

L.P. WYO NEWS



Vol. 1, #1

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Libertarian Party

May 1981

FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

I accepted this position because it is a job that needs doing and right now there are few of us. Hopefully as the Party grows, so will the stature and availability of people to serve.

What are we going to do now? I'll answer a good part of that question.

Long Term

1. Spread Libertarian thoughts, principle, and action throughout Wyoming.
2. Get Libertarians elected...City, County, state, and National.
3. Develop an efficient, smooth running state Libertarian Party.
4. Other things too numerous to mention in this short letter.

Short Term

1. Become knowledgeable about Libertarian principle and practice.
2. Set up a phone answering service in Casper so that people will have a contact point to call for information.
3. Send a monthly newsletter to anyone interested in receiving one.
4. Set up a bookkeeping system and a sound system for control of money which we naturally expect to pour in from contributors.
5. Arrange for teams of two or three persons to go to a town and conduct meetings which will serve the purposes of:
 - a) answering questions about Libertarianism, etc.
 - b) Increase membership in our Wyoming Libertarian Party.
 - c) Get some county chapters started.
 - d) Help to identify "workers".
 - e) Give officers and executive committee members contacts around the state.

(Over, please.)

PROTECTIONISM EXPOSED

by Sheldon Richman

Perhaps the most ominous of the dark clouds gathering over Washington these days are the clouds of protectionism. This seems to illustrate a recurring phenomenon, namely, that economic fallacies don't fade away, they merely wait in the wings until a major industry gets into trouble or until a recession hits. Then they are trotted out en masse to justify all sorts of statist measures.

Protectionist sentiment is undeniably on the ascendancy. Leading the chorus are Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Co., The United Auto Workers and U.S. Steel. But there are less publicized voices: SCM Corporation has convinced the International Trade Commission of the danger of foreign typewriters; color television producers have done the same regarding their foreign competitors. No doubt there are many others.

For the record, U.S. producers have been on the receiving end as well. Some European governments and businesses have complained about American chemical and synthetic-fiber exports. They accuse American firms of "dumping" (a term we'll discuss shortly) these goods because the firms cut costs by using cheaper, price-controlled petroleum as raw materials.

With bitter accusations being hurled between the U.S. and Europe and from the U.S. to Japan, a trade war is clearly possible. As The Economist of London recently put it, "These disputes now threaten to turn nasty at just the wrong moment, as recession hits both sides of the Atlantic."

This issue is a jumble of confusion thanks to mainstream economists and dillitantes who blather about dumping, balance of payments, economic warfare and other buncombe. The root of the problem is methodological collectivism and nationalism. People think of world trade in terms of nations. It is as if

(Continued on flip side.)

Yes!

I would like to help further the cause of liberty in our day, by

- joining the WYO LP (must sign below); \$5 regular membership fee enclosed
- joint state/national membership; \$15 enclosed
- making an added contribution of \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

please send me some of your myth-exploding literature.

→ "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as an appropriate means of achieving social or political ends."

signature → _____

From the Editor

I have been promising people for a long time that a newsletter will be appearing any day now. For the delay, my apologies. There is no excuse. News? We had a convention in February and revised and ratified the Constitution of the Party and elected a slate of officers. Jerry Burback, who was chosen to be our chair, resigned not long ago due to lack of time and probably because there was much to do and little to do it with. (\$) He is a champion debater and a dedicated activist and I hope this won't be the last we see of him. The Executive Committee met in Thermopolis about two weeks ago and pressured Larry Gray into taking the reins; we have begun to set up a solid fundraising and allocation plan.

CHAIR, CONT.

- 6. We'll send out literature to anyone asking for it - position papers and the Party's 1980 platform.
- 7. Set up a booth at the National Convention in Denver in August.
- 8...Get started doing something to bring back Liberty to this wonderful land in which we are blessed to live.

That's what we are doing - how about you? Are you going to leave it all up to us?

Larry Gray
Buffalo

PROTECTIONISM cont.

world trade were the Olympics, and only one nation can finish first in any contest. The false game analogy explains another common concern: the neo-mercantilists frequently assert that fair competition means that everyone competes under identical conditions--the same wage level, the same government policies, etc. I shall show that these things have nothing to do with fair competition and are merely justifications for intervention at home.

As we'll see, all of these fallacies dissolve when we keep in mind that trade occurs between individuals, not nations.

The broadest and oldest fallacy is that imports undermine our economy while exports buttress it; it was thoroughly exploded at least 200 years ago.

Of course, the most important part of making plans concerning money is assuring that one has a supply of it. And since the Party is presently dependent on contributions, (and is likely to remain so), one must ask others for said contributions. I will point out that it takes money to make money, and say that we have a good chance of attracting donors at the National Convention in August (mainly because we have excellent prospects for the '82 elections). However, to get a booth at the Convention will cost money as well. You get the point.

At the Executive Committee meeting each member made a specific monthly pledge which will serve as seed money for all our future endeavors. I do not ask or demand that you do this. But I do ask that you weigh the issue and decide whether or not an investment in the Party is a good idea.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life--accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action--accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property--accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

("Protectionism Exposed" will be continued next issue. Stay tuned.)

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"It is sometimes said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others?" -Jefferson