



February 1991
Vol. 6, No. 2

Libertarian Party

NEWS

Campaigns Differ on Matching Funds Issue

Boddie or Marrou?

Dick Boddie and Andre Marrou have announced their intentions to seek to Libertarian Party's presidential nomination. The NEWS will provide both campaigns the opportunity to gather supporters before the national convention in late August.

The Moral Case for Taking Matching Funds

By Michael Emerling
Marrou Campaign Chief of Staff

As a "matter of principle", Libertarian presidential candidates have refused to seek federal matching campaign funds. Taxation is theft and accepting tax funds makes us party to the crime. By taking the loot, by welcoming stolen goods, the Libertarian Party betrays the non-aggression principle. We surrender our morality, integrity and principles.

So we've been told.

This position is not merely wrong. It is the exact opposite of the truth.

As Frank Chodorov observed, "Taxation is robbery." Government is funded by legalized looting. Government has no right to the proceeds of plunder. Nor does it have the right to "assign" or "transfer" the booty to others.

Who has the right to this loot? The rightful owners. The victims of the tax crime: those who earned and

owned it. The tax payers.

Let's look at Libertarian taxpayers. How many Libertarians are there in America today? No one knows. Libertarians don't like being counted or registered by the State.

Individuals who believe that they have a right to their life, liberty, and property; Individuals who know that their life is their own and intend to run it by their own judgement; Individuals who value voluntary relations and oppose force and fraud; these individuals mind their own business and live their lives as they see fit. Their privacy is their protection, so they jealously guard

it. They live by the code of liberty. They are libertarians, whether they know it or not. But their way of life makes them invisible, uncounted and forgotten.

A few Libertarians organized to reclaim their rights to life, liberty and property. They did so as a matter of self-defense. They called their organization the Libertarian Party.

Today there are 9,000 dues paying national Libertarian Party members in America. And perhaps another 6,000 local Libertarian Party members. There are over 50,000 voters registered as Libertarians, even though many states do not allow us to register Libertarian.

For the sake of discussion, assume that there are only 10,000 Libertarians in America. Assume that the average Libertarian earns \$30,000 a year. (Probably a low figure, with all the professionals and computer programmers in the Libertarian Party.) A person earning \$30,000 a year is paying a minimum of \$3,000 a year in federal income taxes. Using these deliberately low figures, we can see that Libertarians are paying a minimum of \$30,000,000 each year in income taxes. That's \$2,500,000 each month.

Libertarians have a right to recover this money. Or authorize another to recover it.

In light of this, let's reframe the matching funds issue:

1. "Do taxpaying libertarians have the right to authorize the Libertarian presidential candidate to use the matching funds process to recover taxes taken from them?"

2. "Do they have the right to authorize their candidate to use the recovered taxes to fight the looters?"

An example from history might highlight the issue. During the Revolutionary War, Francis Marion ("the Swamp Fox") organized a guerilla army in South Carolina. Marion staged midnight raids, hit-and-run attacks and

continued on page 6

FYI:

A recent article in the *Washington Post* reported that only 20 percent of taxpayers now participate in the Presidential Election Campaign Fund by checking the box on their tax returns. Still, in 1988, \$178.1 million was spent from the fund. The money was spent in the following ways: \$67.5 million on primaries; \$18.4 million on conventions; and \$92.2 million on the general election. Of course, both the Democrats and Republicans also spent an additional \$50 million each during the election.

No Subsidies from Federal Government

By Dick Boddie

Stephen Chapman of the *Chicago Tribune* recently stated (in reference to William Bennett):

"My favorite entry in the category of 'Poor Assessments of the Situation at Hand' is Civil War General John Sedgwick who, as he poked his head over a parapet to see what the enemy was doing, was advised to get down. The General's last words were, 'Oh, they couldn't hit an elephant at this distance...'"

A close second is the desire of some folks in the LP to even consider accepting subsidies from United States government, via the Federal Matching Funds game for the 1992 presidential race. As a person seeking the nomination for president of the United States of America as the Libertarian Party candidate, I unequivocally wish to remain consistent with the principles of John Hospers, Roger MacBride, Edward Clark, David Bergland, and Dr. Ron Paul. I am not privy to the details of their decisions not to seek funds from the federal treasury, for it is apparent that at least two of our standard bearers could have. It is my firm belief that this is not the time to do it nor consider it.

Just when we are beginning to attract real grassroots support from thousands of Americans, who have accepted our principles (thanks in part to the tyranny and fraud of the Republican and Democratic Party), we would be remiss in our efforts to remain "The Party of Principle" by accepting subsidies. It appears to me that any rationalization for such expediency would parallel the typical politician's actions such as the famous "read my lips" show of King George IV.

Furthermore, the egalitarian mass media would jump on this (like a fly on you know what) as they did in 1988 with Ron Paul's personal convictions,

which they tried to exploit as inconsistent with the LP platform. With that, they totally disregarded any libertarian position that the public should have been exposed to. I see no "libertarianization" of the media since 1988 (exception: Joseph Garcia, *Tucson Citizen*), and believe that the matching funds issue will certainly create the distraction that the seekers of the status quo would love (again).

Steve Alexander, a fellow opponent of "the subsidy," has eloquently garnered all of the rational arguments one needs to make an informed decision in this debate (see LP NEWS August 1989). I concur with all of these positions and state a few additional reasons not to accept federal matching funds:

- The New Alliance (Socialist/Communist) Party accepted those funds and placed far behind the LP in the 1988 elections;

- The alleged "stolen property" has merged (a legal concept) and is not identifiable for reclaiming;

- The "taking" would cause the "beltway bandits" to merely supplement the "give back" by increasing taxes to replace that returned amount;

- Many of us never allowed them to take our honestly acquired property (from "jump street"), so we have nothing to reclaim;

- If the funds were returned to the candidate, that would not ethically resolve the issue. The "stolen property" was taken from the individuals, not the candidate.

continued on page 6

Marrou

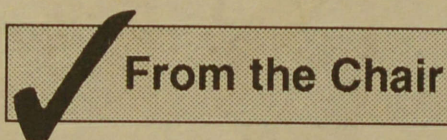
Boddie

A New Year's Resolution for Libertarians

The New Year's Day holiday is good for three things usually—catching up on reading, making resolutions, and watching football. We won't go into why Penn State should have been Number One this year (next year it will be obvious), but I did want to comment on several items I read that weren't connected but do show how the general public accepts and acts on myths concerning government.

First, the local paper covered the 100th anniversary remembrance of the massacre of unarmed native Americans at Wounded Knee. Perhaps the majority of Americans still look fondly upon the holocaust visited upon native Americans by U.S. soldiers and pioneers in the 18th and 19th centuries. Until the U.S. government and the state governments change their "great white father" treatment, native Americans such as Russell Means have every right to bar the governor of South Dakota, or other self-seeking politicians, from attending these kinds of memorial services.

An item in the Reader's Digest caught my eye. It seems that three times as many Americans died last year from food poisoning as from overdosing on illegal drugs. Since the great majority of these deaths occurred because of home prepared meals, it may be a great idea—for those seeking to



Dave Walter, LP National Chair

control others—to set up Kitchen Police to sweep through homes on a random basis, probing potato salad with thermometers and certifying that cutting boards are wiped off after dicing raw chicken. The myth that the great majority of Americans live by is that society has the right to interfere with behavior that threatens one's well-being but that the more widespread the threat—tobacco, alcohol, sugar, jogging, etc.—the less justified is prohibition. Not that we hope they'll become consistent, but that they will realize how foolish it is to spend untold billions of dollars, and violate civil liberties, to control non-coercive activities.

And then Money magazine chimes in with an editorial saying that it is the reader's job to "see past the rhetoric and the rage and to support . . . the new taxes that will serve your family, your community and this society best." I didn't know there was a new tax, or even an old one, that would serve society as well as free market pricing and non-governmentally provided services. Yet Money and most other Americans assure that the cost of government services will be two or more times higher than they would be in a competitive climate.

Humorist Dave Barry, a libertarian, noted two items in his "Year in Review" that prove how uninformed and uninterested the American people are: "Oct. 21 - True item: the House of Representatives, in its continuing battle to reduce the pesky federal budget deficit, approves a farm bill that includes \$500,000 to make a tourist attraction out of Lawrence Welk's childhood home." And "Nov. 6 - In midterm elections, the voters, clearly fed up with the incompetence, corruption and rampant hypocrisy of the incumbents, re-elect them."

As Libertarians, we have been doing our best to expose those myths that give some coercive power over others. The natural superiority of capitalism has exposed the bankruptcy of socialism. And yet

certain powerful myths survive that have the power to destroy lives, lay waste productive societies, and increase the unhappiness of mankind.

As you read this, the United States may be in a shooting war in Kuwait. Young men and women—Americans, Iraqis—may be killing each other because warmongers like Saddam Hussein and George Bush have acquired the power to inflame and incite their citizens against each other. Cheerleaders, like the gutless Dan Quayle, convince many Americans that being the world's policeman is our duty, especially where we can be hired out for blood money by wealthy sheiks and the nations that killed millions in our parents' generation.

Why do we continue to allow our "leaders" to involve us in the colonial wars of Britain and France? Why do we get so whipped up against aggression in one instance or promote it in others?

Perhaps America's schizophrenia is not curable. Or perhaps reason will eventually triumph over the old men who tell young men that war is glorious, over the politicians who preach charity while picking your pocket even as you rush to re-elect them, over busybodies who act irresponsibly in their lives but think they know how to run yours. And our New Year's Resolution should be that, as Libertarians, we will continue trying to bring reason and sanity to whomever will listen.

The Savings and Loan Fiasco

The following is a new program plank approved by the Libertarian Party National Committee on Dec. 9, 1990.

It is difficult to imagine a better example of government bungling than the savings and loan (S&L) bailout. The problems which many S&Ls are experiencing is the direct result of government deposit insurance.

For decades the government has required federally chartered S&Ls to buy deposit insurance from a government agency—FSLIC. FSLIC charged premiums without regard to how the S&Ls invested their depositors' funds. For example, consider two S&Ls that are identical except for how they invest their funds. One buys only the highest quality investments; the other speculates in a variety of risky investments. FSLIC charges both S&Ls the same amount of premium to insure their deposits.

This is insane. No life insurance company would charge the same premiums to two 30-year-old women—one a smoker and one a non-smoker. Any sensible insurance scheme must base the premiums on risk. FSLIC did not, because it was a stupid scheme set up by the politicians. S&Ls, as an industry, wield a lot of power in Washington. The S&L lobby has been strong enough to prevent FSLIC from charging reasonable premiums.

Many S&Ls made risky investments that went sour. They lost not only their

shareholders' money, but some of their depositors' funds as well. This left FSLIC holding the bag. Since FSLIC did not charge premiums related to risk, it doesn't have enough money to pay back all depositors. As a result the federal government—which means we taxpayers—is left holding the bag. As taxpayers, we are going to have to pay over \$300 billion (over \$1,000 for each man, woman, and child!) because of this bungling.

The Libertarian Party knows and understands that protecting our hard-earned savings is far too important a job to trust to politicians and bureaucrats. It has been tried and it has failed miserably. We therefore propose that four federal insurance schemes be terminated:

FSLIC - which insures deposits at savings and loans

FDIC - which insures deposits at banks

SIPC - which insures cash and securities at brokerage firms

NCUIC - which insures deposits at credit unions

For years private insurance companies have insured residential mortgages, municipal bonds, corporate securities, and investments at brokerage firms. Based on the successful performance of these companies as insurers, it is clear that private insurance companies will be able to replace FSLIC, FDIC, SIPC, and NCUIC.

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Campaign Notes

Louisiana

Libertarian Victory in High-Caliber Campaign

Steve Gunn, 44, of Montgomery, LA, has become the first Libertarian elected to municipal office in his state.

Gunn was elected to one of the five seats on the Montgomery Town Council. He finished first in the non-partisan election.

His campaign focused on his intentions to lower citizens' utility bills, promising to save each household \$144 per year.

"The election involved philosophy more

than candidates," Gunn explained in the recent LPL newsletter.

Gunn said his pocketbook issues gained him the support of both the older female and minority voters. Montgomery has about 800 voters in the city.

Gunn explained that it was more fun getting elected than being elected, but he now enjoys the support of both the mayor and the sheriff.

Colorado

Bain Faces Bain in Denver

You can hear the mutterings coming from the voting booths all over Denver now. "Oh, which Bain was that I wanted to vote for, Don or Ron?"

Colorado Libertarian Party activist Ron Bain has revealed his plans to run for mayor of Denver. His formal announcement is expected soon. Bain, who is the CLP campaigns director as well as the Denver affiliate chair, will be facing a Republican frontrunner with almost an identical name.

"Don Bain [the Republican candidate] is going to be spending a million dollars to make the name Bain a household word in Denver—if there are two Bains on a non-partisan ballot that doesn't allow for party label distinctions, the Denver media, and maybe even the national media, is not going to be able to ignore that story," Ron Bain is quoted as saying in "CLiPboard," the newsletter of the Colorado LP.

Bain announced that his campaign

would focus on four issues: 1) advocating two-term limits for all municipal office holders; 2) suspending construction on the new municipal airport pending an investigation of airport-related corruption; 3) appointing a new police chief who will be committed to a 90 percent solution rate on all violent and property crimes, and who will be committed to ending revenue enhancement practices, such as traffic ticket quotas; and 4) implementing a 100-day freeze on all hiring, spending, and new construction projects, pledging to use his investigative skills (learned through years of experience as a reporter covering municipal affairs) to ferret out waste and corruption.

Additional candidates for municipal offices are also being recruited by the Denver affiliate party. Denver Election Commissioner Doug Anderson, a Libertarian, has also announced his plans to seek re-election in May.

Florida

Fender Seeks Municipal Seat

Libertarian Mike Fender, a 27-year-old law student in his final year at the University of Florida, recently announced his intention to run for the at-large seat on the Gainesville City Commission.

Fender advocates reducing property taxes and putting the City of Gainesville in a more competitive position in attracting and keeping businesses within the city limits. "Reducing taxes, red tape, and bureaucracy will encourage small businesses to locate in Gainesville," Fender said.

Fender has also called for removing the barriers which make it difficult for a person to operate a home business. Fender said he views home businesses as environmentally sound and a method to revitalize neighborhoods.

Fender has not only promised never to vote for a tax increase, but also to work with the other city commissioners to cut taxes. "Tax rates must be drastically reduced before the middle class is eliminated. I believe that private, voluntary solutions to our problems are far more just and effective than government programs," Fender said.

Libertarian Party Membership Growth

Statistics as of 12/31/90
Growth Compared with 12/31/89

- Total Contributing Members in Areas with Affiliate Parties: 9,130
- Overall Growth: 919
- Overall Percent of Growth: 11.2

- Top Five States in Actual Growth: New Jersey, New Hampshire, Florida, Virginia, New York
- Top Five States in Percent of Growth: North Dakota, Maine, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Alaska

- Top Five States in Membership: California, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois
- Top Five States in Density: Alaska, New Hampshire, Nevada, California, Vermont

- Top Five States in Growth per Population: New Hampshire, Alaska, Maine, Nevada, Vermont



CAMPAIGN '91

Presidential Candidates Forum

Atlanta, Georgia

April 27, 1991

All announced (and discussed) presidential candidates will meet in Atlanta. Be there to raise the issues and form your own opinion. This may be the only time all potential candidates are together. Do not miss this important opportunity.

Schedule of Events

April 26th

7:00pm Welcome Reception - The Colony Square Hotel

April 27th

11:00am Presidential Candidates Forum with Dick Boddie & Andre Marrou
12:15pm Luncheon - J. Warren Cassidy; EVP-National Rifle Association, "Alive or Dead in the 21st Century"

1:30pm Dr. Mark Skousen; Editor, Forecasts & Strategies
"Please, No More Political Labels"

2:45pm Bill Shipp Syndicated Political Columnist

4:00pm DEBATE - "Stop the Drug War!"

PRO < James Ostrowski, Cato Institute

< Kevin Zeese, Drug Policy Foundation

CON < Bob Barr, former U.S. District Attorney

< Matt Towery, '90 Republican Candidate for Lt. Gov. of Ga.

5:30pm Cocktail Party

6:30pm Dinner - Dr. Walter E. Williams; Professor of Economics at George Mason University, "Liberty and Libertarians"

7:30pm Keynote Address - Gene Burns; WRKO Radio in Boston, Mass. "The Nature and Role of Government: Why the Statists Are in Chaos"

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of NatCom will be held concurrent to this meeting. Agenda items include the 1991 Platform and Campaign.

CAMPAIGN '91

INFORMATION

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New LP Membership Structure Explained

By Karen Allard and Perry Willis

In December, the Libertarian Party National Committee made important changes to the LP's national membership structure. The new membership categories and the benefits are explained below.

The first membership category is BASIC. There is no dues requirement for this category. To become a BASIC member an individual must simply affirm, in writing, opposition to the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. This affirmation is also required for the higher membership categories. The BASIC member will receive a packet with a bumper sticker, discount coupons, and a membership card. He will also receive two issues of LP NEWS and a year-end report summarizing the activities of the National LP. Membership cards will be sent out only once.

The next category is called SUBSCRIBING. This member also receives the member packet, plus the year-end report, as well as a full 12 issues (one year) of LP NEWS. The obligation is a signed affirmation against the initiation of force, plus \$25 annual dues. \$25 without the affirmation is the price for a subscription to LP NEWS. SUBSCRIBING and all higher categories of membership count in determining the number of delegates each state may send to a national convention.

The next four membership categories



are premium categories. They have been merged with the monthly pledge program. All pledging members who maintain a continuous monthly pledge of \$10 or more through credit card or EFT (electronic funds transfer, or automatic checking withdrawal) are guaranteed ongoing status as paid members. In addition, they will receive the special insider's report LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWS, as well as the premiums associated with each category.

SUSTAINING is the first premium membership category. It receives all of the

benefits of the SUBSCRIBING category, plus LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWS. Membership is automatically renewed for the next year. The cost is a \$10 a month pledge through credit card or EFT, or \$100 in cumulative contributions during a 12 month period.

The next category is SPONSOR. It receives all of the benefits of SUSTAINING, plus a one year membership in THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CLUB. The 1991 premiums for the VICE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT, and TORCH CLUB will be announced shortly. The cost for this membership is a \$25 a month pledge through credit card or EFT, or \$250 in cumulative contributions in a 12 month period.

The PATRON receives the same benefits as the other categories, plus a one year membership in THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB. The cost is a \$50 a month credit card or EFT pledge, or \$500 in cumulative contributions in a 12 month period.

The last category is LIFE BENEFAC-TOR. The benefits are the same as for the PATRON, plus a one year membership in THE TORCH CLUB, and a lifetime membership, which includes a lifetime subscription to LP NEWS. Those who became life members in categories that were offered in the past will, of course, remain life members under this new system. A \$100 a month credit card or EFT pledge, or \$1,000 in cumulative contributions during a 12 month period, makes you a LIFE

BENEFAC-TOR. Maintaining this level of giving over more than one year renews your membership in THE TORCH CLUB.

There is another change that affects the affiliate parties. Affiliates are still encouraged to solicit national LP memberships and subscriptions for LP NEWS, but the memberships should be for the BASIC and SUBSCRIBING categories only. The affiliates can sell joint memberships at the SUBSCRIBING level at whatever price they choose, so long as they forward the affirmation statement and \$10 for dues to LP HQ for each member recruited. If the affiliate recruits a BASIC member, then of course, only the affirmation statement need be sent to LP HQ. If the affiliate sells an LP NEWS subscription only, then only the \$10 should be sent to LP HQ.

The Libertarian National Committee regrets the price increase, but is excited about the new membership structure. There are several reasons for the changes.

The price increase brings membership dues into line with actual costs and prepares for expected postal increases. The new structure encourages members to become monthly pledgers and attaches benefits to the premium membership categories. In addition, the enhanced, no dues BASIC membership should prove an effective recruitment tool.

If you have questions, please call Membership Chair Karen Allard at 206-759-1838.

Convention Committee Appointments

By Joe Dehn, National Secretary
P.O. Box 621015, Littleton, CO 80162

One of the most interesting, and sometimes the most controversial, items of business at an LP national convention is the adoption of amendments to the LP Platform. Although proposals are commonly modified on the floor, and occasionally an entirely new plank may be adopted that has not previously been discussed, much of the work of drafting the language and of selecting the topics to be discussed is done before the convention formally opens, by the 20-member Platform Committee.

Ten of the members of the Platform Committee are appointed by the 10 states with the most national members. The Libertarian National Committee will be appointing the other 10 members at its April meeting.

The LNC will also be appointing five members of the Credentials Committee (the five largest states also each appoint one member), which examines and reports to the convention the list of delegates, and 10 members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, send me a note indicating which one you are interested in, including whatever information about yourself you feel would be useful for the LNC to know in making a decision (one or two pages total). Please get this to me by April 10 so it can be made available to all LNC members.

NH Town Passes Libertarian-Inspired Educational Property Tax Abatement

The following article is reprinted from "Libertarian Lines," the newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire, P.O. Box 669, Windham, NH 03087.

After eight years of work, an LPNH member has succeeded in getting the nation's first educational property tax abatement bill passed by the town of Epsom—a development which has been greeted with a tidal wave of publicity and could radically change the shape of education in New Hampshire.

Jack Kelleher, a former two-term selectman from Epsom, was the spark plug behind the plan, which was passed unanimously by Epsom Selectmen on Dec. 10. Under the proposal, town Selectmen can now grant property tax abatements of up to \$1,000 to town citizens who sponsor children in any public or private high school outside the school district.

The plan—dubbed the "Epsom Plan" by the media—has already sparked interest in half a dozen towns across the state, but Kelleher said that New Hampshire may only be the beginning.

"If it is successful, it has the capacity to take off all across the country," he said.

The plan has generated several front-page stories in the Union-Leader, an editorial endorsement from that newspaper, significant coverage in the Boston Globe, and won Kelleher a four-hour stint on the Gene Burns program on WRKO radio.

Work is underway in Derry, Bedford, Candia, Barrington, and Brookline to examine or adopt a similar tax abatement proposal. In Barrington, the effort is being spearheaded by LPNH member Charter

Weeks, while in Derry LPNH member Craig Gould is active in the process.

Kelleher said the plan has four major advantages:

- 1) "For students, there will be increased educational opportunity available to them."
- 2) "For parents, there will be greater choice where their kids can go to school."
- 3) "For taxpayers, it is simply cheaper to give a \$1,000 abatement than to pay to send kids to [a public] high school."

4) The single biggest advantage is that it will forestall the day when we have to make a major capital investment to build a high school [in Epsom]."

Plus, said Kelleher, the more people who take advantage of the plan, the more money the town can save. "How many other government programs do you know where the more people who participate in it, the cheaper it gets?"

The plan has won support from New Hampshire Citizens for Choice in Education, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, and is being examined by the Granite State Taxpayer's Association.

Opposition has been voiced by the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union and the National Education Association, which have threatened lawsuits.

Despite being promoted by a Libertarian, the plan "cuts across ideological lines," Kelleher said. "There are people from all parties, all walks of life, who think this might be a good idea."

However, Kelleher said the LPNH deserves some of the credit for the plan's success. "The Libertarians of New Hampshire have been among the people who have helped keep this proposal alive. They

gave me a podium to speak from on this idea more than any other single organization."

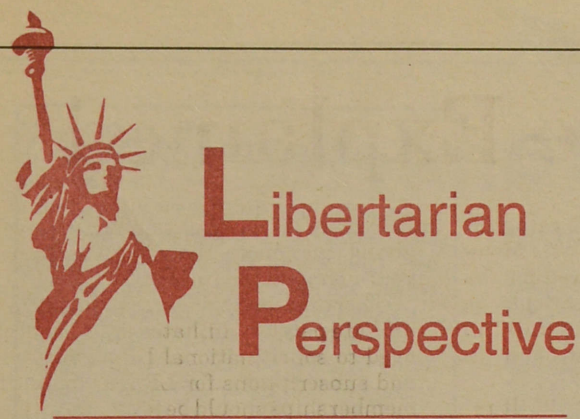
Kelleher said Libertarians can continue to help with the plan.

"There's got to be a tidal wave of activity now," he said. "[Politicians] have got to see that people want this type of solution, and they want it applied now."

Bill Excerpt

The Epsom tax abatement bill reads in part:

"Beginning _____, 199__, any individual owner of real estate in Epsom, New Hampshire, who pays all or any part of the actual education expenses of tuition or textbooks, for any Epsom student-resident of any public or private high school, which legally fulfills the State of New Hampshire compulsory attendance laws, may be eligible ... to receive an abatement for real estate taxes from the Town of Epsom, in an amount, dollar for dollar, not to exceed \$1,000, or an amount not to exceed 85% of the last Town of Epsom property tax bill, which ever is the lesser amount."



Libertarian Perspective

National LP Gears Up

The Libertarian Party is setting up a new "900" telephone number for opponents of U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf. Callers will hear a recorded message stating opposition to the intervention. The message will be delivered in their names to their Congressman if callers leave their names and addresses. The LP will also send each caller a "Bring U.S. Troops Home" bumpersticker.

"We wanted to encourage people to speak up and be counted on this important issue," National Director Nick Dunbar said. "We hope people will take advantage of this service who wouldn't take the time to sit down and write their Congressman a letter."

College chapters are being urged to get involved in this hot issue. Informational packets were sent to 222 campus contacts regarding their role in establishing strong opposition to reinstituting the draft.

Additional information concerning this project will be forthcoming in the next LP NEWS.

Iraq: What Have We Learned?

By George L. O'Brien
Internal Education Chair

Within hours of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, pundits began telling us how this only goes to confirm what they had been telling us all along. Right.

The leftish commentators have rushed forward with comments about how awful it is that "we" allowed ourselves to become dependent on "foreign oil" and dire warnings about greedy oil companies engaging in "price gouging." "If only we had listened back in the 1970s and outlawed private automobiles and built solar generators, there would be no problem."

The rightish commentators blame the whole affair on attempts to cut the defense budget and the refusal of "our allies" to back up the U.S. in its attempts to determine how the Middle East should operate. "See, Israel was right all along and our allies are too cowardly."

Neither analysis is really very helpful.

Eliminating "foreign oil" sounds appealing, but it will never happen as long as it is so much less expensive than new domestic sources. Raising the price of oil high enough to cover the cost of new production would raise the energy costs of American industry so high that it could never possibly compete in foreign markets.

Raising the price of domestic gasoline might push "poor people" out of their automobiles, so obviously the leftish commentators will end advocating subsidizing the poor back into driving.

Increased U.S. military spending would not have changed Saddam Hussein's decision one bit. Most "defense spending" goes to maintaining an enormous military bureaucracy (we have more senior officers than at the end of World War II), useless domestic bases, research and development on "gold plated"

exotic weapon systems which rarely work, strategic weapons for fighting the "Ruskies," a full pay retirement program for men and women in their 40's, subsidies and below cost sales of arms to Third World Countries, and huge overseas troop deployments to stop the Russians in Germany and Japan.

For all the talk, very little of the budget is even remotely connected with dealing with fighting wars as was shown clearly during the traumas over cutting the number of domestic bases. A few more billion dollars would not have changed that one way or another.

As for the U.S. allies, most of them understand that the U.S. cannot afford to play "World Policeman" and will only make a serious commitment when the stakes seem to the American people to warrant it. This may be frustrating to our "Jingos," but it is fairly realistic.

So what have we really learned?

1. Every intervention in the Middle East leads to another. The U.S. puts in the Shah whose overthrow leads to the Iran hostage crisis which leads the U.S. to support Iraq in a war that threatens Kuwait so the U.S. reflags the Kuwaiti tankers so when Iraq invades Kuwait the U.S. forms an alliance with Syria?

2. A blockade and an enormous military buildup cannot "bluff" a committed aggressor into backing down.

3. Fighting (or even threatening to fight) wars for "economic reasons" is even dumber than fighting wars over ideology. The cost of the war will far outweigh any perceived economic benefits.

It is hard to figure a way out of this mess. But we can rest assured that however bad the situation looks now, George Bush will figure out a way to make things worse.

A Mother Pleads for Her Son's Life

By Connie Willis

My son Stephen is a part of Desert Shield. I grant George Bush's power to use him so, but I deny his right. Power did not justify what Hussein did, nor can it justify what Bush does.

My son and I love America and its values, but neither are at stake in the Middle East. The reverse is true—America is about freedom and tolerance, the Middle East is about violence and intolerance.

My son was not born to defend one dictator against another. He did not join the Army to protect "royalty", oil companies, or low gas prices. He did swear to protect the U.S. Constitution. Iraq does not threaten the Constitution. George Bush does.

The Constitution grants certain powers to government, but denies it others. It protects all of our rights, even those that aren't named in the Bill of Rights. That's the purpose of the 9th Amendment. One such un-named right is the right not to be sacrificed to the needs of others.

The 9th Amendment is the law of the land, and America is supposed to be governed by law. The Founders were serious when they spoke of a government of laws rather than men. They knew that law and legislation are not the same. True law, higher law, is what the 9th Amendment is about.

Each of us knows what true law is. It is our common sense idea of right and wrong—that endless whisper we call our conscience. Legislation, or Executive Order, is merely political

I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell.

- William Tecumseh Sherman

opinion, or worse, an attempt to skirt true law. George Bush is violating true law. He is violating the Constitution.

I am not a pacifist. My son is not. But we do hold, in keeping with true law, that force is for defense only. My son is ready to defend his country. He placed his life in trust to that end, but the trust was broken. Now, the power of the government holds him to a false contract. This may be legal, but it is also wrong.

My son will fight, and he may die. If so, his blood will be on George Bush, but not on him alone. True law also holds that mere numbers cannot change wrong into right. Majority approval cannot make the immoral moral, but it can lend it power. Sacrificing innocent lives for the sake of royalty, big business, or cheap oil, is not right, and cannot be made so. Still, polls show that a majority favors war. It is on the strength of this that Bush will act.

I ask those who favor war: are you willing that your loved ones die to restore Kuwait to the Emir? Will you urge them to report to boot camp today?

Will you go yourself? If no, then how can you demand it of my son? If yes, then you still cannot demand it, nor can I. It is his life, not ours.

Politicians try to give their wars nobility, cloaking them in abstractions, but let us deal with concretes. No questions of sovereignty or national security have enough weight here. The real issues are blood, flesh, and death. I state the Bush policy in true terms: let Americans die for the Emir.

As a result of this policy I may never again look into my son's eyes, hear him call my name, see him smile, or hold him close. All that he was born for may be lost—not merely for a day or a week, but forever.

Think about that, long and hard. Would you want that for yourself? There's nothing at stake worth that price. In some conflicts maybe, but not this one.

I repeat, George Bush has the power to squander my son's life, but he does not have the right. Do we want ours to be a country where might makes right, or where rights make right? Are we to be governed by the passions and wants of mere men, or by the justice of true law? Help decide. Stop George Bush. Call him, write him, do both. Take back the power you gave him. Do it today. His number is 202-456-7639. His address is The White House, Washington, DC, 20500. Tell him Connie sent you.

I plead, on the profane alter of public opinion, for my son's life.

Connie Willis is a member of the Libertarian Party.

Letters: Election Records and More

Election Records

I noted an error in the December, 1990, NEWS. The article "LP Sets New Records" correctly stated that Greg Johnson's total of 18.9 percent here in Idaho was the highest ever for a Libertarian in a three-way state legislative race. It then said that the previous record was 8.4 percent. It was actually 15 percent, won by Larry Fullmer in 1978 (his two opponents were Democratic incumbent Lester Hartvigsen and Republican Evan Frasure).

Peter B. Hull
Blackfoot, ID

Election Records

An article in the December, 1990, NEWS ("LP Sets New Records") was incorrect. In the fifth paragraph from the end of the article, it is stated that Greg Johnson set a new

Emerling

continued from page 1

sabotage. This frustrated the British officers and tied up troops that might have been used to defeat Washington or Lee.

Marion and his men ran out of ammunition. So they raided British armories, taking all the weapons and ammunition they could carry. They did return the bullets to the British... one at a time.

These British weapons were paid for by past taxation and the source of future taxation.

Did the Swamp Fox have the right to seize and use the weapons against the British? Or should Francis Marion have left them in the hands of the enemy?

Libertarians not only have the right to recover their taxes through matching funds, they have the moral obligation to do so. The taxes we do not recover will fund the State... or be turned over to Republican and Democratic Presidential candidates who will seek to make Big Government bigger. Your taxes either fund the State or Statist Campaigns. Every tax dollar we do not reclaim will be used to sustain or expand the State. As State Power grows, individual liberty and self-responsibility dies.

Can you afford to have the money you've earned used against you? You've been disarmed and your own weapons have been turned against you. Take them back.

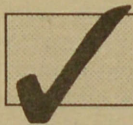
After all, whose money is it? Yours. Do you live off the State or does the State live off you? Are you a tax producer or a tax consumer? Are you a tax victim or a tax beneficiary?

When you fill out your 1040, if you have a refund due from the IRS, do you take back your money? Why? Because it's yours. It's not welfare. It's recovering a part of what is rightfully yours.

Matching funds are tax refunds. By contributing to the Marrou Libertarian Presidential Campaign, you are allowing us to recover money looted from you through federal income taxes and use it to fight the government for liberty.

Michael Emerling is chief of staff for the Marrou for President Campaign.

For information on the Marrou for President Campaign call 702-431-3848, or write Marrou for President, 4750 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104.



From You

Letters from members and readers

record of 19 percent in a three-way state house race and the old record was 8.4 percent in 1988; the 8.4 percent in 1988 is what is grossly incorrect!

In 1984, I ran in a three-way race for the state house of representatives in Oregon, and I received 10.5 percent of the vote total, a record here in Oregon and also in the lower 48 states! In 1986, I ran again for the same position and I received 10 percent of the vote total and came in second in one precinct and tied for second in another. This again was a three-way race. I hope you will run a correction in the next issue of the LP NEWS.

Thanks for your consideration. Keep up the good work.

Edward Marihart
Portland, OR

Recycle Libertarianism

What do you do with your copy of Libertarian Party NEWS when you are finished reading it? File it away for future reference? Great!

Toss it in the handy wastebasket? Think again! That next door neighbor who expressed some interest in libertarianism might like to see it. Or your friend at work (who told you nothing's happening on the libertarian scene) may be delighted to find out he/she was misinformed.

LP NEWS can be ammunition to spread libertarian ideas. Choose your target carefully.

Ima Freeberson
Pittsburgh, PA

Newsletters

The prevalent means by which the Libertarian Party impresses or depresses its membership is via its regular publications at national, state, and local levels. To bolster membership, party activism, and financial support, we need to take seriously the challenge of publishing a better and better product at every level.

One of the best ways of getting ideas for upgrading the appearance, content, and editorial focus of newsletters is for editors to subscribe to and study the best the LP has yet to offer: New Hampshire's "Libertarian Lines."

It's full of photos, real news, good graphics, and a sharply honed focus designed to promote growth and activism. Contact LPNH, Box 669, Windham, NH 03087 for a subscription.

Jim McClarin
Cool, CA

Term Limits

While I agree with most of what National Chair Dave Walter wrote in the December, 1990, NEWS ("Libertarians Must Tap into the Discontent"), I would disagree with his endorsement of placing term limits on elected officeholders.

What we have here, basically, is the "Uninformed Voter Protection Act." Voters have made a fetish of complaining about tax-and-spend legislators, yet with predictable regularity they still "throw the bum back in" (federal funding for the district, constituent services, and all that, you know). Now, the same voters would now like a shortcut to responsible government... without the corresponding responsibility on their own

part. "Please don't let us vote the incumbents back in!"

It won't work. The bureaucracy will adapt to no-fault voting the same way lawyers have adapted to no-fault insurance.

There is no substitute for—fond hope that it is—thoughtful, intelligent voting on the part of the citizenry. Gimmicks and shortcuts simply won't make it.

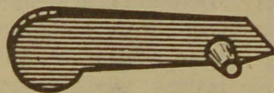
John J. Finerty Jr.
Alexandria, VA

Congressional Votes

In compiling his Congressional vote rating, Don Ernsberger apparently missed the most important roll-call of 1990. On Oct. 1, the House voted 380-29 to approve a Tonkin Gulf-style resolution supporting George Bush's bellicose policy toward Iraq. The next day the Senate, by a 96-3 margin, also backed the White House. These expressions of Congressional acquiescence encouraged the administration to escalate the crisis—with potentially deadly consequences.

Among the 29 Representatives who opposed this madness were three of the seven who received a "zero" rating from Ernsberger—Jose Serrano (NY), Craig Washington (TX), and Cardiss Collins (IL). Let's give them some credit for voting right when it really counted.

E. Scott Royce
Arlington, VA



Proxmire Pledge

Our candidates for legislative office should challenge other candidates to take the "Proxmire Pledge," written by the former senator from Wisconsin, William Proxmire: "I pledge to accept no money from any person or organization that is regulated by any committee on which I serve."

Jack H. Stuart
Cloverdale, CA

Advertisement

Have the big-government advocates already infiltrated the Libertarian Party? On page 2 of your October publication you have an ad for Libertarians for Life. I thought your party wanted to get government out of our private lives. I know that this group does not necessarily represent official party views, but the name of the group as well as running the ad in your paper sure makes it seem so. There is no doubt in my mind that if you adopt a pro-life stand you are going to lose the core of the people who were looking for a change from big-brother politics.

David E. Hoffmann
Huntington Beach, CA

Outreach

It is good to see that our numbers are increasing and we are becoming better known to the public, however, there is much yet to do to bring the Libertarian Party name and the principles that we stand for to the public.

I would ask that you consider the following suggestions: 1) adopt a local newspaper and write letters to the editor expressing your views and stating libertarian principles that apply to the problems in your area; 2) adopt a major national magazine—writing letters to the editor helps bring our views to a larger group; 3) donate a libertarian book to your local library; 4) buy and pass out the "world's smallest political quiz" cards.

George M. Vickery
Concord, NC

Letters Policy

Because of limited space, we request that letters to the editor be kept to about 200 words. Typed, double-spaced letters are appreciated. We cannot, as much as we would like, use everything that is submitted. We try to cover as many topics as possible, and allow new writers to have the opportunity to have their comments published. Keep sending your letters, however, because the NEWS will be increasing to 12 pages in March, offering a better opportunity for your views to be included.

Boddie

continued from page 1

At best, I could endorse an offset to the cost of ballot access, or accept the money and return it (on television) to the steps of the Treasury Department, or take all of the matched funds offshore, in cash, and burn the cash (not on television) to increase the value of the "FRN."

However, I hold to my principle and reject any subsidy. This, in spite of the fact that I am not wealthy, I have received very little economic support from anyone, and that these "funds" could get us media exposure. I was recently advised by an acquaintance that I must be more pragmatic. I told him if I wanted to be pragmatic, I would still be a Democrat, Republican, or one of the others. I am a Libertarian.

I believe that if we were to nominate and support Dick Boddie for the nomination, the need to pay for media coverage would be greatly reduced. Perhaps it is not apparent to many in the Libertarian Party (since most are not racist) that I am a unique "commodity" for the exposure of our movement at this time in American history. While the egalitarian media jumps on "affirmative action" issues, Jesse Helms' campaign, David Duke's "populism," racial tensions, job "quotas," college "racial censorship," "poor blacks," failing education, the "War on Drugs" (people), and still Jesse James—I mean Jackson—they continue to portray libertarians as radical (or "reactionary"), white, male, elitist, atheist, intellectual, neo-conservatives, who lack compassion for the poor (or anyone else).

Wouldn't an Aframerican Libertarian activist, who is known nationwide for his motivation, communication, media, and people skills (with a white male vice presidential running mate) do a lot to change the image, attract vast media attention, get thousands more people to call themselves libertarians, join the LP, register and vote libertarian, and make a statement that we have not been able to make in almost 20 years of political effort?

Let's do it... without matching funds!

Carpe Diem (Seize the Day).

Dick Boddie is a graduate of Bucknell University and Syracuse University College of Law. He is a professional speaker, adjunct professor, entrepreneur, and mediator.

For information on his campaign call 714-968-3973, or write Dick Boddie for President, P.O. Box 2706, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

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CompuServe: 71610,3614

Upcoming Events

February 8-9, 1991:

Alabama LP Convention, University
Inn, Birmingham; 205-933-0576.

February 15-18, 1991:

California LP Convention, Monterey;
619-578-7168.

March 22-24, 1991:

Colorado LP Convention, Evergreen
Conference Center, Evergreen; contact
Mary Margaret Glennie, 303-484-8184.

April 6-7, 1991:

Illinois LP Convention, Best Western
Midway Motor Lodge, Elk Grove
Village; 708-299-7564.

April 6-7, 1991:

Oregon LP Convention, Sweetbrier
Inn, 7125 SW Nyberg Rd., Tualatin.

Spring, 1991:

Rhode Island LP Convention;
401-333-6303.

Spring, 1991:

Arizona LP Convention; 602-248-8425.

April 12-14, 1991:

Michigan LP Convention; 1-800-343-
1364.

April 13, 1991:

Virginia LP Convention; contact LPVA,
P.O. Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228.

April 20, 1991:

Indiana LP Convention; 317-463-6601.

April 27, 1991:

Campaign '91: Presidential Candidates
Forum, Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta,
GA; 404-320-1991.

April 28-29, 1991:

National Committee Meeting, Atlanta,
GA; 404-957-6825.

May 3-4, 1991:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Quality Inn
South, Madison; 414-375-0068.

May, 1991:

Connecticut LP Convention; 203-257-
4844.

Maine LP Convention; 207-353-9711.

Alaska LP Convention; 907-479-4250.

June 1-2, 1991:

Florida LP Convention; contact Jim
Culberson at 407-727-0801.

June 21-23, 1991:

Women in Libertarianism Conference,
University Park Holiday Inn, Ft. Collins,
CO; for more information send SASE to
Mary Margaret Glennie, 1317 Lakewood
Drive, Ft. Collins, CO 80521; 303-484-
8184. Potential speakers are welcome
to submit text of talk.

August 28-September 1, 1991:

"Liberty Triumphant," LP Presidential
Nominating Convention, Chicago
Marriott, Chicago; 708-475-0391.

To add your LP state convention or other LP event of national interest to this calendar,
provide information to Gary Johnson, 2001 Parker Lane, #134,
Austin, TX 78741-3849; 512-441-6378.

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☐ I want to join the Libertarian Party as a
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ship fee goes toward my LP NEWS subscription. I
wish to join in the category indicated:

- ☐ \$25 **Subscribing**
- ☐ \$100 or \$10/month pledge **Sustaining**
- ☐ \$250 or \$25/month pledge **Sponsor**
- ☐ \$500 or \$50/month pledge **Patron**
- ☐ \$1,000 or \$100/month pledge **Life Benefactor**

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