# California Libertarian News

Volume 5, Number 9

January 1991

#### ANTI-WAR PROTESTS GROW STRONGER

Libertarians have been active in the movement to bring U.S. troops back from the Middle East since the very beginning. Polls show that only 56% of Americans support President Bush's impending military intervention. This number is quite low considering how the public has followed the flag wherever the president has thrown it in the past. The time is ripe to

sway public opinion by frequent, effective

demonstrations.

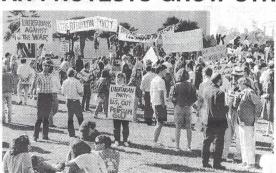
The Libertarian Party of California has formally joined the L. A. Coalition Against U. S. Intervention in the Middle East. The "Points of Unity" of the coalition are:

- To work for a total and immediate withdrawal of U. S. forces from the Middle East.
- 2) To educate our populace as to the true reason for the U. S. involvement, namely the protection of oil capital, including that of President Bush.
- 3) To promote respect for self-determination for the peoples of the region, supporting their efforts to resolve the crisis.
- 4) To oppose all forms of racism against Arab, Muslim, and other peoples of the Middle East.
- 5) To organize non-violent activities in support of these points.

Libertarians held a protest at the Federal Building in West Los Angeles as early as September 1. Just 25 people attended then. On December 1, at least 1,000 people were on hand to hear Ron Kovic, the Vietnam veteran immortalized in "Born on the Fourth of July," passionately call for returning our troops and preventing a rerun of the trauma and carnage of Vietnam. While Libertarians were in the minority number-wise, our signs were prominent, and were carried by people who often disagree with us on other issues.

Protests will be held every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the January 15 United Nations deadline for Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops from Kuwait. I suspect that the protests will continue long after that date. For up-to-the-minute information, call Neal Donner at (213) 477–6462.

Is there a draft in the air? I participated in a roundtable discussion December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day) at South Pasadena High School. These students



were intelligent and aware of the gravity of the Middle East situation. Their most asked question was "Why are we there?" Another participant, Cal Edinger of the American Friends Services Committee (Quakers), reported that the large war effort may cause Bush to reinstitute the military draft. Specifically, people in the health services may be drafted

to take care of war wounded (ala M\*A\*S\*H\*). Edinger states that 600,000 young men have failed to register for the draft, as they are required to do at age 18. So far, 21 have been prosecuted, and 7 have been imprisoned.

Libertarians know that "war is the health of the state." This was demonstrated by Senator Jim Sasser (D-Tennessee), chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. Mr. Sasser has called on President Bush to impose a special tax to finance war in the Persian Gulf if fighting breaks out. The tax might take the form of a "temporary" income tax surcharge, such as the 10% levy imposed in 1969 to finance the Vietnam War. The only good part of such a proposal is that it might anger people who currently support military action.

Pentagon officials estimate that "Operation Desert Shield" will cost between \$29 billion and \$37 billion this fiscal year alone! Is it possible that such a massive mobilization can be maintained without Congress reaching into our pockets to finance it? What do you think? Members of Congress need to know how we feel about the cost, both human and financial, of this destructive operation. Write to Sen. Alan Cranston at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and to your member of Congress at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

One last thought: There is no cause more important right now. A war would kill tens of thousands of young Americans, ruin the economy, raise already confiscatory taxes, and give the government an excuse for wholesale violations of civil liberties. A factory in Contra Costa County has a contract to make thousands of body bags. It is rumored that the Defense Department has ordered 30,000 coffins from another vendor. This is all very real. The time is **now** to yank the props from under George Herbert Hoover Bush's "new world order."

# IS A STATE TAX BOOST "INEVITABLE"?

The chairman of the California State Senate's Budget and Fiscal Review Committee says that he sees no way to balance the 1991 state budget without a tax increase.

Sen. Alfred Alquist, an 82 year old San Jose Democrat who has served in the Legislature since 1962, gave this opinion after top fiscal analysts stated that the state will be \$5.7-6.2 billion short of the money needed to pay for current state services over the next 18 months. The annual budget is \$55 billion.

Alquist has introduced **SB 85**, to raise the top rate of the personal income tax from 9.3% to 11% in order to raise \$2 billion annually. One of his allies is Bill Honig, the Superintendant of Public Instruction, who argued for a tax hike to head off cuts in school programs.

Sen. John Seymour (R-Anaheim) disagreed. He asked, "Are you suggesting ... that 12% of the taxpayers who are currently paying 70% of the taxes should pay more? Is that what you're saying?" Honig responded, "Absolutely. Of course, they are paying more. They get most of the income."

Write to your legislators to give them your opinion of SB 85. Both State Senators and State Assembly members can be reached at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

#### RUSSIAN LIBERTARIAN VISITS CALIFORNIA

Evgenia Debrynskaya, founder of the Libertarian Party of Russia, visited Los Angeles on November 26 and met with local Libertarians. The Russian party was founded in Moscow earlier this year. The name was chosen by coincidence; the founders were unaware of other Libertarian Parties around the world. Evidently the word "libertarian" has a Latin base and translates directly into Russian. Ms. Debrynskaya looked in the dictionary to find a name that reflected her philosophy.

Ms. Debrynskaya believes that she is the only out-of-the-closet lesbian in Russia. She has been campaigning to legalize prostitution in the Soviet Union. The media have covered her in the past when she distributed condoms in Red Square. Condoms are not produced in the Soviet Union, and imported ones cost about \$6 each! (Abortion is the main method of birth control.)

The LP in Russia is concentrated in Moscow and Leningrad. There are 300 members now—mostly prostitutes, gays and lesbians—but there is hope for a broader based party of at least 3,000 members in the near future. Ms. Debrynskaya plans to run for the Moscow City Council. She would be an independent candidate, and believes that she can win based on her personal contacts in her neighborhood.

According to Ms. Debrynskaya, Mikhail Gorbachev has no intention of bringing true democracy to the Soviet Union. Given the political circumstances, he would be hard-pressed to do so even if he desired it. There is no tradition of democratic institutions. The long-suffering Russians went from Czar to Communism, with only one free election (in early 1917, which the Bolsheviks—Lenin's supporters—lost). There is no word for "privacy" in Russian, and thus no concept of it.

Ms. Debrynskaya has been "adopted" by Vicki Kirkland, Libertarian National Committee member from New York, who is holding a fundraiser to buy a computer for the fledgling group. Due to the uncertainty of mail service between the U. S. and the U. S. S. R., plus the threat of KGB surveillance, LP members believe that setting up an E-mail system via computer is the most practical means of communication. Once this system is operational, we will report how to get in touch with our fellow Libertarians in Moscow.

#### FUN WITH WILLIE AND DAVID

In its December 1990 issue, California Journal offers some wicked fairy-tale satire of how Proposition 140 has moved in and ruined the landscape of Assembly Speaker Willie Brown's and Senate President pro tem David Roberti's neighborhood:

Once upon a time, there was a place called "Willie and David's neighborhood." It existed inside a big, white building with a large dome on top. The weather inside was comfortable. The residents were all happy and smiling. They raised money and held pow-wows and raised money and patted each other on the back and raised money and drove fancy cars and raised money and took trips to exotic lands and raised still more money. Every now and then, they passed an important law. But passing important laws upset harmony in the neighborhood, so they did not do much of it. Willie and David's neighborhood was so very pleasant that other people wanted to move in. But the residents used the money they had raised to build barricades.

Then, one day, a huge tornado appeared on the horizon. This tornado even had a name: "Schabarum."

Can you say, "term limits?"

Can you say, "out on your keester?"

The tornado rearranged Willie and David's neighborhood.

- Rep. John Bryant (D-Texas)

<sup>&</sup>quot;How can any member of Congress put his puny political career ahead of his obligation to defend the Constitution of the United States?"

# ART IMITATES LIFE ... OR VICE VERSA

When director Francis Ford Coppola was filming the third segment of his "Godfather" saga, he needed an actor to play a crooked politician who was dealing with the Corleone Mafia family.

Unable to find an actor who projected the right political ambience, Coppola directed his underlings to contact Willie Brown, Speaker of the California Assembly. Brown immediately flew to Rome and spent several days playing the corrupt politician that Corleone needed.

"Godfather III" was released at Christmas, just as it's been revealed that Willie Brown—the politician, not the actor—is being scrutinized by the FBI and federal prosecutors as part of an ongoing investigation into influence peddling in the Capitol, one that already has sent two ex-legislators to prison.

—Dan Walter, "Sacramento Bee"

#### A STATIST SPEAKS OUT

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, a 62 year old Illinois Democrat who has been in Congress since 1958, is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He sent a letter to a number of newspapers in opposition to term limits for members of Congress. He refers to the budget package (read: higher taxes) passed in October to support his position.

He says that 60% of the members who have served more than 12 years in Congress voted in favor. Members who have served less time voted against, with two-thirds of freshmen congressmen voting "NO." If Congress had been limited to junior members, he says, it's possible that there would still be no budget in place. He says that members become more "courageous" as they become more established and secure in their districts.

To Libertarians, "courageous" in this context means "more willing to sock it to the taxpayer." Rostenkowski's statement shows that we need term limitations on the federal level as well as the state level. After all, had limits been in effect, Rostenkowski would have had to retire in 1970.

#### **GORBACHEV'S JOKE**

As Mikhail Gorbachev left a session of the Russian parliament, he stopped to tell reporters a self-deprecating joke. "They say that Mitterand has 100 lovers. One has AIDS, but he doesn't know which one. Bush has 100 bodyguards. One is a terrorist, but he doesn't know which one. Gorbachev has 100 economic advisers. One is smart, but he doesn't know which one."

—Time magazine

#### Guest Opinion:

#### JUST DO IT!

#### by Lawrence D. Goldberg

REALITY. A severe word, but one we have to face. Spell it another way: OUTREACH. And yet another way: MONEY. Without money and outreach, we have no function; we have no purpose; we have no future. The question: how do we turn the Libertarian Party from a small but vocal group to a true political power?

Our assets: a unique platform, dedicated and intelligent activists, great ideas, and a will to succeed. 25%-30% of voters are potential Libertarians—if we can only reach them. We cut across and appeal to all races, occupations and income groups. Our potential: extraordinary.

Our liabilities: little money, insufficient followthrough, lack of organization, and internal bickering. In short, we are not living up to our potential.

So what now?

Before we can turn into a money gathering machine, we must first organize our human resources. If we don't, we won't be able to make our monetary goals.

There are many Libertarian activists. Most are bright and capable people. Each must carve out a niche, take responsibility for it, and execute it to the best of his or her ability. It may not be the top job. Perhaps your niche is helping to mail the newsletter once a month. Perhaps your niche is manning a booth at a county fair. Perhaps it's making phone calls to get Libertarian speakers to groups like the Rotary Club. Perhaps it's learning Spanish and recruiting Latinos into the party. Perhaps you are not afraid of asking people for money, and you can get involved in fundraising. If you don't know what to do, contact your county chair and say you want to be involved. A job will be found for you.

There is another essential function, one of the most important any Libertarian can do: run for and win election to local offices like city council and school board. These are non-partisan offices that are the training ground for future Libertarian political leaders. Even without party affiliation, these offices can become platforms for testing libertarian idea—and influencing public policy on the grassroots level. Not only does this provide experience, it provides credentials for future political aspirations. It provides contacts. It provides allies. And it will give you access to people who are already involved.

It's a trial by the mile, it's hard by the yard, but it's a cinch by the inch! The first step? Dig into your pockets and donate \$10 to your county or regional organization and \$10 to the state party on top of your dues. That is the price of only three movie tickets, or one cheap dinner for two, or a few drinks.

We can learn from the great philosopher and novelist Ayn Rand. In an interview with Phil Donahue in 1979, she said words that have made superstar Bo Jackson famous: "Just do it."

#### **ELECTION UPDATES**

In the December issue, *California Libertarian News* neglected to mention that a Libertarian incumbent was re-elected in California. **Jerry Douglas** of Woodland Hills won a second four-year term as a director of the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District. Profiles of Jerry and other Libertarian officeholders will appear in future issues.

After the absentee ballots were counted, Insurance Commissioner candidate **Ted Brown's** final tally was 433,421 votes, or 6.06%. This exceeds **Ron Paul's** nationwide total in the 1988 presidential race. Ted's total was not the highest nationwide, however, as **Carol Caul** received 441,945 votes (15.1% in a two-way race) for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The absentee results changed just one Libertarian vote total substantially. We reported last month that **Roy Shimp** received 3.4% in the 27th State Assembly District (Merced and Stanislaus Counties). The final results show Roy at 5.7%, 191 votes over the margin of difference between the Democratic incumbent and Republican challenger.

Besides Roy, other "balance of power" LP candidates were Paul Gautreau (Attorney General), John Wallner (44th Congressional District), Juanita Hendricks (4th Senate District), John Murphy (75th Assembly District), and Ed McWilliams (78th Assembly District). California Journal noticed that the votes for Murphy and McWilliams may have helped defeat two incumbents.

#### **NEW FIELD COORDINATOR NEEDED**

LPC Field Coordinator **Jim Lewis** has resigned to take a new position as manager of the Andre Marrou for President campaign. He moved to Las Vegas in November. As you know, Jim was the LP's 1984 vice presidential candidate who later served a jail term courtesy of the Internal Revenue Service.

In his 1½ year tenure, Jim visited dozens of college campuses throughout California with the goal of establishing student groups. His weapon was the opinion survey, which asked students questions about issues ranging from drugs to guns to Social Security. The responses were then registered on the diamond chart, which places people in the libertarian, liberal, conservative, or authoritarian quadrants.

Libertarian psychologist, unlicensed, wishes to be supervised by Californialicensed psychologist or psychiatrist in the Bay Area.

Dr. M. Edelstein 2040 Sutter St. #307 San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 673–6849

paid advertisement

A large number of students ended up in the libertarian quadrant—and most had never heard of the Libertarian Party! Jim educated them forthwith.

Now a new field coordinator is needed. Student contacts have already been established on twenty campuses. The new coordinator will need to keep them supplied with materials, and also travel to identify new activists elsewhere. A van bedecked with Libertarian logos is used for traveling. The rate of pay is dependent on the generosity of LP contributors and pledgers. Send your resume to **Marion McEwen**, 24828 Canyon View Ct., Hayward, CA 94541, or call (415) 889-9216.

Unfortunately, the Field Coordinator Project is in the red. Your contributions are needed to pay the bills up to date and leave the slate clean for the new coordinator. Make your checks payable to "Field Coordinator Project" and send to **David Maxwell**, 1411 Donohue Dr., San Jose, CA 95131.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Editor:** 

The language we use has a big effect on the way people interpret our statements. Often I hear Libertarians use phrases like "Third Party" or "bipartisan." Unfortunately, this serves to reinforce the thinking that there really are two major parties. I am sure that if we all think about it, there are many words we use that support the fictions of the Administration. Instead of "bipartisan," how about "nonpartisan"? Instead of "The War on Drugs," how about "The New Prohibition"?

To the suggestion that we use absentee ballots to be more visible, it's a good idea. However, do you know that the FBI uses these ballots against people? Once the votes have been tallied, these pieces of paper with your name on them don't just disappear.

David J. Lowe Redlands

Editor:

I recommend a book for every taxpaying American to read, especially every Libertarian. It's "The Great Depression of 1990," by Dr. Ravi Batra. His year may be a little off but his message is right on. It's easy reading, thoroughly documented, and a real eye-opener.

Tom Erickson West Hollywood

JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

MOSTLY IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Finance, Accounting, Banking, Computer Science, Secretarial

Send resume and cover letter to Jon Osborne Bank of America 799 Market St., Dept. #3160 San Francisco, CA 94103

paid advertisement

California Libertarian News is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained within do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated. Please send articles, local news, photos, letters, and advertising copy to the editor:

Ted Brown 125 N. Allen Ave. #107 Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 568–8404.

### The Best of Libertarianism

1991 Convention of the Libertarian Party of California, February 15 - 18 Holiday Inn Resort Monterey, 1000 Aguajito Blvd, Monterey, CA 93940 *Convention Schedule* 

Friday
6:30 PM, Marshall Fritz; Intro to Libertarianism
6:30 PM, Kim Goldsworthy, Robert' Rules
7:30 PM, Dick Boddie; Keynote Address
8:00 PM, Mock Debate; Conspiracy or Paranoia?
10:00 PM, Pub Club

8:00 AM, Marshall Fritz; Better Schools Noon, Dave Walter; (*The Advocate*) Gay Rights 1:30 PM, Carole Rand; Update on Advocates 2:30 PM, Kai Chen; Change in China 2:30 PM, Panel Disc, Short Term Planning 3:30 PM, David Boaz; Public School Monopoly 4:30 PM, David Henderson; War for Oil? 5:30 PM, Vic Krohn; Ending the Income Tax

8:00 PM, Andre Marrou Roast

Saturday

Sunday

8:00 AM, Russell Means; Good & Bad News Noon, Virgina Postrel; Reclaiming Abortion Debate 1:30 PM, Kathleen Pierece; Sex, Lies & Videotape 2:30 PM, Clark Marley; Team Liberty 2:30 PM, Panel Disc; Long Term Planning 3:30 PM, Joe Fuhrig; Explaing the S&L Crisis 4:00 PM, Panel Disc of 1990 state wide candidates 4:30 PM, Larry Dodge; FIJA Update 5:30 PM, Debate; Should LP Accept Matching Funds? 8:00 PM, Banquet with Gene Burns

Monday 8:00 AM, Tonie Nathan; Building With Publicity Noon, Samual Adams Luncheon

Hotel Rates are only \$79 for up to 4 people, call 1-800-234-5697 for hotel information. Tell them you are with the Libertarian Party

### **Convention Registration Form**

Please return to Libertarian Promotions, PO Box 3395, San Diego, CA 92163 (619) 497-1085

Name	Phone	Menu Selections
Street		Saturday Luncheon  ☐ London Broil ☐ Chicken Marco Polo
City/State/Zip		☐ Vegetarian
Please use seperate form for	Saturday Banquet	
☐ Full Payment Enclosed	□ 20% Deposit Enclosed	<ul><li>☐ Roast Leg of Lamb</li><li>☐ Broiled Sword Fish</li></ul>
Full Package, \$200 before everything the convention	Jan 15, \$210 after. Includes has to offer	□ Vegetarian Sunday Luncheon
Non-eating Package, \$80 the full package, but does	before Jan 15, \$90 after, same as n't include meal functions	☐ Sole Almondine ☐ Beef Stroganoff
Delegate Package, \$140 b all meal functions, but doe bar, or any of the lectures	<ul><li>☐ Vegetarian</li><li>Sunday Banquet</li><li>☐ Cornish Game Hens</li></ul>	
Friday Night Panel Disc/So after	eafood Bar \$20 before Jan 15/\$25	☐ Roast Prime Rib
☐ Breakfasts \$15 before Jan	15/\$20 after	☐ Vegetarian  Monday Luncheon
Luncheons \$20 before Jan Banquets \$45 before Jan	15/\$50 after Please list any special dietary needs	<ul><li>☐ Snapper Provencal</li><li>☐ Beef Stroganoff</li></ul>
☐ Display Tables \$70 before☐ Individual Lectures \$6	Jan 15/\$90 after	□ Vegetarian

### LP LEADERS HARASSED BY "STAN THE SIGN MAN"

Starting just before Thanksgiving, Libertarian Party leaders and ex-candidates have been receiving large quantities of mail from a bigoted ex-Marine named Stan Jaroszenski. Mr. Jaroszenski accuses us of encouraging drunkenness, drug abuse, gluttony, and the spread of AIDS. Unfortunately, he claims to be a registered Libertarian and leader of the party's "spiritual faction."

Large manila envelopes arrive covered with insults and excerpts from anti-Catholic and anti-gay tracts. There is information from Tony Alamo's fundamentalist church in Arkansas and from the Christian Workers Movement. They advocate unlibertarian positions such as raising the minimum wage to \$7 an hour and quarantining HIV-positive individuals to open up the job market to the unemployed!

Mr. Jaroszenski has also sent press clippings of his time in jail for setting a fire at a Catholic student center in Tucson, Arizona. In that city, he is known as "Stan the Sign Man" because he stands outside Catholic churches carrying signs accusing the church of dealing in organized crime and drug trafficking. He says that Tucson Libertarians "ran away" from him. (I wonder why!) Mr. Jaroszenski now lives in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles.

This misguided person has made no threats against anyone yet, but Libertarians are watching ruefully as our mailboxes fill up with garbage day after day. If you have any relevant information on Mr. Jaroszenski and his activities, please contact the editor.

#### MEDIA AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

The Libertarian Party of California's State Executive Committee has authorized a "Libertarianism in the Media" recognition award. This award is to express appreciation and to encourage continued presentation of libertarian principles in the media. Newspaper columnists, editors, publishers, radio or TV commentators, talk show hosts, producers, station owners, etc. are all eligible. The award will be presented at the LPC State Convention in February.

Please send information regarding your nominee for this important award to Richard Boddie, P. O. Box 2706, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Contributions of a dollar or two are graciously accepted to make possible a suitable plaque for the winner. CLNews

## FROM THE CHAIR— MAKING OUR PARTY WORK

by Gail Lightfoot

Do you want to see the Libertarian Party continue to work for freedom? I do.

That's why I spend some time each and every day working to build a solid organization that



will manage the daily business of the Libertarian Party of California. And that's why I am asking for your help.

Our party needs to do certain things just to exist. Some of these things lend themselves to fundraising letters to the membership. When we send out these letters, as good Libertarians we feel obligated to spend the money on the projects we discussed in our appeal.

Meanwhile, the not so glamorous daily expenses go on.

- 1. Database management.
- 2. Financial recordkeeping.
- 3. Inquiry response and literature.
- 4. New member information.
- 5. Monthly newsletter, communication between the leadership.
- Renewal notices, pledge reminders, credit card deposits.

We have devised a budget that separates out the operating expenses. These tasks must be paid by our dues and pledge income. Right now, including the new minimum dues going into effect on January 1, the dues and pledge income is insufficient to meet current expenses. We need to double our monthly income.

Will you help by renewing, increasing or becoming a monthly pledger?

If we can do this now, we can concentrate our fundraising efforts on exciting, vital projects such as TV ads that reach out to disillusioned voters.

Won't you help guarantee a successful 1992 election campaign by pledging now to support the Libertarian Party of California through 1992?

Every pledge of \$5.00 or more per month will extend your membership into the next year when the payments reach the \$50.00 sustaining level of membership. Thank you for your support.

Yes, I want to ensure a successful 1992 election campaign. Here is my pledge for \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly through November 1992.

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*	Occupation/business				

\*Employer\_\_\_\_

\*FEC requires our asking (we can accept your money even if you don't answer.) DIRECTORY

**County Chairs or Contacts** 

DIRECTORY		County Chairs or Contacts			
	(figure in parenthe		ership)		
	Alameda (86)	Wayne Nygren	(415) 889-9216		
(714) 949_3442	Butte (6)	Jessica Strock	(916) 893-3836		
(114) 010 0112	Calaveras (3)	Tom Tryon	(209) 736-4845		
	Contra Costa (32)	Mike Rother	(415) 932-4993		
	El Dorado (7)	Richard Akin	(916) 622-4785		
(916) 893-3836	Fresno (11)	Jack Sanders	(209) 485-0489		
	Inyo/Mono (1)	William Baucum	(619) 878-2288		
	Kern (8)	Vicki Williams	(805) 833-0140		
	Lake/Napa/Mendocino (13)	Randy Grindle	(707) 994-4817		
(818) 340-8980			a according to		
		Geoffrey Neale	(818) 893-6884		
		Bob Weber	(213) 204-0612		
		John Tuttle	(818) 242–5699		
(714) 986 - 6677	64 Central L. A.	Michael Everling	(213) 487-5199		
			(213) 727–5979		
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# A NEW LIBERTARIAN WRITES TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear President Bush:

I write you to renounce my membership in the Republican Party. I am now a member of the Libertarian Party, a party which believes in and acts upon our U. S. Constitution and the wisdom of our founding fathers. After 38 years I can no longer be a member of the Republican Party, which is a luke-warm, carbon copy of the Democratic Party.

Both major parties have amassed power, arrogance, corruption and money by denying us taxpayers the fruits of our own labor. Abusive and socialistic tax policies have literally misappropriated thousands of billions of dollars for waste, corruption, inefficiency, and duplication at home and abroad.

How can you constitutionally justify the taking (stealing) of money from one person or group and giving it to another person or group? This is a "redistribution of wealth shell game" perpetrated by politicians in both the Democratic and Republican Parties. And how can you constitutionally justify giving away taxpayers' money to a proliferation of foreign governments and, in many cases, despots? How much of our money did Marcos and Noriega steal? Does Congress know? Do you know? Do you care?

What astonishes me most in recent years is that Congress has spent us into oblivion. We are now a debtor nation. Who is to be punished for the fiscal sins, corruption and incompetence of Congress? Of course, it is we, the taxpayers. We have been punished by the biggest tax hike in our history—about \$165 billion, depending upon whose figures you read. And you supported this disgrace.

In any business, when expenditures constantly exceed income, it goes broke. But government is unique in that when it spends more money than it takes in, it simply steals more money from its own constituents, and still does not have enough to

balance the budget! The only other organizations that I know of that can do this are large criminal outfits, such as the Mafia.

For decades, both of the major parties have been on the road to socialism, even though we are supposed to have a constitutional republic with a free-market economy. The main difference is that the Democratic Party has been going at a faster rate than has the Republican Party. It is no wonder that Libertarians call you "Demopublicans."

For liberty, Bernard W. Merrill San Jose, CA

(Editor's note: Welcome aboard, Mr. Merrill!)

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Please look at the label on your newsletter. You will see the following: (example) 67 90/12/31 with your name and address following. This means you are a member of Region 67 and your membership expires 12/31/90. We need to know if your name and address are correct, and also if you are a member of the region you wish to be. Write to LPC, 286 Greenhouse Mkpl. #362, San Leandro, CA 94579 or call (415) 352-9469, if you have any questions or wish to make a change. If your membership has expired or will soon expire, please renew with the form inside. This will save us the expense of mailing a renewal notice. If you are late, you may miss copies of *California Libertarian News*, as we stop sending it two months after the expiration date. Thank you.

#### **CORRECTIONS:**

—In the November issue, the article "Bay Area Toll Road" should have been identified as a reprint from the *Santa Clara Libertarian*. The author was David Maxwell, editor of that publication.

—In the December issue, the article "The Libertarian Election of 1990" should have stated that before November 6, 1990, voters had only defeated one bond measure since 1982, not 1962.

### California Libertarian News

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