

Libertarian Party NEWS

April 1994 Vol. 9, No. 4

LP scores more victories in NH

Libertarian Party members in New Hampshire once again showed why they lead the nation in LP officeholders.

Local town elections were held throughout the state on March 8 and the LP fielded candidates in at least five races. One new Libertarian was elected, two current officeholders were re-elected, and one current officeholder was elected to a higher office. Additional election results were not available at press time.

The new officeholder is John Drabinowicz of Hudson, who received 887 votes for budget committee. The race was uncontested.

In Dunbarton, Scott Ives was elected town selectman with 51 percent of the vote in a two-way race. Ives currently holds the office of school board clerk, but the election to town selectman is several "steps up the political ladder," according to Jim McClarin, editor of "Libertarian Lines," the newsletter of the state LP.

Howard Wilson, a former LP state chair, was re-elected town selectman in Andover. Wilson received 55 percent of the vote in a two-way race.

In Litchfield, Cecil Williams was re-elected town selectman. Williams won with 52 percent of the vote.

Cliff Barry, an LP member who has been active in his local taxpayers' organization, finished third in a three-way race for Derry town council.

Libertarian Danielle Donovan also ran in a special election for state representative in Goffstown. Donovan finished third in a three-way race.

"We were pleased with the results," said McClarin.

April 15 Tax Protest Day

Progress

LP may help develop legislation

As President Bill Clinton's health care plan continues to free-fall in public opinion polls, the Libertarian Party's free market proposals made some remarkable gains in February—including, for the first time, the possibility that Libertarian experts may be invited to help craft health care legislation.

The Project Healthy Choice scorecard for the past month includes one debate victory, a possible invitation to meet with a congressman in Washington, a private meeting with another congressman to explain the Libertarian proposals, and a Libertarian protest against the Clinton plan that earned front-page newspaper coverage.

The good news started in Oregon, with the health care debate between former LP state chair Paul Smith, MD, and liberal Democratic Congressman Don Wyden. The debate took place in Clackamass County on Feb. 17, and was sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce.

"It went well," said Smith of his successful debating effort. "I had the congressman on the defensive most of the time." According to news reports, Smith said the Clinton plan would "have the federal government calling the shots, raising millions of dollars in new taxes, and dictating what

**PROJECT
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CHOICE**

The Libertarian Party's Alternative Free Market Health Care Proposal

kind of health benefits Americans can receive."

Smith urged the audience to "just say no—no to more taxes... we need to tell them 'Go balance your budget and leave us alone.' We don't need a top-down program run by Queen Hillary [Clinton]."

Congressman Wyden was forced to agree that the Clinton plan had flaws, and said he could not "fully support" it.

Even better, Wyden admitted during the debate the see **Progress** on page 12

Land grab?

LP in MD challenges Block raid

BY SUSAN J. GAZTANAGA

When Earle Pearce, vice chair of the Baltimore City Libertarian Party in charge of media and public relations, reported for work on the morning of Jan. 15, 1994, he thought a hurricane had just visited the place.

Pearce works as a janitor in two lounges on "The Block," an area of downtown Baltimore that has been the city's center for adult entertainment since the 1920s. Effectively, The Block had just been hit by a human hurricane.

Four months of undercover work had culminated in a massive raid of the two block area adjacent to city police headquarters. Assisted by the National Guard, 500 state troopers—nearly one-third of the entire state police force—descended on The Block's 24 clubs and made 52 arrests for gambling, prostitution, narcotics, and weapons violations. Rented moving trucks stood by to haul away gambling equipment, such as video poker machines. Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer was on hand to observe the police action and make comments to the press.

By a happy coincidence, the Freedom Forum, a monthly gathering of Baltimore area Libertarians and Libertarian sympathizers, was scheduled to meet the next night in the living room of LP state chair Lorenzo Gaztanaga.

Pearce held the group of 15-20 forum attendees spellbound as he described how the police had entered each night club and made everyone lie face down on the floor, at which time they were handcuffed, tagged, and left lying there for an hour or more. The dancers lay on the floor virtually naked, as there was no time to put on so much as a robe. Doormen had to endure freezing temperatures, handcuffed face down on the sidewalk.

Pearce passed around samples of the disposable plastic handcuffs and tags used in the raid, and he challenged his listeners to respond actively to this heavy-handed show of government force. "Are we just living room Libertarians, or are we actually going to do something?" he asked.

The next day, six or more Libertarians called in to three different radio talk shows with comments about the raid.



PROTEST - Maryland Libertarians gathered near Baltimore (MD) City Hall to challenge the wisdom of the government's raid on The Block.

Baltimore City LP chair Doug McNeil, Lorenzo Gaztanaga, and state LP secretary Susan Gaztanaga wrote letters to *The Baltimore Sun*. Fliers, petitions, and posters were prepared for a demonstration to take place after work on Jan. 24, a date chosen to coincide with a city council meeting.

A group of activists from Prince George's County and members of two newly-formed Libertarian groups at the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College joined with Baltimore Libertarians in a "Rally for see **The Block** on page 9

International news

Libertarian political party forms in South Africa

By VINCE MILLER

The new Federal Party was recently founded and registered in South Africa by international libertarian superstar Frances Kendall of Johannesburg.

Frances Kendall, advisory board member of the International Society for Individual Liberty, author, political analyst, public speaker, businesswoman, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, registered the newly formed Federal Party for South Africa's national election.

Kendall said the Federal Party's goal is to elect members to Parliament who will work for a strong federalist constitution that will decentralize power, uphold individual liberty, and promote economic growth.

"What sets us apart from other parties is that we don't want to control people's lives," Kendall said. "We want a constitution that ensures that people have control over their own lives through maximum devolution of power—not only to regions, but also to local communities and residents' associa-

tions. That control should also come through direct democracy, referenda, recall of elected officials, and the people's right to veto any legislation."

The Realists Party and the Wes-Caap Federaliste Party have announced that they have joined the Federal Party to fight the national and provincial elections. The Islamic Party is considering formal links. In addition, negotiations are still in progress with other registered parties and non-party groups.

Kendall believes the reason for this surge in support is that "The Federal Party takes a very strong stand on community empowerment. Smaller groups feel they have been overlooked by the other centrally oriented parties, and are very concerned that they should have a voice in Parliament."

Kendall is co-author of "South Africa: The Solution," which in 1986 advocated a federal system for South Africa and is the top political bestseller in South African history, having sold 70,000 copies.

"The Solution," co-authored by her husband Leon Louw, was followed by "Let The People Govern" in 1989 and "The Heart of the Nation: Regional and Community Government in the New South Africa" in 1991.

Thanks to the ideas proposed in "The Solution," Kendall and Louw were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, 1991, and 1992.

Officers of the new party include attor-

ney Gavin Weiman, chairman of Groundswell and a candidate for Parliament in 1989, and Unisa political lecturer Kierin O'Mally.

In addition to fielding candidates for the national election, the party is contesting the race for the PWV provincial legislature. Heading the ticket is Gail Daus, who is now chairman of the Sandton Federation of Ratepayers and Residents Association.

The Federal Party announced its final list of candidates in mid-March, after the April NEWS deadline.

For more information on the Federalist Party, phone Libby or Gail at 011 27 11 447-4400 or fax 011 27 11 442-7247.

Vince Miller is the president of the International Society for Individual Liberty, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102; 415-864-0952.

Federalist Party Statement of Principles

The following is the Federal Party's Statement of Principles:

We, the members of the Federal Party, uphold liberty, the rights of the people, and the principles of federalism.

We hold that all people shall exercise and enjoy rights in a first-generation Bill of Rights. We hold that such rights should apply equally to all, be non-contradictory, justiciable, and limited only by the rights of others. Such rights shall include life, liberty, fair trial, private property, freedom of movement, speech, language, religion, press, and association.

We hold that federalism maximizes the protection of personal sovereignty and the rights of the people. We accordingly support maximum devolution of political power; numerous democratically determined regional governments; diver-

sity; accountability; local government, and limited central government.

We uphold the sovereignty of the people in the democratic process, and accordingly, in addition to universal franchise, support direct democracy, referenda, popular initiatives, recall petitions, and the people's right to veto any legislation.

We, the members of the Federal Party, affirm that we favor freedom above political power and seek only to ensure that those who govern, do so well. We are committed to maintaining dignity, democracy, and transparency in our activities and a clear and consistent program.

To these ends: to facilitate, promote, and obtain for the people of South Africa government in accordance with the above principles and policies, we, the members of the Federal Party, bind ourselves.

Libertarian Party NEWS

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Candidate workshops

Joseph Knight, the LP's field organizer, will be holding LP Candidate Orientation Seminars on the following dates: April 9, St. Louis, MO; April 23, Madison, WI; April 30, Lansing, MI; May 7, Columbus, OH; and May 14, Richmond, VA.

For more information on the seminars call Karen Allard at 206-759-1838.

Fort Collins, Colorado 1994 Conventions

April 29-May 1 **Colorado State Libertarian Party.** Cost = \$35, speakers. \$45, 6 meals + lodging. Round-Up Ranch S. of Denver.

May 6-8 **Graduate Freedom School.** Limited to Freedom School graduates. 18 maximum. Cost = \$65.

May 14-15 **Nanotechnology.** Cost = \$170.

May 20-29 **Relationships.** Limited to 50 men and 50 women. Cost = \$450. Includes 9 meals.

June 3-12 **Forming a New Computer Services Company.** For prospective owner/operators. Cost = \$100.

June 16-18 **Terra Libra Freedom / Fortune Seminar.** Cost = \$497. Info: Frederick Mann; 2430 E. Roosevelt #998; Phoenix, Az. 85'08.

September 10-11 **Pure Pleasure** Libertarianism, Nanotechnology, Life Extension, Cryonics, Space, Science Fiction, Virtual Reality, Wealth and the Future. Cost = \$200.

After November **Convention Management.** Cost < \$100.

For further information send a SASE and a list of conventions of interest to: Conventions 94; 1317 Lakewood Drive Fort Collins, CO 80521 FAX (303)224-1933

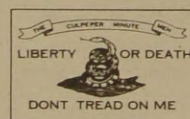
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"He talks to everyone about politics and economics, but he stopped talking to me and with me about what matters to us and our relationship. I felt taken for granted. I felt like he didn't really love me anymore.

"I talked with him. I read a few books on relationships and communication. I went to a counselor. (He wouldn't come.) I tried everything. Nothing worked.

"I was ready to give up. One night, while he was at a libertarian meeting, I saw your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes on top of his book shelf.

"Maybe I could persuade him to talk to me...I listened to side 1 of the first tape. Your recipes for quickly creating rapport made sense to me. So did your keys to powerful communication...

"When my husband got home, I told him I had listened to side 1 of your first tape and asked him to practice your rapport recipes with me. We practiced for about 30 minutes. The next thing I knew we were talking about us, our relationship, our marriage and our life together. We talked 3 hours. It seemed like minutes.

"We have listened to your tape set 8 or 9 times. We practiced all the skills you teach. We started listening to and talking with each other. Now we really communicate.

"I finally understand why my husband is a libertarian. I've read 8 libertarian books in 6 weeks and discussed them with my husband. Now I'm a real libertarian, too.

"Michael, your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes saved my marriage.

P.S. "We are expecting our first baby late this year."

Name withheld by request

"I'm a Christian Libertarian. While I've always felt uncomfortable discussing my Christian beliefs with libertarians, I've felt even more uncomfortable discussing my libertarian beliefs with my fellow Christians.

"Your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes gave me the confidence and skills I needed to bring libertarianism to my church. Your story on 'the Judas Bargain' hit me deep. I'm getting powerful results with your 'Political Cross-Dressing' and 'Words Are Weapons' techniques.

"Liberty cannot triumph in America without the support of millions of my fellow Christians. Reaching them will be my special libertarian 'ministry'.

"God Bless you, Michael."

B.L., New York, New York

"...Michael, your Persuasion Tapes earned me \$12,000. I was 1 of 4 candidates for a promotion in my company. I was the least qualified. I don't socialize with the boss. Nobody figured I had a real chance.

"When I went in for the interview, I started off with your Rapport building methods, then I used your 'Intellectual Judo' to turn objections to promoting me into reasons why I was the best candidate. I used your 'Isolate the Concern' tactic to handle the final issue.

"After 35 minutes, my boss said, 'Communication is very important to this job and so is poise under fire: Congratulations, you've got the promotion.' Your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes earned me a \$12,000 a year promotion in 35 minutes."

R.S., Los Angeles, CA

"My letters-to-the-editor used to make people angry. Since I started using your Political Persuasion methods, people started sending in letters agreeing with me."

T.L., Toronto, CANADA

"...anyway, I got fed up listening to my sociology professor praise welfare statism. One day, after class, I got him alone and used your 'Welfare Junkies' argument on him. It stopped him cold! He asked if I could recommend any books on the subject. I told him I'd bring one by later.

"Michael, that's when I called you. I followed your advice to the letter. I bought a copy of Charles Murray's *LOSING GROUND* - and sold it to my professor. You're right, if I'd given it to him I'd be practicing intellectual welfare, encouraging him to believe in something for nothing and he'd have had no financial investment in reading the book.

"Well, he read the book and asked for more. I gave him a *Laissez Faire* Books catalog (he bought several books over the phone while I was there) and a CATO catalog.

"My professor is on his way to becoming a libertarian. Think of how many thousands of students he will influence with libertarian ideas - thanks to your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes."

R.J., Madison, WI

"...I'm a competent, trained Psychiatrist, but I was stuck. He was the most resistant depressive I've ever treated.

"In frustration, I tried your 'Intellectual Judo' method on him. I agreed with his depression. I embraced his position. I added to it, accelerated it and re-directed it.

"He started laughing. We talked. Then we started making progress...

"Michael, your persuasion techniques are powerful. I regularly use them with clients, colleagues, friends and family. Your methods have improved all my relationships."

Name withheld by request

"...I was one of the thousands of aerospace workers laid off. Not only was I out of work but I was competing against these thousands for a shrinking number of jobs here in California.

"For 3 months I got nowhere. One afternoon, I listened to your *Essence of Political Persuasion* tapes again. (I bought them a year ago.)

"I starting using the Rapport building steps, the Onus of Criterion and Political Cross-Dressing during every interview. In 2 weeks, I got 4 job offers. I'm now back at work. Michael, tell libertarians that your Persuasion tapes aren't just for politics...they got me a job."

B.N., Orange County, CA

"I'm a 74 year old retiree. I call in to several radio talk shows. People used to tell me that my libertarian ideas were crazy...Now they ask me to tell them more - thanks to your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes."

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- Maximize the ability to memorize facts, figures, and scientific findings!
- Increase learning, mental agility, and I.Q.
- Improve test scores leading to higher grades and work productivity
- Prevent and treat degenerative brain diseases including Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, etc.

The Life Extension Foundation has compiled the sources, the doctors and the information to enable Americans to obtain life extension drugs from around the world. These drugs have been safely used in France, Germany and other countries for years, but until now, have been denied to Americans.

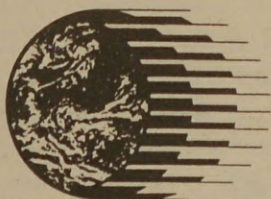
Europeans are using these drugs to improve their mental condition to unprecedented levels. Now Americans can gain access to advanced life extension therapies such as **Piracetam**, **Centrophenoxine**, **human growth hormone**, and a new memory-enhancing product that is four times more effective than **Hydergine**.

As a member of **The Life Extension Foundation**, you will learn about the scientific basis for using these life-enhancing therapies, their side effects, and how you can get them!

For just \$50.00, you will receive **Life Extension Report** and **Life Extension Update** each month plus:

1. **The Directory Of Life Extension Doctors.** A nationwide directory of doctors who are knowledgeable about these advanced therapies and may be willing to prescribe them for you.
2. **The Physician's Guide To Life Extension Drugs.** The first book ever published to provide American doctors with information about safe and effective "unapproved drugs". This book is referenced to enable the lay person to understand and find therapies for specific purposes.
3. **The Directory Of Innovative Medical Clinics.** If you were told you had an incurable disease would you believe your doctor? A disease your doctor says is "untreatable" may already have a cure that the FDA has not yet "approved" of. There are scientists with impeccable credentials who are effectively treating so-called "terminal" victims of cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, etc. You can now access these advanced research centers with **The Directory Of Innovative Medical Clinics**.
4. **Discounts of 25% to 50%** on your vitamin purchases. Members buy name brand nutrient supplements and advanced life extension formulas at super discount prices.
5. **Discounts of 20%** on all your prescription drug purchases including popular life extension drugs such as **Hydergine** and **Eldepryl**. THE MAIL-ORDER PHARMACY saves members hundreds of dollars a year on their prescription drug purchases.

The Life Extension Foundation is the *only* organization in the world that tells you how to obtain the most advanced life extension therapies in the world...long before they are "approved" by the FDA. You will be the *first* to find out about products that will enhance your life.



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Enclosed is my \$50.00 membership. Please enroll me in your life extension program which includes two newsletters each month and the three directories of life extension doctors, drugs, and clinics and the super discounts on my vitamin and prescription drug purchases. LM

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Affiliates

Appointments, campaigns keep LP moving ahead

Alabama

The **Drug Education Forum** is based at the University of Alabama and is "dedicated to exposing the myths being perpetrated in the name of the drug war and to letting all the sides be heard." The group meets every Monday and Thursday evening on campus. For more information, contact group founder **Paul Frankel**, 710 Chickamauga Circle North, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406 or call 205-391-4654.

Arizona

One of the featured speakers at the state LP convention, to be held May 21 in Phoenix, will be **Ron Nehring**, editor of a 77-page report entitled "Black America 1994 Changing Direction." The report was published by The National Center for Public Policy Research. The report—developed by a group of young, black conservatives who present themselves as an alternative to the "civil rights establishment"—offers many libertarian solutions to current social problems, including promoting private initiatives in school choice, reduction in government regulation, welfare reform, and enterprise zones.



National pulse

News from the states

California

LP member **Fred Heiser** is running hard in a special election set for April 12 for city council in Santa Clarita. There are 13 candidates running for three slots. Although the election is non-partisan, 12 of the candidates (all but Heiser) are registered Republicans. Santa Clarita has a population of about 125,000. In late February, Heiser was the leading fundraiser among all candidates.

Colorado

Western Colorado Libertarians have sent a direct mailing to gun shops and pawn shops in Mesa County and plan on another follow-up mailing. They have also sent information on the LP's Project Healthy Choice to doctors and medical associations in the area, with more contacts to come.

Delaware

The state's annual convention will be

held at the Courtyard by Marriott at exit 4B off I-95. Speakers will include **Bill Winter** and radio talk show host **Jim Walsh**.

Florida

Len Roughgarden, **Jennifer Hassler**, **Edward Reasor**, and other Libertarians have been keeping the pressure on with lots of letters to the state capitol in support of SB 1990.

Maryland

Thomas Grant Edwards of the College Park Libertarians, a student group at the University of Maryland, reports that distributing Nolan Chart quiz cards and publicity on a local computer bulletin board led to a turn-out of 15 people at the first meeting this semester.

Michigan

Dan Marsh is running in a special election for state senate. The state party was granted ballot access just in time for Marsh to qualify for this election. About 40,700 signatures were turned in to the state in December to gain ballot access. The ballot access drive was headed by **Emily Salvette**, **Barb Vozenilek**, and **Scott Boman**.

Jon Coon, the LP candidate for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Don Riegle, is putting on a very active campaign.

Mississippi

New state party officers were elected at the annual convention. The new officers include: **Ernest Boyd, Jr.**, chair; **Donald Scott**, vice chair; and **Will Chipman**, secretary/treasurer.

Nevada

LP national committee member **James Dan** was recently appointed to public office on the Sparks Charter Committee.

New Jersey

Three LP members were recently appointed to public office: **Michael Pierone**, to the Sussex County Economic Advisory Committee; **Sam Edelston**, to the Metuchen Financial Advisory Committee; and **Ed Wiessman** to the Sussex County Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

New Mexico

A new state affiliate has formed in Santa Fe County. Officers of the LPSFC include: **Mary Warner**, chair; **Ed Nagel**, treasurer/vice chair; and **Glendha Lovejoy**, secretary.

New York

Bruce Martin of Middle Island was
see **Affiliates** on page 15

TAMARA CLARK IS RUNNING TO WIN!

Tamara Clark:

- Current Marketing Director for national Libertarian Party
- Current member at large of the Libertarian National Committee
- Current member of the board of directors of the Nevada Election Reform Task Force
- Former vice-chair of Nevada Pro-choice Advocacy
- Former chair of Nevadans for Lower Taxes
- Former state chair of the Libertarian Party of Nevada
- 1992 candidate for State Senate
- Lobbyist for Nevada legislature 1989, 1991, 1993

A recently announced candidate for secretary of state of Nevada, Tamara is the chair of the Tax Accountability Committee that has filed a constitutional amendment initiative to take all taxes and tax increases to a two-thirds vote of the electorate.

T.A.C. needs your help now!

Contribute to electing the first Libertarian to state executive branch office by watching Tamara Clark progress to victory every month as her campaign unfolds.

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- Use these videos for LP meetings, state conventions, candidate seminars
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Owen Toulster

HEALING OUR WORLD is endorsed by Nobel Prize Nominees Frances Kendall & Leon Louw, Libertarian Presidential Candidates Andre Marrou & Ron Paul, Durk Pearson & Sandy Shaw, Jarret Wollstein, Wayne Dyer, Willis Harmon, and others!

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Send to: SunStar Press, PO Box 50342-L, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005.

Talking points

A look at the hot issues: crime, guns, and drugs

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty). Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Libertarian talking points

Dave Walter
Editor

government spends more money for police and jails, while continuing to break down the barriers of individual responsibility, the result will be nothing more than another government boondoggle with our tax dollars."

Dr. Michael K. Evans, president of Evans Economics, Inc., in Industry Week, Feb. 21, 1994.

Issue: Guns

Many commentators and politicians favor going beyond the Brady Bill to lengthen so-called waiting periods before a citizen may purchase a handgun. How effective are such "waiting periods?"

"In Illinois, after a 30-day waiting period was installed, that state experienced a 31 percent increase in violent crime and a 36 percent increase in the homicide rate. And, a handgun ban in Washington, DC, has made it the murder capital of the world! The results are in. Gun control makes the street safe for violent criminals. It disarms their victims—you and me. The people's right to protect themselves should be restored, not restricted."

Alan M. Gottlieb, chairman of Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, in USA Today, Nov. 22, 1993.

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"(I)t is California's experience that puts the waiting period argument to rest. California has had a waiting period requirement since 1923 and has regularly increased its length—from one day to three in 1955, to five days in 1965, and to 15 days in 1975. But as a study has revealed, while waiting periods were increasing so were murder rates, from two per 100,000 in 1952, to 10 by 1975... The president, Congress, and state legislatures are constitutionally prevented from infringing on our right to bear arms, and a look at the statistics makes one question why they would want to anyway, since gun control hasn't worked where it has been tried. It is an authoritarian step in the wrong direction and a convenient distraction for people who don't want to deal with the real issues of removing from the streets the people who commit the crimes."

Pete du Pont, former governor of Delaware and chairman of the Committee for American Leadership, in Insight, Dec. 27, 1993.

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"Strict gun laws are about as effective as strict drug laws. The drugs flow and so does the supply of weapons. It pains me to say this, but the NRA seems to be right. The cities and states that have the toughest gun laws have the most murder and mayhem. Just as junkies find drugs, criminals find weapons. And I haven't the faintest idea how to prevent it. And now we've reached the point where most law-abiding gun owners believe that they need their guns because of all the artillery that is in the hands of the loonies. They are against

unilateral disarmament."

Mike Royko, nationally syndicated columnist, in Daily Local News, Sept. 15, 1993.

Issue: Drugs

Early in December last year, the Surgeon General of the U.S., Jocelyn Elders, created a firestorm of controversy by suggesting a study be done on whether legalizing drugs would reduce crime. Most people believe only a small number of Americans favor such a step. Most people may no longer be right:

The Orlando (FL) Sentinel asked its readers to respond to this question: "Should drugs be made legal to reduce crime?"

Over 2,500 people called in and 60 percent said YES.

Reported in the Dec. 14, 1993 edition.

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"The Today Show" on NBC television asked viewers: "Should drugs be legalized?"

Over 80,000 people called in and 52 percent said YES.

Reported on the show Jan. 26, 1994.

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One major argument against legalizing has always been that legalization sends a message that society now "approves of drug use." A prominent conservative columnist has laid that argument to rest:

"(W)e hear again and again the complaint that the last thing society wishes to do is to communicate that it 'favors' the use of drugs... When a society decides to authorize the production of a good, there is no more reason to suppose that there is popular approval of that good than there is to assume that Congress likes Dr. Pepper because you can buy it on the street. It pays to go back to the axioms of a free society, among which is that government should not stand athwart a willing buyer and a willing seller... No death from marijuana has ever been recorded... there are few calls on Congress to prohibit the sale of tobacco for one primary reason, which is that the prospect of keeping 46 million tobacco users from their narcotic is a job the government simply wouldn't want to undertake. Its experience with Prohibition demonstrated the inadvisability of trying to stop (alcohol consumption). But nobody is going around saying that the government 'approves' of either drug."

William F. Buckley, Jr., nationally syndicated columnist, in the Houston Chronicle, Dec. 15, 1993.

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In 1989, President Bush announced new initiatives to cut off the drug supply coming from Latin America. How successful was the effort?

"Four years and roughly \$2 billion later, drug policy experts interviewed throughout the Andes share a conclusion: The flow of drugs from South America to North America has not slowed. 'We haven't had any real impact on the drug flow,' one official at the U.S. Embassy in Lima said. He noted that Peru seized seven tons of cocaine and cocaine base last year out of an

Counting the Cost of Chicanery

The top four (worst) senators and congressmen ranked by total cost of bills they have sponsored or co-sponsored in 103rd Congress from a study by the National Taxpayers Union:

Representatives:

1. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) \$673 billion
2. Charles Rangel (D-NY) \$651 billion
3. Carrie P. Meek (D-FL) \$640 billion
4. Bobby L. Rush (D-IL) \$635 billion

Senators

1. Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) \$561 billion
2. Paul Wellstone (D-MN) \$546 billion
3. Paul Simon (D-IL) \$546 billion
4. Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL) \$542 billion

estimated 650 tons produced there. 'That's peanuts,' he said. In one indication that there is no shortage on the streets, the prices and purity levels of illegal drugs sold in the United States have remained relatively stable during the past four years."

New York Times News Service, Nov. 21, 1993.

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Meanwhile in Europe, tolerance for drug users has appeared to work. In a piece subtitled 'Lower crime statistics support Elder's claim,' the Associated Press filed this news from Amsterdam:

"In a city known as one of Europe's major drug bazaars, purse-snatchings are rare and drug-related crimes of violence are almost unheard of. 'I think the tolerance of both hard and soft drugs has reduced crime in our cities,' Amsterdam police spokesman Klaas Wilting said... The Dutch government eliminated penalties for drug possession in 1976, setting a policy that possession of up to a gram of heroin or 30 grams of marijuana or hashish was not a punishable offense. Even though heroin is readily available, the Dutch addiction rate is one of Europe's lowest, with about 15,000 hard drug addicts and 600,000 marijuana and hashish users in this nation of 15 million. The crack cocaine that has contributed to urban violence in the United States is almost nonexistent."

AP report in the Houston Post, Dec. 10, 1993.

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Also from overseas is this view from London:

"(Prohibition) makes drugs artificially expensive, thus forcing their consumers to commit even more crime to pay for them. It see **Talking points** on page 9

This month we concentrate on three related "hot" issues that the American people are thinking about: Crime, Guns, and Drugs.

Issue: Crime

The last time I read a civics textbook, it seemed that fighting crime and the administration of justice were always the number-one reasons given why government exists and is necessary. So just how important is its number-one job to the people who run our government?

"Even though crime has long been a leading public concern, barely a half percent of every government dollar (federal, state, and local) goes to keeping convicted criminals behind bars, and just over three cents goes to all criminal justice activities (cops, courts, and corrections). Indeed, American taxpayers spend about seven times more on transportation, 12 times more on public welfare programs, and 27 times more on education and libraries than they do on prison and jails."

John J. DiIulio, Jr., professor of politics and public affairs, Princeton University, in Wall Street Journal, Jan. 26, 1994.

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Slightly different statistics, but just as compelling:

"Police, courts, and prisons account for only six percent of state and local government expenditures and less than one percent of the federal budget. Special interests that demand agricultural supports, entitlements, and other programs dominate such a large share of government budgets that little is left over for such essential services as crime control, which affects everyone."

Gary S. Becker, 1992 Nobel Laureate and professor at the University of Chicago, in Business Week, Nov. 29, 1993.

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And what is government's role in creating crime in the first place?

"(The people committing heinous offenses) simply don't know right from wrong. In a government that teaches abdication of all responsibilities—that encourages people to sue whenever they are not satisfied with the outcome, no matter how justified—crime will continue to flourish. Of course we want the crime bill to succeed. But if the

Waco

LP praises jury decision

The Libertarian Party said the jury "reached the right decision" in the acquittal of 11 Branch Davidians on murder and conspiracy charges.

Libertarians are now demanding an investigation of the government agencies that launched the bungled raid in Waco, TX a year ago, leaving more than 80 people dead.

"This verdict makes it less likely that Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms or FBI agents will engage in unprovoked, lethal raids in the future," said Steve Dasbach, chairman of America's third-largest political party.

"The jury reached the right decision," he said. "They realized that the BATF and the FBI acted in a criminally irresponsible fashion. They realized that David Koresh and his followers may have had eccentric religious beliefs—but, in America, having eccentric religious beliefs should not be punishable by death."

Dasbach said he was disappointed by the conviction of five defendants of voluntary manslaughter. "We mourn the loss of life on both sides," he said. "But no one would have died if not for the misguided paramilitary attack by the BATF."

Now, said Dasbach, the federal government should appoint an independent council to investigate Attorney General Janet Reno, the BATF, and the FBI.

"There is irrefutable evidence of official misconduct, excessive force, and possibly even homicide on their part," said Dasbach.

"The jury cared. Libertarians care. Americans care. Now we must make sure that tragedies like this never happen again."

— Steve Dasbach

"The conduct of the BATF and FBI were reprehensible. They ignored opportunities to peacefully arrest Koresh; ignored reports that their 'surprise' raid wasn't a surprise; bombarded the compound during the siege with the sounds of rabbits being slaughtered; lied about the reasons for the final, deadly attack; and assaulted women and children with the same heavy tanks used in Desert Storm. This is not the kind of law enforcement we want in America," he said.

Dasbach cited the words of Koresh's attorney Dick DeGuerin, who said an "arrogant" BATF launched the raid because "it had looked to them like a dream situation—a bunch of religious nuts their SWAT team could practice on. Who'd complain? Who'd care?"

"The jury cared. Libertarians care. Americans care," said Dasbach. "Now we must make sure that tragedies like this never happen again."

Talking points

continued from page 8

spawns ruthless criminal conspiracies to supply them. Legalizing drugs is in every sense a terrible admission of failure, yet it remains the only plausible strategy for making a dent in the crime statistics. In neither Britain nor California will mainstream politicians admit it."

Jonathan Miller, columnist, in Sunday Times (UK), Jan. 9, 1994.

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The extent of the crime wave, and the impact on justice, can be seen from this report:

"In a recent survey of persons in prison for robbery or burglary, one out of three said they committed their crimes in order to buy drugs. Forty-five percent of callers to a cocaine hot line said they had stolen to buy cocaine. . . . In several studies of prisoners, 65 to 80 percent have admitted regular or lifetime illicit drug use. . . . Numerous studies show that drug users commit far fewer crimes when undergoing outpatient drug therapy or even when the price of drugs drop(s)."

"Drug prohibition also fosters crime by producing official corruption. . . . In many cities, half or more of the arrests are for drugs or other crimes related to drug traf-

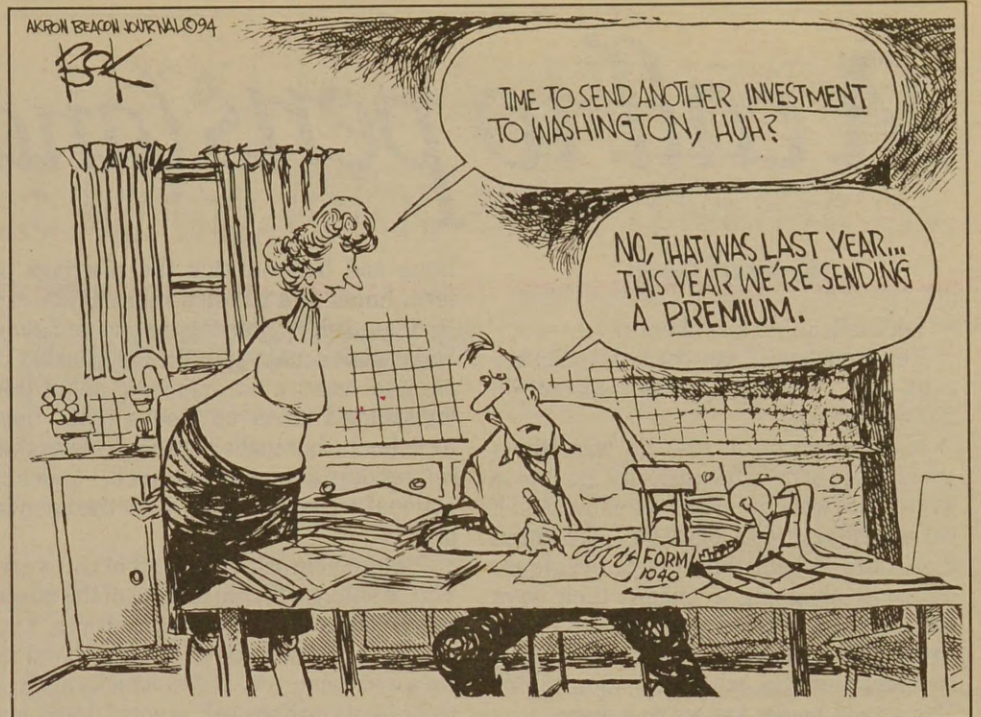
ficking. The energy of the police expended on drug offenders is not available to be focused on domestic violence, rape, and other serious offenses. As a consequence, all criminals have a much better chance of escaping detection and punishment than if drugs were legal.

"Child molesters and rapists are being paroled early or having their sentences chopped to make prison space for drug users and drug dealers. . . . About half our prisoners wouldn't be there if drugs were legal.

"A society that regards crime as one of its greatest problems yet allows its leaders to refuse to consider the only known solution to the problem deserves the leaders, and crime, it gets."

Steven B. Duke, Yale law professor and author of "America's Longest War: Rethinking Our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs," in Chicago Tribune, Jan. 5, 1994.

Thanks to the following for submitting clippings used in this column: Charles Poe, Houston, TX; Dianne Pilcher, Winter Park, FL; J. Birchfield, Arlington, TX; LP of Virginia; Melissa Ryan, Chicago, IL; and Mike Smyth, Nashville, TN.



The Block

continued from page 1

Rational Law Enforcement" on Jan. 24 outside City Hall. A handful of indignant citizens from the downtown area also participated, bringing the total number to about 30. The group's literature and statements to the press focused on two main points:

1) In a city where the homicide rate has now reached one per day, the deployment of more than 500 law enforcement officers against what were essentially victimless crimes amounted to a serious misallocation of resources.

2) It was well known that the city government, particularly the mayor, wanted the night clubs off The Block so the land could be turned over to developers for office buildings and swank restaurants as part of a grandiose plan entitled "Baltimore 2000." The Jan. 14 raid was therefore an illegitimate use of government force in support of a land grab.

Small as it was, the rally had considerable impact. WJZ-TV, the most-watched local station for television news, aired an interview with Lorenzo Gaztanaga, while the two other local television stations also reported on the rally.

Susan Gaztanaga spoke briefly with city council president Mary Pat Clarke, a political rival of Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke (the two will be competing in the Democratic primary in 1995). Clarke had been noticeably silent on the matter of the raid.

Susan Gaztanaga told Clarke "to take into consideration our feelings, which are that there are a lot better things the police could be doing." Clarke admitted that she could think of several street corners in the city that could use state police assistance more than The Block.

The following day, *The Baltimore Sun* began publishing letters to the editor on The Block raid, starting with the letter from Lorenzo Gaztanaga. Interestingly, that letter has attracted almost as much attention, if not more, than the television interview. Weeks later, acquaintances and co-workers are still coming up to Lorenzo Gaztanaga and saying, "I saw your letter in the paper. Well done!"

The indignities suffered by those who make their living on The Block, and by those customers unlucky enough to have been there at the wrong time, have pro-

vided the local Libertarian Party with opportunities for dialogue, and served as a catalyst for several members to make the transition from "living room Libertarian" to activist. Since the demonstration, Earle Pearce has been working with other Libertarians to launch "Citizens for Rational Law Enforcement." The coalition has begun gathering petitions within Baltimore City, and plans to move from there into Baltimore County and the rest of Maryland.

Gaztanaga letter to The Baltimore Sun

Congratulations to Gov. William Donald Schaefer and Mayor Kurt Schmoke for their raid on The Block Jan. 14.

The raid was proof that neither gentleman is really interested in ameliorating the crime wave that has been driving Baltimore into a state of siege.

Closing down businesses, threatening to put people out of work, interfering with the freely chosen pastimes of the patrons of The Block are all, in one form or another, violations of the free speech clause of the First Amendment and its logical corollary of free association.

The invasion of private businesses by the State Police barely two blocks from Baltimore City's police headquarters clearly shows that what the mayor and governor are truly interested in is power—unabashed, unbridled power.

Unable to carry out the land grab of The Block through legal means, they have resorted to outright violence to achieve their goal.

If Schaefer and Schmoke really wanted to do something about crime, they would use their considerable influence to move the criminal justice system in the direction of clearing our jails of individuals who are serving time for victimless crimes and making room instead for the murderers, rapists, and thieves who are currently walking our streets.

Lorenzo Gaztanaga
Baltimore, MD

A call to pens (and phones, faxes, etc.)

By DIEDRE DENNIS

Let's talk about term limits.

You want them. I want them. Most Americans want them. Most congresspeople do not want them.

Now, those of us who do want them seem to me to be in the majority. But those who do not want them run the show. And if we are honest with ourselves, we admit that Tom Foley and the other careerists are not suddenly going to change their ways and allow term limits legislation to be debated with anything approaching serious consideration. So, what's a nation to do? The school books say we're a democracy so let's vote on it!

I know you're saying to yourself "Sure, Diedre, that's a funny joke. As if we could just vote on it! Besides, we're really a Republic..." Yes, yes, I know we're a Republic and so does Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI). He also knows that a national vote that binds Congress is not going to happen right now. So he's come up with something more palatable to the politicians and yet potentially significant. His bill, called the National Voice on Term Limits Act of 1994 (HR 3835), will provide for a national advisory referendum on congressional term limits. The vote will be non-binding on Congress and so those who want to defeat this bill will have to argue that the American people should not even be heard.

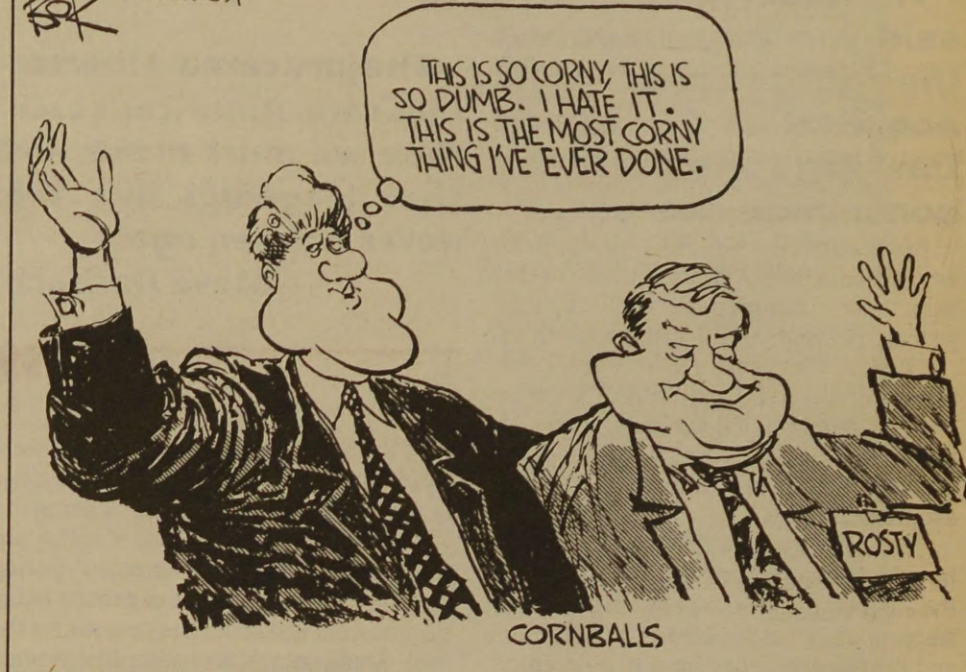
Hoekstra calls term limits a watershed

issue and believes that the marriage of term limits to a national referendum can "fundamentally alter the culture of ruling and decision-making in Washington D.C." He may seem a bit optimistic about this legislation's effect on issues other than term limits, but that's because he sees this referendum as merely the first in a series of national referenda that will set the agenda in D.C.

Picture yourself on Nov. 8 of this year. You're sitting at home in front of the news. You're watching the election results. Yes, you're concerned about all those bond issues and some very statist attacks against rights that you hope will be voted down, but you're also watching the returns come in on the term limits referendum. They show a solid majority in support of national congressional term limits. You think happily of the now inevitable introduction of term limits legislation in Congress and you know that your representative is going to have a hard time justifying a "no" vote now. THIS COULD HAPPEN! Make it happen.

When you write your letter or place your phone call on HR 3835, your representative will have a difficult time justifying opposition to this bill so make him or her take a position and explain it to you. Some of you have representatives who will easily support this bill if given the slightest encouragement. Others, like me, will have to fight through the sludge of double-speak to force their representatives to take a clear stand.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL © 94



Whichever group you are in, take up your pen, lift up the receiver on the phone. So small a price for so much satisfaction!

Those of you who were reading this column last September may recall our unsuccessful attempt to eliminate funding for Selective Service. Although many of the key congresspeople were sympathetic to us, the Appropriations Committee finally decided that if Selective Service is to be abolished it must be through a bill with that express intent, not through a defunding action. We now have such a bill!

Recently, the Department of Defense issued its long awaited report on the necessity of draft registration. The DoD found that there was no such necessity. Clinton, however, refuses to end Selective Service before his administration completes its own review.

So, rather than wait around for that report's uncertain conclusion, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) has introduced HR 3634, which prohibits draft registration. It does not quite dismantle the entire system, but it does remove its teeth (and its need for funding...).

If you wrote your congressperson on this issue last September and received a positive response, write again and remind him of his commitment to eliminate the draft. If you got a negative response, use the DoD study to challenge your

representative's position. If you never received a response or are new to this issue, call your representative's office or send a letter and explain your position in a paragraph or two, then ask for a response.

*"Eternal Spirit of the chainless Mind!
Brightest in dungeons, Liberty! thou art."
- Lord Byron*

Big spenders

A recent Cato Institute study identifies the governors who have raised spending and taxes the most and least.

Six governors received a grade of F, or were considered the worst offenders: F. Lowell Weicker, CT; James Florio, NJ; John Waihee, HI; James Hunt, NC; Marc Racicot, MT; and Thomas Carper, DE.

The three governors rated best were: L. Douglas Wilder, VA; Stephen Merrill, NH; and Kirk Fordice, MS.

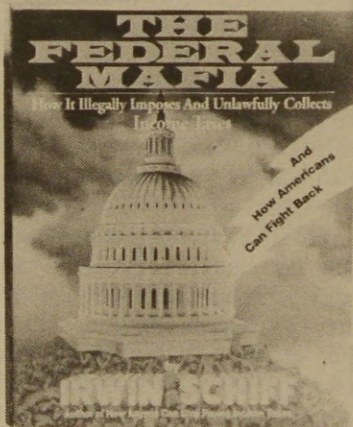
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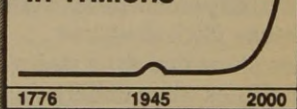
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Letters

Readers on NLP, NAFTA, LP, GUNS, and more

NLP

Bravo to Mary Ruwart for her outreach efforts to the Natural Law Party (NLP). I too wonder how the NLP did so well after only six months as a party. And without a "pledge," and without addressing such crucial issues as private ownership of asteroids in their platform.

The LP and NLP should definitely explore further win-win commonality and could begin by cooperating nationally on ballot access. Cooperation worked during the 1992 U.S. Senate campaign in South Dakota and could work nationally.

Like so many Libertarian candidates, I felt disheartened when I learned of a fourth candidate, Kent Hyde of the NLP, in my race. A moment of truth had arrived. As a Libertarian who believes in ballot access, would I pout and whine, or welcome him into the political arena. Fortunately, I also practice transcendental meditation, so I meditated and then called.

From that time on, we cooperated and created more and better opportunities for each of us. This culminated in a statewide television debate, when each candidate had a chance to ask the other three a question. When my turn came, I asked, "If you weren't a candidate, which of the other three would YOU vote for?" Like typical politicians, the Republican used up her minute avoiding the question and the incumbent Democrat did the same. And Kent and I voted for each other. Even though he and I disagreed on some specifics, we had too much in common to undermine each other.

Well, I came in third, but not by much. And Kent and I are still friends and still cooperate politically. So, let's not be intolerant and make adversaries out of potential allies.

Gus Hercules
SD state chair
Rapid City, SD

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

Dr. Mary Ruwart (Feb. 1994 NEWS) states that "natural rights" are championed by the LP and that "Libertarians define natural rights as the practice of non-aggression." Oh? This seems to me to be an assumption with no survey of the LP members to back it up. It is my contention that "natural law" and the "natural rights" that are derived from it are a myth, just as are Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny.

Stephen O'Keefe, writing in the preface to L.A. Rollins' "The Myth of Natural Rights," points out that this renders "Libertarianism . . . a religion, with human nature its God, and natural rights its commandments."

Rollins writes on the first page, "natural rights" . . . are rights that people are supposed to possess simply because they are human beings. Or, to put it another way, natural rights are rights that people supposedly possess simply by virtue of their human nature. Since natural rights are supposedly possessed simply because one is human, such rights are therefore considered to be universal—possessed by all people. Furthermore, they are considered to be inalienable—not subject to be taken away. And, it is held, all people have the same, or equal, natural rights.

The truth is that natural rights are a human invention, like all philosophy. The point is that there is nothing inherent in nature or the nature of human beings which can be elevated to the level of being a divine source as a foundation for libertarianism.

It is my belief that all notions of human rights are created by and struggled for by humans. They emerge from the vast cauldron of history, and it is historical experience which verifies the truth of the superiority of non-aggression, not natural law and natural rights.

Libertarians have learned from the best insights of our historical ancestors that the struggle for human rights emanates from the historical experience of injustice. There is no morality in nature, and if it is to exist to any great degree we must create and sustain it with our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

No natural law can do that, no rights can be inferred from nature or human nature. While you wish to absorb the Natural Law Party, Dr. Ruwart, you must also dissolve the fiction that notions of rights come from anywhere except the creative imagination of human beings and the union of theory and practice.

Courtenay Hough
Stamford, CT



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

Magazines

If John DeMeo (Feb. 1994 NEWS) wants to read a Libertarian magazine, he should check out Reason, the journal of the Reason Foundation of Santa Monica, CA. My only beef with Reason—it only comes out once a month. If it was a fortnightly or weekly, its stories and commentary would be even more timely.

Marc Beauchamp
Honolulu, HI

Guns

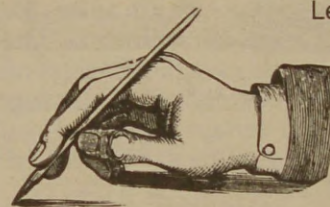
Chicago is a city of less than 3 million population, with strict gun control laws. Yet, tragically, in Chicago some 60 children were murdered in 1993.

America's politically correct, left wing, "elitist" tell us that the magnitude of these tragedies demand that we cancel the Second Amendment rights we inherited from the Founding Fathers and opt for more gun control.

In Lithuania, a nation of about 4 million, where every citizen is guaranteed the right to carry a gun, there have not been 60 children murdered in the last thousand years.

Clearly, the Chicago statistics tell us something horrible is happening. It's time we become more candid and not allow ourselves to be detoured in the pursuit of the real causes of violent crime.

John Jagiella
Leroy, IN



NAFTA

Francisco Salinas (Feb. 1994 NEWS) touched on a key point when he questioned NAFTA's status as an "agreement."

Congress passes laws in two categories only: domestic laws and treaties. Therefore, as NAFTA was passed under the procedures applicable to domestic law, it can have only the force appropriate

to domestic law, neither surrendering state sovereignty (protected by the 10th Amendment) nor granting treaty-like status to its operations. And, as with any other domestic law, NAFTA can be repealed.

These observations have been obscured by media coverage and commentary. What is clearly at stake with NAFTA is that it is being used as a trial attempt to amend the Constitution and pass treaties using only the power of a majority vote in Congress. If the public accepts everything that has been said about the power of NAFTA, this attempt will have been successful, and we can expect even worse to follow. Therefore, it is important to educate ourselves about the truly limited authority that NAFTA can exert—if it is to be consistent with the supreme law of our land.

Michael J. Dunn
Auburn, WA

Activism

By electing more Libertarians to public office, we can have a significant impact on American politics. I believe the Libertarian Party advocates the best policies for the renewal of economic prosperity and individual liberty.

As a young Libertarian activist, my primary goal has been to make the LP more widely known. I have been doing my part to promote freedom and the free market. For example, I use computer telecommunications to publicize Libertarian news and views; I write letters to the editor; and in 1993, I personally contacted every LP member and prospect in my local area, and helped to arrange several discussion meetings.

Libertarians should focus on building name recognition and credibility, doing extensive campaigning for 1994 candidates, and recruiting members into the national LP.

This year I plan to work on ballot access for Connecticut's upcoming legislative races and hope to continue to build solid foundations for libertarianism. The time is right for success! I hope that by the end of the year, New Hampshire will have doubled or tripled its Libertarian representation in the State House, and that more Libertarians will be elected to local and statewide offices around the country. Let's make it happen!

Kevin Brook
Danbury, CT

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Progress

continued from page 1

Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs)—one of the core elements of the LP plan—should be considered in any health care proposal passed by Congress.

"He said to me that he would be interested in discussing this further with individuals from our organization," said Smith.

Smith notified LP national headquarters in Washington about the offer, and Director of Communications Bill Winter immediately dashed off a letter to Congressman Wyden's office.

The letter said: "Congressman Wyden told Dr. Smith that the Medical Savings Accounts idea—as expounded in the Libertarian Party health care reform proposals—had some merit, and that he would be interested in discussing this further with us. I'm very interested in helping you arrange this meeting, and would be happy to discuss a convenient time, and arrange for experts from our organization to meet with you."

Winter offered the services of Michael Tanner, the principal author of the LP proposals; Henry Butler, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Health and Human Services; Dr. Paul Smith; and Nancy Lord, MD, JD.

Further, wrote Winter, "Health care reform is a vitally important issue, and the Libertarian Party is eager to do whatever we can to help Congressman Wyden craft a responsive and effective legislative solution."

Wyden is on the Democratic Party's Health Care Task Force, and is a member of the Energy & Commerce Committee, whose subcommittee on Health & the Environment will have a major role in shaping the final health care bill.

At press time, there was no reply from Congressman Wyden's office.

Meanwhile, across the country, long-time LP activist and current National Committee member Don Ernsberger had a personal meeting in Pennsylvania with Congressman James Greenwood (R-PA) on Feb. 10 to discuss the Libertarian Party proposals.

During the 15-minute meeting, Ernsberger said, "I presented him with an overview of our plan. I emphasized that our plan has some elements he may be familiar with, but is a synthesis that is Libertarian."



The congressman's response was positive, said Ernsberger.

"He said this is the very kind of thing he welcomes, because he is not convinced that any of the current plans [before Congress] are what he wants. To him, this represents a new approach."

Ernsberger noted that Greenwood is on the House Interior Committee, which will also play an influential role in the health care legislative process. "He is under great pressure to jump aboard a plan. [But] he wants to see all the alternatives [first]."

Ernsberger gave the congressman the entire Project Healthy Choice package, and said, "I am certain he sat and read the whole thing [afterwards]. He said he would."

In Norwich, CT, Libertarian Party activists rallied against government-run health care when the president came to town to try to bolster his sagging plan. Their protest won front-page newspaper coverage over the border in neighboring Rhode Island.

A story in the *Providence Journal* noted: "Mr. Clinton's plan didn't win universal

acceptance. Outside the auditorium, pickets from the Libertarian Party held a sign reading: 'Leave Us Alone.' Libertarians believe the government's role should be kept to a minimum.

"Government already has too much power, why do they have to get into health care, too?" said Libertarian Dawn Haefele. "We're against socialized medicine because it doesn't work."

Libertarians across the country are also starting to get responses to the letters they have sent to Congress, urging consideration of the Libertarian Party plan. Some of them have been supportive.

For example, LP member Robert Zimmerman received a letter from Con-

gressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA), promising to fight against "tax increases, costly mandates on employers and shifting of costs to already struggling state governments" in any health care proposal.

Finally, the general news continues to be bad for Clinton's plan. Several public opinion polls indicate that voter support for the president's plan is rapidly eroding, with more than 80 percent of Americans saying that health care quality would decline under a Clinton-style health care system.

An independent report than the Clinton plan could cost more than two million jobs—compared to the administration's estimate of only 600,000 jobs lost—also damaged the president's momentum.

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see page 4**

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- 12 reasons to support the Libertarian Plan.
- A list of the official Washington, DC, telephone and fax numbers for senators and U.S. representatives.
- A list of other plans being considered in Washington that are less dangerous than the Clinton Plan.
- An expanded list of expert lobbying tips, to make Libertarians more persuasive and effective.

Send donations to the national LP headquarters: 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Include a note explaining that the donation is for the Project Healthy Choice lobbying package.

LP NEWS

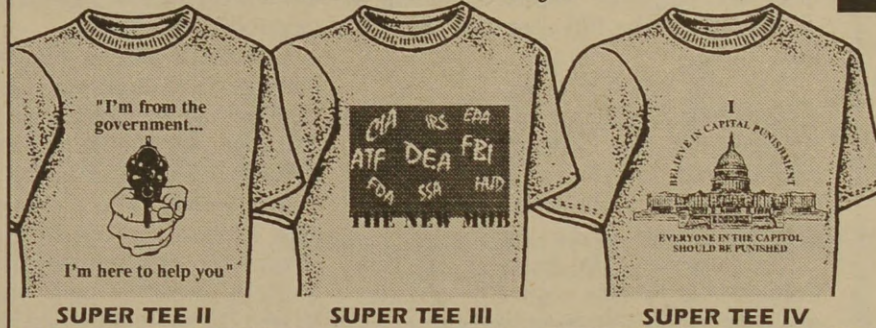
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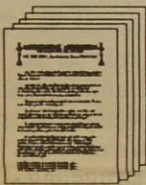
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Tax help

Dave tries to beat the system

Editor's note: Readers will not have time to respond to the following column, but we wanted our NEWS readers to enjoy it anyway. We hope to bring you the follow-up column next month. We need all the tax tips we can get, any time of year.

Help ordinary taxpayers "beat the system" by sending us YOUR tip. Send anything that might be helpful, including a photograph of the IRS commissioner naked.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Today I am announcing the first-ever Amateur Tax Tips Contest, featuring an exciting prize, as well as an opportunity for some lucky winners to serve lengthy terms in federal prison.

The purpose of the Amateur Tax Tips Contest is to provide normal people with practical, real-life answers to their tax questions, as opposed to the complex and vague "advice" we so often see in columns written by the kind of goody-two-shoes money geeks who actually save their receipts and record their mileage and file their tax returns on Jan. 2 and finished their science-fair projects early. I'll give you an example of what I mean.

QUESTION: "How much can I deduct for a business office in my home?"

COMPLEX, VAGUE MONEY-GEEK ANSWER: "Calculate the size of the office as a percentage of the total living area, then use this figure to compute the pro rata costs of utilities, mortgage interest, taxes, and insurance."

PRACTICAL, DOWN-TO-EARTH ANSWER: "\$6,532.87"

That's what we taxpayers want: concrete information. We don't want: "Total your amortized capital depreciation as specified in Schedule C, section 873, subsection VII, versus xii and xiii." We want: "Put down that you lost \$3,832.24 operating a perch farm."

Perhaps you think I am suggesting something dangerous here. Perhaps you do not believe that the Internal Revenue Service (Motto: "We'll Answer The Taxpayer Assistance Hotline When You Pry The Coffee Cup From Our Cold, Dead Fingers") would allow you to take anything so ridiculous as a perch-farm deduction.

Listen: You can deduct anything. People have deducted used underwear. And when I say "people," I of course mean "Bill Clinton." According to news reports, in past years President Clinton deducted as much as \$2 per pair for used underwear that he donated to the Salvation Army, which in turn gave the underwear to some needy individual, who in turn threw it into a Dumpster.

No, really, I'm sure this needy individual wore Mr. Clinton's former underwear in a profoundly grateful manner. And I applaud Mr. Clinton's generosity. Although I am troubled somewhat by the idea of any guy voluntarily giving up his underwear. Whoever says that guys are unwilling to make lifetime commitments clearly has not examined the intimate bond that can develop between a guy and his briefs. If a guy's wife secretly throws a veteran pair of his underwear away, the guy will sense that something is wrong, and he'll whistle in a distinc-



On the light side

Dave Barry
Columnist

tive manner, and his underwear will leap out of the garbage and bound toward him like a loyal retriever. That's how close the guy-underwear bond is.

Call me heartless, but I've never donated my used underwear to anybody. The irony is that I happen to own a set of briefs that are probably quite valuable, inasmuch as they are signed, in ink, by a well-known humor writer. (There's a perfectly innocent explanation, but he's embarrassed about it, so as a courtesy to him I'm not going to reveal his name here.) (Instead, I'll reveal it here: Roy Blount Jr.) I estimate that, for tax-deduction purposes, these briefs are worth \$2,473.02. Notice that I use an exact-sounding number here. That is one of the most important Amateur Tax Tips:

ALWAYS USE AN EXACT-SOUNDING NUMBER WHEN YOU ARE MAKING SOMETHING UP. The Internal Revenue Service goes over tax returns with dogs that are specially trained to bark angrily when they find round numbers. If you HAVE to use a round number for some bizarre reason, such as that it is actually true, you should put a little note in the margin that says "This number is actually true."

ALWAYS "DOUBLE-CHECK" ALL FIGURES. I say this in light of a 1993 *Washington Post* article concerning a Centreville, MD, man who received a bill from the IRS for—I am not making this up—\$68 billion. A lot of careless taxpayers would have simply paid this bill, but this man had the presence of mind to question it, and as a result he will be eligible for parole in just 224 years.

No, seriously, he got it straightened out. The *Post* article doesn't say exactly how; my guess is that he will be allowed to make two easy payments of \$34 billion. This just goes to show that ordinary taxpayers CAN "beat the system." And you can help them, by sending in YOUR tip to our Amateur Tax Tips Contest. Send in anything that you think might be helpful to other taxpayers, including a photograph of the IRS commissioner naked. The only restriction is that whatever you send MUST BE ON A POSTAL CARD. Send your card to: Amateur Tax Tips, c/o Judi Smith, Miami Herald, Miami, FL 33132. I'll report the best tips just before April 15. The people who suggested them will receive a handsome mention of their names in this column, as well as a chance to be audited for life. The person who suggests the best tip will receive, at tremendous personal tax-deductible sacrifice to me, a historic literary object that has been valued, in print, at \$2,473.02. I may even wash them first.

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Quote of the Month

The following quote is from Neil Hamilton, MP, the British Government's Minister for Corporate Affairs. Hamilton spoke at a special seminar in mid-January hosted by the Libertarian Alliance, a British free market think tank. The discussion was of the government's newly announced proposals for deregulation.

"Deregulation is really part of a much broader Libertarian agenda which I fully share. John Major's statement in 1989 of a philosophy of freedom and responsibility, a vision of a world where 'people . . . choose for themselves, and not have choices made for them by politicians, self-styled experts, or for want of a better word, the Establishment,' is the road we should be taking.

The Libertarian agenda rationale of economic deregulation is one that should be extended into the broader realm of personal and social liberty. Those who would control, regulate, and interfere in the free choices of ordinary people do not seek power merely over our economic choices. The health fascists, the mandarins of 'political correctness,' the self-styled arbiters of morality are equally a threat to Britain's traditional liberties. A radical Libertarian agenda should seek to deregulate the widest possible range of free choice and action for all the people."

From a news release from The Libertarian Alliance,
25 Chapter Chambers, Esterbrooke St., London SW1P 4NN

Affiliates

continued from page 6

recently appointed to serve on the Districtwide Facilities Task Force.

North Carolina

On Feb. 25, U.S. District Court Magistrate Russell Eliason ruled three North Carolina ballot access laws unconstitutional: 1) The mandatory checking fee of 5 cents per signature; 2) Mandatory notarization of petitions; 3) Wording on the petition to create a new party that the signers "intend to organize a new political party."

The magistrate upheld the 10 percent vote requirement for a party to remain on the ballot, and also the law that says that no one can register other than as a member of a qualified party or "Independent." The magistrate's findings must be approved by a federal judge. Assuming the findings are affirmed, the Libertarian Party, which brought the lawsuit, will probably appeal to the 4th circuit the parts it lost.

[From Ballot Access News, Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147; 415-922-9779.]

Nancy Lord meets with U.S. senator

Dr. Nancy Lord, the LP's 1992 vice presidential candidate, recently met in Washington, DC, with Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-GA).

Lord reported that the meeting was "surprisingly positive." According to Lord, Sen. Coverdell promised to investigate DEA conduct in the Tucker case (see Feb. NEWS, page 1), restated his opposition to gun control, expressed concern over the current crime bill, said he was willing to consider repealing mandatory minimum sentencing, and said he supports many aspects of the LP health care plan.

Lord also met with Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). According to reports, Frank said that he will shortly introduce legislation to decriminalize marijuana. A hoped-for meeting with Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders did not occur.

Pennsylvania

The LP of Montgomery County issued a statement in support of State Rep. Joseph Gladeck's efforts to privatize the state liquor store system. State legislators estimate that the state liquor monopoly would sell for more than \$1 billion. "One billion dollars could go a long way to keeping our streets safer and keeping our taxes down," said S. Douglas Leard of the local LP. In addition, privatization should generate nearly 1,000 new small businesses in the

state, since legislation provides incentives for current Liquor Control Board employees to become owners of liquor franchises.

Texas

A new affiliate party is in the process of organizing—the El Paso Libertarian Party.

Utah

Many Libertarians attended a pro gun rights rally sponsored by the Utah Shooting Sports Council at the State Capitol in

mid-February. Over 1,200 people showed up to express their concerns over laws aimed at severely limiting the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

Virginia

LP members have been asked by Gov. George Allen's Regulatory Review Panel to provide examples of the impact governmental regulations have had on their lives. The head of the review panel contacted Rick Sincere and requested the LP members' input.

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Upcoming Events

April 15, 1994:

TAX PROTEST DAY!

April 16, 1994:

Kansas LP Convention, Topeka; for more information call Dale Wilson at 800-762-6822. Speakers include Richard Boddie.

April 16, 1994:

Indiana LP Convention, Holiday Inn at the Airport, Indianapolis; for more information call Barbara Bourland at 317-463-6601 (h) or Steve Dillon at 317-923-9395 (o).

April 16, 1994:

New Mexico LP Convention, Santa Fe; for more information call Mary Warner at 505-471-6928.

April 16-17, 1994:

Libertarian Party National Committee Meeting, Kansas City, MO; for information call 202-543-1988.

April 17, 1994:

First New Mexico Hemp Rally, Santa Fe; for more information call Cinco Mandeville at 505-835-3205.

April 22-24, 1994:

Illinois LP Convention, Quality Hotel Woodfield, Palatine; for more information call 708-776-8090.

April 23-24, 1994:

New York State LP Convention, Ramada Inn, Albany; for more information call 518-371-3641 or 212-966-5772.

April 29-May 1, 1994:

Liberty Campaign Workshop, Best Western, Harrisburg, PA; for information write Dan Karlan, 97-A Manhattan Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463.

April 30, 1994:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Inn on the Park, Madison; for information call 608-249-0388. Speakers include Joan Kennedy Taylor; also candidate seminars.

May 7, 1994:

Alabama LP Convention, Montgomery; for more information call 205-265-1770 or 800-207-1770 or write P.O. Box 210939, Montgomery, AL 36121. Speakers include Dr. Nancy Lord, Jacob Hornberger, and Birmingham City Councilman Jimmy Blake.

More upcoming events

May 14, 1994:

Hawaii LP Convention; for more information call 808-597-8008. Speakers include Mary Ruwart and Virgis Daukas (Lithuanian Free Market Foundation).

May 20-22, 1994:

Ohio LP Convention, Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd. (at I-77), Independence; for information write LPO Convention, c/o Mr. Kanter, P.O. Box 221440, Beachwood, OH 44122. Speakers include Father Robert Sirico, Jacob Hornberger, and Irwin Schiff.

June 3-5, 1994:

Florida LP Convention, Sheraton Tallahassee Hotel; for information call 904-731-5656 or write LP of Florida, 4550 St. Augustine Rd., Suite 2, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Speakers include Dr. John Cooper.

June 11-12, 1994:

Texas LP Convention, San Antonio; for more information write Roger Gary, 723 Aganier, San Antonio, TX 78212.

July 9, 1994:

South Dakota LP Convention, Rapid City Civic Center, Rapid City; for information call 605-342-4242. Speakers include Carole Ann Rand.

Send upcoming event notices **early** to: NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503.

Libertarian National Committee

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