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Libertarian Party

NEWS

Libertarians Raise Strongest —and Virtually the Only— Opposition to Panama Invasion

The following is the text of a national Libertarian Party office press release sent to the national press. It is in sharp contrast to the waffling and weak-kneed reactions from the two older political parties where falling into line behind presidential power plays has become a bipartisan habit.

Washington, DC... Libertarians around the nation have reacted with disbelief and sadness to the unfolding events of the Panama invasion. As the only American political party that has urged a policy of non-intervention in other countries' political affairs since 1972, party leaders are strong in their condemnation of President Bush's justification for taking military action.

"The President has taken military action to correct a political problem which should be dealt with politically, no matter how long it takes," says David K. Walter, Libertarian Party (LP) national chair. "If Mr. Bush truly believed military action is warranted when the people want democracy instead of tyranny, he would have acted accordingly immediately after the Tiananmen Square massacre instead of sending his representatives to toast the murderers of unarmed Chinese civilians."

Professor Williamson Evers, of the Hoover Institute and a member of the LP platform committee, says, "This U.S. invasion violates the international law principle of non-intervention and the U.S. government has no legal or moral claim to

"If Mr. Bush truly believed military action is warranted when the people want democracy instead of tyranny, he would have acted accordingly immediately after the Tiananmen Square massacre instead of sending his representatives to toast the murderers of unarmed Chinese civilians."

jurisdiction over Panamanian affairs... The wiser course would be to cease U.S. meddling and let the Panamanians build free institutions on their own—as they are in Eastern Europe."

Former four-term Congressman Dr. Ron Paul, the 1988 LP Presidential candidate, called the drug trafficking charges which Mr. Bush used to justify his actions against Manuel Antonio Noriega "a complete farce. Can you imagine some other nation indicting a leader in this country? It would be a joke."

Paul says money is the reason for American involvement in Panama. "General Omar Torrijos had the equivalent dictatorial powers as Noriega in the 1970s, but he was our hand-picked CIA man and he worked with our bankers and politicians. Now it's a different story," Paul says. "Noriega does not want to cooperate with our CIA or our bankers (he's switched his funds from New York to Swiss banks). He's too independent and we want our hand-picked personnel in there. But why should the lives of American boys pay for

this? That's the sad part."

Bruce Baechler, state chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas, says, "Noriega's indictment on drug charges is no excuse for an invasion. Legalizing drugs (in the U.S.) would have taken his profits away and put him out of that business quickly."

As far as protection of the canal is concerned, Baechler points out that the LP has consistently called for privatization of all government business operations, including the Panama Canal. "We have no business killing a bunch of kids to install a different bunch of Panamanian politicians," says Baechler. "It isn't worth it."

President Bush has justified his military action by citing a need to protect American lives and property in Panama, but Libertarians say the 21 American servicemen killed in action, the hundreds wounded to date, and the sizeable property damage caused by invasion is far in excess of the damage and injuries that might have been expected from any actions Noriega might have taken.

We're Talking Tax Repeal—You're on the Air

Repeal the 16th (income tax) Amendment? Impossible dream? Haven't a lot of people tried it, challenging its constitutionality among other things?

But how about a truly grass roots movement? Like the one that originally stopped the Congressional pay raise after a number of radio talk show hosts began making it a major topic of discussion?

Libertarian dream come true?

Beginning with radio talk show host

Irving Homer, at WWDB-FM, in the Philadelphia suburb of Balla, there is now a rolling talk show movement to interest people in outright repeal of the 16th Amendment. No technical points. No legalisms. Just repeal the darn thing!

How is it working? When Homer started his campaign just after Christmas he intended it to go only through January. But by mid-January he had 40,000 cards and letters supporting his position in favor of repeal. And the mail is still pouring in! And the campaign continues.

Sensing a hot and popular cause, talk show hosts in Washington, DC, San Antonio, Chicago, and Detroit also have picked up the campaign. Detroit listeners sent in 2,500 cards and letters the first week.

Homer is planning to push the campaign at the June meeting of the National Association of Talk Show Hosts in Orlando, FL.

Homer also reports that four Congressmen have called in to express interest.

"I've used a lot of Libertarian Party material throughout the campaign," Homer

adds. "I appreciate the way talk show hosts at least detoured the Congressional pay raise but that's nothing compared to this issue. I don't want my kids to be as burdened as I am by the demands of a government that gives money away to foreigners and to fatcats while expecting us to become virtual slaves to their unending demands. I also don't believe that there is anything to be gained by testing the amendment in court. The courts are paid out of our money just as is the rest of the government. This time we should do it the way they've been doing it in Eastern Europe, by getting people to stand up and be counted. If people could knock down the Berlin Wall, why can't they knock down the amendment that keeps separating us from our own freedoms?"

Florida libertarians, in particular, may have a chance to help Homer at the Orlando convention. All libertarians could help by getting talk show hosts in their area interested and putting them in contact with Homer. His address is WWDB-FM, Levering Mill Road, Balla, PA 19004.

A Sample of U.S. Intervention: Western Hemisphere

- 1823—U.S. Monroe Doctrine warns European powers that interference in Western Hemisphere will be considered unfriendly act.
- 1846—U.S. declares war on Mexico.
- 1855—American William Walker proclaims himself Nicaraguan dictator.
- 1898—U.S. declares war on Spain over Cuba. Troops remain in Cuba until 1902.
- 1902—U.S. acquires perpetual control of Panama Canal.
- 1903—U.S. sends troops and warships to Panama to help Panamanians trying to secede from Colombia.
- 1909—Nicaraguan rebels, with help of U.S., oust President Zelaya.
- 1912—U.S. troops in Nicaragua to put down forces against U.S. control. Troops stay until 1925.
- 1912—U.S. troops in Honduras to protect American business interests. Troops will return several times before 1926.
- 1914—U.S. troops occupy Vera Cruz, Mexico, to protect American interests.
- 1915—U.S. troops in Haiti to protect American banking interests. Troops remain until 1934.
- 1916-1917—U.S. troops in Mexico searching for Francisco "Pancho" Villa.
- 1916—U.S. troops in Dominican Republic to settle internal problems. U.S. military rule lasts until 1924.
- 1927—U.S. troops in Nicaragua, again, to put down revolution. Troops remain until 1933, when protests of intervention grow by U.S. citizens.
- 1934—U.S. adopts "Good Neighbor" policy, no intervention in Central American internal affairs.
- 1954—U.S. supports overthrow of Guatemalan President Arbenz.
- 1961—U.S. supports invasion of Cuba.
- 1965—U.S. troops in Dominican Republic. Troops remain until 1966.
- 1978—U.S. Senate approves Panama Canal neutrality treaty, agrees to turn over canal to Panama by year 2000.
- 1980—U.S. sends military advisors to El Salvador.
- 1982—Reports allege U.S. aid to Nicaraguan Contras.
- 1983—U.S. troops invade Grenada. Advisors remain until 1985.
- 1986—World Court rules U.S. broke international law in mining Nicaraguan waters.
- 1988—More U.S. troops in Honduras as show of force against Nicaragua.
- 1989—U.S. invades Panama to get Noriega and set up new government.

LP to Israel: No Special Status

The Libertarian National Committee has called for an end to the "Special Relationship with Israel" on the grounds that no nation should be exempt from our Platform call for an end to foreign aid, nor should any nation be exempt from any standard of human rights which are applied to other nations.

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Classical Liberalism: The Brightest Torch

By Karl Hess

Libertarian, classical liberal ideas are an obvious force in the world today. But so are what could be called classical conservative thoughts.

That school of thought was defined canonically in Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind*:

"1. Belief that a divine intent rules society as well as conscience, forging an eternal chain of right and duty which links great and obscure, living and dead. 2. Affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of traditional life, as distinguished from the narrow uniformity and equalitarianism and utilitarian aims of most radical systems. 3. Conviction that civilized society requires orders and classes. 4. Persuasion that property and freedom are inseparably connected, and that economic levelling is not economic progress. 5. Faith that tradition and sound prejudice provide checks upon man's anarchic impulse. 6. Recognition that change and reform are not identical, and that innovation is a devouring conflagration more often than it is a torch of progress."

Classical conservatism is personified by William F. Buckley, Jr. and by such politicians as Margaret Thatcher. The Reagan era was driven by the intellectual force of the obviously powerful ideas of classical conservatism. Classical liberalism can be personified by such economists

as Ludwig von Mises and by such philosophers as Friedrich Hayek.

The notion that libertarians and classical conservatives would come together has been around for a long time. Today, overtures from the conservative side (the excellent libertarian-leaning writing of Joseph Sobran, for instance), the idea seems to have new life.

A few libertarians are beginning to respond to the revival just as a few others once responded to the idea that the entire political side of libertarianism would be better off as part of the Republican Party.

Cooperation with the classical conservatives, to be sure, might appear to be more feasible than with any other conservative faction. We applaud Margaret Thatcher when she attacks the British class system by attempting to build a free market British meritocracy. We shudder when she sends her battleships off or approves some of the tightest government secrecy laws in the world. But she is a virtual angel of freedom when compared to so many other world rulers.

But look back to the six canons of classical conservatism. Classical liberals, *without in any way denying freedom of religion or denigrating religion itself*, surely would reject a notion of divine determinism just as they reject other notions of historical determinism. Point 2 seems very appealing except for its restriction to "traditional" life. Most libertarians are devoted to the idea that individuals must take, and that most want, the responsibility of defining and voluntaristically re-defining ways of living together. They also know that capitalism was and is the world's most radical system, sweeping aside traditions and traditional life regularly and with eventual great benefit to most people.

Point 3 at best could be seen as an option for freely consenting people. Classical liberalism grew largely as a protest against classes and orders.

Point 4 should get a libertarian hurrah and represents the area in which most cooperation can be imagined.

Point 5 is one for individual libertarian consideration.

Point 6, with its Luddite warning against innovation, could offend every scientist,



technologist, or entrepreneur among us. All of the major innovations from merchant sailing ships to cars and planes and to computers and space travel have been denounced in their time as "devouring conflagrations." Actually, they have formed and defined our still rapidly innovating civilization. Looking at the political theories of a time tells you what is. Looking at the technology tells you what is going to be.

It is so obvious that classical liberals have exactly the disposition gracefully and productively to use and advance the technology.

One classical conservative criticism of the sort of classical liberalism that the Libertarian Party represents should be taken seriously, however. It has been said that libertarians damage themselves and their cause by flaunting issues generally seen as outrageous rather than concentrating on those things that should preoccupy a political party: making friends, building credibility, and concentrating on issues that have the broadest rather than the narrowest appeal. The Program of the LP is a good example of just those widely appealing issues. The so-far prudent approach to drug legalization (not pro-drug but pro-freedom) is another example.

Yet it never should be forgotten that libertarianism is a radical political movement. Even the most outrageous positions which are engendered by the libertarian dedication to voluntarism, individualism, and against the initiation of force must remain part of its concern and be raised when appropriate.

In a world of rousing technology and social change, classical liberals should not even dream of giving up the fight. Classical liberalism remains, in my view, the brightest torch of liberty on the face of the earth and for the surrounding space which is becoming our next frontier.

Ann Landers' Column Features Anti-Drug War Letters From Readers

The Ann Landers column is beyond any question one of the most read and influential of all American newspaper features. And guess what? In a recent column, which ran a series of letters against legalizing drugs, there also appeared an equally strong representation of letters for legalization. The Libertarian Party could hardly ask for a more splendid billboard in opposition to the war on drugs which has become a war on freedom. Here are the Landers letters:

Newark: Using drugs is crazy. Our "war" against drugs is even crazier. People don't stop doing something because it's against the law. They just find a way around it. Illegal alcohol was more harmful than legal alcohol. Illegal abortions are more dangerous than legal abortions. Legal drugs would be a lot safer than illegal drugs. We ought to consider it.

San Jose: You asked your readers if the drug problem was a city problem, a federal problem, a medical problem or an economic problem. It is none of the above. It is a political problem. The solution is to legalize drugs. If this were to happen we could expect the following: All drugs would be produced in the United States and distributed at medical centers to drug addicts. The goal would be to treat them like sick people rather than criminals and to get them drug-free. Other advantages: 1) Drug lords, middlemen and small pushers would lose their incomes. 2) The flow of dollars to drug-producing nations would come to an immediate halt. 3) Crime connected with the drug culture would come to an end. 4) Our overburdened court system would be free to handle other matters. 5) Money that used to go to drug lords, middlemen, pushers, drug-producing nations, additional police, jails and courts would go to clinics that would help people get well. Addicts would have relationships with clinics instead of dealers.

Healing must start somewhere, sometime. If we aren't ready now, when will we be? After our country has rotted away? You decide.

Outreach Forces Coming Together

Libertarian gun owners and Libertarian Pro-Choice activists are invited to join outreach task forces to maximize alliance building and LP membership recruitment in these special interest groups.

The Outreach Committee also seeks activists interested in coordinating and inspiring special projects like Tax Protests, July Fourth celebrations, and Volunteer Day.

To participate, contact Toni Black, 110 Riggs Drive, Clemson, SC 29631-1426; (803) 653-7514.

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Rejoice for Foreign Events, Work for Domestic Success

By Dave Walter
LP National Chair

Honecker, Noriega, Ceausescu, and their odious cliques have fallen before people yearning to be free. There is a wind of freedom sweeping the world, a powerful idea whose time has come. Soon, we hope, it will scour Cuba, Peru, South Africa, the nations of the Middle East, and all the other areas where tyranny and a ruling elite hold sway.

In none of these recently liberated lands is there a broad-based understanding of the principles of individual liberty. Instead, thanks to communications advances, it is obvious to even the most illiterate peasants, that freedom works and freedom is more right than coercion and control. When freedom reigns, material and spiritual life is enhanced. One does not have to be able to articulate a natural rights theory, or be conscious of how freedom principles are to be applied consistently across a spectrum of issues, to know and act on a desire to be free and leave others to be likewise free.

At some point, tyrannies fail when enough people have decided to withdraw their support for the oppressors. As we have seen, it is not always at the early point that you or I (or even most Americans) would cease to tolerate impositions on their liberties.

Libertarians had a proud role in the events of 1989. Along with others who kept the flame of freedom burning, we prevented the U.S. from becoming even more "like them" until they had the opportunity to become more "like us." A free and prosperous U.S. serves as the necessary beacon of hope to revolutionary movements

the world over. Libertarians are a major component of the remnant which understands that liberty and self-responsibility are under daily assault in this society. (It is not wholly a joke that the only Marxists left in the world are teaching on U.S. campuses.) We must continue to man the barricades against those who would capture and corrupt the worldwide revolution against statism.

You must be aware that forces exist in America which, consciously or not, pay lip

service to liberty while continuing their daily assault on libertarian values. You, like I, have read praise from the pundits and politicians regarding the events in Eastern Europe that, if you did not

consider the source, sound as if they were lifted whole from "The Freeman" or "Liberty Magazine." Phrases touting liberty—"people have been put in charge of their individual destinies," "an end to being told what to do and say and whom to worship," "at last, they have dismantled the dead hand of the centrally planned economy and embraced the largesse of free market forces," "finally, a recognition that others have no legitimate right to control one's life"—trip easily from the lips and pens of those whose usual musings concern yet another way to deliver our money to Washington where those with the "correct" views will see to it that we obey their wishes.

There is a job for Libertarians as long as these frauds continue to evade detection by the general public. Our job is to see to it that the reservoir of good will toward the concept of liberty is not drained by those more interested in power than principle.

Let's rejoice at events abroad and continue to work ever harder to brighten the beacon of liberty.

From the Chair

Get Ready, Get Set, Type: Letters to Editors Campaign Begins

Letters to other editors are a powerful way to spread libertarian ideas. Many affiliate parties have got it down to an art form, even holding regular meetings to decide on subjects for letter campaigns. Their successes have been notable. And their continued autonomy in picking subjects is essential.

Now it is suggested that we try it nationally without hanging up any local efforts.

The idea would be to select a topic each month. Libertarians who might not be writing a letter on anything else or who want to add to their letter ammo pile could join with other libertarians around the country in peppering the papers with our views on hot and timely topics.

Here's an example: bringing U.S. troops home is likely to be a good subject upcoming. There is Panama and also a rapidly developing pressure against U.S. troops in Korea.

Following is a sample letter that makes good libertarian points. Versions of it should stand a very good chance of being printed—and even a few letters on a single topic are likely to impress editors any-

where and also readers who could sense a growing interest in a hot topic and be reading comments on it that are not run-of-the-mill.

It is gratifying to see that bringing the troops home from Europe is now discussed by mainstream pundits, politicians and even some military figures. The Libertarian Party has been advocating the same for more than 10 years.

But let's not forget that the U.S. has troops stationed all over the world to combat a Soviet menace that is no longer viable, thanks to the economic destructiveness of communism and the fact that individual liberty provides for a happier and more progressive existence.

Let's start bringing home the troops in Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and everywhere else they are stationed. Korea is a prosperous country, fully capable of defending itself. They don't require our 43,000 troops. And many Koreans dislike our presence there. Japan is even more prosperous, and a recent Business Week/Harris poll showed only 31 percent of Japanese think they should rely on the U.S. for our

LP Campus Division Survey

The presence of the Libertarian Party on college campuses represents one of the most important areas of growth and idea-spreading. New emphasis on this is being brought by a national party task force on school recruiting organized by Don Ernsberger.

The following form is an essential part of the effort. If you know anyone in college (or even high school?) or anyone with a school contact who might want to help spread the libertarian word and look for new LP members, please fill out the form and send it to Don Ernsberger, 655 Meadowood Lane, Warminster, PA 18974; (215) 675-6830.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number _____

(Check all that apply)

_____ I am a student at _____
_____ I am involved in a libertarian group.
_____ I know several other libertarians on campus. Number _____
_____ I am interested in setting up an LP information table.
_____ Send me an assortment of literature right away.
_____ I am employed at _____ College/University.
_____ I have a son/daughter at _____
_____ I am an alumnae of _____
(Note: We will honor contributions for a specific campus)
_____ Send me an organizing manual.
_____ Send me some membership materials on the LP.
_____ The cost of a 3x5 inch ad in my college newspaper is about \$_____
_____ I live near _____ College/University and want to help.

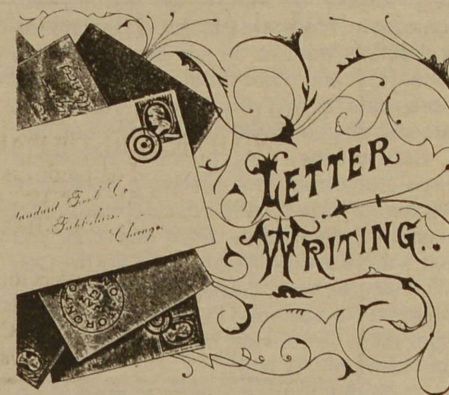
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current support of their defense.

As with Europe, these troops cost the taxpayers billions. We all have other, productive uses for this money. Our representatives in Congress must push for timely and substantial cutbacks in military spending overseas.

If you have a suggestion for next month's letter, and a sample letter if possible, please send it as soon as you can. You'll get full recognition for your good work if we choose your suggestion.

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Congressional Pay

Well, Congress is at it again, turning in another dismal performance and expecting to be rewarded for it. And being none too subtle about it either, as they go for the big bribe: give us this raise, and then we'll become ethical. At least the James Gang never had the guts to say, "Just one more robbery and we'll have enough money to go straight."

Is there a plan, using free market principles, that can entice these scoundrels onto the straight and narrow path of fiscal responsibility? I'd be willing to try the following for starters:

1. Maintain Congressional pay at the same base as present (\$89,000).
2. Decrease Congressional pay by \$1,000 for each \$1 billion of deficit in the current year's budget.
3. Increase Congressional pay by \$1,000 for each \$1 billion of existing national debt eliminated in a given year.

Jack Lewis
Boise, ID

People and Pollution

No one, it seems, has noted the root cause of environmental problems, here and globally, which is, simply, too many people. Why is industry producing more, and polluting more? Because there must be either a demand for the product, or the space made by the cutting of trees.

Has the free market or has government contributed to over-population? Does it occur to anyone that government provides incentives to procreation? From income tax deductibles to public education, we are encouraged to reproduce. Would we be less likely to do so if we were to fully bear the economic burden of our progeny?

Paul Brown
Raymond, NH

Dare to be Different

When I first learned of the Libertarian Party a couple of years ago, I was excited to find that others do have beliefs similar to my own. It is ironic that in the pursuit of individual liberty, there is a need to come together as a group. If we do not, we will most surely lose the freedoms we've got left to those who fear a person who is "not like everybody else."

After the November 1988 elections, I stopped by my polling place to review the posted results. I saw that I was the only person in my borough to vote for a Libertarian candidate. I was not surprised. Since that time, I have been urging friends and acquaintances who do not vote to register and do so. For those that do vote, I show them that there are alternatives to the Republicrats. It is going to take time, perseverance, and not a little work. But, just look at the stakes.

Robert A. Gallek
West Grove, PA

A Small Role

As a new member of the Libertarian Party, I am disappointed to find that a few long-time warriors have grown frustrated with the slow pace of change.

I do not expect to see a libertarian society in my lifetime. Nevertheless, I am excited about playing a small role in reducing government, or at least reducing its rate of growth.

Vincent L. Carey
Milwaukie, OR

S.I.G.s

In the Nov/Dec 1989 LP NEWS, page three had an article by Karl Hess entitled "Special Interest Groups for Growth."

My area of special avocation is that of General Aviation. I have an antique biplane that requires the use of airspace and airports, both of which are in jeopardy in this country.

If someone has not already done so, then forging a collective tie with the leaders of the

Letters to the Editors

LP NEWS

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General Aviation Community would seem like a mutually beneficial idea. I would be happy to help bring this about.

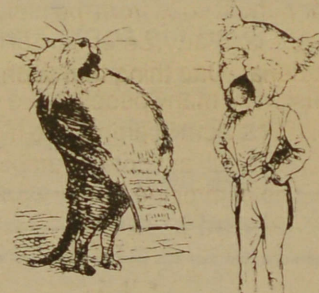
Richard C. Smith, M.D.
San Pedro, CA

A Remembrance

I don't know where you got your information regarding the surprise gift from Robert Rosen, but I wanted to do him justice and set the record straight.

He was a very active libertarian here in Oregon, known by many of us Oregon libertarians. He was a constant financial supporter and could always be counted on. He was also a regular contributor to the Oregon Libertarian newsletter. He contributed a lot to the cause of freedom in his own way and he was remembered at the 1989 Oregon Libertarian convention with a special moment of silence. He even attended the 1987 National Convention in Seattle. His financial gift to the party is not surprising. He was a firm believer in freedom and liberty. He is definitely missed.

Edward Marhart
Portland, OR



Keep Your Paws Off

I am one cool cat but this proposed registering and collaring of cats gets my fur up. I do not want to sound catty but being forced to wear a collar is a scenario worse than getting a bad case of fleas. Unlike dogs who are aggressive and disturb the neighborhood by barking, we cats are very libertarian. We are peaceful, independent, and simply want to be left alone to chase mice, rats, and other rodents. If there were more cats during the Middle Ages, the bubonic plague would have ended quicker.

Cats and their pets (humans) should not be catatonic about this enslaving legislation. We do not have time to pussyfoot around. I used to think witches were bad until you humans created politicians. I, Rocky the Cat, will resist registering and collaring even if it means a life sentence in jail. I still will have eight more lives. Hey Mr. Politician, keep your paws off my body.

Rocky the Cat, owner of Fred Stein
Dayton, NJ

Palatable LP Platform

Back in 1976, when we were petitioning for ballot position in Indiana, we worked the state fair rather successfully. We didn't tell them what the LP stood for on every subject. In fact, we didn't tell them we were the LP until far down the conversation. What we told them was that we were for lower taxes — in every area, on every type of tax, from income down to meals. We painted a picture of a series of government levels, all taxing, all

writing their own tickets, all bloated. We asked people if they thought cutting this back and trimming off the fat was a good idea. Only one card-carrying liberal, who hated corporations and anybody who made more than he did (which turned out to be, indeed, almost everybody), disagreed with us. He wanted to soak the rich. The rest of the people started signing our petition before we finished talking.

Compare that with a horrible scene I saw on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin. Two eager, sincere, totally misguided libertarians got up to take their turn at an all-parties campus rally, in which each group (Dems, Reps, Socialists, SDA, YAF and LP) had equal time to present its case. The libertarians started right off — first sentence! — by telling the audience of Texas Baptists and Methodists that their first duty was to renounce religion, renounce mysticism, and become atheists. You can imagine the audience reaction, ranging from groans to red-faced rage. They never let the poor libertarians finish their pitch, so we will never know if they would ever have gotten down to the issues.

I ask myself how this kind of scene could be avoided in the future. My only concrete suggestion is to limit the LP platform to clear positions on a few key issues which will be palatable to the voters, and not try to cover every possible contingency from local massage parlors to the ownership of outer space. I see the winnable issues as lower taxes, gun ownership, reformed criminal codes based on violence and aggression (i.e. eliminating consenting adult situations) with clear penalties (the people hate indeterminate sentences and the parole system), freedom to enjoy private schools without penalties, bringing the troops home, minding our own business everywhere from Sri Lanka to Israel, no more foreign aid, raising the 55 mph speed limit where it hasn't been, and unlimited liability for polluters. That would be plenty to digest and fight over. It would have the desired effect of cracking the solid fronts of the major parties and letting those who agree with us leak out into our camp. It would keep us from offending lots of people needlessly, and would prevent us from looking like sophisticated hippies on drugs out to commit incest with school children while holding aloft our burning draft cards — the image the media would like to fix on us.

I think our problem has been that we have scattered our resources in too many directions, over too many issues. We need to focus on what we can win.

Robert M. Strippy
Charlottesville, VA

Image Problem

Part of the LP's image problem has always been a perception, not wholly unwarranted, by some people, of the party and its members as elitist, dogmatic, and completely unappreciative of other opposition points of view not immediately demonstrable as libertarian.

Although LP Chair Dave Walter's plea for more patience and tolerance of untutored newcomers on the part of long-time

libertarians attempts to address this problem in the interest of expanding party influence, there is no acknowledgement on Walter's part that long-time libertarians might learn and grow from exposure to "un-Libertarian" ideas and that this exposure might not only change but improve the unofficial "party line." Walter's paternalistic attitude, as conveyed in his plea that long-time libertarians be more accepting of the errors of new members who have not yet been fully indoctrinated, hardly extends a hearty welcome to those members of the public contemplating participation in the Libertarian Party.

Personally, as a minarchist Socio-Libertarian, I feel the LP can benefit from exposure to and discussion of Green and Bioregionalist ideas, and from a Socialist examination of the nature of capitalism. Although I am an ardent supporter of private property, I question the traditional Libertarian/Lockean Liberal interpretation and implementation of this social institution. Even such libertarian philosophers as Robert Nozick (in *Anarchy, State and Utopia*) have criticized this sort of philosophical basis for real property ownership.

Nevertheless, without wishing to distort his message, I would like to say that I agree with LP Chair Dave Walter. The Libertarian Party will continue to "coast" unless LP members as a group become more tolerant, less chauvinistic regarding other people's ideas and beliefs. In Walter's words the LP "must shun dogmatism," but the LP can only shun dogmatism if the LP concern for what others believe extends beyond a desire to bring such beliefs into conformity with accepted libertarian ideals, and includes the willingness to learn from others. There is no other way to sustain the dialog and cooperation necessary to develop and advance creative alternatives to the status quo.

Peter K. Harrell
Worcester, MA

Fascism

Any group wanting to bring about a fascist state could hardly dream up a better vehicle than the "War on Drugs." They have an opportunity to exalt nation above individual (reduce individual rights). Then we will have laws that will make us less able to defend ourselves against those in government. We are being besieged with more and more laws that will have the effect of disarming "the governed." If we listen to those who govern, we are not to be trusted with arms that, if compared to the government's resources, are not even cap guns. However, all fascists fear the average citizen armed with handguns and rifles because they know that people who are determined to be free, and have minimal arms, are very hard to dominate.

A Centralized Autocratic Government! When have you ever heard of our federal government reducing its authority? It is always appropriating more power and restricting individual freedom, usually using the excuse "for the good of society!" Most restrictive legislation is federal, or enacted under federal coercion, reserving to government more and more control over our lives. There is a propaganda campaign to persuade us that we would be better off with less rights to enable "government" to win "the War on Drugs" when "government" can't even keep drugs out of the prison system. I do not trust such people to determine what rights I should have!

Prior to World War II, fascism had a significant following in our country. It has never completely died out and, as can be seen by anyone following current events, has been steadily growing in recent years.

Roger S. Schattilly
Peytonburg, KY
continued on page 6

NRA Extols LP Stand

The National Rifle Association, largest gun owner group in the world, has responded positively and usefully to the Libertarian Party's unswerving support of gun ownership. In three successive issues of its 3,000,000-circulation monthly magazine, *American Rifleman*, the Libertarian Party has been mentioned and praised.

In an editorial discussing alliances with political parties, J. Warren Cassidy, NRA executive vice president, rejected the all-too-familiar temptation to mention only the two older parties and, throughout the editorial, referred to Democrats, Republicans, or Libertarians.

Later on in the editorial he said that "out of respect for our Libertarian members—and they are many—I will repeat here what I have said to so many of them by mail and by phone. I had the pleasure of visiting with Dr. Ron Paul, the Libertarian presidential candidate. I found him to be totally committed to our Cause, as well as being an intelligent and articulate gentleman of great dignity and presence. It pained me to have to tell him that NRA could not endorse his candidacy because of the realities of political life and power in the United States."

"I explained that our members expected NRA not only to back pro-gun candidates, but to back possible winners, thus bringing to bear our influence on legislation affecting our rights. To do this our candidates must gain political office, and at this

point in our history Libertarian candidates, by and large, do not have this potential. In other words, while they may be supportive and committed men and women, their candidacies are not yet viable tools

for the enactment of pro-gun legislation."

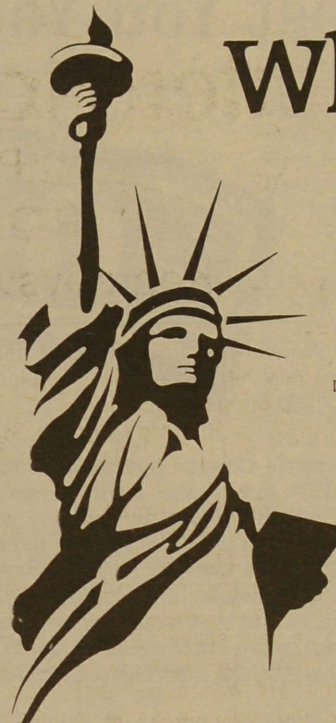
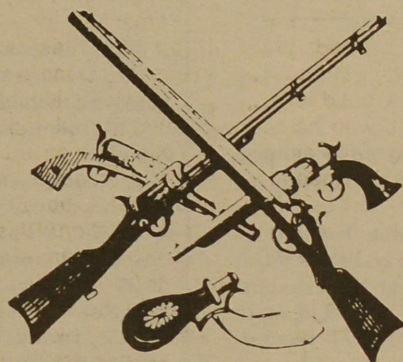
In another issue of *Rifleman*, however, a letter to the editor said that "I am planning to take the Libertarian Party more seriously than before."

Then, in the January issue, there was a letter asking for more information on the LP and the party's address and toll-free number were printed in response—a major addition to our hope to increase members by recruiting among pro-gun groups and

a welcome, gratefully received series of friendly gestures from NRA that could do a lot to change "the realities of political power."

The entire sequence of comments by the NRA has powerfully increased the motivation to get winners, for instance, on state legislatures where important gun legislation is formed.

(The editors want to thank Andy Barniskis, a Levittown, PA, libertarian, for helping us monitor NRA activities. If there are other readers who keep in touch with the work of other single-issue groups with whom the LP could consider cooperating, the NEWS would appreciate hearing from them when the party is mentioned or an opportunity to raise awareness of the party becomes evident.)



Who defends your right

to choose your own way of life?

Libertarians believe that you have the right to pursue happiness as you choose, so long as you do not use force or fraud in your dealings with others. The law should protect the liberties of all people—married and single, straight and gay, conventional and unorthodox—and should treat all individuals equally.

The Libertarian Party

DEFENDERS OF LIBERTY

1-800-682-1776

1528 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE • Washington, DC 20003

This is one of a series of six brand new print ads developed by David Nolan, a founder of the Libertarian Party, for the party's advertising development committee. All of the ads are in a similar graphic form but with a different question on each. The subjects covered are "Who Defends Your Right: to keep 100 percent of what you earn? to choose or refuse military service? to read or review what you choose? to make your own decisions about drugs? to own a gun to protect yourself?"

Local or state Libertarian Parties can strip in their own name and address along with the national office information. Reproducible copies of the ads may be obtained, without cost, from the national office. It is Nolan's hope that the theme, "The Libertarian Party, defenders of liberty," will become a standard identification for LP material. One thing that such an identification does is to strike directly at the confusion so many people have over the word libertarian, getting it mixed up with everything from libertinism to larouchism. Adding "defenders of liberty" may prove a powerful antidote. Bumper-sticker versions of the new slogan are planned. The committee is now working on the production of a series of TV ads.

Bottemiller Named New LP Field Coordinator

Marla Bottemiller, chair of the Libertarian Party of Washington State (LPWS), is the new National Field Coordinator. She replaces Paul Jacob, who resigned from the position on October 9. Affiliate Parties Committee (APC) chair Mary Gingell made the announcement of Bottemiller's appointment December 11.

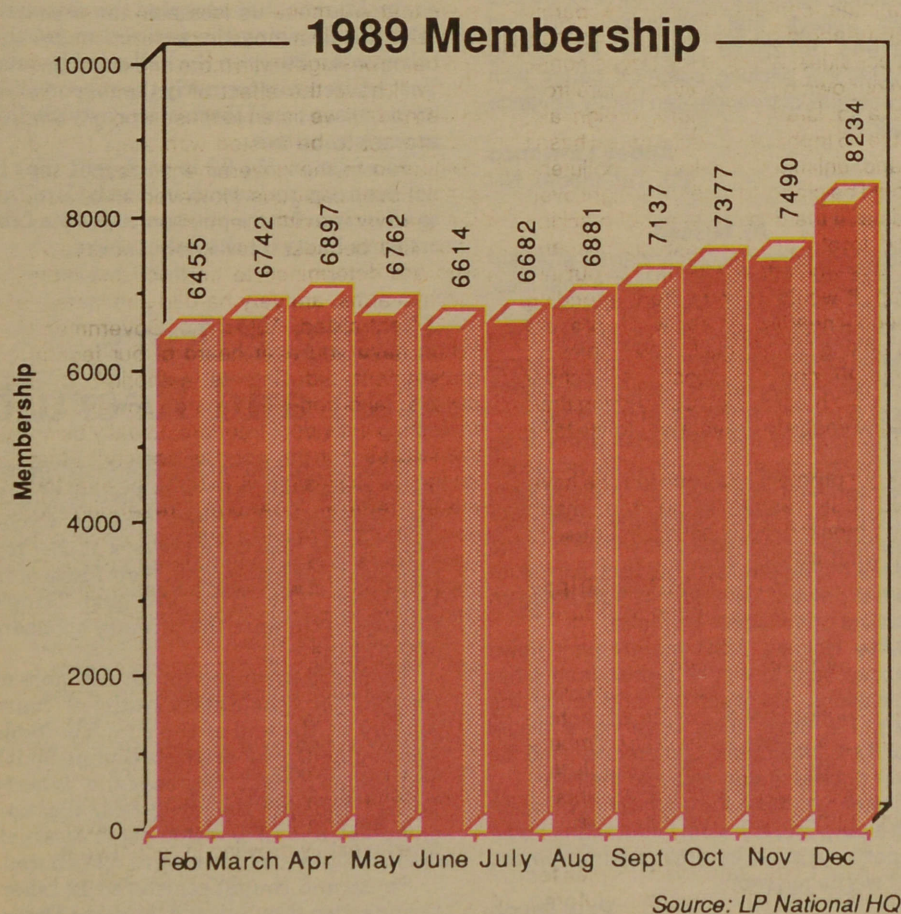
Bottemiller left her job with Microsoft, where she had managed and supervised the use of eight company training facilities, on December 31. From now on she will travel across the United States helping to build up state and local LP organizations. Gingell says that Bottemiller will be the LP's "national Johnny Appleseed—planting and helping to nurture LP groups everywhere she goes."

Bottemiller said that the job's challenge "excites" her. The APC and Bottemiller plan to develop a "bag of tricks"—a set of "acid-tested programs of activity," as Bottemiller describes them, that fledgling LP groups can choose to adopt and that are designed "to get them up and running." She invites LP activists who have "suggestions or advice and counsel" to send them to her. (Her address is 14150 SE 17th Place, Unit B-7, Bellevue, WA 98007.)

Bottemiller attributes much of her suc-

cess in the LP to the help of others. She emphasized the help of the members of the Libertarian Party of Washington State executive committee, "who not only are devoted to the cause, but top-notch at promoting it"; of Tom Isenberg, LPWS activist and Bottemiller's co-worker at Microsoft, whose sense of humor "makes libertarianism attractive to everyone he meets" (Bottemiller served as campaign manager of Isenberg's 1989 campaign for state legislator); of Art Rathjen, who now lives in Ohio, but who advised her on books to read about politics and on how to deal with people in an organizational setting; and of Karen Allard, a "powerhouse," as Bottemiller describes her, who was Bottemiller's predecessor as LPWS chair and who "showed [Bottemiller] the ropes" at the outset of her term.

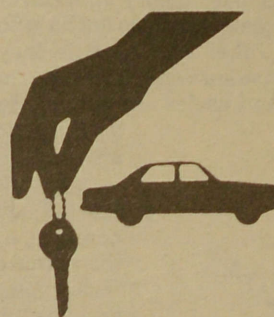
Before naming Bottemiller to the post, APC chair Gingell says her committee conducted a thorough nationwide search and considered "five qualified candidates, people who have been state LP officers or have experience as paid employees of the party." Gingell says the search showed her that the libertarian movement has a pool of "professional libertarians" able "to do the job of advancing the cause of liberty."



A Buck Could Cost You Your Truck in SC

Florence County, SC, libertarians will be warning the public not to carry the most dangerous substance in their cars if the proposed law is passed to confiscate automobiles with the slightest trace of an illegal drug: paper money.

A recent study in Miami taking a sample bill from distinguished citizens showed traces of cocaine in more than 90 percent of the federal reserve notes carried by them, because a prior holder of the money had used it for snorting. No one was exempt; the mayor, the police chief, the bank president, the archbishop, the surgeon, the judge all had a \$20 bill in their pockets with traces of cocaine. If Florida had a law like the one proposed by South Carolina narcs, all of these could have been arrested and had their cars confiscated for transporting an illegal drug in trace quantities that they had never used. (The archbishop admitted that he had drunk a small quantity of wine in saying Mass that morning, but showed no sign of intoxication.)



Florence County libertarians suggest that if the law is passed, citizens would be safer carrying Susan B. Anthony dollars than any form of federal reserve notes, and should try to transfer as many transactions as possible into checks or money orders, so that they would not be in danger of carrying remote traces of drugs. If this is not possible, the next choice is to demand

unused paper bills, so that no prior user could have contaminated it by snorting an illegal drug.

"Of course," noted John Harlee of Florence County, "it would be better if the federal government would go back to coining gold or silver, so that we could have real money instead of federal reserve notes."

Letters to the Editors

continued from page 4

No New Laws

Let's distinguish among four things which could be meant by drug "legalization": 1) Nationalization—the U.S. federal government could own all the drugs and have the exclusive power to sell them; 2) Governmentalization—the various states, cities, counties, and other governmental organizations (what I call VBMGs or Violence-Based Manipulation Groups) will have the exclusive power to sell drugs; 3) Pharmacy-ization—the government will license sellers such as drug stores, grocery stores, etc.; 4) Decriminalization—the libertarian position. Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of people to use drugs, but people would be individually responsible for injuries caused to others because of such usage.

The first three require new laws, the last could be done in two ways. The first is jury nullification. The second is by repeal of laws. I believe that any solution requiring a new law is suspect from a libertarian position.

Read my lips: No New Laws. If we don't watch it, we will win the legalization issue, but establish a federal drug monopoly for revenue-raising purposes.

Charlie Hartman
Stuart, IA

Liberty Club

I run the Liberty Club, an E-Mail group on the Prodigy communications service. The group was formed in response to many messages about libertarianism, objectivism, and related topics on the Prodigy bulletin boards. We discuss liberty issues in an open, uncensored format. I am sure that there are many libertarians with computers and modems that do not currently subscribe to the Prodigy service, but they should know about the Liberty Club on Prodigy.

I am not affiliated in any way with Prodigy. We simply use the service to promote discussion of liberty, and hopefully expand the membership in the Libertarian Party in a cost effective way. Prodigy was started by IBM and Sears in April of last year. It reaches some 100,000 households and is growing by leaps and bounds.

Elwood A. Anderson
Santa Barbara, CA

Inflation

Your organization (and others) could

perform a real public service by publishing some kind of series or regular feature to promote a better, more quantitative understanding of the meaning and magnitude of "inflation" by realistically analyzing the costs and worths of different commodities and assets. People who probably do not now exhibit much interest in such an arcane, "dry" economic statistic as the Consumer Price Index might well sit up and take notice if its real import were translated into dollar terms that would be more meaningful to the "average person."

Francis J. (Frank) Hummel
Ballwin, MO

Minutes

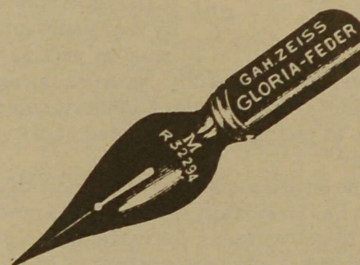
Readers of LP NEWS should be informed that the material in the Nov/Dec issue appearing under the heading "LP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes" is not the original text of the minutes. I applaud the LP NEWS for its increased coverage of the activities of the LNC and its various subcommittees, and I think that publication of minutes and reports can be a useful vehicle for this. I also understand that, for space or other reasons, it may be appropriate for such documents to be published in an edited form. However, accuracy demands that when such editing is done to an existing document, not originally written as a newspaper article, the text be accompanied by a notation such as "edited" or "excerpted".

Joseph W. Dehn, III,
LP National Secretary
Littleton, CO

Not NOW

Last November the LP joined NOW in Washington, DC for a "pro-choice" rally. That a significant proportion of libertarians believe abortion to be a vile act of aggression and an abdication of responsibility for the consequences of a freely chosen act makes such a move disreputable; but for self-acclaimed lovers of freedom to join the jack-booted feminists of NOW is appalling. NOW seeks not liberty and its concomitant responsibility, but government favors and funding; its every pronouncement reeks of intolerant authoritarianism. What is the LP aiming at?

I recently learned that the Colorado Libertarian Party has for years joined an encirclement of Rocky Flats on "Hiroshima



Day," the openly stated reason being "to coalesce with the Left." What are libertarians aiming at when they seek to "coalesce" with technophobes, America-hating peace droids, and useful idiots?

I could cite many other examples. It seems that these public demonstrations have as their result, if not their intention, the affirmation of the Loony Left. The radical feminists, militant homosexuals, and eco-nazis do not seek the right merely to go about their lives; they must grasp at government power to force their agenda down our throats. Do you really believe that libertarians will find converts in these groups by acting conciliatory? Making common cause with the enemies of freedom can hardly advance freedom.

Abbey Lawrence
Ctr. Tuftonboro, NH

AL Missed

In discovering that "American Libertarian" has ceased publication, I feel a real loss. "AL" often made people mad by reporting on the inside power-plays and squabbles of the national Libertarian Party, but making people burning mad, especially people in positions of any authority, is the job of the press.

Too much of the Libertarian press is so busy being a mouthpiece for whatever faction they represent that they fail to investigate and bring us a great deal of the news. "AL" sometimes supported a certain faction (and told the reader this fact), but that didn't ever seem to prevent Mike Holmes from being an excellent professional journalist.

Mike Holmes didn't merely print news releases sent to him or reprint from other publications. He went out and found the news. He didn't miss covering a single important Libertarian conference. And he never ducked a story to avoid the heat.

Thank you Mike for a quality publication with a purpose; to inform Libertarians about the politics and events of this great movement. "AL" will be missed.

Paul Jacob
Arlington Heights, IL

LP Sex Scandal Exposed!

Now that we have your attention... The Libertarian Party NEWS is now being published monthly.

This means a new set of strict deadlines.

All copy, advertising, and artwork will be due at P.O. Box 173, Kearneysville, WV, no later than the first day of the month preceding the issue date. Camera-ready ad copy will be accepted by Randy Langhenry at 8 Peyton Street, Winchester, VA 22601 during the first week of the month if previous arrangements have been made.

For example, the copy deadline for the March issue is February 1. The next deadline after that will be March 1, for the April issue, and so forth.

In the case of really useful, late-breaking stories, the deadline can be stretched a bit but only if we get as much advance notice as possible or a computer delivery over CompuServe or at the very least a phone call.

Project '51-92 Accepts Tasks

By Richard Winger

Project '51-92, a libertarian PAC headed by former vice-presidential candidate Andre Marrou, has accepted the responsibility for finishing the petition to get the Libertarian Party on the ballot in Nevada. The petition was formerly the responsibility of the national Libertarian Party's ballot access committee.

In addition, '51-92 is confident that it will soon win its lawsuit in North Carolina to allow it to fund a petition to get the Libertarian Party on the ballot there.

Party Bikers Run and Recruit

Libertarian bikers Guy Shephard, president of The Tribe MC, and Ronnie Martinez, manager of Tripp's Custom Cycle, were among libertarian bikers at the "toy run" held in Farmington, New Mexico, in December. The Tribe MC and Tripp's Custom Cycle were the primary sponsors of the event.

Shephard arranged for an LP table at the show/party held at the National Guard Armory at the end of the run. The table was manned by LP activists Bonnie Smith and Joseph Knight. Copies of the "Liberty Today" tabloid, the drug-relegalization pamphlet, and LP position paper #6 which deals with helmet laws were distributed.

Smith and Knight registered 12 Libertarians, two Republicans, and one Democrat.

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Upcoming Events

February 16-19, 1990:

"The Libertarian Spectrum,"
California LP Convention, Hanalei
Hotel, San Diego; 619-291-6233.
Speakers include Dr. Haing S. Ngor
and Jimmie Walker.

March 10, 1990:

New Jersey LP Convention, Days
Hotel, New Brunswick; 201-444-
2846.

April 6-7, 1990:

Illinois LP Convention; 708-475-
0391.

April 6-7, 1990:

Wisconsin LP Convention; 414-375-
0068.

April 13, 1990:

Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

April 14, 1990:

New Mexico LP Convention, Holiday
Inn Pyramid, Albuquerque; 505-425-
5077. Speakers include Marshall
Fritz and Karl Hess, Jr.

April 15, 1990:

Tax Protest Day

April 21-22, 1990:

Ohio LP Convention, Columbus; 800-
669-6542. Speakers include Don
Ernsberger.

April 28-29, 1990:

National Committee Meeting, Austin,
TX; 512-467-1776. To receive agenda
packet, 202-543-1988.

April 1990:

Vermont LP Convention; 802-482-
3075.

May 1990:

Maryland LP Convention; 202-328-
0099.

May 1990:

Colorado LP Convention, Ft. Collins
Holiday Inn, Ft. Collins; 303-837-9393.
Speakers include Walter Williams.

May 1990:

Washington State LP Convention;
206-329-5669.

May 1990:

Alaska LP Convention; 907-479-4250.

June 9, 1990:

Texas LP Convention; 512-467-
1776.

August 10-14, 1990:

Future of Freedom/ISIL Conference,
San Francisco, CA.; 804-740-6932.

August 11-12, 1990:

National Committee Meeting, San
Francisco, CA; 415-731-3031.

August 1990:

Council of LP State Chairs Meeting,
San Francisco, CA; 818-796-8231.

October 1990:

Maryland LP Convention; 202-328-
0099.

December 8-9, 1990:

National Committee Meeting, New
York City; 914-633-5137.

April 1991:

National Committee Meeting,
Atlanta, GA; 404-957-6825.

August 28-September 1, 1991:

"Liberty Triumphant," LP Presidential
Nominating Convention, Chicago
Marriott, Chicago, IL; 708-475-0391.

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