



SHOCKWAVE

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Chairman Editor
RICHARD DYMENT D. K. DAS

Now you know. There is no magic wand that will make our economic problems go away. Even the politicians have stopped pretending they could help. And the special-interest groups who rode the political band-wagons in their best interests are letting their true colors show.

Farmers are pouring milk into sewers, and slaughtering their cattle, rather than let the price of food come down. Unions are forcing high wage settlements, adding to the inflationary spiral. Corporations are seeking market restraints, subsidies and protective laws.

But we knew this would happen.

We were afraid of hunger, sickness, age, unemployment. So we let ourselves be conned into believing they could be "solved" for us. We desired prosperity and good living; so we listened to those who guaranteed free delivery on request. We dreamed of ecstasy, and wish fulfilment; and we were encouraged to live by our whims, so others could exploit our unthinking existences.

Our fears may have been real, our desires proper, our dreams vital. But because we gave others the authority to prescribe solutions to our needs, we lost control over our lives. We began living by proxy, and became puppets in the hands of the power-seekers, the con artists, the quacks of society.

Now they have run out of games to play.

So the prices could keep going up. The goodies that were almost within reach on supermarket shelves could start disappearing into back rooms. We could lose the power to get what we need to live, as jobs become scarce and the low money supply brings on unemployment. Today's necessities could become tomorrow's luxuries; today's middle-class pleasures, tomorrow's "jet-set" entertainments.

We could make things worse. We could ask governments, "decision-makers", the dealers of power, to DO SOMETHING---as if they had not done enough already. We could look for new saviors, new messiahs. We could take our frustrations out on ourselves. We could tune out altogether.

OR: we could take responsibility for dealing with our own needs, our own desires. We could refuse to play the games that other people design for us, and fight every move to tell us what to do in the name of the "common good". We could protect what we still own, and defend the rights we still have left. And we could work, in freedom, with others who also seek to be free, to see what we could make of our lives.

We won't solve all our problems this way; they have been with us too long for that. But they would be OUR problems. That could be quite a beginning.

.....DKD

? YOU MIGHT WELL ASK.....?

(Questions on libertarian ideas and philosophy will be answered in this column by the Editor. Both queries and comments are welcome....let's get discussion going.)

Q: WHERE AND WHEN DID LIBERTARIAN IDEAS REALLY ORIGINATE?

A: At least as far back as the Rig-Vedic Age in ancient India. The Vedics were reacting to Sumero-Hārāppan authoritarianism, and created most of the intuitive notions we use today. Examples are: "private property", Bharadvāj (3700 BC); "individual as utility-maximizer and proprietor", Viśvāmitra (3900 BC); "Right of equal opportunity", Gotama Rāhugana (4100 BC). The basic concept of "liberty (svarājya) as self dominion" was created by Divodāsa the Wanderer around 2600 BC, following the fall of Mohenjo-Dāro (all dates based on the new radiocarbon dating system developed in California in 1972 AD).

SHOCKWAVE is the official publication of the Libertarian Party of Washington State. It will be published once a month; the next issue will be mailed by the third week of April.

SHOCKWAVE welcomes contributions from readers, in any of the formats described below. In certain cases, prior consultation is needed; if this is indicated, please call or write us before you send us anything. SHOCKWAVE reserves the right to edit for style, length and content without prior notification. All material printed in SHOCKWAVE will be considered the property of the Libertarian Party of Washington State; any reprint, rebroadcast, or other use of this material is prohibited except by permission of the Editor of SHOCKWAVE or the Chairman of the Libertarian Party.

SHOCKWAVE would like to get:

- (1) LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, not to exceed 100 words each;
- (2) STATEMENTS on PUBLIC ISSUES, not to exceed 150 words each (prior consultation is needed);
- (3) BRIEFS (news items, quotes, anecdotes, or mini-reviews of books, films, etc.) up to 50 words each.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want your writings back. SHOCKWAVE CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNSOLICITED MATERIAL; but we will try our best to be careful---if you help.

Deadline for next issue is April 1, 1975. Send correspondence to: D.K. Das, c/o SHOCKWAVE, P. O. Box 2096, Seattle, WA 98111.

240 MILLION DOLLAR TAX REFUND

The Secretary of State has now assigned Number 308 to the Libertarian Party's initiative to remove the sales tax and the Business and Occupation Tax from the four basic necessities of life., i.e., food, clothing, building materials and medical related supplies.

The Declaration of Independence well noted that "Mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed." Thus we face the enormous task of showing the public the extent of the evil in which they have become enmeshed.

Initiative 308 is another step in this program of Libertarian education. It combines the highest of libertarian ideals with present day political reality. Your help is needed to insure the success of this tax reduction program.

Carl Nicolai, Chairman
Initiative 308 (C.O.S.T.)
9206 - 5th Avenue N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115

(206) 522-5280

PLANNING FOR ACTION

The Action Planning Committee, chaired by Richard Slomon has already swung into action against the Seattle School Board levy. The main objectives of the APC are to make (1) projections of available person-power in the State Party in 1975; (2) geographic distribution studies on the membership and on potential membership; (3) formulation of issues and determination of their priority and amenability to the growth of the party; and (4) aid in formulating a strategy for 1975.

The APC is involved in planning strategy and tactics and implementing specific actions. Individuals who are not able to involve themselves in the planning process or in direct actions can be of considerable aid by gathering information on issues. You can be of help by clipping news articles and sending them in to the APC. Information on locally active groups and personalities - their objectives and methods of operation can be of great help.

There are many kinds of data gathering which can be of great help to the APC, such as political, economic and social statistics. This could include, for example, data on taxation, revenues, bond issues, bureaucratic abuses, deficits, population changes, voter registration, etc.

We can use the following skills on the APC: (1) political shock workers; (2) investigative reporters; (3) photographers; (4) political analysts, demographers, geographers, sociologists; (5) marketing specialists; (6) typist.

Richard Slomon, Chairman
Action Planning Committee

. . . TO MAKE OUR WORDS COUNT. . .

If you want to be heard, you've got to speak up. One of the most important problems facing the LPWS is the dearth of informational literature for letting folks know who and what we are. The Publications Committee has been specifically formed to address that problem in what I hope will be a rational and consistent manner. The Committee will organize the collection and generation of literature dealing with libertarian issues for the following purposes: distribution to individuals or groups requesting information on the LP; hand-outs for meetings and public events; informational releases to news media; and specific responses to outside action, such as legislative bills, community activities, political speeches, etc.

In order to make this a success, however, I desperately need your help in any of the following areas - writing "unsolicited" papers on general or specific areas of libertarian thought; volunteering to be available for writing specific articles when necessary; typing skills; general assistance, dedication and inspiration.

The following are guidelines for submission of papers to the Committee:

1. Should follow mainstream libertarian thought (please submit all devil's advocate positions and arguments to the SHOCKWAVE)
2. Maximum length of three (3) double-spaced typewritten pages.
3. Papers submitted will not be returned without stamped, self-addressed envelope.
4. Papers become property of LPWS.

The Libertarian Party will never get anywhere if no one knows who we are. Your help can make the difference.

Sylvia Lovegren, Chairwoman
Publications Committee
1014 East Roy
Seattle, WA 98102

(206) 329-4758

TAX PROTEST DAY

April 12th has been selected as National Tax Protest Day. Special projects are being planned by the LPWS and other national organizations. This is just one more opportunity to let you express your thoughts. For further information contact Richard Slomon at (206) 285-4783 or the LPWS at (206) 285-0704.

SPECIAL SCHOOL LEVY ELECTIONS

LPWS is planning to make an effort to defeat the Seattle School Levy which is up before the voters for the second and last time this year, on April 8. A position paper explaining the circumstances under which LPWS could support a school levy has been presented to school administrators, but there has been no meaningful response.

THE NATIONAL SCENE.....by Patricia Artz

As reported in the LP News, the national party has joined an action bringing suit challenging the federal election campaign laws. "The LP is directly affected by these laws because it intends to ask for, receive, and pass on to candidates funds above the maximum allowed under the new regulations. Also the LP may select candidates in the future who it hopes will spend more of their own money than the campaign law allows. Finally, the LP's political philosophy is in conflict with receiving a campaign subsidy from the general tax funds of the government."

Roger MacBride, declared candidate for the LP top spot in '76, reportedly will make a stop in Seattle (Boeing Field) on April 6th on his return from the Alaska State LP Convention where he will be featured speaker. We hope to have enough advance notice of time to notify those who would like to greet and meet him. (Leave your number with the answering service.)

The renegade Republican Elector who gave the LP an electoral vote in the 1972 election declared his candidacy at the California convention in February.

Bill Westmiller, Secretary of the national LP, was elected Chairman of the California Party. Congratulations California and Bill!

The Santa Barbara school board elections and annexation vote on March 4 provided an exciting arena for exposure of Libertarian ideas in that community. Although Ruth Sutton and Reason Magazine editor, Lynn Kinsky did not realize their bid to the board, they were successful in helping to defeat the tax increase and the annexation proposal.

Lynn Kinsky and Bill Susel of L. A. are the other two Executive Committee members from Region 1 which is comprised of Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Hawaii and Alaska.

An unconfirmed report establishes Washington as the 4th largest delegation to the nominating convention in N.Y.C. Labor Day Weekend. Only New York, California and Texas exceed our nine delegates. At least four additional members expect to attend. Any member is welcome.

SPEAKING OUT. . .ON ABORTION

One of the most volatile issues facing all of us right now - one on which there can be no middle ground - is abortion. Two opposing groups which I shall call the Pro-abortionists and the Right to Lifer's are battling it out in courtrooms and legislative bodies around the world. The Right to Lifers have, unfortunately, seriously hurt their own cause by anti-intellectual, hysterical actions and pronouncements; however - and this is very important to remember - an individual's biases or irrational acts have no bearing whatsoever on the truth or falsehood of what he says.

(In other words, the Right to Lifers aren't wrong just because they're hysterical.) The anti-abortionists main point is central to libertarian thought - i.e., an individual's inalienable right to life. And if the newly conceived fetus is an individual, abortion is murder - the initiation of force against human life to the point of death. . . . Which is, of course, violation of the libertarian's primary rule of moral conduct.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS.....

.....OR, AS OTHERS SEE US.

(This column will analyze and interpret reactions to Libertarianism from society, community, and government sources. Briefs and comments are welcomed.)

A joke now circulating in the nation's capital: "Libertarians make great enemies, but you would not want to have one as a friend."

Libertarian ideas are given credit for many significant breakthroughs--abortion, women's rights, freedom of information, for example. But D.C. "pundits" point out that these victories were won by challenge, mainly in the nation's courts. In the legislative and executive branches, active identification with any "free-enterprise" philosophy has often been a "kiss of death"—leading to neutralization, or elimination.

According to the pundits, this is because most well-organized Libertarians come across as junior Stormtroopers with a Madison Avenue touch—maximum passion, minimum compassion, and a slickly paranoid style. At best, Libertarian spokesmen are accepted as alarmists—and alarmism has never made it in mainstream American politics.

With all the talk about third-party movements, it is inevitable that Libertarian Party ideas and styles should get this kind of going-over. But it is clear that Libertarians must start asking themselves exactly how they hope to persuade the middle-of-road American that they have answers to today's problems. Ideas, however admirable, will not bridge the credibility gap that Libertarians now face--and that is the biggest problem.

Libertarians are invited to check the record for themselves, preferably with unbiased minds. Meanwhile, it might help if there was less "knee-jerk" Libertarianism around--less parroting of the gospels, more listening to others' concerns, and a willingness to keep testing one's premises rather than stating them at every excuse. That would be the day!!

If, leaving aside the case of rape, a woman's own rights are not violated by conception, then the central issue becomes one of defining human life. Right to Lifers insist that human life exists from the instant of conception; others maintain that the fetus is not human until separated from the mother; others argue for some point in between (6 weeks, 9 weeks, quickening, etc., etc.). Which is it? How can we rationally determine when a human being comes into existence? Leave it to the individual and her doctor, you say? But then, aren't you avoiding the entire issue? Let the courts decide? How can a court make the decision on whether life has been taken without defining life? Until that question is answered pro-abortionists can only hope they are not committing murder.

Sylvia Lovegren

This column, SPEAKING OUT, will feature positions on controversial issues which involve understanding of Libertarian principles. In every issue, positions will be presented representing differing viewpoints on key issues of concern to Libertarians.

FROM THE CHAIR. . .

We are at this time awaiting the return of our initiative (remove the sales tax and B&O tax from food, clothing, housing, medical related supplies) from the Attorney General's office. By the time you read this the ballot title should be affixed. The initiative has been assigned number 308.

Our initiative and initiative 306 (limits state tax revenues to 9 percent of total state personal income) are the only means at hand to put a brake on rising taxes in 1976, an election year. I urge all of you to help initiative 306 in any way possible, because it is another step in our efforts to stop rising taxes and resultant big government.

Due to the Legislature's miserable behavior and the interest shown by other parties in our initiative, I think that it would be wise to raise money to produce the legs and dollars necessary to put this initiative on the ballot in November.

We are COMPLETELY out of LPWS literature, and we MUST have informational literature if we are to carry out an educational program. Sylvia Lovegren's committee will produce the material for us if we can come up with the necessary funds to pay for printing and other related costs.

I am still in the market for a LPWS Finance Chairperson. There are plenty of people who are willing to serve on this committee, so anyone who takes the job should have adequate help. VOLUNTEERS NEED ONLY APPLY. . .

The LPWS is in need of someone who is willing to become an expert on governmental data, namely federal, state and local tax laws, disclosure laws, campaign financing laws, etc. His/Her job would be to advise the LPWS on necessary filings, etc. . . . HELP!!!!!!

Richard Dymont, Chairman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next LPWS business meeting will be held on Saturday at 8:00 p.m., March 22, 1975 in the Denny Room of the University Towers Hotel located at N.E. 45th & Brooklyn N.E., in the university district. Non-members are more than welcome to attend. Admission is free to everyone, but if you have a little "bread" to spare, then a donation would be appreciated, to help pay for the cost of the facilities.

MONEY. . .

\$200.00 immediately needed for sales tax Initiative 308 drive. Contributors and volunteers please contact Carl Nicolai, Chairman. (206) 522-5280.

\$300.00 immediately needed for producing LPWS informational literature. Contributors and volunteers please contact Sylvia Lovegren, Chairwoman. (206) 329-4758.

Please note - contributions to either the Initiative Fund or the Promotional Literature Fund can be sent to LPWS, P. O. Box 2096, Seattle, WA 98111. Contact Richard Dymont at (206) 283-5217 or (206) 285-0704 if you need further information.

The International Society of Free Space Colonizers is a libertarian, space-oriented society which advocates the colonization of outer space in ways that are consistent with free-enterprise principles. It publishes a monthly journal and holds regular meetings at which papers are presented and discussed. All persons invited to join or to attend its meetings; members are admitted free, but there is a \$2.00 admission charge for non-members. ISFSC's next meeting is on Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Norselander Restaurant.

MEMBERSHIP SCHEDULE

Basic membership in the LPWS is free, but the related services are not. It is the funds donated by the membership which will eventually insure our success.

Informational Membership \$2.50
Includes meeting notices only.

Subscribing Membership \$5.00
Includes one-year subscription to LPWS newsletter "SHOCKWAVE"

Sustaining Membership \$15.00
Includes one-year subscription to SHOCKWAVE, one-year LPWS position papers, notices.

Life Membership \$50.00
Includes life subscription to SHOCKWAVE, LPWS position papers, notices. One-year free admission to LPWS annual convention.

Life Sustaining Membership \$100.00
Includes life subscription to SHOCKWAVE, LPWS position papers, notices. Life-free admission to LPWS annual conventions.

1 year subscription to SHOCKWAVE only. \$5.00 enclosed.

I am interested in learning more about the LP. Enclosed is \$1.00 for an information package.

I would like to join the LPWS. Enclosed is \$_____ (see membership schedule).

I hereby pledge that I do not advocate, nor will I initiate, physical coercion or fraud against any individual or individuals.

Signature required for membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____