

# LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

## June 2 Primary Ballot Propositions

On April 18, 1998, the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of California voted on the official positions the Party would take on the June primary ballot. Since most of the propositions do not address specifically libertarian issues, the Executive Committee chose not to take a position on many of them, but I took notes during the discussions so you may get an idea of the Committee's reasoning for these positions.

**Proposition 219:** The Executive Committee voted to **SUPPORT** this proposition, which would change the way ballot measures are implemented. At present, revenues from tax increases put before voters in separate jurisdictions are allocated based on how those jurisdictions voted on the measures. For example, in Santa Clara County, voters in certain precincts resoundingly rejected a particular tax measure a few years ago, but the measure passed in just enough precincts to succeed. Once it took effect, only those precincts in which a majority of voters approved the measure received the benefits of the new tax, while the precincts that rejected it received nothing, though *all* residents had to pay the tax. Proposition 219 would require such measures to apply to an entire region, regardless of how any given jurisdiction voted on the matter.

**Proposition 220:** The Executive Committee voted to take **NO POSITION**. This proposition would allow Municipal and Superior courts to merge if a majority of the presiding judges in those courts approve of such consolidation. Proponents of the measure argue that it would improve the efficiency of the judicial system by reducing the administrative bureaucracy necessary to run two levels of courts. Opponents argue that this would only increase the caseload of the justice system, and instantly promote Municipal Court Judges to Superior Court Judges, giving them a significant pay raise without regard to their qualifications as jurists. Ted Brown remarked that proponents of this measure want to make the concentration camps of our judicial system more efficient, and the opponents feel that the concentration camps we already run are just fine under the status quo. Since Libertarians want to dismantle the concentration camps altogether, there is no benefit to supporting or opposing this proposition.

**Proposition 221:** The Executive Committee voted to take **NO POSITION**. The arguments about this were very similar to those on 220. This proposition would expand the powers of the Commission on Judicial Performance (which reviews the actions of judges and recommends disciplinary action if warranted) to also cover lower judicial officers such as bailiffs, court commissioners and judicial referees. On the one hand, some argued we should oppose any expansion of government power, even when it involves expansion of government power over other government officials. On the other hand, some felt that giving the Commission the power to discipline, suspend or fire bad judicial employees would be a *good* thing that should be encouraged. In the end, there were not enough votes on either side to support or oppose the measure.

**Proposition 222:** The Executive Committee voted to **OPPOSE**. This proposition would make the second degree murder of a police officer punishable by life imprisonment without possibility of parole, and further prevent anyone convicted of this crime from ever earning "good behavior" credits while in prison. Libertarians believe that all citizens are equal, and that crimes committed against police officers do not warrant any different kind of punishment than identical crimes committed against ordinary citizens. Police officers are not some higher class of human being than the rest of us, and they should not be given any special treatment due to their chosen profession. They *choose* to be police officers, and should be well aware that they face danger every day they put on their uniforms.

**Proposition 223:** The Executive Committee voted to take **NO POSITION**. This proposition would limit the amount of money a school district can spend on administrative costs to no more than 5% of its budget, with the remaining 95% to be spent directly on classroom instruction. While Libertarians support reducing the administrative overhead of public schools, this measure is sponsored by the California Teachers Association and many other educational bureaucrats, so we are suspicious of their motives. It also allows school districts to redistribute their budgets to comply with the measure, which opponents argue allows school boards to take money from small, suburban schools and redirect it to large urban schools such as Los Angeles County. One of the measure's top sponsors is the Los Angeles County Teachers Association. Since Libertarians support school choice, we



generally don't feel the public school system needs any more money than it already wastes, and with this proposition being supported by the leeches who suck the creativity out of the school system, we cannot support it. However, if we oppose it, the public might view us in an even more unfavorable light than they already do ("Oh, those Libertarians must be anti-child if they are against any measure that helps the schools."). So it was felt that we should not take any position on this one.

**Proposition 224:** The Executive Committee voted to **OPPOSE** by a unanimous vote. This proposition would place inconceivably tight restrictions on private contractors competing with public employees for state contracts. Also referred to sarcastically as the "CALTRANS Protection Act," Proposition 224 would require private contractors to include in their bids all costs of a given project including administrative overhead, workers compensation insurance premiums and many other provisions, while CALTRANS (or any other state government agency) would only have to bid on labor and materials, giving them an obvious fiscal advantage. This proposition came about as a consequence of the Northridge Earthquake, when private contractors rebuilt the damaged freeways of Los Angeles in less than eight months after the quake (and came in well below budget projections), while it took CALTRANS *nine years* and more than a *BILLION dollars* to rebuild

the Cypress Freeway in Oakland after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The Public Employee unions are behind Proposition 224 because they don't want to be publicly humiliated ever again by private contractors, so they hope to stack the deck in their favor.

**Proposition 225:** The Executive Committee voted to take **NO POSITION**. This proposition would impose mandatory term limits on both state and federal legislators. The Supreme Court has already ruled that term limits on state legislators are legal, but expanding term limits to federal legislators (Congressmen and Senators) would require a constitutional amendment. Proposition 225 would further mandate that any California legislator in Washington would have to use his/her powers to enact such a constitutional amendment. Everyone agrees that this would be unconstitutional, and even the measure's original supporters chose to withdraw their arguments after the measure qualified for the ballot. While Libertarians in general support term limits at all levels, the Executive Committee felt we would be shooting ourselves in the foot by publicly supporting a proposition that is so clearly unconstitutional.

**Proposition 226:** The Executive Committee voted to take **NO POSITION**. This proposition requires unions to obtain permission of their members in order to use their dues for political purposes. While some argued that this is a matter of individual choice, and union members should be free to tell their union representatives they do not want their dues spent on political causes which they may not personally approve, others argued that as much as we disagree with most labor unions' political activity, they are just like the Libertarian Party - a private cooperative of concerned citizens who use their collective influence to change political policy. It was argued that the government has no business telling a private organization what it can and cannot spend its money on. Government already regulates far too much of our lives, and Proposition 226 only expands government's power to tell unions how they should run their organizations. In the end, there were not enough votes to support or oppose this measure, though it was noted that 226 does have some significant public support, even while the biggest labor unions in the state are spending millions of dollars in a slick advertising campaign to defeat it.

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**Proposition 227:** The Executive Committee voted to **SUPPORT** Ron Unz's "English for the Children" initiative. Libertarians feel public schooling in general and bilingual education in particular are failed experiments in social engineering. The Executive Committee felt that this proposition increases parental choice in education, allowing parents to choose whether to put their children in a bilingual educational environment or in a one-year intensive English immersion program. At the same time, we vehemently oppose the designation of any "official" language for the state, and feel that the more languages one speaks, the more understanding of other cultures he will be. While some concern was voiced over the additional funding the proposition provides to school districts to implement the program (\$50 Million annually), it was decided that the benefits outweighed the drawbacks. It should also be noted that the original California Constitution was drafted in Spanish, and had to be translated into English when California joined the Union. □

## B is for Bull——

Be prepared for the biggest April Fools joke of the 21st Century if Alameda County's Measure B passes on June 2. Measure B will extend the county's current 1/2 cent sales tax for another fifteen years beyond its scheduled sunset date of April 1, 2002. This tax was sold to the voters in 1986 on the promise that it would solve many of our transportation problems and would, of course, be only a temporary inconvenience.

Well, our transportation problems have only gotten worse in the twelve years since this tax was imposed, and now the Board of Supervisors wants to extend the tax for another 15 years, claiming that if we give them more time and more money, they'll surely be able to spend it wisely to extend BART another mile and a half in Fremont, add another carpool lane to Interstate 680, enhance AC Transit bus service and improve bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the county. They assume that since we bought one Brooklyn Bridge, we're the kind of suckers who will happily buy another one. Don't let them get away with it again. They lied to us in 1986 and they are lying again in 1998. They have never intended for any tax increase to be temporary, and the idea of actually keeping a promise is anathema to them. Look around and see all the wonderful transit projects this money has made possible, and then decide if extending a "temporary" sales tax to infinity makes economic sense. Please vote NO on Measure B. □

## From the Chair

by Jeffrey Sommer

We are about to enter the important part of the election season, that which will lead to the General Election in November. There are some things I would like the Libertarians of this and other Regions to keep in mind.

First, that our numbers in the Primary are going to be vital to getting media attention for the General Election. Some of us may be strongly tempted to vote for non-LP members out of sympathy or respect. Please don't do it! The greatest way we can help those oppressed by stupid laws and malicious officials is by standing up in record numbers for our Party.

Imagine how thrilling it would be to read a day or so after the Primary that we had gotten over 10% of the statewide vote! It's a real possibility...but only if we *all* vote on June 2, and *all* vote for Libertarian candidates. We can make people aware that they have a real choice, not just the usual tweedledum/tweedledee coin-flip. The Democrats are all ready to drop the state bureaucracy on us like an anvil, and people know it. Not one gives the smallest hope of saving taxpayers from the fate that awaits.

Dan Lungren is rabidly obsessed with destroying the will of the people of California and imposing Newt's new Drug War III. Not since Captain Ahab pursued the Great White Whale have we seen such single-minded mania.

And as much as we may love Dennis Peron—and we really do!—there is only one candidate going to uphold the banner of freedom in November's gubernatorial race: Steve Kubby. Every vote we give him now will be multiplied in November. Therefore, vote a straight Party ticket and urge your friends to vote the same way. Every vote is important. Go Kubby!



# Capitalists of the World, Compete!

by Merrill Matthews Jr. and Morgan O. Reynolds

*The following article was first published in Investors Business Daily, February 26, 1998. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of Investors Business Daily.*

It was 150 years ago this month that Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels laid the foundation for modern socialism and communism with their "Communist Manifesto."

Their call for redistributing wealth to the working classes eventually became the guiding principle behind much public policy and economic theory. The Marxist hope was that capitalism would fall naturally as a result.

How successful was the "Communist Manifesto"? So much so that reversing Marx's 10 communist principles may sound radical to many people today. As former communist countries rush to embrace capitalism in the hope of ending generations of tyranny and poverty, many U.S. politicians still cling to the goals of the manifesto.

In order to rally those who refuse to stand in the shadow of Marx's legacy of war, murder, class envy and poverty, we offer this Capitalist Manifesto.

A specter is haunting Washington -- the specter of capitalism. All the powers of the Welfare State have entered into an unholy alliance to exorcise this specter: president and Cabinet, Daschle and Gephardt, bureaucrats and lobbyists, intellectuals and media.

Where is the champion of free markets who has not been decried as a right-wing extremist or worse by his opponents in power? Where are the defenders of the Welfare State who have not hurled the branding reproaches of being greedy, insensitive and uncompassionate against those of us who oppose ever-increasing taxes, transfer payments and govern-

ment programs?

The theory of the capitalist may be summed up in a single phrase: protection of private property.

Hard-won, self-acquired, self-earned property! The restoration of bourgeois individuality, bourgeois independence and bourgeois freedom is undoubtedly what we want. By freedom is meant free trade, and free selling and buying.

You liberals reproach us with intending to reassert property rights. Precisely so; that is just what we intend.

On what foundation is the present family, the bourgeois family, based? On capital, on private gain. The bourgeois family will flourish as a matter of course when its complement flourishes.

And what of your education? Capitalists have not invented the intervention of government in education; but we do seek to alter the character of that intervention, and to rescue education from the influence of the bureaucratic ruling class.

**The theory of the capitalist may be summed up in a single phrase: protection of private property.**

To these ends, capitalists of various persuasions have acted in concert to sketch the following Manifesto:

1. Reaffirmation of the right of private property and contract, including the right to rent, sell or use the property however the owner peaceably chooses as long as such use does not impinge on the equal rights of others.
2. A flat income tax set at the lowest rate compatible with fiscal restraint.
3. Abolition of all inheritance taxes and restrictions.
4. Guarantee of the property rights of all immigrants and dissidents.
5. Decentralization of credit in the hands of the state by withdrawing from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and abolition of all credit

monopoly.

6. Decentralization of the means of communication and transportation by eliminating funding for the Federal Communications Commission and the Transportation Department.

7. Divestiture of state-owned factories or other instruments of production such as the Tennessee Valley Authority, Amtrak, U.S. Postal Service, and the Federal Aviation Administration; abolition of the U.S. Department of Agriculture so that the soil may be improved in accord with decentralized, individual plans.

8. Invigoration of all labor through repeal of subsidies rewarding unemployment, and abolition of obstacles - such as the minimum wage - to freely made labor contracts that attempt to establish an egalitarian labor force.

9. Freedom for the population to relocate throughout the country by repeal of all laws that restrict the mobility of capital and labor.

10. Abolition of direct funding for school systems, and permitting competition between government schools and private schools for parents' education dollars, which may be in the form of tax-supported vouchers.

A capitalist revolution that follows these principles would create the most radical rupture in government control; no wonder that its development involves a slap in the face to modern liberalism.

The capitalists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the peaceable overthrow of all existing principles of the Welfare State. Let the ruling elites tremble at a capitalist revolution.

The people who love free markets have nothing to lose but their chains. We have a world to win. Capitalists of the world, compete!

*Merrill Matthews Jr. is president and Morgan O. Reynolds is a senior fellow of the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas, Texas.*

*Our thanks to Investors Business Daily for permission to reproduce this article.*

## Measure A Hides Bureaucratic Deception

by Greg Lyon

Measure A in Contra Costa County is about two political animals - sacred cows and white elephants. Your elected officials, who want to increase your taxes, are trotting out a sacred cow - "libraries" - to entice you to vote to increase your taxes. Why do we need to increase sales taxes to fund the libraries? Why don't they use current revenues? Because if they entice you to vote to increase your taxes, they will have more money left over to waste on their white elephants that you would *not* vote for if they were on the ballot instead of libraries.

Instead of increasing taxes, the voters should demand their elected officials create *realistic* budgets from existing tax revenues or find alternative sources of funding. Instead of a sales tax, the county could implement user fees that pass the cost on to those who use the libraries' services. Many equally noble ventures such as the Lindsey Museum, city operated athletic facilities, and the regional parks charge users an admission fee. It is wrong to compel people to pay for the special interest of a few through taxes.

If you vote for this tax you are not voting for libraries, you are really voting to free up funding for all of the county's lowest priority items and wasteful spending. The proposed sales tax for the libraries is an unnecessary tax that the general public is being asked to impose on the already heavily burdened taxpayer.

No one will dispute that reading and libraries are very beneficial endeavors. The argument here is against the means of funding the county's libraries. Either the County should allocate currently available funds or let those who use and support libraries pay for them. Vote no on measure A. □

# Another View On The Future of China

by J.R. Sommer

*Katherine McKay's two-part interview with Thomas Klitgaard on Marxism in China which appeared in the April and May issues of the Lifeline prompted the following commentary from East Bay Region LP Chair Jeffrey Sommer.*

Marxism in China is dead. Despite the fervent faith some people have that the People's Republic of China will be the last holdout of the failed theories of Marx and Engels, the practice of Dialectical Materialism in China is as dead as Mao T'se-tung.

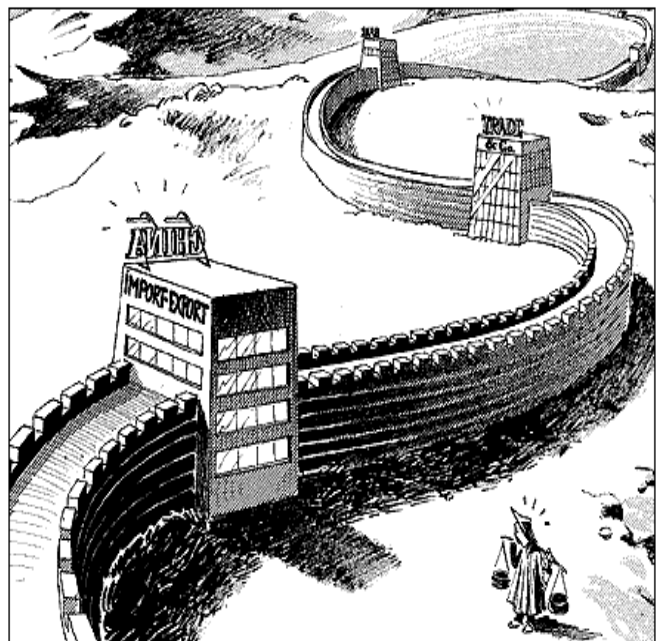
Marxism died when Teng Hsiao-p'ing opened China to the free market after he came to power in 1978. Teng abolished communes, dethroned the leftist radicals known as the "Gang of Four," and in every other way worked to transform Maoist China from a Communist totalitarian society to an increasingly capitalistic authoritarian society. Now, freedom to worship, speak critically of the government, and other freedoms we take for granted are under the iron hand of Beijing, no question about it. But! The improvement has been substantial.

China has always had an authoritarian government, and those times when it didn't were worse, because that meant civil war and chaos, not freedom. But that the people of China have been freed from a Stalinist orthodoxy that threatened to destroy the very soul of China. But things are improving, and trade with the West has made it possible for the Chinese to communicate with increasing freedom. But does this mean that Marxism is the key to the future? Far from it. The real key to a renaissance

sance of Chinese culture will come with a new appreciation of the ancient Confucian values that made China the greatest nation of Asia for 2,000 years. Loyalty to the family, almost destroyed by Mao, is the basis of the stability of the State.

China is undergoing a transformation. The Communist Party of China will succumb to increasing corruption and a sense of futility, and the next government, I feel, will emphasize the Chun-tzu, the Superior Man, as the ideal. China may even have an Emperor again, as the truly indigenous head of the Han people. There is something to be said for the ritual position of the Son of Heaven; it certainly has more legitimacy than that of Chairman! At this time, there is a lot of fear, distrust, and uncertainty concerning the present leadership in Beijing. Quite rightfully, too: the successors of Teng are as unstable as quarreling regents at the end of a dynasty always are.

Give China time, though. Soon, these hanger-ons of a failed government will be gone, and a strong, vibrant leadership will take its place. Let us not give way to impatience, but continue to sell the means by which change will come. □



# Marin LP News

In May, we held the Northern California Regions meeting in Mill Valley. Some of the most talked about issues included the Libertarian Party's first full-time Executive Director, Juan Ros. He was recently hired by the LPC to do outreach and fundraising. We are no longer just a volunteer group of well meaning folks-- We now have a hired hand!

Steve Kubby for Governor fundraisers were staged all over the Bay Area last month. Here in Marin, we had a luncheon at the Willow Street during the San Rafael Classic Car Parade. We raffled off a rare collectable issue of *Mad* Magazine during the fundraiser luncheon because, "We're MAD about Steve Kubby!" Mr. Kubby has promised to return in the fall, so if you missed him this time, you'll soon get your chance again.

"Repeal the Ban" posters are up at a Bar near you! These posters support the right of bar and tavern owners to decide whether they want to allow smoking in their establishments. Come by and support your local Libertarian Friendly Bar! These include The Silver Peso in Larkspur, Peri's in Fairfax, Milani's and our

new supporter, the Sports-A-Mania in San Rafael. Looking for volunteers! If you are interested in spending an afternoon discussing Libertarian issues with some local folks, come by and join us at one of our upcoming events.

June 6th 1998 at 1:00 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting at Willow Street on 4th Street in San Rafael.

June 20th 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Back Yard Fundraiser at 1212 Second Street in San Rafael.

July 3rd through the 6th, 1998 National Libertarian Party Convention in Washington D.C.

July 11th 1998 at 1:00 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting at Willow Street on 4th Street in San Rafael.

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*(For those joining the LP as a voting member)*  
*I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.*

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS **JUNE**

**Saturday, June 6, 1998, 1:00 p.m. Global Drug Peace Day Rally.** Help the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, the Libertarian Party and a host of other organizations end the War on Drugs by declaring Peace on Drugs. A major rally is planned for Civic Center Plaza at the corner of Polk and Grove and in San Francisco and the SFLP will be out in force. Featured speakers include SF District Attorney Terrence Hallinan, State Senator John Vasconcellos, flamboyant attorney J. Tony Serra, flamboyant Republican Gubernatorial Candidate and Cannabis Club founder Dennis Peron, California NORML director Dale Gieringer and many, many others. The Rally will also feature Live Music from The Del Mars Fooling Marie, and Andiamo. For more information, contact the San Francisco Libertarian Party at (415) or Julia Carter at (415) 971-3573 (E-mail: [drugpeace@hotmail.com](mailto:drugpeace@hotmail.com) ).

**Saturday, June 6, 1998 1:00 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting** at Willow Street on 4th Street in San Rafael.

**Saturday, June 13, 1998, 6:00 p.m. 6th Annual Northern California Firends of the NRA Dinner/Auction,** Veteran's Memorial Building, 757 First Street, Brentwood, California. Admission is \$30 per person. A \$250 sponsorship for the event gets you two dinner tickets, hats, pins, decals and a one year membership in the NRA. Door prizes and drawings will enhance the fun, but seating is limited to 150, so please RSVP early. For more information, contact Doug Horton at (925) 778-1680 or Christina Avalos at (925) 757-6257.

**Saturday, June 20th 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. BackYard Fundraiser** at 1212 Second Street in San Rafael. For details, call (415) 339-7887.

**Tuesday, June 30, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Oakland/Berkeley Libertarians** in the 16th Congressional District will meet to discuss regional issues at the headquarters of the Cannabis Action Network, 1605 Ashby Avenue in Berkeley (near the corner of Ashby and California). For more information, contact Jeffrey Sommer at (510) 537-3212.

**Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. UC Berkeley Libertarians** meet in Room 206 of Dwinelle Hall on the campus of the University of California in Berkeley. For more information on the student libertarian group, contact George Lee at (510) 664-2237 or check their website at <http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~callib>.

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