Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the contributors in the National Libertarian Party's Liberty Pledge Program and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to current National Committee Members and State Party Chairs in appreciation of their involvement and to serve them as a regular update on Libertarian activities at Headquarters and in the news.

Clippings and other stories of interest are appreciated.

Libertarian Party National Headquarters • 301 W. 21st St. • Houston, Texas 77008 • 713/880-1776

May 1986

Dear Supporters of Liberty,

What a month April was for our Party! Lots and lots of news from everywhere. Try as the world might, we just couldn't be blown out of the news; pushed back a page or two, but we were there.

There's so much news this month, that I'm going to forego a page of my writing and just let the clippings speak for themselves. By the way, for those of you who don't know it: we receive an average of 100 clippings a month, having to do with the activities of libertarians (individuals and groups). I have to fight with myself each month as to which clippings to print and which not to. Granted, some of the clippings are of the same story, repeated in the papers of one community or a nearby town, but let me tell you folks, this Party's moving!

I guess the hottest number for April was the “taking” of Big Water, Utah by the Utah LP. Evidently all five city council members and the mayor switched to the Libertarian Party. A reporter stated that Big Water is the first community in the nation “controlled” by the party... I think “un-controlled” is a better description. In addition, the Utah LP is fielding 52 candidates in upcoming elections! The next time you have a drink in your hand, drink a toast to LP State Chairman, Bob Waldrop and the Utah activists. Well done, Utah!!

Norma Jean Almodovar (candidate for lieutenant governor) is really staying in the press in sunny California. Her credentials are excellent: Who knows law enforcement like a police officer? Who knows the reality of persecution for victimless crimes like a prostitute? And who could voice the futility of trying to legislate morality better than a person with a background in both occupations? This lady is definitely worth her weight in Kruggerands.

April was a month for many well planned tax protests. Andre Marrou was center stage in Anchorage where he took part in a march with 100+ others to the IRS offices. There Andre gave a speech decrying the income tax. He'd have made a better splash in the media, but our government bombed the Hell out of Libya the day before. It's an old ploy of stage magicians... when you don't want the audience to look at your left hand, catch their attention with your right.

So, fellow Libertarians, the rest is in the clippings, read on and enjoy.

See you next month!
There were a lot of motorists looking for their horns at Chuck Wright of Thousand Oaks Tuesday night and it was music to his ears. They were doing just what Wright wanted.

As a member of the Libertarian Party, Wright was protesting the federal income tax by picketing the post office in Thousand Oaks. His sign said, "If you hate taxes..."

A good number of procrastinating taxpayers — the ones who were running in and out of the post office to mail in their last-minute returns — did just that.

For men such as Wright, paying taxes is the moral equivalent of "murder" and they want to change it.

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If you can handle ten wives, you can do job

BIG WATER, Utah (UPI) — Mayor Alex Joseph has more wives than anyone most people here can count. And since the organization skills required by a polygamist will be an asset if he's elected to the Kane County Commission.

Joseph, 51, has become the second Utah polygamist in two weeks to seek public office on the Libertarian Party ticket.

"I'm really dissatisfied with these characters (in the county commission) and I just don't think they're doing their job," Joseph, who has 10 wives, said Sunday of his decision to run for commisioner.

Joseph has held the mayor's job since his small southern Utah community, incorporated in December 1983.

Now, he wants to follow in the wake of Royston Potter, another polygamist living 300 miles to the north in suburban Salt Lake City, who has run for Salt Lake County Sheriff.

Joseph said polygamy will become an issue in the campaign "because they're going to try to use the prejudice against that lifestyle against me."

But Joseph, who says besides his part-time mayor's job he makes his living by managing some country music performers and "minding his own business," claims plural marriage would make little difference in his conduct in office, if elected.

That (polygamy) is not my occupation, "it's my lifestyle," he said.

"I've never been convicted of a crime in my life, so I've never considered plural marriage illegal."

The practice of polygamy is in fact a misdemeanor in Utah, where authorities seldom prosecute offenders.

"Rather than being a liability, I think his polygamy could help win votes."

"I think it's absolute proof of my administrative ability," he said.

Joseph said he garnered 45 percent of the vote, running unopposed in the 5980 race for mayor of Big Water, despite most of the 300 people in the community being devout monogamists.

And he said he has a good shot at the county commission post now held by a Republican. Vinece Underwood, because of what Joseph perceives as a growing disenchantment with "corrupt and "unresponsible" attitude of GOP office holders."

"As a pragmatist I've been a conservative on the right end of the Republican Party all of my adult life. But if they Libertarians are willing to have me, I'm willing to have them," he said.

"They (Republican incumbents) take me plenty seriously. That's the problem," he said. "They'll get organized real quick," Joseph said.

Economic development and holding down taxes will be two of his top issues, he said.

"While they (current commissioners) mouth they want to help you, in the mouth they want people to develop (the area), they don't do anything about it," Joseph said.

Libertarian Party Takes a Utah Town

Big Water, Utah — Four of five City Council members have switched political allegiance to the Libertarian Party, making this community the first in the nation controlled by the party, the state chairman said yesterday.

Big Water is a recently incorporated city of 350 population in Kane County near the Arizona border. It has a population of 350 and a mayor who espouses polygamy. It came under Libertarian control during a meeting to choose delegates to county conventions, said Chairman Bob Waldrop.

"It's not Salt Lake City, but it's a start," Waldrop said. "It really surprised our national office."

Elizabeth Joseph, one of Mayor Alex Joseph's 10 wives, said council members Frank Flom, Janet Delando and Charles Maness joined Joseph in crossing over from the Republican Party.

"I talked to the five council members, and she's thinking of running," she said. "I'm happy with the management of the Kane County Hospital, which he has run up a $300,000 deficit."

Waldrop said the council members would make little difference in his conduct in office, if elected.

"A man of conviction has to do what he feels he has to do. I know men and women who have gone to prison for their religious beliefs." Joseph said.

"He said he also doesn't know why polygamists bring such attention. "It's perfectly normal."

Utah town is first in nation to go Libertarian

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Big Water, with a population of 350 and a polygamist for mayor, came under Libertarian control during a meeting, one of hundreds held throughout the state to choose delegates to county conventions, said Chairman Bob Waldrop.

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Libertarian leader has vision of self-reliant nation

By JIM HILL
of The Oregonian staff
BEAVERTON — The new president of the Libertarian Party of Oregon says the party — by promoting a move toward, rather than away from, individual liberty — can counter “a serious loss of self-reliance” among Americans.

Trish Coffey, elected at the party’s state convention in Salem earlier this month, said the present American political system was close to being a social-welfare state, tending “to reward helplessness” and giving people the attitude that they don’t need to look after themselves.

Regarding the party’s purpose, she said, “The main impetus for it, I think, is that the Republican and Democratic parties have been moving away from individual liberty. . . . What we want is a society that rewards the most productive, honest people of high moral character, and to discourage the predators in society.”

Although Libertarians would like to eliminate nearly all elements of government, Coffey contended that a society run without today’s myriad agencies and based instead on free market principles would be more efficient, more effective and more economical.

“It’s not an absence of law and order at all,” said Coffey, a Beaverton-area resident who succeeded Kent Dillon of Philomath as head of the Libertarian Party in Oregon. There are about 2,000 registered Libertarians in Oregon, according to the state Elections and Public Records Division.

Libertarians, who tend to be ultra-liberal on social issues and ultra-conservative on economic issues, believe that every person has the inalienable right to life, liberty and property and that no one has the right to use violence or threats to impose his or her values on others.

At the party’s state convention, attended by approximately 50 delegates and observers, resolutions favoring the repeal of county gasoline taxes and passage of the Oregon marijuana initiative were passed.

Coffey said she “hates smoke” and is anti-smoking herself but defends the rights of individuals to smoke cigarettes or marijuana.

The illegality of drugs, she said, has resulted in high prices and in a high crime rate among those who must have money to buy drugs. Coffey said that after visiting 22 countries she was convinced that people who needed an escape from reality would find a way, through drugs or other means. “Should we define them as criminals?” she asked.

In general, Coffey contended, no laws should be made to protect people from themselves. She said that while mistakes sometimes can be fatal, they also can help build character.

Regarding imposition of gasoline taxes by individual counties, Coffey declared that such taxes represent an unfair imposition on businesses in those counties that must compete with businesses in neighboring counties without gasoline taxes.

She said one of her immediate priorities would be opposition to any new tax proposed by Tri-Met. She said she would rather see the transportation agency go broke and leave the transit problem to private enterprise than to see people pay “a tax without representation.”

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She said that although many people shrugged off the efforts of socialist activists in the past, the nation had “moved in that direction.” The Libertarian Party, she said, decided that the country needed to move in the other direction, toward individual liberty.

“I hope we become one of the major parties,” Coffey declared, “but even if we just reverse the trend, I’ll be thrilled.”

TRISH COFFEY
Working for individual freedom

Local-Tax Proposal

Dear Editor:

There is currently a 10-page bill before the S. C. House Ways & Means Committee that, if enacted into law, will allow counties and cities to impose a sales and use tax, income tax, occupational tax, motor vehicle license tax, coin-operated device tax, and admissions tax.

According to some newspaper reports, the bill would lower or eliminate property taxes, require a referendum, and allow an “income” or “occupational” tax, but not both. These are, however, just myths. The bill: (1) says nothing about property taxes; (2) requires only an advisory referendum before imposing a sales and use tax, and (3) includes an “income” tax within the “occupational” tax.

A copy of the bill is available from the Legislative Council on the second floor or the Statehouse (telephone 758-2306).

Jan L. Chapman
S. C. Libertarian Party

Provisions Of Local-Tax Proposal

I read with interest a letter which appeared in the March 4 Columbia Record from Ms. Jan L. Chapman of the S.C. Libertarian Party. I’m sure you are aware that often times what’s proposed in a bill is not necessarily what comes out in the final form. H. 3252, which is currently in the Ways and Means Committee, is somewhat different from what I had anticipated.

I will not vote for any bill that will raise taxes. My interest in the Local Government Finance Act was because it would lower and/or eliminate property taxes and also require a public referendum, not advisory, before any new tax could be passed into law by local governments.

I will have no part in a bill which will raise or add taxes — such as an income tax, sales tax, occupational tax or property tax. I think we are taxed entirely too much now. The only way I would even consider this bill would be as a means to eliminate property taxes.

In many counties, some 60 or 70 percent of the people have to pay 100 percent of the property taxes. Property taxes are used to provide revenues for county and municipal governments, schools, etc., and are, I think, quite often unfair. An example of the unfairness of property taxes is that senior citizens, whose children have graduated and have not been in the public schools for 20 or 30 years, must continue to pay taxes to support the school districts.

I must agree with Jan Chapman. There is no way I will vote for a bill which places all of these other taxes on top of the current property taxes. I also will have no part in a bill which denies local people the opportunity to determine their own taxing methods.