

# California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume V, Number 4

August 1990

## From the NRA Convention

### Delegates Approve Libertarian Resolutions

Bob Weber

Bob Weber is the chair of Region 62 (West L.A. and Santa Monica) and organizer of the Libertarian Caucus of the National Rifle Association. He has been actively working to promote libertarian ideas within that organization and coordinated LPC participation at the recent convention. Here is Part One of his first hand account.

ANAHEIM: At the annual convention of the National Rifle Association (NRA), held the weekend of June 8-12, a caucus of Libertarian NRA members were successful in an effort to persuade convention delegates to pass two major resolutions: a resolution urging the NRA to break the "two-party" habit and endorse third-party candidates, particularly Libertarians, where appropriate (see page four); and one in support of jury nullification and the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA).

The delegates gathered in an atmosphere of high anxiety, the organization having suffered an unprecedented series of legislative defeats in the previous year. Among these were a failure to stop President George Bush's imposition of a ban on the importation of many semi-automatic firearms, the California and New Jersey bans on "assault weapons," and the California imposition of a 15-day waiting period on the sale of rifles and shotguns in addition to pistols and the outlawing of all *private* sales or transfers of firearms. Just days before, the U.S. Senate had rejected an attempt to delete a California-style semi-automatic ban from Sen. Joseph Biden's (D-Delaware) "Anti-Crime" Bill, S. 1970.

What made these defeats all the more galling was that they were assisted or abetted by legislators that the NRA had endorsed and actively supported. Dissidents within the NRA, led by former NRA Institute for Legislative Action head Neal Knox, were calling for the ouster of Executive Vice President Warren Cassidy—a move Libertarians welcomed as many of us perceive Cassidy as being the main block to our candidates receiving campaign support from the NRA. Although Cassidy escaped the convention with his neck untouched, our victories should cheer the partisans of freedom.

**Friday:** A "rally" to protest anti-gun legislation, held in the afternoon to kick-off the convention, turned out to be a bore. There was a speech by TV commentator Bruce Hershenov, and a *film* by Charlton Heston got some applause,

but where was Heston? Afterwards, I heard people saying, "This is a rally?" Still, the fact that everyone was seated in neat rows did make it easy for Libertarian activists to hand out flyers advertising the LPC and our statewide candidates.

On Friday night, ABC Nightline covered the first day of the convention. A chilling news-twist in the reporting has shattered forever any illusion about the news media I had. John Wallner, a San Diego LP member (not identified as such on the screen) was asked by a reporter, "Do you think that NRA is losing clout?" John answered: "I think that's

*continued on page six*

### Help Free Terry Wiley

A protest against the trial and possible execution of Terry Wiley is scheduled for Friday, July 27 in front of the Malaysian Consulate, 350 S. Figueroa, in downtown Los Angeles, from 11:00 till 12:30. Amnesty International will be there as well as various groups that oppose the death penalty.

As reported in last month's *CLNEWS*, Wiley, a Sacramento man, is being held by the Malaysian government for possession of marijuana. (His name is actually Terry, not Kerry, but he has been misnamed in all news reports). LPC gubernatorial candidate Dennis Thompson wrote the Malaysian ambassador to the U.S. urging Wiley's release from prison; the embassy responded with the excuse that it has nothing to do with the matter and that it is up to the courts. The Thompson for Governor Campaign sent out press releases about Wiley, but the media has generally ignored the case.

Dennis' campaign manager Pat Wright, who is organizing the protest, reports several Australians and a British subject were hanged in Malaysia not long ago. With HR 4079 in the works and drug tsar Bennett calling for decapitation for "trafficking," that's the way things are going here.

For more information Pat can be reached at (619) 578-7168, or call Dennis Thompson at (619) 283-6213. Libertarians and their allies are urged to be on hand to protest this outrage. We must make our voices heard.



# News and Events from the Regions

## Libertarians Demand Recount

Longtime LPC member Don Smith of Redwood City (San Mateo County), a Ph.D. in biochemistry, ran for the office of coroner against three candidates in the June 5 election. There was no incumbent as the present coroner is resigning after 35 years. With four candidates in the field Don had a good chance of winning, or at least coming in second and forcing a runoff. He was certainly the best qualified, he ran an active campaign, and the local press had given him some good writeups.

The preliminary vote count gave frontrunner Bud Moorman 49.5 percent of the vote, with Don coming in second with 21.3 percent. There was general rejoicing in the Smith camp until the county register called for a recanvassing of the voting machines and, lo, as if by magic another 168 votes was discovered.

A certified vote total revealed that Moorman averaged 46 percent at the polls; however, there were 25,000 absentee ballots, and in these he averaged 59 percent.

The Smith For Coroner Campaign has called for a manual recount of absentee ballots. That will cost \$3,000, and it's the campaign—not the taxpayers—that must shell out the money.

All this has not been lost on the press, and the demand for a recount was the lead story in the *San Mateo Times*—with a banner headline, no less. The *Times* is a daily paper with a readership of nearly 300,000. "The recount story was featured over Imelda Marcos' acquittal, says campaign manager Lyn Sapowsky-Smith.

## Let's Have Some Fun

Randall Grindle

There's going to be a celebration in the North Coast's freedom country the weekend of August 4-5. That's when the annual reggae music festival will be held, just off state Highway 101 at the Humboldt-Mendocino County line.

Reggae is an Afro-Caribbean style of music, sort of a cross between rap, calypso and rock. Because its lyrics feature social and political commentary (as does rap and heavy metal music), it's the subject of government censorship efforts. In addition, it's the music of a religious group known as "Rastafarians," who regard marijuana as a religious sacrament and are therefore targets in the "War on Drugs," and who should be very receptive to the Libertarian Party's message of freedom.

So we'll be doing voter registration, circulating literature on our statewide candidates in order to generate the two per-

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cent of the vote we need to stay on the ballot, and informing people about jury nullification—the ultimate resort for victims of statism. The festival is also attended by thousands of college students and green-type libertarians, whom we will be trying to recruit as well.

To join us for some fun under the Redwoods and some practical political organizing, contact North Coast LP, Box 684, Lower Lake, 95257; or call (707) 994-4817.

Randall Grindle is LPC chair of Lake, Mendocino and Humboldt Counties. See his article on redevelopment, page four.

## An Apology to Jeff Smith

Last month, *CLNews* ran a short note commending Jim Wilson for doing a superb job of editing the Santa Clara County newsletter. Unfortunately, it was Jeff Smith who served as editor long and well for so many years. Jim Wilson is also a great activist, but he was not the editor. I hope you will accept my apology, Jeff—and you too, Jim. It was an oversight that I should have caught. I was right about one thing: you did do a terrific job.—Editor.

## Here and There

**KERN COUNTY:** Vicki Williams is the new contact for Kern County, taking over that position from Craig Gifford who is no longer active in the Party. Vicki's address is 5213 Hampton Court, Bakersfield, 93309; tele: (805) 398-5584. Thanks goes to Craig, LPC contact for many years and a candidate for Congress in 1986; and a big hello to Vicki Williams.

**ORANGE COUNTY:** One meeting a month isn't enough for this county. Meetings will continue to be held in Costa Mesa the third Tuesday of the month, but beginning in July meetings will be held for Libertarians in the southern part as well. These will be the fourth Tuesday, at the Laguna Beach Hotel. Jim and Linda Rushing, long-time activists from Oklahoma, will be host, hostess and organizers for the Greater Laguna area. For information or to just say hello, their number is (714) 494-6266.

**BUTTE COUNTY:** Chair Jessica Strock reports that the odious ID ordinance has been repealed (see *CLNews*, March, 1990). It took eight months, and cost \$500 for printing, phone, gas etc.—but what price liberty? The city council had tried to ignore the matter, hoping it would somehow go away without their having to take a public stand on the issue. But Libertarians kept up the pressure, speaking out at council meetings, focusing media and public attention. Finally a vote was the only way out and the "pass laws" were repealed. Congratulations are in order to all the Chico Libertarians.

**VENTURA COUNTY:** activist Sandi Webb has entered the campaign for Simi Valley city council and plans to run a very active campaign. She is well-known in the community and has begun attending the various events. *CLNews* has just learned about this and will have a full story next month, but just thought you'd like to know. For information right now, call her campaign manager Aaron Starr at (805) 583-3308.



# LIBERTARIAN WORLD CONFERENCE

August 10 - 14, 1990 - San Francisco

## THE LIBERTARIAN EVENT OF THE YEAR!

**Combines ISIL, Future of Freedom & Advocates Conferences**

*The following is but a short listing of the star-studded cast of world-famous libertarians you will have the opportunity to see and meet at this powerful event:*

### MILTON FRIEDMAN

A world-famous Nobel Prize winner in economics, Dr. Friedman will be our featured banquet speaker.

### CARL I. HAGEN

Leader of the Norwegian libertarian Progress Party and a sitting member of the Norwegian Parliament. His party rose from 2 to 22 seats in the last election and is challenging the political establishment.

### ENRIQUE GHERSI

Co-author, with Hernando de Soto, of the best selling book *EL OTRO SENDERO*. ISIL's Rep for Peru, he was elected in the recent elections to the Peruvian Congress. He will speak on the Mario Vargas Llosa campaign, on the status of libertarianism in Peru, and of his views regarding the future of his country.

### LEON LOUW and FRANCES KENDALL

These international libertarian all-stars and Nobel Peace Prize nominees will discuss their remarkable impact on developments in South Africa. They will also update us on their successes in the fight against apartheid.

### AHTO LOBJAKAS

Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party student movement in Estonia. He will report on the future of freedom in the Baltic states.

### MARTIN KRAUSE

ISIL's Rep for Argentina will report on his activities as an official observer to elections in Nicaragua and Romania. He will also report on the future of Argentina's libertarian movement.

### MANY OTHERS

Ron Paul, Bob Poole, Marshall Fritz, Petr Beckmann. Libertarians from Canada, Belgium, Holland, Finland, India, Sweden, Norway, France, Nigeria, Hong Kong, and many other countries will discuss their work on a special international panel. You don't want to miss this!

### THE ENVIRONMENT

Top environmental experts such as John Baden, Richard Stroup, Jane Shaw, Canada's Walter Block and Belgium's Frank van Dun will discuss many aspects of environmental issues.

### CONFERENCE FEES

Registration \$175.00 -- \$200.00 at door.

If you do not plan to attend the entire conference, Single Day passes are \$50 or Single Sessions are \$10.00. Extra cost events include a cocktail reception on the evening of Friday 10th (\$17.50 if you are registered for the basic package. \$20 if you are not); Sunday AM breakfast with Peru's Enrique Gheri (\$17.50 if you are registered for the basic package. \$25 if you are not).

### HOTEL

The conference will be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn -- rates \$83.25/night single \$55.00 per night per person, double occupancy.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks or money orders payable to:

**FUTURE OF FREEDOM, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 Tel: (415) 864-0952**



## The NRA Approved Resolution

Be it resolved:

That the National Rifle Association shall abandon the policy of only endorsing candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties and shall henceforth also consider the Second Amendment positions and qualifications of the candidates of the Libertarian and other political parties in its determination of endorsements and financial support;

That the criteria for said endorsement and financial support shall be ranked as follows:

First: The clear commitment of the candidate to the principles of the Second Amendment;

Second: The electability of the candidate for the office sought.

And be it further resolved that no candidate lacking a clear commitment to the principles of the Second Amendment shall receive any endorsement or financial support from the I.L.A.\*

Resolution by John Vernon,

Immediate past chair of the LPC;

Voting member, NRA;

Candidate for State Assembly, District 40.

\*I.L.A.: Institute for Legislative Action, the lobbying arm of the NRA.



## It's a Time for Action

### Join the Booklift to Lithuania

The Wisconsin LP is collecting English-language books and other publications on free market economics, business management, Libertarian political theory, and philosophy to be sent to businesspeople in Lithuania. There's never too many. The first batch has been sent, but it's not known if it's been received. If it is held up for some reason, then Plan B (an alternate route) will go into effect. Mary Roffers, organizer of the booklift, reports that a number of copies of Bastiat's *The Law* have been received, plus lots of Ayn Rand. Books and monetary donations should be sent to Mary at 2462 Lake Shore Rd., Grafton, WI 53024; (414)375-0068.

### Legalize Marijuana Petition

Thomas Neece, a registered Libertarian, is circulating a statewide petition to legalize marijuana. Those interested in helping in any way should contact him at 9475 Laughlyn Way, Redwood Valley, 95470; (415) 587-6700.

### Protest the Drug War

Libertarian Party candidates and activists have been invited to speak in support of the freemarket economy and freedom of choice of the consumer at a rally to legalize hemp for profits, ecology, peace and liberty. The war on drugs is right now forcing you to pay ever-higher taxes for the more than 400,000 arrests per year, and the care of 20,000 prisoner. For information on the rally contact Tom Hale of the California Cannabis Coalition, (707) 937-3554; or Dale Gieringer of California NORMAL, 2215-R Market St., #278, San Francisco, 94114; (415) 563-5858.

Chuck Bower, 70, of Pine Grove in Amador County, was arrested and charged with jury tampering, June 18. The nature of his crime: handing out information to *prospective* jurors outside the local courthouse.

Mr. Bower is a Constitutionalist and very interested in the issues of jury nullification and the rights of the jury as recognized in Common Law and by the U.S. Constitution. So when he was summoned to jury duty he figured he would seize the moment as a chance to enlighten his fellow-citizens. He printed up a two page flyer outlining the information, then stood *outside* the courthouse greeting would-be jurors on their way inside.

One of the judges took exception to this and ordered Mr. Bowersarrested. He was not charged with blocking the sidewalk (he wasn't), nor with littering (he wasn't doing that either), but with jury tampering.

"These people weren't members of any jury yet," Mr. Bowers told *CLNews*. "They were only prospective jurors. Besides, the court wasn't even in session. I was arrested at 9:45 a.m., and the court didn't start till 10:00."

Mr. Bowers was arraigned on July 3, and by then Libertarians had learned about it. Marion McEwen notified Jessica Strock and Mark Sweany who drove over to Amador County for the hearing. To see if there was an element of selectivity in this, Jessica stood outside handing out FIJA material—including to some school children. She was not arrested, but then she doesn't have a record with the local courts. Mr. Bower does.

It seems that he had fought a parking ticket a couple of years ago and refused fingerprinting. For this, the judge had him jailed for a week. At that hearing he refused to stand when the judge walked into the room. He is clearly not a favorite of the court.

## Voters to Decide

Randall

Last summer *CLNews* ran several articles about the battle in Clearlake (Lake County) over redevelopment and the city council's "lynching" of councilmember William Struthers for his opposition to the plans. Randall Grindle brings us up to date.

**CLEARLAKE:** Faced with an aroused, emotional crowd of nearly 200 people at the final hearings on redevelopment, June 11 and 25, the Clearlake city council voted to put the issue to a binding referendum vote in the November general election.

Libertarian councilmember Bill Struthers and myself have been demanding such a public vote since redevelopment surfaced almost two years ago, but the others on the city council have refused to put it to the people. Last November, Struthers placed on the agenda a request that the city council bind itself to a vote subject to a writ of *mandamus*. The council rejected that three-to-two, and with headlines screaming "Council Nixes Vote on Redevelopment" we hit the streets the following week with a petition to disincorporate the city because the council was thumbing its nose at the people. Within three weeks, more than 2,000 signatures (over a third of the registered voters in town) had been collected, and the council had its back to the wall. In a first concessionary move, the mayor had the redevelopment plan rewritten with a promise that eminent domain would not be used against residential property.

In June the county administrator released a report on how



# Tampering?



At the July 3 arraignment, Mr. Bower brought his documents and announced he was going to present his case and have a counsel of his choice. Jessie, who by this time was in the courtroom, was shocked to hear the judge order the defendant to "Shut up and sit down!"

Mr. Bower has asked for a jury trial and that will begin in late August. A large part of the defense will involve analysis of the kind of material that was handed out and what it means. It will be interesting to see if the jury is willing to be educated on these points. Whoever they are, they're in for a very informative trial.

## Terms Limitation Initiative

LP member Mike Ford and two other proponents have succeeded in submitting 942,000 signatures to put their "Political Reform Act of 1990" on the November ballot. This measure limits terms of office of California state officials to two terms; ends taxpayer's payments for legislator's special privilege pensions, and cuts the legislature's budget by 20 percent. It is similar to the "New Broom" measure that Bruce Daniels started, but his group stopped circulating theirs and joined forces to support this one. For more information, Mike Ford can be reached at 23 Cielo Dr., Greenbrae, 94904; (415) 461-0818.

## on Redevelopment Grindle

local government services could be supplied if disincorporation is carried out. He concluded that the county could handle all current services provided by the city and still save the taxpayers \$83,000 a year, despite the loss of \$600,000 in taxes that by law can only be used by municipalities. How? By consolidating public services to eliminate unnecessary overhead and administrative costs, as documented in Robert Poole's book, *Cutting Back City Hall*.

Hearings are now to be held before LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission). If successful, it may be the first time libertarians have succeeded in getting rid of a government entity of this kind. Whether that happens or not, the threat of redevelopment may be over in Clearlake since redevelopment has never survived a public vote and at this point a clear majority of the people oppose it, fearing that it would destroy the area's small town atmosphere and result in higher taxes. Supporters are mostly business people, realtors and out-of-county residents who bought property hoping to making money from redevelopment.

What we have done here in northern California, not only with this issue, but with the statewide term limitation initiative sponsored by LPC members Mike Ford of Greenbrae and Bruce Daniel of Loomis (which collected almost one million signatures to put it on the November ballot) demonstrates what Libertarians can accomplish by engaging directly in political activities.

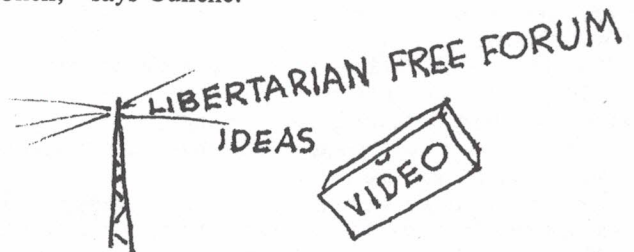
## For Your Information

### Executive Committee to Meet

The LPC Executive Committee is meeting the weekend of August 25 and 26 at the Arroyo Grande Inn in Arroyo Grande, 12 miles south of San Luis Obispo. The agenda is currently being set, so reports and agenda items should be submitted in writing to the chair for inclusion.

### Are You Getting Your CLNews?

The LPC computer list has changed hands several times in the past year, and mistakes are bound to happen. If you have not been receiving your newsletter (the one you're reading you borrowed from a friend), or if you know someone who should be receiving it but isn't, please contact LPC secretary Cullene Lang, 1526 Cartagena St., Long Beach, 90807; (213) 595-6266. "We can't fix something if we don't know it's broken," says Cullene.



## Video Series on the Air!

Ed Moss

Roger Bloxham, chair of the Orange County LP, has outdone himself. I saw one of his *Libertarian Free Forum* video programs last week: one of an on-going series currently airing on community access TV in Orange County. Really impressive! And the best news is, you can have these to put on cable TV in your area.

These are quality programs all the way. Moderator David Nolan plays fair, articulating clear questions, passing the ball equally around the group. The format is similar to *Meet the Press* or *Issues and Answers*. Non-Libertarian guests meet a panel of prominent Libertarians such as state chair Gail Lightfoot and our 1984 presidential candidate David Bergland, former San Diego chair Dick Rider, and editorial writer Alan Bock of the *Orange County Register*.

The series includes programs on abortion, the war on drugs, limiting terms of elected officials, and AIDS. More are in the works. Each is timed for a standard 30-minute slot without reference to current events, dates, or locations. This means programs may be aired in any sequence, at any time and in any locality. Roger says the Orange County experience suggests that multiple airings of the same episode on public access during a two week period maximizes exposure and promotes discussion.

Any person or regional group may obtain the three-quarter inch air-quality tapes for only \$25 each, and they can be recycled with another program. Talk with Roger or your local cable company about a tag message or slide giving a local LP contact address or phone which will be answered in person or by machine. Roger is at (714) 642-2002.

This is exactly what we've been waiting for: a tool to get the message out, spark interest, and energize us. It's up to us to get the tapes on the local channels.



# The Sounding Board

One of the resolutions approved by Convention delegates pledged our opposition to certain government forestry policies, including government clearcutting of timber and destruction of rainforests. In response, Keith Ritter of Bridgeville wrote the following:

**Dear Editor:**

I read with some dismay that the LPC approved a resolution with a blanket opposition to clear cutting on public land. The issue of the most environmentally sound cutting method for a particular tract of timber can be complex, with even experienced professionals disagreeing. In many cases, clear cutting with a yarding system will have less net impact than selective cutting with a road system.

The issue is a hot one up here in Humboldt County, what with Earth First! and others advocating gross violations of private property rights. Politicizing the issue through ballot initiatives, resolutions, etc. by those who do not have to live with the direct environmental and economic impacts is not prudent. The jury is still out as to the most environmentally sound way to feed the Bay Area's and Southern California's seemingly insatiable demand for lumber, whether the raw timber comes from public or private lands.

The timber issue the LPC should take a firm stand on is the unfair competition the State and National Forests impose on private timber owners. All government-owned timber-producing areas should be sold off and privatized, transferring the remaining wilderness areas to the park services, or converted into private parks with deed restrictions on non-recreational usage.

Moreover, clear cutting has nothing to do with the green-house effect. Whether trees are selectively cut or clear cut, the same total volume of trees must be cut. Only reducing the world's demand for wood products will reduce tree-cutting levels.

**Keith Ritter**

Greta Bickford, author of the resolution and vice-chair of the Marin County LP, replies.

**Dear Editor:**

It is entirely possible to be a concerned environmentalist and a libertarian; and I, too, disagree completely with the tactics of groups such as Earth First! and their total disregard for private property rights. However, as an environmentally concerned person, I am opposed to the wholesale destruction of forestlands and the homes they provide for wild creatures. I have noticed in my travels throughout California and the Northwest that timber company giants such as

Louisiana Pacific do not practice the destructive method of clear cutting on lands they own. They have too much invested in their property to chop down all the trees, leave the stumps and unusable logs littering the hillside (to dry and catch fire), and not replace young trees. Examples of proper timber management, such as the Louisiana Pacific Model Forest in Northern California, which is a working timber plantation open to the public, show vividly the difference between how timber companies treat their own resources and how they treat public lands such as the National Forests. Clear cutting has been referred to as timber strip mining. If you drive up Highway 299 you can see the stripped hillsides in the Trinity National Forest: You and I are paying with our tax dollars for this ugliness.

That's right! We are footing the bill. Not only does the government allow clear cutting on these National Forest lands that it is charged with protecting, it forces you and me to pay for it! The National Forest Service also builds roads to enable the timber companies to get to the area(s) to be clearcut, at no cost to the timber companies, then sells the trees for two dollars a tree. The Tongass National Forest in Alaska is being destroyed by just such actions. Two dollars a tree includes the road built for the purpose of getting to the tree. Is it any wonder that this clear cutting loses money for the Forest Service every time? Is it any wonder that they ask for more of our money every year to carry on this practice? By the way, my figures come from the Forest Service itself, not from any radical environmental group.

Now to address some of Mr. Ritter's other issues: this resolution was not born out of a concern that clear cutting strengthens the greenhouse effect. I heartily agree with him that whether or not a particular piece of land is clear cut has nothing to do with that. Clear cutting increases erosion, destroys fragile ecosystems, and creates an eyesore—but none of this increases the greenhouse effect.

I must disagree with Mr. Ritter's proposal that remaining wilderness areas be transferred to the parks services. I don't want to see any of this land in the hands of government mismanagement. It is, after all, already in government hands and look what's been done to it! Moreover, I object to being forced to foot the bill for both a bloated bureaucracy and wholesale destruction. Transfer it to private ownership; sell it to organizations like the Nature Conservancy who will make sure it is treated with the care it deserves.

I stand by my resolution and encourage other Libertarians to do the same. It is only by taking courageous stands on issues such as this that we will win the fight for liberty in our time.

**Greta Bickford**

## NRA Convention

*from page one*

premature." When the interview was broadcast, *a different question was heard by the audience*. The voiced-over question was, "The NRA says the gun-ban bill in the Senate is dead," followed by John's comment. The effect was to make John appear critical of the NRA for being hard-core, when the opposite was true. I suspect this was done because ABC wanted to make it seem that a large body within the NRA wants to compromise with the gun-grabbers, but couldn't find anybody who would make such a statement.

I learned an important lesson: If you see any television coverage of a controversial subject, unless you see long, continuous "takes" (no cutting between cameras or scenes), and unless you see the interviewer and interviewee in the same frame as the questions are asked and answered, suspect that the footage has been doctored for propaganda purposes.

**Saturday:** Executive V.P. Warren Cassidy proclaimed himself "not guilty" for the failures of the NRA, then launched into a polemic about flag burning, drugs and the decline of family values. He condemned President Carter for pardoning draft evaders from the Vietnam War—neglecting to mention that under Carter *no* anti-gun legislation was passed nationally.

Neal Knox introduced a "Resolution for a Tougher NRA" from the floor, which passed overwhelmingly.

Then I introduced a resolution in favor of jury nullification. Fairly vigorous debate ensued, with opponents worrying about "anarchy in the jury room" and how it would "let off drug dealers," and proponents arguing that it was the last peaceful tool against government oppression. It passed by a five-to-three margin.

Former LPC chair John Vernon and myself had each submitted resolutions calling for the NRA to endorse third-party candidates. I withdrew mine in favor of John's which mentioned the Libertarian Party by name and cited specific criteria for endorsement: namely, that a clear commitment to the right to keep and bear arms should be the major consideration for endorsement, with electability second.

By and large the delegates were sympathetic, and several speakers excoriated the NRA for endorsing major party candidates who gave only luke-warm support to the right of gun ownership. John Wallner made a particularly stirring speech, and John Vernon's resolution was passed by the same margin as the one for FIJA.

*To be continued next month.*



# Act Now! Stop HR 4079 and S 2245

Tomas Estrada-Palma and Larry Monaghan

A new bill, HR 4079, sponsored by Representative Newt Gingrich (with a Senate version, S 2245, by Sen. Phil Gramm) would open the way for American concentration camps to be built, and thereafter permit the state to round up suspected drug users so they can be forced to work without compensation for the state.

"The Drug and Crime Emergency Act" drips with patriotism as Gingrich tries to vaguely connect the freedom movement in Eastern Europe with America falling deeper and deeper into "the slavery of drug addiction."

The bill proposes suspending the Constitution for five years so millions of illegal drug users can be held by the state in concentration camps. All internees will have one year added to their sentence each time—with no right to appeal.

HR 4079 calls for the declaration of a five year national state of emergency—in essence, martial law. It proposes reopening the concentration camps of WWII, using active and inactive military bases as prisons, and a new privately-owned prison system as well. To aid in accomplishing this, the Fourth Amendment, the Eighth Amendment and *habeas corpus* are either superseded, redefined or disallowed. A provision has been built in to allow the government to purchase goods manufactured by prison slave labor. To insure the duration of this labor force, all previous maximum sentences would be changed to minimum sentences. New mandatory sentences would be established, and probation, parole and suspension of sentences revoked.

To provide an even greater pool to draw from, mandatory drug testing of just about everyone above junior high school level has been included. The resolution carefully avoids addressing the funding necessary.

Even after 30 press releases were sent to all the national and local news outlets by Maryland LP members, there has been practically no mention the bill in the media. The state evidently is hoping to sweep this bill into law right under our noses while we are all preoccupied with other events taking place around the world. Surprisingly, the response from libertarians as well as mainstream folks has been one of complacency.

Everyone needs to make phone calls and write letters. Direct your correspondence to the media and your representatives, as well as Gingrich and Gramm. If they don't think you care about this bill becoming law—it will! Act NOW, or cry behind the barbwire later.

Tomas Estrada-Palma is chair of the Maryland LP; Larry Monaghan is

editor of the *Free State Letter*, the newsletter of the Maryland LP. This article is reprinted with permission from LPNEWS, July 1990.

**Editor's Comment:** HR 4079 is everything the writers say it is, and the sister-bill in the Senate, S 2245, is even worse. Here are some additional reasons to oppose it: all colleges and universities, public or private, and all local educational agencies receiving any federal funding whatsoever will have to have some kind of drug education program in order to continue receiving the money—an intrusion to grant the federal government even greater control over curriculum. Other mandatory programs could be added later. In view of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that federal judges can order municipalities to raise taxes to cover the costs of federally mandated programs, I don't think there's any question as to how the programs will be funded.

Both bills are being worked on in several committees, and it's interesting to note who some of the sponsors are. Here's a sample from California: Robert Dreier—he used to be a close colleague of Ron Paul; and Robert Dornan, no surprise there; and Bill Danemeyer; and Dana Rohrabacher. Mr. Rohrabacher was once very active in the libertarian movement and a founder of the Future of Freedom Conference; however, that was many years ago. True, politics makes strange bedfellows, but this is ridiculous.

To obtain a copy of the bill, call your representative (see the white pages of the phone directory), and Pete Wilson's office for a copy of S 2245. Address letters to The Hon. Mr. Bilgewater (or whatever); House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; or U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

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# LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	DATE	EVENTS	CHAIR or CONTACT*	PHONE
Alameda		No Meeting in August	Wayne Nygren	415/531-0760
Butte	Fri., Aug. 10	Potluck Dinner/Discussion	Jessica Strock	916/893-3836
Calaveras			Tom Tryon	209/736-4845
Contra Costa	Tue., Aug. 14	Call for Program Information	Mike Rother	415/932-4993
El Dorado			Richard Akin	916/622-4785
Fresno			John Graham*	209/275-6220
Humboldt			Daniel Mosier*	707/822-7804
Inyo/Mono Counties		Call County Chair for Information	William Baucum	619/878-2288
Kern			Vicki Williams*	805/398-5584
Lake/Mendocino/Napa Counties			Randall Grindle	707/994-4817
Los Angeles County (Regions 61-67)				
-61, San Fernando Valley	Wed., Aug. 8	Speaker and Topic to be Announced	Geoffrey Neale	818/893-6884
-62, West L.A.	Thu., Aug. 16	How the Gun Laws Will Affect <i>You</i> (Speaker TBA)	Bob Weber	213/204-0612
-63, Foothills	Tue., Aug. 21	Joel Fox: The Tax Rebellion is <i>Not</i> Over	John Tuttle	818/242-5699
-64, Central L.A.	Wed., Aug. 22	Call for Program Information	Michael Everling	213/487-5199
-65, Downey	Tue., Aug. 7	Business Meeting and Get-Together	Ray Acosta	213/727-5979
-66, South Bay	Aug. 16 & 25	Phil. Cir., 8/16; Potluck/Discussion, 8/25	Richard Martin	213/498-2014
-67, E. San Gabriel Valley	Thu., Aug. 23	Dinner Meeting and Discussion	Jim Brownfield	714/623-5914
Marin	Wed., Aug. 8	Discussion: Should There be a Marin County LP?	Bob Bickford	415/927-4814
Merced			Roy Shimp	209/723-1768
Monterey			David Bledsaw	408/663-2783
Nevada	Sat., Aug. 4	Discussion and Get-Together	Gary Dusseljee*	916/478-1776
Orange	Tue., Aug. 21	Business Meeting and Social Hour	Roger Bloxham	714/642-2002
So. Orange County	Tue., Aug. 28	Business Meeting and Social Hour	Jim Rushing*	714/494-6266
Riverside			Ron Holman	714/684-5218
Sacramento	Sat., Aug. 11	Business Meeting	David Henderson*	916/922-9973
San Bernardino	Sat., July 28	Nominating Convention and Potluck Luncheon	Ed Moss	714/986-6677
San Diego	Date TBA	Diane Watson: Crack Cocaine—Jim Crow in a Pipe	Jim Lorenz	619/276-1776
San Francisco	Wed., Aug. 8	Video: Interview with Barbara Branden	Jim Peron*	415/864-0952
	Sat., Aug. 18	Open Forum (Free Exchange)	George O'Brien*	415/731-3031
San Luis Obispo	Thu., Aug. 16	Dinner and Business Meeting	Howard Dilbeck	805/466-1998
San Mateo			Lyn Sapowsky	415/368-8148
Santa Barbara	Wed., Aug. 15	Michael Lamboley: Libertarianism and the Environment	Bob Bakhaus*	805/965-2741
Santa Clara	Aug. 8 & 16	Discussion Group, 6/8; Bus. Mting. and Dinner, 6/16	Steve Alexander	408/554-1119
Santa Cruz			Tom Coughlin	408/458-2603
Solano			Mark Moberg*	707/864-1673
Sonoma			Jim Oglesby	707/894-2658
Tehema/Shasta Counties			Ross Crain*	916/527-2676
Tulare	Thu., Aug. 16	Dinner at the Daleys: Call for Program Information	Roy Kendall*	209/732-3237
Ventura	Tue., Aug. 14	Call for Program Information	Aaron Starr	805/583-3308
Yolo		See Sacramento County	Bryce Bigwood*	916/758-6219

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