

Regional Conferences Kick Off 1977

by Alan Bock

Libertarian activity in 1977 has been highlighted by a series of regional libertarian conferences held around the country. The purpose of these regional conferences is to bring together activists from different geographical locations to get to know one another and discuss common experiences and problems. An important aspect to the conferences now planned is their stress on information with an immediate and practical application to political action at both the state and local level. Speakers, workshops and seminars, in almost every instance, have been designed to get down to libertarian analysis of current, relevant issues, rather than the more general expositions of libertarian philosophy with which most party members are by now familiar.

The first regional conference of the year was the Southern Regional Conference, held Jan. 30 in Miami, Florida. Other conferences are now planned for the Rocky Mountain States and the New England States.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN CONFERENCE

The Southern Libertarian Conference was held at the Miami Airport Inn January 28-30, 1977. The purpose of the conference was to bring together Party leaders, candidates and intellectuals for an in-depth look at foreign policy and practical discussions of libertarian approaches to issues which are likely to be prominent in coming election campaigns. The Conference also featured the Founding Convention of the Libertarian Health Association, a new group dedicated to spreading the libertarian message among health-care professionals (see article in this issue).

Friday, January 28 was devoted to a thorough discussion of American foreign policy from a libertarian perspective, organized by Dr. William Marina, noted writer and author of the forthcoming

study, "The American Revolution As A People's War."

The overall thrust of the foreign policy session was the long history of America's foreign interventionism, and the serious consequences that it created for the nation. Highlighting the Vietnam experience was Dr. Thomas Breslin, a specialist in Asian-American relations. Prof. Leonard Liggio gave a historical survey of American empire-building, stressing the view that this pattern could not be explained adequately as mere responses to aggressive activities from other nations.

Joseph Stromberg, author of the Libertarian Party position paper on foreign policy, detailed the proper non-interventionist role for America, stressing the fact that this policy is not a reactionary form of isolationism, but a cosmopolitan policy involving free trade and commerce among all citizens of the world coupled with a sensible and civilized non-aggression principle.

Saturday's session concentrated on expounding libertarian approaches to local issues and health care. James Clarkson, chairman of the Georgia LP delivered a slide presentation on successful techniques for "Fighting City Hall," with a particular emphasis on tax referendums. He stressed the need to react immediately to any proposed tax increases, and the ease with which allies can be gathered around these issues.

Richard Bjornseth, co-founder of the Association for Rational Environmental Alternatives (AREA), presented the libertarian perspective on such key municipal issues as zoning, transit and sign ordinances. He used examples in Houston, which has no zoning or sign or-



Bill Evers (l) former LP News editor and Jim Clarkson (r), Georgia LP Chairman enjoy a banquet discussion at the Southern Libertarian Conference held in Miami.

dinances, to demonstrate his argument that the marketplace can more effectively determine the optimum usage of land and consumer tastes in signs than can government regulations. He also pointed out that some of the complaints of "more rational planning" urban critics have in fact been caused by zoning regulations, such as low-density housing leading to "urban sprawl."

Dr. Bruce Johnson of the University of Miami School of Law's Center on Law and Economics discussed "Land Use Control: Regulation or Taking," emphasizing the contention that some forms of government land use may violate the provision in the Constitution prohibiting that taking of private property without just compensation and due process. He also discussed the difficulty of distinguishing between "significant" and "insignificant" external effects of private property usage, noting that "ex-

ternalities" are a common justification for land-use controls.

Llewellyn Rockwell, editor of "Private Practice" magazine, spoke on new developments in the malpractice controversy and the prospects for national government health care. He questioned whether there really is a "malpractice crisis," noting the small number of malpractice awards by courts compared to the number of visits to doctors in the nation. He believes the "crisis" is a judicial crisis arising from the implied view that medical treatment involves a "contract to cure" and that doctors can afford big settlements.

On National Health Insurance, Rockwell noted that American Indians now have government health insurance. In Oklahoma, an Indian must wait over three years for even minor operations. The clinics are decrepit and dirty, and open only 9 to 5, even for emergencies. Yet the budget for the Indian Health Service was \$425,000 last year — \$1,792 apiece, which extrapolates to \$386 billion if extended to the entire population. Noting that health care is an economic good, he declared that the presumed "right" to health care is really a claim on the services of another — an unjust and immoral claim.

Saturday evening LP presidential candidate Roger MacBride spoke briefly, stressing his own optimism about the future of freedom and his continued commitment to the Libertarian Party. The featured banquet speaker was former Congressman Ron Paul (R-Tex.) who is now involved in a lawsuit contesting his presumed narrow defeat in November. In

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Alaska Leads Pack in Final Vote Analysis

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An analysis of state vote totals for the MacBride-Bergland ticket shows Alaska finished at the top of the 32-state ballot status list. Alaska's 5.54% vote for MacBride was the highest statewide percentage garnered by any presidential candidate outside the two major parties.

Rounding out the top ten were Hawaii, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, California, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, and Mississippi. The Hawaii, Idaho and Arizona totals were each in excess of 1%. California had the highest popular vote, 56,388. Several counties in California showed vote totals of 1%-2%.

Here are the 32 ballot state rankings for the LP ticket (based on percentage of state presidential vote):

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Alaska | 13. New Jersey | 30. North Dakota |
| 2. Hawaii | 14. New Hampshire | 31. Tennessee |
| 3. Idaho | 15. New Mexico | 32. Kentucky |
| 4. Arizona | 16. Virginia | |
| 5. Nevada | 17. Louisiana | |
| 6. California | 18. Nebraska | |
| 7. South Dakota | 19. Ohio | |
| 8. Colorado | 20. New York | |
| 9. Utah | 21. Minnesota | |
| 10. Mississippi | 22. Wisconsin | |
| 11. Kansas | 23. Rhode Island | |
| 12. Washington | 24. Illinois | |
| | 25. District of Columbia | |
| | 26. Michigan | |
| | 27. North Carolina | |
| | 28. Alabama | |
| | 29. Iowa | |

The most obvious conclusion to be drawn from the above ranking is that the LP is strongest in the West. Eight out of the top ten states are Western states. It is also interesting to note that the bottom six states are essentially rural. Of the major industrial states, MacBride fared poorest in Illinois and Michigan. A complete demographic study of the election results will be presented by Bob Meier to the Libertarian National Committee when it meets this July in San Francisco.

Contributions Honored

Evers Retires as Editor

This issue of the *LP News* marks the departure of Williamson (Bill) Evers as Editor. Bill Evers has been Editor of the *LP News* since July, 1974, when it was converted to the present tabloid format. Bill was responsible for editing, production and a great deal of the writing in the *LP News*. During his tenure he achieved and maintained an unusually high level of excellence and quality in the publication.

Bill Evers is moving to a full-time staff position with the Cato Institute, a newly-formed libertarian policy organization in San Francisco. The Libertarian Party would like to acknowledge publicly his accomplishments, and to thank him for his thoughtful contributions to the *LP News* and to the continuing growth and maturity of the Libertarian Party.

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From the Chair

Now More Than Ever A Need for the LP

Ed Crane

SAN FRANCISCO—What was the old Tricky Dick campaign slogan? "Now, more than ever?" The statement surely didn't accurately reflect the desirability of extending the duration of Nixon's reign. But it does strike me as a singularly accurate statement of the need for a Liberation Party as we enter our sixth year of existence.

When the idea for a libertarian political party first emerged from the Rocky Mountains in 1971 it was obvious that those of us who believed in a consistent adherence to the principles of human liberty could find no home in the then existent parties. To be sure, there was plenty of skepticism about our potential for success—I doubt that anyone at our first convention envisioned we'd be the number three party by 1976—but there was no doubt about the need for the LP.

Today that need is all the more acute. For if the Democrats and Republicans presented a pathetic alternative for libertarians in 1971, consider the state of affairs today. At least the two "major" parties paid lip service to supposed philosophical differences between them six years ago. Now there are no such pretenses—only claims of technocratic superiority. The not-so-memorable Presiden-

tial "debates" revealed not a single, solitary policy difference between this year's Carter and last year's Ford.

If you wish to vote for a "major" party, you have one choice, the Reprocrats, with one program, Corporate-Statism. Indeed, the unanimity of support for the "grand alliance" between big business and big government extends from the left wing of the Democrats to the right wing of the Republicans. The rhetoric may differ, the policies do not. Take it or leave it. Or join the Libertarian Party.

Perhaps the LP is still too small to be recognized by our enemy, the state (to borrow from Albert Jay Nock), as the serious threat that I am convinced we represent. Sometime in the not-too-distant future, though, the opponents in this great struggle will come into clearer focus. It will be us against them. Libertarians against Statists.

The Statists may be morally weak but politically they're strong as hell. They're the professional Republicans and Democrats and the Big-businessmen. The Corporate-State is now secure in the railroad, airline, television, trucking and public utility industries. There are no major industries in which its death grip on consumers is not tightening.

The next group attempting to envelop

itself in the competition-proof protection of the Feds is the oil industry. A closer examination of the fabricated oil "crisis" that is being used as an excuse for the State to protect the producer from the consumer reveals that all parties to the Statist Coalition are right in step. For all I know, they even use the same speech writer.

The Republicans: "I am proposing a comprehensive national energy program," says President Ford in rubber-stamping Nelson Rockefeller's \$100 billion plan to subsidize the oil companies. The Democrats: "We will have a comprehensive, long-range energy policy," says President Carter at his first news conference. "It's going to require substantial sacrifices on the part of the American people," Jimmy continued, "but I'll try to make sure that it's fair and comprehensive." Swell.

Big-business: "What we need is a comprehensive national energy policy," says Thornton Bradshaw, president of Atlantic-Richfield in his recent *Fortune* magazine article entitled "My Case for National Planning." Asks Thor, "How can wild fluctuations in supply and demand be controlled so as to guarantee an orderly market?" Answers Thor, "Decisions of such magnitude can only be made at the highest level of government"

which should "first set a goal for crude-oil production and then set a price that makes it possible to meet that goal."

Thor's article is riddled with cries for price supports, subsidies and monopoly protection. You get the idea, so I won't bother you with further details. One quote I can't let pass, however, which has earned Thor the coveted John Kenneth Galbraith Annual Award for the public statement reflecting the greatest ignorance of economics: "The free-market mechanism never has worked for oil because there has always been too much oil or too little." Really, he said that.

Perhaps it's not quite fair to say the LP is the only alternative to the ugly triumvirate described above. There is the conservative third party movement which sports its own populist brand of Corporate-Statism along with the added kicker of a more explicit advocacy of imperialism. Its leading spokesman, William Rusher, of the close-cropped hair and mind, recently complained that the pointy-headed liberals "decided to slash the military budget so deeply that we lost de facto control of the Middle East." Rusher's not embarrassed by such statements because he's convinced that God is an American.

As I said earlier about the need for the Libertarian Party—now, more than ever!

Regional Conferences

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the 94th Congress Paul was noted for his courageous libertarian stands (he put the LP position paper on foreign policy in the *Congressional Record*) and his sometimes lonely battle for principle. Congressman Paul said that the time could be close at hand when the Libertarian Party could find wide acceptance by the public. A practicing physician before being elected to Congress, Dr. Paul also endorsed the purposes and goal of the Libertarian Health Association, which had its founding convention on Sunday, Jan. 30.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LP CONFERENCE

The Utah Libertarian Party will host the first Rocky Mountain Regional Conference on April 9 and 10 in Salt Lake City.

The conference will be hosted by George Chapman, ULP chairman. Mary Lou Hanson, recently elected Region 2 Representative will co-chair the conference.

Conference highlights include seminars on Free Enterprise with Susan Love Brown and George Chapman; Taxes with David Bergland and Robert Poole; Feminism with Tonie Nathan and Marge Chapman; and Energy and Environment with Stephen Carr, Eugene Guccione and Steve Trotter. Featured Speakers at the conference include Ralph Raico on Civil Liberties: the Failure of Conservatives, Steve Trotter, Robert Poole on 'Local Taxes', and George Chapman. Special Saturday evening banquet speakers will be David Bergland and Ed Crane.

The Region 2 Representative will hold a regional meeting on Sunday morning for state chairs and activists.

The ULP would like to invite all LP members from region 2 (Idaho, Montana, N. Dakota, So. Dakota, Utah and Wyoming) to attend what promises to be a fantastic conference. LP members outside the region are also invited to attend.

For further information and registration details contact Kathy Trotter, 1268 Ea. 5500 So., So. Ogden, Utah 84403 801 621-5145 or Geo. Chapman, ULP, P.O. Box 15506, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL LP CONFERENCE

The New Hampshire Libertarian Party, Bill Hunscher, chairman, will host a New

England States Regional LP Conference June 24, 25 and 26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Manchester, N.H.

Conference highlights will include an address by LP Presidential candidate Roger MacBride and a libertarian film festival featuring such films as "The Incredible Bread Machine," "Adam Smith," and "Interview with Ayn Rand," produced in 1957. Confirmed speakers or seminar leaders include Jim Clarkson on Municipal Issues, and Robert Smith on Environment and Pollution. Speakers are still being confirmed for such issue-topics as Gun Control, Medicine, Nuclear Energy, Taxation and State Government issues.

LP members in the New England and neighboring states are urged to attend and to bring their friends for an important, practical and inspiring conference. For information on registration, accommodations, etc., please contact the LP of New Hampshire, P.O. Box 366, Nashua, N.H. 03061.



Dr. Fred Miley (l), South Florida LP Chairman and Ray Pastor (r), banquet master of ceremonies have an informal discussion with Roger MacBride at the Southern Libertarian Conference.

photo by Judy Miley

National Committee Meets in Florida

MIAMI - The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met here, Jan. 30, to choose its appointees to the Platform Committee and to survey the condition of the LP after the November election. The Committee meeting was held in conjunction with the Southern Libertarian Conference.

The major order of business at this LNC meeting was the election of eight members to the Platform Committee for the upcoming national convention. The LNC chooses ten members, and the ten largest state parties choose an additional ten. At the last LNC meeting, Walter Grinder of New York was elected chairman of the Platform Committee and Joe Cobb of Chicago was chosen as a member.

Of the remaining eight Platform Committee members, at least five had to be chosen from "small" states (i.e., other than the largest ten), according to the National Constitution and By-laws. Those elected were Murray Rothbard, (New York), Williamson Evers (California), Roy Childs (New York), Charles Koch

(Kansas), Jim Clarkson (Georgia), Tom Palmer (Maryland), David Theroux (Louisiana), and Brian Donerly (Florida).

One of those who ran unsuccessfully for the Platform Committee was former LP of Florida State Chairman Jim Toole. Toole has been a vocal critic of what he considers the "left wing" bias of the 1976 LP Platform.

The LNC discussed at some length the outcome of the 1976 elections. It was pointed out that approximately one million voters cast ballots for at least one LP candidate. LP candidates for state and local office generally ran much better than the presidential ticket. The MacBride-Bergland ticket did receive between one and two percent of the vote in counties in Alaska (where it garnered nearly 6% statewide), California, Nevada, Hawaii, Idaho, Arizona, South Dakota, and Mississippi.

Ed Clark lead a discussion of LP long term strategy which culminated in a decision to have National Director Robert H. Meier undertake a study of potential

interest groups to which the LP should make special appeals. Although no groups should be ignored, it was the consensus of the Committee that the prospects for inroads into the Democratic party's constituency are brighter than those for inroads into the Republican party's constituency.

At the meeting, affiliation petitions from Wyoming and Guam were approved. In late November, the LNC voted by mail ballot to accept the affiliation petition of the Mississippi LP. This brings the total of affiliated state and territorial parties to 47. The national Libertarian Party was founded in 1971 and granted affiliation to 13 states at its first convention in 1972.

Fran Youngstein, National Treasurer, submitted the annual financial statement which showed the LP made expenditures totaling \$166,000 during the year. The MacBride for President Committee spent about \$350,000.

The next LNC meeting will be held at the July 14-17 national convention in San Francisco.

U.S. Energy Crisis: The Real Story

Dr. D.T. Armentano

It is undeniable that the continued existence of a sophisticated industrial economy depends on adequate energy supplies. It's also obvious that an increasing standard of living depends on relatively abundant and relatively cheap energy supplies.

And yet for decades government policy has been oriented not toward promoting discovery and production of these supplies for the general consumer interest, but merely toward satisfying the desires of particular groups of producers and users of energy. Such groups, not content to accept the results of free market operations, have obtained legislation designed to further their own self-interest.

Most of the public accepts the notion the energy crunch began with the 1973 Arab oil embargo. In fact, that was just the final blow in a series of staggering policies, some dating back over four decades. From 1950-1970, the energy industry operated smoothly and efficiently without shortages and with amazing price stability. But entering this decade, as government policy became increasingly obnoxious and destructive, the effects of energy interventionism began to come to a head.

The consequences of this intervention are now readily apparent: shortages of important commodities and sharp price increases for others; growing dependence on foreign sources of fuel; de facto rationing of petroleum products and costly delays in obtaining them; the emergency of a black (or gray) market for commodities in many industries; consumer hoarding, and dire predictions of future "shortfalls" of gasoline, crude oil and natural gas — all amid a state of public bewilderment on the causes and remedies to the "crisis."

The tragic irony of it all is that dozens of economists, industry spokesmen, even government officials have warned for years that certain policies would ultimately produce severe shortages. But their warnings went unheeded. The financial weekly *Barron's* called for an end to Federal Power Commission (FPC) regulation of natural gas as early as 1955. Paul MacAvoy, leading scholar on natural gas economics, predicted a shortage in 1962. Since the mid 60's, journals like *Chemical & Engineering News*, *Oil & Gas Journal* and *Public Utilities Fortnightly* have been issuing urgent alerts on the impending crisis. *Fortune* made an uncanny prediction of the consequences of our "prorating" system in 1965. And in 1970, the *New York Times* blasted the oil import quota system, warning it would soon produce a crude oil shortage.

In government, then-Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton predicted shortages of electrical power due to "explosive" increases in demand back in June 1957. In 1970, Interior's Dr. Wilson M. Laird forecast "severe strains" on natural gas supply by 1975, stating "we are rapidly passing from a phase of energy abundance to one of energy scarcity." And the FPC itself foresaw its own regulations years ago!

In the face of all these warnings and in the face of insurmountable evidence on the failure of government policy, Congress continues to fight deregulation and continues to castigate the energy industry and consumers for creating the crisis. For Congress to concede the deregulatory case would be to admit responsibility for the inestimable damage its policies have caused.

Controls: Source of Shortages

The most flagrantly wrongheaded policy has been price controls. When prices are free to fluctuate, changes in supply and demand don't produce shortages but simply higher or lower prices

that accommodate the new market situation. But when the price of a commodity is fixed by government it can no longer reflect greater demand or lesser supply. A fixed price not only encourages demand for the commodity but also discourages its supply. With the quantity demanded increasing and the quantity supplied decreasing, a gap or "shortage" of the commodity soon develops. In the absence of a price change that shortage must be "rationed" out through non-price techniques, such as the "allocation" provisions of President Carter's "emergency" energy program for natural gas and such as the Federal Energy Administration's authority to "reallocate" oil supplies from one refinery to another and fuel supplies from one region to another.

The most disastrous example of price controls is FPC regulation of producer (well-head) natural gas rates. Ordered by the Supreme Court in 1954, the FPC effectively froze prices in interstate commerce at 1958-60 levels for 12 years in spite of an unprecedented increase in the demand for natural gas. The following chart illustrates the price "freeze" on gas sold in interstate commerce:

Natural Gas Prices (in cents per thousand cubic feet)

1962	15.5 MCF
1966	17.7 MCF
1971	18.2 MCF

Although interstate prices for "new" natural gas have risen sharply since 1971 to \$1.42 per MCF, they are still well below the equilibrium rate, which is well over \$2.00 in intrastate markets.

While demand for this clean-burning fuel soared, because prices were kept at a fraction of the price of alternative fuels in terms of equivalent heating ability (BTUs), the low prices discouraged drilling and exploration for new gas. The gas that was found was diverted, where possible, into intrastate commerce. Moreover, firms that have large supplies of gas tend to "shut-in" the supplies in expectation that federal prices will be deregulated or increased to meet drilling costs and provide a reasonable profit. The net result has been that proven reserves of natural gas actually dropped from 289 trillion cubic feet in 1966 to 266 trillion cubic feet in 1972. The production-to-reserve ratio declined sharply from 20.1 years in 1961 to scarcely 10 years at present. *The government then, not the weather, must bear ultimate responsibility for this year's natural gas crisis.*

Crude Controls — Sad Results

Having already set the economy up for an unprecedented shortage of natural gas, the government began regulating the price of crude oil in the summer of 1971 (the Nixon Wage and Price Controls). As world prices increased to almost \$11.50 per barrel, domestic crude oil prices were held at \$5.50 per barrel. And even as late as January 1977, average domestic crude oil prices were still some 30 per cent below the rest of the world because of FEA regulations. Again, the inevitable consequence was to discourage production and selling, and to severely retard use of secondary and tertiary recovery techniques. As a result it was just reported that oil imports now comprise fully 50 per cent of American consumption!

That higher prices would increase supplies and discourage demand is not a controversial point among professional economists. Professor Gramm of Texas A&M has estimated demand for energy would decline as much as 1.2 per cent if prices were increased 1 per cent, while the quantity supplied would increase as much as 2 per cent. Economists Houthakker and Verleger estimate that petroleum supplies would increase in at least a one-to-one proportion to price. Indeed, Professors Gramm and Davison

argue a couple of dollars increase in the crude oil price would likely triple U.S. reserves!

Whether or not price increases could actually triple reserves, it is certain that additional supplies would be forthcoming if only the price were attractive enough to make production worthwhile. There are an estimated 250 billion barrels of crude oil in domestic fields considered "depleted" at present crude oil prices. This oil could be raised through secondary or tertiary recovery techniques if crude prices improved enough to make these recovery operations profitable. In addition, it has been estimated that U.S. offshore oil reserves may be as great as 780 billion barrels, with an additional 30 billion available in Alaska. Still higher crude prices would bring forth some of the estimated 2.6 trillion barrels of low-sulfur crude impregnated in shale rock in the Green River area of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. In summation, the U.S. alone holds over 3.5 trillion barrels of crude oil which are recoverable at some price, and which at present consumption rates of 7 billion barrels per year, would last well over 400 years!

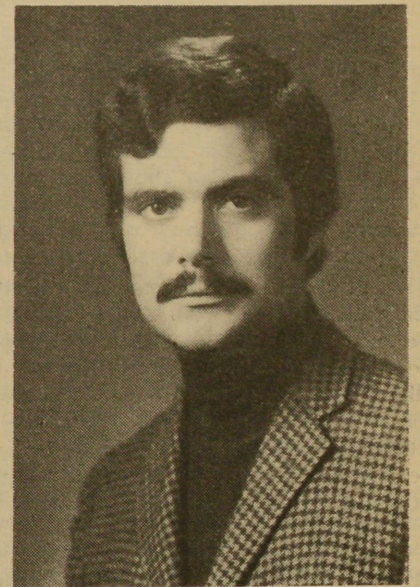
So "resources" are not some physically static "amount," but potentially available supplies dependent upon cost and price. As price increase, additional supplies become profitable to recover, refine and deliver. But if prices are held constant while demand increases, "shortages" are inevitable and no amount of production is ever enough.

The fact that prices may have to increase initially to spur supply (and retard demand) does not mean they must necessarily stay high. Gasoline prices, for instance, were relatively stable for years, with dealer prices increasing only from 15.10 cents per gallon in 1950 to 17.72 cents per gallon in 1972, and were actually lower in 1960 than in 1920. In fact the real price of almost all raw energy materials has decreased in the twentieth century because the private market can supply resources at a faster pace than the public can consume them.

The Industry is Not The Villain

A common rejoinder to the argument about increasing prices and "incentives" is that the oil and gas companies are already so "rich" they don't need additional incentives to explore and produce. But by almost any measure, the petroleum industry has not realized "exorbitant" profits. In fact, the industry's net income as a percentage of total revenue declined from 9.0 per cent in 1962 to 8.7 per cent in 1969 to 6.6 per cent in 1972. Net income as a percentage of net worth declined from 13.1 per cent in 1968 to 11 per cent in 1970 to 10.8 per cent in 1972. The average return on net worth for the entire petroleum industry between 1963 and 1972 was 11.8 per cent, compared with the overall manufacturing average of 12.2 per cent. Industry earnings, as well as the price/earnings multiple on industry stock was lower than many other industries.

Given the high element of risk



Dr. D.T. Armentano, is also author of the definitive *The Myths of Antitrust* soon to be reprinted by the Cato Institute, San Francisco.

associated with these investments, and given the massive capital requirements of this industry over the next 15 years, these profit statistics hardly appear "exorbitant." Indeed, one might argue that the relatively poor profitability of the oil industry has contributed to present shortage problems and may bode ill for the future.

Some have argued that it is the monopolistic nature of the oil and gas industry that has produced the present crisis. However, there is neither good economic theory or empirical fact to support this contention. There are at least 128 corporations engaged in the refining of domestic crude oil with the four largest "controlling" less than 33 per cent of industry output. In addition, there are over 7,000 firms that explore for and produce oil and natural gas; 15,000 that wholesale gasoline; 18,000 more that sell fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas, and close to 202,000 gasoline service stations.

The State Creates Monopoly

Ironically, where "monopolistic" practices have occurred is not through private action among a few large firms but through governmental action. The most blatant supply-restricting policy in the industry is state prorating. Started in the early 1930s, purportedly as a conservationist remedy to the "wastes" of competition, prorating developed into government-mandated cartel scheme for restricting production to "estimated" demand in order to maintain prices at existing levels. For example, the Texas Railroad Commission would meet every month to determine how many days oil producers would be allowed to operate their wells that particular month. The commission would then "coordinate" demand estimates from oil buyers and allocate output quotas per well to fill the demand — as estimated at existing prices.

Besides restricting supplies and fixing prices higher than the free market would,

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Capitol Commentary

The Draft Drums are Beating!

Alan Bock

It may sound alarmist, but the first steps are unmistakably taking place. A few warhawk Senators are starting to talk about reinstituting a military draft. First Sen. John Stennis of Mississippi dropped a remark in December about how poorly things were going with the volunteer military, and about how we'd better get used to the idea of a draft pretty soon. Then Sens. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and Dewey Bartlett, (R-Okla.) back from a whirlwind tour of NATO facilities in Europe, have raised the question about whether an emergency standby selective service might be necessary in order to respond to a Soviet blitzkrieg in Western Europe.

Nunn and Bartlett even raised a more dread specter — a universal government service system, whereby everybody would be required to "give two years to the government" either in military service or doing the government's version of social work at home. Shades of the Komsomol or of Hitler Youth! But after all, teenage unemployment is up, and we may just have to do something to relieve the social pressures (which were in large part created by the government in the first place).

This pro-draft campaign is in its early stages. We may be able to stop it at its inception, but it wouldn't be wise to underestimate the forces now forming up to condition the public to the idea of a draft in the near future. They're patient, and they're willing to take it one small step at a time. But, unless my antennae are misleading me, the campaign will pick up momentum in the next few months. We've got to be there right at the outset with principled, unflinching arguments against both selective and universal slavery. Otherwise they could slip it through on us.

Incidentally, have you noticed how much more Southern Africa has been in the news lately? If that's not our next war, within a few years, either we have been successful in mobilizing public opinion against Yankee intervention, or I will have missed my alarmist guess.

Some Washington cynics are suggesting that a new draft and a new military adventure will not begin until after Jimmy Carter wins a second term in the White House. If that's in the works, the militarists are starting to soften us up for the long pull. We should be aware of this as a possible timetable, and do whatever we can to derail it.

What you can do right now is to write to Stennis, Nunn and Bartlett (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and let them know just what you think of the idea of a renewed military draft. I think the time has come to start identifying ourselves as libertarians, so that earliest opposition will come clearly from principled libertarians. We may make alliances with other anti-draft people in the future, but libertarians may be on the verge of having enough political clout to take this one on and win it ourselves — if we get busy and write those letters — and letters to the editors of our local papers.

AIRLINE DEREGULATION A POSSIBILITY

Don't hold your breath, but there is a possibility that some deregulation of the airline industry will be passed in this session of Congress. A bill just introduced in the Senate by Sens. Cannon and Kennedy (both heavy hitters) would ease C.A.B. restrictions to allow more flexible pricing practices and route changes for domestic airlines. This is a far cry from real decontrol in the airline industry, but it is the best bill to have been introduced so far. The fact that its main supporters are senior Democrats may give it a real chance of passage.

Hearings on the Cannon-Kennedy airline deregulation bill will be held in late March by Cannon's Aviation

Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee. Libertarian Advocate has asked to testify at those hearings, in favor of more extensive decontrol and ultimate abolition of the Civil Aeronautics Board. Other libertarians may come forth to testify. If you're interested write to the Aviation Subcommittee, Senate Commerce Committee (Washington, D.C. 20510) and say that you'd like to testify. Even those who are not asked to appear in person will be permitted to submit written statements, which will become part of the permanent hearing record. It would be marvelous to have that hearing record filled with hard-core free market statements.

ENERGY FASCISM COMING

The response to a cold winter and shortages of natural gas gives us a good clue into the Statist makeup of Jimmy Carter. Most of the newspapers have billed the "emergency" legislation which was rushed through Congress as a price decontrol measure. This is a crock. What the legislation did was to transfer authority over interstate prices of natural gas to the President rather than the Federal Power Commission. Carter gave every indication, but no guarantees, that he would allow interstate natural gas prices to rise in order to take some of the shortage pressure off the country. But there's no decontrol here. The control is simply more centralized in the hands of the President. Thus the external forces distorting the market become more capricious, arbitrary and unpredictable than ever.

The natural gas crisis has given the government a number of opportunities to get people more and more accustomed to obeying orders when the feds give them and it is hard to think of a potential for increasing government power which has not been used. Uncle Jimmy tells us to turn our thermostats down, and in New Jersey old wartime no-knock laws are revived so that gummint agents can barge in and check your thermostats. That is heavy stuff. Various governors tell retail stores to restrict their hours of business, and the stores go along like good little citizens. What kinds of orders will they they be getting next?

In it imperative that libertarians keep reminding people again and again, that the natural gas shortage was strictly a government-manufactured crisis. Without government price controls there might have been a few distribution problems, but the controls escalated the short-term problem into a long-term crisis. Did they do this purposely so that they could use the crisis as yet another pretext for seizing even more power? Perhaps it wasn't thought out so consciously. But that is what happened. Government creates a problem. Government uses public perception of that problem as an excuse to grab more power. The cycle is as old as despotism.

The "emergency" act giving the President power over gas prices, and power to allocate natural gas, is only of temporary duration. The powers expire in three months. It is important that we begin a campaign now to make sure that the controls really do expire. Write your Congressman now, and tell him you want that emergency legislation to expire when it's due to expire.

If we don't work on this right away, I'm afraid these new "temporary, emergency" powers of the president will be about as temporary as the Federal Energy Administration has proven to be. Remember, that delightful organization was formed only as a temporary response to the OPEC oil embargo. Who now thinks it will ever die?

POSTAL MONOPOLY/CHALLENGED

Rep. Phil Crane (R-Ill.) will be

introducing legislation to repeal the Private Express Statutes which make it a crime to compete with the Postal Service in the delivery of First Class (sic) mail. This is one of those issues for which a long-term, continuing effort is necessary. Crane has introduced it every year for the past several years, and each time it gains more support. If the Postal Service imposes another rate hike this year, permitting competition may get a serious hearing in Congress.

Letters to your Congressman and Senators would be helpful. For further information you can contact Crane's office (House of Reps., Washington, D.C. 20515).

LEGAL COMPENSATION

Phil Crane has also introduced an interesting bill regarding legal compensation of individual and firms who win lawsuits against the government and regulatory agencies. Under this legislation, if the government or a regulatory agency brings an action or imposes a fine on a company for breaking some nitpick regulation, and the company takes the matter to court and wins, the government would be liable for legal fees incurred by the defendant. As matters stand now, many companies allow regulatory agencies to bludgeon them into consent decrees (an implied admission of guilt no matter what the lawyers say) even when the companies are in the right, because the cost of legal fees is too high to make it worthwhile to fight and vindicate yourself.

Crane already has 60 co-sponsors on this legislation (H.R. 1817) and has introduced companion legislation, H.R. 2034, which would apply the same principle of compensation when the government loses to criminal cases.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Titles of bills are often a source of amusement, and those with some interest in the free market are starting to learn some tricks of the trade. When Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY) first introduced a Capital Accumulation Act, few people were interested. Then he changed the title to the "Jobs Creation Act" and almost immediately gained additional support. (It's the usual tampering with the tax code to manipulate us into accumulating more capital.)

Rep. Steve Symms is now working on a bill called the "Youth Employment Opportunities Act of 1977." Sounds like something every liberal will want to support, right? What it would do would be to repeal the social security and minimum wage laws for people under 21 (or 18). Thereby creating countless new job opportunities for youth. Even with that creative title, it'll probably never fly, but it's a fun concept to have introduced into Congress.

A&T FLAP CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

AT&T (Bell Telephone) efforts to put its competitors in interconnect equipment and specialized long-distance communications out of business through legislation may yet create an opportunity for libertarians to hammer home some lessons about the free market, and perhaps even make some decontrolling gains in the communications field.

You may recall that Bell had introduced a bill last year which would have forced most of the competition which the FCC has recently permitted out of business, and waived anti-trust laws so Bell could gobble up the companies it put out of business. The House Subcommittee on Communications of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee held hearings last September. AT&T, having invested about \$2 million in direct

lobbying efforts, hoped those hearings would grease the skids for quick passage of the legislation in 1977.

Instead, the Communications Subcommittee decided to take a look at the entire Communications Act of 1934 (which established the FCC and strengthened Bell's legal monopoly over telephone service) with an eye to rewriting and updating the entire Act. Since this Act is the basic regulatory framework for radio, television and other forms of communication, the study alone could take two years. The Subcommittee has directed its staff to have working papers prepared by the end of March, and then they'll go into preliminary hearings.

Meantime, Sen. Vance Hartke, the principal Senate sponsor of the Bell bill, was defeated in November. Bell has lined up Sens. Hansen and Wallop of Wyoming (as well as Stennis and Eastland of Mississippi) to introduce the bill in the Senate, but none of them have the key committee position which Hartke would have had if he had been re-elected. The legislation is S. 530, while the companion House bill (introduced by Wyoming Democrat Teno Roncalio) is H.R. 8.

Since last Fall, however, the Ad hoc Committee for Competitive Telecommunications (supported by Bell competitors) has been working on liberals who had co-sponsored the Bell bill last year. So far they have persuaded Sen. McGovern and Reps. Udall and Barbara Jordan *not* to co-sponsor the Bell bill. Now they're going to work on conservatives, to see if their rhetoric about free enterprise means anything where the telephone monopoly is concerned.

What all this means is that libertarians have the time and opportunity to make some fundamental arguments and concrete proposals about federal regulation of communications. Federal regulation of the airwaves and the Fairness Doctrine have become fair game. The telephone monopoly has become fair game. If we are there to make arguments, the House Subcommittee gives us the forum to express them and (perhaps) have them taken seriously.

Libertarian Advocate will ask to be heard during these hearings. I would appreciate it if any libertarians with expertise or a special interest in the FCC and regulation of communications would get in contact with me. We will work to get as many free market-oriented witnesses heard as possible.

CONSERVATIVES ARE FLOUNDERING

I attended the Conservative Political Action Conference, sponsored by the American Conservative Union Feb. 3-6. The conservatives seem to be floundering around, in a sad state. They have been losing elections, missing opportunities and losing ground. They seem to need leaders, a Reagan or a Connally, or somebody they can rally around. An appalling number are noting how much more important constituent service by incumbents is than issues when it comes to winning elections — and advocating ever further de-emphasis on issues.

I suspect the conservative movement is ripe for much greater libertarian influence. These people are tired — they've been losing more and more steadily since 1964. A number of them are more interested in adopting libertarian ideas and even using the libertarian label in small doses. I'm encouraged rather than appalled, though I am as suspicious as anybody else of opportunists using our ideas to gain power. Funny thing, the ideas have a certain power and urgency of their own, which often influence people who start out spouting them as empty phrases.

Energy Crisis

(Continued from page 3)

prorationing led to gross inefficiencies in drilling and production. Artificial output restrictions exempted inefficient "stripper" wells, thus penalizing the more efficient wells. And since the "allowable" output was determined *per well* prior to 1965, a proliferation of inefficient drilling occurred simply to obtain a bigger putput quota. This led to premature dissipation of "gas cap" pressure in the oil reservoirs and lowered efficiency of all wells in the field.

Another example of the type of restrictive supply policies often laid to big business was the late oil import quota system. Established by President Eisenhower in 1959 at the urging of small, independent producers, the Mandatory Oil Import Program limited the volume of imported crude (and some other petroleum products) to approximately 12 per cent of the U.S. market. The permitted volumes were then "allocated" among existing domestic refiners.

This complicated, discriminatory and often manipulated program raised the cost and price of many petroleum products, distorted an efficient allocation of resources, and restricted cheap crude supplies that many oil companies required in order to commit investments for additional refining capacity. In 1970, the President's Task Force on Oil Import Control determined consumers paid \$5 billion more for oil products than they would have in the absence of import controls! And William Simon stated in May 1973 that the instability and uncertainty of the program contributed significantly to the refinery shortages of the 1970s.

Another strong contributor to the energy shortage, according to some, has been the Tax Reform Act of 1969, which lowered the depletion allowance from 27-1/2 per cent to 22 per cent. That change in the tax law cost the petroleum industry over \$500 million annually, money that some speculate might have gone into new crude wells and similar investments.

Government-Created Delays

Then there are environmental policies. There is little question the ever increasing concern with preserving environmental conditions contributed to the energy shortages. That is not to argue that concern with environmental degradation — a form of personal property rights violation — was either foolish or misplaced. However, the cost of that concern was more expensive energy, less energy, or both. For instance, emission controls on new cars reportedly increased gas consumption by 300,000 barrels daily.

Because the Alaska pipeline was delayed over three years by environmental challenges it is unlikely to be delivering any of its 2 million barrels of oil per day before 1978. The Santa Barbara oil spill of 1969 led to a four-year moratorium on offshore drilling in California (and a two-year federal moratorium beginning in 1971). Most recently, over \$1 billion in oil leases off the East coast have been nullified by a federal judge.

Oil refinery construction has been repeatedly delayed by ecological objections, and it is not uncommon to wait between 1-1/2 and 3 years for site approval before construction can even begin. Exploitation of shale oil deposits and our huge coal reserves have also been hit. And it has been argued that removal of lead from gasoline reduced the volume of gasoline produced from a given quantity of crude oil while lowering octane ratings and giving motorists fewer miles per gallon.

Most devastating of all has been enactment and enforcement of low sulfur fuel laws, particularly in the Northeast. The immediate effect of the law was that utilities that previously had utilized "dirty" coal or high-sulfur crude oil were forced to convert to "sweeter" fuels. The sudden increase in demand by electric utilities for the lighter fuel oils was en-

tirely unprecedented, and is largely responsible for the early run-up in fuel oil prices. Between 1967 and 1972, the demand for distillates by the electric utilities increased an incredible 1,136 per cent. In 1971 alone, the year following passage of the federal Clean Air Act, distillate demand was a full 43 per cent higher than the year before. The law produced shortages and higher prices in fuel oil. Moreover, the law made two-thirds of the coal east of the Mississippi unavailable.

Finally, no study of the energy crisis would be complete without mention of the problem that prompted price controls and aggravated all the shortage situations discussed above: price inflation. Much of the increase in demand for energy has been a necessary consequence of the excessive growth in the money supply that took place between 1967 and 1972, which spurred demand for all goods and

Libertarian Group in Mensa

We always knew that the more intelligent you are, the more likely you are to be a libertarian, right? Well, now, we have some objective evidence of that contention. It seems that Mensa, the organization composed solely of high-IQ types, polled its membership on voting plans. The results: MacBride received 6% of the votes, twenty times higher than the 0.3% he received in the country as a

services, aggravating shortage situations.

Price controls, prorationing, quotas, natural gas regulation, tax policies, environmental strictures, inflation — add them all up and you get Crisis. The next time you hear someone complain that America "needs an energy policy," point out to them that America has had an energy policy for years — and it has been a total disaster.

whole. Intelligent people are intelligent.

This tantalizing information comes to us from the group which may be responsible for a high level of libertarian awareness in Mensa, the Libertarian Special Interest Group in Mensa (LibSIG). According to national chair Bob Steiner of Westfield New Jersey, LibSIG has been busy promoting libertarian ideas at Mensa gatherings all over the country.

LibSIG also publishes a newsletter every other month. It is available (subscriptions not limited to Mensans) by writing to Editor Dick Radford, PO. Box 77067, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

For further information on LibSIG and Mensa, you may write to chairman Bob Steiner, 24 Prospect Street, Westfield, N.J., 07090.

The 1976

LIBERTARIAN PARTY National Convention

In September of 1976, more than 600 enthusiastic libertarians from around the country (and the world) descended on Washington, D.C. for the Libertarian Party's fifth national convention.

"The best convention ever!" was the verdict of many delegates when the four-day event was over.

Now, almost all of the Convention's outstanding talks, panels and workshops are available on cassette tapes—from AUDIO-FORUM. Each was recorded "live," on the spot, capturing all the intellectual excitement of the occasion.

If you were fortunate enough to have been at the Convention, you can relive your favorite moments on tape. If you missed out, here's your chance to hear the highlights of "The Second Libertarian Revolution."

The Convention Tapes

Roger MacBride's Banquet Address. The LP's 1976 presidential candidate delivers a rousing talk at the banquet in his honor. MacBride's discussion of his campaign and the growth of libertarianism drew repeated cheers and applause from the audience. **Tape 731 (51 min.) \$9.95**

Nathaniel Branden tells How to Communicate Political Ideas. To a large and appreciative audience, Dr. Branden explains how libertarians can break down the barriers that prevent them from getting political ideas across to others. (Includes a question-and-answer period.) **Tape 732 (55 min.) \$9.95**

Welcome Address: Ed Crane and Roger MacBride. The LP's national chairman and presidential candidate discuss the progress of the campaign and the future of the Party. **Tape 733 (25 min.) \$8.95**

History of the Modern Libertarian Movement: Ralph Raico. Dr. Raico discusses the libertarian movement's place in history, and offers a scathing analysis of Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Lester Maddox, and the Republican and Democratic Parties. A longtime libertarian activist, Ralph Raico is professor of history at the State University of New York, Buffalo. **Tape 734 (42 min.) \$9.95**

The CIA-FBI Threat to Privacy: Morton Halperin. An incisive analysis of the illegal actions of government agencies, Halperin discusses the dangers posed by state secrets and executive orders, and reveals the frightening practices of the CIA, FBI, NSA and other government agencies. He concludes by telling what can be done to protect Americans from these organizations. A former deputy assistant secretary of defense, Morton Halperin is a member of the ACLU and the Council on Foreign Relations. (Includes a question-and-answer period.) **Tape 736 (53 min.) \$9.95**

A Non-Interventionist Foreign Policy: Earl C. Ravenal. Dr. Ravenal accuses the American government of hypocrisy, secrecy, elitism and waste in its conduct of foreign affairs. He also tells how we can reduce the threat of war. A well-known writer and adviser on American foreign and military policy, Dr. Ravenal is a former director of the Asian Division in the office of the Secretary of Defense. **Tape 737 (65 min.) \$10.50**



Natural Rights: Eric Mack. Dr. Mack discusses the concept of natural rights, their violation, the proper use of force, and the distinctions between force, fraud and coercion. Eric Mack is assistant professor of philosophy at Tulane University and a contributing editor of Reason Magazine. **Tape 738 (44 min.) \$9.95**

The Logic of International Diplomacy: David Friedman. Maintaining that an interventionist foreign policy is extremely dangerous, Friedman argues the case for a return to isolationism. He discusses the present world situation in which there are two major powers, and examines the possibility of an alternative, one-power world. An assistant professor of economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, David Friedman is author of *The Machinery of Freedom*. **Tape 739 (40 min.) \$9.95**

The Middle East. An analysis of war, politics and oil in the Middle East. Panelists are history professor Leonard Liggio, author Steve Halbrook, and John Hagel, president of the Center for Libertarian Studies. **Tape 740 (71 min.) \$10.50**

Libertarianism and Feminism. This panel covers such issues as abortion and birth control legislation, government child care programs, discrimination against women via taxes and Social Security, women and business, and government surveillance of feminist organizations. Panelists are Sharon Presley, Kay Angustin, Jenny Graf, Cindy Cislser and Nancy Borman. **Tape 741 (58 min.) \$9.95**

Libertarianism and Social Philosophy: Tibor Machan. Libertarians should be concerned with more than politics, contends Tibor Machan. Human decency demands that we take positions on a broad range of social issues. Dr. Machan teaches philosophy at the State University of New York, Fredonia, and is a prolific contributor to *Reason* magazine. **Tape 742 (37 min.) \$9.95**

Libertarian Morality: John Hospers. Dr. Hospers focuses on individual sovereignty and personal rights as the keystones of libertarian morality. **Tape 743 (64 min.) \$10.50**

Lobbying for Libertarianism. Three seasoned Washington hands explain how to influence government through lobbying. Panelists are Bob Brauer, aide to congressman Ron Dellums; Scootch Pankonin, aide to congressman Steve Symms; and Alan Bock, head of the Libertarian Advocate lobbying group. **Tape 744 (32 min.) \$9.95**

Defending the Undefendables: Walter Block.

The author of what may be the most controversial book in the history of the libertarian movement explains why he regards prostitutes, slumlords and other social undesirables as "heroes." **Tape 745 (51 min.) \$9.95**

Austrian Economics. An introduction to the Austrian School of economics, including a discussion of its achievements and its uniqueness. Panelists are economics professors John Egger, Walter Grinder and Murray Rothbard. **Tape 746 (68 min.) \$10.50**

Integrating Psychology and Politics: Peter R. Breggin.

"Voluntary servitude" is Dr. Breggin's topic: why people don't break free of their oppressors. The model for oppression, Dr. Breggin contends, is childhood. Director of the Center for the Study of Psychiatry, Peter R. Breggin has won national recognition for his fight against compulsory psychosurgery. **Tape 747 (63 min.) \$10.50**

A Libertarian View of the American Revolution: William Marina.

The fundamental issues behind the American Revolution are analyzed by William Marina. Currently the Liberty Fund Research Scholar at the Institute for Humane Studies, William Marina is author of the forthcoming book *The American Revolution as a People's War*. **Tape 748 (48 min.) \$9.95**

Benediction: Murray Rothbard.

Dr. Rothbard closes the Convention on an optimistic note. He tells why he believes that the Libertarian Party is the party of the future. It is, says Dr. Rothbard, the means by which the power of the state will eventually be rolled back. **Tape 749 (33 min.) \$9.95**

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State LPs Plan New Projects

ALABAMA

The Libertarian Party of Alabama will be holding an organization meeting in Montgomery on March 13 to plan activities for 1977.

For more information about the LPA and the March 13 meeting, contact Harvey N. Crumhorn, P.O. Box 3204, Huntsville, AL 35810 (205) 859-1705.

ALASKA

The Libertarian Party in Alaska, coming off a phenomenally successful initial election effort in 1976, is planning a state convention for the Spring and extensive educational and organizational activities. Plans are already being laid for an active and serious campaign for governor.

For information regarding LPA activities, please contact Dick Randolph, 1105 Cushman, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (907/456-3811).

ARIZONA

The Libertarian Party of Arizona, having gained permanent ballot status, has filed a lawsuit with the State of Arizona, to insure that the ballot status is recognized by the Arizona and county election officials. This suit is strictly a formality if it is not opposed, and there is no indication that it will be opposed. It has been filed simply to guarantee that there won't be any last-minute technicalities to threaten the LPA's ballot position.

In compliance with state law, the LPA has set up permanent Maricopa and Pima County organizations along the lines required for permanent parties. In conjunction with this reorganization new fundraising and educational programs are being instituted.

The LPA has resumed publication of a state newsletter, *LIBERTY*, published as a quarterly (\$10 a year, which includes membership in the Libertarian Supper Club — P.O. Box 26336, Tukson, AZ 86726).

LPA members have been active in writing letters to editors of local papers on libertarian issues, and have been successful in having some of them published.

A Young Libertarian Alliance chapter is organized and active on the campus of the University of Arizona. Planned activities include debates, proselytizing in high schools and study sessions on economic and philosophical issues.

For further information, please contact state chair Helen Stevens, 6331 N. 83rd St., Scottsdale, AZ 85253 (602/948-1006).

ARKANSAS

The LP in Arkansas has been meeting monthly for discussion and planning sessions. A Toastmasters Club has been organized in the LP to improve members' speaking and debating ability.

About 100 books have been donated to the LPA for a book rental program to be available for party members and others interested in libertarian literature.

National Director Bob Meier will be touring Arkansas late in March, and local members are busy lining up speaking dates and organizational opportunities. A state convention is in the planning stages, probably to be held in August or September.

For further information about LP Arkansas activities, please contact state chairman Warren Massengill, 6603 Asher, No. 16, Little Rock, AR 72214 (501/562-0312).

CALIFORNIA

The Libertarian Party of California held its state convention February 18-21 at the Airport Marina Hotel in Los Angeles. Ray Cunningham was re-elected state chairman. Other officers include Bruce LaGasse, South vice-chair; Elizabeth Jacobsen, re-elected North vice-chair; Michelle Kurtz of Palo Alto, Secretary; and Michael Zeldis of Canoga Park, Treasurer. The convention also

selected delegates and alternates for the national convention slated for July 14-17 at the Sheraton Park Hotel in San Francisco.

In addition to election of officers, the convention changed the LPC's constitution and bylaws to provide that in the future it will consider platform changes only in even-numbered years (when state elections are held,) and concentrate on changes in the constitution and bylaws during odd-numbered years.

Several new planks were added to the LPC platform covering such areas as the judiciary system, prison reform, and a more detailed discussion of individual rights.

The featured speaker at the Saturday night banquet was Dr. Thomas Szasz, who discussed "Psychological Diversion in the Criminal Justice System." LP Presidential candidate Roger MacBride also spoke, and there was a full program of panels and workshops covering such topics as children's rights, the plight of freedom in the courts, fighting redevelopment schemes and reducing local taxes. All told, about 300 people attended parts of the convention, with 180 on hand for the main banquet and 60 who attended the program only.

Of particular interest was a raffle conducted to raise money to pay off campaign debts (primarily loans from Party members). Featuring such prizes as a round trip to Hawaii for two and an expense-paid trip to the LP National Convention for two, the raffle raised over \$2500, though it had only two weeks of lead time and had the usual headaches associated with trying something for the first time. State chairman Ray Cunningham estimates that with the "bugs" out of the system, the raffle method has a fundraising potential of about \$7500 in California, and it might prove useful in other states.

Perhaps the most important decision to come from the state get-together was a hotly-debated item over just how, and how quickly, the California LP will attain permanent ballot status. The ExecComm finally decided not to launch an all-out registration drive to obtain the 63,000-plus registered LP members needed for permanent ballot status by 1978. Instead, the state party will make registration an important priority, with the goal of increasing the present registration of 3500 to about 30,000 by 1978, so that the party will be in a good position to obtain permanent ballot status by 1980, while having resources to pursue other goals as well.

A factor in this decision is the fact that several proposals to liberalize requirements for ballot status are now pending in the state legislature, and some easing of requirements is a distinct possibility.

There are no statewide elections in California in 1977, but several municipal and county governments are holding non-partisan elections. LP member B.J. Wagner already has ballot status in a race for county supervisor in Los Angeles. LP candidates have been chosen for 8 of the 11 seats on the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors. Party organizations in other parts of the state are also investigating local races.

The off-year elections also feature several local ballot initiatives. In Berkeley, an initiative will be on the ballot to impose rent control in the city. Several LP members are affiliating with the "NO on Rent Control" Committee in order to broaden the base of the libertarian movement and gain important political experience.

California LP members also issue a sincere and hearty welcome to all LP members planning to attend the LP National convention in San Francisco in July. San Francisco, they say, is the most



Ballot status in Nepal? Not likely in the near future but Bruce Lagasse, California LP member did carry a MacBride Campaign poster to the top of Mt. Kalatator (18,400 ft.) this past fall. Mt. Everest, some 13,000 ft. higher, is clearly visible in the background.

photo by Nima Tenzing

beautiful city in the United States, and dozens of dedicated libertarians in the Golden State are working almost full-time to make this year's convention the largest libertarian gathering in modern history. Hundreds of others are putting in hours of volunteer work — all designed to make your stay in San Francisco pleasant and productive.

COLORADO

The fifth annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Colorado was held December 11 in Denver. Major changes were made in the constitution and organizational structure, changing the ExecComm to a Board-of-Directors-style organization. Under the new organization the ExecComm consists of a coordinator and seven other officers with specific responsibilities. The terms of all officers were reduced from two years to one year.

Officers elected at the convention included Jan Prince, Coordinator; M.L. Hanson, Finance Director; Dick Mueller, Membership Director; John Mason, Political Action Director; Faye Gilmore, Communications Director; Zella Combs (who later resigned due to the Hatch Act and was replaced by Claude D'estree), Research Director; George Wetzel, Special Events Director; and Patrick Lilley, Affiliates Representative.

At the convention banquet Dave Nolan, a principal founder of the LP reflected on the past and future of the party. He sees a bright future for libertarian political activism. He noted, "The conservatives are already beginning to try to restyle themselves as Libertarians, and we should welcome their support — but we mustn't nominate conservatives in order to gain that support. Their day is over, while ours is just dawning — and they know it."

Dr. Murray Rothbard spoke to a crowd of 200 December 3 at Colorado University, in an appearance arranged by SIL and the LP. He predicted that the libertarian philosophy will spread and that the LP will be electing candidates and influencing elections as early as 1978.

During January LPC members participated in a workshop on finance, political action, YLA, research, public relations and special events, held January 22.

The CLP has already begun to gear up for the 1978 Elections. The State ExecCom has been revamped in an-

icipation of future local campaign requirements, with emphasis on Political Action, Research, and Communications.

Dave Nolan has instituted a "Speaker Training" program, and graduates have already spoken at local high schools (History and Economics classes in particular). Classes in Libertarianism are being conducted at the Denver Free University by Dave Goodrich and Carl Johnson (a write-in candidate for Denver D.A. in 1976). Sheryl Loux is giving an on-going lecture series on the basic principles of objectivism by Nathaniel Branden, at the University of Colorado.

According to Special Events Director George Wetzel, the Libertarian Brunch Club has been a continuing success — proving to be an effective vehicle by which to ally the CLP with other independent groups going in our direction. Our guest in February was Howard Onstadt of the Paul Revere Committee, a group dedicated to Capitalism, a soundly-based Economy, and a major reduction in the size and scope of the Federal Government. This group was responsible for getting Constitutional Amendment No. 10 on the Colorado Ballot in '76 — an amendment which called for any and all tax increases to be approved by a majority of registered voters in a general election. Although it did not pass, several thousand voted in favor of it, thereby opening new corridors and contacts for the CLP.

We are developing an alliance with C.U.T., the Colorado Union of Taxpayers (allied with the N.T.U.), and together are planning a "Tax Protest Day" on April 15th.

For information on Colorado LP activities, write Janice Prince, 7545 Bradburn Blvd., No. 203, Westminster, CO 80030.

CONNECTICUT

For information on LP of Connecticut activities, please contact Bob Loomis, P.O. Box 252, East Granby, CT 06026 (203/653-3939 or 688-6426).

DELAWARE

At a January meeting the LPD heard from Paul Welch, a Wilmington lawyer active in the ACLU and civil liberties cases. The speaker for February is Dr. Susan Steinmetz, a professor at the University of Delaware, on "family abuse and children's rights."

A LPD Speakers Bureau was formed in December, headed by Betty Stram. In January LP member Larry Watkins spoke at the Wilmington Lions club, a direct result of the formation of the Speakers Bureau. Larry was able to present a speech on "Libertarian Social Philosophy" to a group of the city's leading businessmen and civic leaders, basing his talk on the Lions' own slogan; "Liberty, Intelligence — Our Nation's Safety."

LPD Chairman Bill Morris has listed priorities for 1977, stressing building on the organizational base now established, emphasizing local and educational activities, reviving YLA at the University of Delaware, and forming libertarian groups in areas which do not now have them.

For information on LPD activities, write P.O. Box 9014, Wilmington, DE 19802.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District LP members have helped other area libertarians in the formation of a Libertarian Social Club, meeting in nearby McLean. Speakers and programs have included Karl Hess, a debate on the future of the LP, a debate on foreign policy and a showing of the television film "The Second Battle of Britain." Plans are also in the works for a group charter trip to Freeport in the Bahamas.

The LP national office is organizing crews of volunteers to work in the national headquarters office on

Emphasis on Recruiting and Fundraising

correspondence, filing and issue research. Those interested may contact Helen Holloway at (202) 232-2003.

FLORIDA

For information on upcoming Florida LP Activities contact chairman Tom Nay, P.O. Box 1727, Orlando, Florida 32802 (305) 849-0111.

GEORGIA

The Georgia LP, under chairman Jim Clarkson, will be working on local campaigns this year, as outlined at a February membership meeting. There are several local municipalities which will have bond issue and "local option sales taxes" (LOST) on the ballot in elections this year. The LP plans local organizations to oppose them both on its own and in coalition with other taxpayers' and citizens groups. This is seen as a way of forming and strengthening local organizations at the grassroots level.

A state convention is planned for June 4-5 in Rome, Ga. Speakers from S.I.L. and panels and foreign policy and Chicago-school economics are part of the preliminary agenda.

For information, please contact Jim Clarkson, 4 Coral Ave., Rome, GA 30161 (404/235-2181 or 234-9471).

HAWAII

LPH elected new party officers on December 2. The new officers are: Mark Coleman (an original LP founder) as State Chairman; Bruce Anderson, Vice Chairman; Amelia Fritts, Secretary; and LP Senatorial candidate Rockne Johnson and Roger Norris as ExecComm members-at-large. Abby Coleman was later appointed Treasurer by the ExecComm.

Early in January the LPH collected signatures for a new ballot petition drive and distributed copies of the "Pot, Helmets and Vitamins" issue paper at a Rainbow Celebration sponsored by NORML. Important contacts with NORML leaders were also made or strengthened at this event.

On January 13 three LPH members testified at a Department of Transportation hearing to consider new rules to restrict "Hare Krishna" activities at the Honolulu airport. The LP witnesses were one of the few defenders of the Krishna activities, and they made a good impression with a thoughtful, principled presentation. You can obtain copies of the three statements by sending 50 cents in a SASE to the LP Hawaii headquarters. Plans are now in the works to expand this activity into legislative and other public affairs hearings.

Following a public fundraising appeal from the Hawaii GOP chairman "to save the two-party system," the LPH initiated a lightly whimsical public appeal to "save the 5-party system" by donating to the LPH. The release gained good publicity, and even raised a little money.

LPH leaders have also been active in sending letters to editors on libertarian issues, and several were printed in college newspapers during January.

For information on LPH activities you may write to the LP Hawaii, P.O. Box 4541, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

IDAHO

The LP of Idaho is planning to hold a State Caucus during the regional LP Conference scheduled for April 9-10 in Salt Lake City. All LPI members are urged to attend this important event.

The state ExeComm will be meeting March 19 in Boise to plan upcoming membership drives and possible ballot drives.

LPI state chairman D. Allen Dalton recently submitted testimony to the state legislature, which is considering a state Right to Work Law. Dalton opposed the provision. A state referendum in the Fall on the issue is a possibility.

For information about these and other

LPI activities, please contact D. Allen Dalton, P.O. Box 5012, Boise, ID 83705 (208/344-9697).

ILLINOIS

The LPI will be holding a two-and-a-half day convention this year, to be held on March 4, 5 and 6. Featured speakers will include Ralph Raico, libertarian scholar from New York; Bob Meier, executive director of National Party headquarters; David Bergland, the VP candidate in 1976; Karl Bray, the tax resister; and Roy Childs of the Center for Libertarian Studies. Besides the state convention and election of Party officers, there will be an opportunity to talk with the speakers, and a day of political workshop. For more details regarding times and costs, check the February LPI Newsletter or write to the LPI at Box 1776, Chicago, IL 60690.

A seminar on Austrian Economics is being sponsored by the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and The William Koch Foundation. Professor F.A. Hayek, the 1974 Nobel Laureate, will be the seminar speaker in the Spring Quarter. Phone 815-955-2442 for further information.

Sponsored by the Economic Education & Research Forum, on February 15, Alan Reynolds, VP of the First National Bank of Chicago and active in the New York Libertarian Party, spoke about the consequences of Carter economics. Reynolds, whose economic analysis has appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and other important publications, offered his review of the likely results of the Carter Administration in terms of inflation, unemployment, interest rates and stock and bond prices during the next four years.

Another speech sponsored by the Economic Education and Research Forum — featuring Murray Rothbard — is scheduled for April 6.

A Gay Rights group is being formed — interested Libertarians should contact the local chapter of Libertarians for Gay Rights via the Party mailbox listed above.

Other interesting events and developments: Radio interview with Joe Cobb (Jan. 16) in which he assessed the results of the campaign and projected the Party's plans for the future.

So far, just two people have announced their decision to run for Party office. Laura Kroutil will run for Treasurer, Joe Cobb for Secretary. If you intend to run, notify any Illinois Party officer as soon as possible.

Marji Kohls gathered a lot of publicity for the Libertarian cause in her campaign against the formation of a Park District in Wildwood.

A talk on the energy crisis was held on January 30, with Winston Duke speaking on electric and nuclear power problems and George Price covering gas power.

INDIANA

State chairman Paul Hyatt has resigned for personal reasons. A reorganizational meeting is planned. In the meantime, state party activities are being coordinated by vice-chair Sally Heistand. Parties and activities are planned for the Indianapolis area.

For information, please contact Sally Heistand, 1430 N. Capitol, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317/923-9227).

IOWA

LPI chairman William Bockoven reports that membership and interest in the party and in libertarian ideas has grown steadily since the election. A group in Iowa City is now meeting on a regular basis, and the Des Moines group is maintaining a steady growth rate.

The ILP ExeComm will meet in late February to plan a State convention scheduled for April. Current plans are to lay the groundwork for running candidates in 1978 for major offices (governor, senator, etc.) at least.

nor, senator, etc.) at least.

Libertarian Oelwein physician R.S. Jaggard got an extensive write-up in the Des Moines Tribune in October featuring his refusal to pay social security taxes. He and his wife put the money they would have paid into social security in a bank trust account earmarked for charitable contributions, and have promised never to ask the social security people or the government for assistance in their old age. So far the SS administrators have been reluctant to move against him.

Jaggard has never taken government money for treatment of indigent patients. "My policy is to offer care for (poor) people in exchange for as much cash as they spend for beer and cigarettes each week, and, if they don't drink or smoke, they owe me nothing."

For information on LPI activities, contact William Bockoven, 8407 Horton, Des Moines, IA 50311 (515/243-6245).

KANSAS

LP activity in Kansas revolves around preliminary planning for membership and educational drives. Individuals who live in college communities who would be interested in helping to organize YLA chapters and participate in college literature distribution are urged to contact state chairman Robert M. Zinser, P.O. Box 3117, Wichita, KS 67201 (316/685-4529 or 832-5495).

KENTUCKY

The LP-Kentucky is planning a state convention to be held in Lexington the weekend of April 16. The convention planning committee met February 13. Among the convention coordinators chosen were Ned Stewart and Ernie McAfee. The convention will have a full slate of business including election of officers, election of delegates to the national LP convention, and constitutional revision. Among the speakers is Fran Youngstein, LP activist and candidate for mayor of New York.

LPK members are among those active in the Greater Cincinnati Libertarian Supper Club, whose most recent dinner meeting was held January 23.

Local libertarian and LP groups have now been organized in the Louisville and Richmond areas, and a new corps of activists is expected to grow from these groups.

LPK leaders are taking a close look at the possibility of running a candidate for one of four City Commissioners seats in Richmond. Other local races scheduled for 1977 are also receiving consideration.

For further information, please contact state chair Bobbi Jahn, 2713 Plainview Dr., Villa Hills, KY 41016 (606/341-4754).

LOUISIANA

The Libertarian Party of Louisiana held its state convention on February 5 in Lafayette. Dr. Jeremy Millett was reelected Chairman, Sam Wells was elected Vice Chairman, John Crippen was elected Secretary and Van Auld was reelected Treasurer. Featured speakers at the convention included Robert Bakhaus, a libertarian state legislative assistant, and Sam Wells.

In March, Bob Meier, National Director, will be in Shreveport for two days of speeches and media appearances.

For further information about LPL activities, please contact Dr. Jeremy Millett, 112 Hampton Road, Lafayette, LA 70501 (318) 984-6012.

MAINE

Maine libertarian activists have held several meetings in the last two months to begin planning for such activities as a state newsletter, discussion meetings and distribution of literature on college campuses.

For information on LP activities contact either Mark Fitzgerald, 20 Ash

Street, Waterville, ME 04901 (207/872-2031) or Ed Penniman (207/677-2666).

MARYLAND

A libertarian discussion group has begun regular meetings in the Baltimore area, with the purpose of introducing new people to libertarian ideas and deepening the understanding of committed libertarians concerning the philosophy.

Tom Gilber-Rowland has started a Maryland Libertarian Speakers Bureau to get competent libertarian speakers before civic organizations and on college campuses. Interested parties should contact Thomas Gilbert-Rowland, 11922 Beltsville Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705.

MICHIGAN

Perhaps the most exciting event in the Michigan Libertarian Party's plans is the election of a "shadow government" as suggested at the MLP's December convention by libertarian-conservative activist Dick Durant. "This shadow government involves appointing or electing individuals from within the L.P.M. to as many of the elected governmental offices as possible (e.g. governor, state representatives, U. of M. regents, mayors, supreme court judges, dog catchers, etc...)" explains LPM Party Chairman James Hudler. "Each shadow official would then follow closely the current events pertaining to his or her office and issue press and news releases (or just a phone call to the media) at least once a week. Not only would this 'shadow government' give the LPM a good deal of publicity in the off election year, but it would provide an excellent opportunity for the education of the public with libertarian ideas concerning any aspect of human action."

The LPM is scheduled to institute its "shadow government" idea during February. This could be an exciting development which other state LP's could emulate.

The Wayne County LP has opened an office in downtown Detroit. Its major purpose will be to coordinate the campaign of C.M. Novess for a seat on the Detroit City Council, along with facilitating the petition drive to get the LPM on the 1978 ballot and generating publicity and improved media relations.

The Wayne County LP, which has been holding dinner meetings fairly regularly for two years, was formally organized in September, 1976. Elected chairman was Raymond Warner. Other officers include William Krebaum, C.M. Novess, Joan Weaver, Robert Delany, Peter McAlpine and Randy Szabla.

In Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor) plans are already underway to run LP candidates for at least three of five open ward seats on the city council in the upcoming April elections. Nominated were Jim Greenshields (Ward 2), Barbara McKenna (Ward 3) and Bill Minard (Ward 5).

In Genesee County, plans are going forward to find and support an LP candidate for a vacant state senate seat. The County LP is also going to city council meetings to protest the use of zoning laws to regulate porno shops. Jim Heller has been especially active and effective in this campaign.

On the U. of Michigan campus the Ann Arbor Libertarian League held its 1977 organizational meeting January 18. This year the League plans a weekly taped lecture series, assistance in LP election campaigns and a Laissez Faire day on the U. of M. campus.

For information on LPM activities contact state chairman James Hudler, 1111 Nielson Ct., No. 3, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (313/665-4343).

MINNESOTA

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota is sponsoring a Libertarian Conference on

(Continued on page 9)

Shades of Things to Come

Libertarian Health Association Formed

As the Libertarian Party grows in maturity and sophistication, it will discover numerous opportunities to reach out to particular professions and interest groups, delivering the libertarian message to them as it relates to specific issues and concerns which affect them in their lives or professions. This is extremely important to our development into a major party. We must be able not only to articulate the libertarian philosophy as it pertains to the social structure in general, but demonstrate how a free society will enhance their lives and professional development.

The Libertarian Health Association is the first of what we hope will be many specialized organizations under the auspices of the Libertarian Party. Its mission is to bring the libertarian message to professionals in the health field. It will not shrink from the larger implications of libertarian principles, but it will concentrate on describing how those principles can be applied to one particular profession, in terms which those professionals can understand easily.

One other fact is important about the Libertarian Health Association. It is organized under federal law as a Political Action Committee, an organization not just to espouse a philosophy, but to engage in the nitty-gritty of fundraising and support for officially nominated libertarian candidates. The establishment of such an organization with a distinct libertarian orientation marks an important step forward in the process of achieving permanence and growth for the libertarian movement in the political process.

We hope that the LHA will be only the first of many libertarian professional and special-interest group PAC's. Organizations bringing the libertarian message to attorneys, executives, educators, scientists and other professionals should be high on our list of priorities. Prominent libertarians involved in the founding of the Association include former Texas Congressman Dr. Ron Paul, Iowa LP chairman Dr. William Bockoven, S. Florida LP chairman Dr. Fred Miley, West Virginia LP Chairman Dr. Harold Harvey, and the acting chairman of the Association, Dr. Dallas Cooley, of Arlington, Virginia.

It is with pride and a sense of significance that we print this opening statement on the purposes and goals of the newly-formed Libertarian Health Association as delivered by Dr. Dallas Cooley at the founding convention:

DR. COOLEY'S ADDRESS

The Libertarian Health Association has been formed to provide the Libertarian Party with a means of gaining support for the Party within the various fields providing health services. It also will assist the Libertarian Party in formulating policies relating to health services, and provide official Libertarian candidates with financial assistance in their campaigns.

Let me elaborate on these three areas:

First, we will contact physicians, dentists and others delivering health care services to make them aware of the existence of our association and attempt to gain their support. Those initially contacted will be persons on the mailing list of the Party. We will also have notices about the LHA published in other Libertarian publications, inviting interested persons to join. State party chairmen will be contacted, requesting that each one attempt to find a physician, dentist or other individual in health care in his or her state who would be willing to act as the state representative for the LHA. All members of the Association will then be asked to "spread the word" about the

One means of accomplishing our goals is to get articles on specific topics published in local or state medical or dental publications. These articles can outline Libertarian stands on such issues as the Professional Standards Review Organization (PSRO's), Health Service Agencies (HSA's) or National Health Insurance (NHI). Letters may also be written to the editors of these publications. The idea is to inform people that there is a political party in existence that stands for free enterprise, individual freedom and responsibility, and is unalterably opposed to government interference in health care.

Second, we will solicit opinions from our members regarding Libertarian Party stands relating to health care. We hope to be able to present these opinions to the Party Platform Committees.

Such long-range goals as no state licensure, no prescription drugs, elimination of such programs as Medicare and Medicaid are certainly proper but problems may arise because of them. There may be legitimate concerns about how they are to be implemented. The population in general may not be ready for a sudden elimination of such government programs and of licensure of physicians, dentists and nurses. Transition programs need to be worked out. There are people in the Party "think tanks" working on these issues, but input from those in practice who are committed to the Libertarian philosophy would seem to be essential. There cannot be any compromise as far as our stated long-range goals are concerned, but intelligent concern for the practical means of putting them into practice is necessary.

Third - The Libertarian Health Association will solicit funds that can be used to assist political candidates in their campaigns.

SOME INITIAL PROBLEMS

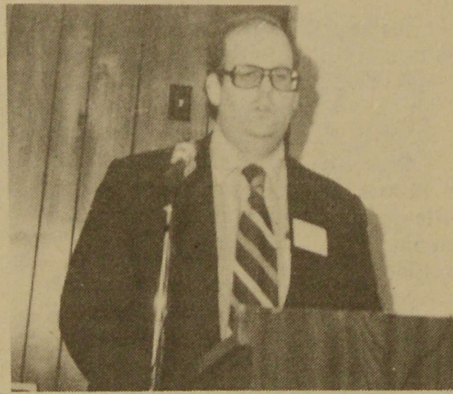
Several problems face the association. One is the large number of physicians who suggest that we should cooperate with the PSROs "because it is the law." Other physicians say we should support the AMA because it is the only medical

**Dr. Ron Paul**

organization with an effective voice in Washington. There have even been moves, successful in some states, to make AMA membership mandatory so that it can be "more effective in its work."

Personally, I want nothing to do with the work of the AMA. The AMA position on NHI, recently so widely published, represents nothing more than appeasement. The AMA has borrowed a page from the notebook of Neville Chamberlain when he met with the Nazis at Munich. I want no part of appeasement, and I do not think most physicians want any part of it either. But they do not know where to turn to get support.

The second problem that confronts us is the fact that there are many doctors with right wing or conservative tendencies and many organizations with a "conservative" leaning, who would join with the Libertarian Party in the battle against any form of NHI. But when they learned that the LP is also in favor of eliminating state licensure requirements, eliminating the need for prescriptions to

**Llewellyn Rockwell, Editor of "Private Practice Magazine" addressing the LHA.**

obtain drugs and is against laws against such victimless crimes as prostitution and the use of drugs like marijuana and heroin, their inclination to support us quickly wanes. They do not understand that our objection to government interference in medicine is a total objection, based on the principle of no government interference in the free market and not simply an objection to certain forms of interference.

PROMOTING FREEDOM OF CHOICE

We realize that elimination of state licensure of health care providers is viewed by many doctors as a threat to their practices. Most practitioners, however, would agree that much of what they do in their offices does not require the extensive training and skills that are presently required to obtain a state license. Many examinations and procedures could be done by someone with less training, and could be done at a lower cost. We must make public aware of the virtues of freedom of choice and the advantages of having a wider choice than they are afforded under our present system.

Another problem is the fact that we will be called upon by various groups to support their special causes, to endorse their product or method of therapy. We do not endorse the use of Laetrile, or acupuncture, for instance. We simply support the concept of freedom of individuals to choose what type of life they are going to lead, what type of treatment they receive, as long as no one commits fraud or invades another individual's right to free choice. So those who come to us looking for endorsement might take our stand as a rejection, unless they understand that freedom of choice is one of the basic Libertarian Principles.

SOCIALIZED MEDICINE IS NOT INEVITABLE

The biggest problem facing us, however, is the pervasive opinion among physicians that NHI is inevitable. This feeling among physicians is a great comfort to those politicians pushing for total government control of the health care field. As long as physicians believe in the propaganda about the inevitability of NHI they will do nothing to fight it. I think a vital function that the LHA can play is to awaken some physicians to the idea that there is little to be lost and much to be gained by learning to flex our muscles, getting involved in politics in a way that the politicians will understand — eliciting the support of our patients.

Letters to congressmen from physicians will do little to stop NHI. But letters from patients will, if there are enough of them. Most patients won't write letters unless the physicians ask them to. And physicians are reluctant to do this. Why? We are not experienced in the techniques of asking our patients to do something for us; it is usually the other way around. We think it will take time we do not have. But we are at a point in history when we have to decide if our liberties are worth the investment of some time. We must understand that if we do not work at

maintaining our liberties, they will be taken away from us.

I think people in general, physicians included, have the misconception that the liberties that were there yesterday will naturally be there tomorrow, so why worry about them. I also think physicians through such "hot press" items as the Medicaid frauds and the rapid increase in the cost of medical care have retreated to a defensive posture. Physicians are afraid that patients will look upon attempts to stop NHI as being based on selfish motives. But the time has come for physicians to adopt strong principles, then follow a course of action based on these principles. The fact is that patients will suffer most from any increase in government interference. If health care providers do not make them aware of this, they are not truly serving the public.

Many physicians have fallen into the trap set by the government of eliminating the charity portion of practice. "No longer," says the government, "will charity be necessary. We will pay the bills of all who cannot afford good medical care." So the idea of treating anyone for no charge is fast disappearing. The patient who just doesn't pay or is slow in paying his bill will be around as long as free enterprise exists. But the rush toward secured payment from everyone undermines one of the profession's most attractive traditions — and it provides a strategic foot-in-the-door for increased controls and loss of freedom.

BROAD INVOLVEMENT NEEDED

Why should dentists, nurses or even laymen get involved in this fight against NHI? It would take a blind person to imagine that once government-sponsored medical care is a reality that dental care would not shortly come under the same type of control. So dentists should join the fight now, before the pressure comes on their own profession.

If nursing care is to continue to be an individualized and personalized profession, government interferences must be stopped. Already programs are being implemented which establish guidelines for all nurses to follow under a particular set of circumstances. If laymen, the public, are not stimulated to act, they will someday awaken to find long lines in the doctors' offices, a doctor who may have to refer to the government-dictated standard method of treating his problem, four-minute "complete physical exams," a waiting time of years to get into a hospital for "urgent" surgery.

WHAT L.H.A. STANDS FOR

What are the LHA positions in regard to health care?

First - we are opposed to any form of government subsidization of health care. This includes Medicare, Medicaid and government subsidized HMOs.

Second - we are against PSROs, programs instituted by the government to supposedly monitor the quality of health services, but which are moving in the direction of attempting to standardize (read - dictate) treatment and become a means of controlling cost through bureaucratic edict.

Third - we oppose HSAs and various state agencies which determine at a bureaucratic level what health care facilities are "needed."

Fourth - we are opposed to state licensure of providers of health care. These licensing bodies not only restrict the number and variety of health care providers but through their close association with such groups as the AMA and ADA, lead to a restriction in the number of medical schools and the varieties of curricula offered. Innovation

(Continued on page 9)

Individual States Hold Key to LP Growth

(Continued from page 7)

Saturday, February 26 in Minneapolis-St. Paul, for libertarians from Minnesota and neighboring states. Featured speakers will include LP National Director Bob Meier (speaking on Speakers Bureaus, fundraising and the Libertarian Health Association) and Minneapolis public relations expert Rob Brown, who will offer advice on effective organization and public relations.

For information on this and other other LPM activities, please contact state chairman Dale Hemming, 5720 River Road, No. 303, Minneapolis, MN 55432 (612/561-1234 or 378-6494).

MISSISSIPPI

State chairman Charles Clark is a member of a speakers bureau organized at the college where he works, and is planning a schedule of speaking on libertarian topics to schools and civic organizations. He is also working on organizing a MLP Speakers Bureau.

YLA chapters have been formed at Mississippi State U. in Starkville and at the U. of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Some activities are planned for this Spring.

The ongoing party organization has been hampered by the fact that several of the key activists have moved out of the state. Nonetheless a state convention is planned for Jackson in the Spring.

For information, please contact Charles Clark, P.O. Box 143, Perkinston, MS 39573 (601/928-5211).

MISSOURI

For information on Missouri Libertarian Party activities and plans, please contact Carol Shultz, 911-D N. McKnight Rd., St. Louis, MO 63132 (314/997-3709).

Health Association Positions

(Continued from page 8)

in education techniques is thus effectively thwarted.

Fifth - we are opposed to any restriction on the ability of health care providers to advertise.

Sixth - we are opposed to restricting the availability of drugs by requiring prescriptions for their purchase.

Seventh - we are opposed to the FDA and especially the requirement that drugs be proven effective prior to their release.

Eighth - we are for the decriminalization of the use, possession and sale of marijuana, heroin and other such drugs as a proper extension of individual freedom of action.

Ninth - we are opposed to the involuntary commitment and treatment of the "mentally ill." We are opposed to those committing criminal acts pleading insanity in order to avoid prosecution for their acts.

Tenth - we favor passage of laws that would allow the creation of contracts calling for binding arbitration to settle disputes arising from alleged acts of malpractice.

To explain the rationale behind each of these stands would require much space. However, the basic principles of freedom of choice and personal responsibility for ones actions underly each of them.

Readers Note: Those desiring further information on the Libertarian Health Association may direct inquiries to Dr. Dallas Cooley, Libertarian Health Association, 1516 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

MONTANA

Montana libertarians are looking forward to a state LP convention now being planned. It will be held sometime in May at Montana State University in Bozeman.

For further information on the convention and other LPM activities, please contact Mona Brown, Route 4, Box 131, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406/587-7853).

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska LP is planning a state convention March 26, to be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn (72nd & Grover) in Omaha. This will be a working convention, with revision of the platform and constitution and election of new officers among the items on the agenda.

LPN leaders are now busy at the laborious task of revising and updating their mailing lists. They are planning to make personal contact with every person encountered during the hectic campaign, to seek new members and party workers. All individuals contacted will be invited to attend the convention. An appeal has been filed resulting from the LPN's challenge to Nebraska's election laws during the campaign. The case is now before the U.S. District Court in St. Louis, but no hearing date has yet been set.

In conjunction with all these activities, party members are working to get functioning organizations set up in each of Nebraska's election districts, both as an ongoing mechanism for recruiting new members, and so that campaign machinery will be in place for future elections.

For information on Nebraska LP activities, please contact Gale Arch at 1212 N. 52nd St., Omaha, NE 68132 (402/556-7425 or 341-7050).

NEVADA

Building on its remarkable successes at the ballot box, the Nevada LP is continuing to build its organization for future electoral successes. The Clark County (Las Vegas) LP is now undergoing a thorough reorganization which will include developing new methods of fundraising and specific assignment of responsibilities among party workers.

The state party has purchased the 32-minute version of "The Incredible Bread Machine" for use in evangelizing among prospective new members.

Once the Las Vegas reorganization is completed the party will turn its full efforts to getting the LP back on the ballot before the next elections. The goal is a Full Slate in '78.

Party members have been actively involved in writing letters to the editor of local newspapers. Some have been printed, although a few have been edited almost beyond recognition before being printed.

State chairman James Burns was recently invited to appear on a panel (along with a GOP and an IAP representative) which spoke to the Republican Central Committee. The event received good publicity, with one headline reading "GOP and Libertarians Don't Mix."

All things considered, Nevada libertarians are feeling optimistic and ready to get going with the task of making the LP the majority party.

The Nevada LP has a new address: 809 Cartier, No.K, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030. (702/642-7717).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire LP members are actively involved in planning for a New England regional Libertarian Conference, to be held either in April or June. The conference will feature panels on such topics as municipal issues, environment and pollution, gun control, taxation and nuclear energy, as well as a Libertarian Film Festival.

LP leader John Hilberg is organizing a legislative action group to begin lobbying activities in the state legislature.

For further information on the Conference or on other NHLP activities, please contact state chairman Bill Hunscher, P.O. Box 48, Milford, N.H. 03055 (603/889-5152 or 673-8283) or Kay O'Brien (603/889-5152).

NEW JERSEY

The 1977 elections for governor and local offices could prove extremely interesting for libertarians in New Jersey. Last year a state income tax was imposed on the state over active and popular protest from libertarians and others. This year's gubernatorial primaries in both major parties are likely to be bitter, leaving large numbers disaffected and disillusioned no matter how things turn out. A unified and powerful libertarian campaign could not only attract a large vote total, but important attention from national media in New York which also serve New Jersey.

The New Jersey LP is holding its state convention on February 26 at the Innwood Manor in Teaneck. Featured speaker will be Don Ernsberger, co-director of the Society for Individual Liberty, speaking on "The American Revolution Betrayed." Other scheduled speakers include Ralph Fucetola and Howard Katz. The convention will elect new officers for 1977-78 and also nominate candidates for governor, assembly and other local races.

The NJLP Voter Research Committee, chaired by Bill George, is analyzing the results of the 1973, 1975 and 1976 elections and will make recommendations for future NJLP campaigns.

For further information on NJLP activities, contact state chairman Ken Kaplan, 150 Cleveland St., A-2, Orange, N.J. 07050 (201/678-4988).

NEW MEXICO

The Libertarian Party of New Mexico has held two meetings in January. Major efforts are now concentrated on plans to build membership and preliminary steps for a ballot drive in 1978. A race for the governor's seat is possible.

The LPNM is also forming a Speakers Bureau to carry the libertarian message to other organizations.

For information, please contact state chairman Robert Foster, 9213 Cherokee, NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87111 (505/296-8262).

NEW YORK

A mini-convention or discussion group for upstate FLP members and sympathizers was held February 12 at the home of Ron Taylor in Baldwinsville. The format was an informal discussion of philosophical and practical problems in expanding libertarian influence.

LP members have recently had letters to the editor printed in Computerworld and the Village Voice (by Berl Kaufman, closing with "there is no freedom of expression without freedom of enterprise.")

Speaker for the March 1 meeting of the New York City FLP will be Jerry Klasman, author of *Living With Equals*, an individualistic guide to romantic love. The Queens County FLP is concentrating on recruiting candidates for upcoming local school board elections. The Genesee Region FLP is sponsoring a Libertarian Supper Club in February at Karl Brunner's home, with Prof. Dave Henderson speaking on Coal Mine Safety Regulations. Suffolk County had two meetings in January, one featuring Howard Katz speaking on his money book.

If you're in Manhattan, the Free

(Continued on page 10)

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A Role for Every LP Member this Year

(Continued from page 9)

Libertarian Party office at 15 West 38th St. is open every Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. on. Scheduled is anything that happens to need doing.

NORTH CAROLINA

State Chairman Arlan Andrews resigned in December (since his employment will be moving him to New Jersey) and the ExecComm elected vice chairman Lee Nicholson to be the new Chairman.

Lee has moved quickly to reestablish the NCLP's position on the North Carolina ballot. Under North Carolina law, since the party did not receive 10% of the vote it has ceased to be an "officially" recognized party.

On January 29 the LPNC held simultaneous press conferences in Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro and Charlotte to kick-off a petition drive to get the 10,000 signatures required to put the LP back on the ballot. The goal is to achieve ballot status in 1977, so that the party can concentrate on fund-raising, candidate recruitment and campaigns in 1978.

The LPNC now has a central telephone number in Raleigh—(919) 834-9538—which will be listed in city directories.

For further information about NCLP party activities write Box 2005, Century Station, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

NORTH DAKOTA

The LPND held a meeting February 6 at which new members joined and officers were elected. The meeting featured a showing of "The Incredible Bread Machine." Lowell Anderson was re-elected chairman, Chris Brekke was elected vice chairman, Joan Steffen was re-elected Executive Secretary and John Page was re-elected treasurer.

The party has experienced steady growth since the November election. It still has all the members who first started the state party organization, and twice as many new members have joined.

Some party members are looking into the possibility of a petition to get a "None of the Above" line placed on the North Dakota ballot.

For information on LPND, please contact Lowell Anderson, Route 1, Grafton, N.D. 58237 (701/352-1072).

OHIO

The LPO under Chairman Bob Lehman is already beginning preliminary organization for next year's ballot drive and an all-out effort to get a strong slate of LP candidates for local offices. LPO members are being urged to attend meetings of school boards, city councils, planning commissions and the like in order to be prepared for election campaigns which stress libertarian approaches to relevant local issues.

A new radio show, the Libertarian, is being syndicated in Ohio featuring LPO member Mark Kaufman as commentator. The first three shows, on the FCC, The Perfect Counterfeit and Public Schooling, have already been taped. 17 stations in Ohio are carrying the show.

Several LPO members have been active in presenting libertarian viewpoints on guest editorials for TV stations. State chairman Bob Lehman did an editorial in December blasting the Swine Flu Fiasco on two different Cleveland TV stations. LPO member Jorda Holtz recently did a TV editorial on the energy crisis in Cleveland. In January Bob Lehman spoke to the Cleveland Jaycees on the free economy.

LP members in Cincinnati and Cleveland have been writing letters to the editor to protest the conviction of *Hustler* publisher Larry Flynt on obscenity and conspiracy charges.

The LPO State Execom met February 20 at the clubhouse of Westbury Village, Columbus. Local LP meetings are also scheduled for February and March in Mayfield Heights, Chardon, Salem and

Cleveland.

LPO member Robert DeBrosse recently had an excellent letter to the editor on the energy crisis printed in the Piqua Daily Call. A partial quote: "The libertarian solution to our energy problem is a simple one. We must launch a massive program of deregulating America's energy industry. We must remove the shackles that bind a free market, in order to provide abundant energy at reasonable prices."

LPO is now conducting an aggressive membership drive. All interested may write to: Libertarian Party of Ohio, 77 Davenport Ave., Akron, Ohio 44312.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma LP members are now planning an active Tax Protest Day for April, in conjunction with several taxpayers and tax resistance organizations. Leaders are hopeful for a good turnout to let the IRS know we don't like them.

Plans are also being laid for a state LP convention to be held in May or June. Details will be forthcoming in the future.

Former state chairman Tom Laurent is the head of an active local LP organization in Logan County.

For further information on LPO activities, please write LPO, P.O. Box 60505, Oklahoma City, OK 73106, or contact state chairman John Aynesworth, (405/769-9270).

OREGON

The Libertarian Party of Oregon held its annual business convention on February 27, in Eugene.

A Libertarian Reference Center has been established at 385 E. 11th, Eugene. The Center also publishes the "Rebellion Report" at a subscription rate of \$10/year. They invite anyone in the area to stop in for a visit.

In December the LPO held a tri-county organizational meeting for Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties.

For further information on LPO activities, contact Richard Gray at the new Party headquarters—1226 E. 1st Street, Albany, OR 97321 (503) 928-5271.

PENNSYLVANIA

LPP membership has grown faster since the November elections than at any comparable period before the elections. The LPP newsletter, *Libertarian penn*, has concentrated on new threats to reinstitute a military draft being trial-ballooned in Washington, and hopes that principled libertarian opposition to the draft will provide a rallying point for further membership increases.

Dr. Allen Meltzer of Carnegie-Mellon University spoke to the LP of Western Pennsylvania at a dinner meeting held February 10 in Pittsburgh.

The central region LPP had a socializing and discussion meeting in York in January. Several new faces were noticed.

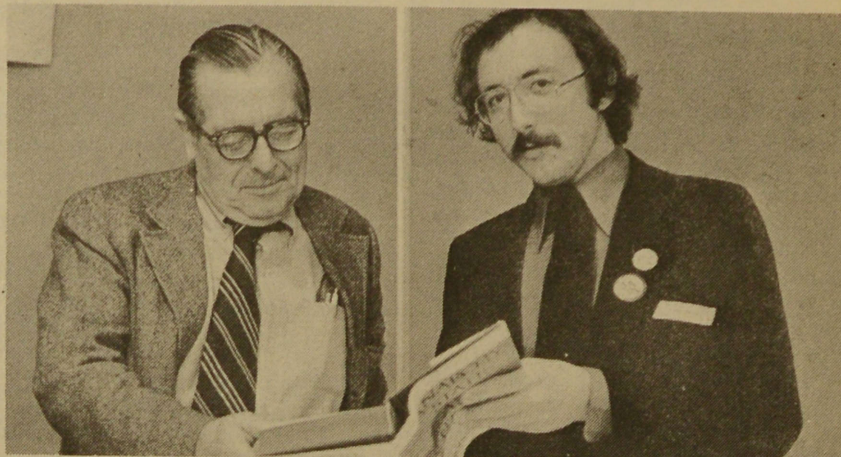
State Chairpeople and SIL execs are discussing the possibility of a regional conference/seminar to be held in Philadelphia in Spring, perhaps in conjunction with the LPP convention among other things.

LPP member Tony West has organized a Philadelphia area Objectivist Study Group. The first meeting, held at the home of Eastern Pa. LP Vice-Chair Frank Bubb, drew 32 people. For information on future meetings, you may contact Frank at 97 Dartmouth Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081.

For information on other LPP activities, please contact LPP Chair Joanne Chernow, 12G Lark Circle, York PA 17404.

RHODE ISLAND

The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island will hold an organizational meeting to adopt by-laws and a constitution, and to elect party officers and executive board, on March 12 at Asquino's Restaurant in East Providence. Scheduled speaker is Mr. Andrew Melechinsky, who heads up



James Hudler (r), Michigan LP Chairman delivers a presentation copy of *Anarchy, State and Utopia* to Richard Durant, in gratitude for his invaluable legal assistance to the MacBride Campaign in Michigan.

Photo by William Minard

"Constitutional Revival," an organization encouraging minimum government.

Tod Becker of the Brown University YLA was instrumental in setting up a debate between Dr. Murray Rothbard and a Brown University professor, scheduled for March 22. The topic of the debate is "Socialism vs. the Free Market."

For further information on LPR activities, write to Antonio Fioca, P.O. Box 657, Bristol, RI 02809. (401) 253-4027.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The SCLP is continuing an active program of meetings, discussions and public events. At the January SCLP meeting chairman Charles Blackwell led a discussion on libertarianism and Robert Clarkson showed the film "Adam Smith and the Wealth of Nations." Meetings are scheduled for Feb. 22 featuring Dr. Russell Shannon, economics professor as speaker, and for March 27, featuring USC law professor Thomas R. Haggard.

SCLP has also been holding Second Saturday Club meetings, featuring an inexpensive meal followed by intensive discussions of libertarian philosophy and issues. The meeting for February should be interesting. Members will draw a libertarian subject out of a hat and must then speak five minutes on the topic. Looks like fine training.

The SCLP state convention will be held Sunday, April 24 in Columbia. Final arrangements for a meeting hall have not yet been made, but details will be available soon from SCLP headquarters.

The SCLP is also planning to participate in the National Tax Protest Day on Saturday, April 9, in front of the IRS Building in Columbia.

The SCLP has a new address. For information contact Robert Clarkson, P.O. Box 96, Sumter, S.C. 29150.

Finally SCLP Chairman Charles Blackwell is compiling libertarian-oriented comedy material *a la* Lenny Bruce. He notes: "If the venture proves successful I will support in a financial manner organizations (libertarian) or individuals who contribute useable material." You may send suggestions to him at P.O. Box 732, York, S.C. 29745.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota LP members are planning to participate in the regional LP conference to be held in Minnesota February 26. The LPSD has completed its petition for National LP affiliation.

For information please contact state chairman Dave Ellis, 3914 W. Maine, Rapid City, S.D. 57701 (605/394-4839 or 348-5107).

TENNESSEE

The LPT held an Executive Committee meeting December 4 in Nashville. 16 committee members and activists attended, and took the following actions:

The 3rd regular annual LPT convention will be held in late March or early April in Knoxville. Final arrangements are to be made by Clinton Anderson.

The Tennessee Liberty Bell was revived as the official LPT party organ with Myrle Cardon as editor.

Secretary Roger Clark resigned and was replaced by John Lott, a Vanderbilt student, who will serve until the party convention.

John Lott, Roger Bissell, Clint Anderson and Jim Forester were appointed as a committee to seek a candidate for a local office, with the idea that the state party might concentrate on a single candidate with a chance of winning in 1977.

Upper East Tennessee libertarians met in Knoxville on December 21 and laid the groundwork for local LP organizing. Chattanooga area libertarians met January 6 for the same purpose.

The West Tennessee LP organized December 15 and began collecting signatures for a temporary charter for a Memphis State libertarian group. A meeting on January 19 in Memphis featured State Rep. Robert "Brad" Martin in an informal talk about the workings of state government.

Inquiries about LPT activities may be directed to Box 60347, Nashville, TN 37206.

TEXAS

The LPT's write-in campaign for national and local candidates was hampered not only by the closeness of the presidential race but by the fact that in many counties and precincts write-in votes were ignored altogether. Craig Miller in Dallas made a monumental effort to obtain complete write-in totals, but found that only 64% of the precincts even recorded write-ins. In Harris County (Houston) the figure was 33%. Therefore the initial unofficial count of 555 votes statewide for the MacBride-Bergland ticket is sketchy at best. More than 1,000 write-in votes may have been cast, but this estimate is unreliable. Incidentally, these Texas write-in votes were included in the national total of 183,187.

LPT officers have concluded that to have a serious impact ballot status is essential, and have launched an all-out campaign to achieve ballot status in Texas. Noting that in states where the LP had both ballot status and strong local candidates the local candidates usually out-poll the national ticket, they are also determined to field a strong slate of local candidates in upcoming elections.

According to LPT chairman Bill Howell, a telephone poll of Rob Harrison's state house district in Dallas is being organized, asking a few key questions designed to uncover latent libertarian sentiments. Promising respondents will be contacted with LP material, leading to the recruitment of more members and activists.

The LPT is also working in the state legislature to change the election code to make qualification by a third-party less onerous. In pursuit of this goal chairman William Howell made a presentation to the Texas Woman's Political Caucus in September, 1976, and through his strong efforts persuaded the TWPC to adopt a resolution supporting efforts to change the election code. This was an especially

(Continued on page 11)

State News

(Continued from page 10)

significant achievement, since before the LPT presentation most of the women had no idea how hard it was to achieve ballot status. A good libertarian presentation persuaded them to take a stand on an issue they would probably have ignored otherwise.

On December 20 Bill Howell and Margaret Bosse met with Sarah Weddington, member of the Election Commission and a legislator from Austin. She is going to work for election code revision. Hearings in the state legislature are scheduled to begin in February, and the LPT will be following them closely and applying pressure and persuasion as needed.

The Dallas County LP February meeting will feature a showing of "The Incredible Bread Machine." The Harris County LP meeting in February will feature the TV film "The Second Battle of Britain" as shown on CBS' "Sixty Minutes."

Dallas County has received sufficient funds and pledges to install a permanent LP telephone. In Harris County, LP member Charles Cottle generously donated a telephone answering device, so there is now 24-hour answering service at 477-8325.

For further information contact William Howell, P.O. Box 12618, Dallas, TX 75225.

UTAH

Near-term plans for the ULP revolve around the Rocky Mountain States regional conference, to be held April 9-10 at the Ramada Inn in Salt Lake City. The conference is only \$25 for the two days, and all are urged to attend. ULP members are working hard to make it a valuable and memorable event.

ULP Chairman George Chapman was the subject of a feature article in the Dauly Universe Monday Magazine (Provo) January 31. An objective, perhaps even sympathetic article illustrated by two photos quoted Chapman at length on the libertarian philosophy and the prospects for both the Utah and the national party.

Senate candidate Steve Trotter is writing a series of practical articles on running for office as a libertarian so that others may "go and do thou likewise." The articles appear in the ULP *Freedom Express*.

For information on ULP activities or the regional conference in April, please contact the ULP at P.O. Box 15506, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

VERMONT

Like the rest of the state the Vermont LP has been frozen for the last two months. Plans for future activities will follow after the Spring thaw.

For information, please contact state chairman George Trask, Hearthstone Village, S. Londonderry, VT 05155 (802/824-6893).

VIRGINIA

The VLP will have a newsletter started in a month or so, to improve communications among VLP members and reach out to others. The editor is Pamela Elliott.

State chairman Steve Beckner announces that plans are now being prepared for a state convention in May. Further details will follow in the future.

Having assessed the nearly prohibitive election code requirements for placing a statewide referendum on the ballot in 1977, the VLP has abandoned that effort, and will concentrate on improving the organization, educational activities and recruitment of new members during 1977.

VLP members have been active in the Libertarian Social Club which meets in the Virginia suburb of McLean at the Evans Farm Inn for dinner and speakers. The January meeting featured a debate on foreign policy, while the February meeting included a showing of "The Second Battle of Britain."

For information on VLP activities,

Speakers Bureaus: The Missing Link

Bob Meier

Effective Public Speaking

Even in this era of the electronic media and sophisticated direct mail techniques, the oldest of political tools, the speech, still plays an irreplaceable role in politics. And for the Libertarian Party speeches represent the very basis for recruiting new members, and for finding allies on specific issues. Equally important, public speaking is the perfect training ground for future candidates -- giving them early public recognition and the beginnings of a constituency while they sharpen their persuasive skills.

Learning is Easy

Contrary to popular opinion, effective public speaking can easily be learned by following a few basic rules. Most activists that have speaking experience say that it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience to introduce the public to libertarianism. Also, one need not have impressive academic credentials or be a prominent individual to be effective at the podium. In fact, many experts in public communication feel that the most effective speeches are given when the speaker comes from the same peer group or profession as the audience. High school and college students in particular have numerous opportunities to speak before classes and seminars within their own institutions, which usually works very well in recruiting new libertarians.

If public speaking is new to you, it is best to start with small groups until you have developed a speaking "style" and

contact Steve Beckner, 1603-A N. Van Dorn St., Alexandria, VA 22304 (202/393-1150).

WASHINGTON

The Party in Washington is now in the preliminary stages of finding a candidate and developing an effective campaign organization to run for the seat of Brock Adams, recently promoted (?) from Congressman to Secretary of Transportation by Jimmy Carter.

For information about this and other LPW activities, please contact state chairman Richard K. Kenney, Box 2096, Seattle WA 98111 (206/323-5221).

WEST VIRGINIA

State Chairman Dr. Harold E. Harvey was an active participant at the recent southern states libertarian conference in Miami. He was also a founding member of the Libertarian Health Association (see details elsewhere in this issue).

West Virginia libertarians have gathered enough signatures to apply for formal affiliation with the national LP. New activities are planned to increase the influence of libertarians in the state.

West Virginia libertarians and other interested parties may contact Harold E. Harvey, MD, 214 Professional Bldg., Beckley, W.V. 25801 (304/252-5343 or 253-6254).

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee area libertarians have formed a libertarian discussion group which began holding monthly meetings in December. The purpose is to pick some issues and determine how a libertarian would approach them and what types of arguments could be used in discussing the issue with non-libertarians.

Monthly meetings are being held in the Milwaukee area to plan future organizational activities for the Wisconsin and Milwaukee LP. For information, please contact T.L. Hytry, Chairman, WLP-Milwaukee, 2002 N. Cambridge, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

WYOMING

Activity in Wyoming has centered around planning for Spring membership drives and recruitment of possible candidates. Those interested in further information on LP activities are urged to contact Gary Roberts, 230 E. Jefferson, Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307/638-3077).

the self-confidence that quickly comes with a little experience. An ideal learning method is to gather together fellow libertarians and hold practice clinics where speeches are given, mock questions answered (an effective answer needs both good content and proper phrasing) and the performance is critiqued by others. These clinics will give everyone a very friendly environment in which learning mistakes can be made. If possible, invite a speech teacher to attend your sessions to give pointers and counsel. You can also enroll in a public speaking course but they usually go beyond ones need for the basics on public speaking.

Basic Guidelines

Following are the simple rules and guidelines that will help to make you an effective speaker:

1. Be appropriately dressed. This may or may not mean formal attire. Addressing the local sportsmens club after a monthly meeting and the Christmas banquet of the League of Women Voters obviously require different modes of dress. An excellent reference on proper wardrobe selection is "Dress for Success" by John Molloy, now available in paperback.
2. Prepare a neatly typed biography and background statement for the moderator to read.
3. Avoid opening a speech with contrived humor or a joke. Wit, clever understatement and movement cliches should always be avoided -- the risk of misunderstanding or offending is too great. Getting the audience's attention can best be done by a provocative statement or a citation of fact that will have a particular meaning to the group.
5. Develop the habit of making eye contact throughout the audience. This helps you to judge the mood of the audience and keep their attention.
6. Put an absolute time limit on any speech of 30 minutes, including the time allowed for a question and answer session. This rule may be stretched only for appearances in the classroom where sessions tend to be an hour. If interest is running strong at the end of the half hour, offer to continue the discussion after adjournment. If you strictly adhere to this important rule on brevity you will earn the eternal gratitude of your audiences and many invitations for return engagements.
7. Always send a formal thank you letter to the group after your appearance.
8. Have a sign-up sheet for persons desiring further information and whenever possible distribute a neatly assembled packet of information to the audience (no more than two or three items). Those exhibiting a strong interest should be personally recontacted within 72 hours.

As to the actual content of the speech itself the following guidelines are particularly important:

1. Keep the objectives of the speech simple and be careful not to try to convey too much information in a short period --

remember, at most you will talk for 25 minutes.

2. The content should be concrete, avoiding generalities, platitudes or again, libertarian cliches.

3. Adjust the speech to the educational level of the audience and be careful not to talk over or under your group.

Just prior to your appearance it is a good idea to send a short abstract of your speech along with a news advance to the local media. Include a photograph for the newspapers and don't forget to notify the free circulation, community shopping guides. Many times advance notice to the media will result in excellent coverage and almost an exact reprint of your notice.

Finding Engagements

Once you begin looking you'll find that even in small and medium sized communities the opportunities to speak become almost limitless. But it is best if your requests to speak are made in person and, most importantly, if your topics are timely and issue-oriented. The closer a topic is to the primary interest of a group the more likely you will have an opportunity to speak. Many organizations also have a policy about political speakers, so make every effort to specialize, topics and don't be afraid to select titles with a dramatic impact e.g., "The Gas Shortage -- Is Your Family's Food Next?", etc. When looking for opportunities to speak, don't turn down invitations to give short, informal talks after the close of a business meeting of some club or association. The relaxed atmosphere can make for a particularly effective presentation and is ideal for recruitment. In addition, seek every available opportunity to testify at public hearings and to submit editorial replies on radio and TV. Not only is this important in and of itself but it also helps to reinforce your public credibility, which is important when seeking major speaking engagements.

Conclusion

In conclusion, remember that many times you will be bringing totally new ideas to the public and can expect at times to meet strong emotional resistance to libertarian ideas. Be sure you are in a good frame of mind and always remain courteous and sincere in your presentation. Also, make doubly sure that personal prejudices about religion etc., do not work their way into your speech. Even the most professional of libertarian speakers cannot convince everyone or even one person every time they speak -- but important groundwork is always laid.

If readers desire further advice on public speaking or on getting involved in a libertarian speakers bureau, I encourage them to contact me at national headquarters. Developing a large body of effective spokespersons for the libertarian movement this year holds the very key to our continued growth and with few exceptions represents the most important project for all LP activists and organizations to consider.

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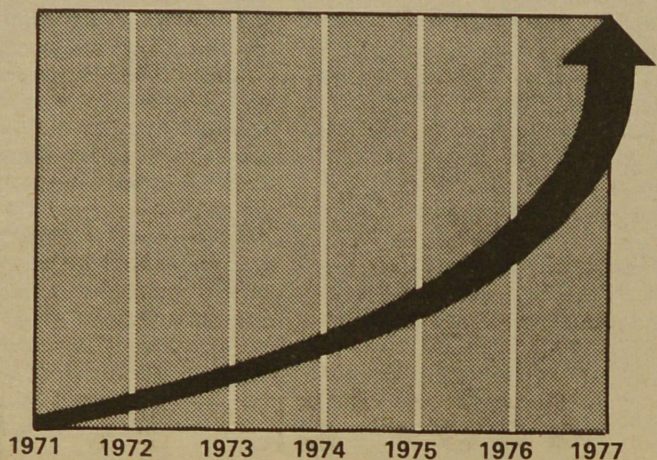
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