



The Illinois Libertarian

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS • BOX 1776 • CHICAGO 60690

VOL. 2 NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 1976

LPI Hits The Big Time

40,593 Libertarian petition signatures were filed with the State Board of Elections in Springfield on Monday, August 2, 1976. At 5 p.m. August 7, no challenges had been filed against the Libertarian petitions--we are on the ballot for the November 2, 1976, general election.

The August 2, two-car caravan to Springfield including Richard Suter, Jeffrey Smith, Robert Osterlund, Lynn and Richard Latimer, culminated three months of hard work which had obtained slightly more than 15,000 signatures in excess of the minimum legal requirement of 25,000 signatures--qualifying the Libertarian Party for ballot status in the November election. All Illinois Libertarians should be extremely proud of our accomplishments. In Illinois, we collected more signatures on a volunteer basis--unpaid--than any other state organization of the Libertarian Party. Over 100 Illinois Libertarian Party members helped in the massive volunteer effort. Bernard Sommer of Glenview led the list with 2,530 signatures followed by Glen Olofson of the Northwest side club with 1,920 signatures and in third place was Robert Osterlund who collected 1,295 signatures. To these three volunteers, and all the other men and women who assisted in our petition drive, all Libertarians should give three cheers!

To make the petition drive successful took good central coordination. For this, Don Parrish, Jeff Smith and Will Kinney should receive special commendation.

Phase I of Campaign '76 has been completed; Phase II is now beginning.

To make contact with the greatest number of voters, all Illinois Libertarians should hold at least two political gatherings in their homes featuring Libertarian candidates. The gatherings will be an invaluable service to the Libertarian Party, both for free publicity, which can be derived from such gatherings, and in acquainting people to Libertarianism on a one-to-one basis.

Plans are in the works for radio and newspaper advertising, but these cost dollars. Your contributions to the Illinois Libertarian Ballot Committee will be put to good use.

In addition to coffees and contributions, another invaluable asset which you possess is your volunteer time. We urge you to call Marybeth Kinney at 312/736-9734 and volunteer to work either at campaign headquarters or from your home--helping to optimize our November vote total.

The Libertarian campaign 1976 can be a success if you are willing to dedicate the next two months to it.

September 1 marks the beginning of 1977 for membership in the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Members who paid their dues from September 1, 1975 through August 30, 1976 will find their memberships expiring December 31, 1976. Memberships and renewals which we receive after September 1, 1976 will be effective through December 31, 1977.

Now is the time to renew. A business reply envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

When renewing your membership, a contribution to the Libertarian Party would be a good investment for a libertarian society. To better promote our libertarian ideas, the Illinois Libertarian is sent to over 500 media outlets each month. Needless to say, this is an extremely expensive undertaking. The mailings get a great amount of added publicity for our libertarian views, and should be supported by all Libertarians in Illinois.

THE LIBERTARIAN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

Eliminate the state income tax.

Think about it: \$1.9 billion dollars of tax relief for the taxpayers of Illinois.

That's what LPI candidate for governor Joe McCaffrey and the other candidates proposed at a series of news conferences around the state August 28th.

The proposal tops off several weeks of work by the LPI budget committee, which found almost \$2.1 billion that can be cut from the state's fiscal 1977 budget without too much trouble.

In several cases, the budget committee recommends the immediate elimination of state agencies...agencies known for their coercive tactics, their disregard for individual rights, and their inability or refusal to make efficient and productive use of the taxpayers' money.

In the first year of the Libertarian alternative plan, the budget proposes the elimination of the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Children and Family Services. The case of Chicago's "wealthy beggar," Bobbie Friedman, is an example of what the state can do with your freedom, leaving you almost powerless to resist. As Ed Bennet pointed out in his article, "Reasonable and Good Intentions," in last month's issue, all it takes to begin the commitment procedure is the signature of an 18-year-old. If you refuse to submit to an examination, the state will have one of its own psychiatrists examine you... and you are left with the responsibility of demonstrating beyond a reasonable doubt that you do not need treatment. The state has no similar obligation to demonstrate conclusively that you are suffering from a mental malady.

It is that kind of thinking and that kind of raw power the LPI intends to eliminate, by getting rid of the entire department.

THE ONLY WAY TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND INCREASE PERSONAL FREEDOM IN A PATRONAGE-RIDDEN BUREAUCRACY IS TO ELIMINATE AS MUCH OF THAT BUREAUCRACY AS POSSIBLE, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

Several months ago, the Department of Children and Family Services found itself in the middle of a controversy--a fight of its own making.

Many of the juveniles under its care, wards of the state, had been shipped out of Illinois to agencies from Texas to Maine. ...and mistreated so badly that Illinois and several other states ordered investigations into entire agency programs supported by tax dollars.

For the LPI budget committee, the choice was clear: eliminate the state agency, eliminate its budget, and eliminate its coercive power.

A number of other, smaller agencies were cut as well, including the Dangerous Drugs Commission, now spending more than \$2100 per patient per year on its out-patient programs for "addicts" of both drugs and alcohol.

The budget proposal outlined by McCaffrey August 28th goes on to recommend major reductions in most other state agencies, with an eye toward getting rid of them completely in three years.

The biggest cuts come in education, with a \$573 million reduction in state aid to elementary and secondary schools, and a \$350 million cut in aid to higher education.

For years, students in private and parochial schools have recorded far better levels of academic achievement than students in public schools, particularly in the state's largest school system.

Yet parents who have wanted to send their children to such schools have suffered a triple burden; school tuition, local property taxes and the state income tax.

Reducing the role of the state to a minimum of education - the so-called "life survival skills," reading, writing and basic mathematics - would dramatically reduce the state's need to tax all taxpayers for education. It would also greatly reduce the need for high local property taxes, more than half of which now go toward education in many of the state's largest school districts.

In their statements, the LPI candidates emphasized both the practicality and the philosophy of cutting state tax powers and state expenditures.

Beyond the commitment to return control over earnings to the people who work, the LPI sees a great boost for the Illinois economy in cutting state taxes.

For several years now, the state has been losing business to the so-called Sunbelt states: industries have found new homes in areas where taxes and regulations are more favorable to business activity.

While not a Sunbelt state, New Hampshire has developed an enviable record for attracting industry.

It has neither a state income tax nor a state sales tax - the only state in the nation free of such onerous burdens on the state's residents. Yet its record for providing services is solid, largely because it runs a small, efficient government structure more concerned with performance than the construction of bureaucratic empires.

Not for nothing is the state's motto, "Live free or die."

It is that kind of emphasis on performance, that kind of emphasis on freedom, the LPI would like to see in state government. But that appears to be like hoping to be a million dollar lottery winner...without buying lottery tickets.

The LPI wants to improve those odds...and the only way to do that in a patronage-ridden bureaucracy is to eliminate as much of that bureaucracy as possible as quickly as possible.

The LPI wants to improve those odds...and the only way to do that is to return freedom to individuals as quickly as possible.

The Libertarian Alternative Budget is an important first step in that direction.

A New Dawn for America: The Libertarian Challenge

*and you can be a part of it. Distribute copies of *A New Dawn for America*—to your friends, associates, local media, social and political organizations. Let others know about the idea whose time is now—*Libertarianism!*

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GUN CONTROL or PEOPLE CONTROL?

BY WILL KINNEY

Last June the LPI sponsored a discussion on gun control, entitled, "Gun Control or People Control." Several groups or individuals who favor gun control, ranging from the League of Women Voters to Senator Percy were invited to participate, but none of them cared to present their views.

Those who declined in writing ususally had some comments. One of the more interesting letters, from Mayor Daley's Office of Gun Registration, is reprinted here.

The participants in the discussion were James Valentino, an attorney and past president of the National Rifle Association, Steve Nelson, past Chair of the LPI, Alan Baldrige, affiliated with the National Committee to Keep and Bear Arms, and Joe Cobb, LP activist. Richard Suter, current LPI chair, moderated the discussion. This discussion included a great variety of methods currently being used to argue against gun control. They ranged from the "right-wing" slogans such as "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," to the standard LP platform position on gun control.

Steve Nelson led off the discussion by reading some of the letters from gun control aficionados. He then gave a capsule summary of the LP position on gun control as it relates to the Libertarian Party National Platform.

Mr. Valentino, incidently, is neither a "shooting enthusiast" nor gun owner, (and the only president of the NRA who is not a "gun nut") gave an "enlightened" NRA view. Mr. Valentino stated that the goal of gun control legislation is not to "control" (ie. ban)

just handguns, but all guns. He quoted an Illinois legislator discussing his bill to ban handguns as saying "We'll get rid of them all, first the hand guns, then the rifles, then the shotguns." As an attorney, Mr. Valentino is in a good position to examine gun control measures from a legal perspective. He said that most of the measures currently being considered are laws to ban "Saturday Night Specials," the cheap, small-caliber hand gun so often used in street crime. These laws are written so poorly that in some cases \$600 target pistols used in professional competition are banned. Mr. Valentino said that not only are these bills ludicrously vague, but they are unenforceable without provisions for a near police state. As a matter of fact, it was former president Nixon who initiated Senate Bill



RICHARD J. DALEY
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GUN REGISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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THOMAS J. DAVIES
ACTING DIRECTOR

FRANCIS P. KANE
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
MAYOR RICHARD J. DALEY
IN CHARGE OF GUN REGISTRATION

June 18, 1976

Ms. Marybeth S. Kinney
Libertarian Party of Illinois
P.O. Box 1776
Chicago, Illinois, 60690

Dear Ms. Kinney:

Thank you for your invitation to debate the issue of "Gun Control or People Control" on Sunday, June 27th, at The Windsor Inn, Rosemont. I feel it would serve no useful purpose to debate the matter before your group inasmuch as you state in your letter and your literature that you are opposed to all types of Gun Control including Gun Registration.

I am quite surprised that you have adopted such an adamant position because Gun Registration is the Law in Chicago, and the Gun Owners Law has been a part of the Illinois Statutes since 1967.

Your literature makes unsubstantiated statements promulgating them as truth and factual. For example, "100,000 unregistered guns change hands each year in New York." This is purely conjecture and distortion.

And again, "Individuals lives have been saved by the intelligent use of firearms." Where? When? and How?

"Without gun control in Pittsburgh, homicides were reduced."

"Murderers will knife, strangle and bludgeon their victims." But this must presume close proximity to a victim and not at the distance a gun will fire and kill. Victims have recovered from knife wounds, but guns make murder so final.

The confiscation of guns in European countries during World War II is really not a valid argument. If the Rifle and Gun associations had destroyed the records prior to

forum:

One, which would give the federal government just the license it would need to enact total gun confiscation.

Mr. Valentino listed other types of government interference with the lives and property of gun owners. Recently a Northbrook gun club, which is backed by O'Hare Field, was closed by the Environmental Protection Agency for "excessive air pollution".

Mr. Valentino then related the story of a woman who had a man break down her door with an axe and follow her into the basement where she shot him with her husband's revolver. She was convicted of murder because, in the judge's words, "... if she had enough time to run into the basement, she had enough time to run out the back door."

Mr. Valentino also commented on other problems affecting the gun control issue. He said that our current gun-use laws are not being uniformly enforced. We need to take a close look at our criminal justice system. Repeat offenders are still set free on bond, parole and probation. Perhaps we need to re-examine the treatment of criminals in this country. Bolting extra locks to our doors doesn't seem to help; and we can't expect our police to be everywhere, they are too busy chasing pot heads and hookers. In Mr. Valentino's view, the ultimate responsibility for self-protection rests with the individual, not the government. Besides, our own State Constitution gives us the right to keep and bear arms.

Alan Baldrige, representing the National Committee To Keep and Bear Arms, began his portion of the discussion by commenting that he opposes all "Saturday Night Special" laws because he would like to have the chance that a crook's gun may mis-fire while committing a crime. He does not want the government to protect criminals from faulty equipment.

Ms. Marybeth S. Kinney
June 18, 1976

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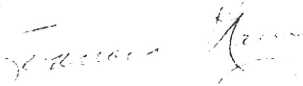
the invasion, there would have been no confiscation. But how many of those gun owners would have used their guns to fight off the invader?

The President of the NRA GUESSED that there were 120,000,000 guns in our country. Senator Stevens of Alaska GUESSED that there were 130,000,000. Zimring of the U of Chicago, working for the Eisenhower Commission GUESSED that there were 90,000,000 but he admits that he could not GUESS how many veterans had brought guns back from overseas.

Comparing guns with automobiles is flying in fantasy. For crimes committed with automobiles does carry penalties in that reckless drivers do have their permits to drive revoked.

Much more could be said on the subject, but I can only feel that you probably would not be convinced that there is merit in Gun Control and that reasonable people on both sides of the issue will realize the need to do something soon. We realize too, that there are zealots on both sides of the issue, but we are hopeful that reason will eventually prevail in the best interests of all of us.

Yours truly,


FRANCIS P. KANE
Special Assistant to the Mayor
For Gun Registration

GUN

CONTROL

The rest of his comments were more familiar to a Libertarian audience. While calling gun control advocates "leeches of the earth," he condemned gun control legislation as "obviously irrational." He also stated that the existence of a law will not prevent someone from committing a crime in all cases. In Mr. Baldrige's mind, the fundamental question to be asked of gun control advocates is "what right do you have to legislate my property? By what right?" He said that most organized anti-gun control groups, including the National Committee To Keep and Bear Arms and the National Rifle Association, are quite willing to compromise to achieve a short-term goal while ignoring long-term costs. His speech was well received by the Libertarians in the audience, and deserves further comment.

Joe Cobb then gave a brief summary of the arguments for gun control, using the book, Handgun Control...Issues and Alternatives, published by the Handgun Control Project, United States Conference of Mayors

Libertarianism: The Gun Owner's Unseen Ally

BY L. NEIL SMITH

(originally printed in Guns magazine, July 1976)

The past ten years have produced many set backs for America's gun owners. Hysteria has ruled this decade, triggered by assassinations and violent crime, fed by a hostile popular press and news-managing broadcast media. More and more stringent restrictions on our firearms rights have nearly destroyed the very concept that we have rights at all in the matter.

None of this would be possible except for two additional factors at work continuously through the entire period of popular and widespread gun-control advocacy: almost unanimous approval among the nation's intellectual and academic community for harsher regulations; and the consequent hostility among gun people for the "eggheads" and "pointyheaded professors" who have done the shrieking for gun control.

It is a grave strategic misfortune for gun owners that defense of firearms rights have fallen to groups which have and encourage others in this anti-intellectual bias--"good old boys" who have neither the tools or the talents to do the job adequately, as the recent history of diminishing firearms rights demonstrates quite clearly. More and more, our opponents in the debate have been philosophers, economists, psychologists and sociologists. Many conservatives have difficulty acknowledging that these disciplines exist, let alone finding someone among their own ranks who can reply in the proper language.

In the end, anti-intellectualism alone may doom gun owners. The subject matters of academia are real and vital, despite the hash made of them by liberals and leftists who have monopolized them for decades. These semi-sciences contain all that is needed to uphold firearms rights. Out of the ruins of the 1964 Goldwater campaign, one tiny group left the traditional conservative path to form a nucleus for a new intellectual and political movement, Libertarianism.

Libertarians claim, with considerable evidence, that they have solutions for most of this nation's social, political and economic problems. Libertarians bitterly oppose expansion of government, raising taxes, further restrictions of our already greatly narrowed lives, or the violation of individual rights. We are used to hearing "bite the bullet," "tighten your belt," "use car pools," "give up your guns for a crime free society." These are the very things this new movement claims we must not do. Not only do libertarians not demand the sacrifices of individual interests to some real or imagined "greater good," they maintain that such sacrifices in the past are responsible for the messes we find ourselves in today.

"Finally, is the ownership of guns to be made illegal? If it is, then the citizen is deprived of even the last possibility of self defense. He is a disarmed victim of government, which then owns all the guns. That's the final step to a totalitarian take-over of the United States--making ownership of the means of self defense illegal."

The man quoted is neither gun enthusiast or ultraconservative, but head of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Southern California, highly respected author in the fields of technical philosophy, aesthetics, and ethics.

Secondly, this scholar and educator, Dr. John Hospers, was a candidate for President of the United States in 1972. I'll bet you never even heard about it! Despite an almost universal news blackout of his campaign by liberal-controlled media, he won an electoral vote that year (only a handful fewer, after all, than his Democratic opponent, George McGovern), when the tiny political party that backed him had been organized a scant four months! Active in a majority of the states, the Libertarian Party faced malicious opposition by the two establishment party machines who manipulated election laws designed purposely to make it difficult for third-party candidates to be heard or appear on the ballot. Hospers placed a significant third in the Presidential race (at least in terms of the Electoral College results) yet the vast majority of the public was deliberately denied knowledge of this historic event, and gun owners lost the opportunity to vote for the one candidate who aggressively supported their views on firearms rights.

"Every individual has the right...to defend himself against the violence of criminal aggressors...Liberals have systematically tried to deprive innocent persons of the means of defending themselves... The government has systematically eroded much of this right... in New York State, as in most other states...it has, in effect, stripped victims of any possible defense against crime.

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Dealers In Death

A Look At The Effects Of Heroin Prohibition

BY MICHAEL HOUGH

PART II

When in 1919 a Supreme Court decision prohibited the prescription of hard drugs to addicts, previously law-abiding citizens were transformed into alienated criminals, driven by desperation into lives of crime and ties with the underworld in order to obtain their now-illegal drugs. Today, because of the illicit character of the heroin trade, addicts have no means of determining whether the drugs they obtain contain impurities, whether the needles they use are properly sterilized, or how concentrated are the dosages they inject into their bodies. Thus in a recent year, some 900 persons died from overdoses and heroin-related infections in New York City alone. To a large extent, such deaths are the inevitable consequence of an illegal, clandestine market where reliable information cannot be obtained without risks of police detection.

If these ugliest features of addiction are to be minimized, addicts must be removed from the status of criminals and the problem of addiction must be brought into the open. Unfortunately, evasion of the problem is precisely the major motive behind the existing repressive anti-heroin laws. As has already been demonstrated, such laws are incapable of reducing addiction rates. Under the comparatively tolerant policy which existed in Britain prior to 1968, which permitted doctors to prescribe heroin to addicts, the number of addicts increased rapidly during the decade of the sixties, (as it did elsewhere) but the total addict population never exceeded 3,000. Thus the per capita addiction rate never approached that of the United States, where heroin use is strictly prohibited and which has an addict population now estimated at 300,000 and still multiplying rapidly. The principle factor which led to imposition of further controls in Britain--and the leitmotif in American criticism of the idea of legalization--was not the addiction rate, but rather the high visibility of addicts in streets and public places under a policy of toleration. The only rational conclusion one can draw is that the heroin prohibition is primarily intended, not to discourage heroin use or addiction, but rather to enable most citizens to evade the knowledge that addiction is a serious problem in our society. Behind the grotesque story of coercive prohibition, of desperate crimes and Mafia power, of police corruption and poisoned needles, this desire to avoid awareness of the reality of addiction and its causes dominates contemporary attitudes toward the problem.

For many years the philosophy of statism has been acquiring increasing acceptance in the United States and elsewhere. Statism teaches that the individual ought to sacrifice himself for the good of the State, that his life is the property of the State, which has the authority to intervene into any or all areas of human activity. This philosophy has been implemented through such measures as economic controls, foreign wars, and interferences in matters of general morality--and is manifested particularly in a legal code which endeavors, not to uphold the freedom of every individual to dispose of his own life and property, but rather to determine what he may read and wear, with whom he may sleep, when and under what conditions he may do business, and what substances he may eat, drink, smoke, or otherwise ingest into his body. Statism also demands that the individual forsake the judgements of his mind--that he base his decisions and actions, not upon conclusions drawn from his own awareness of reality, but upon blind faith in authorities which he cannot accept by reason and evidence. Through the use of powerful drugs, the addict effectively realizes these two sacrificial ends. He escapes the necessity to be aware--to acknowledge the nature of existence--through the physical incapacitation of his mind. He repudiates the self he has been taught to despise, through the destruction of his own life.

The problem of addiction, it should be observed, is particularly common among the victims of two of statism's most repressive institutions: the draft and the public school system. Among draftees, the major motive for heroin use appears to be escape from the dismal conditions of their enslavement; "I just wanted to get out of Nam and scag took me out--for a while, at least," as one addict explained, although heroin use is also very common at domestic military bases. For the inmate in the compulsory education system, forced to conform to the same Procrustean rules and procedures as his fellows, prevented from pursuing the areas of his own interest, or expressing his own ideas and individuality, hard drugs represent escape from chronic feelings of despair, resentment, or rebellion. Statism is a philosophy of death, and those who advocate statism--whether with knowledge of its consequences or without caring to discover them--are dealers in death.

To repeal the laws relating to the use and sale of heroin would not be, as some have claimed, to choose "the lesser of two evils."

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EASY CAMPAIGNING

BY ROBERT OSTERLUND

Whether you gathered a thousand petition signatures or none; whether you can commit yourself full time to the campaign or have no free time at all; whether you reside in a hotbed of libertarian activism or are the only libertarian around for fifty miles; no matter what your level of commitment to LPI's election campaign, there are many easy and inexpensive things (in both time and money) that you, acting alone, can do between now and November 2nd to aid the cause of freedom in this state.

Perhaps the easiest thing you can do is to sport a campaign button on your shirt collar, lapel, belt loop, or wherever. It's a small thing, but small things can add up. If every Illinois Libertarian were to wear a campaign button daily between now and November, hundreds of thousands of people would get the message: vote Libertarian Party. Of course, few people will vote Libertarian solely because they saw that written on a button, but buttons do reinforce other forms of campaigning. Free buttons are available from LPI, P.O. Box 1776, Chicago, Ill. 60690.

Speaking of clothing, Don Parrish can be seen these days wearing a blue and gold "Legalize Freedom, Vote Libertarian" t-shirt wherever he goes. It's an effective form of advertising, particularly if you have the body for it. Check out the "head shops" in your area for lettered tshirts; they'll run you about \$5 to \$10.

If you have a car, you can do one of two things. The first is to affix to it the ubiquitous bumper sticker--which, despite its name, is better stuck to the rear window for greater visibility. Obtain these from the Party also. Second, you can outfit your auto with a car top sign. These are 14" by 36" quarter-inch hardboard, and cost around \$20. Call Lyn Latimer (312-682-0619) for more details.

If you have ever seen a "Boycott Grapes and Gallo Wine" sign in somebody's window, then you know about this next idea. Anne McCracken (312-739-6240) is looking into the possibility of mass-producing "Vote Libertarian Nov. 2nd" window signs for distribution around the state; or you can produce your own.

There are still other activities that you can perform on your own initiative. Distribute copies of Roger MacBride's excellent campaign book, A New Dawn for America: The Libertarian Challenge, to your friends, co-workers, and acquaintances (send \$1 for each copy you want to Libertarian Books, 5616-2 So. Blackstone Ave. Chicago, IL 60637). Order "vote Libertarian" return-address envelope stickers from a local printer. Make a point of carrying several pieces of campaign literature (also available from the Party) with you always; you will never know when an opportunity to distribute them will come.

DEALERS IN DEATH *from page 7*

Quite the contrary, having recognized the futility and destructiveness of such coercive measures, one is morally obliged to act upon this recognition and to withdraw sanction from them. A distinction must be made between the indisputable truth that heroin use is harmful and the contention that heroin use should be legally prohibited. Similar distinctions have long been recognized (until recently, at least) in the areas of free speech and religion; most intelligent men accept--and even affirm vehemently--the right of an adversary to express opinions with which they disagree.

If the heroin crisis is to be resolved, men must be willing to re-examine their attitudes, not only toward addiction and heroin laws, but also toward reason and morality. Ethical values, it must be realized, do not originate in subjective whims, but in man's real needs which must be discovered by reason. And the use of reason, which is man's mode of awareness, is a moral imperative which is denied only at the sacrifice of his life.

(Reprinted from "Freedom's Voice," the monthly newsletter of the Delaware LP.)

You say you're too busy at work to have any time left over for the campaign? Then you must have lots of money from all that work, right? There are two resources in woefully short supply at this stage of the campaign: bodies and MONEY. Send enough money and all else is forgiven. There is no limit to the amount you can contribute to our state candidates. Make your check(s) payable to: The Illinois Libertarian Ballot Committee, P.O. Box 1776, Chicago, IL 60690.

All of the above are time-inexpensive ways of helping out with the campaign--things you can do on your own with very little personal inconvenience. But you say you want to do more? Wonderful!

You can start by hosting a candidate's reception. Have a coffee klatsch (or beer blast, or "pot" luck) for 12 to 20 people and a candidate in your home (or local bar, or wherever) Call Jeff Smith at (312) 947-8121 to arrange the details.

Beyond that, there is almost no end to the tasks you can perform. The party has opened a campaign headquarters at 534 Stratford on the North Side. If you want

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"It makes no more sense to outlaw or restrict the purchase and ownership of guns than it does to outlaw the possession of knives, clubs, hatpins or stones...the law should be concerned with combating and apprehending real criminals who will always be able to purchase and carry guns; it will only be their innocent victims who will suffer from the solicitous liberalism that opposes laws against guns and other weapons."

No, these words do not appear in a gun magazine or conservative political tract, but in a book about popular philosophy written by a professor of economics at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Murray N. Rothbard, distinguished author of such weighty tomes as Man, Economy and State, and Power and Market.

A Libertarian opposes the use or advocacy of initiated force. He believes it is immoral--under any circumstances--to use force on another human being who has not used force on him. As long as one refrains from interfering violently with others, they have a moral obligation to deal peaceably with him, to leave him alone to do as he wishes with his own life, no matter what that happens to be.

Libertarian opposition to gun control is based on this concept. Purchase, ownership, and peaceable use of firearms (and that assuredly includes self-defense) do not constitute the initiation of force against anyone. Therefore, no form of gun control is morally justifiable. In fact, the attempt to create and enforce gun control laws is in itself an initiation of force against innocent citizens and is therefore immoral. When anyone advocates, votes for, legislates or enforces gun control, he is acting immorally. You have no moral obligation of any kind to cooperate with him, whether he is a neighbor, an elected representative, or one of the "Duly constituted authorities."

To pry a person's property loose from him, someone--the sheriff, federal marshalls, the ATF or IRS--is delegated to initiate force against him. That is what the Libertarians oppose; as long as legal channels exist to deprive people of their land or homes, the same channels can be used to deprive you of anything else some politician or bureaucrat wants: your car, your guns, your life.

Here is the strength of the Libertarian movement: people interested in individual rights are banding together with people who want to keep their guns. The issue in both cases is the same: does your property--and your life--belong to you or to someone else? Libertarians are united by common principles: non-initiation of force and the absolute right of the individual to his life and property.

For freedom is nothing more or less than the right to live your own life and do with it as you please in the utter absence of interference from government or anybody else.

We have all learned the hard way that what professor Rothbard terms "solicitous liberalism" is a fraud and a failure. There is no social and economic problem that has not been infinitely worsened by government's attempts to solve it; half a century of increasing political interference has produced unbearable chaos. The only product a "planned" economy or a "planned" society can create is unending disaster. We must now begin to "unplan" things, deregulate, decontrol, as quickly as we can--hoping, all the time, that we can disassemble the monster social planners have erected before it overwhelms us.

If we do not wish to see gun control raise its ugly head again, we must repeal it now and repeal it all. Let the bureaucrats and strong-arm boys of the AFT go out and find honest jobs--if they can. As reasonable as it may have seemed at the time to outlaw sawed-off shotguns and machine-pistols, their mere possession does not constitute the initiation of force against anyone. We must learn to stop blaming the hardware and start examining the deeds of the owner. This is a hard lesson to learn, but in the end unprecedented peace, prosperity and security will be our reward.

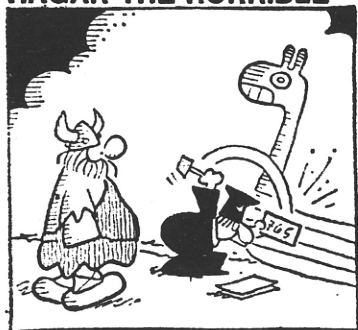
Traditional conservatism has failed. It is time for something new. Libertarianism is new and effective--and the only chance we have. We certainly have nothing left to lose, and a great deal to gain.

Two hundred years ago, a small, powerless group of people pledged their "Lives, Fortunes and Sacred Honor" to rid this land of authoritarian power. Today we stand against no greater odds, face no greater threat than those heroic souls. Can we offer any less than they did to fight the same enemy they faced with unflinching valor?

CAPITOL GAMES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



GUN CONTROL OR PEOPLE CONTROL? *from page 5*

as the basis for his information. He said this is a useful guide to prepare yourself with the kinds of arguments that gun control people use. He then went on to emphasize the Libertarian view that a gun is just another form of property, and therefore, Libertarians oppose gun control on principle.

Richard Suter closed the discussion with a summary of the points made, and thanked everyone for attending.

The general public conceives the anti-gun control stance as a basically right-wing issue. I think it is very important that Libertarianism be kept from the right-wing label. Even the purely "libertarian" objections to gun control cannot escape the right-wing label. Libertarianism's "objection on principle" appears to be avoiding the issue as the public perceives it. While it may appear to be true that the government's right to regulate should be the issue, the true issue is how to cut down violent crime in our society. It appears as though a substantial majority of the country approves of some sort of gun control, at least on the surface; I think Libertarians should avoid alienating people on this issue.

An understanding of the "liberal" motivation for gun control, as exemplified by the mayors' handgun control book, is very helpful when debating their position. Liberals tend to be more interested in human lives than human's property. Liberals would like to have all guns and the concept behind them disappear from the earth. It is at least debatable whether this would be beneficial, and Libertarians might agree that it could be beneficial. I think a proper Libertarian objection to gun control, on grounds other than principle, would be: even if you could enforce these laws, it is not likely they will substantially affect the crime situation.

The major incentive for crime is its low risk to criminals. Only one serious crime in five is ever solved, by the FBI's own admission. Our criminal law was intended to punish the violators of people's rights. But now, due to the overloaded courts and prisons, violent and/or repeat offenders (and also gun law violators) are let off. If we follow Mr. Baldrige's suggestion, and carefully examine our criminal justice system, perhaps we would stop prosecuting victimless crimes and allow the courts and police to concentrate on real crimes: rape, robbery and murder. All gun control laws will do is create another segment of the population involved in the victimless crime of gun ownership.

Local Clubs Discuss Campaign Strategy

CHICAGO

North Side --- The north side club met August 19 at Joe McCaffrey's. Campaign strategies were discussed. Candidate receptions and neighborhood canvassing were agreed on as the most significant vote-gathering methods--and the most time-consuming. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 8:00, at Steve Boydston's apartment (2020 N. Lincoln Park West, #22C).

South Side ---. The South Side club met August 26 at the home of David and Elaine Theroux to discuss a wide range of campaign activities, from bumper stickers to letter-writing campaigns to appearances by the State candidates. The club will coordinate the YLA booth at the University of Chicago September 26, and civil liberties day there October 11. The next club meetings will be September 8 and 22. Both will be held at the Theroux's at 7:30.

Northwest --- For information on the whereabouts of the next meeting, contact Glen Olofson, 625-2328 evenings. Also Marybeth Kinney, 736-9734 weekdays; Will Kinney 774-4105, evenings.

SUBURBAN

Lake ----- The August 25 meeting at the home of Marji Kohls featured the film "The Incredible Bread Machine". It will also be shown at the College of Lake County September 15. Plans for regular meetings were made.

DuPage ----- Contact Don Parrish, 852-2844.

Kane ----- Rich Suter, 736-9734 until a new local club organizer is found.

McHenry ----- Robert and Carolyn Randall, 815/459-4929.

North Shore David Diamond, 372-0336 days, 835-1699 evenings.

South ----- Jeff Smith, 947-8121 or 362-8655.

West ----- J.D. Webster, 366-5779.

DOWNSTATE

Champaign/Urbana Jeff Dehn has moved here from Bourbonnais to attend the University of Illinois. He has organized a YLA chapter there and is currently setting up appearances for the LPI candidates particularly for those of University Trustees. Contact Jeff at 217/359-3583 for information on meetings, etc.

Rockford ----- The Rockford school referendum was defeated 63% to 36% with help from local club members. Call Dr. James Dunkel for details on the next meeting, at 815/877-6321.

DeKalb ----- Mark Swanson, 815/758-4073

Moline -----Richard Wetzell, 309/ 764-7049

Normal ----- Ed Monger, 309/453-0577

Peoria ----- Ed Monger, 309/453-0577

Springfield -- Gary Burpo, 217/544-7386 days, 217/787-1451 evenings.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ELECTION!

LPI has reached the final stage in the implementation of its new constitution and by-laws: election of a Judicial Committee. This is the committee with final responsibility for settling disputes between local clubs and disputes involving the LPI constitution and by-laws. The state Judicial Committee also handles appeals from local clubs.

There are five seats on the committee. Unless ties in the voting force a change, the candidate with the most votes will get a three year term, the next two will get 2 year terms, and one year terms will go to the fourth and fifth highest vote-getters. After this initial election, all terms will be for three years.

A ballot and business reply envelope will be included with this newsletter. Only LPI members can vote. Fill in your ballot as quickly as possible, so that we can tally them at the September 12 SCC meeting.

Statements from the candidates appear below.

STEVE BOYDSTUN

Steve has been a party member since 1972. He was active in the petition drive and has attended several tax protests. He was a delegate to the 1975 LP National convention in New York.

JOE COBB

Long a party activist, he is presently secretary of the Economic Civil Liberties Association, a member of the National LP's Judicial Committee, a director of the Economic Education and Research Forum, and a columnist for REASON magazine. Formerly he served as secretary of LPI, and attended the National LP convention in New York as a member of the platform committee.

MARYBETH KINNEY

Marybeth is the Northwest side local club organizer, and secretary of the Libertarian Ballot Committee. "Though my most visible qualification is activism within the party, my most valuable qualification is that politically, I have always been a Libertarian. A clear distinction between libertarian politics and traditional politics is imperative--the Libertarian Party must not compromise its principles."

MARJI KOHLS

"My goal on the Judicial committee would be to settle disputes based on the premise that claims and desires may conflict, but rights are absolute and cannot conflict. Compromise is not a solution when either or both parties are asked to yield what is rightfully theirs. My past experience as an arbitrator has been in settling frequent, often violent disagreements between my two children--while providing logical explanations for my decisions."

ROBERT OSTERLUND

A 23 year-old graduate student in economics at the University of Chicago, Robert collected over 1200 petition signatures--and third prize in our contest. He was founding editor of the Illinois Libertarian, and served as secretary of LPI for the first half of 1975. That same year he attended the National LP convention in New York.

DON PARRISH

Don is a founder of both LPI and the DuPage club, as well as a charter member of the National party. From 1972 to the present, he served on the Judicial Committee of the National party. He has attended every National LP convention since the party's inception. During our petition drive, he collected over 1,000 signatures.

BARBARA ROTH

A member of LPI since 1973, she states that she is "greatly interested in upholding Libertarian principle within the party." She is responsible for getting together the first local club meeting in the Rockford area.

DAVID THEROUX

B.S., A.B., M.S. (U. of California); pursuing joint degree at Graduate School of Business and Committee for Public Policy Studies, U. of Chicago; Chairperson of LP organizations in California and Louisiana; Director, 1976 Alabama ballot drive; proprietor, Libertarian books. "The Libertarian Party is the "party of principle". With the LP now emerging as the significant alternative to the politics of statism and expediency, we must continue our affirmation of unswerving devotion to the ideas and ideals of the totally free society."

EASY CAMPAIGNING *from page 8*

to help, call Marybeth Kinney at 736-9734, or simply show up any time at the campaign headquarters; Richard Suter promises he'll have something for you to do. People are needed for telephone canvassing, literature handling, envelope stuffing, licking and stamping. We need typists, proofreaders, drivers, posterers, artists, door-to-door precinct workers. And please, take it upon yourself to step forward and get active; we cannot spare anyone to coax and nudge you into activity. Volunteer yourself.

If enough of us work hard enough and long enough and contribute enough money to this effort, we might just astound the politicians and pundits.

David Theroux and Bob Osterlund are getting together a letter-writing wing of the Libertarian campaign. The idea is to make sure that the Libertarian candidates cannot be ignored by the major media outlets; to assure this the media must be aware of the fact that we are out here--they must get some response from Libertarians. If you want to help out, call Bob at 312/752-6866 or David at 312/ 955-2442.