

Post Office — A Waste of Money (See Page 3)



Colorado Liberty

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FIRST HAT IN THE RING

Burns Seeks LP Presidential Nomination

By Paul Grant

Gene Burns, a nationally known speaker and Florida radio and television commentator, recently announced his candidacy for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination. Vowing to run a grass-roots campaign with no deficit financing, Burns is quietly raising money and plans to attend many LP state conventions this year, including the Colorado LP convention to be held May 27-30 in Steamboat Springs.

Burns is the first announced candidate for the Libertarian nomination. Ron Paul, a three-term Republican congressman from Texas, and Sam Steiger, who got 5% of the vote for governor of Arizona in 1982, have also been mentioned as possible candidates. The LP will select its presidential ticket at the national convention in New York August 31 - September 5, 1983.

Burns has been a radio talk show host, news commentator, and operations manager at WKIS Radio in Orlando for more than a decade. He also writes a newspaper column

for several Florida papers and participates in a long-running televised "point-counterpoint" debate with Charley Reese, conservative columnist of *The Orlando Sentinel*. Burns has been covering international news events for the past 15 years, from trips to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War to assess American troop strengths, to covering the Republican and Democratic National Conventions in 1972, to several trips to the mid-East to cover the Arab-Israeli conflict.

An eloquent and entertaining speaker, Burns has already impressed several LP audiences with his abilities, including a National Committee meeting in Florida this past December, and the Georgia and California state conventions earlier this year.

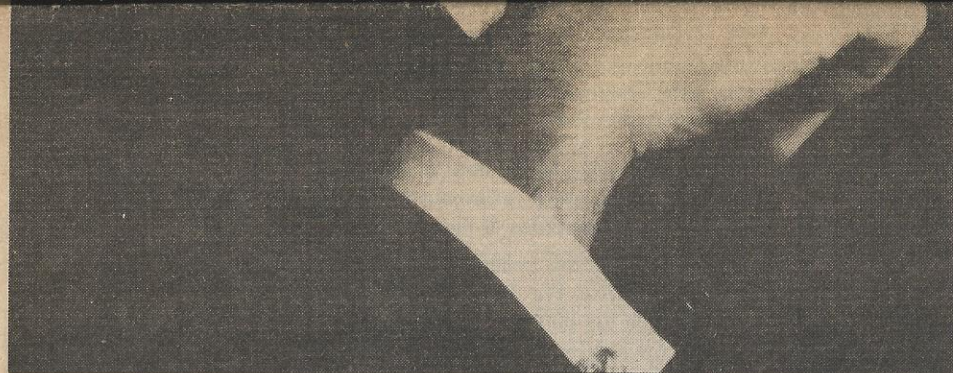
For more details on the Burns campaign, contact Gene Burns, P.O. Box 310, Orlando, FL 32802. For information on the state or national conventions, contact the Colorado Libertarian Party.



Polly King Ruhtenberg (A Personal Remembrance)

By David F. Nolan

Polly Ruhtenberg, known to many Colorado libertarians as a friend and champion of



Gene Burns

Libertarian Social Security Proposal Presented at Press Conference

By Craig Green

On February 7th, 1983, several Libertarians and I stood on the steps of the State Capitol to present a serious proposal to the press. That proposal suggested phasing out the social security (SS) system into a fully-funded, private system of IRA's and other retirement plans. Reporters from one television station and two radio stations showed up. No print media. Big deal!

On February 18th, Senator Bill Armstrong spoke to the Centennial Chamber of Commerce about SS. He said that raising the retirement age by one year would cover the long-term system deficits. He got a standing ovation from a packed house.

Do Senator Armstrong and I live in two different worlds? Perhaps, but it is ironic that his world is believed by many to be "practical" and "realistic," while mine is often considered to be "theoretical" and "pie-in-the-sky." A few facts will hopefully explode some of the myths surrounding this sacred cow that chews up one-third of the federal budget each year.

The SS system has always been a "pay-as-you-go" plan. This means that the FICA taxes that you and I have paid over the years were used to pay someone else's benefits. Although there is a "trust fund," it more closely resembles a checking account than a savings plan. The unfunded liabilities (future promises without assets) exceed four trillion dollars, according to the Social Security Administration. This is more than half the entire national wealth of the U.S.! How are these liabilities ("entitlements", if you are a recip-

ient) to be paid without income-producing assets? By taxing one-third to one-half of our children's (and grandchildren's) income, that's how!

Many people sincerely believe that they have a contract with the federal government for future SS benefits. However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1960 that the government has no legal obligation to pay these benefits (*Fleming vs. Nestor*, 363 US 603). The court specifically dismissed the notion of "accrued property rights" as a means of claiming future benefits. "Such a constraint would not permit the flexibility . . . that the system requires," stated the court.

An important and disturbing (but usually ignored) fact about SS is the sensitivity of the system to future projections. Assumptions about many complicated and interrelated factors produce the rosy picture of the system that we so often hear from establishment politicians and economists. Even Senator Armstrong, who is to be commended for opposing tax increases, is an intellectual slave to those who make such predictions. Who can accurately predict interest rates, inflation, unemployment, recessions, birth rates and life expectancy? No one. Former Secretary of Health and Human Services Schweiker recently stated (*after leaving Reagan's cabinet*) that a decline in the birth rate from 2.1 to 2.0 births per family would increase long term SS deficits by 16 percent! My god, what if someone finds a cure for cancer? Not

(Cont'd. on page 8)

Colorado libertarians as a friend and champion of liberty, died of cancer on January 24. She was 75 years old.

She was an amazing woman. I remember her telling me that her first involvement in political activity was at age 3, when she rode down Broadway (the one in New York) on her tricycle at the head of a suffragette parade.

Over the years, her belief in individual rights took her on a far-ranging odyssey. In the 1950's and '60's she was active with a number of Constitutional conservative groups, most notably the Liberty Amendment Committee. She was a vehement foe of both the draft and the income tax, and worked for many years with tax resister Vivien Kellems.

In the 1970's, her support for abortion rights and the ERA caused her to part company with conservative leaders such as Phyllis Schlafly; Polly remained an avid feminist-individualist to her final days. (Long-time *Colorado Liberty* readers will remember her pro-ERA article, "Sex and the Constitution," which appeared here two years ago.)

A woman of natural aristocratic grace and charm, Polly had friends in all walks of life, ranging from Anna Roosevelt (FDR's daughter) to Robert Heinlein. She also once told me that Ayn Rand wrote a large portion of *Atlas Shrugged* while living in a house she was renting from Polly's family.



Polly King Ruhtenberg

Yet despite her acquaintance with the rich and famous, Polly was never snobbish or condescending; she was quick to befriend all who shared her love of liberty. She was a down-to-earth woman who loved animals, and tended to her dogs, cats and horses personally.

It was a privilege to have known her.

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A Man's Home is His Hassle

An Unpublished Manuscript by David E. Dudenhoefer, 1980

Reviewed by Jerry Van Sickle

After fighting City Hall for a decade, the individual loses again — unless David Dudenhoefer's painful story finds a publisher. Public attention might then shake up the town of Hempstead on Long Island. Many heads should lie uneasy, among them town supervisor Alphonse M. D'Amato, now a U.S. Senator from New York.

A Man's Home is His Hassle contains the frustrations of the author and his family, sometimes gentle and humorous, sometimes bitter. Dudenhoefer sets down in careful detail their long struggle to receive reasonable treatment under local building and zoning laws, inspectors, administrators, elected officials, review boards and the courts. Their only wish: to occupy an 18 room home, ideal for their large family, and rent the adjacent cottage as their predecessors had done. An assistant city attorney sold them the property and gave them written assurance of the legality of the subrental. Such fraud is difficult to prosecute across state lines. In any case, appeals to local common sense and fairness seemed appropriate at the time to establish a legal rental.

David Dudenhoefer is an ex-Lt. Colonel, now aero space engineer. His story is a discouraging and infuriating decade of discovery initiated by a stubborn belief in a half-way decent American system and people. He challenged and uncovered more than most families have the patience to endure. Finally they didn't either. By this time soaring taxes — to pay for his bureaucratic adversaries — had devalued his property. He couldn't even offer the help of a subrental as many around him did, some with official approval, many without. Enough data here for the author and his readers to draw some Libertarian conclusions.

The author's ideas are not all libertarian. Some of his problems came from his basic agreement with zoning laws: if two families on his generous lot were not good for the community, then a multi family rental next door didn't seem fair to him nor a host of other exceptions granted by appeal or benign neglect. A libertarian outlook would focus on "nuisance" instead of zoning; actual harm to neighbors in noise or pollution, overflow

A contribution to the powerful local Republicans might also have solved their problems. An anonymous call suggested this solution just before a final appeal board rejection.

Dudenhoefer may well have been irritating in his persistence and willingness to point out inconsistencies, injustices and stupidities. A lack of diplomacy may have lost support from neighbors and shut the bureaucratic and appeal gates where others found them open.

The discretion now in the hands of bureaucrats, boards and politicians, even the significance of neighbor's whims, implies the old Roman system of thumbs-up or thumbs-down has become the American way. Do we really want such a system of arbitrary favors and prohibitions rather than a search for justice? Do we really want a system where we must all be nice guys willing to plead with hat in hand—or appropriate "contributions"?

Here, perhaps, is the tragedy and the danger: our widespread willingness to turn our backs on political and bureaucratic injustice. Life itself and basic liberties were not at stake for the author and his family. Will it be too late if we don't even notice such lesser injustices? American's typical reaction to tyranny: "it can't happen here." Why not? Neighbors and administrators and the courts in Hempstead, New York tolerated blatant injustice in the teeth of articulate, documented challenges. What chance is there that such administrators won't eagerly carry out or impose orders when Washington declares another energy crisis or a "national emergency"?

Most of us will prefer to sit quietly at home reading more cheerful stories than this one.

Colorado Libertarian Party Calendar

1st Tuesday of every month the Libertarian Forum meets in the Brand Building, 203 S. Galena St., Aspen. Call 925-8292 for more information.

1st and 3rd Wednesday every month, Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m., Party Office.
2nd Wednesday every month, CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m., Party Office. Relaxed, informal, cash bar.

1st Wednesday of every month, Boulder County Libertarian Association, 7:30 p.m., at 1913 Broadway in Boulder. Call Jerry Van Sickle for details at (h) 442-0514 or (w) 443-5578.

4th Thursday of every month, Park County Libertarians meet, call Phil Prosser for details at 838-7693.

*4th Wednesday of every month the Arapahoe County Libertarians meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library, 14949 E. Alameda Drive in the Community Room, 1-A. Call Karl Murphy at 693-1430.

MARCH

13th, Sunday CLP Board of Directors meeting at noon at the office.
16th, Wednesday Discussion Group at the office, 7:30 p.m. Topic: Social Security.
23rd, Wednesday Arapahoe County Libertarians meet.
24th, Thursday Park County Libertarians meet.

APRIL

5th, Tuesday Aspen Libertarian Forum meets.
6th, Wednesday Boulder County Libertarian Association meets.
6th, Wednesday CLP Discussion Group meets at the office, 7:30 p.m. Topic: Flat Rate Income Tax.
13th, Wednesday CLP Cocktail Party. Cash bar starts at 7:30 p.m. at the office.
15th, Friday Tax Day Protest at your local Post Office. Call the office for details, 573-5229.
20th, Wednesday Discussion Group at the office, 7:30 p.m. Topic: Is A Scenic View A Property Right?
27th, Wednesday Arapahoe County Libertarians meet.
28th, Thursday Park County Libertarians meet.

MAY

3rd, Tuesday Aspen Libertarian Forum meets.
4th, Wednesday Boulder County Libertarian Association meets.
4th, Wednesday CLP Discussion Group meets at 7:30 p.m. at the office. Topic: Free Market Outer Space
CLP Cocktail Party starts at 7:30 p.m. at the office. Everyone is welcome!
11th, Wednesday CLP State Convention. Watch the mail for more detail.
27-30, Memorial Day Weekend

"The LIBERTARIAN FORUM reminds me of something H. L. Mencken would have written — lyrical, delightfully stubborn, satisfyingly doctrinaire, and joyously libertarian." — Sheldon Richman, Director of Research,

other exceptions granted by appeal or benign neglect. A libertarian outlook would focus on "nuisance" instead of zoning; actual harm to neighbors in noise or pollution, overflow parking or traffic dangers. With such an outlook, the Dudenhoefers might have decreed their quiet tenants to be relatives, thus circumventing the law, with no remaining damage to the community or its rules.

Office and Library Need Help

The Party Office and the Libertarian Party need furniture and volunteers to help staff them and work on upkeep. Please consider donating a little time or material to help out.

Positions on Board of Directors to be Filled at State Convention

If you are concerned about the successes and non-successes of the CLP then maybe your place is on the Board of Directors. This body makes the policy and financial decision that affect the course of our Party.

At this time there are no announced candidates for any Board position. Current State Chair, Ruth Bennett, has announced that she will not run for a third term, however, no other members have said the same.

The CLP Board is comprised of the following positions:

State Chair-Chief Executive Officer — Responsible for the office, and assisting the other four Officers with their duties. Campaigns and seeks out issues and races for the CLP to participate in. Works with candidates and campaigning materials.

Communications and Education Chair — Responsible for Internal and External Education including the *Colorado Liberty*.

Finance Chair — Works with the Treasurer (non-elected position) to keep the CLP books in order. Also does fund-raising, etc.

Membership — Responsible for maintaining and increasing membership. Works with computer person to keep the membership and information request lists up-dated.

In addition, there are four At-Large members of the Board who are to work with the Officers in implementing policy.

If any of these positions sound like a way that you could make a valuable contribution to our Party, then please contact a current Board Member or contact the Office for particulars. We need your help and knowledge.

lyrical, delightfully stubborn, satisfyingly doctrinaire, and joyously libertarian." —

Sheldon Richman, Director of Research, Council for a Competitive Economy, and Vice Chairman of the National Libertarian Party

The greatly feared (and much beloved) Old Curmudgeon has come out of retirement to expose the inanities of the villains and wierdos of the movement.

And, on the political/economic front, Murray's ongoing series, "Are We Being Beastly to the Gipper?", slashes through the buncombe emanating from D.C. Murray goes for the jugular, but is hilarious at the same time. You'll think Mencken is back at his typewriter again.

Murray in your mailbox every month — only \$15, satisfaction guaranteed.

Frankly, in the past, subscribing to the LIBERTARIAN FORUM has been an act of faith. The publication gave a new meaning first to "monthly" and then to "bi-monthly."

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And, best of all, the FORUM is being published regularly. When you subscribe, you get a monthly magazine, on top of the news, on top of events, and always lashing out uncompromisingly at the many enemies of liberty.

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Karl Hess, editor of SURVIVAL TOMORROW, says "The LIBERTARIAN FORUM is one of the best things in the movement. Murray Rothbard, the Curmudgeon, offers free-wheeling, free-thinking criticisms of the many things that badly need it."

Leonard Liggio, President of the Institute for Humane Studies, says "Since 1969, the LIBERTARIAN FORUM has provided Murray Rothbard's incisive and controversial comments on the affairs of America and the world."

Mark Skousen, noted financial author and editor, calls Murray Rothbard, the FORUM's editor, "The greatest economist living today."

Dr. Walter Block, author of "Defending the Undefendable," calls the LIBERTARIAN FORUM "my favorite periodical, barring none."

Daniel Rosenthal, editor of the SILVER & GOLD REPORT, says "Rothbard's comments created a storm of controversy among our subscribers. But, as events unfolded almost in lock-step with his forecasts, Rothbard earned the grudging admiration of many former skeptics."

And **Alicia Clark**, National Chair of the Libertarian Party, says "I read it with great interest from beginning to end."

A big, welcome change for libertarians

A major ideological news and opinion vacuum is being filled. Until recently, virtually everything being written by libertarians was "outreach" — it ignored movement concerns and movement ideology.

Now, at last, the leading "inreach" publication — by and for libertarians all across the spectrum — has been radically expanded and professionalized to fill that vacuum.

The publication is the LIBERTARIAN FORUM. Murray Rothbard, its editor, continues to send off sparks, make enemies right and left, win hearts, and tickle funny bones, as he analyzes politics, economics, the "real world," the libertarian movement, and the culture of our day.

Mr. First Nighter is back with a regular column reviewing books and movies. He lashes out at the avant-garde and the pretentious while championing classical values and aesthetic excellence.

Ending the Postal Service Monopoly

By Robert Poole

Should the Postal Service monopoly be retained? Or should this vital service be opened up to competition? This question doesn't arise in a vacuum.

Consider, for instance, that the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 ended 40 years of a de facto oligopoly in airline service, much of which had been defended in the same terms used to support the postal monopoly. And the Motor Carrier Act of 1980 partially deregulated interstate trucking; similar legislation on bus service is pending. Arizona and Florida have likewise deregulated their transportation industries.

Monopoly in government-provided services has also come under attack. Economists James Bennett and Manuel Johnson in "Better Government at Half the Price" argue that public services can be provided at far less cost through contracting with private-sector firms rather than through government monopolies. HUD Assistant Secretary E.S. Savas fleshes out the argument in his new book "Privatizing the Public Sector," while my own book, "Cutting Back City Hall," provides examples of competition replacing monopoly in such fields as garbage collection, park maintenance and fire protection.

Organizations that possess a legal monopoly on providing a service operate with vastly different incentives from those that face competition. In broad terms, the incentives of a bureaucrat are to expand his empire, as measured by the number of employees and the size of his budget. The incentives facing a private-sector manager are quite different.

Because he's trying to make a profit, the manager has a powerful incentive to seek the most cost-effective combination of personnel and equipment to get the job done. If he doesn't, he may lose the business to some other firm and go bankrupt. But a government monopoly can simply request a greater appropriation from the treasury.

Thus, it's quite likely that the costs of providing first-class mail delivery via a government monopoly are far higher than if there were competition. One indication is the wage levels of U.S. Postal Service employees, which are far higher than the wages of com-

Country dwellers willingly choose the beauty, safety, cleanliness and serenity of the countryside — but in exchange must make do with restricted commercial and cultural choices and, in some cases, with higher costs for certain services. These are voluntary choices. People should make their choices and pay the price.

Such a policy would be consistent with the philosophy of the President's Commission on a National Agenda for the Eighties. Its report recommended against federal efforts to prevent people and industry from leaving cities for suburban and rural locations. It argued that government ought to respect the voluntary location decisions of individual households and firms. Yet by subsidizing rural postage rates, the government is not being neutral; it is artificially reducing the real cost of choosing a rural location.

"Thus, it's quite likely that the costs of providing first-class mail delivery via a government monopoly are far higher than if there were competition."

Postal monopoly advocates sometimes claim that if competition prevailed, rural service would be nonexistent or ruinously expensive. The same argument was raised against airline, truck and bus deregulation. In each case, the prediction has proven false. True, some large transportation firms have pulled out of small cities they once served. But commuter airlines, for example, have stepped into the breach, in many cases providing more flights at more convenient times than the large carriers did. And according to Civil Aeronautics Board studies, airline fares in the smallest markets are only 12 percent higher than they would have been under CAB

Universal Life Church Fights for Freedom—Religious and Otherwise

By Rev. Chris Mohr

Twenty one years ago, an illiterate preacher founded a Church that welcomes anyone, regardless of beliefs. His doctrine — to do that which is right, according to your own beliefs — has attracted over fourteen million people into his ministry. He has also attracted the attention of the government, which is not so sure it likes to see a church practicing almost unlimited religious freedom. The IRS is especially unhappy with the Universal Life Church, which has helped taxpayers keep over seven billion dollars out of the tax system.

The beliefs and practices of this Church have much in common with the political ideals of Libertarianism. The Church tolerates and encourages diversity of beliefs, and allows people of every imaginable religious persua-

sion to join them, as long as their activities don't violate the rights of others. Many Church members are completely fed up with the tax system, and are prepared to defend their rights to tax exemption through their Church activities. Not surprisingly, thousands of Libertarians across the country are quietly running their own tax-exempt congregations through the ULC. There is a streak of individualism and a love of freedom that seems to be common among almost all active ULC ministers. And almost none of these self-made ministers have much love for the IRS!

There are several hundred congregations of the Universal Life Church in Denver. If you'd like to get in contact with them, you can call the Denver Center Office at 455-9023.



Does the state do any other kind?

ment monopoly are far higher than if there were competition. One indication is the wage levels of U.S. Postal Service employees, which are far higher than the wages of comparable employees of firms like United Parcel Service and Federal Express, which compete with the Postal Service.

Some defenders of the postal monopoly will concede its inefficiency. But, they argue, we simply must maintain the policy of uniform service at uniform rates to all users. In other words, postal customers who cost a lot to serve — rural dwellers — must be subsidized by customers who are less costly to serve — mainly city folk.

In fact it does cost more to serve rural customers. But every other form of document and parcel delivery — telegrams, telex, parcel post, overnight letter package express — charges rates that vary with the cost of service, usually based on distance and size of the material. Why should letters alone be paid for in an artificial way?

And why should those who choose rural life be subsidized by those who don't? There are costs and benefits associated with any choice of lifestyle. City dwellers must put up with higher levels of crime, pollution, noise and congestion than do country dwellers. In exchange, they have access to more commercial and cultural opportunities than country dwellers.

than the large carriers did. And according to Civil Aeronautics Board studies, airline fares in the smallest markets are only 12 percent higher than they would have been under CAB regulation (while fares in the top 100 markets are 13% lower than under regulation). Likewise, since 1980, trucking rates have generally been cut, and 2452 new firms have entered the business, many providing service to the smaller cities where the major firms have cut back. As long as there is a demand for a service — be it air travel, shipping or letters — entrepreneurs will provide it.

In short, there is no real justification for a monopoly postal system. Delivering letters is a business, one that private firms are willing to provide; witness the growth of private express services, courier services, parcel mailing centers and electronic mail. It's a business whose customers can and should pay their way. And it's a business whose subject matter — personal communications — is far too important to be entrusted to government.

It's high time we repealed the Private Express statutes, which prohibit competition with the Postal Service in the carriage of first-class mail, and ended the postal monopoly.

Robert Poole is editor-in-chief of *Reason*. This article appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, October 11, 1982.

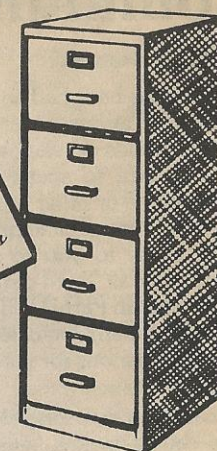
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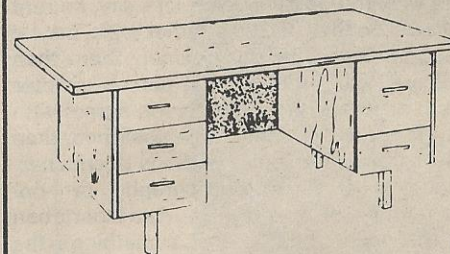


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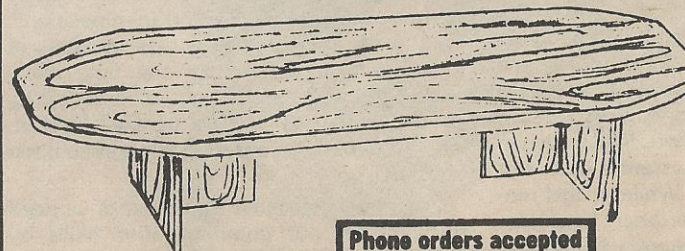
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VIEWS and NOTES

Switzerland: A Libertarian Foreign Policy Prototype

The feasibility of a Libertarian principle is best demonstrated when that principle actually works in the real world. Legalized prostitution in Hong Kong, a city not known for its debauchery, and the absence of zoning laws in Houston, Texas, a thriving and highly livable city, say more than a thousand Libertarian tracts about how men can not only co-exist without such laws, but indeed, prosper.

Perhaps the best working example of the Libertarian ideal of a non-interventionist foreign policy is that of Switzerland, particularly during World War Two. That wise and fortunate country was able to maintain her neutrality and avoid the awesome suffering, destruction and cost of the worst war in history, despite the fact that she found herself practically in the center of Hitler's empire, an empire which arrogantly and repeatedly violated such things as neutrality agreements, with hostile troops on all her borders.

How did she achieve this seemingly hopeless goal?

First, she made herself economically indispensable to both sides. Switzerland constantly sold coal and iron ore to Germany, and finished goods such as watches to Britain, being careful to keep the benefits to each side about equal. Thus each side knew that an attack (Germany by land, England by air) would not only stop supplies from going to the enemy but also stop supplies coming to her. Switzerland's well known discretion in banking matters was also a factor, since many of the leaders of the various warring nations no doubt had parts of their fortunes in this haven.

The second strategy was military. Every adult male between 20 and 50 was (and is) in the army, and Switzerland prepared several concentric rings of defense, vowing that if she was forced back toward her mountain strongholds, very little worth capturing would be left behind.

Compare Switzerland's position to that of America. While Switzerland is landlocked

and actually shares a border with Germany, America has huge coastlines on both major oceans, and shares borders with two historically non aggressive countries.

Switzerland has relatively few natural resources and no access to the sea, thus she is vulnerable to blockade. Blockading the U.S. is geographically nearly impossible, and due to our vast natural resources, would serve little purpose.

Finally, Switzerland was not match for Germany militarily, but succeeded nevertheless. There is no country on earth which could even dream of mounting an amphibious assault on America, and while the Russian missile threat must be dealt with, we are in a vastly superior position today than Switzerland was in '38, geographically, economically, and militarily. If she did it in World War Two, surely we could do it in some future World War Three.

An apologist for America's interventionist foreign policy might object thusly: if Germany had won, Switzerland would have been sunk. She would have had to succumb to Germany eventually, and become a slave state.

To which we could reply: true enough, but America, with the aforementioned geographical, economic, and military advantages, need not suffer such a fate. Even in the wildly unrealistic event that every country on earth were to "go Communist" except us, we would still stand as a shining island of freedom, fully able to protect and defend ourselves.

Of course, such an utterly unlikely scenario is not a pleasant one, but compared to the incomprehensible devastation we would suffer even if we won World War Three, it begins to look very good indeed.

In this bizarre world, no strategy is without risk, but doesn't the far cheaper, less risky route of non-intervention make more sense than our present one? If neutrality worked for Switzerland, non-intervention can work for America.



Government's Money Monopoly: The Stranglehold

In a past issue, we presented the inflationary scenario, one of two possible economic futures predicted by those who attribute our economic woes to the government's meddling in the marketplace. The

other, or deflationary possibility, is discussed below. Neither one need come to pass if the government would only stop inflating the money to "stimulate the economy," and then deflating it when the inflation gets too scary.

Debt Liquidation — The Downside By Ron Edquist

The general consensus is that we will have more inflation. The radical consensus is that we'll have hyperinflation — and buying gold or other tangible assets will make you rich. I doubt it. It is very likely that inflation has run its course.

During the last 40 years we have witnessed the longest and largest economic expansion in our history. Longest because the Depression of the 30's was ended a little early by WWII and largest because of the unpre-

is saturated with productive capacity. Many companies will be illiquid, overextended and uncompetitive in anything but an ever-expanding market. The economy is then ripe for a setback. While a major expansion is underway, these setbacks will be relatively minor and labeled as recessions. They follow a roughly four-to-five year pattern that is recognized as the Business Cycle, although there are other cycles. Recessions are, by definition, not severe enough to precipitate

Compare Switzerland's position to that of America. While Switzerland is, landlocked

Switzerland, non-interventionist can work for America.

Communicating Libertarianism

By Ruth Bennett

Most of us have had an opportunity to talk about Libertarianism and the Libertarian Party to friends or relations. Some of us have had a chance to speak to classes, service organizations or other groups. How effective was that communication? Did swarms of people come to you to sign up? Are your friends now all "card-carrying" members of the Libertarian Party? Did most of them even vote Libertarian? Unfortunately, the answer to those questions for most of us is probably negative.

What, then, is wrong? We know that what we're saying makes sense. We know that individual liberty, the free market are the only sensible solutions to the problems that we as people and as a country are facing. Why is it that we are having such a hard time communicating our proposals?

I have come to the position that a number of our communication problems and recruiting problems come from *saying too much*.

The first obstacle to overcome when talking to someone is to shut up long enough to find out what the other person's concerns are. For example, after a press conference the Colorado Libertarian Party sponsored in February a man called the office very concerned about the Libertarian position on Social Security. Instead of trying to force him to believe that we were right and that he was wrong I needed to find out what about our position concerned him.

Come to find out, the man was a federal employee and thought that the Libertarian proposal was to bring federal workers into Social Security. At that point, I could assure him that that was not true and I finally got him to agree that the present system is bankrupt and should be abolished. While at this moment this caller is not a Libertarian, he at least knows that Libertarians are not out after his pension and that he has at least one point of agreement with the Libertarian Party. This is quite a large step in the right direction from where he was when he called.

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Consider a company which provides temporary unskilled labor, such as warehouse help and construction cleanup. Their waiting room is full of workers, but no calls come in so they remain unemployed. A similar firm across the street, charging lower rates, sends out most of their men each day. Clearly, the problem is that the first company has set their men's wages too high.

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So while some unemployment is due to employee's understandable reluctance to accept a lower standard of living, much of it is caused by the very government that pretends to be acting in the best interests of its citizens by "fighting unemployment."

As so often happens, the government worsens the problem of unemployment with its laws, then passes more laws to cure the problem it created in the first place. What it should do is repeal the harmful laws, not create new ones.

VIEWS and NOTES

Switzerland: A Libertarian Foreign Policy Prototype

The feasibility of a Libertarian principle is best demonstrated when that principle actually works in the real world. Legalized prostitution in Hong Kong, a city not known for its debauchery, and the absence of zoning laws in Houston, Texas, a thriving and highly livable city, say more than a thousand Libertarian tracts about how men can not only co-exist without such laws, but indeed, prosper.

Perhaps the best working example of the Libertarian ideal of a non-interventionist foreign policy is that of Switzerland, particularly during World War Two. That wise and fortunate country was able to maintain her neutrality and avoid the awesome suffering, destruction and cost of the worst war in history, despite the fact that she found herself practically in the center of Hitler's empire, an empire which arrogantly and repeatedly violated such things as neutrality agreements, with hostile troops on all her borders.

How did she achieve this seemingly hopeless goal?

First, she made herself economically indispensable to both sides. Switzerland constantly sold coal and iron ore to Germany, and finished goods such as watches to Britain, being careful to keep the benefits to each side about equal. Thus each side knew that an attack (Germany by land, England by air) would not only stop supplies from going to the enemy but also stop supplies coming to her. Switzerland's well known discretion in banking matters was also a factor, since many of the leaders of the various warring nations no doubt had parts of their fortunes in this haven.

The second strategy was military. Every adult male between 20 and 50 was (and is) in the army, and Switzerland prepared several concentric rings of defense, vowing that if she was forced back toward her mountain strongholds, very little worth capturing would be left behind.

Compare Switzerland's position to that of America. While Switzerland is landlocked

and actually shares a border with Germany, America has huge coastlines on both major oceans, and shares borders with two historically non aggressive countries.

Switzerland has relatively few natural resources and no access to the sea, thus she is vulnerable to blockade. Blockading the U.S. is geographically nearly impossible, and due to our vast natural resources, would serve little purpose.

Finally, Switzerland was not match for Germany militarily, but succeeded nevertheless. There is no country on earth which could even dream of mounting an amphibious assault on America, and while the Russian missile threat must be dealt with, we are in a vastly superior position today than Switzerland was in '38, geographically, economically, and militarily. If she did it in World War Two, surely we could do it in some future World War Three.

An apologist for America's interventionist foreign policy might object thusly: if Germany had won, Switzerland would have been sunk. She would have had to succumb to Germany eventually, and become a slave state.

To which we could reply: true enough, but America, with the aforementioned geographical, economic, and military advantages, need not suffer such a fate. Even in the wildly unrealistic event that every country on earth were to "go Communist" except us, we would still stand as a shining island of freedom, fully able to protect and defend ourselves.

Of course, such an utterly unlikely scenario is not a pleasant one, but compared to the incomprehensible devastation we would suffer even if we won World War Three, it begins to look very good indeed.

In this bizarre world, no strategy is without risk, but doesn't the far cheaper, less risky route of non-intervention make more sense than our present one? If neutrality worked for Switzerland, non-intervention can work for America.



Government's Money Monopoly: The Stranglehold

In a past issue, we presented the inflationary scenario, one of two possible economic futures predicted by those who attribute our economic woes to the government's meddling in the marketplace. The

other, or deflationary possibility, is discussed below. Neither one need come to pass if the government would only stop inflating the money to "stimulate the economy," and then deflating it when the inflation gets too scary.

Debt Liquidation — The Downside

By Ron Edquist

The general consensus is that we will have more inflation. The radical consensus is that we'll have hyperinflation — and buying gold or other tangible assets will make you rich. I doubt it. It is very likely that inflation has run its course.

During the last 40 years we have witnessed the longest and largest economic expansion in our history. Longest because the Depression of the 30's was ended a little early by WWII and largest because of the unprece-

ed saturated with productive capacity. Many companies will be illiquid, overextended and uncompetitive in anything but an ever-expanding market. The economy is then ripe for a setback. While a major expansion is underway, these setbacks will be relatively minor and labeled as recessions. They follow a roughly four-to-five year pattern that is recognized as the Business Cycle, although there are other cycles. Recessions are, by definition, not severe enough to precipitate serious debt liquidation, and in fact, are

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Communicating Libertarianism

By Ruth Bennett

Most of us have had an opportunity to talk about Libertarianism and the Libertarian Party to friends or relations. Some of us have had a chance to speak to classes, service organizations or other groups. How effective was that communication? Did swarms of people come to you to sign up? Are your friends now all "card-carrying" members of the Libertarian Party? Did most of them even vote Libertarian? Unfortunately, the answer to those questions for most of us is probably negative.

What, then, is wrong? We know that what we're saying makes sense. We know that individual liberty, the free market are the only sensible solutions to the problems that we as people and as a country are facing. Why is it that we are having such a hard time communicating our proposals?

I have come to the position that a number of our communication problems and recruiting problems come from *saying too much*.

The first obstacle to overcome when talking to someone is to shut up long enough to find out what the other person's concerns are. For example, after a press conference the Colorado Libertarian Party sponsored in February a man called the office very concerned about the Libertarian position on Social Security. Instead of trying to force him to believe that we were right and that he was wrong I needed to find out what about our position concerned him.

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Profile of a Libertarian . . . Jan Prince

By Carolyn Phelps

"I don't think we can expect to get anywhere in the political arena for a long time," says Jan Prince, Libertarian party activist, campaign manager and campaign coordinator for Libertarian candidates, and illustrious freedom belly-dancer at party fundraisers.

After ten years of devoting much of her life to the Libertarian party, Jan believes her future as a Libertarian activist lies in education and she isn't sure it has to be through the party. "What Branden is doing is important. What Karl Hess is doing is important," she said. "You have to show by example and by showing that people can control their own lives. That's the only way to do it."

Even though Jan doesn't believe there's much hope through the political system, she does believe the party must exist. "Because if you decide you want to control your life — what do you do about it? You can't bomb Washington D.C. off the face of the earth — so you vote Libertarian," she said. She went on to say the party must be there for people to express Libertarianism. "I'm an activist, not a pacifist," she said. "I think many Libertarians are. You've got to do something."

Jan, whose intelligence matches her enthusiasm and energy, has been doing something for many years. In 1964, when she was nineteen, she was introduced to the Objectivist philosophy by a girlfriend who gave her *The Fountainhead*, by Ayn Rand. After reading the book, the two of them read the rest of Rand's books and became "true believers, virtual 'Randians.'" In 1965, when Nathaniel Branden came to Denver, Jan, along with everyone else at the seminar, wore dollar signs on her lapels. Even the choice of her first husband was influenced by Rand. She married a man who she pictured to look like John Galt. Shortly thereafter she had a child, Robbie, which kept her busy for several years. The marriage broke up when (un-Galt-like) her husband was sent to jail.

Jan re-married in 1971 and the next year she read a tiny article in the back of the *Denver Post* announcing the formation of a

brand new political party. When she read about the philosophy of the party she thought, "Why that sounds like me — that's a whole bunch of other crazy people." She wrote them a note inquiring what they were about and when they sent back a short platform and a membership form, she signed up. That year she voted for John Hospers, the first Libertarian candidate for president.

In 1974, Jan's little boy, who was seven, died of cancer. She threw herself into the Libertarian Party in order to keep busy. She became a member of the board, acting as treasurer, and volunteer coordinator for John James' campaign for congress.

It was at the Libertarian Party convention in New York in 1975, that she met Robert McBride. He was seeking the Libertarian Party nomination to run for president. After hearing what he had to say, she supported him. He won the nomination and Jan decided then and there to run for State Chair when she returned to Colorado. Her goals were to make the party more organized and bring more people in to support McBride's presidential campaign in 1976. She won the position of State Chair and all during the next year she acted as state coordinator for the campaign, acting as media coordinator and helping to gather the 5,000 signatures needed to achieve ballot status.

During these years she was also working at Mountain Bell as staff assistant in the corporate engineering department. In between her job and political activities she also found time to learn belly-dancing and danced at the Cherry Creek Country Club, Greek restaurants, and once she and two other dancers raised \$200 by dancing at a Libertarian Party fundraiser. Asked if she declared on her tax returns all the cash she received for dancing she said, "Do I have sucker written across my forehead?"

Jan resigned as State Chair in 1977 because she said she was tired and wanted to get a career going. "I don't think a person can go much more than one and one-half terms," she said. Shortly thereafter she attended Nathaniel Branden's seminar, *Self Esteem*

and the Art of Being, in Chicago. "It totally changed my life. It was like taking the blinders off your life. It was like becoming free of all the idiosyncrasies, all the junk your parents told you when you were little." She was so impressed she wanted her friends to experience this and wrote to Branden asking what it would take to bring him back to Denver. He answered that it would take at least \$15,000 - \$20,000 and at least 100 people guaranteed to attend. Undaunted, Jan organized a plan for investors, coming up with 15 investors and raising \$12,000. In January, 1979, Branden came and returned to teach

Although she recognizes Rand as her springboard, she no longer considers herself an objectivist because she thinks the philosophy is too narrow and limited and doesn't take into account the person. "Everything isn't black and white," she said. "There are grey areas and you have to use the grey matter to figure it out."

Jan believes Libertarians must learn better means of communication if they are to educate people rather than antagonize them. "Something I've seen Libertarians do time and time again, is when they can't explain something well, they will imply to the person



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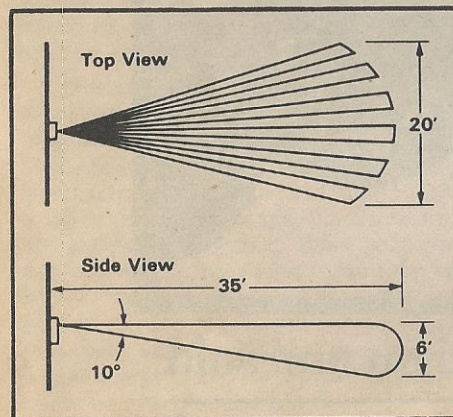
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Libertarian activist Jan Prince, dancing her way into our hearts!

his seminar twice more when Jan organized the event and raised the money. One of Jan's goals since then has been to create a career by bringing Libertarian speakers to Denver.

Jan was manager for the Libertarian State Convention in Central City in 1979. This was the first time the convention ever made a profit. For the next two years she worked for Paul Grant as office manager and handled parts sales. In 1980 she was campaign manager for Grant's Congressional campaign and also was his campaign manager for his race for Governor in 1982.

For the past few months, Jan says she has just played. She enjoys sailing, horseback riding, is a sailing instructor, and is currently taking a Red Cross first-aid course. She wants to become a midwife and will take courses starting in March to do so.

they're talking to, "You're too stupid to understand." She says a better technique would be to, "stop putting it on yourself and stop being defensive and saying, "you're stupid." Instead say, "Gee, I don't know, you tell me. You figure it out without using force or fraud." And they do it everytime," she said. "It works. People don't know they have that power."

Libertarians shouldn't start indoctrinating people with their beliefs right away, Jan said. Instead one must find out why people think the way they do. "There's always a reason," she said. "One of the things I learned from Nathaniel Branden is people do things to facilitate their own lives. They're not doing something to hurt themselves — they're doing it because they think it's the best thing. You find out why they think the way they do."

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TAXES

Year of Betrayal

By Timothy Condon

It's been over four months now since the mislabeled "biggest tax hike in history" was passed, rammed through by President Reagan, Sen. Robert Dole, and every big-spending politician in Congress. But the \$98.3-billion tax increase wasn't the biggest in history. It was merely the second-largest.

Even now, the whole fantasy-land happening boggles the mind. Here we have a president who went up against the massed opposition of the dominant welfare-statist ethic in America, the national media, the majority political party . . . and whipped them all! He did it by campaigning upon explicit promises of reduced taxation and reduced government interference in our lives. Then, after epochal battles to get bills passed that merely slowed increases in taxes and spending, he fights all-out to get a vicious monstrosity of a tax hike passes — which additionally guts some of the most important reforms in the original tax cut and which virtually unleashes the IRS in the fight against the American taxpayer.

"This is insanity. Reagan, in effect, has abandoned 'Reaganomics'."

And get this: to do it all, this man who was elected with his promises goes on national television days before the congressional vote and appeals to the American people upon the precise same basis that statist, socialists, and collectivists of all stripes have *always* appealed for more taxation and less freedom: envy, jealousy, greed, covetousness. In his nationally televised address, Reagan asked that taxes be raised against "those who are not paying their fair share" (as if the obscene tax load Americans now bear can in any sense be called fair). He called for "closing off special-interest loopholes" (as if he were not arguing for enrichment of the largest, most vicious, most all-encompassing "special

given to the IRS (mostly, greatly increased fines that can be levied) in an effort to smash the expanding subterranean economy.

Through the whole litany, the question keeps recurring: *Why?* When Reagan and the supply-siders were *winning*, how could they possibly have resorted to *this*? The "inside" reason for Reagan's betrayal of the taxpayer is that "revenue enhancement" would be a necessary compromise with the Big Spenders in order to gain additional cuts in 1983. Reagan apparently bought that line, hook and sinker, but sought to stay *technically* with supply-side theory by not disturbing *marginal* tax rates (that is, the highest tax rate you pay for each additional dollar earned, which is still a whopping 50 percent).

The very essence of supply-side theory says that when people are taxed too much, they will stop producing, stop working. Thus Reagan's eagerness to leave marginal tax rates alone. What he fails to understand is that *all* taxes *must* eventually be paid by individuals. That is the *only* place the final impact will be felt, because taxes are merely another cost of doing business for private commercial enterprises, a cost for which prices are adjusted, whether the enterprise is a corner restaurant or General Motors. The result is that *any* and *all* taxes further impoverish society, further slow the natural individual desire to produce and be rewarded for it. In the meantime, oppressive, anti-productive government gets fatter and fatter, the wheels of industry and productivity grow even more sluggish, the incredible bread machine grinds closer to an eventual halt.

Are there any winners in this whole scandalous affair, other than those who have always lived on the backs of the taxpayers? Oddly enough, perhaps the Libertarian Party will profit most of all. Many libertarians felt it necessary to vote for Reagan in 1980, both for his tax and government-cutting promises and to help save the country from Carter and the Democrats. I doubt there will be any question about that in 1984.

Similarly, it may be that supply-side economic theory will be saved — in the public's eye — for another administration (like Jack

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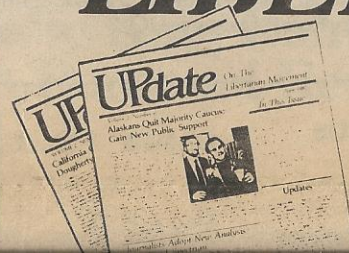
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off special-interest loopholes" (as if he were not arguing for enrichment of the largest, most vicious, most all-encompassing "special interest" of all, the government itself). He argued: "Simple fairness says that we should collect from those who are freeloading" (as if every single human being who is a tax consumer and lives off of government payments is not a freeloader).

This is insanity. Reagan, in effect has abandoned "Reaganomics." "This is not the same man we elected," said University of Southern California supply-side theorist Arthur Laffer. "This tax package is obnoxious."

The tax bill penalizes people with high medical bills and medical insurance (the 3 percent threshold is raised to 5 percent, and the \$150 maximum insurance premium deduction is abolished), people with uninsured casualty losses (now you can only take as a deduction that amount which exceeds 10 percent of your gross income), people who smoke (federal cigarette tax doubled), people who use telephones (federal tax tripled), people who receive interest or dividend income (financial institutions and corporations now must generally withhold 10 percent of such payments), people who fly in airplanes (federal excise tax up 60 percent, a new international-flight tax, a new air-freight tax, a new noncommercial jet fuel tax, a tripled noncommercial aviation fuel tax), people who pay unemployment benefits (the employer tax is increased), people who receive unemployment (more of it will now be taxable), people who wisely plan their tax situation (the special "minimum tax" for those who normally wouldn't have to pay is expanded), people who have corporate retirement plans (some advantages are lost for professionals), etc., etc., etc. Most of all, taxpayers in general are victimized by the new bill: tremendous new weapons have been

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Similarly, it may be that supply-side economic theory will be saved — in the public's eye — for another administration (like Jack Kemp's, in 1988, after the Democrats win in 1984). After this, only drooling morons are going to argue that "supply-side economics has been tried, and it didn't work." On the contrary, the doctrine was abandoned by Reagan before it was even fully in place, much less "tried."

I wrote that "cautious optimism" was in order on the eve of Reagan's proposed tax cuts. They now mean nothing: a mere decrease in the rate of increase in taxes has now been wiped out by the second-biggest tax hike in history. I can only thank whatever gods may be that in 1980, when faced with the choice of voting for Republican Ronald Reagan or Libertarian Ed Clark, I voted for Clark.

Tim Condon is an attorney and a tax specialist practicing in Florida.

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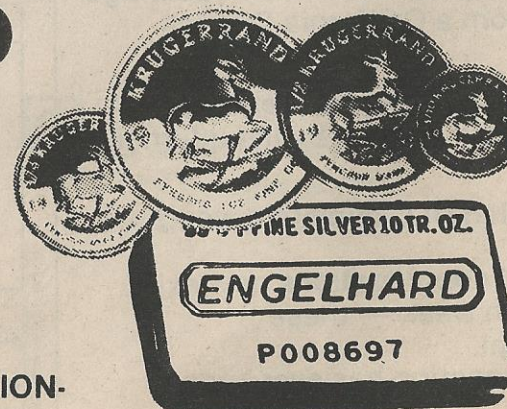
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Social Security

(Cont'd. from page 1)

only would so many of those nice doctors be out of work, but future SS obligations would skyrocket. Anyone who proposes shoring up the present system is, at best, taking a huge risk with the lives of millions of Americans.

Privatization is the Key

There are many reasons for privatizing the SS system rather than preserving it. However, much of the controversy surrounding this issue is based on hysteria rather than fact. For example, the majority of today's SS recipients are in the middle and upper income groups (*Readers Digest*, March 1983). According to the General Accounting Office, at least 20 percent of those collecting disability benefits are not eligible. Over 1400 dead people still receive benefits (*Rocky Mountain News*, 2/6/83). A rational look at these and other SS facts provides a different picture than the horror stories circulated by politicians when privatization is brought up.

O.K., then, the system is trouble. What do we do about it? I have compiled some ideas from a variety of sources, all which have one thing in common: replacing SS with fully-funded, private retirement plans. Space does not permit a detailed discussion of my hybrid proposal, but the high points are summarized as follows:

1. Make the system voluntary. Those who prefer could drop out, forfeiting all accrued benefits. Those choosing to stay in the system would continue to pay taxes and take their chances.

2. At retirement age, those staying in the system would receive a voucher recognizing their contributions plus interest. This could be converted into an interest-bearing bond or an annuity with a private insurance company.

3. Make all retirement income tax-free, like SS benefits at the present time. Repeal the corporate income tax, at least to the extent that shareholders comprise pension plans.

4. Deregulate the health care industry. Since Medicare is a significant part of SS, escalating medical costs have added to the burdens of the system. More competition, and therefore lower costs, would increase the availability of health care.

5. Fund temporary deficits through the sale of government assets. For the first few years of privatization, deficits would probably increase due to the loss of income by those leaving the system. However, a tremendous increase in savings and investment capital would rapidly counteract this short-term liability.

6. Accept no new participants into the system.

Social Security is an incredibly complex issue, surrounded by controversy and irrational thinking. Only when privatization is seriously considered as an alternative can a meaningful discussion take place.

Stranglehold

(Cont'd. from page 5)

stronger and wealthier than before. Unfortunately, central banking authorities may attempt to "rescue" the economy. Of course they create money (it worked before), allowing lending to all comers and, as planned, the economy picks up for awhile. As debt balloons and the economy overheats healthy players get sick (Mexico, farmers) and weak players become basket cases (Poland, Int'l Harvester). In the end, they cannot borrow their way out of debt and often are not healthy enough to service their debt in a sluggish market. So, the natural bias of the economy is still deflationary debt liquidation. However, the economic pain and political cost are higher than before. More money creation — raw inflation now, since money expansion outstrips growth at this point in the cycle — will stave off credit collapse for awhile longer, but time frames will be shrinking fast. This is the situation Carter faced at the end of his Presidency. (The prevention of this scenario is probably the best economic argument for a gold standard.)

Debt certainly can be liquidated via hyperinflation. Statist economics are biased towards this option since all debt is "public." In a mixed or market economy hyperinflation could come about by government monetizing a large portion of the private debt as it has much of the public debt (private debt dwarfs public debt in the U.S.). Today the stage is set for this by various banking insurance laws and the incredible myriad of loan guarantees to the private sector. However, most of the professional money managers seem to be aware of the structural forces pushing for hyperinflation. At least some of these authorities apparently understand the dictum that there is no more certain way to destroy a nation than to debase its currency. Money managers will be faced with a dilemma: Which more devastates an economy — hyperinflation or deflation? Hyperinflation requires radical policy action, the total destruction of the dollar. Followed by what? A new deflated currency forced on the social and economic wreckage of hyperinflation, as happened in Germany. This is a senseless course and hence will probably appear to many of our politicians as bold and progressive action.

So there are reasons for the Fed to choose deflation, especially when they can talk of

feasible. Massive bailouts of private corporations would be the liberal version of kissing a pig while the new right at least talks tough about limiting access to the public trough. Social spending demands will be tremendous, but I wouldn't want to be in the streets demanding ever greater handouts while America's middle-class is sweating paying for baby's new shoes. The political backlash to entitlement programs is now well under way.

"there is no more certain way to destroy a nation than to debase its currency."

Radical periods, periods of unrest, usually occur in moderately inflationary times when things are good and people feel confident enough to indulge their whims. Severe economic contractions, which have always been deflationary in the U.S., are at first stunning and eventually sobering experiences. Personal security becomes paramount and affronts to one's cosmic conscience seem to fade in importance. The staid, existential post-depression mentality has nothing in common with a roaring 20's or roaring 60's ethos.

So my guess is deflation. A Ted Kennedy Presidency would send me running to buy gold (his latest trial balloon is to bring the Fed into the Treasury Department with the avowed purpose of pumping out more credit), but this is not in the cards. Irving Kirstol, professor of social thought at the NYU Graduate School of Business, summed things up pretty well in a *Wall Street Journal* editorial (10/14/82):

"People who worry about 'inflationary expectations' are replaying in their minds yesteryear's scenario. The actual scenario we are participating in is very, very different. It is deflation, not inflation, that haunts us."

Ron Edquist, 30, is a commodity speculator and a mineral exploration geophysicist for a multinational resource company. His interest in economics stems from his years as a gold miner in Alaska.

Constitution/By-Laws and Platform Committees to Meet

Are you concerned about the positions

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Softball teams are forming; nice fields have been reserved for 13 scheduled games starting mid April thru July. All those interested in playing some friendly softball, please read on. We need 20 regular (can plan to attend 10-13 games), 16 substitutes (attend 5-9) games, and 10 sub-substitutes (attend 1-4 games). We'll have two intermural teams playing every other Sunday from 1-5 PM, and every other Monday evening from 6 PM to dark. Toward the end of the season we could challenge outside teams. What's needed? A mitt, and only \$8.00* per person to cover the cost of field rentals and equipment needed to purchase (bats, bases, balls, and catcher's mask). For further information, call Diane Lisle at 936-9470 or send application and check to: Diane Lisle, c/o Melting Pot, 4047 Morrison Road, Denver, CO.

*sub-substitute, half price

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☐ Substitute

May 2, 8, 15

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Please indicate games you are planning to attend; or regular games you can't attend. Games are scheduled at Eisenhower Park (near Colorado Blvd. and Eastman), Barnum Park (6th Ave. & Federal), and Crammer Park (near Colorado Blvd. between 2nd & 3rd).

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So there are reasons for the Fed to choose deflation, especially when they can talk of soft landings (i.e. slowly letting the air out of the ballooning debt). Tight money, or deflation, is not a radical course (the swiftness and severity of the Great Depression is often attributed to the Fed's too rapid contraction of the money supply in response to the debt rise in the 20's), and probably is politically

Constitution, By-Laws and Platform Committees to Meet

Are you concerned about the positions that the Colorado Libertarian Party takes? Are you concerned about how the CLP is run and how its income is managed?

If you are interested in either or both of these areas then participation in the Constitution and By-Laws or the Platform Committee is the best place to make your concerns part of the debate at the State Convention.

Pat Lilly of Colorado Springs is the Chair of the Platform Committee and had his first meeting on Sunday March 13th. The Platform Committee will be having additional meetings in March and April and your input is needed. If you wish to be on the Committee there may still be positions available, otherwise your input through letters or discussion with members of the Committee is welcome.

Len Jackson is Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. These documents provide the administrative framework for our Party. There are some major proposed changes this year and if you have anything to add or subtract please contact the office for the date of the first meeting.

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Deadbeat Notice

Although it may be unpleasant to consider, **some** Libertarians don't behave honorably, even in dealings with other Libertarians. At the 1981 LP National Convention (LP/10) in Denver, three such events occurred and they have yet to be rectified. Hopefully, this public notice will encourage the individuals involved to make restitution. The three cases are:

1. Michael "Smith" and "Lois" Higgins applied for press credentials (a free pass to convention events), claiming to represent a small Georgia newspaper. They arrived, claimed their passes, then changed the names on their badges to **Michael Green** and **Gail Higgins**—two well-known activists from the Georgia LP. No newspaper story was ever offered as proof of their claim. The value of their passes was about \$120 each. Reimbursement to the Colorado LP of \$150 each would be appropriate.
2. **Bruce Majors** from Washington, D.C. wrote LP/10 a check for \$225—it bounced. In the two years since, he has reduced that amount to \$65. To account for lost interest, a check for \$100 would settle accounts.
3. **Sam Conkin** of New Libertarian Enterprises (California and Canada) wrote a bad check for \$2,223.51 for two weeks' charges at the Denver Hilton (convention site). After two years' time, this debt has been reduced by \$225.00. This debt is to the Hilton, but reflects badly on the Party and other Libertarian organizations.