to such individual characteristics. Also certain forms of taxation may be worse than others.

The author discusses at least three forms of taxation. A brief review of each will highlight the reasons that each is unacceptable to me and, I presume, the vast majority of libertarians.

The taxation of income is the taxation of the production of the individual. The marginal tax rate is nothing more or less than the degree of enslavement which the Congress has determined that individual to be subjected to. Past decades have made it clear that our government can take its power to tax incomes and do far worse than steal from its citizens. By constantly jimmying with the hundreds of parameters which actually go into calculation of in-

## A Reader's Response

come tax (i.e., what can be deducted, depleted, depreciated, etc.) those in power in Washington have the ability to promote or discourage all sorts of economic activity. In effect, Dan Rostenkowski and his associates have the ability to manipulate the economy causing enormous misallocation of resources, consumption, spending, and saving. They also have the ability to slant tax policy to favor constituencies which will re-elect them to their powerful positions. There can be little question but that the ability of government to tax income is bad under any circumstances. I cannot find any reason for a libertarian such as myself to support any form of income taxation.

The taxation of consumption poses other problems. If only consumption were taxed, it would afford individuals who elected to save rather than consume to compound their savings in a very favorable, tax-free manner. However, sooner or later, the value of savings must come in the form of consumption. The most common form of such taxation is a Value Added Tax (VAT) which is common throughout Western Europe. With a VAT, each time a sale takes place, the seller must pay the government a certain percentage of the difference between

the price of the good or service sold and the cost of acquiring its components and producing it. This difference is the "Value Added." Everywhere that VATs are implemented, there are differential taxation rates for various items. In some places, food and medical care are not taxed. Children's clothing may be tax free, while adult clothing may be taxed at 18 percent and automobiles at 33 percent. (If you think that these examples are bizarre, I suggest that you investigate tax rates in France, Ireland, and other EEC nations.)

Unlike sales taxes in most of the U. S., VATs are implemented such that the consumer never sees any number which constitutes the tax on his or her purchases. Like income taxes, VATs seem to offer politicians a mechanism to attempt to micromanage the economy by setting differential taxation rates for products and services which they wish to either promote or discourage. It also provides governments the ability to use tax rate policy to win elections. Such a mechanism is disruptive of free market forces and interferes with the efficient allocation of scarce resources. I cannot find any reason for a libertarian such as myself to support any form of consumption tax.

The author also discusses the taxation of "natural resources." This is a form of property tax. Property taxes are, perhaps, the most horrendous form of taxation. If there were only income taxes, then dollars would only be taxed once—when earned. If there were only a consumption tax, then dollars would only be taxed once—when spent. However, property is taxed over and over again. Even if one earns nothing and lives off what can be grown on his or her own soil, the existence of a property tax will erode the wealth of the individual until the individual's property reverts to the state. Furthermore, valuation of property is far more difficult to do than calculation of income or consumption. Each of us who owns real estate is very much aware of the arbitrary manner in which our property is valued by government and the limited ability we have to control either the valuation or rate-setting process. Here, too, I cannot find any reason for a libertarian such as myself to support any form of property tax.

While I do agree with the author that some taxes are clearly worse than others, I can not imagine myself, a Libertarian, supporting any of the forms of taxation he described in his article. There is, however, one form of tax that I can support as a libertarian. It is the Voluntary Tax. The

Voluntary Tax surmounts all of the objections I have raised above, so let me explain it in detail.

Anytime that anyone wants to send the government some tax money, the taxpayer may if she or he chooses to do so. There are no forms or documents. No signatures are required. Payment may be made by cash, money order, electronic transfer of funds, or by credit card. Since all tax payments are voluntary, there is no need to establish a bureaucracy to print and distribute forms, check returns, audit taxpayers, bring enforcement actions, collect statistics, or file the mountains of associated paperwork. All that is required is a simple depository function which keeps track of who sent what, in case a taxpayer calls to be certain that his or her taxes were received.

Taxpayers would be allowed to place limitations on the use of their funds by either directing the funds to certain functions or by prohibiting them from being used for certain functions. (If the Voluntary Tax were ever implemented, I would imagine that the number of functions still being operated by government would be so few that this would be a minor accounting matter to implement.)

The Voluntary Tax overcomes most of the objections which I have heard to any form of taxation. First, it is voluntary. Second, there is no misallocation of resources because those paying the Voluntary Tax want government to have those resources with or without whatever directions or prohibitions which accompanied their payment. Third, there is no reason for taxpayers (or non-taxpayers) to keep any records whatsoever, since there is no enforcement to be done. Fourth, government is guaranteed to be funded exactly to the level that the American people want because the American people are going to determine that level by the level of their Voluntary Tax payments. Fifth, all questions of deficits become moot, since any justification for deficit spending is eliminated once the American people have told the Congress how much to spend—i.e., what they have paid in Voluntary Tax. Sixth, the Congress, the Executive Branch, and the courts will be unable to manipulate the economy and create programs for which there is no support because there will be no funding for unsupported programs.

The author raised the question "Should Libertarians Favor a Sales Tax?" My answer is clearly, "No!" However, if we are looking for a tax we can support, I suggest the Voluntary Tax.

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## Bill of Rights Event

*continued from page 1*

members, as well as speakers from outside the LP who have special interests in one or more of the amendments.

Kevin Zeese, of the Drug Policy Institute, said, "We have to be vigilant in protecting the Bill of Rights, and I'm not sure we have been as vigilant as we should have been."

He explained that drug laws have constantly eroded civil liberties, and said it was immoral to lock someone up because of what they ingested.

"It is for the individual to decide what he or she puts into his or her body. It is not for the government to decide," he said.

"We can only end this erosion of liberty

by ending the War on Drugs," he stated.

Larry Pratt, president of the Gun Owners of America, highlighted many of the current assaults on the Second Amendment.

Other speakers during the conference included Eric Sterling, president of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation; Kit Gage, chair of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation; Jarret Wollstein, director of the International Society for Individual Liberty; and Dean Ahmad, author and civil liberties activist.

At an evening banquet, Clint Bolick, of the Institute for Justice, evaluated the state of justice in the U.S. today, focusing on a number of recent court cases.



# State Parties Gearing Up for '92

## Alabama

State chair **Jimmy Blake** is working with a coalition group to repeal the sales tax in the city of Birmingham. Blake recently ran for mayor of the city.

## Arizona

Another local LP organization has been formed, this time in Yuma County. Those who will be coordinating this new group include **Dr. Tim Urell**, **Carol Bender**, **Dean Weingarten**, and **Howard Blitz**.

A Libertarian student group has been formed at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Many state party members are active in the "It's Time" coalition, which is hoping to require all state tax increases be approved by two-thirds of the legislature.

## California

The LP of Los Angeles named **Dr. John Hospers** the recipient of their 1991 Champion of Freedom Award, presented to "individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of liberty." Hospers was one of the founders of the LP and the party's first presidential candidate.

The Kern County (Bakersfield) LP has been reorganized and is bigger and better than ever. One year ago there were only eight members, now there are over 30. Officers for the local group include **Michael Hodges**, **Bill Juneau**, and **Michael Leake**.

Three of the main school financing measures appearing on the ballot in Santa Clara County were defeated, thanks in large part to the ballot arguments, written by Libertarians, that appeared in the voters' sample ballot pamphlets. The arguments were written by **Jon Petersen** and **Dave Thomas**. Discussion of these arguments also received good publicity in the local newspapers.

## Florida

The state party is actively recruiting candidates for the fall election and working on the very difficult task of ballot access. Already about two dozen candidates have been identified for various offices.

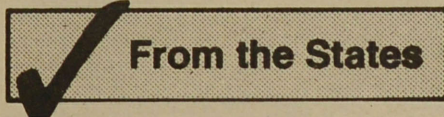
**Al Goldstein** is running a very active campaign for Broward County sheriff, but in this race alone 26,000 signatures will be needed to get on the ballot.

## Georgia

Students at the University of Georgia have organized a Libertarian group designed to familiarize the campus community with the ideas and positions of the LP. The group began the year by having a table at the Fall Activities Fair. The group has already hosted a number of guest speakers, and attendance at the meetings has been encouraging. **John Cochran** is one of the organizers of the UGA Libertarian group.

## Illinois

State party members **Scott Tillman** and **Sherry Matulis** were recently interviewed about the LP on radio station WTAZ in Morton by host **Paul Dunn**.



Activities noted in newsletters  
and news releases

## Indiana

The petition drive is under way to collect about 45,000 signatures to place the **Marrou/Lord** team, as well as the state's U.S. Senate candidate, **Steve Dillion**, on the fall ballot.

## Kentucky

**James A. Ridenour** has announced that he will be state's candidate for U.S. Senate in the fall. In 1984, Ridenour was the LP's candidate for governor.

## Louisiana

**David Woods**, of Sulphur, had a letter recently published in Newsweek magazine. The letter addressed the issue of straight talk from political candidates. In part the letter said, "If the public and the news media are sincere about wanting honest talk from the candidates, they ought to pay some attention to the candidates of alternative parties." Woods went on to mention the LP stand for abolishing the income tax.

## Massachusetts

**Dr. Donald H. Miller** is running for reelection to the Tewsbury Board of Health. He was first elected to the board for a three-year term in 1989, and he currently serves as the board's chair.

## Michigan

The state party is running a second series of ads for the LP on radio station WXYT-AM in Detroit. The first set of ads generated over 100 phone calls to the state party's inquiry number, 1-800-343-1364. State membership committee member **Jim McAbee** is in charge of this outreach activity.

## Minnesota

The state party has set up a voice mail exchange system. By calling their telephone number, you can hear messages about various topics such as libertarian news events, campaign notes, or home schooling. Best of all, you can also leave messages of your own. The system is similar to a computer bulletin board, but you only need a telephone, not a computer. If you'd like to try it out, call 612-636-0054.

## Mississippi

With the help of LP NatCom regional representative **Ron Crickenberger**, the state organization is getting active once again. In addition, a campus group is very active at Mississippi State University, with about 25 students attending regular monthly meetings.

## Nevada

The state's Libertarian Leadership Council is starting a petition drive for term limitations. They will need to gather about 40,000 signatures by June.

## New Jersey

Strong local organizations are now active in 12 of the 21 counties in the state, an increase of four in the last year alone.

## New Hampshire

In early December, the state LP held a very successful event that allowed **Gene Burns**, popular radio talk show host, to interview **Thomas Jefferson**. Jefferson was actually **Clay Jenkinson**, an Oxford-educated scholar who has won nationwide praise for his one-man, historically correct Thomas Jefferson performances.

## New Mexico

A number of state party members are working with an organization called the Coalition of Counties. The group includes some county commissioners who feel that federal and state regulations encroach on private property rights.

## North Carolina

The state party has been very active of late, recruiting candidates and working on signature verification of ballot access. The state LP also has a new information telephone number, 1-800-292-3766.

## Oregon

The state party newsletter is looking better than ever, and the content is useful, interesting, and fun to read. Much of the credit goes to editor **Jerry Boal** and associate editor **Doris Olsen**.

## South Carolina

**Peter Hoffman** of Columbia has announced that he will seek the LP nomination for U.S. Senate against Sen. Ernest Hollings. Hoffman is a programmer and systems administrator in the geological sciences department at the University of South Carolina.

## Texas

The state party came up with an excellent idea for acquainting the state media representatives with the LP. The party will have an exhibitor table at the Texas Press Association convention this month. Talk up this idea in your state, it sounds like a great way to show the press the LP is active and growing!

## Reminder

If you have items from your state for this column, please send them to LPNEWS, P.O. Box 780, Winchester, VA 22601.

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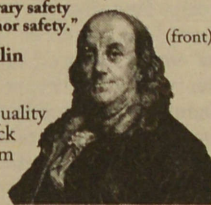
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# BOLT

A group of Libertarians, led by Chuck Geshlider, Mike Bergermeyer, and Ray Dorman are shaking things up out in Las Vegas, NV.

The group got together and formed the Citizens Organized for Individual Liberty (COIL), a private, non-profit association. The group is non-partisan.

"We could care less what party anyone is involved with. The object is to discuss and educate about individual liberty," Geshlider said.

COIL has since seen the need for an action project that they call Operation BOLT, Business Owners for Lowering Taxes.

"The state of Nevada, for the first time ever, initiated a tax on businesses. The tax is assessed by how many employees you have," Geshlider explained.

Needless to say, many Nevada businesspeople were not happy with the new tax, and the members of COIL saw this as a great opportunity to form a coalition with other disgruntled citizens.

At the first public meeting for BOLT at one of the large hotels in Las Vegas, "we had over 300 business owners show up," Geshlider reported.

A full page signature ad was run prior to the meeting. Supporters' business cards were reduced and placed across the bottom of the ad which helped pay the cost.

"That's key because it shows a broad-based support coming out of the business community to help us," Geshlider said.

"We have hired an attorney to serve an injunction against the state because this tax is unconstitutional," he said.

"We are also inciting a people's initiative against this because, knowing we cannot guarantee how the court is going to react, we don't want to have to go to the next legislature and beg them to get rid of this tax—which by the way was enacted on the last day of the legislative session so they could scoot out and nobody could get after them," Geshlider said. "It was a real backroom deal."

"In the meantime we now have a radio show," Geshlider stated. The show, heard on KLAV-1230 AM, started about the first of December. "We have two hours between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. every day. The station sold us flat time, and we are entitled to go out and sell radio advertising in order to procure income."

"The show started out discussing BOLT, that's our main thrust right now, but the discussions have gotten into the morality of licensure, workman's comp, and other areas," Geshlider said.

"Right now the advertising is paying for the time, but we expect to make a profit after the first of the year," he said.

Geshlider, who announced that he is running for the state assembly in District 16 this year, said, "Our ultimate goal, of course, once we get all the bugs worked out, is hopefully to go national with the idea, because Operation BOLT has been just a tremendous success."

If you would like to get on the mailing list for COIL or advertise in the radio show, write COIL, 240 N. Jones, Suite 101, Las Vegas, NV 89127.



# Crisis in State Education

By George L. O'Brien  
Internal Education Chair

The tax supported "public schools" are in trouble. There are problems with discipline, violence in the schools, declining test scores, and costs which are mushrooming out of control. Government schools continue to graduate illiterates, and math skills are among the worst in the industrialized world.

How bad is it? The U.S. has 27 million illiterates and 40 to 50 million people who can barely read at the fourth-grade level. The U.S. is among the worst industrialized countries in the areas of math and science. More than half of all 18-year-olds cannot find Britain or France on a map.

The defenders of the government schools claim the problem is lack of money. However, real spending on education has risen in real terms every year for the last 40 years. The U.S. ranks near the top in the world in per student spending, more than either the Germans or Japanese. The cost per student is nearly twice that of non-government schools, yet with poor results.

There is so much dissatisfaction with government schools that many parents pay to send their children to non-government schools. This is even after having already paid for the government schools through their taxes. It is a ringing testimony to the failure of one of this country's great experiments.

## Origins of Public Schools

What happened? Where did the ideal of "free," universal, government schooling go wrong? The answer is complex. It is a case study of how the political process actually works. It is not a pretty story.

The "public schools" movement began in the 1830s, led by Horace Mann. Supposedly, the goal was to ensure that every child had access to education. However, from the beginning there was another agenda: **To control what was taught and to create "model citizens."**

Many imagine there was no schooling prior to the emergence of the government schools. This is simply not true. Itinerant teachers (such as Ichabod Crane in the story "The Headless Horseman") would come to a community and offer to teach children on a subscription basis.

The itinerant teachers were frequently paid "in kind" receiving farm goods, clothing, room and board, etc. from the teachers. The school houses were built by the parents.

Was this enough? Clearly not every child was educated. A young "Huck Finn" could still make a living without much schooling doing manual labor or by becoming an apprentice. The market pressure for educated employees was just beginning. It is not unreasonable to conclude that more children would have become educated as the value became more apparent.

Was there a popular outcry for government schools? The answer is no. Basically, the demand for government schools came from the elites in response to the twin threats of Jacksonian democracy: 1) The "common people" who were becoming politically active; and 2) From Catholic immigrants.

If the objective had simply been to ensure children were educated, then supporting the subscription schools would have been the most effective method. However,

if the real objective was to control what was taught, this required total state control.

Public schools meant taking control of education from the parents.

Educationist mythology is that parents resisted sending their children to school because they did not want their children to know more than they did. (The issue of the children needing to help on the farm was real, but was solved by having school in winter.) This myth ignores the real problem. Parents resisted the attempts to impose alien values on their children.

The most obvious example of this was the Catholics who felt the need to create their own schools. However, most ethnic groups came to resent the way the elites tried to attack their parental authority.

Then as now, many people resisted the underlying value system of the government schools: blind obedience to authority, conformity, equating patriotism to loyalty to the government, externally imposing ranking of people in a hierarchy, and that knowledge is a scarce commodity which can only be obtained from an educational priesthood.

## The Role of Decentralism

Fortunately, the full impact of the government schooling system movement was mitigated by the decentralism of the 19th century. Virtually every school had its own, autonomous school board which reflected the values and concerns of the parents and people in the community. The local school boards hired and fired teachers at will based on their own judgments.

After the turn of the century, during the "progressive era," there began a concerted attempt to destroy the system of local control. This involved the "unified schools" movement which started in some of the eastern cities. However, it took 50 years before most of the country was ultimately subjected to unified schools, which may be why the real decline was delayed until after World War II.

The idea behind unified schools was that they could offer a wider variety of courses because there would be a kind of "economy of scale." However, the real goal seems to have been to remove control of the schools from the parents and place it in the hands of the "professionals" in the school bureaucracies.

At the same time, there began the movement to require teachers to attend specialized "teachers' colleges" and the imposition of state certification. The criteria for hiring was now graduation from teachers' colleges rather than demonstrated skill in teaching. In many states, local school boards were actually prohibited from imposing their own testing of teachers. As it was, many excellent potential teachers would be excluded because they refused to take the nonsensical courses of most teacher's colleges.

Once the parents lost control of the schools, the schools quickly became laboratories for social policy experiments. Educational fads such as "progressive education" were imposed on the helpless children in vain attempts to use behaviorist psychology to remodel children into some vision of proper citizens. Everything from sex education, to politically correct textbooks, to forced busing, all became methods of remodeling children into some ideal image. The legacy of Horace Mann would be government control and social experimentation.

## Money and Power

The centralization process took another giant step in the 1950s as funding of schools began to be moved to the state governments. This had two effects. First, it reduced the influence of the parents on the schools even more than the unified schools had. Second, the state bureaucracies began to impose greater and greater controls onto the local school districts in areas such as staffing, curriculum, textbook selection, length of the school year, reporting requirements, etc.

The primary result of this would be an explosive growth in the size and power of the school bureaucracies. According to Steve Buckstein of the Cascade Policy Institute, in the Portland, OR, school district, there are 600 employees in the central office, or roughly one central office employee for every 92 students. By comparison, the Portland-area Catholic school system with 11,500 students has only five central office employees, for a ratio of about one central office employee for every 2,300 students. The public schools have **25 times** as many people in the central office.

Ending the linkage between the parents and the schools had another effect. It removed all barriers to the takeover of the schools by the teachers' unions: the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. These unions make it almost impossible to fire incompetent teachers. They forbid wage differentials for outstanding teachers or higher pay to attract teachers in scarce areas such as math and science. In addition, since the administrators were also in the union, it became nearly impossible to reduce the size of the bureaucracy.

As the state school bureaucracies took control of things such as curriculum, the result was to turn it into a political football. State textbook selection has led to battles between various special interest groups. History and social science texts are constant battle grounds. In the area of biology, small segments of the religious right have forced the "dumbing down" of science textbooks, while the denizens of political correctness have made history and social studies texts nearly worthless.

Government control of the schools has had a terrible effect on racial minorities such as blacks. From 1898, after the Supreme Court ruled on Plessy v. Ferguson, many local governments imposed Jim Crow laws which forbid black parents from choosing which schools to send their children to.

Brown v. Board of Education outlawed that kind of segregation. However, in place of parental control was a new set of controls and forced busing. In recent years it has been racial minorities which have led the fight to overturn these rulings.

Forced busing typically would take black children many miles from their homes in the vain hope that having them sit next to white children would lead to better education. It failed miserably. It ignored the unique problems of each child and hurt the education of all. In cities such as Chicago, it caused many black parents to put their children into private and Catholic schools.

Another failed social experiment had to do with IQ tests and special "tracking." As John Gatto (New York State Teacher of the Year in 1991) put it:

"David learns to read at age four; Rachel, at age nine. In normal development, when both are 13, you can't tell which one learned first—the five-year spread means nothing at all. But in school I will label Rachel

## More Stats

According to Executive Alert, the newsletter published by the National Center for Policy Analysis, the New York City school system spent \$6,107 per student during the 1988-1989 school year. Of that dollar figure, \$2,969 was used for the central bureaucracy (the high school division spent an additional \$133 in overhead costs prior to sending the money to the individual schools), \$1,033 went for non-classroom expenses, while only \$1,972, about one-third of the total, actually reached the classroom.

The same article also pointed out that in New Orleans, the Orleans Parish public school system had 83,000 students and 660 central office employees. At the same time, the New Orleans Catholic Archdiocese school system had 53,000 students and 16 central office employees.

## For More Info:

A number of organizations offer information concerning the educational choice issue. Here are just a few places you might write for additional material: The Heartland Institute, 634 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60605; The Reason Foundation, 3415 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90034; Cato Institute, 224 22nd St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; Academy for Self-Government, 940 E. Bremer Ave., Fresno, CA 93728; and the National Center for Policy Analysis, 12655 N. Central Expressway, Suite 720, Dallas, TX 75243.

'learning disabled' and slow David down a bit, too."

"I adjust David to depend on me to tell him when to go and stop. He won't outgrow that dependency. I identify Rachel as discount merchandise, 'special education.' After a few months she'll be locked into her place."

Stereotyping of students using standardized tests can create enormous problems when dealing with racial minorities.

Other experiments have included using psychoactive drugs to counter "hyperactivity in children" without the permission or even knowledge of the parents. What is especially ironic is that studies now indicate that many hyperactive children are likely to grow up to be successful entrepreneurs.

The centralized, bureaucratic government school system would have had problems under any condition. However, many people feel the public schools have not served racial and ethnic minorities very well. They point to the failure to design classes which are geared to the unique problems of racial minorities because classes are supposed to be integrated. The absence of real choice makes it difficult for parents to do anything about teachers who do not relate well to their children.

A related problem includes the failure to expel disruptive or undisciplined students because the state pays for warm bodies rather than actual educational results. It is not a coincidence that crime is a big problem in many inner city government schools and is not a problem in the non-government schools.

The net result is a disaster. While there are some government schools which continue to be effective, they are generally in small school districts (where parents still

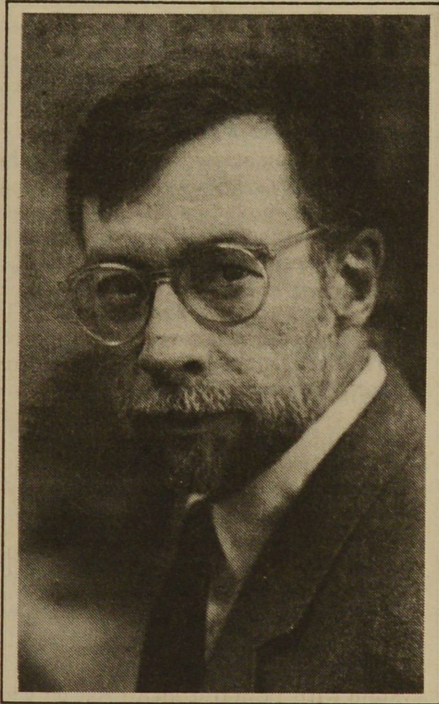
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# NEWS

## Interviews:

# Carl Oglesby



Carl Oglesby, well-known freelance writer and former president of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the 1960s, has announced that he is seeking the U.S. Congress Eighth District seat (the seat may change after redistricting early this year) in Massachusetts in November on the Libertarian Party ticket.

Oglesby, 56, who has devoted much of his work to investigating the John F. Kennedy assassination, will be running against Rep. Joe Kennedy. An article by Oglesby on controversial New Orleans prosecutor Jim Garrison, who challenged the findings of the Warren Commission and is the main character in Oliver Stone's new movie, JFK, will appear in the February Playboy.

In his campaign, Oglesby will focus on the "secret government" that he says operates below the surface of the government actions we normally see. He believes the uncovering of this lower level of government is a libertarian issue that is vital to the welfare of the country.

In the past, Oglesby has described himself as a democrat, republican, independent, and libertarian—always highlighting the "lower case."

In this interview conducted in late November, Oglesby talked to the NEWS about his past, present, and future.

**NEWS:** Can you give me a little about your own background?

**Oglesby:** I was interested in theater when I was a young man. I wrote three plays that were professionally produced. I was in a playwright's program at the University of Michigan through a big part of the '60s, but at the same time I was raising a family and I had a regular job in the military-industrial complex. I was the chief of the publications department at Bendix, Aerospace Systems Division, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with a secret clearance.

By one means and another I found myself a member of (Democratic) Congressman (Wes) Vivian's campaign team—originally called in to do some technical layout work for him having to do with campaign publications, then getting drawn into a little group that discussed the issues. In one of the meetings of the little discussion group the question of Vietnam came up, and nobody knew what to say about it. So we drew straws to see who would research it and write up a position paper. So I got the straw and went straight to a notoriously right-wing, ex-military guy, Col. Joe Coffee, who worked at Bendix, to ask him what I should read. . .

It turned out that Joe was one of those highly-principled conservatives who thought the war in Vietnam was the wrong war, the wrong place, the wrong time, and thought that it would have a terribly destructive impact on the country—on Viet-

nam and the United States as well. And he put me on to several books that raised real questions about the history of U.S. meddling in Asia. From that experience, I came up with a position paper which essentially said let's not fight the Vietnam war. We don't need to, we don't know what it would be to win it, it would be terrible to not win it, let's just put that energy somewhere else. When I presented this to the candidate he basically said, "Well, this may be all right, but I'm damned if I am going to say this kind of thing because I would surely get trounced on the issues." This led to the evolution of the discussion group into a debate, and I left the campaign in some consternation. But now I had gotten interested. . .

The editor of the school literary magazine wanted to print (Oglesby's) play, The Peacemaker (about the Hatfield and McCoy feud), in the issue that would be on the stand when the play was on. And one day when he was out at my house, and I was a homeowner in those days—I had three kids and was buying a house—the editor of the magazine saw this paper I had written on the Vietnam question for the candidate. He said, "This is pretty good, let me publish this too, it sort of fits in with the anti-war theme of the play."

So the next issue had the play and an open letter to Congressman Vivian on the question of Vietnam. There were SDS people in Ann Arbor at that time, although I didn't really know who they were or what they were about. I didn't have anything to do with them. . .

One day a guy named Roger Manela called to say that he had seen my play and bought the magazine and therefore seen this essay on Vietnam. Roger called to say he was from SDS—I didn't know what he was talking about. He wanted to know if he could tell me all about it. And that's how I met my first SDS person. That was towards the end of 1964. Roger was a part of the group in SDS that thought it was important to have a student movement, and thought it was important for that student movement to take up the question of the Vietnam war. And I say this because there was another faction in SDS which was in fact politically stronger at that point, at least among the leadership generation, and including as the most important guy in that group, Tom Hayden. Hayden thought that it was not important to have a student movement as such. He was in that first generation of SDS leaders who saw no way that students could be politi-

“I think we have to make the assumption that the cancer below the surface is doing what could turn out to be fatal damage to our institutions.”

cally significant in the United States. . . Hayden's idea was that there could be a movement of poor people, white poor and black poor, out of the urban situation, that would develop rather quickly some political clout within the context of the Democratic Party. . .

There was a conflict between the ghetto organizers and the student organizers within SDS, which I was totally innocent of understanding when I came in. I represented a kind of tertium quid, in a sense nobody really knew what to make of me. Here I was, a guy with three kids coming out of a defense job, and wanting to talk about the Vietnam war to students, and not that much interested in the poor folks movement. Not that I was against it, but that as I came to understand it, it seemed to me that it really was a game not worth a candle. Poor people were very hard to get organized, especially if you were somebody coming to their neighborhood from outside it. . .

I very quickly became identified with the pro-student wing of the student movement, so to speak. And I believe that this is why I was elected president in the summer of '65, so soon after coming into SDS. . .

At that point my transition from the happy life, theater, and the defense business had been completed, and from that point on I was an activist against the war.

**NEWS:** From that point on, how long did you stay active in what might be called the leftist movement?

**Oglesby:** I always thought that one of the great things about SDS was that it was not specifically a socialist organization. I was never fond of socialism. In fact, my views as a whole were rather right-wing. When I was in high school I won a national speech competition in the field of original oratory with a speech, the title of which will tell you everything, "Peace or Freedom." That was probably 1953, which gets me out ahead of Goldwater as far as I know. The theme of my speech was—Let's do it to these damn communists now while we can. It wasn't too wise, but I think my heart was in the right place. I never trusted communism. I could identify with the ideals of socialism, but it never struck me as sound to think that the government or the state could be the primary engine of social change. . .

The emphasis that I liked in SDS, which I always identified with and still do, was the emphasis on community participation. The slogan that I pulled out of the Port Huron Statement, which was our manifesto, that said it all was, "The people should be involved in the decisions that affect their lives." I thought that was a great rule of thumb and that applied everywhere, from the most local issues to the largest foreign policy questions, people should be involved. If their lives are affected then they should be involved in making the decisions. Nobody should cede that political power to an organism pre-

tending to be larger than the individual or more important than the community itself. That is to say the government. I was never a full-out anarchist, on the other hand, because I thought there were certain, so to speak, back-brained functions that we all had an interest in, that it would be just as good to regularize. The state seemed to be the thing that happened when you did that. When you had somebody paint the line down the road and decided we were all going to drive on the right, that was the state doing something that was legitimate and we all needed. And since there was an array of such needs, and therefore a number of things to be done at that level, I thought there was a need for a central government. That's why I was never an anarchist. But I always did believe that the community is healthiest that encourages the maximum involvement in politics of its citizenry. And that there was an in-built tendency in socialism to shut people out and to remove the decision making center to an elite of experts and bureaucrats, which I thought would always be finally self-defeating. So that is how I could be in SDS on the left, it was that new sort of left. . .

This was the kind of leftist I was, not quite an anarchist, I mean not in any sense an anarchist, but decidedly not a socialist. If there was a single term that could define it, it was small "d" democrat. But also along with a small "d" democrat I also was constantly talking about small "r" republican, because as I said, I thought the Constitution was important, indeed basic. So to the extent that I felt there was a need for continuing involvement in the community I was a small "d" democrat. To the extent that I felt that we needed rules for the game of politics to work, and that these rules were embedded in the Constitution, I was a small "r" republican. I was also a small "i" independent in the sense that I thought one needed to stand to a certain extent apart from the political bodies that got organized on left and right.

**NEWS:** When did a small "i" libertarian come in?

**Oglesby:** Let me think about that. It must have been 1965 or 1966 already. And the apostle, there were two, one of them was Murray Rothbard and the other was Leonard Liggio. They were the editors of a little magazine, that I don't think produced more than five or six issues, called "Left and Right." "Left and Right" made an argument, which I'm sure you could put together from the very name of the magazine. It was from Murray and Leonard that I learned my next big batch of things about American political history, and I came to see there was a tradition of libertarian thought available in the United States that had been pretty much blanketed out by the disciples of standard ideology, both left and right. In other words, left and right at a certain point properly construed veered back around the circle towards each other and shared in certain formulations. Should share a perspective and a political agenda and not imagine that they were not necessarily opposed to each other. Right and left as right hand and left hand, as right brain and left brain. Not opposed. No more opposed than your two ears or your two eyes, but a part of a unity in aiming towards a common goal. So in the first book that I published within the context of the movement, a critique of the Vietnam war called "Containment and Change," my last chapter was called "Two Issues Revised," and the one that was the most important was this one, this whole question of are right and left opposed to each other or is there a unity which is being lost

continued on page 8



# Interview: Oglesby

continued from page 7

in the current polemic. And I identified very much with Murray and with Leonard, and with that magazine "Left and Right." It was just exactly the right thing for me to find at that time. So you say when did I become a libertarian? I think I always was. In any case I always pushed that perspective, and I am proud now to look back and to say that I was a student of a man like Murray Rothbard.

**NEWS:** What do you do now?  
**Oglesby:** I'm a freelance writer.

**NEWS:** What kinds of things are you working on most of the time?

**Oglesby:** Most of the time these days, and this has been true for a while, I'm concerned with the Kennedy assassination. This is not because I have any real love lost for John Kennedy. But it's because I think that he was murdered by a conspiracy that has been very successful in covering up the truth, and I think this is just too important for us to let it go.

**NEWS:** Since you've been involved in this and you are running against Joe Kennedy, is that going to affect the campaign at all?

**Oglesby:** I hope so. I think that the Kennedy family has run from this question long enough. I don't want to be indelicate or crude about it. My theme is, after all, not the Kennedy assassination itself, but rather the growth of a secret sphere of government which I think imperils the Constitution, and needs to be confronted on its own terms by people motivated by their commitment to small "d" democracy and small "r" republicanism.

[The issue of a secret government] is going to be my connecting theme. And in that context, I think that it's logical to suppose that the two Kennedy assassinations will probably come up, [as well as] the whole string from the CIA-Mafia deal in the '60s, the variety of problems and discoveries around Watergate, the Iran-contra, BCCI, the latest story whatever it is. I mean it seems to me that these events are simply the outcroppings of what must be a continuous seam underneath, which normally we don't know about. I think we have to make the assumption that the cancer below the surface is doing what could turn out to be fatal damage to our institutions.

**NEWS:** Why are you running and what possessed you to make this decision?

**Oglesby:** My wife wondered, my mother still does. My mother is dead-set against it, my wife has come to see there could be some good come out of it. I think that I have been so long battling these issues as a writer, it just comes to seem to me that there's more that I could do than just writing about this stuff day in and day out, researching all these little issues. That's just not going to be enough. I, for example, could have gotten very involved in the death of Danny Casolaro [a freelance writer investigating the BCCI scandal]. That's got to be an important event. It bears all the earmarks. And I would have had great satisfaction in plunging into that, and doing what detective work I could. Almost it was a choice between doing that or something like that or finding something else to do that might spread the domain of the conversation a little bit. I think that these ideas need to be expressed in the political arena, that it to say the critique of the secret state. And I don't see anybody doing it. Joe Kennedy's not going to do it. I think that I can do it well. I think that I can articulate that vision. I believe it is a libertarian vision, a libertarian critique, a characteristically libertarian thing to worry about. I guess somewhere in my heart of hearts I was looking for some action that went beyond my computer and the next article.

I went to Chicago for the [LP] convention and hung around with the Massachusetts delegation. I especially got to know Lee Nason, who is a terrific person—she has run for office here for Libertarians—and she asked if I would be interested in running. And I said sure why not. Things came together at that point, it just seemed like the right thing to do.

**NEWS:** If people want information on your campaign, can they write to you?

**Oglesby:** Sure. My office address is 294 Harvard St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

*This is the first appearance of a new feature, NEWS Interviews, which will appear from time to time in the NEWS. We will not be limiting our interviews to LP members. If you would like to suggest a person for us to interview, drop us a line P.O. Box 780, Winchester, VA 22601.*

# Public Education

continued from page 6

have some elements of control) or are "magnet schools" which are chosen rather than assigned. A greater and greater number of parents are searching for alternatives even though few can really afford the extra cost.

## Resistance to Parents' Desire for Choice

Educationists have resisted this desire for choice with everything they can muster. Tactics include using the state to decide what constitutes a school, imposing expensive rules and regulations onto non-government schools, and using truancy laws to crack down on home schoolers. Creative alternatives such as Marshall Fritz's Academy for Self-Government face enormous hurdles just to survive.

However, the central struggle is over money. As long as the government schools take so much money from parents in taxes, it is hard for parents to afford to send their children to non-government schools. Attempts to change this through tax credits and vouchers have resulted in vicious counter attacks by the NEA among others. As Gatto put it:

"School has become too vital a jobs project, contract-giver, and protector of the social order to allow itself to be 'reformed.' It has political allies to guard its marches."

One of the problems facing the advocates of education choice is the constitutional separation of church and state. This has been interpreted to mean any money which ends up helping a church school is prohibited, even if the money goes to the parent and not directly to the school. However, there is some hope that the Reagan-Bush court will at least consider serious education choice.

## Conclusion

Education choice involves returning control of education to the parents rather than the bureaucracies. History has shown that the system of centralizing control has resulted in poor results and a massive waste of resources.

The battle cry for choice in education is central to bringing about a free society. Government schools are not simply another "black hole" for tax dollars, but an institution which does actual harm to children.

The only way the U.S. will get quality education will be when control is returned to the parents who can have a real choice versus the sterile bureaucratic monopoly of the government schools. Creative proposals such as the Oregon Education Choice Initiative in 1990 will eventually be passed as more and more people understand why the current system will not be fixed.

The sooner the better.

# New Platform Plank for 1992

*At the 1991 LP national convention, a number of changes were made to the national platform. Some of the most significant changes will be highlighted in the NEWS from time to time. The following new plank, entitled "Foreign Intervention," replaces the "Latin America," "The Middle East," "China," and "Southern Africa" planks in the old platform.*

We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid, guarantees, and diplomatic meddling. We would end all limitation of private foreign aid, both military and economic. Voluntary

cooperation with any economic boycott should not be treated as a crime.

We would repeal the Neutrality Act of 1794, and all other U.S. neutrality laws which restrict the efforts of Americans to aid overseas organizations fighting to overthrow or change governments.

We would no longer incorporate foreign nations into the U.S. defense perimeter. We would cease the creation and maintenance of U.S. bases and sites for the prepositioning of military material in other countries. We would end the practice of stationing of American military troops overseas.

We make no exceptions to the above.

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# Personal Account: Socialized Medicine

By Christopher Lyon, M.D.

Socialized medicine has been touted as a cost saving mechanism to provide health care. One may ask how and why.

As an ex-Englishman, and a doctor, I outline how these savings are achieved. My father, as I write, lies dying in a hospital in England. After two weeks sedated in a bed, no diagnosis and no prognosis have been given his wife or children. No doctor has discussed the case with them. Through trans-Atlantic phone calls I have pieced the story together.

My father, a heavy smoker for many years until I persuaded him to quit, suffered from acute debilitating back pain for the last two months. His English doctor visited him once or twice and assured him that he pulled a muscle digging in his garden. The pain drove my father to call an ambulance.

He was admitted. His x-rays were read as a ruptured disc at the thoracic level. A "shadow" was noted in his lung and his serum calcium was elevated. The nurses told my family he had a ruptured disc. He remained sedated and disoriented. For one whole week little else was done.

Upon my urging, a bronchoscopy was done and a comparison of old chest x-rays performed. No CAT scan of the brain can be performed as the major hospital for a town of 50,000 people does not have one. Such tests require ambulance rides to Liverpool or Manchester. After one week

“Nationalized health is synonymous with delays, waiting lists, rationing, and high taxes.”

he was sent by ambulance for a bone scan at a Liverpool hospital. My family was told again by nurses (their only contact) that this was normal. It was not. A "hot" lesion in the bone is present in the thoracic spine. No repeat x-rays were done as the x-ray department closes at 11:30 a.m. each morning.

From my conversations with the attending doctors and this clinical picture, lung cancer with poor prognosis is likely. This has not been communicated by any physician to my family, simply because no doctors are ever on the floors to review cases with patients' relatives. Heavy sedation, together with late and apparently reluctant administration of antibiotics for the associated pneumonia leaves one the impression that my father would have been left to slip away without further intervention had I not called. Compare this with the U.S. Early referral from a private doctor, with rapid workup on an outpatient basis could have detected the lung lesion early. The possibility of resection of the cancer with a 35 percent five-year survival rate existed. During the whole U.S. process the doctors would have had

almost daily discussions with the immediate kinfolk.

As I make my plans to fly home, at this date, two weeks after hospital admission, no diagnosis has yet been made. But here in the U.S. three or four days would suffice and the family be told.

Yes, nationalized medicine is cheaper than the U.S. system. Money is saved by lack of doctors, mostly government employees, inadequately equipped and inadequately staffed hospitals, and a propensity to let the old die rather than evaluate and treat them.

Americans won't stand for such cruel privations. They expect and demand high quality care, from well staffed, well equipped private hospitals. Robust, speedy, and vigorous workup and treatment is the U.S. standard. Nationalized health is synonymous with delays, waiting lists, rationing, and high taxes. There is no free ride.

Reform of the U.S. system requires nationwide tax reduction with job stimulation, empowering the young to set earnings aside in individual lifelong health insurance accounts. Such medical accounts will be tax deductible. Incentive for individual responsibility for one's own health is built in by allowing tax free cash-out from the medical accounts after survival in good health to retirement age.

*Christopher Lyon is a doctor of ophthalmology in Newport Beach and Orange, CA.*

# Personal Account: Government Secrecy

By Donald Figge

Suppose that you were transported in time and space to a place where the following happened:

An individual facing criminal charges relative to a bank failure is protected from prosecution by the secret police on the basis of "national security." In his place, you, as a target of convenience, are falsely accused. The prosecutor obtains an indictment by feeding the grand jury selective information, while concealing facts unfavorable to an indictment.

During your trial, intelligence officers direct the prosecution. You are denied your right to face your accuser. The government "manufactures" evidence. The government hides information crucial to your defense. The government threatens one witness with the loss of her children if she does not cooperate with the prosecution. Nevertheless, the jury clears you of all 30 substantive counts in the indictment, but convicts you of one count of conspiracy. This conspiracy is not the one listed in the indictment, and in fact is a "conspiracy" to do something perfectly legal. Your three-year prison sentence is based on charges for which you were never indicted, tried, nor convicted.

You want to appeal, but the trial has drained you of all resources. You are denied release on bond pending appeal, although you clearly meet all the criteria for such a release. Your right to a public defender is denied, although the government's own lengthy and diligent investigation shows that you are destitute. In spite of this investigation, the prosecutor and the court agree that you can prove yourself innocent. Then, in direct defiance of the highest court of the land, the government denies you access to documents vital to your case. In deteriorating health, without

resources and no legal training, you decide to research and write your own appeal.

During your imprisonment, you contract cancer. In spite of many desperate pleas for help, you are denied medical attention for 16 months. Finally, the government offers you an opportunity to get life-saving medical help, but only on the condition that you give up all rights to appeal your conviction. You refuse the offer. After outside pressure is brought to bear, the government schedules you for "treatment" at a notorious prison camp known to insiders as "The Death House." Additional pressure finally brings legitimate medical help, but only after the cancer has metastasized, and treatment has become irrelevant.

If all of that happened to you, what country would you be in? Iraq? Cuba? Red China? Idi Amin's Uganda? The Soviet Union under Stalin?

Wrong! All of the above (and more) happened to Frederik A. Figge in the United States of America during the years 1987-1991. His recent demise was a direct result of "justice," American style. By the way, the three-judge appeals court unanimously overturned his conviction, and the full panel of appeals judges overwhelmingly sustained the overturn. Finally, the United States Supreme Court, by a seven to two majority, also sustained the overturn.

One lesson to learn from this tragedy is that liberty is very fragile. Do not think that, if falsely accused, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, or the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights will automatically protect you. They will not. The government does not play by the rules.

Openness in government is a libertarian issue. Fred Figge lost his life because the government hid information and withheld documents to which he was legally and morally entitled, and because the gov-

ernment lied about a number of issues. If the government does not allow you access to information which is directly relevant to your well-being, then you do not have liberty. Information is control. Information is power. Information must be democratized!

As the 1992 presidential election campaign approaches, it is time for all of us to stand up and demand Glasnost for the U.S. For too long the government has hidden its own wrong-doing behind a veil of "national security" and other subterfuges.

If our badly-battered liberty is to survive, and if democracy (not to mention justice!) is to have any meaning at all, then we, the people, must have access to information so that we can decide for ourselves what the truth is about the issues. The Germans have broken down their wall. Now we must break down ours.

There must be massive de-classification of documents. "National security" must no longer be a hiding place for governmental criminality or excesses. We must no longer tolerate the imprisonment of people for political reasons or the sacrifice of human life for Machiavellian agendas. The next "target of convenience" could be you!

I urge Libertarians to rally around the idea of liberty and democracy through openness in government. Since there is strength in numbers, why not invite other like-minded organizations to join in making it a national issue in 1992? Capture the public's imagination in a way that even the "national security press" can't ignore. At the height of the presidential campaign, let us unite in a march on Washington, DC, under the banner of "Glasnost Now!"

*Donald Figge is an LP member from Norwalk, CA.*

## Campaign Appearances

### Andre Marrou

Upcoming:

Jan. 16-19: Las Vegas, NV  
Jan. 25: Washington, DC  
Jan. 30: Maine  
Jan. 30-Feb. 19: New Hampshire

### Nancy Lord

Upcoming:

Jan. 7-13: New Hampshire  
Jan. 14-16: Detroit, MI  
Jan. 17-19: Las Vegas, NV  
Jan. 25: Washington, DC  
Feb. 13-17: California

If you are interested in scheduling appearances in your area by Andre Marrou and/or Nancy Lord, contact Me-Me King, 2819 E. 21st St., Tucson, AZ 85716, or call King at 602-325-0647, Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., MST, and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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# Letters: Gun Ownership Defended by Many

## Shooting Back

I am a gun owner, and I disagree with Charles Pratt's irrational and derogatory rejection of firearms ownership as a libertarian issue (Nov. 1991 NEWS).

He dismisses L. Neil Smith (and Smith's political recommendations) (Sept. 1991 NEWS) only on the strength of ad hominem aspersions. This treatment is contemptible. Mr. Smith neither raved, ranted, nor advocated irresponsible use of firearms—and Pratt is dishonest to represent him otherwise.

Pratt's sweeping generalization that "guns are designed to kill people, and they tend to encourage an authoritarian mindset" seems an admission of his own prejudice.

He responds to firearms with authoritarian impulses, dogmatically denouncing viewpoints contrary to his own—while the rest of us (along with the Founding Fathers) appreciate the role of private firearms ownership in keeping a police state from our doors.

Finally, if Mr. Pratt is going to lecture us about the need to avoid licentious behavior, then he might reflect on the wisdom of exercising greater discretion in his application of the First Amendment.

**Michael J. Dunn**  
Auburn, WA

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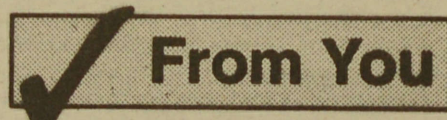
It is really a shame that Charles Pratt feels disgusted that he's a gun owner. I guess that living in New York City, the anti-gunopolis of the U.S., has taken its toll even on libertarians living there. You shouldn't feel bad because you are a gun owner. There are several reasons you should be proud.

People own guns for many different reasons. Hunting, sport shooting, self-defense just to name a few. Learning to shoot can be a lot of fun, something that anyone can learn to do with just a little practice. Owning a gun does not mean that you have to or that you will ever kill something with it. Guns are inanimate objects; tools that can be used for legitimate lawful purposes. 99.6 percent of all guns, in any given year in the U.S. are used for lawful purposes.

We don't live in a libertarian utopia and we never will. Even if we did, we would still have a use and "need" for guns. Aside from recreational shooting, they are the most effective way to put food on the table if need be. Mr. Pratt believes that guns are designed only to kill people. Not so. Many guns are purposely designed for recreational purposes alone and most military-styled guns are easily adapted for this purpose.

Owning a gun also has nothing to do with a "male ego." Gun ownership is not exclusively male oriented. Millions of women own and use guns every day; and not just for self-defense.

Half of the homes in the U.S. have at least one firearm. Gun ownership involves enormous responsibility. Despite media attempts to tarnish gun owners' images, gun owners have every reason to be proud. . . We are the only



Letters from members and readers

nation in the world that trusts its citizens well enough to own guns.

**David M. Holden**  
High Ridge, MO

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The illogical ramblings of Charles Pratt deserve a response.

I think that encouraging people to own guns will make it more difficult for the authoritarian government which has been growing in Washington since 1933 to gain total control of our lives. (Like Avis, it tries harder.) It is clear to me that the overriding factor in our Founding Father's inclusion of the right to bear arms in our Constitution was to protect against government abuse of power. Without guns in the hands of citizens in 1775, we would probably still be English subjects. And our country would not be the economic miracle of the ages.

Guns in the hands of private citizens are not only a deterrent to those with authoritarian ambitions—the standing army would have to be impractically large—but it is an effective crime deterrent. (Professional criminals avoid unnecessary risks.)

There is something in Pratt's twisted thinking that equates gun ownership with drug usage. It is most difficult to respond to anything that far-fetched. The same is true of his equating wider gun ownership with the indiscriminate exercise of the freedom to own guns.

**Eugene L. Notkin**  
Saugus, MA

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When L. Neil Smith promotes gun ownership he is promoting self-responsibility for home security. This is not damaging the life of anybody.

To promote drugs is to promote self-destruction. To promote guns is to promote self-protection. Pacifism breeds violence.

**Dennis White**  
Westminster, CO

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If one owns a gun, and is "not too thrilled about it," then he should do the rest of us gun owning individuals a favor and become a non-hypocritical pacifist by destroying it.

Some of us who also distrust the government (and predatory individuals) are concerned about whether or not we will be allowed to retain the means to defend ourselves. This concern is not evidence of "an authoritarian mindset."

I am sure that a native of the birthplace of the Sullivan Act would feel that his comparison of a dope dealer to a gunsmith is quite fair. That logic just

doesn't wash for the rest of us living west of the Hudson. If he wishes to see gun sales become as seedy, dangerous, and profitable as dope dealing, Mr. Pratt need simply continue to carp at those of us who are trying to keep gun ownership legal.

**Kristopher K. Barrett**  
Portland, OR



## LP Principles

Mr. Shaw's objection (Dec. 1991 NEWS) to our position on Mr. Bush's intervention in the Persian Gulf indicates a serious misunderstanding. The LP is not about majoritarian democracy. It is about the consistent application of a set of principles with its roots in the Magna Carta, John Locke, Algernon Sidney, Thomas Jefferson, et al. Our position on the Bush intervention was completely consistent with the LP platform and with the fundamental principles of limited government upon which it rests.

Opportunities exist to refine our understanding of the principles which have their application in the LP platform. If Mr. Shaw does not agree with the interpretation in the platform, he can work toward its revision.

I joined the LP because of its coherent principles. I am a former military officer who became increasingly disaffected with the mendacity of my government and its agents while in Southeast Asia. When I returned to the U.S., I vainly searched for others sharing my perspective. I tentatively joined with some anti-war veteran groups but was uncomfortable with their socialist sentiments. When I read "Libertarianism in One Lesson," it was like a Huey [helicopter] plucking me from the dark jungle of mendacity closing around me.

Many Americans have failed to see through the darkness. The politicians are counting on the confusion to let them literally get away with murder. They coax us into foreign wars we don't want, step by little step, claiming at each turn that only a little more sacrifice of liberty is all that is required. At every step, fewer skeptics can be heard above the rising crescendo of the military music until nothing remains to stop the bandwagon. The only remaining task is to count the dead and disfigured.

Thomas Paine wrote of King George's Europe, "Governments do not raise taxes to fight wars; they fight wars to raise taxes." Tyrants need wars, and threats of wars, to legitimize their theft of liberty.

If we are ever to restore freedom to these United States and secure the full blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, we must discipline ourselves to overcome our weakness for what Hayek called the "fatal conceit," our

haughty arrogance to run others' lives, both at home and abroad.

**Andrew T. Zimmerman**  
Marietta, GA

## Minority Rule

The Libertarian Party unfortunately has an elitist totally anti-democratic indirect minority rule convention delegate structure for selecting the party's candidates for president and vice president of the United States, the LP national committee, and the judicial committee. In the 1991 national convention, 257 convention delegates out of a national membership of 9,730 chose Mr. Marrou to be president, the five at large NatCom members were chosen by from 108 to 197 convention delegates, the district NatCom members were chosen by about 30 convention delegates each, and the members of the judicial committee were chosen by from 53 to 104 convention delegates. The so-called major statist parties have similar elitist control.

The democratic remedy is the total abolition of the convention system with its replacement by a petition nomination system for all such offices and a mail ballot system for selecting president and vice president candidates and electing party officers. Changes to the party's platform can also be approved by mail ballot and/or by a NatCom having proportional representation and indirect majority rule.

**Thomas W. Jones**  
Detroit, MI

## David Duke

The Dec. 1991 NEWS quotes LP chair Mary Gingell as saying of David Duke, "... to compare us in any way to David Duke is clearly an attempt to slander us without any recognition of the facts."

I realize this is open season on Duke, and that even the LP feels the need to be somewhat politically correct. But if about 90 percent of Duke's platform (the exception being his protectionist views) sounds Libertarian, and if this is embarrassing to Libertarian candidates, so what? Being embarrassed comes with the territory of politics; if LP activists can't stand the heat, they shouldn't be in politics. Duke is hated and reviled because he has the courage to discuss issues that virtually all other politicians avoid, but which are serious concerns of many voters.

**Dennis Constant**  
Chicago, IL

## Comments on McCann

Your front-page report (Nov. 1991 NEWS) on Dave McCann's campaign for the California legislature neglected an important issue raised by the campaign which all Libertarians need to consider. Shortly before the election, the campaign's spokesman Thomas Dahlberg issued a statement to the local metropolitan paper declaring that McCann opposed legalization of drugs and favored "maintenance of the status

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# Letters to the Editor

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quo" in the War on Drugs.

Those of us who know McCann and Dahlberg know that both Dave and Tom actually favor drug legalization. Their repudiation of the Libertarian position was merely a campaign tactic aimed at deceiving voters as to McCann's real beliefs.

This strategy typified the campaign, and, at least in the short term, the strategy worked extremely well, garnering 38 percent of the vote, as your article noted.

Is this the right approach for Libertarian candidates to pursue? Or, does denying and repudiating Libertarian ideas gain us short-term electoral gains at the price of throwing away our greatest long-term strength: the consistency and truth of our principles?

**David H. Miller**  
Sacramento, CA

## Write, Now

One small effort we can all make on behalf of the Marrou/Lord ticket is to write an occasional letter to national media forums, requesting that a particular media outlet interview Marrou and Lord.

Thus, a request from this Georgia libertarian: Fire off a note to Bob Schieffer, "Face the Nation," 2020 M. St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Attention from media mainstays such as "Face the Nation" on CBS is the sort of attention which can be parlayed into even greater media exposure.

**Daniel F. Walker**  
Atlanta, GA

## Animal Rights?

Charles Keil (Nov. 1991 NEWS) seems to think that animals and trees have natural rights simply by virtue of their being natural phenomena; that there is some logical connection between evolution and rights. This, as I've pointed out to many a Bambiist, is a non-sequitur. One cannot logically reach the conclusion of inalienable rights from the data of mere existence, consciousness, or sentience. This Bambiist argument, while it might appeal to Jains, Hindus, and liberals, will not impress a Lockean.

Moreover, the existence of predation in nature is the Achilles' Heel of the animal rights argument. Nature is a predatory environment where the fish does not recognize the "rights" of the worm and where the bear does not recognize the "rights" of the fish. Nor do human predators recognize the "rights" of their prey. The concept of rights is one that applies intra-species only, in the case of the human species only, the only species that has the intellectual, moral, and volitional capacity to both understand and apply the principles thereof. The concept does not apply across the bounds of the natural predator/prey relationship. "Animal rights" is therefore an oxymoronic term.

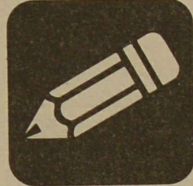
**Christopher Little**  
Aurora, CO

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Charles M. H. Keil criticizes liber-



Letters from members and readers



itarianism as "anthropocentric" (literally "human-centered"). By this he means that libertarians view "nature as property" (as though people were not part of nature!). He criticizes this view for two reasons—first, that it limits our appeal to voters, and second, that it may lead to "speciecide [extinction] and self-destruction."

The argument from expediency is irrelevant. It is true that environmentalism and animal "rights" are hot buttons, especially with the media elite so embarrassed by the death of socialism. But right and wrong are not measured by numbers. If Nazism becomes popular, should we endorse it?

The second point is here challenged as to fact. Private land is far less despoiled than the commons (just look at the USSR). Likewise, privately owned animals (such as cattle) are thriving; virtually all endangered species are commons. Our appeal to voters concerned about such issues should be based on these facts.

Genuine conservation requires privatization of the commons. The only effect animal "rights" can have is the abolition of human rights. If the environmental/animal "rights" nexus is becoming more popular, that is all the more reason for libertarians to stand firm for the principles of freedom and private property.

**Mark LaRochelle**  
Bethesda, MD

## Taxation

User fees are indeed the best method of taxation, but I have a better plan: no taxes!

Government presently owns over 5,400 military installations and vast other properties, some of great value. We don't need any more defense than our two oceans, two friendly neighbors, a few nuclear scarecrows, and a coast guard. More than that is imperialism and actually reduces our security and exposes our citizens to the violence of U.S. haters.

So, sell off enough government properties to pay off the national debt, and fund essential government activities with rent from the rest.

Government presently spends about \$8,000 per annum per capita. If people were allowed to spend their own money, they could purchase the education, medical care, and pensions of their choice. Costs would drop like a rock, and quality and standards of living would soar! Voila!

**Horace McCowan**  
Richmond, VA

# We Need One More War

Illiteracy is bad. It's killing our economy. Too many Americans, lacking the basic reading, writing, and math skills, are driving America's living standard lower and lower, inevitably to Third World levels. Illiteracy also mortally threatens our democracy.

Unfortunately, requisite reforms in the public school system are far from reality. And even if the needed reforms started tomorrow and could be quickly implemented throughout America, the immediate impact would be tiny. We would still have a large, in-adequately educated workforce for many, many years.

We must act decisively, now.

Using the logic of the drug war and the style of Jonathan Swift, I offer a new modest proposal: Declare war on illiteracy.

Make illiteracy illegal. That is, as of Jan. 1, 1993, all adults caught without basic reading, writing, and math skills will be subject to heavy fines, then (if more force is required) imprisonment, then (if still more force is required, of course) capital punishment.

Enforce the law with an ongoing, sweeping dragnet of roadblocks to stop and test adults, meeting "illiterate profiles," modeled on "drug courier profiles," which conform to modern probable cause standards. (Fines can be used to finance war costs: con-

“Using the logic of the drug war and the style of Jonathan Swift, I offer a new modest proposal: Declare war on illiteracy.”

struction costs for many new prisons, additional court costs, etc.) Enforce higher and higher levels of literacy, as the economy demands.

The message is finally delivered, loud and clear: "Illiterates, you cost the American economy and the American democracy, so now it's going to cost you for a change. No more coddling!" These tough sanctions can then supply school-aged children with a powerful incentive that is currently lacking: a loud-and-clear message: "study hard or else!" The War on Illiteracy thus lays a solid foundation for desperately needed education reform, a welcome bonus to an Illiterate-Free America!

Modestly yours,

**Mike Binkley**  
Los Angeles, CA

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## Upcoming Events

### February 14-17, 1992:

California LP Convention, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Irvine; 800-637-1776. Speakers include David Bergland and Nancy Lord.

### March 7-8, 1992:

New Jersey LP Convention; 201-444-2846. Speakers include Nancy Lord.

### March 14-15, 1992:

Pennsylvania LP Convention; 215-453-8930. Speakers include Nancy Lord.

### March 21, 1992:

LP of Georgia Convention, Atlanta; 404-320-1991.

### April 3-5, 1992:

Illinois LP Convention, O'Hare Plaza Hotel, Chicago; 708-475-0391. Speakers include Andre Marrou, Nancy Lord, Aaron Zelman, and Eric Banfield.

### April 10-12, 1992:

Michigan LP Convention, Ann Arbor; 313-475-9792.

### April 11, 1992 (tentative):

New Mexico LP Convention; 505-984-0949.

### April 11-12, 1992:

LP NatCom meeting, Ann Arbor, MI; 202-543-1988.

### April 24-26, 1992:

Colorado LP Convention, Ft. Collins; 303-484-8184.

### May 16, 1992 (tentative):

Arizona LP Convention; 602-257-1608.

### May 29-31, 1992:

Florida LP Convention; 407-290-2467.

### June 13, 1992:

Texas LP Convention; 817-536-4131.

### June, 1992 (tentative):

Washington State LP Convention; 206-329-5669.

### August, 1992 (tentative):

Women in Libertarianism Conference, Seattle area; 206-759-1838.

To get your convention or other important gathering mentioned in the Upcoming Events column, drop a line to NEWS, Upcoming Events, P.O. Box 780, Winchester, VA 22601.

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