

The Free State News

Published as an Informational Service by the South Carolina Libertarian Party

Nation-states in War

MADE IN WAR is the mark of origin stamped upon all nation-states. Their size, their shape, their ethnic make up is the result of wars. There are virtually no frontiers today that are not the results of wars: world wars, colonial struggles, annexations by victors, wars against indigenous populations.

States were not created by reasonable negotiations based on ethnic or geographical characteristics. There is no mystic national soul that regroups those who belong together, nor is there any inherent right of a people to a homeland. The "right of national self-determination" exists only for the victors of wars. Frontiers are delimited by war and only changed by war. Those who today aspire to a national homeland or a state controlled by persons of their own ethnic group are those who yesterday lost wars.

If frontiers can be modified only by the victors of wars, then the importance of frontiers - and of states - must be diminished. Today, given the acute international tensions, it is virtually impossible to create a new nation state. Any division of an existing state is felt to be a loss of power - the new state a potential or actual enemy. The armed struggles and constant failures to create a Palestinian state, a Kurdish state, an Eritrean state, a Nabibian state are daily reminders that separation, the creation of new walls is not the way. Rather there must be new imaginative transnational forms of cooperation. What is needed are not new frontiers but new states of mind. (from *Transnational Perspectives*, an independent international journal of world concerns, Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneve 16, Switzerland).

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A short history of the South Carolina Libertarian Party

By John Harlee

I grew up in South Carolina, and I was 12 before I ever met a Republican. He was from North Carolina. I was 36 before I met another Libertarian: Rick Passotto and Don Stone, also from North Carolina. That was 1971; they had read some of my articles in *Libertarian Connection*. This was before the Libertarian Party was founded.

When the Libertarian Party was founded later that year, word did not get out here to the provinces for a while. When Charles Blackwell wrote in 1972 to Denver, he was told, "you are it." As far as I know, he and I were the only members in South Carolina in 1972.

The *South Carolina Libertarian Messenger* was founded in 1972 by David Rosinger in Atlanta. It is not and never has been the official S.C. Libertarian Party newsletter; however, we used to use it to print announcements in before and between party newsletters. There was an objectivist newspaper, *The New Banner*, in Columbia in 1972-73, put out by Michael Oliver, David Kenison, Don Stone and others. The truly lurid history of the New Banner Institute is something I will tell you about another time, maybe. In 1973 David Rosinger abandoned the *Messenger*, and I took it over, coming out, mimeographed every month.

At this point we had a newsletter, but no South Carolina Libertarian Party, although Charles Blackwell had been appointed acting chairperson, and was seeking out other libertarians by putting advertisements in newspapers.

In 1974 I went to Atlanta to computer training school and managed to attend a meeting of the Georgia Libertarian Party. At this time, Georgia and Florida were the only states organized in the deep South.

In January, 1975, after Charles Blackwell invited everyone to meet at Ben Robinson's house in Rock Hill. Charles, Ben and I showed up.

The organizational meeting was held Sunday, September 21, 1975 at the Carolina Inn in Columbia; Brian Donerly came up from Tampa to help us get organized; there were also 4 visitors from Charlotte who later helped organize the North Carolina Libertarian Party. There were only 9 South Carolinians of the 11 present who joined; Robert Clarkson, for example, who was there was still an officer of the Young Democrats in Sumter County in the Spring of 1976.

The original officers were Charles Blackwell, chairperson; John Harlee, vice-chairperson; Dargan Clarkson, secretary; and Ben Robinson, treasurer. Lucien Bruno became the first chairperson of the ballot drive, which lasted 3 years and 4 months, a record. Ron Holland, who later became our treasurer and Marshall Danenburg who became treasurer and chairperson later were also there, as well as several others whom we never saw again.

Subsequent chairpersons of the Party were Lee Muller, Charles Blackwell again, Marshall Danenburg, Lee Bowie, Tom Waldenfels, Steve Kreisman, and Ronald Heaton. In 1976 Dargen Clarkson resigned as secretary; I became secretary and Dr. James Rinehart became vice-chairperson. I have been secretary ever since. We have had a number of vice-chairpersons, including 3 at one time once, including Lee Muller, Lee Bowie, Darlyn Hamblin, Ronald Heaton, and Bill Brooks. Other treasurers have been Lee Muller, Debbie Muller, and David Morris.

The petition drive was coordinated at various times by Charles Wimberly, Robert Clarkson, and Marshall Danenburg. In January, 1979, we attained permanent ballot status as one of 6 recognized parties in South Carolina.

In 1976 we held our first statewide convention, in Sumter, with Raymond Schwartz, the present speaker of the S.C. House, as featured speaker, as well as several libertarian speakers, such as Jim Clarkson of Georgia. We also ran our first candidate that year, as a write-in: Charles Blackwell for Congress in the Fifth Congressional District. To our surprise, he was invited to debate on WIS-TV with the official candidates: Ken Holland, Bobby Richardson, and Charles Hough of the American Party. He got only a scattering of write-ins. In 1976 we also ran our first slate of presidential electors as write-ins, and got fewer than 50 votes: it was necessary to write in the names of the 8 electors in order, and only 1 newspaper in the state published the list.

In 1977 Charles Blackwell ran again, as a write-in, for state senate in a special election. There was only one candidate on the ballot, and Charles got a surprising 9 percent of the vote. In 1977 we also held our second convention, in Columbia, and wrote our first state platform. This was one of the last conventions of the Wade Hampton Hotel before it became a dormitory.

In 1978 we held an outdoor convention at Myrtle Beach and ran our first statewide candidate: Phil Dematteis for Governor. Again we got TV coverage on the ETV debate with official candidates, Richard Riley (D) and Ed Young (R). We finally turned in the petitions we had been accumulating for 3 years in September, 1978, but not in time to get on the ballot. Dr. Dematteis got about 600 write-in votes.

In 1979 we held a joint convention with North Carolina Libertarians, with the workshops and speakers in Charlotte on Saturday and the business meeting in York, South Carolina, Sunday.

Also in 1979 we got on the ballot, as all 46 counties verified our petitions, and the state election commission certified the result.

In 1980 we ran our first "official" candidates for presidential electors. Under the rules at the time, voters voted for each elector, and could - and sometimes did - split their ballots. Our electors received an average of 9,711 for Ed Clark for President, with the highest total being 9,888.

Bob Budnek was chairperson of the Clark For President committee which wrote and aired its own radio spots. The Republicans had not gotten 10,000 votes in South Carolina until 1956.

In 1980 we held our first "official" convention, at the Capitol Inn in Columbia. In addition to naming presidential electors, we ran our first Congressional candidates: Lee Muller got 1,133 votes in the Third District, Tom Waldenfels got 6,984 votes in the Fourth District, and Tom Campbell got 14,191 votes in the Fifth District. Campbell's vote, in a 2-way race, was 12.5 percent, the second highest by any Libertarian congressional candidate in the nation.

In local races, Charles Blackwell scored a first in finishing second in a 3-way race for county council in York county, the first time that had happened outside Alaska, with 22.4 percent. The candidates for the General Assembly, Lee Bowie in District 3 got 13.1 percent, and Susan Teese in District 30 got 8.4 percent in a two-way race and Bruce Knight got 1.7 percent in a 3-way race in District 99.

In 1981 the big news was that Marshall Danenburg was elected to the town council of Elgin with 49 percent of the vote in a 4-way non-partisan race. This was not only the first in South Carolina, but the first Libertarian in the deep South, to be elected. Michael Carruth became the second the next year, when he was elected to the town council in Landrum.

All along we had been running a booth at the state fair, campaigning for the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law, campaigning for repeal of the Blue Laws, and organizing tax protests.

In 1982 we ran our first "official" statewide candidates: Jan Chapman got 42,097 for Secretary of State, Tom Waldenfels got 34,988 for Treasurer, and Richard Winchell got 39,998 for Comptroller General, all in two-way races. In the First Congressional District, Walter Smith got 971 votes in a three-way race, Gordon Davis got 8,214 in the Third Congressional District in a two-way race. Several of the local candidates: David Rosser and John Harlee in Florence County and Steve Kreisman in Spartanburg County, got 8 percent or 9 percent in races for General Assembly in two-way races.

The 1983 convention was held at the Carolina Inn in Columbia, and featured a replay of the 1983 convention. We also had our first contested nomination: Steve Davis beat Dean Allen, 46 to 7 for the nomination to U.S. Senate. In the General Election, Davis got 13,333 votes for 1.4 percent, finishing third, after the most extensive campaign Libertarians have waged in South Carolina.

The Bergland - Lewis ticket got 4,359 for 0.5 percent, finishing 3rd among 5. Both candidates came to South Carolina, with David Bergland speaking at the April convention, and Jim Lewis at the second convention, and Jim Lewis at the second convention in August, called to nominate additional candidates.

Imports

by William McCuen

How many of us would be willing to support the protection of U.S. Industries from foreign competition if we had some idea of the real cost?

For those who prefer numbers to theory, consider that we may be paying as much as \$70 billion this year alone in higher prices for consumer goods as a direct consequence of protectionist trade laws. For every job saved in a protected industry, 8 American workers may be put out of work! Such are the conclusions of two recent studies that attempted to estimate the cost of political manipulations in international trade such as tariffs and import duties and quotas.

One study entitled "The Cost of Protectionism: Estimates of the hidden tax of trade restraints" was conducted by economist Michael C. Minger at Washington University's Center for the Study of American Business. He calculates that the direct cost alone for consumers in 1980 was about \$58.4 billion or an average of "at least \$225.00 per person." He points out that this does not include the less accountable long run cost of misallocated resources and forgone opportunities for more efficient and innovative industries.

Mr. Munger's \$58.4 billion figure is for the last year of the Carter administration. In a recent New York Times article of the Reagan administration's pursuit of "voluntary restraint agreements" that have raised the price of cars, batteries, dairy products, mushrooms, televisions, tin and textiles, Munger said the total cost of protectionism "may exceed \$70 billion this year," with no gain in American jobs.



Civil Liberties

Most people, on first hearing the name "Libertarian", probably sense that this point of view stands in some special relation to the idea of personal freedom. In brief, Libertarians maintain that there should be no interference by force (that means, primarily, through government action) in the right of adult men and women to live their lives in their own way, so long as they themselves refrain from coercion. Period. No government official has the right to interpose themselves in a situation freely chosen and structured by one or more persons who are not violating the equal freedom of others.

Libertarians think that if this principle were applied across the board, not only would a vast weight of oppression be lifted from the everyday lives of millions of Americans, but, in addition, we would be on the way to building the most richly diversified and most creatively experimental society that history has ever known, a civilization that would dignify all who had a hand in it. Consider the following positions:

FREEDOM OF SPEECH - Total freedom of speech and the press, subject only to libel and slander laws, narrowly defined, and laws regarding situations of immediate "clear and present danger" to life and property. In a nation conceived in liberty, there must surely be a stop to government harassment of publications and their readers because of the publications' political, religious, moral, or ethical content, as well as the police surveillance of legal political organizations and activities. In all of these questions, the spirit of the Bill of Rights, interpreted in the broadest sense, should prevail.

SEXUAL FREEDOM - All laws regarding the private sexual conduct of consenting adults (with the age of consent reasonably defined and identical for males and females) should be repealed. Prostitution should be made legal and brought under the ordinary commercial code (this is another example of a 'problem' whose solution lies simply in the government getting its nose out of people's personal business).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS - Libertarians are individualists, and respect for people as individuals is for us a very high value. Thus, cultural movements that aim to liberate individuality tend to be welcomed as allies. Specifically, we favor full equality of rights for women and the abolition of the residues of centuries-old government-sponsored discrimination, including unequal access for women to the protection of the criminal justice system.

UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED - The immediate release of all persons presently detained or imprisoned for victimless crimes, that is, for crimes in which the rights of no other individuals were violated. There are many thousands of these persons, and the continuing deprivation of their liberty, since the "crimes" they committed are purely fictitious, is a terrible injustice.

INVOLUNTARY HOSPITALIZATION - The immediate end of involuntary mental hospitalization. The Libertarian view is that people have a right to be just as unconventional as they wish, so long as they do not infringe on the rights of others. Those who do so infringe ought to be dealt with according to established legal methods of handling infractions of the criminal code, with the legal safeguards for the accused built into those methods.

DRUG CONTROL - Total freedom of cultivation, manufacture, sale and use of drugs by adults. This would include the end of medical prescription requirements for obtaining drugs, vitamins and similar substances (although manufacturers who fraudulently label their products would be subject to prosecution), and, naturally, the abolition of penalties on the pleasure drugs used by so many millions of Americans. Our position is that we neither recommend nor advise against the use of any chemical substance, since this is simply not a political question. Rather, part of the dignity of a free, self-determining adult is the acknowledged right to ingest whatever materials one chooses.

Two points to notice, however: first, as with alcohol use, persons will still be held responsible for actions committed under the influence of drugs; and second, no one is to receive drugs free of charge (as in heroin - "maintenance" programs) - just as nicotine "addicts" do not receive free cigarettes.

Everyone agrees that drugs are a serious "problem" in the United States - much as conflicting religions were in Europe a few centuries ago. The Libertarian Party is the only political party which says that the solution to this "problem" lies in the freedom of the individual.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION - The end of government-funded "behavior modification" research and programs. Human dignity for convicted criminals requires sure, humane and determinant punishment, not the engineering of their souls by government psychiatrists.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION - Abolition of compulsory education laws. The freedom of children is inevitably restricted in many ways; laws compelling them to undergo formal education are a completely avoidable restriction. Here the Libertarian approach comes close to that of "New Left" educational theorists such as Ivan Illich and John Holt. Like them we emphasize that real learning and growth cannot flourish in an environment where the alternative is to go to jail.

GUN CONTROL — Gun control is an abrogation of the individual's right of self defense, and a disarmed public is at the mercy of criminals or a criminal government. Therefore, Libertarians oppose gun registration or confiscation.

These, then, are some of the specific areas in which we believe that the principle of personal liberty is at stake and must be defended.

Privacy invasion & selective slavery

Keeping a free country free is the responsibility of everyone living within its boundaries, reaping the benefits of that freedom. The patriots who founded the United States over 200 years ago realized that free American citizens would always accept this responsibility and rush to defend their country whenever necessary, so they purposely did not provide for a military draft in the U.S. Constitution. And sure enough, every time our nation has actually had to defend itself, the military has been swamped with more volunteers than it could use.

The draft has been necessary only when the government has become involved in wars that large numbers of people did not believe in, particularly during conflicts where it became clear we were not really defending ourselves of our freedoms, but rather were fighting for the benefit of big business or big politics.

The worst part about setting up a draft system in this country is the contradictions that go with it. In order for it to work, millions of men will have to be robbed of their "inalienable" rights and freedoms that are supposed to make America worth defending in the first place!

The central purpose of registration is to enable the government, at some later date, to violate your most important right of all: the property right to your own body. Those "selected" by the SSS will in effect be "owned" by the government for a period of up to several years.

During that time you will be forced to do exactly as your masters tell you (and you may be sent home in a box) for causes that you may not even support or care about. In other words, you will be victims of "selective slavery."

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History...Continued from page 1

All 5 Congressional candidates finished 3rd in 1984, but in the 5th District the second place finisher was from the American Party. Cynthia Sullivan got 2010 votes (1.2 percent) in the Second District, Robert Madden got 1510 (1.0 percent) in the Third District, Ray Pike got 1431 (0.9 percent) in the Fourth District, Linda Blevins got 4185 (4.1 percent) in the Fifth District, and Hugh Thompson got 2050 (1.3 percent) in the Sixth District.

We ran our first candidates for the State Senate in 1984: Howard Johnson got 4.8 percent in Senate District 4 despite being left off the ballot in Abbeville County precincts; Wayne Crews was put off the ballot in Greenwood County for being too young but left on in McCormick County Senate District 10; Steve Vandervale got 1.3 percent in Senate District 21 behind a write-in for a Democrat who had lost in the primary; Ronald Heaton got 1.1 percent in a three-way race in Senate District 27; Mitch Olinger got 6.7 percent in a two-way race in Senate District 29.

We have come a long way in 10 years. We have even farther to go in the next ten.

By John Harllee, Secretary of the South Carolina Libertarian Party, Editor of the Southern Libertarian Messenger.

Helping ourselves:
Local solutions
to global problems

People around the world are struggling with problems that seem beyond their control: incessant inflation, tightening energy supplies, and a deteriorating environment. Although these problems are global in scope, Bruce Stokes of Worldwatch Institute, Washington, D.C., argues that their solutions lie at the local level - where the consequences are most obvious, the motivation to get involved is most direct, and the benefits of action are most immediate.

This book refutes the assumption that people can only obtain their good health from a doctor and their energy from a corporation. Individuals and communities who have begun to conserve energy and to use solar power have reduced their vulnerability to energy price rises and oil shortages. Personal changes in diet and exercise habits in affluent countries and community preventive health measures in the Third World have done more to improve people's health in recent years than have investments in hospitals and medical technology.

Stokes challenges the conventional wisdom that bureaucratic and professional elites need to play an ever more powerful and intrusive role in people's lives. In surveying the fields of energy, population, housing, food, health, and employment around the world, he demonstrates that through local self-help efforts individuals, neighborhoods, and community organizations can control problems rather than be controlled by them. In so doing, people can begin to change society from the bottom up.

"The politician in me has never dominated a single decision of mine, and is I seem to take part in politics, it is only because politics encircle us today like the coil of a snake from which we cannot get out, no matter how much one tries. I wish therefore to wrestle with the snake."

- M.K. Gandhi

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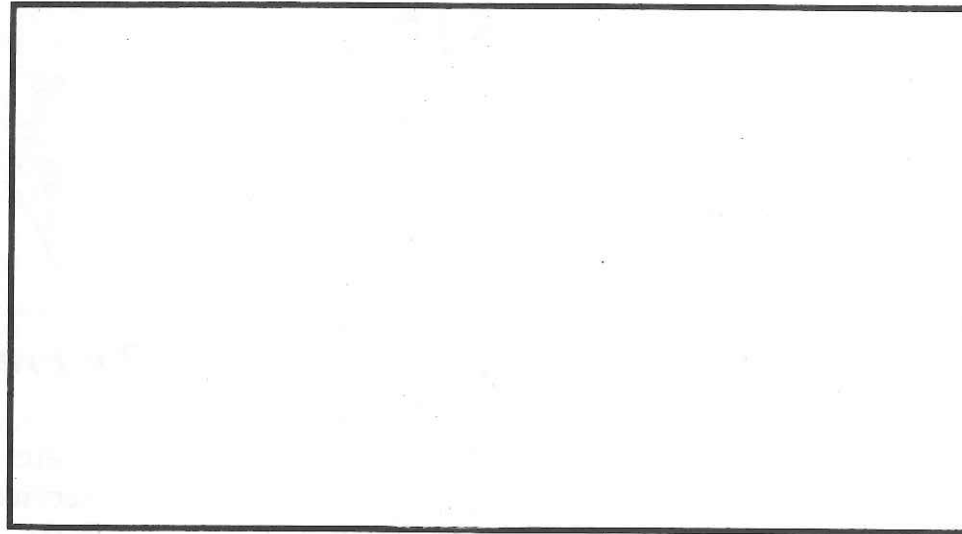
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