



the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

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LP's Mission

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY AND LONG-RANGE
PROPAGANDA: A REPLY TO MR. STEELE

by Joseph Bast

In the November/December issue of The Illinois Libertarian we were treated to the spectacle of a hammer-wielding dentist assaulting the teeth of "capital-l libertarians." The violent dentist was David Ramsay Steele, and in his article, "Vote-Catching vs. Long-Range Propaganda," he sought to remove from our gums the belief that political activism can be a substantial part of an effective, long-term strategy for libertarian propagandizing. For those not left completely toothless by David's attack, I offer the following food for thought.

It is important to realize that David's position is not nearly so radical as his rhetoric would lead us to believe. The libertarian movement is still in its infancy, and David (like many other activists) is concerned that in our rush for widespread support we may neglect to build a foundation capable of sustaining the movement in the future. David believes that we should lay this foundation deep and narrow, in the persons of a small cadre of dedicated propagandists. He feels that our present emphasis on political activism diverts resources from this project. David envisions the libertarian movement collapsing, like a house without a foundation, when the ground (public opinion) it rests upon begins to shift.

It is to David's credit that he does not rule out entirely the use of political activism—he only recommends limiting it to about 10% of our time and resources. But I believe that David severely underestimates the effectiveness of political campaigns in recruiting propagandists, the number of Americans already sympathetic to libertarian ideas (and hence the probability of attaining a broad-based libertarian movement), and the intelligence and foresight of many libertarians who are politically active. I will argue these three points, and the conclusion I will reach is that political activism should remain the central task of the LP.

David refers to the Ed Clark campaign in 1980 as "a huge disappointment." I disagree. Clark's vote tally came in the face of candidate Reagan's appeal to the anti-tax and home-schooling movements, Carter's posture as the peace candidate, and Anderson's appeal to independents. Despite all this, nearly one million people voted for Clark, many of them probably voting for a third party candidate for the first time.

No doubt David dislikes optimistic projections on

"vote-catching" for 1984, but since he makes vote totals a measure of the LP's (lack of) success a few words in that direction are due. Reagan's performance in office has alienated nearly all tax protesters and home-schoolers. Libertarians have made substantial inroads in these movements in the last four years, and a number of persons influential in these movements have endorsed Bergland's candidacy. The Democrats have lost a lot of credibility on the peace issue by positioning themselves only inches to the left of Reagan, and now that Ravenal has come out of the closet the LP is better identified with the peace movement than ever before. And all those voters who voted for Anderson in 1980 will be more receptive to our message this time around. So in terms of "vote catching," we didn't do so badly in 1980 and we stand to do better in '84.

But high vote totals are not the most important goal of LP campaigns—rather, they are just an imperfect measure of how well we are accomplishing the real task of conveying the libertarian message to a broad audience. Having a political party and conducting campaigns allow libertarians to participate in the national debate on government policy that takes place, with heavy media coverage, every election year. It is in the context of political debate and having to choose one candidate over another that many people look for and are willing to entertain new ideas. In politics, libertarianism becomes more than a theory and more than an esoteric topic for small social affairs. It becomes a basis for a real action (voting) or a real commitment (campaigning for a candidate). For the 99.9% of the population who are too busy living to be dedicated propagandists, libertarian politics offers a reason for learning more about libertarian ideas.

But, David argues, "the masses" are all "sincere and committed statist" who will only be swayed "at some distant date" by the repeated attacks against their assumptions by committed propagandists. It is strange to hear a libertarian use the collectivist term "masses" when referring to nonlibertarians. It implies that nonlibertarians are not determined by their own minds or efforts, that they are somehow controlled by a great collective myth. Every person presently in the Libertarian Party is testimony to the falsity of that claim. People recognize and respond to facts and ideas properly communicated to them. It may take time—even years—before they accept the full implications of the information, and some—perhaps many—never will. But that can never be construed to be an argument against making that information widely available now.

My own experience has suggested that there are, in

fact, many "closet libertarians." My parents didn't know a libertarian from a librarian until I started arguing with them about taxes, the federal deficit, and foreign policy. Now they buy subscriptions to libertarian magazines for their friends. The fellow with the fifth-grade education I've worked beside for five years was absolutely nonpolitical until we started talking about civil rights: he voted for Clark in '80. The native American who wrote an article for Nomos, my brother the union president, a friend from college, all of them were surprisingly receptive to the libertarian point of view. Not at some distant date. Not by attacking their assumptions. Perhaps by a committed propagandist, but one who only realized he was a libertarian in 1980 when he heard Ed Clark.

Are these people "really" libertarians? To me, this question suggests the same kind of paranoia or fear of "common" attitudes that is implied when someone uses the term "masses." I have yet to meet two libertarians having exactly the same degree of commitment to a principle, or identical notions of what they oppose. People are libertarians because they place value on individual liberty, and they view with suspicion most government intervention. The people I have talked with are not yet the stuff of which foundations are built, but at least that choice is now open to them. In the absence of an LP in which general education for the public is emphasized, they would not have been able to make that choice. And the movement would have been smaller by their number.

David's remaining objections are that widely distributing the libertarian message diverts funds from internal education and that political activity breeds false expectations. This is where the intelligence and foresight of LP activists should be defended. Very few LPers believe that a "million-dollar stunt" will somehow achieve everything we are fighting for, and even fewer got on board this train thinking that they were backing electoral "winners." Most of us hope that libertarian ideas will become a permanent part of all political debate, whether or not there even is a Libertarian Party. We hope that at some level of electoral success --5% or 10%--the national news media will be forced to address our presence.

Most LPers are also active in the kind of propaganda organizations David would approve of--The Foundation for Economic Education, CATO, The Reason Foundation, etc. There also are many hundreds of organizations that take the single-issue approach to libertarianism, e.g., The Educational Voucher Institute, The National Taxpayers Union, and The Sound Money Committee. Spending on elections is assuredly less than 30% and is probably no more than 10% of the total monies spent for libertarian propagandizing and research. Since the LP is the political arm of the libertarian movement, one would hope that most of its resources would be spent on political activism. It would be silly to require every libertarian organization to devote x% of its resources on education and y% on political action. As is usually the case, a division of labor is most efficient.

The LP has done an effective job in both conveying the libertarian message to millions of people and presenting it to them in a way that encourages them to act on the ideas. The general public is receptive to that message and can acquire libertarian viewpoints from it. Those who accept the message and desire a deeper understanding of it have a great variety of organizations to tap into or join. Such activists (or propagandists) are currently active in the LP and other libertarian organizations, recruiting those sympathet-

tic to our views and encouraging them to become activists themselves. LPers are not naively hoping for electoral success overnight, but generally perceive their mission as being one of outreach and general education through the political process. The LP has proven itself to be good at that, and it is there that its emphasis ought to remain.

NATCOM REPORT

by Gerry Walsh

New Orleans, December 8, 1983--The National Committee passed a resolution encouraging the use of "letters to the editor" in local papers as a low-cost method of spreading libertarian ideas, especially during an election year ... The LP News will include a "Letters" column in future issues ... Publication of the LP News will increase from six to nine issues per year ... Membership dues in the National Party were increased to \$15 per year; a motion to create a student rate of \$10 per year failed by one vote ... Membership in the National Party is now 6,584.

A motion to adopt a suggested position description (four functions, sixteen responsibilities) failed by one vote ... Now that national headquarters has moved to Houston, a committee has been created to investigate the feasibility of an additional office in Washington to act as a potential monitor and/or lobbying group.

Dave Bergland has visited 14 states in his capacity as the Libertarian Party candidate for President. He'll be visiting Milwaukee on Thursday, December 15. Field coordinator Alicia Clark commented that media coverage of the Bergland campaign has been much better than the Clark campaign had received at this point in 1980 ... Bergland will take a short vacation in January to marry his campaign manager, Sharon Ayres, then begin full-time campaigning in February ... Jim Lewis is also organizing a campaign committee. This will allow Jim to take advantage of the traveling he performs in his job.

The most controversial item on the agenda was a proposed motion to repeal Resolution #200, which forbids employees of the National Party from taking part in partisan internal politics. After the proposed motion to repeal was introduced, the proposer moved to substitute a motion to create a panel, consisting of three Natcom members, to investigate whether National Director Honey Lanham had vio-

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lated Resolution #200. After much discussion, the substitute motion failed, as did the original motion to repeal Resolution #200. A committee of three is being appointed to determine if the writing of the resolution should be changed.

COMMENT: It's my opinion that the representatives objected to having a "Trojan horse" item on the agenda to cover a controversial issue. There were a number of noncontroversial items where we got the accompanying memos at the last minute. Some representatives had even spoken informally about tabling items at the next meeting which hadn't been included in our packets. I suspect that many representatives were irritated and/or confused by the method of introduction for this item, and voted against the motion for that reason.

Future Natcom meetings will be held in Pittsburgh (March 31 and April 1, 1984), Rochester (August, 1984), Utah (December, 1984), Seattle (April, 1985) and Phoenix (August, 1985).

Gerry's phone number is 312/894-8680.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

by Tom Verkuilen

It's time for our quadrennial Presidential civics lesson. When voting in an election to fill the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, you are in fact:

- (A) Voting directly for that candidate, and the candidate with the most votes wins;
- (B) Voting for a candidate, who then selects his/her supporters for the Electoral College;
- (C) Voting for a list of electors who, in turn, will select the President and Vice President.

The correct answer is (C). Here's how it works. The Constitution of the United States, Article II, Section I, provides:

"Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector."

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The Illinois Election Code provides that the names of the candidates for electors shall not be placed on the ballot, only the names of the candidates for President and Vice President. However, a vote for "President or Vice President shall not be deemed and taken as a direct vote for such candidates for President and Vice President, or either of them, but shall only be deemed and taken to be a vote for the entire list or set of electors chosen by that political party or group."

Why have I reviewed some of the workings of the Electoral College? Because the Libertarian Party of Illinois is now searching for electors for its 1984 Presidential campaign. Since Illinois has 22 Congressional districts and 2 Senators, we need 24 Libertarian Party electors from Illinois.

As a Libertarian elector, your name will be on the petitions circulated this year to place the Party on the ballot in Illinois. The requirements to be an elector are few: (1) be a resident of Illinois; (2) be a member of the Libertarian Party of Illinois; and (3) don't plan on moving out of state before Election Day!

And there is a special requirement...based on the workings of free lunches and free markets when faced with a limited resource: a price has been placed on being a Libertarian elector. A contribution of \$50.00 to the ballot drive will assure your candidacy.

Electors must be chosen within a very few weeks in order to have our petitions printed and ready to circulate. If you are interested, send your check immediately to the LPI, P.O. Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690. Please make your check payable to LIFBAC (Libertarian Fair Ballot Access Committee) and mark your check and your envelope, "Attention: Presidential Electors."

CONSTITUTION OF THE
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

As amended May 15, 1983

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "Libertarian Party of Illinois," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Party shall be to implement the goals specified in the Libertarian Party Platform by:

- (a) Nominating candidates for public office;
- (b) Affiliating with local libertarian organizations;
- (c) Increasing awareness and acceptance of libertarian political theory through educational and outreach programs, and
- (d) Promoting implementation of libertarian principles in public policy.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A Party member shall be any resident of Illinois or an adjoining state whose dues are current and who has signed a pledge as required by Section 2 of this Article. There shall be no discrimination in membership because of age, race, sex, or any non-aggressive affiliation.

Section 2. The following statement shall be signed by each applicant for membership: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals."

ARTICLE IV. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Management of the Party's affairs shall be the responsibility of a State Central Committee consisting of elected Party officers and elected representatives of affiliated clubs.

Section 2. The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Northern Vice-Chair, a South-Central Vice-Chair, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer. The duties of each officer shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 3. All officers shall be residents of Illinois and Party members. No Party officer shall be an officer of any organization involving the initiation of force or an officer in any other political party. Disputes arising under this Section shall be settled by the Judicial Committee by majority vote.

Section 4. No Party offices shall be combined.

Section 5. Terms of office shall be from the close of the State Convention at which they were elected until the close of the next State Convention.

ARTICLE V. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a Judicial Committee to resolve disputes concerning interpretation of this Constitution and the Bylaws, disputes among affiliated clubs, and disputes referred to it by, or involving, the State Central Committee.

Section 2. The Judicial Committee shall consist of five members, three elected for overlapping three-year terms by the State Convention and two elected by the State Central Committee at its first official meeting.

Section 3. No person may serve simultaneously on both the State Central Committee and the Judicial Committee. Qualifications for serving on the Judicial Committee are the same as for officers.

Section 4. Decisions of the Judicial Committee shall be rendered within thirty days of the date of submission of the question.

Section 5. Any vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Central Committee. The acting Judicial Committee member shall serve until the next State Convention at which time the Convention shall elect a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. All Party officers shall be elected by the State Convention. The State Central Committee may require that statewide candidates be nominated at the State Convention.

Section 2. The State Central Committee shall decide which Vice-Chair shall succeed to the Chair, and determine the exact areas to be served by each Vice-

4 the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

Chair.

Section 3. The State Central Committee shall fill vacancies in the offices of Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. A vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Central Committee members from the appropriate area. Should the remaining term of office exceed six months, a majority vote of the affiliated clubs shall confirm the new officer within forty-five days of the appointment. In the case of Vice-Chair, this vote shall be restricted to the affiliated clubs in the appropriate area.

Section 4. Local club representatives to the State Central Committee shall be elected and replaced at the discretion of each club.

Section 5. A State Central Committee member may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the State Central Committee or by a two-thirds vote of the Party members in their affiliated clubs. If a petition for the impeachment of a State Central Committee member signed by twenty percent of the Party members in any region is received by the State Central Committee, there shall be a vote on the question conducted in the same manner as the original election; except that a two-thirds vote is required to remove.

ARTICLE VII. LOCAL CLUBS

Section 1. Any five Party members who wish their local club to affiliate with the Party and be their affiliated club in the sense of this Constitution may so petition the State Central Committee. Each affiliated club shall have one representative on the State Central Committee. For each additional fifteen members of the Party in the local club's region, one representative will be added for that local club.

Section 2. Every affiliated club shall make a copy of its bylaws available to the State Central Committee and Judicial Committee. These bylaws must specify which county that local club is affiliating within. Local clubs shall submit valid credentials, as defined in the Bylaws, to the State Central Committee.

Section 3. All points in the state shall be covered by one and only one affiliated club. The State Central Committee shall have the power to adjust regions to insure such coverage.

Section 4. An affiliated club shall have the responsibility for the nomination of candidates whose districts lie entirely within its region. In the case of other offices (except statewide offices) the chairs or other representatives of the clubs whose regions overlap the district shall meet to nominate a candidate upon the request of any aspirant for the nomination. Each such representative shall have as many votes as there are Party members in the region being represented. An affiliated club may determine how its representatives shall vote.

Section 5. Affiliated clubs shall have the power to determine their own membership requirements. This Section shall not be construed to allow local clubs to avoid holding elections by their Party members as required elsewhere in this Constitution.

Section 6. The Bylaws shall provide for the submission of questions by the State Central Committee to affiliated clubs.

Section 7. Meetings of the local clubs must be open and announced to all its members and all Party members residing within its region.

Section 8. The State Central Committee shall recognize no local club lying, in whole or in part, outside the state of Illinois.

ARTICLE VIII. ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER PARTIES OR CANDIDATES

Neither the Party nor any affiliated club, as an organization, shall fund or advocate the election of a candidate of any other political party.

ARTICLE IX. VOTING PROCEDURES AND CONVENTION RULES

Section 1. The annual State Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the State Central Committee. Announcement will be made to all Party members no less than sixty days before the Convention.

Section 2.

(a) Any person who has been a member in good standing for the thirty days immediately preceding the Convention and who is present at the Convention may vote.

(b) Any person who has been a member in good standing for the thirty days immediately preceding the Convention may give a proxy to any other person who has been a member in good standing for the thirty days

immediately preceding the Convention, provided that the recipient holds no more than one other such proxy. Proxies may not be transferred among recipients, and must be recorded by the secretary prior to the start of the convention. Valid proxies are to be treated in the same manner as votes personally cast in all matters, including the determination of quorums, majorities, pluralities, etc.

(c) A member in good standing is one who meets the requirements of Article III.

Section 3. The following procedures shall be followed for electing officers:

(a) All nominees for Party office must announce their candidacy to the State Central Committee thirty days before the State Convention. The Party newsletter shall print the names of all candidates for Party office.

(b) Nominating speeches shall be less than two minutes. There shall be no more than two seconding speeches of no longer than one minute each.

(c) "None of the above" shall automatically be a candidate for any office.

(d) Elections shall, at the request of any member, be by secret ballot.

(e) All statewide candidates must meet eligibility requirements for their offices and must have expressed a willingness to accept the nomination.

(f) Any candidate getting a number of votes equal to a majority of people voting shall be elected.

(g) After the results of the second (and subsequent) ballots are announced, the candidate with the fewest votes will be dropped from consideration, except "None of the above."

Section 4. In years when delegates or other representatives are to be elected to the National Convention, the following rules shall apply:

(a) Each candidate shall nominate him or herself or otherwise indicate a willingness to serve.

(b) No candidate who is not an Illinois resident and current Party member shall be nominated.

(c) The election shall be by secret ballot and each person (or proxy) may vote for as many delegates as allotted by the National Committee to Illinois, but no one shall cast more than one vote for each delegate.

(d) Candidates shall be ranked by total votes and the secretary shall record the ranking. The first and subsequent ranks are delegates, up to the number allotted by the National Committee. Thereafter, candidates are alternates, with floor preference determined by their ranking. Tie rankings are to be settled by a coin toss.

(e) After the results are announced, the Chair shall call the question, "Does the Convention reaffirm this vote?" If the question fails, each delegate will run individually against "None of the above." If any delegate receives fewer votes than "None of the above," he or she will be struck from the delegate list.

Section 5. The following shall apply during debate:

(a) Each proposed rule or amendment shall be debated for a maximum of ten minutes. Debates may be closed by a two-thirds vote.

(b) The Chair of the Convention may require that any motion be made in writing, signed by the maker and delivered to the Convention Secretary.

(c) Voting shall be by voice vote, except where stated elsewhere in this Article. A show of hands or rising vote may be taken at the request of any Party member.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENT

Section 1. Except as provided in Sections 2 and 3 of this Article, this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a State Convention upon previous notice.

Section 2. When the Party becomes an established political party, as determined by the State Board of Elections under the laws of Illinois, the Judicial Committee with the approval of the State Central Committee shall amend this Constitution in order to conform to law. They shall not have the power to amend any section not superseded by law.

Section 3. This Article may not be amended, altered, or deleted except as provided in Section 2 of this Article.

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Don't forget--PETITIONING starts in May.

BYLAWS OF THE
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

As amended May 15, 1983

BYLAW I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Every Party member may vote on statewide issues in the affiliated club in whose region he or she resides. Only Party members may vote on statewide issues. Statewide issues include, but are not limited to: selection of statewide candidates and candidates whose districts are contained in the region of no single affiliated club, election of State Central Committee members and delegates to the National Convention, and questions submitted to the affiliated clubs by the State Central Committee.

Section 2. Every Party member shall be informed of the name and address of Party officers, State Central Committee and Judicial Committee members, all other Party officials and committee members, all Party nominees for public office, the newsletter editor, and chairs of affiliated clubs upon request to the Party Corresponding Secretary. Members shall have access to minutes of past State Central Committee meetings and State Conventions.

Section 3. Except as provided in Section 2 of this Bylaw, the distribution of the name of, and any information about, any Party member shall be limited upon request of that person to the Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, chair of that person's affiliated club, and such other persons as may be required by law.

BYLAW II. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS' DUTIES

Section 1. The State Central Committee shall:

(a) Hold meetings at least quarterly and determine the date and location of same.

(b) On written request of any Party member, consider convening the Judicial Committee to determine whether there has been a violation of the membership pledge.

(c) Determine the date, location, and agenda of the annual State Convention.

(d) Remove any Party officer by a three-fourths vote.

(e) Choose a newsletter editor and remove same if necessary, the term to be one year beginning one month after the annual State Convention. The editor is to be a voting member of the State Central Committee but shall have no more than one vote if also a voting member in any other capacity.

(f) Appoint Judicial Committee members as required by the Constitution.

(g) Determine official mailing address and access to Party mail.

(h) Determine whether any Party office is vacant.

(i) Determine local club affiliation.

(j) Determine membership dues and period of membership.

(k) Perform such other duties as may from time to time be necessary.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall:

(a) Consist of all elected officers.

(b) Choose new date and location of a State Central Committee meeting if necessary and notify representatives.

(c) Call emergency meetings of the State Central Committee if necessary.

Section 3. Officers' duties shall be the following:

(a) Chair:

(1) Chair State Central Committee meetings and State Convention business sessions.

(2) Serve on all committees formed by the State Central Committee.

(3) Set agenda for State Central Committee meetings.

(4) Is host/hostess of the State Central Committee unless other arrangements are made.

(b) Northern Vice-Chair:

(1) Shall chair if appointed by the State Central Committee.

(2) Shall coordinate local clubs in all counties in Illinois falling north of and including the following: Mercer, Henry, Bureau, Putnam, LaSalle, Grundy, and Kankakee.

(3) Shall be liaison between local clubs in the northern Illinois region as defined above and the newsletter editor.

(c) South-Central Vice-Chair:

(1) Shall chair if appointed by the State

January, 1984 5

Central Committee.

(2) Shall coordinate local clubs in all counties outside of the northern Illinois region.

(3) Shall be liaison between South-Central Illinois local clubs and the newsletter editor.

(d) Recording Secretary:

(1) Shall keep accurate records of all official Party meetings.

(2) Shall submit previous meeting's minutes in writing for State Central Committee approval.

(3) Shall distribute proposed agenda of upcoming State Central Committee meeting and minutes of most recent meeting to State Central Committee members, local club chairs, and the newsletter editor prior to the next meeting.

(4) Shall deliver all minutes to the official storage place.

(5) Shall make no fewer than two reports to the State Central Committee regarding local club membership and representative entitlement. One such report shall be made at the first State Central Committee meeting following the State Convention, and another shall be made six months after the first.

(e) Corresponding Secretary:

(1) Shall conduct all official correspondence between the Party and other bodies and individuals.

(2) Shall maintain the Party mailing list.

(3) Shall deliver all correspondence concerning finance to the Treasurer within the week it is received.

(f) Treasurer:

(1) Shall receive, record, and disburse all Party funds.

(2) Shall prepare a budget for the term of office, to be approved by the State Central Committee and transmitted to the next Treasurer at the term's conclusion.

(3) Shall get State Central Committee approval for any non-budgeted item exceeding \$50.

(4) Shall distribute written monthly financial reports to the State Central Committee, committee heads, and local club chairs.

(5) Shall present a detailed annual profit and loss statement at the Convention, copies to be available to all members.

Section 4. State Central Committee representatives shall:

(a) Express concerns of the club represented at State Central Committee meetings.

(b) Report Party activities to local club members.

(c) Report membership number and local activities to the State Central Committee.

(d) Report calendar items to the respective Vice-Chair.

BYLAW III. STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. There shall be an annual State Convention at which all Party officers, National Convention delegates, or statewide candidates as determined by the State Central Committee are chosen.

Section 2. There shall be educational activities and a business session to consider Party finances, Constitution and Bylaws changes, and a membership report.

Section 3. The business session shall be conducted in accordance with the Convention Rules of the Constitution.

Section 4. No admission charge for the business session shall be required of any Party member.

Section 5. Business session minutes shall be treated as regular minutes as stipulated in Bylaw II, Section 3(d).

Section 6. The interval between consecutive State Conventions shall be no less than ten months and no greater than fifteen months.

BYLAW IV. SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS TO LOCAL CLUBS

Any question may be submitted by majority vote of the State Central Committee to the affiliated clubs. Questions so submitted shall be resolved as follows:

(a) Upon submission of the question, the affiliated clubs shall conduct a vote of their Party members within forty-five days.

(b) The results must then be submitted to the State Central Committee within five days.

(c) The State Central Committee shall make these results available to the Party members.

BYLAW V. LOCAL CLUB CREDENTIALS

Section 1. Each local club shall, prior to recognition by the State Central Committee, submit credentials to the Recording Secretary consisting of

6 the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

the following:

(a) The local club's bylaws.

(b) A list of all current local club officers and State Central Committee representatives.

(c) A statement signed by the chair and secretary of the local club certifying that:

(1) Its officers were elected in accordance with the club's bylaws;

(2) The club's State Central Committee representative(s) was (were) elected by a majority vote of no less than five current Party members residing within the club's boundaries.

Section 2. Any changes in or additions to the club's officers or State Central Committee representatives shall be communicated to the Party Recording Secretary as in Section 1(c) above.

Section 3. This Bylaw shall take effect thirty days after the 1981 Convention.

BYLAW VI. MAILING LIST

Section 1. The State Central Committee shall maintain a mailing list of those people who have expressed an interest in the Party. Such list, and all future additions, shall be the sole property of the Party.

Section 2. Any uses of the mailing list, other than for official Party business, must first be approved by a three-fifths vote of the State Central Committee. The mailing list shall be coded so that any person may request to have his or her name removed from any part of the mailing list released to other organizations.

Section 3. Unauthorized use of the mailing list shall be a violation of the membership pledge, in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution.

Section 4. All authorized political committees will, as a condition of authorization, make all names of persons interested in campaigns available to the Party Corresponding Secretary for inclusion in the Party mailing list. Any name provided by a committee will not be denied to that committee by the Party for the duration of that committee's existence.

BYLAW VII. AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. An authorized political committee for political campaigns must be endorsed by the State Central Committee for any candidate endorsed by the Party.

Section 2. The State Central Committee shall ascertain that all authorized political committees meet the following conditions:

(a) Only candidates endorsed by the Party are financed by the committee.

(b) All officers of the committee are current Party members, except that the treasurer may be a certified public accountant or accounting firm.

(c) The committee makes financial reports available to the State Central Committee upon request.

Section 3. For the purposes of this Bylaw, "authorized political committee" means one which is permitted access to the Party mailing list during, and no longer than, the period of authorization and only on behalf of such candidate, candidates, or activities as represented by the committee at the time of its authorization, unless otherwise provided for by the State Central Committee.

Section 4. This Bylaw shall apply to Libertarian candidates for public office only.

BYLAW VIII. CONVENING OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

The State Central Committee may, by majority vote, request the Judicial Committee to determine whether any Party member has violated the pledge established by Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution. If four members of the Judicial Committee determine that the Party member has violated the Pledge, the Party member is expelled from the Party.

BYLAW IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of the State Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and these Bylaws.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of State Central Committee meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, these Bylaws, and the Procedural Rules of the State Central Committee.

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from the SOUTH SIDE

by Joe Bast

The Hyde Park Libertarians met on February 14th to discuss the topic, "Is Socialism Impossible?" The fifteen people present heard David Ramsay Steele give a half-hour talk and then engaged in discussion.

Steele began with a brief history of the terms "socialism" and "communism," showing that from the time the terms were first introduced there has been sharp disagreement about their meanings, both among persons sympathetic to the movement and those critical of it. Steele proposed to deal specifically with "Marxian Communism," characterized by state ownership of the means of production and central planning.

The strongest argument against this kind of socialism, according to Steele, is the economic calculation argument. Introduced simultaneously by Ludwig von Mises, Max Weber, and Boris Brutzkus, the argument is essentially this: the central planners of an economy need huge quantities of information concerning resource costs and availability, production techniques, labor supply, and demand; that information is dispersed among millions of buyers and sellers; the market creates, continually adjusts, and distributes (in the form of prices) this information; in the absence of a market, this information will not be available and hence central planning is impossible.

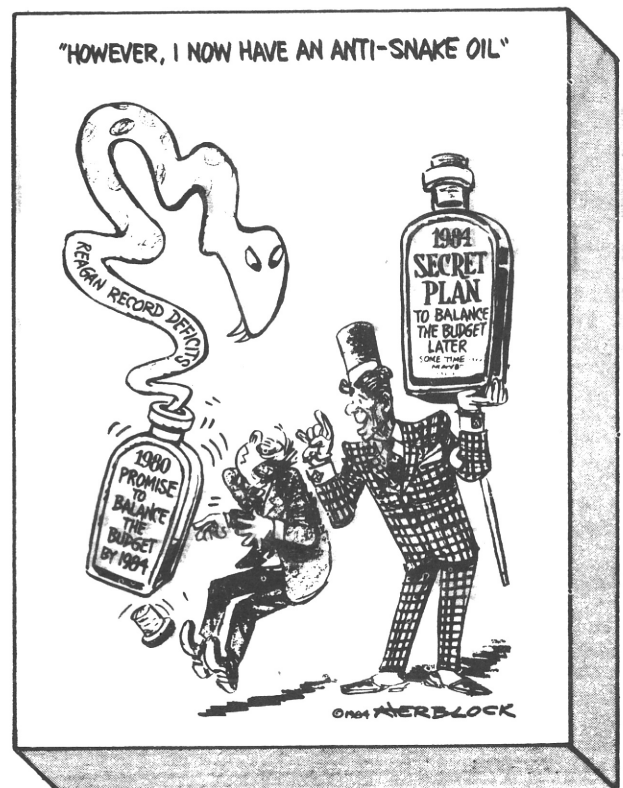
There have been three attempted replies to the economic calculation argument. The classical Marxist reply is that an hour of labor will be used as the unit of account in terms of which all other values can be computed. But labor is not homogenous, and it seems to be impossible to assign a single value to it. Labor theory also disregards unproduced factors (such as natural resources or geographic location) and consequently is not a complete answer. Finally, by deriving values from costs, labor theory is putting the cart before the horse; rather than answer the economic question of what combination of factors most efficiently produces value, labor theory implies that

value follows from one particular factor of production.

The second attempted answer is what Steele referred to as the "millions of equations" approach, wherein it is argued that with enough equations and enough computers all the necessary information can be manipulated. The flaw in this reply is that the problem is not merely manipulation (though even this may be technically impossible), but the actual generation of information. Economic information does not exist until trade takes place. In the absence of a market, there is no information to manipulate!

The final reply, formulated by economist Oskar Lange in 1938, contends that economic managers could use "notional prices" in average and marginal cost analysis to arrive at optimal combinations of factors of production. After a period of trial and error these "notional prices" would be adjusted to accurately reflect relative values. But this argument fails to address the problem of valuing unique resources (a dockyard in a particular place, a valuable piece of machinery), and managers isolated from market forces would have no way of knowing whether or not they assigned the correct "notional prices," or in what direction to move them. Also, while cost analysis is a descriptive model of optimal resource allocation, it is not an operative rule which managers could somehow apply in the absence of information. Finally, the system Lange envisioned is hardly even socialist in the normal meaning of the term. It is instructive to note that no socialist or communist country uses Lange's method of management, not even Poland, where Lange was chairman of the Polish Economic Council for five years.

Bergland for President and Givot for Senate
will only be on the ballot in Illinois if we
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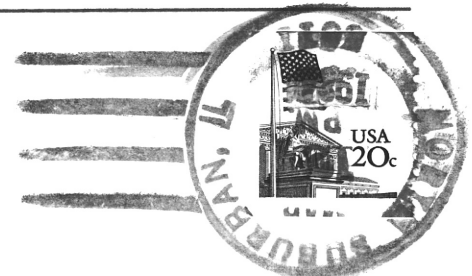
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NEXT SCC MEETING APRIL 8

The next State Central Committee meeting will be at Noon, Sunday, April 8, at the home of Bert Stunkard, 4315 Azalia #321, Lisle. Call Bert for directions--312/969-5426. Although only SCC Reps may vote, all LPI members are welcome to attend SCC meetings.

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