

MAY 1 1979

LIBERTARIAN PARTY
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 5-6, 1979

PLANTATION INN, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Members present:

David Bergland, Chairman
Mary Louise Hanson, Vice-Chairwoman
Sylvia Sanders, Secretary
Chris Hocker, National Director (non-voting)
Jim Clarkson, Member-at-large
Edward H. Crane, III, M-a-1
Carol Cunningham, M-a-1
John Hilberg, M-a-1
Charles G. Koch, M-a-1
Murray Rothbard, M-a-1
Williamson Evers, Region 2 Representative

John Mason, Region 3
Rick White, Region 3
Ben L. Olson, Region 4
William J. Howell, Region 5
Thomas J. Laurent, Region 5
Bernie Losching, Region 6
Steve Mariotti, Region 6
Dr. S. Dallas Cooley, Region 7
Michael Fieschko, Region 9
Jeffrey Smith, Region 9
Nathan Curland, Region 10

Members absent:

Paul S. Allen, Treasurer
Edward E. Clark, Member-at-large
Tonie Nathan, Region 1 Representative

Bill Webster, Region 2
James U. Blanchard, III, Region 8

1. CALL TO ORDER, MINUTES, MAIL BALLOTS: Chairman Bergland called the regular meeting of the Libertarian Party National Committee to order at 3:20 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 1979, at the Plantation Inn in Raleigh, North Carolina. Minutes of the January 13-14, 1979 meeting were corrected as follows: on page 2, item 6, insert the word "regular" before the word "newsletters" in the first sentence (on suggestion of Sanders); on page 4, item 17 (F), add "Hocker reported that, as a result of the delay in the membership mailing, he and Sanders had agreed that it would be appropriate to extend the deadline to February 15 for renewals of recently-expired LP memberships to be counted for delegate apportionment. No objections were raised." (on suggestion of Mason). On motion of Sanders, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Results of two mail ballots were announced: the question, "Shall 'Libertarians for Life' be authorized to advertise in LP News?" failed, 4 to 14. The motion, "The 1979 Convention Committee shall be enlarged to include Bruce Lagasse and Mike Hall" passed, 20 to 2. Ballots were made available for inspection, and were destroyed after the final adjournment of the meeting. Howell inquired about a possible mail ballot on removing Ed Crane from the Convention Committee. Bergland responded that only two members had requested a ballot on the issue; requests from six members (one fifth of the Nat Com) would be required.

2. ADVERTISING POLICY: Hocker requested, and Sanders moved, adoption of the following Advertising Policy: "Whereas, the LP News is the official, regular newsletter of the Libertarian Party, created to report news of people, events, and issues of interest to the widest possible range of readers inside and outside the Party; Be It Resolved, that the LP News accept advertising only from organizations or publications generally considered to be libertarian in

nature, and which are habitually involved in or discuss a wide variety of issues compatibly with the national Libertarian Party Platform." Both Evers and Cunningham suggested that it is better to vote on potential advertisers one at a time. The motion failed.

3. MAILING LIST COMMITTEE: Bergland has appointed Blanchard, Allen and Cooley to join himself and Hocker on the Mailing List Committee. Council for a Competitive Economy has been approved for LP list rental.
4. 50 IN 80 UPDATE: Hocker presented a written update on ballot drive status, with details on states which can work for ballot access qualification before the convention. (Those states are: California, Delaware, Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin and Arizona.) Mariotti mentioned the relevance of the recent Socialist Workers Party vs. Illinois ruling to other states. Bergland stressed that the most important responsibility of the national LP is to qualify our Presidential ticket for the ballot in as many states as possible, and that he is urging activists in states that can begin now and immediately after the convention to get their plans lined up.

Hocker also presented a written General Election Law Update, and suggested joining the Committee for Fair Ballot Access (\$750 entry fee); there were no objections. Bergland explained that unless quick action were required, he would consult the Nat Com before making any resulting decisions on ballot law suits.

5. REGIONAL REPORTS: Activities (other than ballot drives, as discussed above) were reported in the following states: Alaska: continuing organizational activities, very promising; Idaho: systematizing their activities; Arizona: a new Yuma County organization, a petition drive to eliminate tax on food; California: tax initiatives, a vice squad initiative in San Francisco; Hawaii: a full-time office and staff; Utah: successful Political Action Workshops, June 9 convention; Nevada: candidates for mayor of Las Vegas and Reno, making plans for 1980, producing a commercial on the D.O.E.; Colorado: just elected new officers, petition drive planned, fundraising for office and staff, continuing good results from races in 1978; Texas: recent city council races generated interest, credibility, two Houston city council races in the fall; Oklahoma: growing locally, tax protest activity; Kansas: recent school board races in Wichita and the SLS May Day rally very successful, may need to take ballot access issue to court; North Dakota: meeting planned for June; Minnesota: anti-draft protest drew 700 people, tax protest, convention this weekend; Iowa: regional Political Action Workshops in June; Missouri: recent meeting; Illinois: making ballot plans, new state chair; Wisconsin: full-time staff, excellent results in recent elections; Michigan: June convention; West Virginia: good new chair; Maine: successful meeting in March; Massachusetts: convention, new state officers; Connecticut: June convention; Rhode Island: May convention; Vermont: May meeting; New Hampshire: June convention, supper club, private school accreditation battle; Pennsylvania: successful SLS rally, Political Action Workshops, county commissioner races, June convention; New York: convention next week; New Jersey: February convention, planning local campaigns. Written reports on developments in state parties in their regions were provided by Mariotti and Curland.
6. ADJOURN AND RECONVENE: On motion of Hilberg, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. until the following morning. Chairman Bergland reconvened the meeting at 9:20 a.m., May 6.

7. ASSISTANCE TO STATE PARTIES: Sanders moved to create a Committee on Assistance to State Parties, to work with the National Director in developing projects to implement the resolution on same. The motion passed. Bergland appointed Sanders to chair the committee; Rick White also volunteered, and suggested Jim Burns. Suggestions of other people to work on the task were invited.
8. NORTHWEST LIBERTARIAN CONFERENCE: Mason moved to suspend the rules to consider the request of the Libertarian Party of Oregon to be reimbursed for losses of \$1700 from the Northwest Libertarian Conference, which conference resulted in contributions of \$2000 to the national LP. (Letters and documentation on the conference situation were received from Richard Gray, Steve Buckstein, Clark, Nathan and Hocker.) The motion to suspend the rules passed. Clarkson moved to deny the request. After much discussion, focusing largely on the precedent to be set and on the effects on Oregon's ballot drive, a motion by Evers to close debate passed (a previous motion by Koch to close debate had failed). Clarkson's motion passed, 11 to 5. Hanson then moved to approve budget authority up to \$1500 to assist Oregon with their ballot drive. After discussion, Olson's motion to close debate passed, and Hanson's motion passed, 11 to 5.
9. MADISON ELECTION: On question of Howell, Hocker reported that LP member Gary Gates was recently elected to the Madison, Wisconsin City Council; Gates won 2-to-1, apparently on the basis of his community standing.
10. MEMBERSHIP: Membership Chairman Clarkson reported on two new developments: targeting mailings to "B" and "C" groups (non-members) on the LP's mailing list, urging them to join, and a system of regular renewal notices (mailings the months before, of and after expiration) for current members.
11. CONVENTION: Crane presented written material, including a list of confirmed speakers, panels and workshops, a budget summary, and a tentative schedule for the 1979 national convention. Olson's motion to recess for five minutes to review the documents passed. After the recess, Crane reported that a direct mail piece will be going out to about 100,000 people in early June.

Hanson moved that the keynote speaker be changed to Dick Randolph, arguing that as our first major elected Libertarian official, he would fit the theme of the convention and draw media coverage better than Roy Childs. Koch, Olson and Crane spoke against the motion; Mason, White, Evers and Rothbard spoke for it. A motion by Clarkson to close debate failed. Mason moved to use a secret ballot on the question; his motion failed, 8 to 9. Laurent's motion to close debate passed, and Hanson's motion passed 10 to 8 with one abstention. Olson asked to be recorded as opposed.

Financial arrangements for the convention were discussed. Crane clarified that the gross profits from the convention are to be shared 50/50 between the California and national parties, with all the proceeds from the banquet going to the Presidential campaign. The initial mailing will cost about \$11,000. Mason and Laurent pointed out that our budget allows only \$2000 seed money for the convention. Sanders moved to authorize the National Director to arrange for a loan of \$11,000 seed money to the Convention Committee. Evers' motion to close debate passed, and Sanders' motion passed.

White moved to grant permission to Jim Burns of Nevada to video tape the acceptance speech of the Presidential candidate at the convention; he would pay the

national LP and the Committee to Elect the Presidential Candidate each ten per cent of the profits from sale of the tapes. Olson's motion to table failed; Mason's motion to close debate passed; and White's motion passed.

12. MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE & DELEGATE ALLOCATION: Sanders reported on the membership deadline situation, stating that she and Hocker had decided to extend the deadline for renewal of memberships to count toward delegate allocation to February 15 after the major membership mailing was delayed from November until January. However, she stated, a strict interpretation of the Constitution would favor retaining the December 31 deadline. There has been one formal challenge, from the Nevada LP Executive Committee, and several other complaints about using February 15 as a cutoff. Presidential candidate Bill Hunscher has requested that the December 31 deadline be used. To solve the problem and set a clear precedent, she declared that the determination of membership for the purposes of delegate allocation shall be as of December 31, 1978. Sanders asked that the Nat Com formally ratify this decision, and asked that members not examine the delegate allocation figures under the two dates until after they had voted on the matter.

Rothbard moved to ratify the December 31, 1978 deadline for delegate allocation membership. Hocker reported that Presidential candidate Ed Clark also favors using the deadline of December 31. Mason, Hilberg and Hocker spoke against the motion, White, Rothbard and Howell in favor. When Olson requested to see the membership figures, Howell moved that no one on the Nat Com be allowed to see the figures until the vote had been taken. Olson objected that official party records should be open. Curland's motion to close debate passed, and Howell's motion failed. Olson looked at the membership figures. On Hilberg's suggestion, Cunningham moved to amend Rothbard's motion by adding "and the national Party shall refund, upon request, dues paid after December 31 and by February 15." Howell's objection to consideration of this amendment passed, 7 to 5. Clarkson's motion to close debate passed, and Rothbard's motion passed, 9 to 5, with Hilberg recorded as opposed and Howell recorded as in favor.

The question of allocation of Regional Representatives among the regions, determined by the percentage of national memberships within each region, was raised. No membership deadline is given in the Constitution for this purpose. Mason moved that the December 31, 1978 deadline be used for this also, and Howell pointed out that this was how it had been done in the past. Mason's motion passed.

Hocker reported that California claims an additional 30-40 national members who joined (signed the application and paid the LPC) before December 31, but who do not show up on our records at all. Apparently, the former LPC Treasurer did not forward the names or the dues for these people. The LPC can show xerox copies of the membership applications, with dates. He asked for guidance in the matter. Howell said there was a precedent in the case of Oregon in 1974, when the state party leadership had not submitted data in time and the state's delegation was declared to be zero. Clarkson argued that we have authorized state parties to accept national memberships for us, but Sanders argued that the time delay in this case was beyond reason. Howell's motion to disallow the extra memberships claimed by California passed.

13. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: Nominations for the four positions on the Credentials Committee for the 1979 convention were opened. Nominated by letters read by

Sanders were: Lyn Sapowsky (California), Vern Koppelman (Minnesota), Craig Franklin (North Carolina), Paul Grant (Louisiana) and Ann Hammond (Texas). Mason nominated Pat Donahue (Colorado); Curland nominated Lee Nason (Massachusetts); Clarkson nominated Robert J. Smith (D.C.) on request of Roger MacBride; and Cunningham nominated John Grayson (Nevada). Grant, Hammond, Donahue and Nason were elected, with majority support, on the first ballot.

14. RECONSIDERATION OF KEYNOTE: White's motion to suspend the rules passed, and his motion to reconsider the question of the keynote speaker passed, 11 to 7. White pointed out that Randolph is a favorite son candidate for President, with Alaska's delegation pledged to vote for him on the first ballot. Mason's motion to set a three-minute limit on debate passed. Howell moved to make Randolph's keynote speaker status subject to his withdrawal of his favorite son candidacy within one month. Mason had to leave, and at Howell's suggestion, paired his vote with Olson. Rothbard's motion to suspend the three-minute limit on debate failed, and Howell's motion failed. The vote on the reconsidered question, that Randolph be the keynote speaker, tied 9 to 9; Bergland voted against the measure. Childs would thus be retained as keynote speaker.
15. DATA PROCESSING ALTERNATIVES: Hanson presented a lengthy report on the necessity of developing a more efficient method of data processing than we currently have (we now employ the services of P.S.A., Inc.). She stressed that the 1980 Presidential campaign has the potential for increasing our mailing list by five-fold, and listed many other uses of a computerized system (F.E.C. reports, financial statements, word processing, data exchange with state parties and campaign committees, analysis of fundraising attempts, etc.) Hanson outlined the advantages, disadvantages and costs of three options: 1) contract with a data processing service, either P.S.A. or another; 2) timesharing, purchasing our own terminal and telephone coupler; and 3) purchase or lease of our own hardware and software. She recommended the latter course, and Dallas Cooley reported on the possibility of financing the hardware and software and leasing it to the Party through an economical, but "arm's-length," agreement. Olson moved that the Nat Com authorize a committee, composed of Bergland, Hanson, Hilberg, Cooley and Hocker, to lease or make other contractual arrangements for data processing as they see fit, with an upper limit of \$700 per month cost to the LP. His motion passed. Hanson requested that anyone interested in designing the necessary software (probably for a PDP-11) to send the proposals to National Headquarters within a month.
16. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PROJECTS: Hocker reported briefly on the following:
- A) New Political Times: A revision of this flyer will be ready for distribution by the end of the month.
 - B) Environmental booklet: has been reviewed and approved by the Publications Committee, will now be produced.
 - C) Local Problems: Libertarian Solutions: 1500 copies have been distributed so far.
 - D) Political Action Workshops: have been very well received (so far in Philadelphia, Columbus and Salt Lake City); Hocker will propose expansion of the program through next year.
 - E) Basic newsletter for small state parties: there have been problems developing the project, but it is being worked on.
 - F) News release program: needs someone to take care of follow-up to media contacts.

17. FINANCE COMMITTEE: Hocker reported for Finance Chairman Ray Cunningham. He presented a sheet of Comparative Financial Data: 1978/1979 for the first four months of each year, showing improvement in revenue and in paying off old accounts and loans.

A major fundraising program, similar to but more sophisticated than "Success in '78," will be starting shortly. It will utilize personalized letters and follow-up for large contributors, and a direct mail piece with follow-up phone calls to other potential contributors. Carol Cunningham urged that Party leaders agree to help with the phone calls, as they are the most effective fundraisers.

A revised direct mail schedule for the year was presented.

18. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE: Bergland announced that selection of the Judicial Committee would take place at the Nat Com meeting following the convention in September, and asked members to give thought to selections.
19. VOLUNTARY FUNDING: Fieschko presented a report on his research regarding elected officials' salaries. One issue is what to do with the tax-paid salary. The suggestion to set up a trust and somehow redistribute the money to taxpayers has several problems, among them: the salary would be taxable income for the official, the money may be subject to tax again when the trust receives it, and administering the trust would be expensive. Considering all the costs, there would be little or nothing to give back to the taxpayers. The second issue, that of funding an elected official's salary through voluntary means, was equally problematic. There are legal problems with establishing a blind trust, and donors would be discouraged from contributing if their names were made public.

Bergland suggested a campaign promise to take only as much salary as is allocated to one by taxpayers in one's district, and suggested that Libertarians propose legislation that would allow voluntary funding of elected officials. The Committee on Voluntary Funding was asked to continue its work.

20. 1980 & 1981 CONVENTIONS: Hanson explained the need to begin planning now for our future conventions. On Bergland's suggestion, Evers moved that all state chairs be asked to consider whether their state wants to host either the 1980 or the 1981 national convention, and if so to submit a brief proposal, specifying accommodations available. The motion passed.
21. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Hilberg moved to name David Nolan as keynote speaker for the 1979 convention. Bergland ruled that that would be a motion to reconsider a previous question, and would require a two-thirds vote. Olson appealed the ruling. Evers moved to close debate on the appeal, and his motion passed. Olson's appeal of the ruling was approved. After some discussion, Bergland called a five-minute recess due to lack of a quorum. Upon resumption of the meeting, Evers' motion to close debate passed. Hilberg's motion failed, 6 to 9.
22. NEXT MEETING, ADJOURN: Bergland announced that the next meeting of the current Nat Com will probably be Wednesday afternoon, September 5, prior to the convention in Los Angeles. Laurent's motion to adjourn met with unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Sanders
Sylvia Sanders, Secretary