



OHIO LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OHIO

\$4/Year

JUNE-JULY, 1976

BERGLAND, CRANE ADDRESS OHIO LP CONVENTION

The fourth annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Ohio attracted an enthusiastic group of dedicated Libertarians to Cincinnati on June 19 and 20. High points of the convention were addresses by Vice Presidential candidate David Bergland and National Chairman Ed Crane, as well as the showing of the film, "We Won't Be Fooled Again," which was so popular it had to be shown twice.

For David Bergland this was just one stop on a three-day campaign swing through Ohio. He appeared on television in Columbus, and newspapers in Akron and Cincinnati carried articles on his campaign. At least three Cleveland radio stations provided coverage.

Dave addressed the Cincinnati convention Saturday afternoon just before flying back to California. In his speech, he discussed various ways of presenting libertarian ideas to people.

Ed Crane, who came from Washington just for this event, spoke at the banquet Saturday evening. He gave a brief history of the party and outlined the problems which electoral success could bring to the party. Crane stated that libertarian candidates must never compromise their principles. He pointed to Kay Harroff's success in 1974 when she received 80,000 votes while running a hard-hitting campaign on the issues. The Harroff campaign was contrasted to the Tuccille campaign in New York which concentrated on only one issue, high taxes. The Tuccille campaign failed because both of the major party candidates also were perceived as being against high taxes, so Tuccille's candidacy was unable to effectively separate itself from the major parties.

Ed Crane thanked the Libertarian Party of Ohio for completing their petition drive without having to call in help from National.

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LATE NEWS BULLETIN!

It's official now! The Secretary of State has said that Roger MacBride and David Bergland will be on the ballot in Ohio! To all those who labored collecting signatures, a well-deserved pat on the back.

MACBRIDE ON NATIONAL TV

At last, the long-awaited TV spot has appeared! Roger MacBride and the Libertarian Party were featured in a five-minute paid advertisement on CBS on Friday evening, July 19.

The spot introduced the Libertarian Party, with film clips from the nominating convention, and then Roger spoke. In 3½ minutes he said more about the issues than any Democratic or Republican candidate has said during his whole campaign. Roger discussed the ending of the American interventionist foreign policy, the abolition of victimless crime laws, eliminating intervention in the free market, slashing government spending, and re-creating an atmosphere of freedom and political rights. This TV spot is available to local groups who would like to run it on their local TV stations.

Roger's interview on William F. Buckley's "Firing Line" program is also scheduled for distribution on the PBS network this month. Cincinnati's PBS station no longer carries this program, but it may be seen in other cities (check your listings). From one report your editor has heard, Buckley tried some of his intellectual fireworks to hang the anarchist tag on Roger, but Roger is no intellectual lightweight, and he more than held his own.

In additional campaign news, Roger has confirmed ballot status in 13 states, including Ohio. Estimates are now that we will be on the ballot in a minimum of 30 states, making us the third-largest political movement this year. Our performance nationwide has impressed many political observers, few of whom gave us much of a chance of accomplishing so much so soon.

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MEET THE NEW STATE OFFICERS

For the first time in LPO history, all three statewide offices were contested. Bob Lehman became State Chairman by defeating John Rako by one vote in an exceedingly close contest. John now becomes the regional Chairman for the northwest region.

Linda Bunyan narrowly retained her position as Secretary by defeating Carolyn. Everett DeJager became Treasurer by topping Francis Smith, and in doing so retained the LPO tradition of having at least one DeJager in statewide office.

LPO Officers:

Chairman: Bob Lehman, 1701 E. 12th St., Cleveland 44114
Treasurer: Everett DeJager, 8622 Plainfield Le., Cinti. 45236
Secretary: Linda Bunyan, 77 Davenport Ave., Akron 44312
Newsletter Editor: John DeJager, 11483 Village Brooke #325,
Cincinnati 45242

LPO 24-hour phone numbers:

Cleveland (216) 621-1854 Cincinnati (606) 341-4754
Columbus (614) 878-2625

Deadline for next issue: August 31

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE?

by Karl Peterjohn

Libertarians from all around the world will be descending upon Babylon on the Potomac, Washington, D.C., on the weekend of September 24 to 26.

The Libertarian Party will be holding its national convention to kick off the fall campaign for the MacBride-Bergland ticket.

The convention will have an international flavor with ten libertarians from the Australian Workers Party attending along with libertarians from Great Britain, Canada, and other countries. It is possible that this convention may become the first Internationale for the worldwide libertarian movement.

All this will be taking place in Washington's Statler Hilton Hotel along with workshops, debates, parties, speeches by prominent libertarians, and banquets. A sightseeing tour of some of the agencies Roger MacBride will abolish after his election will be held, along with a cruise along the Potomac.

Since formal party business will not be transacted, there will be a great opportunity for everyone to gear up for the fall campaign, meet and exchange ideas with libertarians from other states and countries while seeing where all of your hard-earned tax dollars are being spent. Make plans now to attend.

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A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR THE LPO

A new constitution was enacted which reduces the size of the state executive committee, the number of regions from 8 to 4, and simplifies the language in the LPO constitution.

The executive committee will now consist of the three officers elected at each state convention (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer), the newsletter editor, and eight regional representatives.

The Vice Chairman positions were eliminated and a provision was made for the Treasurer to become acting Chairman until the executive committee selects a new Chairman in the event of a vacancy.

Each region will now elect a regional chairman and a regional representative to the executive committee. The four regions are northeast, northwest, southwest, and central-southeast. The northeast region includes Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Youngstown, and Mansfield. The northwest region covers Toledo and Lima, while the southwest region covers Cincinnati, Dayton, and Springfield. Central-southeast has Columbus, Zanesville, and Chillicothe.

Here are candidates with real faith in you

Tuesday, June 22, 1976

Akron Beacon Journal A 7

By JAMES RICCI

Beacon Journal Staff Writer

THE SEVEN members of a racially integrated group of winos lounging in Cleveland's Public Square take turns tilting a shiny glass bottle up to the nearing-midnight sky that will soon deliver David P. Bergland to Ohio.

The staggering revelers have no idea who David Bergland is and neither do you.

But you'd better get to know him because if Roger MacBride dies in office, David Bergland will be President of the United States.

Of course, MacBride and Bergland, the five-year-old Libertarian Party's

candidates for President and vice president, will have to get elected first and that's not likely to happen. This time around, the Libertarians will settle for something more than one million popular votes and however many new believers can be attracted to the Libertarian banner by the MacBride-Bergland campaign.

The party is confident its candidates will appear on the November ballots of 35 to 40 states, including

Ohio, where MacBride and Bergland are running as independents.

At 40, Bergland is a trim, smallish man whose casual clothes, stylish haircut and sun-ripened good looks smile "California" at you. He is a partner in a Newport Beach law firm, a specialist in civil litigation and a law instructor at Western State University.

Like that of most Libertarians, Bergland's philosophy smacks of the residue left after the soup of Ayn Rand Objectivism and Barry Goldwater politics boiled down. He wants the government out of the boardroom, the bedroom and the gameroom.

The Libertarian ideal envisions the end of government regulation, period. It demands the legalization of victimless crimes. It is an act of faith in the ability of people to live their lives as they see fit.

"Every individual has the right to make all the decisions in his or her life so long as he or she recognizes a similar right in other people," Bergland says. "Government's only legitimate function is to assist the individual in defending his rights against people who would violate them. As it stands now, the underlying basis of the great majority of government regulation is to protect some people from compe-

tition at the expense of others who want to compete."

Bergland challenges the traditional notion that government regulation is designed to control social ills. He believes such regulation is, indeed, responsible for such ills.

Crooked union leadership exists because of government interference in creating the National Labor Relations Act. Scofflaws at the tops of big corporations can do what they do because the government created limited legal liability for shareholders. If shareholders could be sued without limit, they would make certain corporate directors don't get involved in the kind of activity that leads to lawsuits.

"In my view, corporations shouldn't exist," Bergland says. "They are creatures of the state, pieces of paper, when you get right down to it, filed with the secretary of state."

America's racial problems similarly have their roots in governmental interference. "Go back far enough and you find that the separation of the races was created by government. It was a creature of the state, the Jim Crow law."

His style in racial reform is not Brown v. Topeka Board of Education ("unwarranted government interference") but the Montgomery bus boycott, in which people took it upon themselves to end discrimination by exercising their rights, with

the government merely making sure no one stopped them from that exercise. "The boycott was exactly the Libertarian approach," he says.

Predictably, Bergland opposes any kind of gun control but supports stiff penalties for the use of firearms in committing crimes. "Gun control means somebody with a gun, a government guy, can run up to you, point his gun at you and say, 'Give me your gun. People are not supposed to have guns.'"

The Libertarians oppose forced school busing for racial balance as "a coercive act of the state." That issue, however, is viewed as only part of a much wider problem — government involvement in education, per se.

Getting the government out and allowing a free system of competing schools to evolve "would be the greatest single improvement in the country," Bergland says. He is contemptuous of those who fear that, without government involvement, schooling would grind to a halt.

"The assumption is that if government didn't provide it, it wouldn't be provided; that people are too damned dumb to know what's good for them."

David Bergland, you see, believes in you. Now do you believe in David Bergland?



Ricci

Party's Top Plank: Personal Liberty

By BARBARA ZIGLI
Enquirer Reporter

While other political parties are still squabbling over candidates and platforms, the Libertarian Party has selected its banner-carriers and has a clear vision of the America it would like to bring about.

That vision includes abolishing regulatory agencies, reducing and perhaps ending taxation, closing all U.S. military installations abroad, legalizing gambling and prostitution and eliminating all government subsidies, including those to education, businesses and welfare recipients.

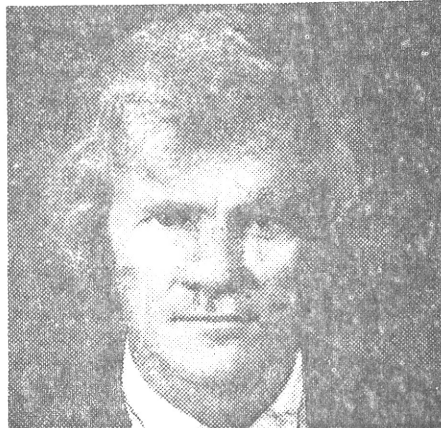
Personal liberty is the Libertarians' paramount concern.

"It is immoral to coerce people," and governmental interference—including taxation—is a form of coercion, Libertarian vice presidential candidate David Bergland said.

He was in Cincinnati Saturday to address the state convention of the Libertarian Party of Ohio at the Hospitality Motor Inn, I-71 and Montgomery Rd.

"ALL OF our positions on issues derive from the commitment to the idea that each individual has the right to make all the decisions about his or her life," explained Bergland, a 41-year-old California attorney.

"The only proper function of government is to assist the individual in defending his rights against those who would violate them," he said in an interview after the convention.



David Bergland
... 'immoral to coerce people'

Bergland said he and the party's presidential candidate, Roger MacBride of Virginia, will be on the ballot in 35 to 40 states, either as independents or Libertarian Party candidates. They have submitted petitions containing more than 9000 signatures (5000 are needed) to get on the Ohio ballot as independents.

On foreign policy, "we are non-interventionist," Bergland said. Libertarians advocate closing all overseas military establishments and pulling out of the United Nations and all mutual defense pacts, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The party believes in a free-market economy with no governmental interference. Libertarians would eliminate state and federal regula-

tory agencies such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Trade Commission.

"THESE AGENCIES have been devices for handing out government favors and protecting established businesses from competition," Bergland said.

"Each individual has the right to engage in any activity he wants to so long as he is not hurting someone else or using coercion," he said. Drug laws should be repealed, as well as laws dealing with "victimless" crimes, such as gambling, prostitution and or pornography, he said.

PERSONAL FREEDOM would also include freedom to discriminate.

"If I don't like a person's policy, I have the right to boycott his business and encourage others to do so. I don't have the right to hold a gun on him and force him to do business my way."

Libertarians would phase out the Social Security system and replace public welfare with private charity.

"You get the bureaucrats out of the way so people who want to help others can do so," Bergland said. "If you eliminate the top-heavy government programs so people can retain their own wealth, they will be much more willing to pay to help those they want to help."

"Let's take the guns away from the do-gooders."

You, too, can correct distortions about the Libertarian Party:

'Proper Function'

William F. Buckley Jr., in his article entitled "The Libertarians Have a Point" (July 5), makes several misleading statements which deserve comment. Mr. Buckley unfairly calls Libertarians childish and preposterous. I say unfairly because, since Mr. Buckley does not reveal to his readers the principle upon which libertarianism is based, the reader is unable to make an informed judgement about libertarianism on his own. He must either accept or reject Mr. Buckley's adverse judgment about libertarianism largely on faith. And it is unfair to require that one's readers make such a choice.

Libertarians believe that no one has the right to initiate force or fraud upon anyone else. Consequently, Libertarians believe that the only proper function of government is to protect individuals against force and fraud. I say "only" because whenever any government attempts to perform some other function, the government invariably initiates force or fraud on others.

Mr. Buckley's comment that a Libertarian society is not "psychologically feasible" because it does not allow for shared values is totally misleading. A Libertarian society allows for all types of common ventures in the pursuit of all types of shared values, so long as the pursuit and the values do not involve the initiation of force or fraud. What could be more feasible?

Mr. Buckley further asserts that the

Libertarian belief in the inviolability of the individual (that is, in absolute rights) is irrelevant to political philosophy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Were there no absolute rights, anything would be morally permissible in the political sphere, and political philosophy would be superfluous.

Finally, Mr. Buckley proposes that "the Libertarians' brew is toxic when taken whole" — that some initiation of force or fraud is necessary. Given the present state of our society with its high crime rate, disintegrating public morality and government intervention into every sphere of the individual's life — all resulting from the initiation of force or fraud — it is time that each individual consider whether force and fraud are necessary components of society.

PAUL THIEL, Treasurer, Libertarian Party of Kentucky, 1209 Hilltop Dr., Park Hills.

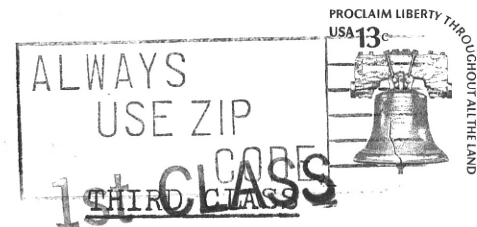
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cleveland area Libertarian Supper Club will meet the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Kenny King's Restaurant, Mayfield Heights. Call Karl Peterjohn (216) 368-0626 to make reservations.

Rod Allmon is organizing a Young Libertarian Alliance chapter at Kent State. For information call him at (216) 678-0905.

The Greater Cincinnati Libertarian Supper Club will meet Sunday, August 8, at 6:00 p.m., at Perkins Pancake House in Montgomery. Contact Randy Cesco (513) 683-8063 for reservations.

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