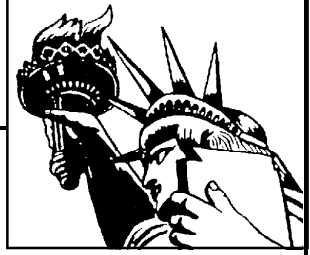


LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



A FEDERAL POLICE FORCE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Rep. Ron Paul, R-TX, House of Representatives - September 17, 1997

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, another Member severely criticized me on the House floor for declaring on C-SPAN that indeed many Americans justifiably feared their own government. This fear has come from the police state mentality that prompted Ruby Ridge, Waco and many other episodes of an errant Federal Government.

Under the constitution, there was never meant to be a Federal police force. Even an FBI limited only to investigations was not accepted until this century. Yet today, fueled by the Federal Government's misdirected war on drugs, radical environmentalism, and the aggressive behavior of the nanny state, we have witnessed the massive buildup of a virtual army of armed regulators prowling the States where they have no legal authority. The sacrifice of individual responsibility and the concept of local government by the majority of American citizens has permitted the army of bureaucrats to thrive.

We have depended on government for so much for so long that we as people have become less vigilant of our liberties. As long as the government provides largesse for the majority, the special interest lobbyists will succeed in continuing the redistribution of welfare programs that occupies most of Congress's legislative time.

Wealth is limited, yet demands are unlimited. A welfare system inevitably diminishes production and shrinks the economic pie. As this occurs, anger among the competing special interests grows. While Congress and the people concentrate on material welfare and its equal redistribution, the principles of liberty are ignored, and freedom is undermined.

More immediate, the enforcement of the interventionist state requires a growing army of bureaucrats. Since groups demanding special favors from the Federal Government must abuse the rights and property of those who produce wealth and cherish liberty, real resentment is directed at the agents who come to eat out our substance. The natural consequence is for the intruders to arm themselves to protect against angry victims of government intrusion.

Thanks to a recent article by Joseph Farah, director of the Western Journalism Center of Sacramento, CA, appearing in the *Houston Chronicle*, the surge in the number of armed Federal bureaucrats has been brought to our attention. Farah points out that in 1996 alone, at least 2,439 new Federal cops were authorized to carry firearms. That takes the total up to nearly 60,000. Farah points

out that these cops were not only in agencies like the FBI, but include the EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Army

Corps of Engineers. Even Bruce Babbitt, according to Farah, wants to arm the Bureau of Land Management. Farah logically asks, 'When will the NEA have its armed art cops?' This is a dangerous trend.

It is ironic that the proliferation of guns in the hands of the bureaucrats is pushed by the antigun fanatics who hate the second amendment and would disarm every law-abiding American citizen. Yes, we need gun control. We need to disarm our bureaucrats, then abolish the agencies. If government bureaucrats like guns that much, let them seek work with the NRA.

Force and intimidation are the tools of tyrants. Intimidation with government guns, the threat of imprisonment, and the fear of harassment by government agents puts fear into the hearts of millions of Americans. Four days after Paula Jones refused a settlement in her celebrated suit, she received notice that she and her husband would be audited for 1995 taxes. Since 1994 is the current audit year for the IRS, the administration's denial that the audit is related to the suit is suspect, to say the least.

Even if it is coincidental, do not try to convince the American people. Most Americans, justifiably cynical and untrusting toward the Federal Government, know the evidence exists that since the 1970's both Republican and Democratic administrations have not hesitated to intimidate their political enemies with IRS audits and regulatory harassment.

Even though the average IRS agent does not carry a gun, the threat of incarceration and seizure of property is backed up by many guns. All government power is ultimately gun power and serves the interests of those who despise or do not comprehend the principles of liberty. The gun in the hands of law-abiding citizens serves to hold in check arrogant and aggressive government. Guns in the hands of the bureaucrats do the opposite. The founders of this country fully understood this fact.

Published in the Sep. 22, 1997 issue of *The Washington Weekly*
Copyright 1997 *The Washington Weekly* (<http://www.federal.com>)
Reposting permitted with this message intact Dr. Ron Paul was the Libertarian Party's candidate for President in 1988. He is now serving in Congress as a Republican from Texas.

Be Afraid...Be *Very* Afraid

Last month, an article in the *Lifeline* warned of pending legislation in congress called the Security and Freedom through Encryption (SAFE) Act. This bill, sponsored by Congressman Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, was originally quite acceptable to advocates of personal privacy, but was turned on its head by what came to be called the Oxley-Manton Amendment, a frightening Big Brother provision which mandated a key escrow encryption standard supported by the FBI. What this amendment would have done would require U.S. citizens and businesses to use a kind of encryption software for which the government would hold in escrow a decryption key that could be used to read *anyone and everyone's* private electronic correspondence, should the feds suspect criminal activity. Bill Wiedemann, president of Red Creek Communications, Inc. of Newark, California, a company that sells Virtual Private Networks, remarked to *LANtimes Magazine*, "It's like the FBI telling car companies they can only produce cars that go 40 miles per hour, because they wouldn't be able to catch criminals if cars went any faster." Secure encryption software is critically important to establishing a Virtual Private Network (VPN) over the internet. Fortunately,

2 the Oxley-Manton Amendment was rejected by the House Commerce Committee, and the Electronic Frontier Foundation has now seen fit to support the bill.

But the fight for electronic privacy is far from over. Now, the National Security Agency is attempting to frighten politicians into drafting more and more totalitarian legislation. The NSA recently warned the Clinton Administration that within the next decade, the U.S. is likely to be subject to an "information warfare" attack on its network infrastructure. They promote the fear that terrorists or hostile foreign nations might use advanced electronics or hacker techniques to disrupt communications networks and wreak havoc with the U.S. economy, which is so heavily dependent upon computer communications. Tom Marsh, a retired four-star general and now chairman of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection, has advocated a "public-private partnership" with America's biggest businesses to shore up our national computer security foundation.

Not content to build in a back door for federal police agencies to spy on private citizens with key escrow encryption, the NSA now wants to come right through the front door. They claim that if strategic private sector industries—such as banks, power and utility companies and the entire networking industry—fail to share their security plans with the government, they cannot count on the government's protection in the event they are attacked by cyberterrorists. The government is so ill-prepared to deal with such an attack that these bureaucrats want to force private businesses to "share" their own security practices and details about previous security breaches. They all but acknowledge that the government itself is incapable of protecting the nation's information infrastructure on their own, and must beg for assistance from the private sector. Why should banks, water utilities, gas companies and software engineers be willing to share what could be embarrassing information about their previous security lapses that might hurt their competitiveness? You'd think that these private businesses would immediately reject such a preposterous idea.

But Nancy Wong, manager of information assets at Pacific Gas & Electric, wants to encourage other companies to cooperate with the government just like PG&E has "for the sake of national security." California Libertarians should keep PG&E's recent actions in mind when utility de-regulation finally arrives in the next few years. The ability to choose your own utility provider in a free market environment will allow you to shop around for a company that values and protects its own privacy as much as you value and protect yours.



LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Douglas Ohmen

Winston Churchill used to paint. I have been laying bricks. Laying bricks is an avocation that does not use much mental effort, so it allows a person a lot of time for thinking. This is a philosophy course. Thinking will be required on the exam. Question: Why would anyone give money to a politician? List your answers below.

My thoughts (based on my running for office): Your mother gives you a little through maternal loyalty. Your mother-in-law gives you nothing. She thinks her daughter (or son as the case may be) would have been better off marrying your opponent. Your children give you nothing since they think you are a nutcase for running at all. You are embarrassed to ask your friends for money that so obviously is going to be spent fruitlessly since you may not even get elected. There will be little or no return for them.

The key question: Who *does* give those big bucks to the politicians and why?

Slight digression: Why did the Communist Chinese give large donations to President William Clinton and the Democratic Party?

Easy answer: They expected a lot more in return. They wanted their own closed area in Long Beach Harbor. They don't want to be hassled about taking over land at each end of the Panama Canal. They don't want to be seriously reprimanded when they take away freedoms in Hong Kong. They want to take over the islands of Quimoy and Matsu. They eventually want to take over the entire free island of Taiwan. In order to build up their military and their nuclear weapon capability they need supercomputers and precision machinery from the United States. They have already received many of these things and hope to slide the rest of them through in the future.

Back to the key question: Who does give those big bucks to politicians and why? Simple answer: The people and groups who give the big money expect to receive more from the politicians than they give! Easy. You passed the quiz.

Examples: The unions want a Labor Secretary who will ensure that all government contracts have to go to union shops. Teachers want the Department of Education to make big Federal grants to the schools and prevent any hint of vouchers (below the college level.) The farm conglomerates want subsidized sales

of farm produce and to prevent anyone from selling milk or oranges (for example) for less than their minimum price. In the county, the developers want a zoning change so that they can put in a new residential area. The soccer moms want the city to put in new soccer fields at taxpayer expense. The homeowners want building restricted so that there will be a housing shortage and home prices will go up.

Corollary to the easy answer: Every time the politicians give one group something, other groups lose a lot more. Never fails. The only thing is that usually the losses are so diffused the other people don't know how much they have really lost. Giving money to politicians is not altruism, nor should it be (except from your mother.) Giving money to the right politicians should be considered self protection.

You know that Libertarians will try to reduce government and increase personal freedom. They are not going to promise to give you more soccer fields, or government contracts, or increased pay, or "free" health insurance. You are going to have to pay for those things yourself, but it will be a lot cheaper than having the government tax you for them and then give them back to you for "free."

It is true that a few politicians may tell you what they stand for and you can believe them. You should support them with your money. Most candidates try to promise something for every group. They are the ones who get the big bucks. Those politicians are not technically for sale, but you know that they are going to try to take whatever they can from the public treasury or from everyone's personal freedom to satisfy the groups that support them.

My friends, if you do not support the Libertarian candidates and other good, honorable politicians with your money and your time, then you are going to continue getting politicians who will take your money and your freedoms. The choice is yours.

"What we obtain too cheap,
we esteem too lightly . . . it
would be strange indeed if so
celestial an article as freedom
should not be highly rated."

-- Thomas Paine

Overpopulation - a Free-Market Solution?

by Katherine McKay

The problem of global overpopulation has been considered to be one of the most pressing problems facing our world, because of both present and probable future effects. A great deal of public education has been devoted to persuading people to limit their families, and some governments with dictatorial powers have used coercive as well as persuasive tactics. In China, the rule of one child per family has been carried out with forced abortions after the birth of one child. In India, where placards depicting a happy two-child family are posted everywhere, coerced sterilizations have sometimes been used to hasten the process of birth reduction.

Few people would dispute the necessity of curbing world population. Some have wondered whether our increasing numbers will be reduced by disasters such as widespread disease, environmental degradation, or government intervention. Libertarians, however, advocate personal rather than governmental solutions to social problems. Is there a free-market solution to the problem of overpopulation?

Children are the most common form of capital formation throughout human history. (I am indebted to *The Great Reckoning*, by Davidson and Rees-Mogg, for this insight.) Societies without developed financial markets and affluent populations need children as unskilled workers for the family livelihood and as social security for the parents in old age. It makes little difference how much governments exhort people to reduce their birth rates or pass out contraceptives; if there is no way to amass capital in the form of monetary assets, if there is no way to provide financial security for old age, if families need children as workers, people will continue to have many children as a matter of common-sense self-interest. (High infant and child mortality increases the number of children needed to insure that some will survive into adulthood.)

When families are poor and their labor is unskilled, children are economic assets and are produced in quantity. When families accumulate finan-

cial assets and cease to need children to labor for them and provide for the parents' old age, children become economic liabilities. The law of supply and demand indicates that the supply of children will thus rise where economic demand for them is great and will fall where economic demand is low. That this is the case can be seen by comparing the birth rate in industrialized nations with that in developing nations. The birth rate in the former has now fallen to about 1.5 births per woman, below replacement levels, while the rate in the latter is about 3.3 births. Child-labor laws are a luxury of affluent societies.

Ben Franklin, in responding to the question of how a young man might secure his fortune, replied that he would do best to marry a widow with nine children. At the end of the 18th century, nine children providing unpaid labor on a farm would produce considerable wealth. At the end of the 20th century, Franklin's advice would be a prescription for bankruptcy.

My own experience in India, where I spent several months in 1971 as a graduate student doing anthropological research in family and kinship systems, led me to a similar, if unexpected, conclusion. The family I researched was large and had many branches. Originally no wealthier than their neighbors in an undeveloped agricultural province of South India, one branch became the leading industrialists of the region by learning modern skills in the city of Madras and establishing businesses in their home city, amassing considerable wealth in the process. I tabulated the lifestyles of several branches of the family and found a clear-cut correlation between wealth, education and exposure to Western customs on one hand, and number of children in the family on the other. People who were not affluent, did not speak English well, had no university training, were craftworkers and lived in the traditional extended family setting (in which brothers and their wives and children all lived with the brothers' parents) tended to have six or more children. People who were affluent from working in the family-owned industries, spoke English well, had university degrees (some from Western universities) and lived in nuclear families apart from their parents and siblings' families had one or two children.

Even religious strictures regarding birth control are overridden by economic considerations. Though

the Catholic Church's teachings on contraception and abortion are the same all over the world, in affluent countries they are widely ignored. The majority of American Catholics practice birth control; in Catholic European countries such as Italy and Spain, the birth rate is no higher than in the Protestant European countries. In fact, Catholic Italy now has the lowest birth rate in the world. If this theory is correct, the greater number of children in poor Catholic countries in Latin America and elsewhere has more to do with economics than with religion.

Much has been written on the dangers of large populations with high birth rates becoming affluent and consequently using up far more of the earth's resources than they presently do. I suggest that a self-limiting factor will prevent this, at least after a generation. If the current trend of increasing global trade and production of wealth results in stable financial markets developing in such countries, people will no longer have to turn to the extended family and to their grown children for services provided in financially developed countries by insurance companies, banks, capital markets and old-age pensions. With increasing education, people will be able to abandon subsistence livelihoods to work in the new intellectually-skilled occupations demanded in the Information Age, as many are already doing, and their children will no longer be needed to provide the family with unskilled labor. As the children of newly affluent families cease to be producers and become consumers, the advantage of limiting the number of children will become immediately evident to each family.

Thus we may find the overpopulation problem solving itself with increased opportunities in poor nations for individuals to better themselves economically.

Resources: James Dale Davidson and Lord William Rees-Mogg, The Great Reckoning, Simon & Schuster, 1993, pp. 170-171 and 300-301.

Nicholas Eberstadt, "The Population Implosion," The Wall Street Journal, October 16, 1997.

Help Keep the *Libertarian* *Lifeline* Alive!

Last month, East Bay Region chair Doug Ohmen made an appeal for funding to help subsidize the publication of this newsletter. There were no responses. To reiterate our situation, under the new Unified Membership Plan approved at last February's state LP convention, our membership numbers have almost doubled, but our dues revenue from the State Party has dropped by 50%, so the newsletter is no longer a break-even activity of the Party. The Marin County LP has offered to help us by paying for their part of the newsletter (see page 7), but while this covers the additional cost of mailing to Marin Libertarians, it does not change the overall numbers.

If as few as two people contributed an additional twenty dollars each month, we could close the gap between revenues and expenses. It doesn't have to be the *same* two people each month, just a couple of Libertarians who feel the newsletter is worth the additional support of an occasional donation. If we are unable to generate the necessary funding, we may need to reduce the frequency of the *Lifeline* to bi-monthly instead of monthly.

If you can spare a \$20 donation to keep the *Lifeline* on its present monthly publication schedule, please send a check to the Libertarian Party of California, 20993 Foothill Boulevard, #318, Hayward, CA 94541-1511. All donors will be given credit in the newsletter and thanked for their generosity.

Redevelopment: What You Can Do

by Lou Filipovich

First, it is to acknowledge that the ten part series, "Redevelopment—the Unknown Government" would not have been produced without help that involved hundreds of dedicated persons such as Jean Heinal, Californians United for Redevelopment Education (CURE) and especially, the City of Fullerton's Mayor Chris Norby, who is also the Director of the Municipal Officials for Redevelopment Reform (MORR). Clearly, redevelopment is out of control. Under the thin guise of eliminating blight, it consumes a growing share of property taxes, incurs ever-burgeoning debt, spawns sales tax wars among cities and tramples on property rights. Originally created as a temporary measure following World War II, it threatens to become a permanent cancer on California's political and economic life. Ending redevelopment abuses can be approached on several levels, outlined below.

Second, understand that both local activism and legal challenge for the average individual tax payer are overly time-consuming and prohibitively expensive.

Third, state legislation must be drafted and sponsored. Redevelopment is a layer of government created by the state, and has no powers other than those granted by the state. Often led by Senator Quentin Kopp (I-San Francisco), numerous redevelopment reform bills have been introduced into the legislature. The following reforms must continue to be addressed:

Eminent domain: controls must be placed on the widespread abuse of eminent domain; **sales tax disbursement:** some type of per-capital sales tax disbursement would end predatory redevelopment and return cities to an equal footing. Assured of a stable revenue flow based on its population size, cities could concentrate on providing basic services, rather than subsidizing new businesses. **Debt control:** make redevelopment debt subject to voter approval; this would limit debt issuance and make city agencies more publicly accountable. **Mandatory sunsets:** the 40-year sunset law must be given teeth and enforced. If redevelopment agencies truly have eliminated blight, then there should be no further need for them. **State-City Fiscal Truce:** as cities close down agencies and return revenues to the state, the state must then restore

6

to cities a higher share of property taxes to pay for public services.

Unfortunately, too many legislators and their staffs still do not fully understand redevelopment and see political gain in challenging it. Its opponents are many, but still scattered and unorganized, while its beneficiaries are vocal and well-funded.

Fourth, statewide initiative: ending redevelopment abuses at the local level is difficult, legal challenges are expensive and legislation is subject to inside influence. Real change can be made only through a voters' statewide ballot proposition. Such an initiative is being planned for 1998 by Paul Gann's Citizens' Committee. It would require voter approval for *all* new redevelopment debt. Such approval would be rare. The issuance of new debt would end, allowing future tax increments to be restored to real public needs. Agencies would continue to exist solely to pay off existing debt, then would sunset once current obligations were met.

Opposition to redevelopment statewide is growing and cuts across the political spectrum. It includes pro-property rights REPUBLICANS and anti-corporate welfare DEMOCRATS. It includes conservatives concerned with neighborhood preservation. It includes LIBERTARIANS supporting the free market and civil rights opposing the displacement of minority communities. It includes far-sighted city officials looking beyond their own automalls and academics who realize a pyramid scheme based on ever-rising debt cannot be good public policy.

When redevelopment is fully understood, change will come quickly. When it is no longer the Unknown Government, policies promoting fiscal responsibility, free enterprise and fair play for all Californians will finally be restored.

Footnote: public hearings (a reminder from Part 1 of this series): "City redevelopment agencies (CRAs) have to hear you, but they don't have to do anything about what you say!" Therefore, any redevelopment solution requires a voters' statewide ballot proposition, and Richard Gann, President of Paul Gann's Citizens' Committee, needs all the help that can be "mustered" to produce a redevelopment ballot initiative that would require voter approval at the local government level. Above all else, any initiative/proposition must protect and preserve the renters' and homeowners' property taxing systems. □

This is the conclusion of Lou Filipovich's ten part series on Redevelopment Agencies. The entire series will soon be available in a single volume. We also hope to obtain permission to post the full series on the World Wide Web.

News from Marin

Libertarian Party members in Marin County will henceforth be receiving the *Lifeline*, as we now carry news of meetings in Marin and articles by members. As our Marin County membership grows, they will eventually publish their own newsletter. Congratulations to Marin County members for their work in reviving this group!

"Libertarian" isn't just a title for the party of freedom, it's a way of life. Each day we are faced with issues of the government interfering in our lives, and we must ask ourselves what we can do to break away from government's overzealous regulating of society. Can we build a society that's based on the idea that most men have enough sense to do the right thing without government control and that government-run business is not always the best answer? How do we approach freeing the mind of man when the bonds of tradition are so ingrained? We must start by freeing ourselves and, through our example, encourage others to exchange fear for liberty and freedom. Whether by taking on issues individually or by encouraging others with plays and lectures, even the smallest step towards liberating the mind is highly valued.

The Libertarian Party of Marin County is being revived after many years of dormancy. The kick-off meeting was conducted by Tammy Austin on September 21 and was attended by a small group of Marin County activists as well as

by Steve Marsland of San Mateo, Jeff Sommer of Hayward and Jon Peterson, Vice Chair of the Northern California LP. Jon contributed much in his direction and his experience in getting the group started.

This is an exciting time for those of us who want to organize and participate in the LP at the local level, so that we can have some influence in the politics and values of county residents. The group plans to have tables at the various Farmers' Markets around Marin.

Elections for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be held on Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 at the Masonic Lodge at 23 Corte Madera Ave. in downtown Mill Valley (just behind the Bank of America and across from Mill Valley Market).

Participating would be a great way to meet and work with people with similar values and a desire for liberty. To contact the Libertarian Party of Marin, call or write to: LPM, P.O. 10671, San Rafael, CA 94912, or call (415) 331-1500 x 139. Email address: MarinLP@webtv.net.

Join us December 28th at 2 pm for an enlightening play about life and the liberation of the mind. "The Impromptu" by Ted Mosel will be presented at the Mill Valley Masonic Lodge, 23 Corte Madera Ave. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

-- Janice Edelstein

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

*I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.*

Libertarian Party

of California

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Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

I would like to join: ☐ Marin County LP ☐ East Bay Region LP

☐ Recorded in database

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **NOVEMBER**

Sunday, November 9, 1997, 7:00 p.m. Michael Edelstein, Ph.D., will be speaking about his book *Three Minute Therapy: Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life* at Resources for Independent Thinking, 5236

of the Quality Paperback Book Club/Book-of-the-Month Club. Dr. Edelstein is a Libertarian activist in Marin County. For more information, call the RIT Director, Sharon Presley, at (510) 601-9450 or go to <http://www.well.com/user/rit>

at the Mark

Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. Jointly sponsored by the Cato Institute, Forbes ASAP and the Bionomics Institute. Featured speakers include Virginia Postel, editor of *Reason Magazine*, Edward H. Crane, President of the Cato Institute, Peter Huber, author of *David Boaz*, author of *A Libertarian Primer* co-founder of the Cato Institute, Gregory Benford, Professor of Plasma Physics at UC Irvine and a Hugo-award winning science fiction author, and Bernardo Huberman, Senior Research fellow at the Xerox Palo Alto Research

<http://www.cato.org/events/bionomics.html>

Sunday, November 16, 1997, 4:00 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting.

attending their organizational meeting at the Marin Masonic Lodge, 23 Corte Madera Avenue in Mill Valley. The election of officers will be the highlight of the meeting. For more information, call (415) 331-1500 x 139.

Join us at the Hayward

Fishery Restaurant at 7400 San Ramon Valley Blvd (Near Amador between Interstate 580 and Alcosta Blvd). Featured speaker will be from the Sovereignty Foundation. From 580, take the San Ramon Valley exit North.

Tuesday, November 25, 1997, 7:00 p.m. Oakland/Berkeley Libertarians in the 16th Congressional District will

Oakland, CA. For more information, contact Jeffrey Sommer at (510) 537-3212 or Greg Lyon at (510) 284-8367.

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