

Crane Urges LP to Learn Issues and Take Initiative

FROM THE CHAIR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—To the relief, no doubt, of thousands, I herewith submit my final "From the Chair" column. It's been three years since I was first elected National Chairman of the LP and for me they've been three fascinating--albeit very long--years. It is the custom for "farewell" columns to look approvingly over past accomplishments and modestly pat one's self on the back for a job well done. Since space limitations prevent me from doing an adequate job in this regard, I shall turn instead to the direction in which we must head in the future.

First and foremost, Libertarian Party activists must start doing their homework on current public policy issues. The days of fun and games should be over if we intend to continue to grow as a political party. In the 1976 election we proved we were capable of serious political organizing and proselytizing. What we have not yet proven to the outside world is that we have a solid background in and knowledge of the issues of the day.

Part of the problem stems from the fact that because libertarians think in terms of principles we often take shortcuts in coming to conclusions on public policy questions. Of course, this is perfectly legitimate--we know, for instance, that in principle government has no right to force us into a federal retirement plan called Social Security. Why then bother gathering

the facts about the System's current financial status or the history behind the legislation that created it? It's not going to change our position on the subject, is it?

No, it won't. But such information is vital for us to become an effective participant in this nation's political debate. Party leaders and candidates who will be speaking before the public and who will be interviewed on radio and television talk shows and by the print media must have facts and figures to back up their arguments if they expect to have their ideas taken seriously.

No person has done more for the Libertarian Party than Roger MacBride but it is nonetheless fair to say that his campaign suffered from his emphasis on a "tripod" of basic issues at the expense of more specific commentaries on current events. The same, unfortunately, can be said for the majority of our candidates across the country.

The issues on which LP candidates should increase their store of knowledge include particularly those that are capable of winning support from liberals. I've commented many times before in this column on the bankruptcy of the modern conservative movement. It is shrinking in roughly the same proportion that its policies become more statist. Those few conservatives who truly believe in the free market will eventually realize that libertarianism is the only viable option left open to them.

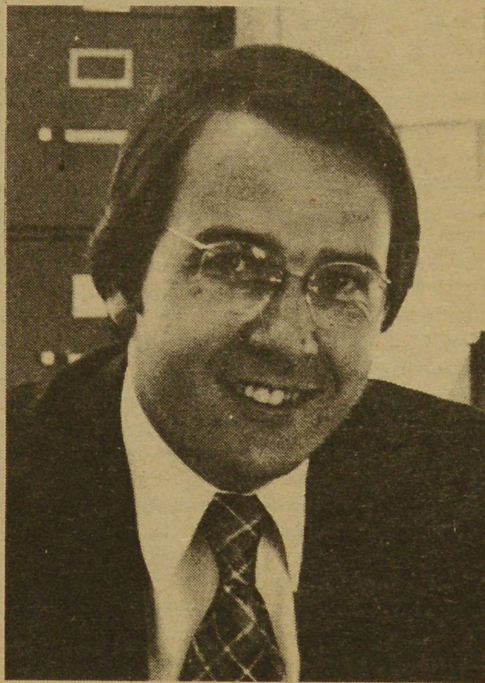
For libertarianism to gain significant strength in this country we are going to have to make inroads among those on the

political left. That will require our being able to demonstrate the humanistic orientation of our philosophy. We must know the facts concerning government's suppression blacks (e.g. the Mississippi anti-boycott laws), the specific examples of how the regulatory bureaus protect big business from smaller competitors and understand the origins of the Cold War and the implications of our non-interventionist foreign policy.

The point is that there is never any excuse for libertarians to be on the defensive on *any* important public policy issue. If we take the time and make the effort to arm our principles with facts that relate to real world situations the future growth of the Libertarian Party will continue unabated.

The second important area in which we need to improve our efforts is that of the local party organization. We have sufficient numbers and adequate financial support to have an effective decentralized organization. What we are lacking so far is the commitment from enough LP members to roll up their sleeves and put in a few hours of hard work for the Party each week. Don't wait for others to tell you what to do. Take the initiative and start a local party group that sends out news releases, prints and distributes literature and gets its members on radio and television talk shows.

The time has never been more ripe for the libertarian philosophy to be adopted--never in the history of mankind. The left and the right are floundering in the wake of their misguided policies. The opportunity is ours if we will but seize it.



ED CRANE

Editor's Note - This July, Ed Crane will step down as National Chairman. Under his leadership the LP grew to become the third largest party in the country and reached a level of professionalism few expected could be attained in such a short time. In his final column for the LP News, Crane stresses the importance of knowing the issues, and taking the initiative on the local level. Libertarians can best show their personal gratitude for his contributions by taking a more active role in LP activities.

New England Libertarian Conference

June 24 through 26 found libertarians from New England and elsewhere trekking to Bedford, New Hampshire to participate in the first major regional Libertarian Party activity held in New England. What nearly 100 participants found was an unusual diversity of veteran activists and newcomers working together in an informal manner which bodes well for the future of the libertarian community in New England.

The conference began Friday evening with the showing of several films, including "The Incredible Bread Machine," "The Second Battle of Britain" and "Adam Smith." Saturday morning, after welcoming remarks from New Hampshire state chair Bill Hunscher, the conferees considered two approaches to lowering taxation. Don Feder, of Citizens for Limited Taxation in Massachusetts discussed the initiative to limit state taxes to a certain percentage of income. Then Glenn Jackson of the National Taxpayers Union discussed NTU's initiative to pass a Constitutional Amendment to require a balanced federal budget. A resolution calling for a new constitutional convention to consider this amendment has already passed the legislatures of 22 states, and support for the amendment is growing in Congress. A lively discussion of the two approaches ensued.

Colin Campbell, economics professor at Dartmouth, then presented the results of a

paper which compared the state governments of New Hampshire and Vermont. Although Vermont has higher and more taxes, Campbell contends that New Hampshire provides more and better public services.

Following lunch on Saturday, LP National Director Bob Meier gave a presentation on the horrors of socialized medicine, followed by an analysis of the economics of the energy "crisis" by Dr. David Henderson of the University of Rochester. The afternoon concluded with a roundup of libertarian activities around the country by a panel including LP News Editor Alan Bock, Georgia LP Chairman Jim Clarkson, NHLP chairman Bill Hunscher, New England LP Regional Rep. David Long of Boston and Bob Meier. The general conclusion was that a lot more libertarian activity is occurring than most people were aware of.

Saturday evening was given over to a buffet dinner featuring 1976 LP Presidential candidate Roger MacBride, fresh from an interview with *Hustler* magazine publisher Larry Flynt and full of anecdotes about the adventures of the previous year. The emphasis on informality was maintained as all speakers were distributed at different tables to facilitate informal discussions, which lasted long into the night.

Sunday morning featured workshops on writing to editors, (Carl Helmers), lobbying legislators (Alan Bock), claiming your

rights in court (Andrew Melechinsky), getting a balanced budget amendment passed (Glenn Jackson), doing a radio talk show (David Long) and "waging guerrilla warfare in local politics (Jim Clarkson). The afternoon was devoted to nuts-and-bolts planning and organizing by Maine, Vermont, and coordinated New England libertarians and the Libertarian Health Association.

The conference was also attended by Robert Champlin and several other members of the Quebec Libertarian Party. In addition Art Ketchen and Jim Pinard updated the attendees on progress in the Bealend case, in which NHLP members have formed a defense fund to protect parents who want to take their children out of public schools and discontinue paying school taxes. Lawyers are active in the case and the Bealends are looking toward carrying the matter through, with any luck, to a landmark decision in the Supreme Court.

The conference succeeded in getting together a relatively large number of New England libertarians and attracted some attention in the media, including a favorable article in Sunday's Boston Globe. The chief organizing talents behind the conclave were John Hilberg, Marc Travis and Kate O'Brien. The result was encouragement and renewed enthusiasm among New England libertarians.

The Libertarian Party News
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Washington Watch

Alan Bock

NO LACK OF ISSUES

AIRLINE REGULATORY REFORM AT CRUCIAL PHASE

It's been a busy several months, and there are several ongoing activities of interest to libertarians in Washington now. Perhaps the most significant is the push for airline regulatory reform. Letters to your Senator and to Sen. Warren Magnuson, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, would be especially helpful now.

Here's how things stand. Last year Sens. Kennedy and Cannon introduced legislation to reform the Civil Aeronautics Board's regulation of the domestic airlines industry. Hearings, testimony and years of economic studies had finally convinced these Senators that the CAB maintains artificially high prices and stifles competition in the field.

The Cannon-Kennedy bill (S. 689) was the basis for hearings held in April (Libertarian Advocate testified in favor of abolishing the CAB.) Opposition to the mild reform embodied in S.689 arose from most airlines and airline employees unions. So a group of reform-minded souls formed the Ad Hoc Committee for the Airline Regulatory Reform (P.O. Box 19029, Washington, D.C. 20036).

This is an astounding coalition. Members include the Aviation Consumer Action Project, American Conservative Union, Congress Watch, Common Cause, National Taxpayers Union, Sears, Roebuck & Co., National Association of Manufacturers, Public Citizen, Natl. Industries Traffic League, Libertarian Advocate, Natl. Assn. of Counties — and the list goes on and on.

Unfortunately the Ad Hoc Committee, for all its diversity of organizational support, has not been able to generate as many cards, letters and telegrams to the Senate in favor of reform as the airline companies and unions have been able to generate against reform. Meantime the Commerce Committee staff has produced a new draft of the bill which retreats even from the original bill and includes a number of ambiguities which could leave CAB power virtually untouched. The airlines and unions are putting maximum pressure on the Senate. If there is to be *any* reform (let alone the complete deregulation which libertarians would prefer) there must be evidence of public support for airline regulatory reform. This means cards, letters, telegrams and phone calls to Senators, especially to members of the Senate Commerce Committee.

The following Senators seem to be especially in need of evidence of support — to one degree or another they have indicated an interest in reform but have been impressed by the deluge of mail against reform and the paucity of support for reform: Stevenson of Illinois (and to some extent Percy), Danforth of Missouri, Mel-

cher of Montana, Curkin of New Hampshire. Letters to Warren Magnuson, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee would also be helpful.

If you do write letters, sending copies to Libertarian Advocate (P.O. Box 3117, Falls Church, VA 22043) would be helpful. We can use them in personal lobbying, multiplying their effectiveness.

Regulatory reform is admittedly a touchy subject for libertarians. We would rather abolish regulatory agencies outright. A good case can be made that "reforming" them will reduce public outcry for abolition, convince the more apathetic members of the public that the regulatory system isn't so bad after all, and assure that it will be another 20 years before the Congress takes a new look at the agency.

On the other hand, abolition of the CAB has no chance of passing in the current Congress. Some kind of reform does, and with the right kind of pressure it can be a real rather than cosmetic reform. Reforming the CAB will give the regulatory reform movement momentum for further efforts. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee are already talking about staying together and going after the Interstate Commerce Commission next.

If you can find it in your heart to support the first step of airline regulatory reform, now is the time to write to your Senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510). The House will start holding hearings later in the Summer, and we'll keep you informed of progress there.

NEW DRAFT?

There has been little said recently about a new draft on its monster cousin, compulsory national service. Contacts with the Senate Armed Services Committee indicate that they're getting a steady flow of letters against the draft, and they haven't yet introduced legislation or scheduled hearings on the subject. We remain convinced that there exists a powerful bureaucrat-Pentagon-legislative axis which is committed to the idea of compulsory national service and which is willing to be quite patient in implementing its ideas.

Some countermoves have begun. A group representing conscientious objectors, libertarians, conservatives and Ripon Republicans has begun the preliminary organization of a committee against compulsory service. Plans are to maintain a low profile until pressure for a draft or national service begins to get heavy, and then move into action quickly when the issue becomes critical.

TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES TO POLITICIANS

Most aspects of the Carter electoral "reform" package (instant voter registration, Hatch Act liberalization, electoral college abolition and public (taxpayer) financing of elections) are moving very

slowly through Congress. The single proposal most repugnant to libertarians, taxpayer financing of political campaigns, is scheduled for House committee action in August. Common Cause is making this their first priority for this session of Congress, so there will be plenty of pressure on Congress to do what many of them would like to do anyway.

Besides the libertarian objections to being forced to pay for the campaigns of politicians whom we despise, there are numerous other objections to this scheme. Incumbent Congressmen already enjoy an advantage over challengers, which public financing and spending limitations would reinforce. The effect on independent or third-party candidates could be devastating. You may be sure that once the government starts paying for political campaigns, it won't be long before it's calling the tune.

Letters against taxpayer subsidies to politicians should be sent to your Congressman now, perhaps followed up later. A letter to Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), Chairman of the House Administration Committee, could also be useful (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515).

H.R. 7010 — WILL IT SMOTHER RESTITUTION?

Most libertarians are familiar with the concept of restitution as a method of dealing with crime and its victims. Under

restitution the criminal is made to repay the victim for losses and damages suffered due to an act of aggression, fraud or theft. Several states, including Oklahoma, Minnesota, Georgia and Virginia are now experimenting with restitution programs, and the results have been generally favorable.

There's another approach to compensating victims of crime, more favored by statist of various ilk. This is compensation by the taxpayers. This system is also receiving trial runs in several states. It's more expensive for the new victim (the taxpayer) and it creates incentives for fraud while creating disincentives for catching criminals.

Naturally, Congress is just about ready to pass a bill which employs the taxpayer-compensation approach. If H.R. 7010 passes, granting federal matching funds to states which start taxpayer-compensation programs, it could smother the early experiments in restitution before they have a chance for a fair trial run.

H.R. 7010 sailed through the House Judiciary Committee, and has been ready for action by the full House for some time. Action has been delayed several times, however. By the time you read this it may have already passed the House and be ready for Senate consideration. However, letters to House members and Senators would be helpful.

Laissez Faire
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LP NEWS

LP NEWS is published bimonthly by the National Headquarters of the Libertarian Party, 1516 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Subscription price \$3 per year — included in membership dues.

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Twentieth Century Slavery?

Bill Evers

In recent weeks, a coalition of militarists and welfare-state liberals has been trying to bring back the draft. The militarists like Sen. John Stennis (D--Miss.) and Sen. Sam Nunn (D--Ga.) have always favored the draft both as a way of building a large standing army while only paying out what are literally slave wages and as a way in which military values could be instilled in the civilian population.

Harold Brown, the new Defense Secretary, has said he hopes to reduce the budget costs of manpower as a way of meeting Carter's now deferred pledge to cut defense spending. One way to do this would be by imposing a hidden tax on young men through forcing them to work and paying them less than competitive wages.

Similarly, welfare statisticians like HEW Secretary Joseph Califano oppose paying soldiers prevailing market wages. They would prefer to than assign these funds to programs managed by HEW officials.

Furthermore they contend that in fragmented modern society only a draft can instill morals, manners, and allegiance to the government in new generations. They explicitly reject the libertarian view that voluntary groups like the family, church, and fraternal groups can perform the task.

National Service

Moreover, in addition to revival of the military draft, some commentators and politicians like California Gov. Jerry

Brown are proposing extension of the conscription principle in the form of National Service--a compulsory youth labor program.

(Jerry Brown appears to have a penchant for conscription as a solution to social problems. During the medical malpractice controversy, Brown proposed drafting doctors for service to the poor.)

A major ideological source of opposition to a volunteer military is a political tradition going back to Machiavelli. Those adhering to this Machiavellian tradition distrust a volunteer military because they distrust cash payments, professionalism, and the functional division of labor, particularly with regard to anything connected with political life.

Machiavellian Tradition

Conscription proponents of the Machiavellian tradition see the best society as the heavily politicized regimes of ancient Greek city-states or of the Roman republic. Hence, for them, vigorous citizen participation in war and in government-approved civic action is more important than personal freedom and individual rights.

The modern-day advocates of National Service generally take up and extend this Machiavellian attitude by praising National Service as a sacrifice of individuals to the State.

In addition, current proponents of National Service apparently believe that they have discovered a budgetarily cheap way to make a dent in the youth unemploy-

ment problem. As the Jan. 26 editorial in the New York Times expressed it, "a form of universal service, civilian and military, without exemptions (would) seek to reduce teen-age unemployment and accomplish needed public works as well as provide military manpower."

Astronomical Cost

In fact, however, the costs of a universal program would be astronomical, and the forced labor of young men and women in unproductive projects would work a cure on unemployment only on paper while making the society poorer in liberty and in material wealth than it would be if young people were truly allowed to work on their own.

Another approach taken by advocates of National Service is to proclaim that the work program is really an educational endeavor. This tack was taken by LBJ's Defense Secretary Robert McNamara in his 1966 speech in Montreal--a speech from which the contemporary revival of interest in National Service dates.

Yet it is certainly disheartening to hear talk of more compulsory education in a time when educationalists like Paul Goodman, Ivan Illich, and John Holt have called into question the compatibility of genuine education with compulsory attendance.

Unwilling Service

Likewise, it should be clear that charitable acts and service are incompatible

with coercion. Sen. Mark Hatfield (R--Ore.) objects to the use of the word "service" in National Service because he recognizes that there is a contradiction in the notion of unwilling service.

Hatfield says, "This utilization of the word 'service' is contradictory to any common use or experience of service-oriented activity. Service by its very nature is a voluntary expression free of external coercion."

Here Hatfield is properly stressing the fatal flaw in National Service--its dependence on involuntary servitude. Coercion and temporary enslavement of youth dehumanizes them by making them tools of government bureaucrats. Through habituation to conscription, we would change in character from a free people to a servile one.

As sociologist Richard Flacks, a leader in the early New Left, once wrote, "The goal of democrats in the coming period ought to be to reduce rather than enhance areas of compulsion in American life....The notion that (National Service) should be compulsory or tied to conscription is literally totalitarian."

The current attempt to revive the conscription principle is certainly one of the most frightening of recent political developments. All friends of human liberty--left, right, and center--should unite in opposition to this new servitude.

In The Beginning...

The LP's First Years

David F. Nolan

It was July 17, 1971 -- exactly six years prior to the final day of this year's national convention -- that five of us first met in my living room to lay plans for a new political party.

The previous month we had gone to a Young Republican national convention in Phoenix, where I had run for Vice-Chairman of the YR National Federation. In my campaign I had taken a vigorous anti-Nixon stance, urging the YR's effectively to disown the Nixon administration and take a far more principled stance than was their usual custom.

I lost that election -- though by a surprisingly small 51-49 margin. The choice facing those of us who had taken part in the Phoenix kamikaze mission was whether to give up entirely on political action, or to give the third-party approach a try.

The meeting was inconclusive. After a prolonged pro-and-con discussion, we agreed to put off making any decision, talk to some other people we knew, and reconvene in a month.

When we gathered for our second meeting on August 15, our first order of business was to turn on the TV set and watch Richard Nixon's historic address to the nation in which he announced the demonetization of the dollar and the imposition of wage-price controls.

That galvanized us into action. It was evident that the GOP was selling out everything it ever claimed to represent. A consistently pro-freedom party was now desperately needed.

We sent out a mailing to about 100 people around the country, announcing the formation of The Committee to Organize a Libertarian Party. Nearly half the recipients responded.

Throughout the summer and fall of 1971 our Colorado group continued to meet once every three or four weeks, while slowly expanding our network of contacts around the country. By December the Committee had nearly 100 mem-

bers. At a meeting on December 11, 1971, our Colorado-based "core group" -- now expanded to eight members -- voted to dissolve the Committee to Organize and become the Libertarian Party.

(A sidelight of minor interest: during the Committee's brief existence we surveyed the members on the choice of a name for the new party. First choice among those offered by the "core group" was the New Liberty Party, but there were enough write-ins for Libertarian Party that we held a runoff, and Libertarian Party won by a narrow margin.)

We "went public" in late January of '72, and our press conference generated stories from as far away as West Germany; not bad, we felt, for a group with barely 250 members.

1972 was an election year, and the immediate task was to find and field a credible national ticket. Plans were announced for our first convention, to be held in Denver in June, and we spent the Spring searching for a standard-bearer of stature.

A membership poll indicated that our supporters' first choice was Murray Rothbard, but he was not interested. (Eat your heart out, Murray; that Electoral Vote could have been yours.)

As the convention date approached, we became increasingly edgy. What if we couldn't find a respectable candidate? Should we abandon the idea of fielding a national ticket that year? Or nominate "just anyone" simply to have a name to put on the ballot?

Just as we were becoming desperate, Bill Susel in California called. He told us that John Hospers, distinguished author of the already widely-acclaimed *Libertarianism*, was planning to attend the Denver convention -- and might accept the nomination if he were convinced that this was not going to be a "lunatic fringe" party. The key test would be our platform.

By the time the convention opened, the

LP had about 900 members nationwide, and nearly 10% of them showed up in Denver. The sessions were long and grueling. But the results were worth it.

At convention's end the Libertarian Party had a strong platform, and outstanding national ticket in the persons of Dr. Hospers and Tonie Nathan, and a Statement of Principles (written by Dr. Hospers) that had won unanimous support from the delegates. That Statement, modified only slightly, remains our touchstone to this day.

Looking back on it, the '72 campaign was a miracle. Because the effort began so late, the LP was on the ballot in only two states -- Colorado and Washington. Total campaign expenditures came to about 6,000 -- because that was all we could raise. And, of course, we were almost completely unknown to the general public.

Nonetheless, we did our best. John and Tonie criss-crossed the country heroically, while my then-wife Susan, elected national chairman at the June convention, worked full-time rallying and coordinating our fledgling groups around the country.

The results were worth it.

The least impressive result was our vote total -- about 5,000, counting write-ins. But during the campaign the LP more than doubled its membership and generated substantial press coverage -- we estimated that 10 million people had at least heard our name by November.

The big break, however, came on December 18 -- six weeks after the election and one week after the first anniversary of our founding. For on that day, Roger MacBride cast his Electoral Vote for the Hospers-Nathan ticket, and public awareness of the LP doubled or tripled overnight.

This act made Roger an instant hero in libertarian circles, and he received a standing ovation at the LP's second

national convention, held the following July in Cleveland. Nearly 200 people attended this gathering, despite its being a political "off-year," and the first "MacBride for President" banners made their appearance.

The other star of the Cleveland convention was Fran Youngstein. As the libertarian candidate for Mayor of New York in 1973, Fran provided a much-needed focal point for libertarian political activity that year, helping to increase the momentum begun the previous year.

Fran received nearly 9,000 votes in the race that November -- about 48% of the total cast for all five minor party candidates in the race -- and offered more proof that the LP was to be taken seriously.

By the summer of '74, when over 300 people met in Dallas for the third national LP convention, the signs were unmistakable. The LP had become the leading force in "the movement." Ed Crane was elected National Chairman by a better than four-to-one margin, defeating a last-ditch effort by anti-party libertarians, and the party's future was assured.

Most of you reading this paper know the story since then -- how convention attendance increased from 300 in Dallas (1974) to more than 400 in New York (1975) to nearly 600 in Washington, D.C. (1976). How the MacBride-Bergland ticket, nominated in New York, went on to receive 183,187 votes last year, making the LP the leading "third" party in America. And how it has all been done without compromising on principle and without any big-name political figures.

I am confident that our period of greatest triumph is yet to come. I hope that each of you reading this will come to San Francisco and join us in what is sure to be the biggest and most productive libertarian gathering to date.

—STATES ACTIVE IN—

ALABAMA

The Alabama Libertarian Party has been reorganized for increased effectiveness in educational and campus organizing programs. Current officers are: Chairman, Harvey N. Crumhorn; Vice-Chairman, Richard Norcross; Exec. Sec., George de Merle; Corr. Sec., Frank de Merle; Treasurer, Beatrice Crumhorn.

The reorganized party will operate on a county organization basis rather than a regional basis. For further information, please contact Harvey N. Crumhorn, Box 3204, Huntsville, AL 35810. (205) 859-1705 (h).

ALASKA

The Alaska LP met in convention this Spring and decided to try to get a complete slate of candidates before Alaska voters in 1978, with emphasis on candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. The convention approved a budget of \$83,000 including \$14,500 for headquarters and staff in Fairbanks.

New officers elected include Tom Olsen, chairman, and Charlotte Huhn, Ed Hoch and Andre Marrou.

For information on these and other Alaska LP activities, please contact Tom Olson, 534 Crain Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 452-5555 (o) or 452-3480 (h).

ARIZONA

The Arizona LP is now producing a handsome, well-written 8-page tabloid newspaper, ARIZONA LIBERTY. For subscription information, write them at P.O. Box 501, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

Science fiction writer Robert Heinlein (*The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, etc.) spoke at the Arizona Libertarian Supper Club May 31. Heinlein took his fee in blood — pledges for 50 pints donated, to highlight a blood drive he was conducting in Phoenix. The meeting received good coverage in the *Arizona Republic*.

Roger MacBride was the featured guest and speaker at a reception in Phoenix on June 15, and the subject of a large article in the *Phoenix Gazette*.

The new chairman of the Arizona LP is John Kanarr. For information on ALP activities, write P.O. Box 501, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

ARKANSAS

For information on Arkansas LP activities, please contact Warren Massengill, 6603 Asher, #16, Little Rock, AR 72214, (501) 562-0312.

CALIFORNIA

Although the California LP's major efforts have centered around preparations for the LP National Convention, there is plenty of other activity going on. Local LP organizations in Orange, San Diego, Los Angeles and elsewhere maintain busy schedules of speakers, dinner meetings and social activities.

Three members of the LPC, Linda Rader, Bill Webster and Edward Clark, have been elected to the Criteria Commission of the Health Systems Agency, a public corporation set up under the 1974 National Health Planning and Resource Development Act of 1974. A coalition of libertarians, conservatives and doctors may play a major role in determining policy for the L.A. HSA, and perhaps neutralize some of the more obnoxious elements of the agency.

Another important political step in California is the formation of the Libertarian Registration Effort (LIBRE Committee, 2609 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94121) whose goal is to obtain permanent ballot status for the CLP by 1980.

For information on CLP activities, you may write P.O. Box 2617, San Francisco, CA 94126 (northern) or P.O. Box 71383, Los Angeles, CA 90071. State Chair is Ms. Venita Baldwin (415) 386-3115.

COLORADO

The Colorado LP has established an office in downtown Denver. CLP members, who are already staffing the office three days a week, are enthused about the office's potential.

For information on Colorado LP activities, please contact Janice Prince, 1635 Cook, #110, Denver, CO 80206, (303) 320-4344 (h).

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut LP has doubled in size in the past year, and is running candidates for local office in two communities. James H. Rosinus, a State Central Committee member, is running for selectman in Madison, and Russell K. Puryear is running for selectman in Southington.

In addition a slate of non-party libertarians is running a slate of candidates for offices in Meriden, with cooperation from the state party.

The CLP had a successful exhibit at the Windsor Shad Derby May 21, providing more than 5,000 people with some awareness of libertarianism.

For information on CLP activities, please contact State Chair Bob Loomis, P.O. Box 252, East Granby, CT 06026 (203) 653-3939 (h) or 688-6426 (o).

DELAWARE

The Delaware LP is busy with numerous activities including a meeting-social at Fountainhead(!) Farms, contacts with activists from the now-dormant Taxpayers Lobby, an address on human rights given by Stephen Toy to the Clay Creek Kiwanis Club and a garage sale to raise money.

The U. of Delaware Young Libertarian Alliance sponsored an appearance by Prof. Murray Rothbard at U.D. on May 3. Dr. Rothbard spoke on the "American History Cover-up" to a generally friendly audience.

For information on DLP activities, contact William E. Morris, Box 9014, Wilmington, DE 19802. (302) 475-7060 (h) or (601) 299-5000 (o).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

D.C. libertarians are actively involved in the D.C. area Libertarian Social Club, whose recent events include a showing of the Ayn Rand movie *The Fountainhead* and an address by a Soviet dissident. For information, please contact Jarret Wollstein, 2509 Duxbury, Alexandria, VA 22308, (703) 780-7605.

For information on other DCLP activities, please contact the LP national office, 1516 P St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

FLORIDA

The LP of Florida held its annual convention in West Palm Beach in April. Speakers included Dr. Allen Hyman of the U. of Miami's Law and Economics Center and Dr. William Marina. Officers were elected and workshops held on a new state platform, petition drives, local political campaigns and state elections.

For information regarding these and other LPF activities, please contact Thomas E. Nay, P.O. Box 1727, Orlando, FL 32802, (305) 849-0111 (o).

GEORGIA

The Georgia LP is publishing a quarterly journal "Common Sense," edited by Irene Wade and Brian Bonar.

June 4th and 5th the GLP hosted the Southern Libertarian Conference in Rome, featuring speakers on philosophy, education and Chicago-school economics. In addition the state LP has been holding weekly meetings around the state to advance various projects.

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

GUAM

For information on Guam LP activities, please contact James L. Joyner, P.O. Box 3417, Agana, Guam 96910.

HAWAII

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is preparing to run candidates in the upcoming election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention of the state of Hawaii. A constitutional platform is being drawn up to guide libertarian candidates in their campaigns and to distribute to the public.

LP members have been taking advantage of radio KIKI's "free speech" forum to communicate libertarian ideas to the public. Ninety-second spots on compulsory education and on Laetrile were broadcast two or three times daily for about three days.

For information on LP Hawaii activities, please contact Mark Coleman, P.O. Box 4541, Honolulu, HI 96813, (808) 735-2191 (h).

IDAHO

For information on Idaho LP activities and plans, please contact D. Allen Dalton, Box 5012, Boise, ID 83705 (208) 344-9697 (h).

KANSAS

Kansas LP has a new chairman, Gus Campuzano, and newly-developing plans for renewed activities on campus. For information please contact Gus Campuzano, 8201 East Harry, #402, Wichita, KS 67207, (316) 681-2793 (h) or 256-7701 x 63 (o).

KENTUCKY

At its annual convention this Spring, featuring former New York City mayoral candidate Fran Youngstein, the Kentucky LP elected Ernest McAfee the new chair. Plans are now underway to organize Young Libertarian Alliance chapters on all major campuses in the Fall.

For information on Kentucky LP activities, please contact Ernest McAfee, 20 Spurlin Ct., Richmond, KY 40475, (606) 623-0196 (h).

ILLINOIS

Although almost 20,000 signatures were obtained, due to last minute legal complications it was impossible to obtain ballot status for Gregg Vavra, the LP's candidate for Mayor of Chicago. Even if ballot status had been possible, with only a few days until the election it would have been impossible to conduct an effective campaign. However important experience was gained in the effort and dozens of new activists were energized.

The Illinois LP will be beneficiary of a benefit dinner July 9 in conjunction with a seminar on Legal Self Defense featuring libertarian lawyer John J. Matonis and sponsored by the Economic Civil Liberties Association.

For information on this and other Illinois LP activities, please contact State Chair Milton Mueller, P.O. Box 1776, Chicago, IL 60690 (312) 525-6231 (h).

INDIANA

Early plans are being laid for a major 2-½-day libertarian conference to be held in Indianapolis, tentatively in October. Speakers are planned on the libertarian philosophy as it relates to energy, health care, the economy and political activism. The conferences will draw attendees from a five-state area and is expected to serve as a springboard for organizing the entire state of Indiana for the LP.

For information on this event and other Indiana LP activities, please contact Sally

Heistand, 1430 N. Capitol, Indianapolis, IN 46202, (317) 923-9227 (h), or 639-6579 (o).

IOWA

The Iowa LP held its bi-annual convention in Marshalltown in April, electing John Ball as chairman, Ben Olsen, recorder and Dean Miller treasurer. Featured speakers at the convention included national LP director Bob Meier and Region 4 Rep. Dale Hemming.

Plans for future growth include membership participation, new member recruitment and preparation for the elections of 1978, as well as a "strictly fun" Luau in Marshalltown in July.

For information about ILP activities, please contact John Ball, R.R. 4, Marshalltown, IA 50158 (515) 754-3117 (o) or 753-5269 (h).

LOUISIANA

Following a successful state convention, aided publicity-wise by the fact that speaker Robert Bakhaus, an aide to state legislator Woody Jenkins, chose it as the forum to air the idea of televising sessions of the state legislature, the Louisiana LP is developing plans to increase activities on state college campuses and assure a good attendance at the National Convention by Louisiana libertarians.

For information on Louisiana LP activities, please contact state chairman Dr. Jeremy Millett, 112 Havton Rd., Lafayette, LA 70503 (318) 984-6012 (h).

MARYLAND

The Maryland LP has sent a letter to various County Board of Elections to discover how many people attempted to register as Libertarians and how many voted for Roger MacBride and David Bergland. An analysis of the results shows that the strength of the LP, as of the 1976 elections, lies in north-central Maryland.

For information on this and other Maryland LP activities, please contact Ramon Baumgartner, 4927 - 71st Ave., Glenridge, MD 20784, (301) 459-1075 (h) or 459-0003 (LP office).

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts LP held its convention April 30, featuring potential GOP gubernatorial candidate Ed King, Sharon Presley, Roy Childs, Adam Reed, Dean Ahmad and Jim Davidson. Elected state chair was F. Lee Nason; other officials elected included Nathan Curland, Stephen Trinward, Dean Ahmad, Ann Kotell, William Hurst, Sharon Nelson and Joan Kennedy Taylor.

Warren Roberts lost by 20 votes in his bid for town meeting member in Lexington. However he is first in line to serve if a member from his precinct drops out (a likely possibility) and he received 6.1% of the vote from a campaign war-chest of \$27.00.

For further information on MLP activities, please contact F. Lee Nason, 929 Massachusetts Ave., #11-D, Cambridge, MA 02139, (617) 573-8555 (h).

MICHIGAN

The Michigan LP ran candidates in Ann Arbor city elections and in a special election for a vacant state senate seat. The highest percentage received was 3.6% and valuable experience was gained by all involved.

A statewide effort has begun to qualify the LP for ballot status in 1978. Tom Jones, Bob Thatcher and Bill Krebaum collected about 300 signatures in one day at Wayne State University.

For further information about MLP activities, contact state chair James Hudler, 308-½ S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (313) 665-4343 (h).

SUMMER MONTHS

MINNESOTA

Following a conference in February and a special convention to choose delegates to the national convention in May, the Minnesota LP is planning its state convention for October. Plans are also underway to begin petition drives for 1978.

For further information on MLP activities, contact the state LP's newspaper, the *REASONABLE ANSWER* (P.O. Box 774, Minneapolis, MN 55440) or state chair Dale Hemming, 5720 River Rd., No. 303, Minneapolis, MN 55432 (612) 561-1234 (h) or 378-6494 (o).

MISSISSIPPI

Chairman Charles Clark is beginning active preparations to establish youth organizations in the Fall.

Libertarians testified in the Tom Bigbee Waterway hearings and received media coverage as a result of their participation.

For further information on the LPM, please contact Charles Clark, Box 143, Perkinston, MS 39573 (601) 928-5211 (o).

MISSOURI

The Libertarian Party of Missouri distributed a hardhitting analysis of Carter's energy plan together with a fact sheet on the LPMo to some 600 media outlets in the state. Similar distributions to the media are being planned for future months.

The LPMo also plan to do some active lobbying during the next session of the state legislature.

For further information on LPMo activities, please contact Tony Haenni, Box A, Grover, MO 63040, (314) 227-1477 (h).

MONTANA

For information on Montana LP activities, please contact Mona Brown, 609 S. 9th St., Bozeman, MT 59705, (314) 997-3709.

NEVADA

Nevada LP Chairman Jim Burns and LPN Vice-Chair Florence Fields had an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness of libertarianism when they were guests recently on the Don Stubb's morning talk show.

The LPN has purchased the 32-minute version of *The Incredible Bread Machine* and a 16 mm projector to show the film. It was shown to three classes of economics at the U. of Nevada at Las Vegas and followed up by question-answer periods.

For information on Nevada LP activities, please contact Florence Fields, 2620 Yardley St., Las Vegas, NV 89102, (702) 876-1778 (h) or 732-8860 (o).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

In addition to preparing for the New England Libertarian Conference, LPNH members are active in other areas. Jim Panard and Art Ketchen have formed the Free Education Committee to support a Nashua couple in their legal fight against the public education system. Anyone wishing to contribute to the effort may do so by writing: The Bealend Education Fund, c/o Art Ketchen, Box 366, Nashua, NH 03061.

An ad-hoc committee has been formed to organize YLA chapters on all college campuses in the state. Initial plans are to set up a booth on every campus at the beginning of Fall semester.

For information on NHLP activities, please contact Bill Hunscher, P.O. Box 48, Milford, N.H. 03055, (603) 889-5152 (h) or 673-8283 (o).

NEW JERSEY

A New Jersey LP petition drive won ballot status in the November 1977 General Election for 30 libertarians, making for the largest slate of candidates ever fielded by the NJLP.

Leading the ticket is gubernatorial candidate Dr. Frank Primich. Primich, who ran for Congress in 1976, has already begun making major campaign addresses.

One of his principal appearances was before the Employers Legislative Committee State Dinner, where he spoke to more than 700 business leaders from throughout the state. Adding punch to the Primich campaign is its well-written, professional-looking campaign literature.

Contributions for the Primich campaign can be sent to Help Elect Libertarian Primich (HELP), 5401 Boulevard East, West New York, NJ 07093.

Anyone wishing information on other NJLP activities should contact Bob Ryley, Box 247, Bernardville, NJ 07924.

NEW MEXICO

For information on New Mexico LP activities and plans, please contact Robert Foster, 9213 Cherokee, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111 (505) 296-8262 (h).

NEW YORK

As usual, too much has been going on in New York for a brief treatment to do it justice. To hit some highlights, the state convention heard from Roy Childs, Karl Hess, Richard Cornuelle, Ralph Fucetola and Jerry Klasman. New officers were elected including Carl Hastings, chair, Carolyn Keelen and Mike Kessler, vice-chairs, and Lou Sicilia, Pete Wilson, Roy Childs, Jenny Graf, Dave Hoesley, Guy Riggs and Dennis Schuman.

In the Poughkeepsie area LP member Norman Betros, running as an independent, was elected to the Haldane Board of Education, as an anti-tax, anti-high-cost-of-public-education candidate.

In New York City, former state chair Ann Jackson Weil was selected as the FLP's candidate for Mayor of the Big Apple.

The Capital District FLP held a successful anti-tax rally in Schenectady and a successful mini-con was held in Syracuse under Guy Riggs' tutelage.

For further information, contact Carl Hastings, Capricorn Trading Corp., 200 Madison Ave., Ste. 1904, New York, N.Y. 10016. (212) 686-9182 (o) or 378-6494 (h).

NORTH CAROLINA

The libertarians in the Tarheel State have chosen a new state chairman, Rick Posatto, and have been actively involved in lobbying against restrictive ballot access legislative proposals (see feature).

For information on North Carolina LP activities, please contact Rick Posatto, P.O. Box 3280, Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

NORTH DAKOTA

For information on North Dakota LP activities, please contact Lowell Anderson, Route 1, Grafton, N.D. 58237, (701) 352-1072 (h).

OHIO

Dr. Walter Block and Robert Meier were featured speakers at the fifth annual convention of the Ohio LP June 18-19. A series of workshops were conducted and two films were shown. Ohio's seven delegates to the national LP convention were also chosen.

For information on these and other Ohio LP activities, please contact Tom Brown, 114 Willowood Dr., Dayton, OH 45405, (513) 278-9094 (h) or 223-7215 (o).

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma LP activity was the subject of two recent *Daily Oklahoman* articles.

For information on LPO activities and plans, please contact D. Frank Robinson, 330 SE 26, Oklahoma City, OK 73129 (405) 634-6661.

OREGON

Plans have been made by the Oregon LP to produce a trial program of three 30-second radio spots. To allow them to be played on the radio as public service announcements, plans were laid for the formation of "The Libertarian Education Council," a non-profit organization to sponsor the radio spots.

Former LP vice-presidential candidate

Tonie Nathan reports that she recently attended a local organizing meeting of the International Women's Year federal boondoggle and got a good response to Association of Libertarian Feminists literature and feminist libertarian positions.

For information on Oregon LP activities, please contact Vivian Baures, 33 N. Central, Medford, OR 97501 (503) 776-7525 (o), 846-6628 (h) or 928-5271 (LP).

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania LP was a co-sponsor of the successful and well-attended Mid-Atlantic Libertarian Conference, at which Bob Meier was banquet speaker. A new state chairman, Tony West, was elected.

For information on other Pennsylvania LP activities, please contact Tony West, 4609 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143, (215) 727-6463 (h) or 483-0735 (o).

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island LP held an organizing conference this Spring to develop plans for future ballot efforts and lay the groundwork for establishment of YLA chapters on college campuses.

For information on these and other Rhode Island LP activities, please contact Stew Engel, 14 Elm Street, Newport, R.I. 02840, (401) 846-6045.



TAX PROTEST -- Pictured are members of the New York Free Libertarian Party assembling their signs for recent anti-tax demonstration in downtown Schenectady. The protest received attention by the local media and later activists Mike Kessler and Jim Van Dorn spent five hours on a call-in radio program.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SCLP's many activities in recent months have included a state convention in Columbia, monthly discussion and business meetings, Second Saturday Club "eating-meetings," several tax-protest demonstrations, and a picnic. The party has also been issuing regular press releases.

The party's activities have resulted in a news conference, and several TV and radio appearances.

At the state convention resolutions were adopted calling for decriminalization of laetrile, condemning proposed increases in gasoline taxes, upholding the rights of private owners of tidelands property, favoring freer ballot access for independent candidates and new parties, and condemning the use of government agencies for illegal political harassment and intimidation. Charles Blackwell was re-elected state chairman.

The picnic, an annual SCLP activity, was held near Sumter June 25 and netted a good turnout. Chairman Charles Blackwell

will run as a write-in candidate in a special election for a state Senate seat this fall.

For further information on the SCLP, contact Charles Blackwell, Box 732, York, SC 29745, (803) 684-6455 (h).

SOUTH DAKOTA

For information on South Dakota LP activities, please contact Dave Ellis, 3914 W. Maine, Rapid City, S.D. 57701, (605) 394-4839 (o) or 348-5107 (h).

TENNESSEE

The LP in east Tennessee is planning to place copies of *Reason Magazine* and the *LP News* on the seven largest campuses in the area to help spur organization of Young Libertarian Alliance chapters. The middle Tennessee LP has made plans to canvass known mid-state musicians to see if any of them are libertarians. The west Tennessee LP is continuing to hold regular meetings.

For information on these and other Tennessee LP activities, please contact Mary L. Joyner, 404 Meadow Lane, Kingsport, TN 37663 (615) 239-9394 (h).

TEXAS

The Texas LP held its convention June 4-5 with featured speakers Karl Bray and former Oklahoma LP chairman Porter Davis. The convention also included the election of officers and delegates to the LP

National Convention and workshops for candidates and activists.

Led by Dallas Chair Margaret Bosse, the LPT has been lobbying in the state legislature for a bill to liberalize the election code and make ballot access easier.

The Houston LP is currently involved in a campaign to halt the latest mass transit invasion and hopes to run several candidates for City Council in the Fall.

For information on these and other Texas LP activities, please contact William Howell, P.O. Box 12618, Dallas, TX 75225, (214) 522-3574.

UTAH

The Utah LP-sponsored Rocky Mountain Regional Libertarian Conference in April was a notable success, getting good newspaper and TV coverage and drawing numerous libertarians from the Rocky Mountain region. Speakers included Susan Love Brown, Dave Bergland, Ed Crane, Eugene Guccione,

(Continued on page 8)

Bringing the Campaign Down Home

Steve Nelson

The LP campaign of 1976 has vastly increased public cognizance of the Libertarian Party. But - sadly - the public forgets even more rapidly than it learns. If the Libertarian Party is to retain the rewards of its great effort, then each state party and local organization must attempt to keep the party name and principles in the public eye. The local issue campaign does this more effectively than any other device.

In addition, the local issue will invariably introduce the party to a wholly new cast of opponents and supporters, for American politics is organized like a three-layer cake. At the bottom lies the local politician, who is at most only mildly concerned with state and national issues, and his public supporters and financial contributors feel very much the same way. The state-level politicians have interests both up and down, but their supporters, for the most part, specialize in state government. A successful national campaign in your state is no guarantee that any of these people have ever heard of the Libertarian Party.

Finally, the local issue campaign offers the charming-if unfamiliar-possibility of actually winning! When The Libertarian Club of DuPage (County, Ill.) defeats federal housing subsidies in half-a-dozen towns, it can justly claim to have saved the taxpayers many millions of dollars, and its members have a ready - if rude - answer to those who argue that libertarian politicizing is futile.

Getting Started In Local Issues

Many local issues aren't very suitable for Libertarian activists, because they don't permit a clear exposition of libertarian theory. While conditions vary a great deal from locality to locality around the country, it is best if:

- The issue involves a local extension of government power into a area not previously regulated, rather than an attack on a long-established area of government control (time enough for that *after* we've got a foothold).
- The politicians of **both** the big parties formally support the extension; if they disagree, any upset will be attributed to the big party rather than the LP.
- There is substantial popular opposition to the extension.
- There are interests opposed to the extension that are unwilling or unable to operate publicly. One looks among the economic victims and searches for politicians rebelling against their party's leadership.

If these criteria seem too limiting, consider the following possibilities:

Federal Housing

Federal Housing is spreading into the suburbs and the politicians of both parties frequently support the move, with a good deal of individual foot-dragging on both sides. The people in suburban communities are usually upset by this change. So are real estate dealers and local politicians, but they're often unwilling to operate publicly. The conservative groups will also oppose, but the press will often blanket or discount them.

Since the federal law requires that the local government establish a local housing authority prior to setting up business, hearings will usually have to be held. The scenario goes like this (approximately): using contacts on the left, and reading the local newspapers, the libertarians learn of the preliminary 'do-good' meetings of housing supporters, and attend them, acquiring considerable information on schedules. Using contacts on

the right, the libertarians speak to realtors in the hope of financial support and conservatives in the hope of obtaining foot-soldiers. When the hearings are held the libertarians plead loudly for a local referendum. At which point, the liberals frequently become nakedly statist, and the local pols - having already been given a preliminary softening by the realtors - have a first-rate dilemma. If they ram the housing authority through without the referendum, the general population will strongly consider replacing them.

Regionalism

Regionalism is a very similar set of local issues hinging around the determination of certain urban liberals to simultaneously bypass state governments and extend the taxing powers of the city into the suburbs by creating quasi-autonomous regions around the cities. Here the extension of power is urban and federal as opposed to state and local; the leadership of the Republican party is usually bought by attractive deals in the state legislature and so both parties agree; the rural and suburban votes are hotly opposed to the arrangement; many legislators from the suburbs will more-or-less covertly oppose their own leadership; conservatives also oppose to a degree. The scenario is very much like the one for federal housing.

Victimless Crimes

Victimless crimes and 'police crack-downs' against them often merit consideration for local issue campaigns. In many parts of the country, there is now substantial opposition to the prosecution of these crimes, making it politically profitable to provide leadership; the big parties are often restrained by their position in the more inhibited parts of the country. A word of warning: libertarians are emotionally attached to these issues and therefore find it easy to misjudge popular sentiment concerning them. Make sure the public understands that the LP does not necessarily endorse activities which it defends.

Tax and Referendums

Finally, there are tax and bond referendums: these frequently meet all the criteria outlined. They pose some modest hazards since they, too, are emotional subjects for libertarians and also sometimes require careful ideological appraisal (for example, when they form part of a tax substitution deal). But by and large, these referendums are a fruitful source of local issues.

Getting The Campaign Off The Ground

The most difficult part of the local issue campaign is getting word of the issue in time to act on it. Keeping a careful eye on the local press - including the legal notices - is a necessity. Circulating in local political circles, both right and left, is useful. Lobbyists will often be helpful if they take the party seriously. If manpower is available, one may keep watch on the town council, school boards, etc; this is very good for general background, but most libertarians find it painfully dull.

Once a suitable issue has been discovered, the next step is to lay out a tentative schedule. If a referendum is to be held, it usually marks the end of the campaign, and the schedule can be laid out backwards from that point. The same thing applies to a vote in a legislative body, except that the body may change the date

of the vote in order to hold a referendum. In either case, the date and time of hearings are important to know. Generally, a schedule will look like this:

- Order supplies; i.e., buttons, bumper stickers, petition forms, etc.
- Obtain information and study the issue.
- Contact opposition groups; form ad hoc committee, if any. See if a division of responsibility is desirable.
- Commence public agitation with meetings, handbills, and radio/TV rebuttals and interviews, if possible.
- Line up speakers for hearings, particularly those who have appeared on TV. Plead for referendum, either formal or informal.
- If a referendum is scheduled, continue agitation.
- After the end of the campaign proper, consolidate by maintaining contacts, educating recruits and cultivating the press.

Rebuttals

One important feature of local campaign is the presentation of radio and TV rebuttals, because far more people will hear the libertarian arguments through this media than any other.

One notes the broadcast stations that present editorials and monitors the broadcasts, seeking comment that disagrees with the libertarian position. One then notes the station, time and date, and phones the station during the next business day to ask if there is a rebuttal scheduled for the editorial. If there isn't, one asks for a copy of the editorial.

Rebuttals should be carefully written, pinpointing the deficiencies in the arguments made in the original editorial and demonstrating the superiority of libertarian solutions.

Just as important as the content of the rebuttal is the manner in which it is delivered. An amateurish, unprofessional delivery will greatly diminish the effectiveness of an otherwise good editorial.

Coalitions-Front Groups

Two particularly important organizational tactics are the ad hoc alliance and the front group. An ad hoc alliance is a group of organizations that are united for one and only one purpose, while agreeing to disagree on all others. Provided the ad hoc nature of these alliances is strictly observed, there is nothing to stop libertarians from entering into them when a libertarian issue happens to coincide with the position taken by other organizations, and these arrangements can greatly simplify the organization and direction of a local issue campaign. Front groups are dummy organizations set up by the members of another organization for specific purposes; they are frequently useful to avoid a too-partisan appearance or to organize non-libertarians in support of a libertarian issue. Front groups are sometimes used to smooth the organization of an ad hoc alliance; conservative or liberal groups may fear the LP stands outside the alliance will 'rub off' on them, making a modest disguise necessary. Conversely, LP participation in a campaign dominated by ADA or the John Birch Society may produce unwarranted associations in the public mind.

Hazards In Local Issues

The local issue campaign poses a certain number of hazards that must be carefully considered while recalling that people are

usually much more emotional over close-to-home issues: 'federal revenue sharing' has much less impact than 'what shall we do with the \$15,000 we got from HEW?' Further, as Dr. Parkinson has noted, the smaller the sum of money, the more attention will be paid to it. People who will cheerfully assent to abolishing some huge federal bureau will fight like tigers to retain a trifling subsidy at the local level.

The best way to avoid hazards of this sort is to be thoroughly aware of community sentiment, and offend no more of it than is necessary at any given time. Because of the generality of libertarian principle, it is very easy for libertarians to spread themselves so thin that an anti-libertarian coalition can be formed. Offering your opposition an easy way to organize against you is *not* a good idea.

Another set of hazards has already been mentioned - most local issues must be fought in association with non-libertarian groups. Question: Doesn't this diminish libertarian purity in the public eye? It won't if you don't let it. One must be careful to keep ad hoc alliances truly ad hoc; attention must be paid to joint utterances to keep anti-libertarian commentary from creeping in. It also happens that people get carried away with LP's stand on 'their' issue and join LP with little understanding of libertarian fundamentals. Small numbers of these people can be accommodated by the LP educational system, but if there is a prospect of getting swamped, these people would be better in a front group. Another problem lies in the chance of becoming a catspaw for some other more powerful local group. This can be avoided by making certain that the local LP organization does not accept too large a proportion of its support from any one source and by aiming much of the LP effort directly at the general public. But above all-always stand on principle!

Steve Nelson is a former chairman of the Illinois Libertarian Party and has had extensive experience in leading the fight against government encroachment at the local and regional levels.

NCLP in Successful Lobbying Effort

Lobbying and other efforts by North Carolina libertarians helped prevent a burdensome ballot law change from becoming law in the state.

The bill, which would have required that the 10,000 signers of a petition to get a party on the ballot all be members of that party, passed the state senate before third parties in the state were aware of its existence. When the bill moved to the house, LPNC members notified other third parties in the state and began lobbying efforts with the legislators.

Several newspapers and tv stations in the state, alerted by Libertarian and U.S. Labor Party representatives, brought the bill into the open, some of them editorializing against it. After this negative publicity, the bill, which had begun with strong support among the legislators, was tabled in the house by better than a 2-1 margin. It is unlikely it will be brought up again until at least 1979.

Principal libertarian activists in the fight against the bill were Timothy Spong of Raleigh and Carl Wagle of Greensboro.

This campaign is an example of how effective individual libertarians can be both in gaining allies for important issues and in getting favorable coverage and support from the media. Let there be many more success stories in the future!

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- **The Journal of Libertarian Studies.** Edited by renowned economist Murray N. Rothbard, the *Journal* is a forum for the best in libertarian scholarship. Distributed to hundreds of university libraries, it provides an alternative—finally—to the seemingly endless stream of liberal and socialist publications now influencing America's intellectuals and college students.
- **The Libertarian Scholars Conference.** An annual event that significantly helps to shift the climate of intellectual opinion in the direction of freedom.
- **A Research Fellows Program.** To arm young students of liberty with the knowledge they need to fight for a free society.
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News Notes from Around the World

STAND UP AND FIGHT: On February 12 a conference was held in Medford, Oregon called a "Businessmen's Self-Defense Seminar." Coordinated by Robert Baures of Baures Diversified Business Services, the conference covered such topics as principles of free enterprise, why entrepreneurs are the good guys, how to start winning, and a critique of Naderism from Gaines Smith, author of a forthcoming book on the "consumer" advocate.

The major purpose of the conference was to eliminate the guilty consciences which many businessmen have developed regarding their activity, and get them on the offensive and off the defensive in their battle with those who would impose ever more stifling regulations on business and other human action.

Those interested in further information may write to Robert Baures, 33 N. Central, Medford, OR 97501.

FUNNY CIGARETTES OR FUNNY MONEY? The U.S. Treasury Dept. is seeking new powers of warrantless search and seizure, ostensibly to curb drug traffic, for violations of PL 91-508,

smuggling currency. What are they really interested in, besides power for its own sake?

SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE? Albanian dictator Emil Hoxha has ordered citizens whose name has a religious connotation to have their names changed. "Hoxha" means "priest" in Turkish.

BUT IT'S IN THE RULEBOOK. Cumberland County, N.C., is in trouble with H.E.W. for not providing bilingual instruction for Lumbee Indian students. The trouble is, nobody speaks Lumbee anymore, the last native speakers having died off in about 1750.

TRY A JIMMY SMILE: It is against the law in Pocatello, Idaho, to go around looking peeved or dejected.

DEPT. FOR THE PREVENTION OF SURPRISES: Wives in Kentucky must have their husbands' permission to move furniture around in their homes.

SAUCE FOR THE GANDER: In Cleveland, Lenore Thorpe has filed a class action suit, alleging sex discrimination, against her employer, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

WHO SAYS WE'RE PARANOID? Since 1950, according to economist Pierre Rinfret, government employment has increased 126%, while private employment has increased 32%.

KEEP IT CLEAN: In Riverside, California, it is illegal for two persons to kiss unless they have first rinsed their lips with carbolized rose water.

ARREST THAT CROCODILE: Crocodiles may not be tied to fire hydrants in Michigan.

AND DON'T WHISTLE EITHER: Wearing roller skates in public lavatories is illegal in Portland, Ore.

SO WHO'S SURPRISED? The *Washington Post* has revealed a massive study indicating that San Francisco, Calif., public schools are more segregated after five years of busing than before the \$185 million program began.

BUT NOBODY'S SALUTING: Officials at the General Services Administration have purchased 115 electronic flagpoles

at \$10,000 each so that the poor overworked bureaucrats won't have to raise and lower Old Glory manually. Congressman William Walsh (R-N.Y.) has noted at least one site where "the photo-sensitive cell lowered the flag every time the sun went behind a cloud."

MAYBE WE'RE BETTER OFF THAT WAY

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim says the organization's members "have got to spend more time working, less time partying" after revelations that UN diplomats attended 65 parties during the first 15 days of the current General Assembly's session. Waldheim's criticism was delivered at a lavish luncheon.

Now, if only we could get the Congress to party all the time and not pass any new laws, maybe we could make some progress in this country.

INPUT, OUTPUT AND THRUPUT: *Washington Monthly* writer James Boren on bureaucrats: "People who make tentative approaches to preliminary plans for initiating feasibility studies on the possibilities of planning future study conferences on the subject of decision-making."

New Jersey LP Extremely Active

New Jersey is holding elections for state offices this year, and the New Jersey LP is fielding an impressive slate of candidates and providing them with the kind of back-up which bodes well for success.

The campaign of Frank Primich for Governor is well underway. In addition, the LP will be fielding candidates for at least 30 seats in the state legislature. To help these candidates run effective campaigns, the state LP held a Candidates' Conference June 25 in Newark. The morning speaker was Roger Craig of Dale Carnegie schools, who gave a good talk on becoming a more articulate and effective communicator of ideas. After lunch the candidates heard from Charles Wiley, a veteran Middlesex County Republican on the nuts and bolts of press relations. The candidates also viewed and critiqued appearances by 1976 candidates on public TV and received information on where to get data which is pertinent to local, state and national issues.

In addition to providing this kind of professional training for LP candidates, the NJLP is planning to have showings of "The Incredible Bread Machine" at at least a dozen County Fairs, using booths as LP recruiting vehicles. The state also plans a hospitality suite at the LP National Convention and a full-scale fundraising and media advertising campaign in support of its candidates.

The New Jersey Hospitality Suite at the San Francisco convention will feature videotapes of TV appearances by NJLP candidates, the opportunity to meet many of this year's candidates, and plenty of literature on how the New Jersey party is converting 1977 into a year of opportunity.

While some state LP's are viewing 1977 as an "off year" the New Jersey party sees the state elections as a golden opportunity to build ever more solidly on the firm base of support and organizational strength which came from the 1976 campaign.



MINNESOTA STRATEGY CONFERENCE -- Dale Hemming (l), LPM Chairman, Karen DeMay, conference organizer and Rob Brown (r), public relations specialist examine the results of an exhaustive four hour meeting in which Minnesota libertarians began defining their goals for 1977 and beyond.

photo by Garry Reed

State News

(Continued from page 5)

Tonie Nathan, Bob Poole and Ralph Raico.

For information on these and other activities of the Utah LP, please contact George A. Chapman, P.O. Box 15506, Salt Lake City, UT 84115, (801) 485-2485 (h) or 486-9207 (o).

VERMONT

For information on Vermont LP activities, please contact George Trask, Hearthstone Village, S. Londonderry, VT 05155, (802) 824-6893 (h).

VIRGINIA

A state convention is being planned for the Fall. Anyone wishing information on the convention, or interested in working on preparations for it, should contact Glenda Bull, Box 882, Richmond, VA 23207 (804) 276-6850 or 272-9044 (h).

WASHINGTON

At the second session of the 1977 state convention a new constitution was adopted, the officers and directors of the LPWS were elected and delegates to the national convention chosen. Some of the main goals for the coming year include increasing state membership in areas outside Seattle through regional representatives and the training of candidates for the 1978 and 1980 elections.

For additional information on LPWS activities and plans, please contact Pat

Artz, 1258 Weiland St. #12, Kent, WA 98031 (206) 852-0585 (h) or 285-0704 (LP).

WEST VIRGINIA

For information on West Virginia LP activities, please contact Harold E. Harvey, MD, 214 Professional Bldg., Beckley, W.V. 25801, (304) 252-5343 (o) or 253-6254 (h).

WISCONSIN

LP National Director Bob Meier will speak to the Janesville Country Club July 7. About 100 people and good TV and Newspaper coverage are expected.

Three new area chapters have been organized and affiliated with the WLP.

WLP plans include a state-wide membership drive in September, and running a full slate of state-wide candidates in the 1978 elections.

Two WLP members, Art Jackson and Dan Hanson, have had exceptional success in getting letters to the editor published in major city newspapers. Jackson had five letters published in five weeks in the *Janesville Gazette*.

For information on Wisconsin LP activities, please contact Dan L. Endsley, 1333 Fish Hatchery Road, Oregon, WI 53575 (608) 835-5979 (h) or 328-8533 (o).

WYOMING

For information on Wyoming LP activities, please contact Gary Roberts, 230 E. Jefferson, Cheyenne, WY 82001, (307) 638-3077 (h).

New Challenge to Public Education

The New Hampshire Libertarian Party is working actively to support two New Hampshire parents whose objections to compulsory public education have led them to initiate a court case which will strike at the very roots of compulsory education. Ruth and Richard Bealend are determined to defend their right as parents to be the final authorities in the upbringing of their children, and have initiated court action which, according to knowledgeable attorneys, has the potential of becoming a landmark Supreme Court decision.

After objecting to the values, poor teaching and "planned chaos" at their local school in Nashua, the Bealends withdrew their children (with the childrens' full support) from the local school. The Bealends were then summoned to a juvenile hearing in Nashua's

District Court on April 21. Under court order they have returned their children to school, but they plan to continue the fight to a higher court. Their hope is to define the right of parents to opt out of the public education system and educate their children privately.

The L.P.N.H. was an early supporter of the Bealends and is now coordinating their defense effort and legal battle. Key leaders in this effort have been Jim Pinard and Art Ketchen, founder of the N.H.L.P.

Funds for legal counsel and associated expenses are urgently needed. To contribute or for further information, please write to the Free Education Committee, L.P.N.H., Box 366, Nashua, N.H. 03061. You may telephone the Committee at (603) 926-2911 (days) or 465-2272 (evenings).