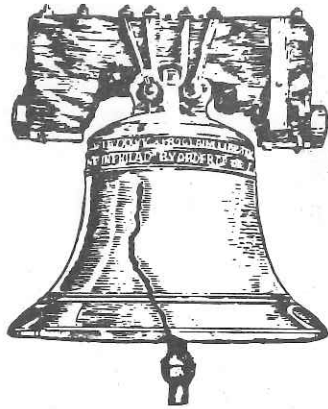


October 1987



Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

What do Libertarians believe?

Libertarians believe in *PEOPLE!* We believe that individuals and their families know best how to run their own lives. All persons have the natural right to control their own lives and property. The government should not interfere with the efforts of individuals to co-operate voluntarily in order to solve their own problems. The only role of government should be to protect each individual's right to life, liberty, and honestly-acquired property.

Libertarians believe in *PEACE.* Individuals should be free to live their lives peacefully without interference from other individuals or from the government. It is wrong to use any kind of force or fraud against another person, unless that person has used (or threatened to use) force or fraud to violate someone's rights. Reasonable force is justified if it is used for defensive purposes. On a national scale, the government's defense policy should be designed to protect the United States against attack from another nation - *not* to intervene in the affairs of other nations or to give international handouts.

Libertarians believe in *PROSPERITY.* Prosperity depends on the free market. Government interference in the economy results in poverty and unemployment. Government regulations and high taxes destroy productivity and make it difficult for small businesses to offer new jobs. The best way to fight poverty is to cut taxes, deregulate the economy, and allow private charities to operate without interference from the government. Inflation, which is caused by the government, also damages the economy and results in poverty and unemployment. Libertarians call for an end to inflation and a return to a stable system of sound currency.

Libertarians believe in *FREEDOM.* All persons should have the freedom to control their own lives, bodies, and property. Everyone should have the right to speak and write freely, the right to produce and to keep the fruits of one's labor, the right to trade freely, the right to choose the best education for one's children, and the right to maintain privacy in matters of personal behavior. Morality cannot be legislated. The government should not try to force people to be moral or wise, and the government should not stop people from being immoral or foolish, as long as nobody violates anyone else's rights. All peaceful and honest persons should be left alone.

In summary, Libertarians believe in *LIBERTY.* We realize that Liberty is essential to human happiness, progress, survival, and creativity. We firmly believe that the best society is one in which our rights to life, liberty, and property are protected both from criminals and from the government. People should not be forced by any individual or government to sacrifice their lives or property for the benefit of others.

Freedom requires responsibility. Each person has the obligation to respect the rights of others, to accept the consequences of his or her own actions, and to accept the ultimate responsibility for maintaining his or her own life. Persons who violate the rights of others should be held fully accountable for their actions and should be required to pay restitution to their victims.

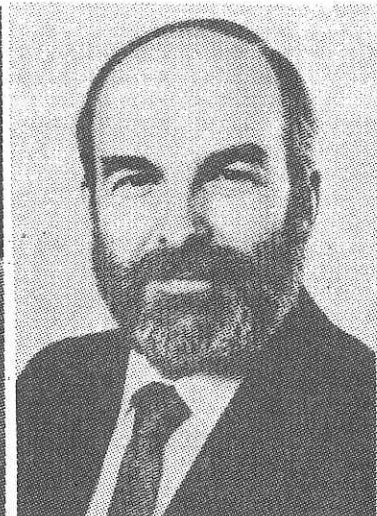
If you are interested in helping us fight for *YOUR* freedom, please send us a contribution, or contact one of the persons listed on page 4 for more information.

Ron Paul for President

Andre Marrou for Vice-President



Ron Paul



Andre Marrou

* * * * *

Dr. Ron Paul, a physician from Lake Jackson, Texas, will be the Libertarian Party's candidate for President in the 1988 election. The former U.S. Congressman was selected on the first ballot at the Libertarian Party National Convention in Seattle on September 5. Andre Marrou, who was formerly a Libertarian representative in the Alaska state legislature, was unanimously chosen to be the party's candidate for Vice-President. Marrou is now living in Las Vegas, Nevada and plans to travel extensively during his campaign.

Delegates from South Carolina at the convention included John Heaton, Bill Griffin, and Geb Sommer. In other convention business, Jim Turney was re-elected as National Chairman, David Walter was chosen to be Vice-Chairman, Dean Ahmad was re-elected Secretary, Dr. Matt Monroe was chosen as Membership Chairman, and Clifford Thies was elected Treasurer.

Libertarians are hopeful that Ron Paul will receive many more votes in 1988 than past Libertarian candidates, for he is well known and has built a large following through the various free-market organizations with which he is associated. In 1976, he founded the Foundation for Rational Economics and Education, which publishes the *Freedom Report*. He also runs the *Ron Paul Investment Letter* and serves on the board of the Ludwig von Mises Institute of Auburn University. He was elected to the U.S. Congress as a Republican four times (1976-1984). While in Congress, he gained a reputation as a maverick politician. He was a strong supporter of a sound monetary policy and co-authored an excellent book entitled *The Case for Gold*. He introduced bills opposing the Federal Reserve System and calling for an end to draft registration. He spoke out in favor of civil liberties and against foreign intervention, both military and economic. He also called for drastic cuts in taxes and government spending.

Dr. Paul resigned from the Republican Party several months ago and joined the Libertarian Party. However, he has attended Libertarian Party meetings

and conventions for many years, has voted for Libertarian presidential candidates in past elections, and is in the Libertarian Party to stay. In 1985, he spoke eloquently against the draft while testifying for Paul Jacob, a libertarian activist who was convicted of failing to register for the draft and who now runs Volunteers for America, an anti-draft pro-defense organization.

"In 1988," said Ron Paul, "Americans will be faced with Bush, Kemp, Cuomo ... or some other big-government types. I intend to make sure the people have a choice for freedom. Some opponents of mine once charged that I wanted to 'take a chainsaw to the federal budget.' How right they were! Big government is running away with our freedom and money, and the Republicans are just as much to blame as the Democrats. That's why I intend to wage a grassroots, hard-hitting, well-financed campaign against:

- federal spending in all areas, from social welfare to the Pentagon and corporate welfare;
- big-bank privilege and the Federal Reserve;
- deficits that will cause a financial holocaust;
- a run-amok I.R.S. and a tax system that rightly outrages Americans;
- the attack on our personal liberty and financial privacy;
- the foreign policy that drains our wallets, enriches our enemies, shreds the Constitution, and kills our children.

"There really isn't a dime's worth of difference between the major parties. Pro-freedom, non-interventionist views are ignored or smeared. Yet Libertarianism is the philosophy of the Founding Fathers."

When asked by *American Libertarian* why he cares so much about fighting for freedom, Paul replied, "I think the benefit that we get from living and fighting for a free society just outweighs the short term benefits of stashing away a few more gold coins...I'd like to have a little bit more than temporary economic security. The ultimate goal is to have a society where you don't have to worry about somebody knocking on your door and hauling you off."

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Editorial

Privatization:

Better Services with Lower Taxes

Reports of possible tax increases in Lexington, Richland, and other counties are quite alarming, for such increases are totally unnecessary. It seems that almost every time an elected official comes up with an idea, you'd better grab hold of your wallet, for a tax increase isn't far behind. Almost every week, the newspapers report that county and city councils and school districts are dreaming up new types of tax increases, including higher property taxes, business taxes, local sales taxes, and local income taxes.

The state legislature has fallen into a similar habit. Not only was the gasoline tax raised recently, but the legislature is considering a bill that would allow local governments to impose a new sales tax. Libertarians fought this bill both in 1986 and earlier this year, successfully stalling it, but the House passed it, and the Senate will consider it soon. Even though the bill requires a slight reduction in property taxes, local governments can turn around and raise property taxes through the roof if they want to, and you can bet that they will do this before long.

Tax increases seem to be in style these days, which is bad news for South Carolinians. Many elected officials have apparently forgotten that one of their primary responsibilities should be to avoid wasting the taxpayers' money. There are occasional voices for fiscal responsibility, but elected officials have little incentive to hold down costs and to see that services are provided in the most efficient manner possible.

History and experience have shown that private companies competing in a free market can provide better services at more reasonable costs than the government can. Governments can save millions of the taxpayers' dollars by privatizing services. For example, Lexington County recently considered raising property taxes to pay for improved fire protection services. While the citizens of Lexington County certainly need effective fire protection, that does not mean that taxes must be increased. Privatization of fire services could lead to better services and lower taxes.

A study in Reason magazine compared two fire departments in Oregon, one private and the other a tax-funded government service. The government service cost over twice as much as the private service, but the private service was over ten times as effective in preventing property loss. In Arizona, Montana, Illinois, Georgia, and Tennessee, private fire departments have improved the quality of fire protection while at the same time cutting the costs to their customers.

At the state level, privatization can also be useful. While we need some new roads in South Carolina, road construction and maintenance can be privately financed, thus saving millions of tax dollars. There is absolutely no need for any increase in the state's gasoline tax. Private groups could sell bonds, raise capital, build roads, and maintain the roads quite effectively. The costs could be recovered by direct user fees such as tolls. Gasoline taxes are not efficient user fees.

Libertarians recognize that the government should be limited to those functions that cannot be provided by the private sector. There is substantial historical precedent for successful private roads, and successful toll roads were recently built in Washington, D.C. and DuPage County, Illinois. Hong Kong and Japan are trying electronic road pricing, which does away with toll booths. These direct user fees are better than gasoline taxes, for they allocate resources toward those roads for which there is greatest demand. This would discourage the building of roads that are not needed, thus saving some of South Carolina's beautiful woodlands from being turned into asphalt jungles.

Many other services, such as utilities, education, and welfare, can also benefit from privatization. Books have been written on how to do this, but elected officials don't seem interested in using this type of information.

Privatization is not popular among those who run government services, because they fear that competition may threaten their jobs. This fear is usually unfounded, for more jobs become available in the private sector. Privatization is not popular among elected officials, because raising taxes is easier and leads to more consolidation of their political power. However, privatization is definitely the best way to deliver high quality services at the least cost. History and experience have proven this to be true.

South Carolina can save millions of tax dollars and have better services by jumping onto the privatization bandwagon. This would result in a climate more conducive to economic development and prosperity. Elected officials should explore these alternatives in detail before they even think of raising our taxes.

- D. M.

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The editor thanks Jan Chapman Morris for her assistance in preparing this newsletter, and John Heaton for providing news of events at the National Convention.

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