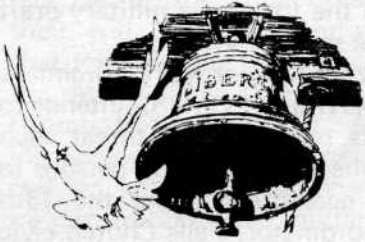


LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VIRGINIA



PO BOX 26112, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23260 • (703) 663-2279

From the Chair.

Ed Clark's campaign will have its own organization in Virginia. Pending establishment of the Clark committee the LPV is proceeding with preparations for the petition drive. When Clark takes over his campaign in Virginia, please cooperate with his staff in every way possible. It is important that the Virginia petition drive be completed early since resources will be needed later in other states which have shorter time and/or more difficult ballot qualification requirements. Anyone willing to help on, or with ideas for, the campaign should contact me until the Clark organization is in place.

Those people interested in running for office should start thinking about the gubernatorial election coming up in '81. There will be virtually no other political activity at that time so we should be able to get a disproportionate amount of publicity out of such a candidacy. In addition, the extra interest in politics during '80 should make the petition drive for the ballot alot easier.

I consider it vital that we get established at colleges and universities in the state. Will those of you in the student body or on the faculty of institutions of higher learning in Virginia please identify yourselves to me? If anyone knows of a highschool student with an interest in the LP please pass that information along too.

The major item of business for the '80 LPV Convention will be the nomination of our candidates for Governor. It has been suggested that April 13th, as Thomas Jefferson's birthday, might be a good date. It is also only two days prior to the deadline for paying homage to the state. Please write if you have ideas or are writing to take charge of the LPV Convention sometime in the spring.

Stew Engel
Owens, VA 22532

NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEE

A new National Committee has been elected by delegates to the National Convention in Los Angeles. The new committee is:

OFFICERS—

Chair-David Bergland (CA)
Vice-Chair-Mary C. Hanson (CO)
Secretary-Sylvia Sanders (IA)
Treasurer-Dr. Dallas Cooley (VA)

MEMBERS—AT—LARGE—

Ed Crane (CA)
Micheal Emerling (LA)
Fred Esser (AZ)
William J. Howell (TX)
Sara Baase (CA)
David F. Nolan (CO)
Dick Randolph (AK)

REGIONAL Representatives—

I Lew Beyer (AK)
II Bill White (CA)
Bruce Lagasse (CA)
Mike Anzis (CA)
III Vivian Baures (Oregon)
IV Joe D. Yancey (AZ)
V Rick White (NV)
VI Norman Maucher (VT)
VII John Mason (CO)
VIII Ben Olson (IA)

Any articles you think should be in this newsletter send to:

Bruce Cooley
3520 Barkley Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

HOUSE KILLS REGISTRATION

The House of Representatives struck a blow for individual freedom September 12, when it voted 259-155 to cut out language mandating a return to draft registration from HR 4040, the 1980 Defense Authorization bill. The motion to strike registration, offered by Colorado Democratic Rep. Pat Schroeder, drew support from a majority of both parties' Representatives who voted.

Immediately prior to the vote on the Schroeder amendment, the House rejected, a substitute proposed by Rep. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), that would have kept the registration language in the bill essentially intact.

According to the WASHINGTON STAR, the House voting demonstrated the effectiveness of a "low key, grass-roots" lobbying effort by CARD religious groups, and other organizations. Those which deserve particular thanks, in our opinion, include the Students for a Libertarian Society, NISBCO, and SIL.

Also rejected by the House was an amendment offered by pro-registration Republican Robin Beard of Tennessee. His proposal would have created a special commission composed of Members of Congress and outside experts to study the workings of the AVF. Its conclusions would have been presented to the Congress early next year. Beard's plan failed by a 144-268 tally.

Schroeder's amendment won approval from a broad range of Members of Congress. Conservatives like Phil Crane (111.), James Dornan and John Rousselot (Calif.), and Mickey Edwards (Okla.) joined liberals such as James Weaver (ore.), John Seiberling (Ohio), and Leon Panetta (Calif.) in voting to strike.

Reasons for the voting varied widely. Dornan, for instance, remarked that he could not "look into the faces of my five draft-age children and tell them that I feel they have a moral obligation to register for a draft, with the prospect that they could be asked to die in another no-win war--the third in a row."

Libertarian-conservative Rep. Ron Paul (R-Tex.) challenged fellow right-wingers: "Why is it that conservatives, who do such a good job of rejecting compulsion in almost everything else--especially in economic matters-- accept the coercive role of government in forcing the innocent young to the rigors and risks of unworthy battle? How can conservatives demand individual rights in areas of lesser importance...and yet sacrifice the most fundamental individual right of all..."

From NVAIS NEWS

NORTHERN VIRGINIANS-FIGHT THE DRAFT

A diverse group of Northern Virginia citizens have joined together to mobilize popular opposition of Capitol Hill proposals for re-establishing conscription--either in the form of a military draft or a so-called "national service" system.

The new organization, Northern Virginians Against Involuntary Servitude (NVAIS), intends to educate area residents regarding the threat such legislation poses "to the freedom of all persons in the United States a guaranteed under the 13th Amendment." Its Coordinator, Falls Church civic and political activist David Nickel, notes that conscription is "unnecessary, economically undesirable, places an unfair burden on the young, and will not work as well as the present voluntary private and governmental civilian service options."

In his announcement of the formation of NVAIS, Nickel stressed that a variety of political and ideological viewpoints were represented in its leadership.

Members of the NVAIS Board, besides Nickel, include Herald G. "Skip" Beale, a former Arlington GOP candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, who will serve as 10th District Director; E. Scott Royce, a legal researcher for a Fairfax firm whose political background includes service on the national executive committee of the Libertarian Party as Secretary; and Julie Floyd, President of the Arlington chapter of the National Organization for Women, who will coordinate the group's Women's Division. Appointment of an 8th District Director will be announced shortly.

At its organizational meeting, Nickel called for a vigorous campaign to convince Northern Virginia citizens and public officials that the current All-Volunteer Force, despite some drawbacks, was considerably preferable to a return of the draft in any form. NVAIS, he explained, would work with other local and national organizations "to attack political and bureaucratic schemes to reimpose involuntary servitude on Americans."

Area residents interested in joining or assisting the group should call David Nickel at 533-2969 (h) or E. Scott Royce at 920-3552 (h).

.....
.....

REGISTRATION DEFEATED: WHAT NEXT?

What next? This is the crucial question facing us now. The draft, it appears, has been defeated. Students will not feel threatened by it. Parents will feel satisfied that Congress has responded to their will. But we know damn good and will that the issue has been ducked, not settled. When the results of the study come back, the clamor for conscription will resume. A couple of bad recruiting seasons will strengthen their hand, and any real or imagined "national emergency" sparked by our overextended military posture will fuel the fires of conscription. As things stand now, the militarists are always in an offensive position, while anti-draft activists are in an inherently defensive position.

Many of you may not remember what happened in 1973, when Nixon achieved his long standing goal of an "all-volunteer" army. Draft calls were simply reduced to zero, without ending Selective Service induction authority. The anti-draft movement, led by the National Council to Repeal the Draft (NCRD), actively called for abolition of draft authority and the Selective Service System (SSS); yet with draft calls gone, nobody could succeed in generating enough support to finish off the draft entirely. NCRD dissolved.

This is where the last anti-draft movement foundered—and it is much like the situation we face today. We are faced with the prospect of watching what has been built up so rapidly and heroically in six months dwindle away—despite the very great possibility of having to start all over again in, perhaps, six months, a year, two years.

In many ways, the government did us all a great favor by attempting to bring back the draft so quickly. While failing dismally, they accomplished one thing that no one else could achieve: they mobilized the entire spectrum of anti-draft and anti-militarist groups. If in December of 1978 someone had tried to organize a movement to abolish the SSS they would have if they had tried to set up a national or regional anti-draft coalition they would have been greeted with one big yawn. But now, we are mobilized and (somewhat) organized; there is more interest in the issue today, after the bill's defeat, than there was in May or June, when it had a decent chance of passing.

The question is, what are we going to do with the movement we have built up? What are we going to do with the momentum we have already created?

The answer is USE IT—use it to go after a goal that strikes at the very heart of conscription and American foreign policy: abolition of the Selective Service system (SSS). Abolition may

seem like an unrealistic or even ludicrous goal in today's political context. But think about it—when, in the entire time since the Selective Service Act was passed in 1940, has there been a better chance, a more positive political climate than today? We have just routed the pro-draft people in Congress. We have built up a nucleus of anti-draft connections and organizations around the country. We would be on the offensive for a change, and they would be on the defensive. Conditions like this have never existed before; if abolishing SSS is not "thinkable" now, when will it be? We must not be willing to accept as permanent the existence of conscription in this country.

The success of a campaign to abolish SSS depends upon our ability to convince the American people that the SSS is as much of a threat to their freedom as the draft bill they opposed so strenuously. We must communicate the fact that registration has really not been defeated by Congress, that in fact the President retains the power to initiate draft registration at any time he wants; that the SSS spends millions of dollars each year figuring out the most efficient way to draft people when the time comes; that the draft is here, right now, in the form of the SSS.

There are three advantages to focusing on abolition. First, it pressures Congress away from even attempting to bring back the draft later. If there are already people marching and organizing against SSS, returning to conscription would not seem feasible to our eminently practical politicians. Second, should our rulers attempt to pull some funny stuff and get us involved in a war, with a consequent return to the draft, an active anti-SSS movement would be ready and in place to serve as the resistance. It would, in other words, make it more difficult to engineer a "national emergency" to bring back the draft. Third, abolition of SSS raises precisely the kind of questions about U.S. foreign policy that SLS wants to raise. For it is overseas troop commitments that require standing draft machinery, not homeland defense. All the troop mobilization plans the SSS is "necessary" for involve NATO and Korea, not defense of the U.S.

At worst, a campaign to abolish SSS would simply go down to defeat in ignominious obscurity. It could fail to attract the interest of students. If this happened, the anti-draft movement built up since march of 1979 would wither away. However, if we do not go after SSS, we know that the anti-draft movement will wither away anyhow, so there is not much to lose by making the attempt.

From a letter by Milton Mueller