

Free Orange County

"Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under"

—H.L.
Mencken

Newsletter of the Orange County Libertarian Party • February 1991

Boddie makes Presidential bid

Orange County Libertarians can count one of their own as a candidate for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination. Richard B. "Dick" Boddie of Huntington Beach recently announced the formation of a nomination committee in a fund-raising letter sent to LP members.

Dick Boddie plunged heavily into LP political action in 1984 as a fund raiser and field organizer for the Bergland for President campaign. Mr. Boddie earned the respect of libertarians throughout the country as a dynamic speaker and spokesperson for the cause of liberty.

In his fundraising letter, Dick

Boddie states:

"My goal is to *effectively* spread the message of individual freedom across America. ...I'm not afraid to add passion and a charge of emotion to the message of liberty—and the media has been eating it up! The plan is to spark, not only the minds of Americans but most important, their *hearts!*"

The other announced candidate for the LP presidential nomination is Andre Marrou of Las Vegas, Nevada. Boddie clearly differentiates himself from Marrou by pointing out that he is opposed to seeking or accepting federal "matching funds" for his



Dick Boddie

campaign, whereas Marrou has stated that he will seek and accept them.

— See "Boddie" on page 3

Sprik in special election for state senate seat

By David Bergland

Libertarian Eric Sprik is the sole "alternative" candidate in the upcoming special election to fill the vacancy in the 35th State Senate District seat recently vacated by John Seymour. Sprik faces off against eight Republicans and one Democrat.

The primary election is scheduled for March 19. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes in the primary, the leading vote getters from each party will appear on the ballot in the special election set for May 14. Since the district is heavily Republican, it is virtually assured that Sprik will survive the primary. With no American Independent nor Peace & Freedom Party candidate, Sprik should pick up virtually all of the "protest vote" in addition to the good people who vote Libertarian.

Eric says his main objective in the campaign is to expose Orange County voters to libertarian ideas and approaches to the issues. He will be making use of his many contacts in the gun owners' rights movement to accomplish this objective. Eric was the founder of the National Rifle Association affiliate in Costa Mesa and is a member of several other gun rights organizations. One of his campaign tactics will be to "work" gun shows in the area for support.

— See "Sprik" on page 3

Special Notice

This month the OCLP will meet the fourth Tuesday (Feb. 26) rather than the third Tuesday, due to the LPC State Convention concluding only one day before the third Tuesday.

What can we say about "The War?"

By David Bergland

Many libertarians are puzzled by the Persian Gulf War and whether to support or oppose it. Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government are aggressors against the government of Kuwait and guilty of horrible atrocities against the Kuwaiti people. Justice calls for aggressors to withdraw and make restitution. It is natural to want to help the victims and smash the wrongdoers.

But, what of the traditional (until the 20th Century) American foreign policy, the libertarian policy, of non-intervention? This view, clearly established in the Libertarian Party Platform, states that the U.S. government's proper role is limited to national defense, protecting the American people and their property in America from foreign attack. Non-intervention means the U.S. government should not get involved in foreign wars or entangling alliances committing Americans to risk their lives defending others.

Most libertarians opposed U.S. military involvement in the Gulf before the shooting started. Most were not convinced that the oil was worth the blood or that any other vital interest of Americans was so threatened as to require putting our young military personnel at risk. But, once the Congress, although barely, voted to allow the President to proceed and the shooting started, attitudes changed. It became nearly impossible to oppose the war without being perceived as anti-American and undermining our soldiers, sailor, marines and airmen (airpersons?). Saddam even thanked the anti-war protesters. Many libertarians have switched, now stating that the war should be prosecuted vigorously to a conclusion so the troops can return home.

But, does the non-interventionist principle lose its force just because a war is in progress? Isn't this like the stubborn investor who refuses to close out a bad investment because he's already lost too much, even though the value continues to decline? If the American people would come out ahead by withdrawing from this war now, or any other time, why not do it?

It seems at least arguable that the non-interventionist principle does not require Americans to sit still while aggressors build their forces. At some point, it should be legitimate for the U.S. government to "defend" America by pre-emptively taking out an aggressor who is developing into a real threat even though he hasn't started an invasion or launched any ICBMs at us. This would be no different than you or me shooting first at the man

brandishing a gun and threatening to do us harm. We don't have to wait until he has taken aim and is squeezing the trigger.

As always, we are compelled to ask: where to we draw the line?

That is always a difficult question, but I doubt whether Iraq's invasion of Kuwait crossed that line. America was not, and is not, threatened militarily. Future world oil supplies were less threatened by the invasion than by the war now under way. Whichever sheik or Arab dictator owns the oil, its only value is to sell it on the world market. America's way of life (highly dependent on oil) would survive easily without Persian Gulf oil so long as a free market in energy is allowed to exist here. Saddam's invasion of Kuwait did not threaten America's security, threaten our liberties, or cost American tax dollars. George Bush's response does all three.

It appears that the primary motivations behind the U.S. involvement are to protect Israel and to establish the U.S. as the clearly dominant enforcer under the emerging "new world order." Protecting Israel from Arab threats is a worthwhile undertaking for those individuals who desire it, but not for the U.S. government. Nor is it appropriate for George Bush, the Congress, or anyone else to set the U.S.

See "War" on page 3

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Published monthly by the Orange County
Libertarian Party

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War — from page 2

government up as the policeman of the world. That way lies bankruptcy for the American taxpayer and an endless river of American blood spilled for the benefit of people who, for the most part, hate America and what it stands for.

One of the signs seen at the peace protests sums up one legitimate libertarian position: "Support the troops. Bring them home." It may not be the only legitimate libertarian position, but I'll adopt it as my own for now.

Boddie — from page 1

As is customary, the LPC State Convention (Monterey, Feb. 15-18) is the first major appearance for candidates seeking the LP presidential nomination. Both Marrou and Boddie will attend, working to get the support of those members who will go on as delegates to the national LP presidential nominating convention scheduled for the Labor Day weekend in Chicago.

Mr. Boddie has named Jeff Jared as his Campaign Manager. Jeff is a recent import from Washington where he ran an extremely successful libertarian campaign in the November 1990 election. Our local LP Chair, Roger Bloxham, is the Campaign Coordinator and local activist Rock Wylie is in charge of Special Projects for the campaign.

Anyone interested in helping the Dick Boddie for President nomination campaign should contact Jeff Jared at 8855 Atlanta Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646; tel. (714) 968-3973 or 536-9957.

Support your local bar

Just down the street from our regular meeting place, two Costa Mesa businesses are fighting for their lives against City Hall.

Henry & Harry's Goat Hill Tavern and Hogue Barmichael's face obliteration by the City Council. Homeowners who moved into the area complain of noise and trash, which the bars' owners say are caused mostly by transients and other non-patrons. It also seems the town fathers want these hoi-polloi establishments removed for the benefit of the fancy new Triangle Square retail park going up across the street.

Defenders of private property, free enterprise and a good time are encouraged to write the Costa Mesa City Council in support of these taverns—and maybe stop in for a drink after our meeting.

Sprik — from page 1

The Sprik for State Senate campaign is headed by Campaign Chair Dr. Craig Chaffin. Several local LP members have volunteered to work in the campaign. John Beatty will be staffing an LP table at the Orange County Swap meet. Floyd Holiday is in charge of precinct walking activities. Steve Marcziki has volunteered to handle printed materials and Terry Dunn is in charge of telephone solicitation.

Sprik for Senate is the only Libertarian campaign in Southern California at this time. It is our responsibility to make it a success. Volunteers interested in supporting the campaign, either with money or action, should contact Dr. Chaffin or Erik Sprik at 831 Pine Place, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, tel. (714) 650-7072.

Membership Application

Libertarian Party of California

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

_____ signature _____ date

- I am voluntarily setting my dues at:
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Meeting Time & Place

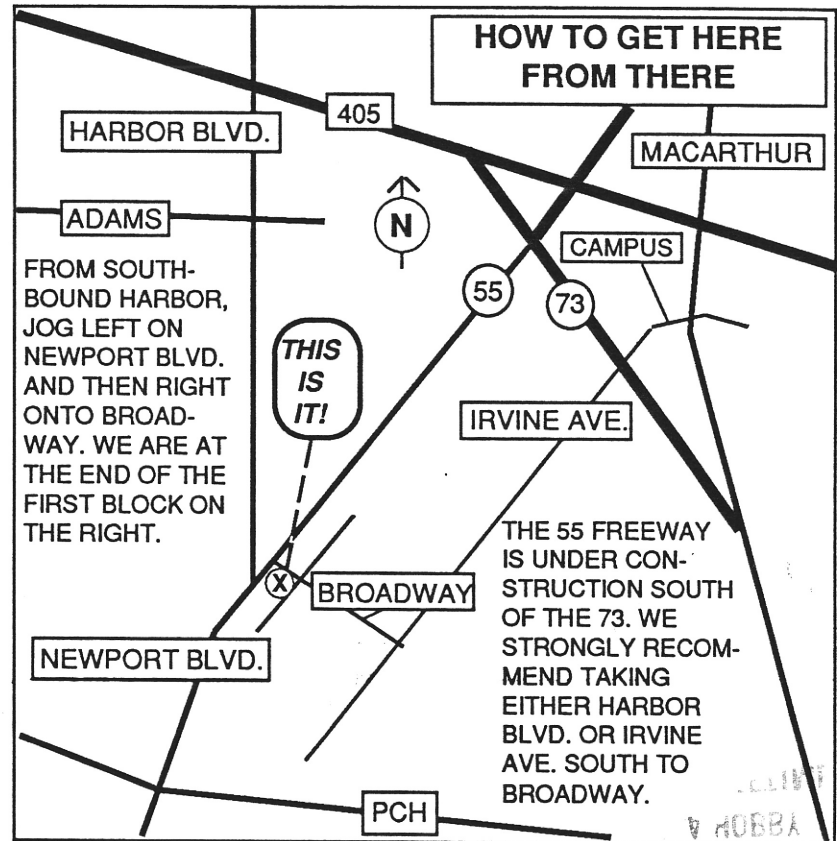
The Orange County Libertarian Party will meet Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 149 Broadway in Costa Mesa. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For up-to-the-minute details concerning the next meeting please call party Chair Roger Bloxham at (714) 642-2002.

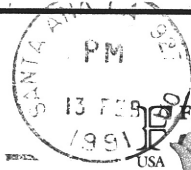
South County Meeting

Libertarians in the southern party of the county also meet the fourth Tuesday of each month in Laguna Beach.

Jim and Linda Rushing organize these meetings at the Laguna Beach Hotel, 425 S. Coast Highway. This month the meeting will be in the Catalina Room from 7 to 10 p.m.



The Libertarian Party of
 Orange County
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