

SEPT * OCT 1974 #20

NEWSLETTER OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS LIBERTARIAN PARTY

In This Issue:

- ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- * * * MLP MEMBERSHIP MEETING * * *
 - * * * RAND AT FORD HALL FORUM * * *
 - * * * ROTHBARD COMING TO BOSTON * * *
- [Details inside.]

- Drosdik on the American Party.
- Hacker, on marriage and divorce laws. (He's ag in em.)
- Long on position papers. Boring but instructive.
- Waldron with a report on political activities around the Commonwealth....Slim pickin's, as usual.
- a new feature: the Libertarian Directory, to offer quickie reviews of organizations and periodicals of interest to libertarians.

...and coming soon:

- Drosdik, Sanders and Ziobro on abortion. A real free-for-all!
- Stenerson on education. Get smart: read it.
- Waldron on energy.
- And much, much more....

LIBERTARIAN PICNIC

Most of you received a flier from Jack Waldron announcing a picnic September 7th. Of course it rained like crazy that day (when have libertarians ever had it easy?), but the picnic was held anyway - in your Minimum Leadah's (that's me, folks) apartment. Anyone who called asking about the picnic was invited. Lots of friendly people showed up, bringing what they had planned to take to the outing. The Reardons brought along a charcoal grill; Steve Klein turned up with several dozen board games; Jack Waldron, who was supposed to have ordered a sunny day, fetched in a cooler-full of beer; and Lee Nason appeared to be on more intimate terms with her bottle of peppermint schnapps than with her friend, Don Hunt. An Condon whipped up a spiffy salad while Bill and Sandra Cohen, Vince Drosdik and Eric Reardon were off in the living room getting trounced by Jane Klein in a game of Acquire. During much of the afternoon, Margaret Stenerson and David & Barbara Narlee engaged in a spirited discussion of libertarian politics with the Cohens and the Contes, who dropped in for a short while. Altogether, about thirty five people popped by during the afternoon and evening. If you didn't come, too bad for you. It was a rousing picnic, even if there wasn't any grass to sit on!

 Massachusetts LIBERTY is the newsletter of the

Massachusetts Libertarian Party
 95 Centre Street
 Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Editor: David E. Long

LIBERTY is sent to MLP members without charge. Individual membership dues for one year are \$6.00. Non-members may subscribe at the rate of \$3.50 per year (ten issues). The officers of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party are:

Chair: David E. Long
 Vice-Chair: David Reardon
 Historian: John K. (Jack) Waldron
 Treasurer: Walter J. Ziobro, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

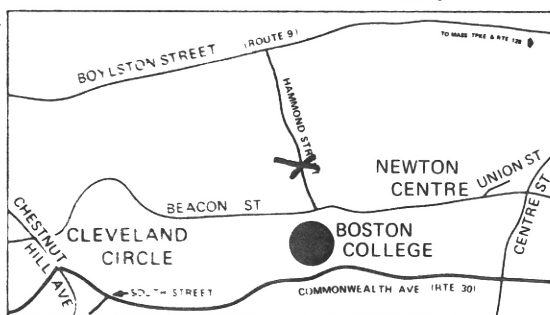
Page 3

MLP MEMBERSHIP MEETING!!! At Boston College. Friday evening, October 18, at 7:30 p.m. MLP members and readers of LIBERTY invited. We will meet at MURRAY HOUSE, 292 Hammond St. Parking on Beacon Street, or on B.C. campus (enter main gate on Commonwealth Ave; state that you are attending a function at Murray House. See map below.)

We are very pleased that several candidates for office have accepted our invitation to be on hand to speak (briefly) and answer your questions. Among them: Leo Kahian, American Party candidate for Governor, and Richard Adair, Republican candidate for State Representative (Medford).

Several rules changes have been proposed. (MLP members should find a red insert detailing these proposals with this copy of LIBERTY.)

Light refreshments will be on hand.



AYN RAND will speak at FORD HALL FORUM Sunday, October 20, at 8:00 p.m. Alumni Hall, Northeastern University. Her topic has not been announced. You can only buy a full-season ticket, @\$10.00. For information, contact the ticket office, 80 Boylston Street, Room 1120, Boston 02116.

Economist/historian Murray Rothbard will speak in Boston in mid-October. The date is Thursday evening, October 24. Reserve your place early: we are anticipating a sellout! Proceeds from this function will go to the Tucille for Governor Campaign and to the MLP. Donation (for MLP members and their guests only) is \$10.00. All others, \$15.00. You will receive a flier with all details soon. For immediate information, call Jack Waldron, 1-839-5594.

We are Growing!

Since mid-July, when our current membership drive began, our membership has grown more than thirty percent! Among our new members we welcome:

- David Brenner (Cambridge): Former Young Republicans chairman for the Boston area. Currently a student at MIT.
- Reid Morrison (Boston): Longtime (and still) Republican Party activist. Most recently, Treasurer for the Carroll Sheehan Campaign.
- David Narlee (Scituate): Founder and first chairman of the Maine LP, and currently editor/publisher of COGITATIONS Magazine.
- Margaret Stenerson (Brockton): Doctoral student at Boston College. Currently hoping to organize a local LP group in the southeastern Massachusetts area.

In addition, we have several new (or renewing) sustaining members. They are Donald and Norma Lindsay (Weymouthport), Charles Richmond (Hingham), A. Bruce Durkee (Marblehead), and MLP Vice-Chair David Reardon (Needham). Their generosity has made possible a significant amount of printing and mailing. Many thanks! We need more members like you.

Libertarian Directory

Books for Libertarians (BFL) [***]

422 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

One of the first libertarian book services, and still one of the best. Sells mostly books and tape cassettes. BFL publishes an excellent monthly review of new and old offerings. Current issue free upon request. Subscriptions free to customers; others, \$6.00/year.

Laissez-Faire Books [***]

208A Mercer Street, New York, NY 10012

The world's only bookstore of individualist literature, so they claim. Also a books-by-mail operation; BFL's major competitor. They also have a monthly review and a catalog, which comes in two flavors: libertarian and anarchist. Well-written and informative. Copies free upon request, subscriptions free to customers.

On Position Papers

In the past two years the MLP has issued a number of position papers on subjects ranging from legalization of marijuana to broadcasters rights. Papers average from one to four pages in length. We have recently begun a review of all such outstanding position papers with a view to making current those which have become outdated. A complete list of available position papers will be found following this section. All party members will receive copies as old papers are updated, or as new ones are approved.

Position papers have two principle uses: (1) They impose high requirements for clarity and rationality in dealing with complex issues.

Party members often suggest improved or additional arguments, thus substantially strengthening the understanding of others on particular issues. (2) They offer concrete examples to non-libertarians of where we stand and what our reasons are for taking such stands. A carefully written position paper often confronts people with arguments and facts they have not previously encountered. Certainly our ideas represent an alternative to the specious conservative/liberal (i.e., fascist/socialist) dualism offered as the only choices we have by most of today's media.

Challenged by one position, individuals often want to know our stance in other areas. As they inquire further and discuss questions raised by our platform and position papers, they gradually learn the principles underlying libertarianism. They may be stimulated into reading the works of various individualist, even (shades of Rothbard!) anarchist, authors. This is all to the good, even if the Party doesn't immediately gain these persons as members. After all, liberty, not a big membership roster, is our primary goal.

Any MLP member, and even non-members, may submit proposed position papers to the Party. Anyone wishing to do so should submit it to Walter Ziobro, Co-ordinator of the Research Committee, for screening and comments before it is submitted to the

Executive Board. Position papers become "official" only after they are passed upon by the Executive Board. Even then, in recognition of the fact that the MLP is composed of diverse individuals, and is not some sort of monolithic collective, every position paper must contain the following disclaimer: "this paper does not necessarily represent the views of all members of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party".

REVISED DUES SCHEDULE

The Executive Board recently revised and clarified the MLP dues schedule. These are the principle changes:

1. Couples may now pay a single fee of \$10.00. They will receive a single subscription to the newsletter Massachusetts LIBERTY, and single copies of other mailings. Each person has full voting rights. The term "couple" as used here does not imply any sexual, biological or legal connection, other than a single mailing address.
2. A new category of contributor has been established: Patron, \$50.00. Life membership dues have been reduced from \$200 to \$100. Since National life membership is only \$100, we thought that perhaps we were being a shade presumptuous in asking for more. Besides, we don't have any life members yet - apparently our fee has been above the free-market clearing price.
3. Sponsor and Patron memberships may be either joint, as described in (1) above, or single. Life memberships may not be joint.

Proposed POSITION PAPER

Page 7

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE LAWS: REFORM OR ABOLITION?

by: Dr. Edward A. Hacker

In law the contract of marriage is essentially the mutual consent of a man and woman to have sexual relations with each other and only with each other. Unlike all other civil contracts the contract of marriage differs in that it cannot be dissolved by consent of both parties. Consequently, no divorce or annulment of the marriage contract is possible without the consent of the State.

The original function of the marriage contract in English law was to absolutely merge the wills of the husband and wife into one will which is the will of the husband. Under Continental law, derived from Roman jurisprudence, a marriage is regarded like a private partnership and the property of the husband and wife is community property.

In the United States there is little consistency regarding laws of marriage and divorce. Each of the fifty states determines the legal conditions of the marriage contract and the conditions under which it may be dissolved. Some States follow early English law by stressing that husband and wife are one, and that one is the husband. Other states follow Continental law by regarding marriage as a partnership. All of the states, however, are consistent in having laws which prohibit incest, polygamy and polyandry, and in regarding the marriage contract to be for life.

Although libertarians object to the sexist bias and other archaic concepts embodied in marriage and divorce laws, their fundamental objection is that these laws violate individual rights. Libertarians believe that mutually consenting adults have the right to live together, to engage in sexual relations with each other, and to bear and raise children without the permission of the State. If the parties concerned wish to ensure that certain economic, sexual or any other kind of obligations are observed, then they may enter into a contractual agreement to this effect. As with all other contracts, libertarians believe that the marriage contract may contain a clause that dissolves it at a certain date, and that the contract may be dissolved at any time by mutual consent. Of course, breach of a marriage contract, like any other breach of contract, is a civil offense for which the violator is legally responsible.

Contractual law is sufficient to cover any legal obligations that persons who live together wish to impose upon themselves. Hence, the existing marriage and divorce laws should be abolished, not reformed.

[Dr. Hacker is a Professor of Philosophy at Northeastern University. He is a founding member of the MLP and was the first elected Historian of the Party.]

NOTES

The August issue of Books for Libertarians contains a long letter from MLP Treasurer Walter Ziobro on the collectivization of industry in prewar Nazi Germany....Mark Frazier, one of the founders (with Paul Seigler) of the Libertarian Party in Massachusetts, has moved to Washington, D.C., and a new career in journalism. Good luck, Mark....If anyone didn't already know, Paul Seigler is now living in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was recently elected chairman of the Kentucky LP. You can't keep a good man down....Readers of the "As I See It" column in the Worcester Telegram-Gazette were recently exposed to an excellent essay on Libertarianism as a new political alternative. It was written by MLP Historian Jack Waldron....Vincent Drosdik, life member of the LP, has been released from involuntary servitude with the U.S. Army in Berlin, Germany, and is back for awhile, we hope....Want to learn something about the publishing biz? Vince McCaffrey, a founding member of the MLP and publisher of the LIBERTARIAN HANDBOOK, is looking for help on the 1975 edition. Call him in Boston at 262-2568, or send a note to: 193 Beacon St., Boston 02116.

Subscribe!

THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER TENTH

by Jack Waldron

The Massachusetts state primaries yielded very little in the way of surprises. Naturally, all candidates campaigned on the "issues", which apparently meant "stacks of old magazines", because there weren't many ideas flying around. F.D.R.'s old ploy of promise them economy then spend 'em silly is still the standard regimen. Here's a quick synopsis of the new nadirs reached in '74.

Mike Dukakis stunned Bob Quinn and Frank Sargent. In a campaign marked by unity, Dukakis played the smiling maverick. He was the closest thing the primary had to Bert Reynolds - right down to a complete unveiling of his assets. (See, the "New Politics" can be exciting.)

Frank Sargent beat Carroll Sheehan handily but not by as much as he had hoped. Considering that Sarge outspent Sheehan by about \$500,000 (inflation?) to \$30,000, he could be in serious trouble in November. Sheehan's glaring lack of the green stuff may prove that conservatives are much more heavily into gold than politics these days.

Paul Guzzi pulled the upset of the night by beating John F.X. Davoren for the Secretary of State nomination. Davoren was seriously hurt by a Boston Globe series highlighting his questionable conduct. Guzzi stepped in as a representative of the "New Politics" and put the kabosh but good on old F.X. Unfortunately, "New Politics" is like a new car: it runs the same, but costs more than the old model.

Mark Furcolo scared the bejabbers out of Bob Crane in the race for the State Treasurer's nomination. I'm sure that Bob Crane didn't enjoy the "Instant Game" Mark threw at him Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Furcolo capitalized on his father's name and some bad publicity Bob Crane got in his dealings with banks. Furcolo then fostered an image of himself as a reformer and almost got the winning ticket.

Tip O'Neil's son also used the name game to capture the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor. Is there a libertarian around named John F. Kennedy or even Thomas Eisenstadt? [Yes! John Kennedy of Brookline is an MLP member. -Ed.]

The only hotly contested congressional race was for the Democratic nomination to replace retiring Harold Donahue in the Worcester area. Joe Early, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, pulled out a victory. One highlight of this campaign was that the major candidates faced the inflation issue squarely by calling it an international problem. Perhaps when Congress convenes in January our representatives can take their oaths by swearing on their stacks of old magazines that the dreaded gnomes are still alive and well.

Political analysts opined that there was a strong tide for new faces this year. Perhaps in '76 the tide will be for new ideas.

[Mr. Waldron is the Historian of the MLP.]

OPINION

AP RUNS KAHIAN FOR GOVERNOR

by Vincent A. Drosdik, III

with Carroll Sheehan defeated in the Republican primary, and Mike Dukakis not very attractive to libertarians, just who is there to vote for for governor in November?

That candidate might be Leo Kahian, a Middleboro businessman who is the American Party candidate nominee for governor. His running mate for the office of lieutenant governor is Dr. Nicholas J. Greco of Northampton. The newly-formed American Party gathered 100,000 signatures, 60,000 of them certified and accepted, to gain ballot position. The slate needs 3% of the vote to become a permanent party.

The two candidates emphasize that they are the only ones who are unalterably opposed to busing of students for racial balance. They quote two laws, one of which is the 1964 Civil Rights Act, to support their contention that busing is unconstitutional. Kahian would return total control of public schools to localities, and let them continue public schools, abolish them in favor of private schools, or whatever they wish. He is opposed to compulsory attendance laws. He would support some sort of bill to increase parental control of education, such as tax deductions or

credits for private school tuition, or a voucher plan.

The platform of the American Party calls for economic freedom and more local control of not only schools but also police. It calls for anti-abortion legislation, the right to keep and bear arms, the 200-mile fishing limit and other such conservative positions. As for welfare, the platform says "Public welfare is not and never has been a right". It also calls for "the mandatory death penalty for certain heinous crimes".

However, like a conservative, Kahian is no libertarian in the area of "social freedoms". He supports the current anti-obscenity law, believing there is a connection between obscenity and rape. Besides, he says, pornography, etc., are against the law of God, and as a Christian he feels obligated to uphold it. "We are 'One nation under God', a Christian nation", he says.

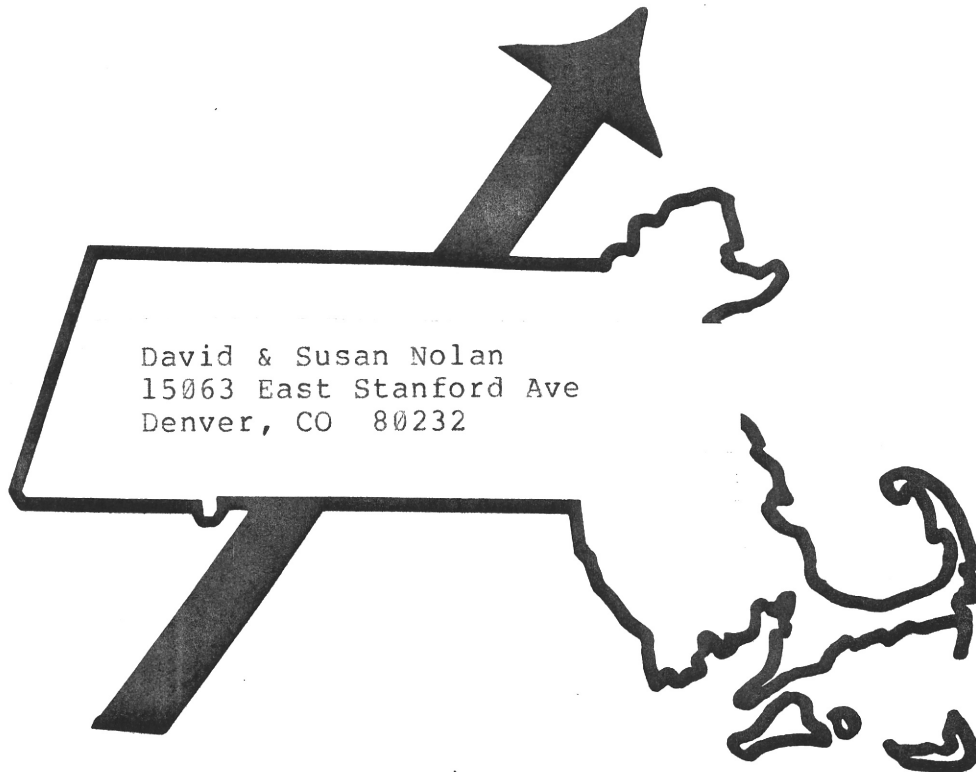
Thus, he also supports, basically, the blue laws, and laws against prostitution, homosexual behavior, and dangerous drugs. Kahian admits that it is a difficult line to draw between alcohol and marijuana, for example, but he believes that if a drug adversely affects the mind and body, such as he believes to be the case with marijuana, then the drug should be outlawed.

While not a libertarian, Leo Kahian is in favor of economic freedom and reduced government much more than any of the other candidates for governor. As he says, "We can do something about the STATE we are in by lowering taxes through less government". Since he is in such a different league than the others, I believe that he deserves our vote, if for no other reason than to "send them a message in the State House". Contributions and help is welcome and should be sent to: The American Party of Massachusetts, Box 176, Boston 02120.

[Mr. Drosdik is a life member of the Libertarian Party. He has published articles in THE FREEMAN, Southern Libertarian Review, and other publications.]

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