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# the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

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**Summer 1981**

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## **GERRY WALSH FOR SCHOOL BOARD!**

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by GERRY WALSH

I am, unfortunately, the only Libertarian in Illinois running for office this November and I need your help. I'm a school board candidate in High School District 211, which covers Schaumburg, Palatine, and Hoffman Estates. This district is supposedly the second largest in the State -- the population is around 130,000, the area is 62 square miles, and the budget is \$49 million per year for 12,000 students.

There are three points I'm trying to get across to the voters:

1) Tax Credits for Alternative Education. This was a point in Ed Clark's campaign. It would give students/parents the option of attending a school other than the one to which he or she is assigned. Publicizing this "freer" market option should give it momentum in Illinois.

2) A \$22 Million Cash Surplus. This money has been invested and is yielding interest to the district. There is some controversy over the legality of such a large amount. My position is clear: this is the taxpayers' money and it should be returned to them. The less money a taxing body has to spend, the better!

3) Expense. A \$49 million annual budget for 12, 000 students equals \$4,100 per student per year.

Why am I writing this article? Because I need financial and volunteer support. Only about 2,500 people voted in the school board election two years ago (out of 130,000)! The district employs 758 teachers and professional staff. The Teachers' Union interviews the candidates and then endorses their favorites; I certainly don't think they want a Libertarian in office! The local Schaumburg Township Republican Organization even endorsed a candidate before they were all officially confirmed; they didn't waste their time by conducting interviews.

There are seven persons, including the three incumbents, running for three school board seats. Contacting independent voters in this large area before the election on November 3rd will require money and time.

Volunteers are needed within the district to hold coffees. People within the district and nearby areas are needed to telephone voters and send out literature. Libertarians throughout the rest of Illinois can help by sending money. Joe Fortunato of Hoffman Estates is managing the campaign and can be reached at (312) 882-0437. Contributions can be sent to: Committee to Elect Walsh, c/o Herb Rosen, 1450 King Edwards, #212, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

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The Prairieland Libertarian Association is holding its monthly meeting on August 9th. Location is the University High School in Normal.

by GERRY WALSH

NORTH COOK COUNTY

The Northside club has added a discussion group to its schedule. The July 12th meeting discussed various aspects of Atlas Shrugged. The next meeting will be on August 14 to discuss Ed Clark's A New Beginning. Another Supper Club meeting is planned for the near future.

NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY

The Northwest club participated in two parades on the July 4th weekend. First was the Des Plaines parade. The '48 Chrysler was a popular topic of conversation of parade watchers who gave an enthusiastic response to our TAXATION IS THEFT signs. About 1,000 pieces of literature were distributed.

Gerry Walsh, who was carrying the sign, was questioned by a local policeman who concluded his interrogation by asking, "Are you an American?" The next day's parade in Franklin Park went more smoothly. On August 16th the club's fundraising barbeque was held at Jeannette Walder's which included food, beer, fresh air, films and fun.

DUPAGE COUNTY

About 60 people showed up for the July 13 meeting. Jim Tobin and Rich Suter spoke about tax-cut referenda which can be put on the ballot next year and petitions were distributed. It's surprising the turnout you can get when you put "public interest" notices in the local papers. There were also a couple of reporters present. Another "informal" get-together was held at Pat Peterson's on July 17th. This was in preparation for the DuPage County Fair on July 23-26. Meetings are held on the first and second Mondays at the College of DuPage and the fourth Wednesday of each month at Don Parrish's in Downers Grove.

KANE COUNTY

The annual picnic at Bruce and Lorraine Green's was a success -- socially, financially, and for publicity. (See reprint of Chicago Tribune article elsewhere in this issue - Ed.)

LAKE COUNTY

By the time you read this, the Waukegan parade and Libertarian barbeque will have already occurred. Volunteers are still needed for the Lake County Fair which is the last weekend in July. Call Tom (312) 234-2233 or Bea (312) 367-7502 to get details.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

Although it has not yet been officially approved, a fundraising dinner is planned for October 17 at the Croatian Crest Club, 3600 North Shore Drive, Moline, Illinois from 1 pm to 7 pm. The chili dinner will be sponsored by the Rock Island County Libertarians. For more information, contact Lynn Davis. Speakers will be there as may be some films and tapes. The preparation of the meal will be accomplished at a party the night before in the Croatian Club kitchen.

WILL COUNTY

Two volunteers have come forward in Will County to start a Libertarian club there. Thanks to former LPI Chair Anne McCracken and Illinois newcomer Leona Bell. Details of the first meeting haven't been decided yet. Anyone interested can call Leona at (815) 722-6499 or Anne at (312) 739-6240.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

The group participated in the July 4th parade in Rockford. They had decorated Jim Dunkel's '64 Lincoln convertible and 8 people marched alongside it in the parade. They are also keeping busy by writing Letters to the Editor (weekly) and contacting the local news media. (See reprint of Dave Kelley's letter elsewhere in this issue - Ed.) Summer meetings are irregular, so contact Bob Salberg for the next one.

ILLINOIS VALLEY

The Illinois Valley Libertarian Association was officially affiliated at the July Central Committee meeting. The business meeting on August 5 discussed working with the Coalition for Political Honesty on its drive for statewide initiative. The September 2 business meeting will discuss the Principles of Liberty packet distributed by the Society for Individual Liberty. Business meetings are at Chuck Hale's in Washington; discussion groups are at the Unitarian/Universalist Church in Peoria.

MCHENRY COUNTY

Bill Baruth and Joan Jarosz are starting a libertarian club in McHenry County. The time and place for the first meeting haven't been decided yet, but county libertarians and others who have expressed an interest will be informed. Interested in helping? Call Bill at (815) 455-4494 or Joan at (312) 658-6335.

-- LETTER TO THE EDITOR --

The following comments appeared in Pat Cunningham's column in the Wednesday, September 2 edition of the Rockford Register Star:

"The Libertarian Party did its cause little good last week when delegates to its National Convention in Denver adopted a resolution favoring a criminal court system in which juries would be permitted to rule on the fairness of laws as well as on guilt or innocence.

"Under the Libertarian plan, a jury could exonerate a defendant if it felt the law violated was unfair.

"It's too bad the Libertarian movement, with its admirable objective of diminishing undue government influence in our private lives, fetters itself with such crazy, unconstitutional nonsense.

"And just when Libertarianism was gaining momentum."

The following letter to the editor of the Rockford Register Star subsequently appeared in the Sunday, September 6 edition:

'THROW OUT LAWS'

As an active member of the Rockford Area Libertarian Party, I feel obliged to respond to Pat Cunningham's comments of Sept. 2 regarding our party position on the criminal justice system. Cunningham chose to label a resolution that would allow juries to pass on the fairness of criminal statutes "crazy, unconstitutional nonsense". It would seem to me that Cunningham is demonstrating remarkably little confidence in the ability of juries to make sound decisions. He likewise places a tremendous amount of trust in the hands of the political powers to pass only good laws. Considering the overwhelming tendency of legislators to pass most laws in response to pressure by special interest groups, I'm not so sure this confidence is warranted.

Unlike Cunningham, the Libertarian Party and I have trouble visualizing a jury setting loose a thief, murderer or rapist because such laws are unfair. I know of no one who advocates such a position. These laws protect the rights of individuals against aggression by others. But what about motorcycle helmet laws? They still exist in most States. Some States have even considered passing laws requiring that seat belts be used in private autos at all times. Whose rights are the lawmakers protecting? Does the government have the right to punish me for breaking a law that serves only to protect me from myself?

Hundreds, if not thousands, of such

"victimless crime" laws are currently in force in this nation. Some, like the helmet and seat belt laws, have been passed in the name of safety. Others have been passed under the guise of good medical practice, such as the law against using Laetrile in the treatment of cancer. Why should a terminal cancer patient be branded a criminal for using Laetrile when the medical establishment that lobbied for the law offers no hope for curing his ailment? Other such laws have been passed in the name of protecting public morality. But then lawmakers are in the position of determining what our moral standards should be. Is that what our nation's Founders intended when they wrote our Constitution? I think not. This nation was founded to promote freedom, not uniformity.

Yet neither the existing political system nor the courts have seen fit to remove such laws from the books. They sincerely believe that we need to be protected from ourselves. I therefore challenge Cunningham to explain what is so "crazy" and "unconstitutional" about the Libertarian proposal to interject the collective common sense of a jury into the process.

--DAVID L. KELLEY, Rockford.

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-- EDITORIAL REBUTTALS --

by JOE MAXWELL

If you have been doing (or are interested in doing) editorial rebuttals and letters to the editor, please contact Joe Maxwell at (312) 791-5530 (work) or (312) 842-5911 (home). The goal is to set up a network for identifying editorials and articles that need a libertarian reply, getting these to libertarians who can respond to them, and exchanging information about rebuttal and letter writing.

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-- ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN --

EDITOR: Thomas E. Verkuilen

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by JEFFREY ROGERS HUMMEL

The total debt of the national government currently exceeds \$900 billion. That figure is greater than one third of the Gross National Product of the U.S. In the last ten years, since 1970, the national debt has more than doubled from a meager \$383 billion. Earlier this year, Congress raised the debt ceiling to \$985 billion, and on April 6th, the House Budget Committee recommended raising the ceiling again still higher to \$994 billion for Fiscal Year 1981. Thus, despite his promise to balance the budget, Ronald Reagan will probably go down in history as the first U.S. President to preside over a trillion dollar national debt. When that happens, interest alone on the national debt will approach \$100 billion per year.

The debt of the national government is only part of the problem. The recent near-bankruptcy of New York City brought home the fact that the debt of local and State government is also reaching staggering proportions. State governments owe more than \$100 billion, while local governments are in debt to the tune of nearly another \$200 billion. The total debt of government at all levels within the United States, consequently, is already well over a trillion dollars, or more than half the GNP.

The ability to borrow is extremely important to government. Government obtains revenue in one of three ways: taxing, issuing money, and borrowing. At first glance, borrowing may seem much less harmful than the other two means of government financing. Borrowing is voluntary and does not involve the coercion of taxation, nor does it cause the inflationary discoordination within the economy that result from governmental monetary expansion.

Government borrowing is nevertheless detrimental. It depends upon the power to tax. No one would voluntarily loan money to government unless it had some means of paying the interest and repaying the principal. Government, in effect, uses its coercive power to guarantee its own loans. The result is that loanable funds are enticed away from other uses more desired by consumers. This diversion of savings from productive investments drives up interest rates and lowers the capital structure of the economy. Consumers are poorer than they otherwise would be.

Borrowing, furthermore, inevitably increases the tax burden. Borrowing may appear to be an alternative employed in lieu

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Jeffrey Rogers Hummel is a graduate student in history at the University of Texas, a contributing editor for the Texas LP's newspaper Free Texas, and a member of the 1981 National Platform Committee.

of taxation, but it obligates the government to pay interest and repay the principal, increasing the future tax load. Even if the debt is never repaid, but continuously refinanced, the perpetual stream of future interest payments involves a net tax increase larger than the amount borrowed. Through borrowing, the government takes money out of the loan market which it replaces subsequently with tax money. Government borrowing plunders the economy twice over. First it misallocates savings; then later it raises taxes.

Libertarians wish to reduce significantly, if not totally eliminate, the power of government. The libertarian position on taxation and government monetary expansion is clear and unambiguous. Taxation is theft, or more precisely, extortion, and should completely cease. Government monetary expansion should be brought to a halt by denationalizing money, making money into a good provided solely by the market. There is, however, no generally accepted libertarian position on the third source of government revenue: borrowing.

Yet, anyone who is serious about rolling back the state must do something about government debt. It will not magically disappear. There are only three possible alternatives with regard to government debt. (1) Government debt can be paid back. (2) Government debt can be maintained in perpetuity, with interest payments going on forever. (3) Government debt can be repudiated. These three alternatives, or some combination of them, are inescapable. Those who advocate substantial reductions in the size of government must decide which of the three they prefer. I believe that the only proper and defensible position of government debt is total and immediate repudiation.

#### THE MORAL CASE

The strongest argument for the repudiation of government debt is moral. Repaying the debt, or financing the debt with permanent interest payments, would require continued taxation. Since taxation is coercive, this course is clearly unjust. No one has a legitimate claim to stolen tax money, especially not the owners of government securities.

The government's creditors bargained in good faith, it will be answered. Repudiating the debt is a breach of contract and therefore also unjust. This is a peculiar rejoinder at best. If taxation is theft, then the owners of government securities are morally no different than a group of investors who loaned money to finance the operations of a gang of thieves. No one would seriously argue that private thieves should go on stealing until they pay off their creditors. But this is precisely the position of those who would use tax money to repay government debt.

All other investments entail risk. Why  
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should investing in government be uniquely risk free? Indeed, those who loan money to the government are, in reality, investing in a criminal organization. The risk they face should be many times greater than that faced by investors in private, non-coercive, legitimate businesses. If the holders of government securities suffer huge losses as the result of repudiation, it will be no less than they deserve. The agreement between the government and its creditors is indeed voluntary, but voluntary agreements to commit theft and murder are not worthy of respect and ought not be carried out.

The fact that the owners of government securities may not believe that taxation is a form of aggression is irrelevant. They do know that the government taxes, regardless of their opinions about taxation's moral status. Should we excuse those who, prior to the Civil War, invested in slavery if they honestly believed that enslavement was the proper station for black people? If investors in a gang of thieves believe that stealing is a moral activity, they are still not entitled to the proceeds from theft. Government creditors have less of an excuse, because it is possible to loan money to thieves without knowing their source of income, but hardly anyone is ignorant of the fact that the government collects taxes.

Admittedly, the government victimizes more than it benefits many owners of government securities, such as the elderly who put their life savings into government bonds only to see their capital wiped out by inflation. The state induces others to invest in its securities with various regulations. Commercial banks, in practice, must hold some government securities, while anyone wishing to receive the tax breaks from trust funds faces a similar requirement. The government, at times, even coerces individuals into loaning money, as for instance when new Army recruits are advised that allotting some of their pay to savings bonds would be a "good idea." And some lost soul may conceivably go through life oblivious to the fact that the government is an engine of taxation.

The moral case for repudiation, however, does not depend upon the culpability of the government's creditors. Opinions can vary about the level of guilt or innocence of each of these groups, but this does not alter the coercive nature of taxation. The plight of these groups may make them legitimate objects of either voluntary charity or enforced compensation from their oppressors, but it cannot justify taxing innocent third parties.

Some have suggested that an alternative to taxation would be to retire the debt with the revenue obtained from the sale of those government assets -- such as national parks, public buildings, and streets and highways -- that become available as the state is dismantled. First, there is a practical difficulty with this option. Suppose the

sale of government assets does not yield sufficient funds to cover the entire debt? Then do you use taxation to repay the remainder, or do you permit partial repudiation? If you are willing to allow partial repudiation, on what grounds can you object to total repudiation?

Much more important than this practical difficulty is still the moral objection. The government is an institution that has both voluntary and involuntary relationships with its citizens. The involuntary relationships have visited untold damages upon those whom the government has taxed, regulated, and in general exploited. The revenue from the sale of government assets should compensate people for these involuntary damages rather than reimburse them for their voluntary dealings with the state. A gang of thieves should be required to repay their past victims before they repay those creditors who knowingly invested in robbery.

Consider the victims of the social security system. Year after year, they have been forced to pay taxes into a government retirement fund that is not nearly as lucrative as alternative private schemes. Surely, they have a much better claim to the proceeds from the sale of government assets than do the owners of government securities. In fact, I would argue that all taxpayers should be reimbursed, with interest, for every cent they ever paid in taxes, long before consideration is given to the claims of the government's creditors.

Taxpayers are only one of the groups due compensation. The direct victims of numerous other government interventions, from drug laws to licensing restrictions, also have valid claims. Including them makes it obvious that all of the government's assets are hardly sufficient to fully compensate the victims of the state, much less pay back the state's voluntary allies. Even if every past and present government official were made personally liable for the damage, there still would not be enough money. It is a cruel fact of reality that the very existence of government has resulted in a massive waste of resources which are no longer around for any kind of compensation. To let the allies of government feel this loss would be fairer than to inflict it on the state's victims. Since most owners of government securities have also been, in one respect or another, exploited by the state, they would be entitled to some compensation anyway.

Any plan for maintaining the debt by perpetually paying interest on it encounters similar problems. A totally voluntary government could just not afford the \$100 billion yearly interest payments on a trillion dollar debt, or even a substantial fraction thereof. The total liabilities, including both bonds and stocks, of the largest U.S. corporation, General Motors, equal only a little more than \$30 billion, and one would hope that a voluntary nightwatchman state

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-- MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE --

New rates for membership in the Libertarian Party of Illinois were approved at a meeting of the State Central Committee earlier this summer. The revised rate structure was to have been effective this month, but it was decided at the most recent Central Committee meeting in Rockford on September 6 that a date of November 1 would allow still more members to take advantage of the current rates as shown in the following chart:

	<u>CURRENT RATE</u>	<u>NEW RATE</u>
Student	8.00	10.00
Regular	10.00	20.00
Sustaining	30.00	50.00
Patron	50.00	75.00
Life	100.00	200.00
Newsletter	8.00	15.00

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-- NATIONAL CONVENTION TAPE RENTALS --

Illinois Libertarians will be able to rent from the LPI individual tapes from the recent National Convention held in Denver. Tapes were made of all the major speeches, panels and other events; any one of them would be a unique special feature at any local Libertarian meeting. For more information concerning tape availability, contact the LPI.

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-- CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE --

Forming a major portion of this issue of the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN are the LPI's Constitution and Bylaws (C&B), as amended and revised at the State Convention earlier this year. Many persons have felt that our governing documents have become too long and unwieldy and consequently in need of fundamental reform. For similar reasons, a major revision of the national Libertarian Party's C&B was approved at the recent Denver Convention.

Thus, at the July meeting of the State Central Committee, preliminary work on this project was begun by the election of a (C&B) Committee, in accordance with a motion proposed by Party Secretary Marji Kohls. The following individuals were chosen: Bea Armstrong, Steve Johnson, Jim Johnston, Steve Nelson and Tom Verkuilen. Proposals or sug-

gestions can be sent to the C&B Committee members at the LPI's mailing address.

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-- 1982 CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE --

One subject of discussion at the next State Central Committee meeting on November 1 will be the formation of a Committee on 1982 Convention Planning. Party members interested in any portion of the organization of a convention, from choosing a site, arranging the meals, or setting up a program, should contact their representative in the State Central Committee or otherwise make known their willingness to help.

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-- WHAT TO DO WITH THE NATIONAL DEBT? --

We are pleased to present Jeff Hummel's article which is one of the few discussions in recent memory proposing a libertarian solution to the problem of the national debt. We need go no further than the newspapers to realize the timeliness of this article. In the September 12 issue of the Chicago Tribune, Assistant Treasury Secretary Roger W. Mehle warned that if the national debt were not raised by October 1 to \$1.79 trillion, "drastic measures" might be necessary: "Treasury reaches a point when it must consider which obligations it should pay -- Social Security checks, payroll checks, unemployment checks, defense contracts -- and whether for the first time in history it will default on its securities."

Indeed, two days earlier the Tribune had suggested editorially that a partial repudiation of its debt might be the best thing for Poland to do. A few excerpts: "Polish officials were waiting in Paris, hat in hand, for help from the West in rescheduling their enormous \$27 billion debt -- which is at the heart of the country's economic mess." "But the West can do a great deal to ease the economic side of Solidarity's problem." "It is very much in the West's interests that the Polish experiment should succeed, and the taking of a financial risk -- even the loss of a few billions in bad debts -- is not too high a price to pay." (Emphasis added.)

Now what if the U.S. national debt ceiling were not raised by October 1? Would the Tribune recommend partial repudiation as a solution to our enormous debt overhang? More importantly, should libertarians?

# CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

## ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "Libertarian Party of Illinois", hereinafter referred to as the "Party".

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Party shall be to implement the goals specified in the Libertarian Party Platform by:

- a) Nominating candidates for public office;
- b) Affiliating with local libertarian organizations;
- c) Increasing awareness and acceptance of libertarian political theory through educational and outreach programs; and
- d) Promoting implementation of libertarian principles in public policy.

## ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A Party member shall be any resident of Illinois or an adjoining State whose state dues are current and who has signed a pledge as required by Section 2 of this Article. There shall be no discrimination in membership because of age, race, sex, or any non-aggressive affiliation.

Section 2. All Party members shall sign a pledge certifying to the State Central Committee that they do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

## ARTICLE IV. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Management of the Party's affairs shall be the responsibility of a State Central Committee consisting of elected Party officers and elected representatives of affiliated clubs.

Section 2. The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Northern Vice-Chair, a South-Central Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The duties of each officer shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 3. All officers shall be residents of Illinois and Party members. No Party officer shall be an officer of any organization involving the initiation of force or an officer in any other political party. Disputes arising under this Section shall be settled by the Judicial Committee by majority vote.

Section 4. No Party offices shall be combined.

Section 5. Terms of office shall be from the close of the State Convention at which they were elected until the close of the next State Convention.

## ARTICLE V. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a Judicial Committee to resolve disputes concerning interpretation of this Constitution and the Bylaws, disputes among affiliated clubs, and disputes referred to it by, or involving, the State Central Committee.

Section 2. The Judicial Committee shall consist of five members, three elected for overlapping three-year terms by the State Convention and two elected by the State Central Committee at its first official meeting.

Section 3. No person may serve simultaneously on both the State Central Committee and the Judicial Committee. Qualifications for serving on the Judicial Committee are the same as for officers.

Section 4. Decisions of the Judicial Committee shall be rendered within thirty days of the date of submission of the question.

Section 5. Any vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Central Committee. The acting Judicial Committee member shall serve until the next State Convention at which time the Convention shall elect a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE VI. ELECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. All Party officers shall be elected by the State Convention. The State Central Committee may require that statewide candidates be nominated at the State Convention.

Section 2. The State Central Committee shall decide which Vice-Chair shall succeed to the Chair and determine the exact areas to be served by each Vice-Chair.

Section 3. The State Central Committee shall fill vacancies in the offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Central Committee members from the appropriate area. Should the remaining term of office exceed six months, a majority vote of the affiliated clubs shall confirm the new officer within forty-five days of the appointment. In the case of Vice-Chair, this vote shall be restricted to the affiliated clubs in the appropriate area.

Section 4. Local club representatives to the State Central Committee shall be elected and replaced at the discretion of each club.

Section 5. A State Central Committee member may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the State Central Committee or by a two-thirds vote of the Party members in their affiliated clubs. If a petition for the impeachment of a State Central Committee member signed by twenty percent of the Party members in any region is received by the State Central Committee, there shall be a vote on the question conducted in the same manner as the original election, except that a two-thirds vote is required to remove.

#### ARTICLE VII. LOCAL CLUBS

Section 1. Any five Party members who wish their local club to affiliate with the Party and be their affiliated club in the sense of this Constitution may so petition the State Central Committee. Each affiliated club shall have one representative on the State Central Committee. For each additional fifteen members of the Party in the local club's region, one representative will be added for that local club.

Section 2. Every affiliated club shall make a copy of its bylaws available to the State Central Committee and Judicial Committee. These bylaws must specify which county that local club is affiliating within. Local clubs shall submit valid credentials, as defined in the Bylaws, to the State Central Committee.

Section 3. All points in the State shall be covered by one and only one affiliated club. The State Central Committee shall have the power to adjust regions to insure such coverage.

Section 4. An affiliated club shall have the responsibility for the nomination of candidates whose districts lie entirely within its region. In the case of other offices (except statewide offices) the chairs or other representatives of the club whose regions overlap the district shall meet to nominate a candidate upon the request of any aspirant for the nomination. Each such representative shall have as many votes as there are Party members in the region being represented. An affiliated club may determine how its representatives shall vote.

Section 5. Affiliated clubs shall have the power to determine their own membership requirements. This section shall not be construed to allow local clubs to avoid holding elections by their Party members as required elsewhere in this Constitution.

Section 6. The Bylaws shall provide for the submission of questions by the State Central Committee to affiliated clubs.

Section 7. Meetings of the local clubs must be open and announced to all its members and all Party members residing within its region.

Section 8. The State Central Committee shall recognize no local club lying, in whole or in part, outside the State of Illinois.

#### ARTICLE VIII. ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER PARTIES OR CANDIDATES

Neither the Party nor any affiliated club, as an organization, shall fund or advocate the election of a candidate of any other political party.

#### ARTICLE IX. VOTING PROCEDURES AND CONVENTION RULES

Section 1. The annual State Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the State Central Committee. Announcement will be made to all Party members no less than sixty days before the Convention.

Section 2. Any Party member may vote at the State Convention provided that the member is in good standing and has been a member for no less than thirty days before the business session.

Section 3. The following procedures shall be followed for electing officers:

a) All nominees for Party office must announce their candidacy to the State Central Committee thirty days before the State Convention. The Party newsletter shall print the names of all candidates for Party office.

b) Nominating speeches shall be less than two minutes. There shall be no more than two seconding speeches of no longer than one minute each.

c) "None of the above" shall automatically be a candidate for any office.

d) Elections shall, at the request of any member, be by secret ballot.

e) All statewide candidates must meet eligibility requirements for their offices and must have expressed a willingness to accept the nomination.

f) Any candidate getting a number of votes equal to a majority of people voting shall be elected.

g) After the results of the second (and subsequent) ballots are announced, the



candidate with the fewest votes will be dropped from consideration, except "None of the above".

Section 4. The following voting procedures shall be followed:

a) Any Party member may select someone to cast his or her vote by proxy. The Party Secretary must be notified in writing of the conditions under which the proxy is given fifteen days before the Convention for the proxy to valid.

b) Mail ballots shall be provided to all Party members. Ballots must be received by the Secretary 24 hours before the business session to be valid.

c) Voting shall be by voice vote, except where stated elsewhere in these rules. A show of hands or rising vote shall be taken at the request of any Party member.

Section 5. In years when delegates or other representatives are to be elected to the National Convention, the following rules shall apply:

a) Each candidate shall nominate him or herself or otherwise indicate a willingness to serve.

b) No candidate who is not an Illinois resident and current Party member shall be nominated.

c) The election shall be by secret ballot and all Party members may vote for as many delegates as allotted by the national Libertarian Party to Illinois.

d) Candidates shall be ranked by total votes and are elected according to this ranking until the Illinois allotment of delegates is exhausted.

e) After the results are announced, the Chair shall call the question, "Does the Convention reaffirm this vote?" If the question fails, each delegate will run individually against "None of the above". If any delegate receives fewer votes than "None of the above", he or she will be struck from the delegate list.

Section 6. The following shall apply during debate:

a) Each proposed rule or amendment shall be debated for a maximum of ten minutes. Debates may be closed by a two-thirds vote.

b) The Chair of the Convention may require that any motion be made in writing, signed by the maker and delivered to the Convention Secretary.

#### ARTICLE X. AMENDMENT

Section 1. Except as provided in Sections 2 and 3 of this Article, this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a State Convention upon previous notice.

Section 2. When the Party becomes an established political party, as determined by the State Board of Elections under the laws of Illinois, the Judicial Committee with the approval of the State Central Committee shall amend this Constitution in order to conform to law. They shall not have the power to amend any section not superceded by law.

Section 3. This Article may not be amended, altered or deleted except as provided in Section 2 of this Article.

#### BYLAWS OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

##### BYLAW I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Every Party member may vote on statewide issues in the affiliated club in whose region he or she resides. Only Party members may vote on statewide issues. Statewide issues include, but are not limited to: selection of statewide candidates and candidates whose districts are contained in the region of no single affiliated club, election of State Central Committee members and delegates to the National Convention, and questions submitted to the affiliated clubs by the State Central Committee.

Section 2. Every Party member shall be informed of the name and address of Party officers, State Central Committee and Judicial Committee members, all other Party officials and committee members, all Party nominees for public office, the newsletter editor, and chairs of affiliated clubs upon request to the Party Secretary. Members shall have access to minutes of past State Central Committee meetings and State Conventions.

Section 3. Except as provided in Section 2 of this Bylaw, the distribution of the name of, and any information about any Party member shall be limited upon request of that person to the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, chair of that person's affiliated club and such other persons as may be required by law.

##### BYLAW II. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS' DUTIES

Section 1. The State Central Committee shall:

a) Hold monthly meetings and determine the date and location of same.

b) On written request of any Party member, consider convening the Judicial Committee to determine whether there has been a violation of the membership pledge.

c) Determine the date, location and agenda of the annual State Convention.

d) Remove any Party officer by a three-fourths vote.

e) Choose a newsletter editor and remove same if necessary, the term to be one year beginning one month after the annual State Convention. The editor is to be a voting member of the State Central Committee but shall have no more than one vote if also a voting member in any other capacity.

f) Appoint Judicial Committee members as required by the Constitution.

g) Determine official mailing address and access to Party mail.

h) Determine whether any Party office is vacant.

i) Determine local club affiliation.

j) Determine membership dues and period of membership.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall:

a) Consist of all elected officers.

b) Choose new date and location of State Central Committee meeting if necessary and notify representatives.

c) Call emergency meetings of the State Central Committee if necessary.

Section 3. Officers' duties shall be the following:

a) Chair:

1) Chair State Central Committee meetings and State Convention business sessions.

2) Serve on all committees formed by the State Central Committee.

3) Set agenda for State Central Committee meetings.

4) Is host/hostess of the State Central Committee unless other arrangements are made.

b) Northern Vice-Chair:

1) Shall chair if appointed by the State Central Committee.

2) Shall coordinate local clubs in all counties in Illinois falling north of and including the following: Mercer, Henry, Bureau, Putnam, LaSalle, Grundy, and Kankakee.

3) Shall be liaison between local clubs in the northern Illinois region as defined above and the newsletter editor.

c) South-Central Vice-Chair:

1) Shall chair if appointed by the State Central Committee.

2) Shall coordinate local clubs in all counties outside of the northern Illinois region.

3) Shall be liaison between South-Central Illinois local clubs and the newsletter editor.

d) Secretary:

1) Shall keep accurate minutes of all official Party meetings.

2) Shall submit previous meeting's minutes in writing for State Central Committee approval.

3) Shall conduct all official correspondence between the Party and other bodies and individuals.

4) Shall maintain the Party mailing list.

5) Shall distribute proposed agenda of upcoming State Central Committee meeting and minutes of most recent meeting to State Central Committee members, local club chairs and the newsletter editor two weeks prior to the next meeting.

6) Shall deliver all minutes to the official storage place.

7) Shall deliver all correspondence concerning finance to the Treasurer within the week received.

8) Shall make no less than two reports to the State Central Committee regarding local club membership and representative entitlement. One such report shall be made at the first State Central Committee meeting following the State Convention, and another shall be made six months after the first.

e) Treasurer:

1) Shall receive, record and disburse all Party funds.

2) Shall prepare a budget for the term of office, to be approved by the State Central Committee and transmitted to the next Treasurer at the term's conclusion.

3) Shall get State Central Committee approval for any non-budgeted item exceeding \$50.

4) Shall distribute written monthly financial reports to the State Central Committee and committee heads and local club chairs.

5) Will present a detailed annual profit and loss statement at the State Convention, copies to be available to all members.

Section 4. State Central Committee representatives shall:

a) Express concerns of the club represented at State Central Committee meetings.

b) Report Party activities to local club members.

c) Report membership number and local activities to the State Central Committee.

d) Report calendar items to the respective Vice-Chair.

#### BYLAW III. STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. There shall be an annual State Convention at which all Party officers, National Convention delegates, or statewide candidates as determined by the State Central Committee are chosen.

Section 2. There shall be educational activities and a business session to consider Party finances, Constitution and Bylaws changes and a membership report.

Section 3. The business session shall be conducted in accordance with the Convention Rules of the Constitution.

Section 4. No admission charge for the business session shall be required of any Party member.

Section 5. Business session minutes shall be treated as regular Party minutes as stipulated in Bylaw II, Section 3(d).

Section 6. The interval between consecutive State Conventions shall be no less than ten months and no greater than fifteen months.

#### BYLAW IV. SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS TO LOCAL CLUBS

Any question may be submitted by majority vote of the State Central Committee to the affiliated clubs. Questions so submitted shall be resolved as follows:

a) Upon submission of the question, the affiliated clubs shall conduct a vote of their Party members within forty-five days.

b) The results must then be submitted to the State Central Committee within five days.

c) The State Central Committee shall make these results available to the Party members.

#### BYLAW V. LOCAL CLUB CREDENTIALS

Section 1. Each local club shall, prior to recognition by the State Central Committee, submit credentials to the Secretary consisting of the following:

a) The local club's bylaws.

b) A list of all current local club officers and State Central Committee representatives.

c) A statement signed by the chair and secretary of the local club certifying that:

1) Its officers were elected in accordance with the club's bylaws;

2) The club's State Central Committee representative(s) was (were) elected by a majority vote of no less than five current Party members residing within the club's boundaries.

Section 2. Any changes in or additions to the club's officers or State Central Committee representatives shall be communicated to the Party Secretary as in Section 1(c) above.

Section 3. This Bylaw shall take effect thirty days after the 1981 State Convention.

#### BYLAW VI. MAILING LIST

Section 1. The State Central Committee shall maintain a mailing list of those people who have expressed an interest in the Party. Such list, and all future additions, shall be the sole property of the Party.

Section 2. Any uses of the mailing list, other than for official Party business, must first be approved by a three-fifths vote of the State Central Committee. The mailing list shall be coded so that any person may request to have his or her name removed from any part of the mailing list released to other organizations.

Section 3. Unauthorized use of the mailing list shall be a violation of the membership pledge, in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution.

Section 4. All authorized political committees will, as a condition of authorization, make all names of persons interested in campaigns available to the Party Secretary for inclusion in the Party mailing list. Any name provided by a committee will not be denied to that committee by the Party for the duration of that committee's existence.

#### BYLAW VII. AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. An authorized political committee for political campaigns must be endorsed by the State Central Committee for any candidate endorsed by the Party.

Section 2. The State Central Committee shall ascertain that all authorized political committees meet the following conditions:

a) Only candidates endorsed by the Party are financed by the committee.

b) All officers of the committee are current Party members, except that the treasurer may be a certified public accountant or accounting firm.

c) The committee makes financial reports available to the State Central Committee upon request.

Section 3. For the purposes of this Bylaw, "authorized political committee" means one which is permitted access to the Party mailing list during, and no longer than, the period of authorization and only on behalf of such candidate, candidates, or activities as represented by the committee at the time of its authorization, unless otherwise provided for by

the State Central Committee.

Section 4. This Bylaw shall apply to Libertarian candidates for public office only.

BYLAW VIII. CONVENING OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

The State Central Committee may, by majority vote, request the Judicial Committee to determine whether any Party member has violated the pledge established by Article III, Section 2. If four members of the Judicial Committee determine that the Party member has violated the pledge, the Party member is expelled from the Party.

BYLAW IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and these Bylaws.

BYLAW X. AMENDMENT

These Bylaws may be amended by a three-fifths vote of a State Convention.

-- LIBERTARIANISM IN YOUR LIBRARY! --

by BRUCE H. MAJORS

One important outreach project that every Libertarian can do is to get Libertarian News, and other Libertarian books and periodicals, into your local library.

If you are dealing with a large library, it probably has a special person in charge of acquisitions. Ask for the acquisitions department or the acquisitions desk. This department will have forms you can fill out requesting that it carry a certain book or publication. You will need to know the address of the publisher and perhaps the price as well. Ask your library to carry Libertarian News, or to carry Earth's Resources, A New Beginning, or other Libertarian books and periodicals.

If you are dealing with a small library with a small staff, they may not have acquisition forms. Write a note to the librarian requesting that she or he acquire your choice of Libertarian periodicals or books for the library. Be sure to include the publisher's address and the price of the publication.

Such requests are most likely to be acted upon if several people make duplicate requests within a short period of time. Get others to help.

Of course, you may want to donate Libertarian News or Ed Clark's A New Beginning to your library. You and other Libertarian activists in your area might throw a barbecue, invite all the Libertarians in the surrounding counties, and charge admission to raise

money for the purpose of donating Libertarian News to all of the libraries in your community.

Getting Libertarian publications into your campus and community libraries is a good way to increase Libertarian visibility. It is also a relatively easy way to reach out to people who have not heard of the Libertarian Party.

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-- LIBERTARIAN FEMINISTS TO GATHER --

by BONNIE KAPLAN

Libertarian feminists are invited to meet each other and to discuss whether there is a need for a local libertarian feminists group. If there is such a need, we will consider how best to fulfill it, what projects could be undertaken and how such a group could support individual projects. The group will also talk about how to address sexism among libertarians and in our own lives. Another topic for the meeting could be the relationship between libertarian feminists and other feminists, and ways of presenting libertarian feminist alternatives.

The meeting will not be strictly business, but also a time for feminists to meet each other. Men and women with an interest in such a gathering should contact Bonnie Kaplan, 6925 Rosemary Lane, Niles, Illinois 60648, phone (312) 647-8684.

by STEPHEN BOYDSTUN

The contemporary libertarian movement would probably not exist were it not for Ayn Rand. Specifically, Rand persuaded many that groups have no reality beyond the individuals comprising them and that the objective criterion of a rights violation is the initiation of physical force. In expanded form, these two principles are dispositive of all political issues on which libertarians are likely to agree.

Some contemporary liberals contradict the non-initiation principle, claiming that there are ordinary means (economic) besides the use of force by which the freedom of individuals can be restricted and that these infringements should be countered by the initiation of force. I think that all libertarians such as Ross Ovebeek (his OPINION item, entitled The Pledge was published in the February/March 1981 issue of the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN --Ed.), would deny the applicability of the non-initiation principle to some extraordinary situations. Ross further claims that the Party pledge contradicts his view.

An excellent discussion of emergency cases and their implications for a libertarian theory of rights is given in Tibor Machan's Human Rights and Human Liberties. There Machan argues (in accord with Eric Mack) that "... persons are less capable of being the subject of obligations and less capable of being the bearers or rights ..." in situations where mutual interests cannot be pursued. Some of the cases in Ross' questionnaire may fall into this category. Several of the cases can be resolved very nicely by Robert Nozick's approach to property rights in Anarchy, State, and Utopia. See the sections: "Locke's Theory of Acquisition" and "The Proviso".

As I recall, the LP's membership application included the pledge even before the first national convention. It has always seemed to me that the pledge is a very inadequate statement of the non-initiation principle. The pledge fails to connect non-initiation with rights. Furthermore, any collectivist believing that governments may rightfully initiate the use of force against individuals could honestly sign the pledge; the common presumption would be that the pledge refers to individual conduct.

I suspect that Ross is mistaken in thinking that the pledge contradicts his view of the non-initiation principle. On the other hand, the pledge is a poor filter, and we evidently do not need such a filter. I think it is unlikely that the Party of Principle will be corrupted by newcomers so long as we explain to them what our principles are. (And we can avoid becoming a Party of Parrots if we do not pretend that our principles are as subtle as reality.)

by ERIC O'KEEFE

Libertarian legislator Dick Randolph is running for Governor of Alaska! He announced his candidacy to more than 250 enthusiastic supporters at the Alaska Libertarian Party convention in Fairbanks in early May. While making his early declaration for the 1982 election, Randolph made it clear that he would not be running unless he thought he had a serious chance of winning.

In his 1978 victory, Randolph became the first Libertarian legislator in the country. In 1980, he was re-elected with more votes than any other legislative candidate in the State and he was joined in the Legislature by Libertarian Ken Fanning.

The repeal of the State personal income tax in mid-1980 capped an 18-month Randolph-led effort. When the Legislature refused to pass Randolph's measure to repeal the tax, he led a successful petition drive to place the issue on the ballot. In a move of questionable legality, the State threatened to withdraw the referendum from the ballot. But as the 1980 election approached, legislators finally got the message and passed a law repealing the tax. This successful income tax repeal effort helped to make Randolph one of the best known and most popular political leaders in Alaska.

In 1981, Randolph is continuing to provide Libertarian leadership on a broad range of issues. One of his primary goals is to promote the "Tundra Rebellion" -- Alaska's version of the Sagebrush Rebellion -- an effort to wrest control of Alaskan land and resources from the Federal government (which claims ownership of over 90 percent of Alaska). He wants to lead this rebellion to its logical, Libertarian conclusion -- ownership of all of Alaska's land and resources by the people instead of the State.

Dick Randolph's campaign for Governor could be the most important Libertarian Party development in 1982 -- or even in the Party's entire history! (It is quite likely that Randolph will be holding a fundraising dinner jointly with the Illinois LP within the next two months. Stay tuned! -Ed.)

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would be much smaller.  
(To be concluded next month.)

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# Libertarians have a picnic with politics

By Barbara Brotman

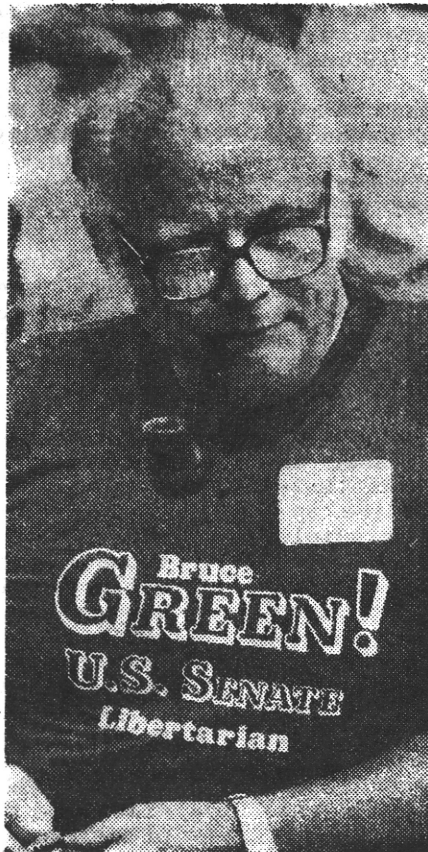
**E**VERYONE KNOWS that at Republican Party parties, people drink martinis and talk tax shelters. And everyone knows that at Democratic Party parties, people drink white wine and Perrier and hang David Stockman in effigy. But what do Libertarians do at their parties?

Libertarians are people who believe that government interference has caused or exacerbated about every major ill in society, from inflation and unemployment to poverty and intolerance. They are liberals, sort of; they believe there should be no government regulation of abortion, homosexuality, prostitution, pornography, and gambling; that defense spending should be cut substantially; and that there should be no draft.

And they are conservatives, in a way; they out-Reagan Reagan with their calls for abolition of taxes, regulatory agencies, Social Security, and mandatory public education.

Libertarians are just plain folks, even though they are members of a third party that polled just over 1 percent of the vote in the 1980 presidential election. They drink beer and lemonade at a picnic like any old two-party-system types. At the 4th Annual Bruce Green Libertarian Picnic on Saturday, that was clear.

**BRUCE GREEN** WAS the Libertarian Party candidate for United States Senate from Illinois in 1978 and 1980. He didn't win. The picnic started as a way for Libertarians to meet and greet, and it has ended up as a fundraiser to pay off campaign debts. As it turned out, it was a great way to



Tribune photo by Ron Bailey

Libertarian Steve Nelson: "I look for a government that confines itself at most to punishing violence and fraud."

see who Libertarians really are.

Libertarians are individualists. They build their own homes — at least, Bruce Green did. It is a wood house with the sides angled out at the top

and tall, slanted windows, set in a lush green glade outside South Elgin. Green, a United Airlines pilot, built it with a friend who also is a pilot.

Libertarians eat roast pig, turned slowly on a spit in a roaster made from an oil storage tank. "He was a Democrat," joked party member Tim Griffin when someone yanked the spit from the pig's juicy carcass.

"Actually, in its original state, it looked a lot like some of our state legislators," said Steve Nelson, the white-haired treasurer of the Bruce Green for U.S. Senate Committee. The roaster was rented from a local entrepreneur who also sold the pig, Nelson explained with free-market satisfaction.

**LIBERTARIANS EAT** Spanish peanuts. In this case, the Spanish peanuts even proved a Libertarian point. "Look at this," said Green. He pointed to an empty can, which was supporting one corner of the roaster. On the aluminum were the words "Donated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for food and health programs. Not to be sold or exchanged."

Then he pointed to a label that he said had covered the can when he bought it. It said, "Country Fair Spanish Peanuts." "Here's where your charity goes," Green said, "to support the Libertarian Party picnic."

Libertarians love to talk politics. "It's difficult to describe the place we're trying to get to," said Ray Birks, chairman of the Illinois Libertarian Party, a clean-cut man in well-worn cutoffs and aviator sunglasses. But he tried: The Libertarian ideal is a voluntary society in which no one

Continued on following page

-- FROM THE EDITOR --

Former editor Dan Hansen submitted his resignation at the September 6 LPI Central Committee meeting. I have agreed to serve in the interim until a replacement is found.

Volunteer assistance, however, is solicited. If you don't want entire production responsibility, there are many other tasks for which help can be given. The assistance of anyone who wants to help on writing, layout, or mailing is more than welcome; that individual will quickly be appointed as Assistant Editor in charge of "\_\_\_\_\_". Just fill in the blank with your own qualifications.

This newsletter was prepared on a WANG Model 5, courtesy of Richard W. Suter.

-- LIBERTARIAN CALENDAR --

September 27, 1 pm. NW Cook County Libertarian float in the Festival '81 parade (Spaulding AVE at Irving Park RD) in Chicago.

October 11, 7 pm. Libertarian Study Group (LSG). Location: 4901 North Lawndale, Chicago. Discussion book: "Restoring the American Dream" by Robert Ringer. Call 583-8319.

October 17. Rock Island County Libertarians fundraising dinner. See Club Activities.

November 1. Meeting of the Central Committee of the LPI at the home of Vice-Chair Gerry Walsh, 789 Overland Court, Roselle. Party members are welcome. After the meeting, literature distribution for Gerry's school board campaign is planned.

would be forced to pay for social services he didn't use. And although it is easy to see why middle-class folks dining on roast pig in the sweet-smelling countryside would not want to pay for social services, Birks said a Libertarian society would help the poor more than the rich, who already have ways to escape taxes.

"Inflation hurts them the most," Birks said. "And inflation is government-caused. The poor pay taxes, too. We want to allow to develop a marketplace where there are as few obstacles to getting ahead as possible."

**LIBERTARIANS SAY** that minimum wage laws discourage employers from hiring young people; that the economy can grow indefinitely, providing jobs for the poor, if freed from government regulation; and that even undocumented Mexican workers prefer working under poor working conditions in the U.S. to not working in Mexico.

Could employers fire their older workers in order to hire young ones whom they can pay less than a minimum wage? "Some employers may choose to do that," Birks admitted.

When asked who would get all these jobs provided by a growing economy, Dave Padden, who was chairman of the Green's campaign committee, first talked about engineers and computer experts being wooed in California's Silicon Valley. "And every time a skilled person is employed, there is an infrastructure of unskilled people needed," he added.

Without occupation safety regulations and enforcement, who would look after employe health and safety? "We believe in strict liability for damages" in the event of a workplace injury or illness, Padden said. "We do not believe in laws beforehand; then you have all sorts of imagined things. And you're not permitted to take risky jobs. Those in bad economic straights would be glad to take a risky job."

**LIBERTARIANS BELIEVE** that if they have become successful, other people can, too. "I was very poor; I made it out of there," said Green, who grew up on an Iowa farm. "The fairest thing is for everybody to pay for what they want to do; everyone creates their own destiny. Why should a guy trying to make it on his own subsidize your education? Should you have the right to take money from him, and never pay it back? I think morality is what separates most Libertarians from other people."

Still, it is hard for a Libertarian to be pure. Green himself attended publicly subsidized colleges — the University of Iowa and Iowa State University.

Libertarians' children are Libertarians. Take Bryn Green, 11, who has freckles, the long-legged grace of a colt, and a fondness for climbing trees. She is one of Bruce Green's four children. "We had an election in school for president," she explained, "and they go, 'You can't do anything with the names of the Republican or Democratic Party.' So I raised my hand and said, 'Can you do Libertarians?' " They could, and did, although the name in this case was just a name. The Libertarians won.

Libertarians are civil libertarians. One picnic guest was Mel Dahl, a Navy fireman stationed at Great Lakes, who is being processed for discharge after admitting to having had homosexual experiences. He is a Libertarian, and Birks has written a letter on his behalf to the Navy.

**LIBERTARIANS ARE** serious. They read laissez-faire economists like Adam Smith and Friedrich von Hayek, the Austrian winner of the 1974 Nobel Prize. They also read Ayn Rand, whose novels propound many Libertarian ideas.

"I don't know whether you read 'We the Living,' but it was very Nietzschean," Pat Peterson, a cost estimator for his family's construction company, was saying at one of the picnic tables. "Not the 1936 version, but the 1939 version."

"I only read 'Atlas Shrugged,'" said Tina Johnston, who was there with her husband and two teen-aged children, "but I didn't read the speech."

"Then you didn't read the book," objected Bert Stunkard, a librarian for NALCO Chemical Co. in Naperville.

"I said, 'This has all been said,'" Johnston said in her own defense. "I was thumbing through the book, looking for something that hadn't been said."

"Michael Emmerling of the national organization has read 'Atlas Shrugged' more than 20 times," Birks said.

**BUT LIBERTARIANS** also have a sense of humor. Nelson told a Libertarian story: It seems Milt Rosenberg put together one recent radio show featuring various comedians doing impressions of politicians. The one who did Mayor Daley launched into a diatribe against librarians. What the pseudo-mayor meant, of course, were Libertarians. The funny thing was that one woman called in to say she was glad to hear the mayor wasn't dead after all.

Libertarians come from disparate backgrounds. They have worked for McGovern; they have worked for Goldwater. It wasn't until 1972 that they could have worked for a Libertarian candidate — John Hospers, a University of Southern California philosophy professor, the party's first presidential candidate. He drew 5,000 votes. Last year's candidate, Ed Clark, an antitrust lawyer for the Atlantic Richfield Co., drew 940,000 votes.

Libertarians don't like President Reagan. They oppose increases in defense spending and intervention in El Salvador; Libertarians think no U.S. troops should be stationed abroad. They think Reagan has co-opted their rhetoric on cutting taxes and spending, and has simply cut proposed increases in spending instead.

Libertarians have different images of the ideal Libertarian society. Nelson likes to describe himself as a "minarchist": "I look for a government that confines itself at most to punishing violence and fraud, and doesn't do much of anything else." Not that his anarchistic colleagues should worry. "If they ever get the government whittled down to the point that I want, the anarchists are going to be so busy making pots of money that they won't pay any attention," he chortled.

**LASTLY, LIBERTARIANS** are idealists. They believe that human beings, left to their own devices, will voluntarily cooperate with and extend helping hands to their fellow human beings.

They see themselves as the spiritual heirs to the American Revolution, to Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Locke, John Stuart Mill, and Thomas Paine. They envision a world that would follow a social and moral version of Adam Smith's "invisible hand," a livable and humane society propelled by individuals following their own interests. Some of them cite the good old days of 19th Century England and the U.S. during the early Industrial Revolution — the days of no regulation, of railroad barons, steel tycoons, sweatshops, and child labor. Others say a true Libertarian society has never existed.

"It's been my experience throughout life that people help out because they see it in their own self-interest," Dave Padden said, eyes gleaming. "Just think, no coercion; everything voluntary; everything is done from the heart."

Libertarian Party of Illinois  
Post Office Box 313  
Chicago, Illinois 60690  
Phone: (312) 248-2250

Libertarian Party -- National Headquarters  
2300 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
Phone: (202) 333-8209

LPI OFFICERS:

CHAIR: Ray Birks.....(312) 472-1536  
NORTHERN VICE-CHAIR:  
Gerry Walsh.....(312) 849-8680  
SOUTH-CENTRAL VICE-CHAIR:  
Scott Tillman.....(309) 382-2892  
SECRETARY: Marji Kohls.....(312) 223-8417  
TREASURER: Mary Alice Strzalka.(312) 248-2250  
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:  
John Marovich.....(312) 423-4741

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cook County - North: Liz Kraus.(312) 222-1181  
Study Group: Kris Warmoth..(312) 327-9681  
Cook County - Northwest:  
Rich Suter.....(312) 736-8926  
Cook County - South Suburban:  
Doug Vanderploeg.....(312) 596-9058  
DeKalb County: Paul Varnell....(815) 758-4985  
DuPage County: Pat Peterson....(312) 830-8468  
Lake County: Tom Burckhalter...(312) 244-6292  
McHenry County:  
Bill Baruth.....(815) 455-4494  
Joan Jarosz.....(312) 658-6335  
Winnebago County: Bob Salberg..(815) 544-3547  
Bloomington - Normal Area:  
Ed Monger.....(309) 452-0577  
Bob Johnston.....(309) 452-1219  
Carbondale Area: Geoff Nathan..(618) 549-1349  
Champaign - Urbana:  
Carlisle Trimble.....(217) 359-0767  
Peoria - Illinois Valley Area:  
Scott Tillman.....(309) 382-2892  
Quad Cities: Lynn Davis.....(309) 762-8737

Some of the local clubs publish periodic newsletters. For anyone interested in subscribing to them, here are their addresses: (If any were omitted, please send them to Gerry Walsh for inclusion in a future Local Club Activities column.)

The Illinois Valley Libertarians  
218 Algonquin  
Marquette Heights, Illinois 61554  
Subscription: \$5.00 per year.

Libertarian Club of DuPage  
1287 Spring Valley Road  
Carol Stream, Illinois 60187  
Subscription: \$3.00 per year.

Libertarians of Lake County  
1164 Furlong Drive  
Libertyville, Illinois 60048  
Subscription: \$5.00 per year.

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-- ADVERTISING RATES --

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