



Nov. 1991  
Vol. 6, No. 11

# Libertarian Party

# NEWS

## Marrou Beats Demos in NH Reader Poll

Andre Marrou, the Libertarian Party's 1992 presidential candidate, finished ahead of all Democratic presidential candidates, and not far behind George Bush, in a presidential preference poll conducted by the *Manchester (NH) Union-Leader*. The poll, which was announced in early October by the newspaper, drew 415 responses from readers. Bush received 115 votes to Marrou's 75 votes, while Paul Tsongas finished third with 47 votes and the rest of the Democratic candidates even further behind.

## Marrou Runs TV Ads in NH

The Marrou for President Campaign recently became the first presidential campaign to run television advertising this year in New Hampshire.

From October 13-19, 23 Marrou for President ads ran on the ABC affiliate television station, WUHR, in Manchester, NH. The two different ads included a "trash the Republicans" theme as well as a more general Libertarian ad, according to Michael Emmerling of the Marrou campaign staff.

"These ads were the first of well over 100 TV ads which are planned for New Hampshire before the end of the year," Emmerling said.

The campaign will also be running an additional 23 ads during the week of November 2, in conjunction with the LP New Hampshire state convention. Those ads will address special issues, including the abortion issue, and will include a local number for viewers to call to get in touch with state party members, and will hopefully encourage attendance at the state convention. Marrou will be attending the convention which will be held on November 2 at the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Nashua. The keynote speaker at the convention will be Walter Williams.

## Marrou HQ

The Andre Marrou/Nancy Lord Libertarian Party ticket has announced a unified campaign, coordinated through one office. For information write Marrou for President, 4750 E. Sahara, Las Vegas, NV 89195-4073, or call 702-431-3848.

## McCann Wins 38% in CA Race

Dr. David McCann, in a special election for the California state assembly, made the best showing of any third-party candidate in the state since 1936.

McCann, the chair of the Sacramento area LP, won 37.8 percent of the vote in the two-way race. His opponent was B.T. Collins, a Republican.

The race was very close at the polls on election day, but absentee ballots were largely in favor of Collins. The race showed that there are a large number of dissatisfied voters, especially conservatives who have become unhappy with Republicans who support tax increases and gun control. Collins, who was hand-picked by CA Governor Pete Wilson, supported Wilson's tax increase plan and was considered an anti-gun advocate.

These two issues, taxes and guns, became the two major issues in the campaign. McCann received support from groups such as the Gun Owners of California, National Tax Limitation Committee, and American Pistol and Rifle Association.

"It's real obvious when you try to run a real campaign, instead of a paper campaign, that you have to forge a coalition with other groups," McCann said. "You

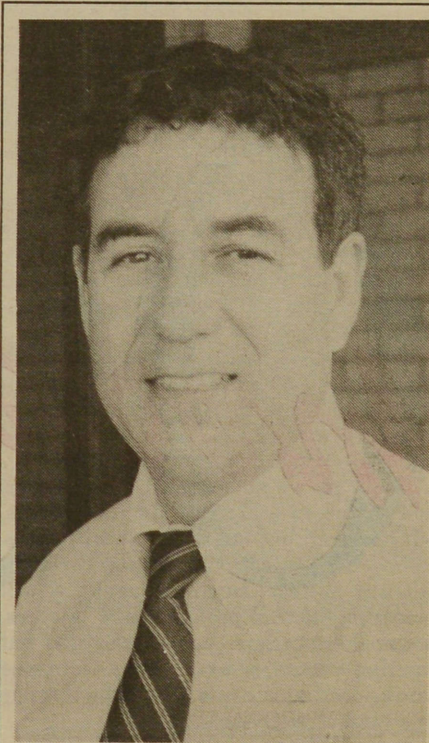
can't walk over to other groups and say here's the Libertarian program and cram it down their throats. You have to look for common ground with other groups."

McCann also said that the LP has to "convince the gun groups that the Republican Party is not going to help them anymore."

McCann said his campaign spent around \$14,000, while Collins spent in the neighborhood of \$450,000. "We probably spent about 70¢ per vote, and Collins spent about \$20-\$30 per vote," McCann said.

McCann said the campaign was both "physically and emotionally exhausting," and that he had "no plans one way or the other to run" for office again. McCann said the great results would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of Tom Harrison, McCann's campaign manager, and Mike Belcher, volunteer coordinator. "Those guys just killed themselves," McCann said, "and then, of course, there were a couple dozen dedicated volunteers."

McCann, a doctor of internal medicine and allergies, has been practicing medicine since 1984. Prior to that time he was an engineer. McCann is 48 years old, divorced, and the father of three sons.



Dr. David McCann

## Bill of Rights Conference, Celebration

The Libertarian Party's Committee for the Bill of Rights has announced a conference to be held in Washington, DC, on the weekend of Dec. 14-15.

The conference will feature speakers, a banquet, and a ceremony at the U.S. Supreme Court at noon Sunday honoring the 200th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Libertarians from all over the nation are expected to attend the two-day event.

The Committee for the Bill of Rights, which has been assisting local LP groups since last fall with coordination of education and celebration projects, plans to make this conference the finale of the LP Bill of Rights Project.

The conference will open at noon on Saturday, Dec. 14, with a welcome by Don Ernsberger, chair of the LP's Committee for the Bill of Rights. Ernsberger will outline the weekend's events and review the 1991 activity of the committee. At 12:15 p.m., the first panel will focus on the history of the Bill of Rights including its adoption and the various assaults upon it during its 200-year history.

The first major speaker of the day will be Kevin Zeese, vice president and counsel of the Drug Policy Foundation in Washington, DC, a lawyer, and a long-time activist in the drug legalization movement. Zeese, who was one of the founders of NORML in the 1960s, will detail the specific legal erosions that have occurred to the Bill of Rights as a result of the War on Drugs.

Following Zeese's speech, a panel drawn from the political left and right will discuss



the attacks on the Bill of Rights that are coming from special interest groups, ranging from religious morality organizations and feminist groups to crime reform lobbies. The panel will demonstrate that the erosion of support for the Bill of Rights has come from all ends of the American political spectrum.

The second major speaker of the day will be Larry Pratt, president of the Gun Owners of America (GOA). The GOA has taken the lead in total opposition to the erosion of the Second Amendment and has seriously challenged the NRA as the most consistent supporter of gun rights in the U.S. Pratt will outline the steady decline

in Second Amendment rights and the current attacks on the right of the people to bear arms.

Following Pratt's talk, a panel will be held addressing action projects individuals can participate in to help defend and educate on the Bill of Rights. The panel will include representatives from groups promoting jury rights, free speech, anti-censorship, gun ownership, and privacy rights.

The Saturday evening banquet will feature Clint Bolick, who recently formed the Institute for Justice in Washington, DC. The Institute for Justice advances legal

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# LP Is Now Effective, Team Effort

At times it seems amazing to me that the Libertarian Party is, in fact, a functioning, growing organization.

Consider the personality profile of the early Libertarian activist: fiercely independent, self-reliant, skeptical of power and authority, disinclined to allow the government (or anyone else, for that matter) to dictate his or her choices in life. An appealing character, certainly, but not the typical description of a person willing to work as a team player in any kind of organization.

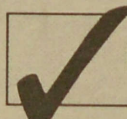
Many early Libertarians had only their ultimate goal in common: to achieve, somehow, a freer society. They also agreed, at some level, that political activity was the best way to achieve this goal. Beyond these basic ideas, however, Libertarians have had many different ideas about exactly what political steps the Libertarian Party should take to pursue its goal. As a result, Libertarians have often had a hard time working comfortably within the organizational setting of the Party.

I think that this is changing. I think that Libertarians are finding it easier to work on a team, in campaigns and other local projects, as well as at the national and state levels of our organization.

Why? As we have grown, we have not just attracted other solitary individuals, but have reached out to people with experience in organizational settings throughout our society. Businesspeople, school teachers, medical professionals, lawyers, political organizers: people who have put together a team, or worked on a team, and who know that success is possible through this kind of teamwork.

In the process of recruiting these different kinds of people into the Libertarian Party, we have alienated some of our more individualistic members, who confuse any attempt to encourage them to work within an organizational structure as a coercive attempt to control them.

Luckily, however, we have been able to retain many more of those people with less organizational experience, who better understand the difference between government coercion and voluntary association with a group of like-minded people. I think they are beginning to appreciate what can be accomplished through voluntary group action, and learning the nuts and bolts of



## From the Chair

Mary Gingell, LP National Chair

teamwork from our newer members.

I'd like to recognize and express my appreciation for a real team effort that has taken place since our national convention over Labor Day weekend.

Due to an unforeseen circumstance, the day after the convention I was making plans to move, within a month's time, from California to Miami, FL. Although I had planned not to lose too much time out of my work as national chair due to the move, logistical arrangements always take much longer than you hope they will. In a word, since the convention, I have been swamped with personal concerns.

At the National Committee meeting immediately after the convention, I had announced that several committee chairs would be continuing in their jobs, and that I was rearranging several other committee assignments. I also asked the other officers, besides performing their regular functions, to join me in reorganizing our committee structure in time for our December meeting.

Two days later, I jumped into planning and making my move across country. I kept in contact with other LP officers, and key committee chairs, but not nearly as much as I would have liked to do.

And yet, the work of the LP has gone forward, and current as well as former National Committee members, as well as National Director Nick Dunbar and our national staff, have shown a tremendous ability to work together as a team, even when their team leader has been sidelined temporarily.

In particular, I'd like to thank Vice Chair Steve Dasbach, who has been reorganizing the Affiliate Parties Committee functions in the wake of a resignation by our contractors, as well as negotiating an operating agreement between the LP and the Marrou for President campaign; Secretary Joe Dehn, who, besides producing minutes for our Executive Committee and National Committee meetings, distributing prospect names to state parties, and

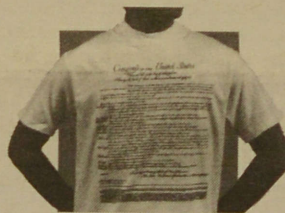
running the Liberty and LPUS bulletin board echoes, is overseeing the reorganization planning for our educational activities; and Treasurer Bill Redpath, who is in the process of installing a new accounting system while at the same time managing our ballot access efforts.

Thanks also to Gary Johnson, Steve Givot, Geoff Neale, George O'Brien, and Ron Crickenberger, who have continued in charge of media relations, program, convention oversight, internal education, and Campaign 91/92, respectively. Don Ernsberger, Dan Karlan, Thea McLean, and Bill Hall have begun working on their new assignments: management, outreach, membership, and legal action.

Special thanks go to Karen Allard, our new finance chair, who has taken on a mammoth task and is diligently addressing each fundraising area to determine how we can best achieve our financial goals. With only minimal direction from me, Karen has made real progress toward solidifying our funding base for 1992 and beyond.

I am settling into my new home, and I look forward to working closely with these people, as well as the other new and returning National Committee members, over the next two years.

I hope our local LP groups around the country can replicate this team spirit and implement many successful campaigns and projects in the years to come.



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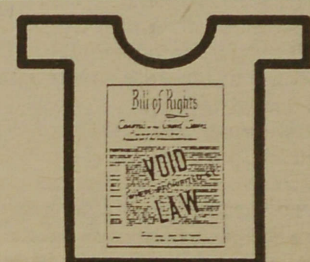
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## New LP Plank

The following new plank of the Libertarian Party Platform was adopted at the recent national convention:

### FAMILY LIFE

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### Now... the T-Shirt!

The Bill of Rights: Void Where Prohibited by Law T-Shirt is now available. This 50/50 beige shirt has the Bill of Rights in black on the front with "Void Where Prohibited By Law" stamped over in red. Available in sizes S- XL for \$11 from:

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## Libertarian Party NEWS

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# Young Libertarian Finds Free Speech Has Limits

By David Bank  
Mercury News Staff Writer

When 12-year-old Allen Hoffman Jr. took some newspaper articles with an unconventional viewpoint on the War on Drugs to Crittenden Middle School in Mountain View (CA) this week, Vice Principal Len Jacques just said no.

The precocious seventh-grader was pulled out of class, brought to Jacques' office, forced to hand over the articles, and told not to bring the material onto school grounds again.

"I told him, 'Anything that alludes to political statements that you believe in, or your dad believes in, you can't profess to other kids,'" Jacques said in an interview.

The articles included a column in the *Mercury News* written by former San Jose Police Chief Joseph McNamara that concluded that the War on Drugs is being lost. They also included reprints from the *Pittsburgh Press* that detailed abuses of police powers in the seizure of assets from suspected drug dealers.

"If I were old enough to vote, I'd vote Libertarian," said the blond-haired Allen, who articulately explained his political views while sipping a Coke outside his family's Rengsdorff Avenue apartment.

Allen said he has been raising questions about the accuracy of the school's anti-drug programs since he was in fifth grade, challenging the statements that marijuana has no medical uses and suggesting that legalization of drugs would eliminate much criminal activity.

None of his classmates shares his views, he said. But he gets lots of support from his father, also a Libertarian.

"It seems that my son's civil liberties were directly violated," the older Hoffman said. "He's expressed himself before and gotten into trouble."

The younger Hoffman brought the articles to school after a discussion of constitutional rights in his social studies class. Allen said his teacher had promised to read the articles.

On Monday, Allen was showing some of the articles to a friend during the short "advisory" period before his first period

"I told him, 'Anything that alludes to political statements that you believe in, or your dad believes in, you can't profess to other kids.'"

— Vice Principal Len Jacques

math class. When class started, Jacques went to the classroom and brought Allen back to his office. Allen said Jacques took the material and said he could retrieve it after school.

"But he said I couldn't bring it back to school because, by reading it, other kids could see it and get interested in it," Allen said. "If it was DARE-stuff (drug abuse resistance education, a police-sponsored program for fifth-graders) or 'Just Say No,' he wouldn't care..."

Principal Jim Lianides said the school did not intend to abridge Allen's First Amendment rights, only to prevent him from disrupting classes. Lianides said Allen was free to bring any material he wanted and share it with classmates at recess and lunch.

Allen said he'll continue to read and develop his political ideas. And even though he differs with the way the school promotes its anti-drug message, he has no interest in trying drugs himself.

*This article was reprinted with permission from the San Jose Mercury News, Oct. 4, 1991.*

## Victory in AK

As we were going to press, the NEWS learned that Libertarian Mike Wiley was elected to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board in Alaska. Wiley received 41 percent in a three-way race.

Also in Alaska, Lynn House made a great showing in her two-way race for the Fairbanks City Council. House received 46 percent of the vote to the Republican incumbent's 54 percent.

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# U.S. Supreme Court Refuses Review of LP Lawsuit in GA

In early October, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the ruling on the exclusion of third-party candidates from debates carried on state-run public television stations.

The case was appealed to the high court by Walker Chandler and Carole Ann Rand, the LP's candidates for lieutenant governor and governor of Georgia in last fall's election.

The court's decision not to review the ruling of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is a defeat for the Libertarian Party.

"Unfortunately, I think it is a blow to the party on a national basis, because now there is a further precedent that we have to fight—this uphill battle of being excluded from the debates," Rand said.

While a federal district court had originally ruled that the debates could not be aired on Georgia public television without the participation of the Libertarian candidates, the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission (GPTC) appealed to the 11th Circuit Court, which ruled 2-1 that the Libertarian candidates could be barred from the "forum."

The majority wrote that "were GPTC a medium open to all who have a message, whatever its nature, GPTC would function as a marketplace of ideas."

GPTC, however, is not such a medium."

The majority said that GPTC was simply making an editorial decision in restricting the debate to the two older-party candidates.

Judge Thomas Clark, in dissent, however, wrote that the First Amendment "forbids the state from selectively choosing which qualified candidates can and cannot debate."

He wrote that while "it may be justifiable for private broadcasting networks to broadcast debates that exclude qualified candidates... the purposes behind public broadcasting are significantly different from those behind commercial, competitive television."

Clark wrote that "in the context of non-competitive programming, the government's stated rationale for excluding the Libertarians—that their views are less newsworthy than those of other candidates—seems especially weak and not a little ironic."

Rand said, "It was really clear that our lawyers did a bang-up job of putting the case together, and out-did the high-paid, high-powered lawyers hired by the other side, in terms of the quality of their presentations. I think it is a mistake for the case not to have been heard."

"Naturally, we are all disappointed," Rand said.

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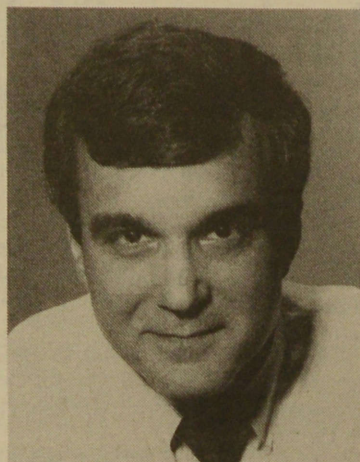
## Blake 3rd in AL Mayoral Race

Dr. Jimmy Blake, chair of the Alabama LP, finished third in a six-way race for mayor of Birmingham in early October.

Blake, who had entered the race only about one month before the election, received nearly 4 percent of the vote, and defeated the two Republican candidates as well as a candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. Two Democratic candidates, including winner and incumbent mayor Richard Arrington, finished ahead of Blake.

Blake's campaign focused on four issues: elimination of the city sales tax on groceries; privatization of the city zoo, public housing, museums, and other concerns; school choice; and decreased property and other taxes.

Newspaper and radio coverage of Blake's campaign forced the other candidates in the race to respond to some of his suggestions. Blake took out a color, full-page ad in *The Birmingham News* which drew a great deal of attention to his campaign.



Dr. Jimmy Blake defeated his Republican opponents in the Birmingham, AL, mayoral race.

## Groupe Makes Strong Showing In Special NH Legislative Race

Alan Groupe, LP candidate for New Hampshire state representative in Milford, received 28.8 percent of the vote in a special election in early October.

Although only Groupe and a Republican appeared on the ballot, a Democratic candidate ran a very strong write-in campaign. Although the Republican won the

seat, Groupe defeated the Democrat and once again clearly demonstrated the strength of the LP in New Hampshire.

Groupe's principal campaign issue was abortion rights—the Republican was “no choice, no exception.” The Republican candidate spent most of the campaign attacking Groupe and the LP platform.

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## FDA Takes Aim at Life Extension Foundation

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has told lawyers representing The Life Extension Foundation that criminal charges will be filed against the leaders of The Foundation very soon. It was stated that Foundation President Saul Kent and Vice-President Bill Faloon would be dragged off the streets, thrown into jail, and left there to await trial.

The FDA is threatening to charge Foundation leaders with “promoting the use of unapproved drugs,” Faloon said.

“We are referring people around the world to products that have not been FDA approved,” Faloon explained. “We have a directory of clinics that we feel have some real value, and of course we tell people it is up to you to check these out thoroughly. But many of these people we have a lot of confidence in their track records, and we say here’s a place to go for cancer therapy, alzheimer’s therapy,” and other treatments. “We’ve spent a lot of years putting all this information together, and the FDA is doing everything possible to suppress that information, as you can imagine,” Faloon said.

The FDA said that every effort would be made to deny Kent and Faloon bail, and that the only way they could avoid this brutal assault would be to agree to shut down The Foundation, plead “guilty” to some “crime”, and serve 36 months in prison, according to Foundation leaders.

“The FDA is trying to defy the U.S. Constitution by imprisoning its most outspoken political opponents without any possibility of bail,” Foundation

leaders have stated. “The FDA thinks that by saying our activities are ‘illegal’ we are automatically ‘guilty’ of whatever imaginary ‘crimes’ they come up with. But this is America, not a totalitarian state! The Constitution says that anyone accused of a ‘crime’ must be proven guilty in a court of law!”

A Foundation news release stated that “in the past decade, The Life Extension Foundation has disseminated information about the latest scientific advances in order to help people live longer, healthier lives. The Foundation was the first to tell Americans about the enormous health benefits of Co-Enzyme-Q-10. We were the first to tell about the ability of Isoprinostine to improve immune function and lower the risk of AIDS. And we were among the first to reveal that nutrients such as Beta-Carotene, Vitamin E, and Selenium can lower the risk of cancer.”

The Foundation also said that it has “stacks of evidence about the benefits it has provided to the public. We challenge the FDA to provide even one shred of evidence that The Foundation has harmed the public in any way!”

Faloon said that Libertarians could help by writing “to congress to stop legislation that would give the FDA the power that they are really looking for. HR 2597 gives the FDA embargo power, arbitrarily, to come in and shut down a business for 20 days—no court order.”

For more information on The Life Extension Foundation, write 2490 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312 or call 1-800-841-LIFE.

## Border Issues Addressed

According to the statement of purpose of the newly formed Libertarian Border Issues Committee (LBIC), the “Border Patrol, INS, and Customs Service have a history of unprofessional conduct in the way of verbal and physical abuse against U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike, documented and undocumented.”

The LBIC, which was formed by Ricardo Duenez, a long-time LP activist in San Diego, is a private, non-profit, independent, self-appointed watchdog committee committed to doing the following: 1) to discreetly monitor the conduct of the U.S. Border Patrol, INS, and Customs officials; 2) to encourage and solicit the filing of complaints by persons who have been victims of unprofessional conduct or abuse by officials of these agencies; 3) to investigate, document, and publicize such incidents of unprofessional conduct and abuse, and to forward the documentation to various federal agencies, select members of Congress, and the media; 4) to work in cooperation with other organizations whose purpose and goals are similar in nature, and who do not advocate the initiation of physical force or violence to achieve their goals; 5) to monitor legislation and political issues involving immigration, customs, international trade and relations, and other “border” issues; 6) to advocate the libertarian position on such issues, and to lobby against more restrictive legislation or

greater powers by the agencies mentioned above; and 7) to be available as an informational resource and consultant on issues involving the border, immigration, customs, and other related matters.

For more information on the LBIC, write P.O. Box 3395, San Diego, CA 92163.

## Term Limits Upheld in CA

The California Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of the voter-approved term limits for state legislators and other elected officials.

In a 6-1 vote, the court ruled that it had a duty to “jealously guard the precious initiative power and to resolve any doubts in favor of its exercise.”

The term limits were part of Proposition 130 that imposed a six-year limit on state assembly members and an eight-year limit on state senators, the governor, and other officials.

Supporters of the term limits expect legislative leaders to appeal the decision to federal courts.

“The long term effect of the decision will be the crippling of one branch of state government: the state legislature,” said term limit opponent Sen. Ken Maddy of Fresno.



# From Campaigns to Outreach, States Busy

## Alaska

Long-time party activist **Lynn House** is running for a seat on the Fairbanks City Council. House has been active with the Interior Taxpayers Association and is focusing her campaign on taking a fiscally conservative stand on city spending and reducing government waste.

## Arizona

**Gay Lynn Goetzke**, LP candidate for mayor of Tucson, mailed out a survey to voters asking their opinions on issues facing the city, and one question asking, "What would you do if you were elected mayor?"

State party members **Kathy Harrer**, **Gary Fallon**, and **Don Markowski** recently testified for ballot access reforms in front of the Special Committee on Election Reforms of the state House of Representatives. They were pushing for passage of Senate Bill 1080, which would lower the signature requirement for ballot access from 21,109 to 5,000.

## California

**Jon Petersen**, chair of the Santa Clara LP, submitted four arguments against tax increases that will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. The measures involve school-related tax increases in four local school districts. The arguments were written by LP activist **Dave Thomas** and signed by Petersen, **Vicki Hargrove**, and **Mark Hinkle**. The county clerk accepted the Libertarian arguments and they will appear in the ballot pamphlets mailed to all voters in those districts.

**Dirk Voss**, an LP member from Huntington Beach, has been appointed to his city's Budget Task Force. Voss said he was excited about the possibilities of encouraging privatization.

The case of **Dixianne Hawks** (July NEWS), who was charged with jury tampering for passing out fully informed jury literature at the Butte County Courthouse, has been continued until December or January.

## Colorado

State party members are busy circulating petitions to get the Marrou/Lord ticket on the ballot. Members have also been getting signatures on petitions for tax limitation and election reforms.

**Keith Hamburger** of El Paso County has announced he will be running for U.S. Congress in the Fifth District in 1992.

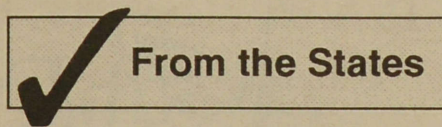
## Connecticut

State party members, led by state chair **Peter J. McNamara**, have joined forces with taxpayer organizations to fight a new state income tax. In early October, a large rally was held at the state capitol to protest the tax.

## Florida

LP vice presidential candidate **Nancy Lord** visited the state in early October. She was the keynote speaker at a two-day workshop that addressed ballot access, local campaigns, and problems of growth. "As at the national level, the Florida LP is overwhelmed with inquiries and additions to the mailing list. Coping with the influx is a problem we love," said state activist **Charles Manhart**.

Lord appeared on several radio talk



## From the States

Activities noted in newsletters and news releases

shows and received some excellent publicity in an article in the *Tampa Tribune*, one of the state's largest newspapers.

Election law changes will allow candidates to run as Libertarians for the first time for state and local offices in 1992.

## Hawaii

State chair **Ken Schoolland** of Honolulu has been traveling to the other islands helping to set up local LP chapters and has received some excellent publicity during his efforts.

## Idaho

The LP is now listed on the state income tax check-off list for voluntary donations. The state party expects to realize about \$3,000 this year from these voluntary donations.

## Indiana

State party members participated in events celebrating national Jury Rights Day on Sept. 5. One notice of the event was publicized in the *Village Merchant* newspaper of Rossville, which is owned and published by **Bill Brown**, a party member.

**Kevin Padfield**, of Kokomo, who recently joined the state party, had a letter-to-the-editor published recently in the national publication *Gun Week*. The letter urged gun owners to support the LP.

Three state party members are running active campaigns. **Brent Snow** is running for Kokomo City Council in this year's election. **Jimmy Funkhouser**, candidate for U.S. House, Eighth District, and **Steve Dillon**, candidate for U.S. Senate, already have their campaigns under way for the 1992 election.

## Kentucky

The state party has fielded a slate of candidates for this fall's election: **Ernest C. McAfee** for governor; **Paul Joseph Thiel** for lieutenant governor; **Mark Gailey** for secretary of state; **David Gailey** for treasurer; and **Dick Dickinson** for commissioner of agriculture.

State party members and husband-and-wife team **Ken Heil** and **Cindy Hack** are organizing and publicizing the Fully Informed Jury Association in the state. "I believe that FIJA has tidal wave possibilities, much like the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. I think that it is important for us to be on the crest of that tidal wave," Heil said.

## Michigan

The state party contracted with radio station WXYT-AM 1270 to run a series of radio spots. The 30-second ads promote Libertarian ideas. The first two spots resulted in 34 phone calls to the state party's 800-number. **Jim McAbee**, state party membership committee member, made the arrangements for this important outreach activity.

The LP of Washtenaw County has set

up a committee, headed by **David Raaflaub**, to initiate a petition drive to place on the ballot next spring a question of lowering the Ann Arbor city property tax.

## Missouri

An outreach booth was manned by state party members, including **Frank Williams**, at the Ozark Extravaganza in Rolla in early September.

## Montana

**Wesley Dietchler**, an LP activist who is in prison for refusing to obtain a driver's license, is organizing prisoners and educating them about individual rights.

State party members are actively involved in the FIJA movement, and the governor officially recognized Sept. 5 as Jury Rights Day.



## Nevada

**Wayne Rudolph**, state party treasurer, won the chairmanship of the Privatization and Taxation Committee of the Nevada Association of Independent Businesses (NAIB). The NAIB is a statewide group of independent business men and women organized to fight the business tax and to educate small business.

## New Hampshire

LP presidential candidate **Andre Marrou** made a 27-hour tour of the state in late September, meeting with members of the radio, television, and print media. Also included in Marrou's visit were a press conference at the Legislative Office Building in Concord, where he was formally endorsed by Libertarian State Rep. **Calvin Warburton**, and a speaking engagement before the Greater Manchester Jaycees.

The state party's outreach program, Project 20,000, signed up nearly 100 new people to the party's mailing list and distributed large amounts of libertarian literature in September alone. **Howard Wilson**, project coordinator, said volunteers during the month included **Brad Dorsey**, **Jack** and **Rhonda Keiper**, **Dick Quintal**, **Bill Spirdione**, **Michael Brunetti**,

**Scott Dupre**, and many others.

## North Carolina

The state party, with a great deal of help from Project 51-'92, collected over 64,000 signatures to achieve ballot access for the 1992 election. Although the signatures have not been completely validated, the state party believes they will have more than the required 43,601 valid signatures, and that the LP will be represented on the state ballot next year.

## Ohio

State party members have been very active in distributing anti-drug war and anti-censorship fliers. Thousands of these fliers have been passed out during community events this year by state activists like **Hugh Bolton**, **Matt Gaylor**, **Bill Hickman**, **Dena Brudigram**, **Tom Zuber**, and many others.

## Oregon

Party members, including **Bruce Knight**, **Bob fauvre**, **Jim Bell**, and **Doris Olsen**, participated in demonstrations in support of **Colin McCoy**. McCoy ran into difficulties with the IRS after several business disasters and is currently a fugitive.

A group sponsoring a term limit initiative in the state is calling itself LIMITS (Let Incumbents Mosey Into The Sunset).

## Pennsylvania

**Ray Masters** of the Pocono Libertarians reports that they have been active of late and getting lots of good publicity, too. Party members, including **Patrick Fallon**, distributed FIJA brochures outside the Monroe County Courthouse on Jury Rights Day. The LPers were warned not to give brochures to anyone wearing a juror's button. As police kept an eye on them—and a video camera as well—the party members not only conducted themselves properly, but spread the word about fully informed juries to passersby and the press. "The event went well," said Monroe County District Attorney E. D. Christine Jr. "They [the Pocono Libertarians] were very courteous."

## Texas

Members of the LP of Dallas County are running LP radio ads over KUII-1190 AM. The ads address the issues of taxes and

*continued on page 8*

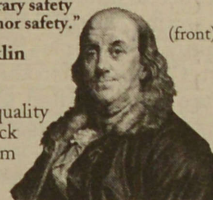
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# Who Is Running the Shop?

By George L. O'Brien  
Internal Education Chair

James Cook asks, "Why are state and local deficits mushrooming while garbage piles up, the streets become less safe, and the kids can't read properly?" (Forbes, May 13, 1991). He gives a surprising answer: public employee unions.

"Where the private sector struggled during the 1980s to become more efficient, learning to do more with fewer people, state and local bureaucracies went in the other direction: doing less with more people. Inflation has almost nothing to do with the problem. Between 1982 and 1988, for example, the employment cost index for the private sector rose 29 percent, while the index for state and local government workers climbed 39 percent."

Today, the public service unions have nearly 5 million members with nearly all of them supported by the taxpayers. Roughly 37 percent of all government workers, federal as well as state and local, are members of unions. By contrast, only 12 percent of private sector employees are in unions.

According to Audrey Freeman of the Conference Board, by the year 2000, he estimates public sector unions could account for 60 percent to 70 percent of all U.S. trade union members.

Is this a problem? According to Freeman, "In the public sector, bargaining is much more political. There is no competition, no countervailing force, as there is in private industry. Industry has to compete with other producers, and government does not."

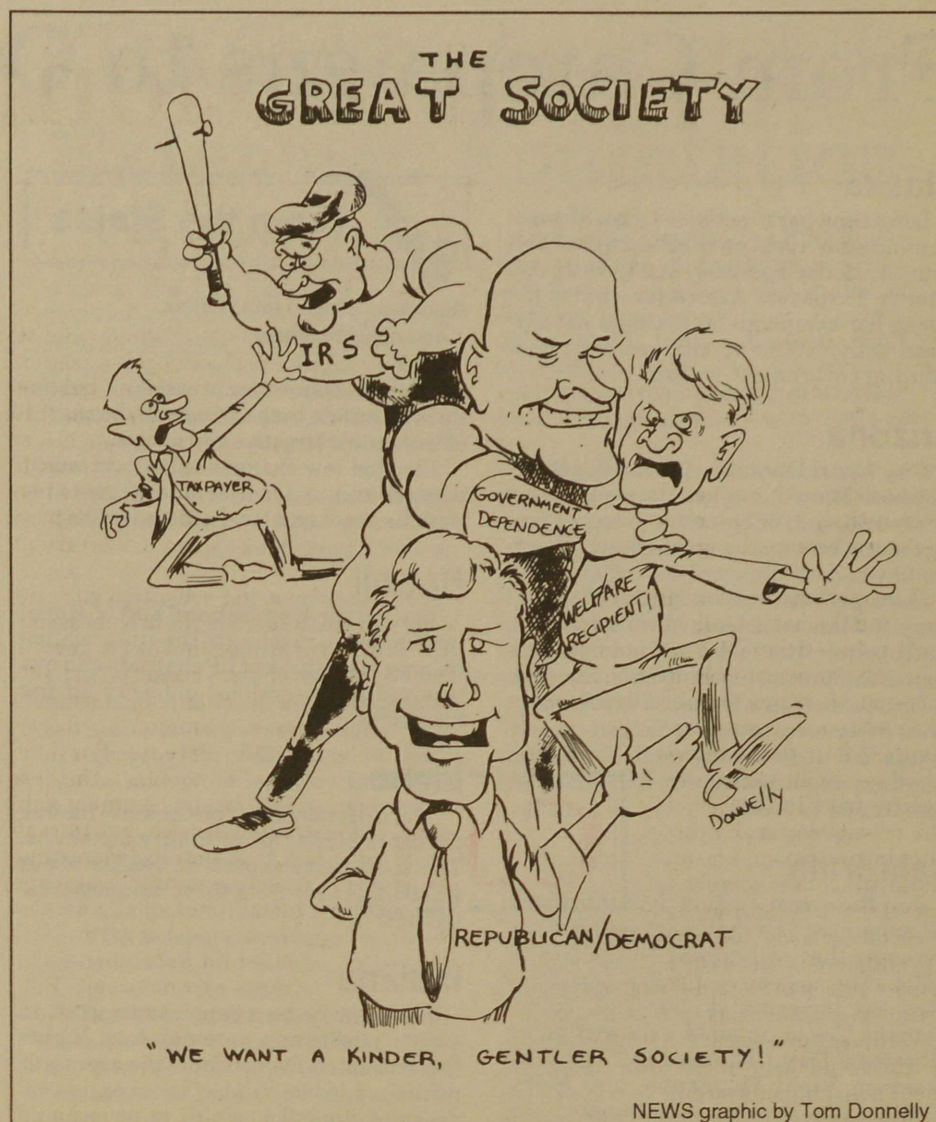
What has been the result? Between

“Where the private sector struggled during the 1980s to become more efficient, learning to do more with fewer people, state and local bureaucracies went in the other direction: doing less with more people.”

1980 and 1989, the number of government employees at the state and local level across the country grew twice as fast as the population. It was even worse in states such as Illinois where they increased four times as fast as the population. In Massachusetts it was six times as fast, while in New York it was seven times as fast as the population.

At the same time, the political clout of the public sector unions moved from wages to control of the workplace. According to Cook, "supervisory staffs grow and proliferate, while the number of people teaching, patrolling, or nursing stays stagnant or actually declines. In the last two decades, for instance, the ratio of students to staff members in the nation's elementary and secondary schools has dropped from roughly 13 to 9." This is 31 percent.

The resistance of the taxpayers to higher taxes has pushed some politicians to resist public sector unions. Yet historically the threat of strikes, massive union propaganda, and political contributions (financial as well as workers) to opponents has



"WE WANT A KINDER, GENTLER SOCIETY!"

NEWS graphic by Tom Donnelly

generally defeated efforts to control the public sector unions.

The lack of competition really hurts. As Cook put it, "You can't get money from a stone, or from a bankrupt city. But unions are trying. While an airline can be driven out of business by its unions, as Eastern was, a city must stumble along, even at the price of progressive decay of infrastructure and services. Let future politicians and voters worry about the bridges and tunnels. The unions understand this and can be counted on to exploit any opportunity that opens for them. What money there is will go to them."

The recession and budget crisis is helping to get politicians to resist more than in the past, but the unions are fighting back. According to Gerry McEntee of the State, County and Municipal Employees Union:

"You go right up the East Coast.

All Democrats, all people we support politically, and what's happening? Cutbacks, give backs, and no wage increases. We didn't have anything to do with the management of the state or the financial underpinnings, and we're the first people to be cut when there's any kind of pinch.

"We want to get involved in what happens to our pension money, how they work out the bond rating. We want to get involved in making decisions in terms of the tax base, in terms of priorities. We want to play a larger role in the formation of public policy, the formation of national policy, as it affects our people."

This is the road which was taken by the Scandinavian bureaucracies that have made them almost impervious to democratic control.

There is only one solution to this crisis: privatization. Economic forces would prevent exorbitant demands and would provide strong incentives to eliminate super-

visory bloat, duplication, featherbedding, and archaic data and information systems.

There is some evidence this is happening. Governor Weld, in Massachusetts of all places, is promoting a plan to privatize a number of state "services."

According to Malcom Forbes Jr., in referring to the plan:

"Parks, prisons, and state roads would all be maintained by the private sector. Court fees would be privately collected. Other possible assets for privatizing include the state's transportation authority and Boston-based Logan Airport, convention centers, and waste disposal plants.

"The private sector would provide most government services more efficiently. And there are numerous assets, such as airport and toll roads, that could be sold. Not only would government get cash, but they would also collect property taxes where they received none before.

"A survey by the Mercer Group, a management consulting firm, found that almost 100 percent of the local governments that have already privatized various services have been pleased with the results. But up to now this movement has been hobbled by ferocious opposition from public employee unions. Thanks to strapped budgets, however, governors, mayors, and local administrators will go the Weld way out of sheer necessity.

"Even union resistance may soften when workers realize that one increasingly likely alternative to privatization, thanks to voters' taxaphobia, could be a pink slip."

Privatization will become popular with the taxpayers once they begin to understand the role of public sector unions. For people who really care about their cities, privatization is the only answer.

## Statist Charities

By Dick Rider

Liberals like to characterize libertarians as uncaring, selfish people. Because we will not use force to rob Peter to give to Paul, somehow that makes us immoral. Obviously, the immoral action is committed by those who favor such theft, even when such theft is committed with what they perceive as the best of intentions.

There are three ways you can provide funds for the needy:

1. Donate your own money.
2. Persuade others to donate their money.
3. Use force and coercion to extract money from others against their will, be it individual theft or collective theft.

We support the first two options and reject the third.

Whether or not we are "selfish" is debatable (Objectivists love this topic). Ayn Rand would say that people give to a charity simply because they feel that is the best use of their funds, deriving the greatest personal satisfaction from that option. Thus donors make a "selfish" decision.

Regardless, many of us for various reasons donate money to charities. The problem comes when we donate to chari-

ties that then use our money to fund anti-libertarian activities.

Donations to United Way result in money being distributed to a hodgepodge of outfits. Some are advocates of socialism, seeking taxpayer funding of their chosen cause.

Groups like the American Cancer Society and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) use some of their contributions to lobby for laws to prohibit smoking and drinking, mandating prohibition. Others, who ostensibly help the poor, in reality use some of their funding to lobby for income redistribution schemes mandated by government. A number of churches support both domestic and international socialist ideals. Public television is with rare exception a broadcaster of collectivist claptrap.

Libertarians should try to contribute to genuine charities that operate on the voluntary principles we so fervently support. Consideration should also be given to the tax qualified libertarian think-tanks that are doing such a great job disseminating the ideals of freedom. Coercive "charities" should be both exposed and shunned.

Dick Rider is chairman emeritus of the San Diego Libertarian Party.



# Privatization: Good or Bad?

## Recipe for Liberty?

By Paul Grant

While many freedom advocates have backed "privatization" as a means to dismantle the state, one program or one asset at a time, the truth is that the "privatization" movement has been taken over by those most interested in maintaining and even expanding the role of government.

Libertarians supporting privatization now find themselves allied with "forward-looking" politicians and corrupt businessmen. By "forward-looking" politicians, I mean those willing to embrace new means to finance government activities, and those interested in new stratagems to destroy what little is left of the private sector. By corrupt businessmen, I mean those in business who don't care if they make money by methods closely akin to stealing—charging monopoly prices protected by exclusive government-granted franchises, encouraging government prosecution of would-be competitors who do business without government sanction, and so on.

A privately operated, government owned enterprise (or government-granted franchise), whether it be a convention center, toll road, airport, bus system, trash hauling service, wastewater treatment system, golf course, school, prison, fire or police protection service, or whatever—has a **license to steal**.

Anyone who contracts to perform a government service—building a road, a sewage treatment plant, or a space station, or collecting taxes, or supplying weapons for defense—is also engaged in stealing.

All governments are financed through theft. If we do business with governments, then we are beneficiaries of that theft, even if we are also victims. And we help create further victims by joining in "business" activities with the state.

One hideous recent example, quoting from the newsletter "Privatization Watch": "Pennsylvania's prison population... is growing rapidly and is expected to do so **as long as the state cracks down on crime** (bold face added). This means that in addition to Pennsylvania's immediate, short-term need for new state prisons, it also has a future, long-term need for new state prisons. Thus, say House Republicans, savings resulting from enactment of the Report's prison privatization proposals would almost certainly be multiplied in the years ahead."

So, privatization will be used to help the state crack down on crime. Knowing what state governments consider as crimes these days, it is an absolute certainty that prison privatization will assist the state in incarcerating innocent individuals. And privatization will reduce the burden on

the state for violating individual rights. And libertarians are pushing privatization!

Now that shrewd politicians understand privatization, they are using it to the fullest to reduce the strain on governments, so as to allow governments to continue to extend their reach without having to face as many constraints as existed in the past. Many of their ideas come from libertarians who should know better.

And they are using privatization to destroy what little is left of the private sector. Any businessman dependent on government contracts for his survival, is not likely to be an effective opponent of government

nor a champion of liberty. "Public-Private Partnerships" is a popular term these days for government-contracted service, but in reality it is nothing more than an expression for "state capitalism", or economic fascism. Whether advocated by Peter Ueberroth, a chamber of com-

merce, George Bush, or whomever, "Public-Private Partnerships" has nothing to do with freedom or free markets. It has a lot to do with the continued health of the state.

You cannot do business on government contracts without being at least partially corrupted in the process. You are not providing a legitimate service or product to a legitimate buyer in a free market. That lack of legitimacy permeates the entire process, from contract specification development (rig the specifications to favor your company); to the bidding process (submit the lowest price of any "qualified bidder"—knowing that some of your competitors are not qualified, or lose the contract) where you are encouraged to make "under-the-table" deals with prime contractors, or you won't get any business; to the contract administration process, where you desperately seek ways to recoup the money you had to give away during the bidding process.

Government contracts seek out the lowest common denominator, and they get it. Quality doesn't matter, ethics don't matter—getting the job does.

Once you are dependent on government contracts, you are no longer part of the free market. If we "privatize" enough government functions through contracting out, there won't be any private, free market sector left.

The state is the enemy of those who love liberty. Working with it to provide better roads or better schools won't provide more liberty, but will provide **more state legitimacy**.

Those who love liberty will do everything in their power to delegitimize the state. Privatization, as it is currently practiced, is not useful towards that end.

*Paul Grant is a former national chair of the Libertarian Party.*

# Con

## Steps Toward Liberty

By Robert W. Poole, Jr.

Paul Grant poses a challenge to libertarians. Privatization, he claims, is a sham. Because it often involves tax money or some other involvement by government—in other words, because it is not pure laissez-faire—libertarians should reject privatization as immoral and even counterproductive to our goal of working toward a free society. Let's look carefully at what privatization is, and whether it represents a net gain or a net loss for liberty.

First of all, the term covers at least four types of policies. In its purist form, privatization refers to the divestiture by government of certain activities, which will henceforth be carried out by private enterprise in the marketplace. Recent Reason Foundation studies proposing that cities sell major airports like LaGuardia and Los Angeles

International fall into this category. This form of privatization is going on around the world, from Poland to Portugal, Malaysia to Mexico, as governments downsize.

Asset sales, in principle, can hardly be objectionable to libertarians, given that they represent a clear-cut shrinking of the state. In most cases, the proceeds from the sale are used to pay off a portion of government debt (which reduces the need for future taxation or bond issues).

A second form of privatization is the use of the private sector to create new infrastructure, in some kind of contractual arrangement with government. Private toll roads, waste-to-energy plants, and sewage-treatment plants are beginning to be developed in this fashion. Typically, instead of using tax money to develop such infrastructure, a city or state will contract with a private firm for a period such as 35 years. On the strength of that agreement, the firm can raise private capital, design and build the project, and operate it for the 35-year period. It charges fees for the services and takes the risk that it correctly forecasts the demand for the project. At the expiration of the contract, the facility typically reverts to the city or state.

Not pure laissez-faire, to be sure. But isn't this a definite step forward, toward a world in which infrastructure like this is **expected** to be private enterprise rather than "public works"? Most of these projects involve little or no tax money, and in many of them (e.g., toll roads), the only people who pay are those who voluntarily choose to use them. Surely this is a less-statist way to obtain highways and waste-disposal facilities—and one that is achievable **today**.

A third form of privatization is the one against which Grant directs most of his attack: contracting out of the state or municipal services. In these cases, government purchases the service from one or more firms instead of producing it in-house, with civil servants. Tax money is used, but there's a wealth of evidence that competitive procurement leads to lower costs than monopoly in-house provision.

Contracting out is used for some services which could be provided directly to

customers by competing companies—garbage collection, for example. Libertarians should push for divestiture of those functions, rather than contracting out. But if that is further than local politics is able to go, libertarians should still cheer the shift from municipal monopoly to competitive contracting as a step in the right direction. Getting people used to private service providers is essential to the longer-range goal of truly privatizing these services.

In many other cases, however, contracting-out is the only form of privatization that makes sense, short of the creation of a libertarian utopia. As long as the streets

are owned by the city government, sweeping them, repairing them, and maintaining the traffic signals will be paid for by tax money. But since studies show that fewer tax dollars are needed if these functions are contracted out, libertarians should encourage

this tax-saving approach.

The fourth form of privatization is vouchers. In this case, instead of spending tax dollars to produce a service directly (e.g., schools), government is required to give the money directly to the users in the form of a voucher, which they can "spend" at any provider they choose. Libertarians have been debating the pros and cons of vouchers ever since Milton Friedman proposed the idea in the 1960s. There are dangers, of course, but many of us believe that a voucher program is the only approach toward breaking the public-school monopoly that is likely to succeed in today's political environment. Once the monopoly is broken, and people have become used to shopping around for schools, it will be time to push for further, more-libertarian reforms.

Reviewing the four privatization methods, we can see that there is **some** degree of government involvement in each of them. But each also represents a decrease in state power and control, and opportunities for private enterprises to expand or come into existence. Psychologically, each also provides an opportunity for ordinary citizens to learn that government need not provide the function in question—i.e., to delegitimize government as the service provider. That's a necessary precondition for them to support further rollbacks of government.

In short, Paul Grant looks at privatization and says the glass is half empty. I look at privatization and say the glass is half full. Which view is more likely to win elections and influence the debate, presenting libertarians as people with workable solutions?

There's an old saying that "the Best is the enemy of the Good." Holding out for utopia when it's not attainable can be the enemy of real steps toward reduced government and increased liberty.

*Robert Poole is president of the Reason Foundation and author of books, policy studies, and articles on privatization. He advised the President's Commission on Privatization and the U.S. and California departments of transportation on privatization issues.*

# Pro

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# Elections and Outreach

continued from page 5

education. The county group has been growing at a rapid pace since last year when it mailed copies of the World's Smallest Political Quiz to 20,000 homes in the area.

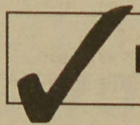
## Virginia

**Richard Sincere**, state party chair, is running for Arlington County Treasurer in a Nov. 5 election. Sincere ran for the state House of Delegates in a January special election. During that race, an *Arlington Journal* editorial characterized Sincere as "intelligent and well-spoken," saying he could "shake things up in Richmond."

Sincere said he is running not only to educate local voters about the Libertarian philosophy, but also because he has a chance to win. "The incumbent County Treasurer is vulnerable; his draconian tax collection policies are disdained throughout Arlington County, and the last time voters had a choice, he squeaked by his opponent with just 67 votes," Sincere said.

**Michael Ward** is also running in the same election for a seat on the Arlington County Board. Ward is facing two incumbent Board members and two other challengers. Ward said he is seeking the seat because "homeowners' rights are being trampled, working people are being taxed beyond their means, and small business owners are overburdened."

**Paul Gagnon** is running an active cam-



## From the States

Activities noted in newsletters and news releases

paign for Fairfax County Board Supervisor for the Lee District. He has been getting a lot of good publicity. Gagnon has been an active member of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance.

## Wisconsin

The state of Wisconsin issued the 1991-92 edition of the Wisconsin Blue Book in September, complete with the entire LP platform, state party officers, and the national 800 number.

The LPWI won the privilege to have that information published when it qualified for "recognized political party" status at last November's election.

The Blue Book will be distributed to thousands of Wisconsinites as well as all public libraries in the state, giving easy access to Libertarian ideas to Wisconsin's 4.8 million residents.

## Wyoming

State chair **Craig McCune** reports that the state party is networking with a variety of community groups ranging from homeschoolers to city representatives.

# Bill of Rights Events

continued from page 1

theories that merge personal and economic rights. Bolick will evaluate the state of justice in America today in a look at court cases, public policy debate, and legal theory. The banquet, which will offer a choice of either roast sirloin of beef or baked flounder, will be preceded by a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, conference attendees and many other libertarians from the Washington, DC, area will gather at the U.S. Supreme Court building at noon to participate in a ceremony honoring the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. At that ceremony, which will receive national TV coverage, speakers will offer the Libertarian Party's concerns about the erosion of the Bill of Rights and the importance of that document.

The conference will be held at the Quality Hotel Capitol Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The hotel has established special room rates for attendees who reserve rooms prior to Nov. 10 (\$70 single or double). The cost of the conference will be \$25 if paid to the national office prior to Dec. 1, and \$30 at the door. The cost of the banquet and speakers will be \$35. The entire weekend package will be available for pre-registration at a price of \$50. This package includes all panels, speakers, the banquet, and the U.S. Supreme Court ceremony.

In addition to the conference, the LP National Committee will be meeting the same weekend at the same hotel. For more information or to receive an informational brochure, write or phone the LP headquarters at 202-543-1988.

## Conference Agenda

### Saturday, December 14, 1991

10 am: Registration Opens

12 Noon: Conference Opening Welcome by Don Ernsberger, chair of the Committee for the Bill of Rights, Libertarian Party

12:15 pm: Panel on the History of the Bill of Rights, 1791-1991

1 pm: Kevin Zeese, Drug Policy Institute, speaks on "The War on Drugs and the Bill of Rights"

2 pm: Panel on the Assault on the Bill of Rights in America today

3 pm: Larry Pratt, Gun Owners of America, speaks on "The Assault on the Second Amendment"

4 pm: Panel on Action Projects

5:30-6:30 pm: Cocktail Hour

6:30-9 pm: Banquet with Clint Bolick, Institute for Justice, speaks on "The Bill of Rights and the Future of Justice in America"

### Sunday, December 15, 1991

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# Letters: Social Security, Guns, Neighbors

## Social Security

I joined the LP with some trepidation because I am on Social Security disability and the LP calls for the abolition of Social Security. I agree now with the position that the forcible extraction of money from the productive for the unfortunate is immoral. Such assistance should come voluntarily out of compassion, as advocated by the LP.

Will the unfortunate receive assistance in the event of a LP victory? Why I think the answer to this question is yes may reassure others who are in my situation.

First of all the people of America privately donate now to the tune of 100 billion dollars a year to the less fortunate. This is an amount that is in the same order of magnitude as the federal government. Secondly, if the social assistance of the government were privatized then the reduced overhead from the far greater efficiency would make the burden much less. This reduced burden would be much more likely and easily met. Finally, the mere fact that the American people tolerate wasteful government social assistance programs shows that there is widespread good will for the less fortunate.

With these facts in mind I think it is fair to say that the disabled and truly needy have nothing to fear and much to gain from a Libertarian Party victory.

**Michael Plantz**  
Renick, WV

## Thanks

I'd like to publicly thank all the people who helped with our New Jersey state party mailing from the national convention in Chicago.

In addition to my fellow New Jerseyans, I'm especially grateful to the neighboring delegates and passersby from Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and I've probably left someone out. Plus, logistical advice from Sue Walton of LEI, Pat Peterson of Heartland, and the hotel—and a few good words from Andre Marrou.

It was wonderful to have total strangers offering to help, "just because." Then again, maybe it's exactly the kind of voluntarism this movement is all about.

When the dust settles, I'm betting this will be one of our most successful mailings ever, and I couldn't have done it without you all.

**Sam Edelman**  
Development Coordinator, NJLP  
Metuchen, NJ

## LP and Guns

I am astonished and dismayed by your decision to give front-page prominence (September NEWS) to the gun-nut ravings of L. Neil Smith. The return to the LP of this "award winning" author (who is by no means an important figure) should be a cause for embarrassment, not celebration.

If I may state the obvious, guns are designed to kill people, and they tend to encourage an authoritarian mindset. I am deeply suspicious of any ex-gunsmith, ex-cop who seems to take active delight in exercising his male ego via a device that exists for purposes of destruction.

I am a gun-owner myself, but unlike Smith, I'm not too thrilled about it. I own a gun simply because I distrust the non-libertarian society in which I live. If the society were truer to libertarian principles, citizens would respect my rights, government would exercise less power over my life, and I would feel less need to be armed. Ultimately, in a libertarian utopia, guns would be quite unnecessary. If the LP is serious about eschewing the initiation of force, this should be its ideal: pacifism, not militarism.

If you're going to give front-page space to the childish rant of a bully like Smith, advocating increased gun ownership, why stop there? Why not give equal space to an ex-dope dealer advocating heavier drug use? This comparison is actually quite fair. Libertarians believe in drug legalization just as much as in removal of gun controls. Drugs are less dangerous than guns, since they affect only the user. An article by an ex-dope dealer would surely be less offensive than an interview with an ex-cop whose uniform gave him the spurious authority to push other people around. And, using Smith's specious logic, I'm sure that if we advocated wider drug use, we could pick up some votes among dopers who feel disenfranchised by the Bush Administration.

The moral should surely be obvious. It is one thing to defend a freedom, but quite another to advocate that people should exercise that freedom indiscriminately.

**Charles Pratt**  
New York, NY

## Responses

I would like to respond briefly to three letters in the September NEWS.

First, Karl Peterjohn wants our candidate to accept contributions exceeding \$1,000. I don't think this is a good idea—I fear that voters would see us as an inward-looking party that wants to be financed by a few rich Libertarians.

Second, new member Kevin Baxter worries that voting for the LP might elect the greater of two evils. However, we are beginning to grow now, so that dissatisfied voters will turn to us. "Greater of two evils" politicians will simply make conditions worse, faster. Voters will turn to us faster. My advice: vote your conscience!

Finally, Dave Pendleton worries that far-out ideas will turn off voters. He is right, unless our literature can point out a place where a "far-out" idea is being tried successfully. Otherwise, I think that the Clark campaign literature would be an excellent model for the 1992 campaign. If a few voters want a detailed discussion of our final goal, they can be steered toward other libertarian books and articles.

**George N. Smith**  
New Hartford, CT

## Animal Rights

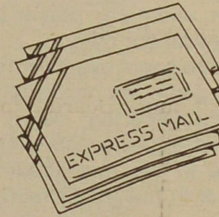
I believe there are some serious anthropocentric (nature as property) limitations at the very core of libertarian thinking that will keep us from reaching millions of Americans in the coming months and years.

Nature as resources for production in the free market. If that's all nature is in libertarian thinking we are not going very far as a third party (or we might prosper as a party only to participate in accelerated specicide and our ultimate self-destruction). Just how anthropocentric is our idea of liberty? Is nature free to evolve? Do animals and trees have rights, natural rights? Do species have rights to their genetic integrity as modified by natural selection or are their genes our property to engineer as we choose for fun and profit? Do we need wilderness areas outside both public and private domains?

The largest local demonstration I have participated in during the past ten years (and I get to many) was for animal rights. It is an important and relatively unrepresented constituency. I can't think of any issue that is more important than genetic engineering and the totally utilitarian worldview it implies. If the libertarians want to speak to all people, young and old, who are seeking spiritual

renewal, a more caring world, our positions on animal rights and genetic integrity are very important.

**Charles M. H. Keil**  
Buffalo, NY



## Democracy

Every libertarian has heard democracy defined as "two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner." Democracy is generally portrayed among libertarians as little more than a mechanism for lazy parasites to vote themselves a living at the expense of the producers.

This is a flawed and dangerous assertion. It is flawed because it confuses the general concept of democracy (rule of the people) with majoritarianism (rule by the majority). Consensus and autoarchy are also forms of democracy, which are obviously compatible with libertarian principles. The free market itself can be considered a type of democracy, as the word is commonly used, in that the decisions are made by the people (consumers, workers, investors) rather than by an authority.

It is dangerous because the rejection of democracy implies to most people the embrace of tyranny. We cannot afford to give the impression that we advocate rule by an elite, especially when this is far from our real position. The current problems of government

stem more from elitism than from democracy.

Democracy is part of our American libertarian heritage. It is a necessary condition for a legitimate libertarian government. We should embrace it, and educate people about its proper limits, instead of giving people a false impression about us for the sake of a joke.

**Bruce Baechler**  
Austin, TX

## Good Neighbors

A libertarian is a person who works at being a good neighbor. This is a definition which explains every article of our movement. Karl Hess said being a good neighbor is an important part of being a libertarian. Instead it is the entirety. Every libertarian belief, when applied, goes to making us better neighbors.

What do we want of the police? We want them to act as good neighbors. What do we want of government? We want government to be a good neighbor. What is our foreign policy? America should become a good neighbor to the world. What is our ecological policy? We should be good neighbors to the rest of nature.

In meeting non-libertarians we have four seconds to gain their interest and approval. By any medium, this does it. Four seconds to say twelve words that explain our entire faith. Four seconds to seize the high ground. A libertarian is a person who works at being a good neighbor.

**Charles Manhart**  
Callahan, FL

*continued on page 10*

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# More Letters: Crime, the NEWS, and More

continued from page 9

## Convention Views

I have just returned from my first LP national convention and I found it a stimulating and rewarding experience. Most rewarding of all was the opportunity to meet and discuss liberty with Libertarians from across the country. It was truly astonishing and gratifying to see the enormous number of intelligent (and diligent) people who are involved with the LP. Even more gratifying for those of us who have been involved with the LP for many years was the tremendous diversity of Libertarians at the convention. There were doctors, lawyers, businesspeople, but also truck drivers and carpenters. There were Libertarians of every racial and ethnic background.

Especially gratifying was the pervasive involvement of women in all aspects of the LP. Women played a decisive role in planning and running the convention, in drafting platform planks, and in floor deliberations. Mary Gingell was elected national chair and most importantly, Nancy Lord was nominated for vice president of the United States.

The increasing diversity of the LP is an important development, but we should redouble our outreach to groups which are receptive to our message. In diversity there is strength, and with strength will come victory.

**Steven Pencall**  
Diamond Bar, CA

## Platform Procedures

A couple of thoughts on the national convention, at which I was a delegate:

Can we not streamline the platform process? After going to the trouble of having a platform committee meeting and report, we still had a free-for-all on the convention floor, with many people slowing down the voting with amendments-to-the-amendments, in many cases opening up vast subjects that could be argued for years, such as the proposal to advocate the abolition of all bankruptcy laws, to be debated in the fifteen minutes before lunch.

Secondly, even when we had the language changes in front of us, there was not usually time to compare carefully.

Third, after many votes there was bewilderment on the floor as to what it was we had just voted on.

Perhaps the platform representative of each state should hold a meeting at the state convention, or solicit suggestions between then and the national convention, and narrow the changes down before they come to the floor. I would prefer to do it all by mail, so I can compare alternate language and read detailed arguments on each side.

**Fred Cookinham**  
Brooklyn, NY

## Name Change

Dave Walter discussed an intriguing proposal, that being for the LP to change its name from "Libertarian" to "Liberty" Party. He mentioned several procedural objections, but seemed to come down slightly on the side of favoring the suggestion. I have a few objections which I think are not trivial.

First, even if we change the name of the party, we members would still be "Libertarians"—that is the word for an individual corresponding to the principles of Liberty (as in "civil libertarians"). That hurdle would not be jumped without substantial trauma to the language (or our reputations). And as long as we are "libertarians," why not call our political party the "Libertarian" Party.

Second, and I think even more telling: calling us the Liberty Party might be seen,

especially by some whom we most would like to reach, as a cheap trick. It would come across almost as if we called ourselves the "Good" or "Nice" Party. The term "liberty" is too broad, at least in our culture, and at the same time everybody thinks he has an idea of what it means, and many people's ideas conflict radically with our own.

Finally, we have spent over two decades defining the word and the philosophy: how do we justify scrapping that history in the interests of the questionable motive of making our name more in the mainstream? Our philosophy is not in the mainstream—why pretend it is?

**Dan Karlan**  
Waldwick, NJ

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I fully support a change to the name Liberty Party. I believe that voters would be much more likely to vote in a kneejerk reaction for something familiar and patriotic like "Liberty" than something cerebral and unfamiliar like "Libertarian." Keep the party symbol of the Statue of Liberty for "icon" recognition.

In order to appeal to people who don't agree with all of our party planks, but support us enough to join us, why don't we create a special kind of membership for them. Something to keep them in and learning about us, but not be confused with full-blooded Libertarians. Does this make sense to anybody?

**Mark Sulkowski**  
Buffalo, NY

## International Outreach

The Vlaams-Nederlandse Communicatie Organisatie is a Belgian non-profit pedagogical and cultural organization, that has intensive contacts with schools and universities from all over the world.

During the last five weeks we have received thousands of letters from boys, girls, and adults from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, South Africa, and Poland that would like to correspond in English with their peers (youngsters or adults, even families) from the U.S., because they know so little about this country.

That's why we would like to ask your readers to write us if they want to correspond with someone. As the V.N.C.O. is a non-profit organization, your readers should not enclose money. The applications (with full name, address, sex, age, and hobbies) can be sent to: V.N.C.O., t.a.v. de heer G. De Maerschalck, Kluistraat 1, B-2880, Bornem, Belgium.

**Geert De Maerschalck**  
Belgium

## Crime

Two necessary things for understanding the crime issue are to recognize that the same word "crime" is used for two distinctly different things and that government is the creator of most crimes.

In simpler and earlier times, it was assumed that what was law and what was morally right would always closely approximate one another; but in our complex modern world, the divergence between the two has grown vast indeed.

Government creates crime in many important ways, the most notable of which is by definition. With national and state legislatures working full-time for hundreds of years doing nothing except creating crime where there previously had been no crime, government has created a lot of crime and continues to do so, thinking it to be their only job in life.

The LP simply must play a larger part in



the defense of freedom! The LP cannot be content to sit back and hope that more people will eventually come around to their way of thinking, thus allowing the LP to finally get something done. Conversely, it is the doing of something by the LP that will rally people to our cause. We need to be visibly doing something to stop the police state snowball, and seeing this, others will rally with us.

**Gerald L. Sprouse**  
Ooltewah, TN

## Reckless Spending

[Recently] President Bush stated he would not extend jobless benefits because he didn't want to "bust the budget." It was also written that he stated, "the plan was too costly" and then argued "that it would guarantee a less bright future because of its reckless spending."

Funds allocated to assist jobless Americans is not "reckless spending"; excessive tax money given to congressmen, so they can make over \$125,000 a year is "reckless spending."

Perhaps President Bush has better plans for hard-earned tax money, such as: more raises for congressmen; Barbara Bush's books published "Millie the dog"; more fabricated wars and harassment for impoverished countries; more government paid automobile and airplane rides for chief of staff John Sununu; and the exhuming of dead presidents for arsenic testing.

Clearly, the president needs a further look at the term "reckless spending." And hopefully, American voters will show their "appreciation" for his "reckless spending" at the polls during the next presidential election.

**Victor Arthur Schirmer**  
Danbury, CT

## Comments on the NEWS

I am very proud of the professionalism apparent in the September issue of the NEWS. However, I would like to see the news sectioned off into regular columns on the issues of taxation, drug and sex prohibition, ballot access, U.S. imperialism, etc., to the extent practical.

Another issue which I would like to learn about is the allegations of involvement of our beloved President George Herbert Hoover Bush in the Iran/contra scandal and the October fix. If there is a chance for world peace, it would be in impeaching Bush, who might not be as evil as Hitler, but certainly has the capacity to start a new world war, and probably would do so if it saved his "new world order."

**Mark J. Simon**  
Chatsworth, CA

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I've been a member of the Libertarian Party for two or three years and helped with Ron Paul's campaign in 1988. This is the first year I've also paid up on my national membership and I must say I'm amazed at how off-the-wall and unprofessional and senselessly radical the national paper is compared to the California party news or Ron Paul's political report.

Do we need the money so bad from Herb Booth's childish advertisements that we risk turning off the majority of our readers?

**Chris Marquis**  
Hollywood, CA

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

When I sent in my check to join the LP it wasn't just to support the cause, it was also to receive the newsletter. I wanted information about the party and Libertarian causes and issues.

However, I must admit, in the two years of receiving the newsletter I've never read one through. It is the most boring, tedious thing I've ever read. It seems to be an insider's paper on party administration, instead of party ideas.

And once in a while, lighten up! Humor is the best way to get your material read. Please consider a format with less party bureaucracy and more new ideas.

**Mary Jo K. Paque**  
Milwaukee, WI

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

I want to compliment you on your editing of the NEWS. . . [In the past the NEWS] devoted a little too much space to philosophical pieces. For me, the NEWS is a newspaper and should concentrate on providing news. Your exciting and timely efforts keep LP members informed and enthusiastic. Please keep up the good work and continue to report the hopefully momentous events of the next 14 months.

**Arthur C. Barker**  
Springfield, IL

## Ron Paul

I heartily applaud your decision to report to your readers that Ron Paul is "testing the waters" for a possible challenge to George Bush in the Republican primaries.

There are many ways in which the LP could have responded to this development. The LP leadership could have chosen to ignore it. Even worse, LP leaders could have chosen to denounce the move, with the view that a Ron Paul candidacy could inflict damage upon the LP.

Instead, LP'ers have, for the most part, taken a more positive view, and rightfully so.

A Ron Paul primary run would not be designed to hurt the LP. On the contrary, the LP, as well as the entire libertarian movement, would benefit greatly from this sort of effort.

**Eric Rittberg**  
Tallahassee, FL

## Zionism

In response to Herb Booth's letter (September NEWS): Not all Israelis are ardent Zionists. First of all, Mr. Booth does not understand the word Zionism. Also, if Mr. Booth understood the geography, political, and emotional circumstances that have occurred, not only since 1948 but for thousands of years, he would have not just rattled off his mouth and at the same time fussing the bombing of Iraq. Israel does have a lot of problems and eventually must try to fuse their neighbors into the society.

I am very surprised that a fellow Libertarian (the minority party) shows such a vengeance toward all the Jewish people. Especially since our party should try to more or less stick together in these tumultuous times. I would appreciate an answer to my comments.

**Stuart Perelman**  
Chicago, IL

## Pee, You

What hath the war on drugs wrought? A lifetime ago the Wobblies cried, "Workers of the World, Unite!"

Today the government demands, "Workers of the World, Urinate."

**Douglas N. Merritt**  
Atchison, KS



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## Upcoming Events

### November 2, 1991:

LP New Hampshire Convention, Sheraton Tara Hotel,  
Nashua; 603-293-0152. Speakers include Walter Williams  
and Andre Marrou.

### December 14-15, 1991:

LP National Committee meeting, Washington, DC; 202-543-  
1988.

### December 14-15, 1991:

Bill of Rights 200th Anniversary Celebration, Quality Hotel  
Capitol Hill, Washington, DC; 202-543-1988.

### February, 1992:

California LP Convention; 800-637-1776.

### April 10-12, 1992:

Michigan LP Convention, Ann Arbor; 313-475-9792.

### April 11-12, 1992:

LP NatCom meeting, Ann Arbor, MI; 202-543-1988.

### April 24-26, 1992:

Colorado LP Convention, Ft. Collins; 303-484-8184.

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM



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