

FLP NEWS

Number 7

April 1984

Convention Launches "CAMPAIGN '84"

by Tom Lowy

The 1984 State Convention of the FLP is now history. Clearly one of our most successful conventions, the three day gathering resulted in a major commitment to a 1984 political campaign focused on grass-roots party building around the Bergland-Lewis Presidential ticket, as well as local candidates in many different regions of the State.

The highlight of the convention was the Presidential Banquet on Saturday evening which featured a stirring speech by Presidential candidate, David Bergland. Addressing a question often faced by LP candidates -- "Why run if you can't win?"-- Bergland told his audience that Libertarians can win a growing grass-roots movement for liberty in America. Bergland reported encountering growing recognition of the LP in all sections of the country, which he said was due to the 1980 Clark campaign and the work of Libertarians during the past four years.

The banquet also honored several party activists for their tireless work on behalf of Libertarian politics. The "Unsung Heroes Award" was presented to Dave Kahn (New York City), Charles Kiessling (Binghamton), and Bill McMillan (Albany). Margaret Piasecki (Albany) received a briefcase and flower arrangement for her work in planning the convention.

The address by David Bergland was followed by a "Campaign '84" fund-raiser by banquet MC, John Northrup, the FLP candidate for U.S. Senate in 1982. Some \$4000. was raised. In way of thanks, Dottie Lou Brokaw sang "You light up my life" to the more than 100 Libertarians present.

The convention was also addressed by eight speakers on subjects ranging from Camille Castorina's "A Libertarian looks at the Third World" to Richard Wilcke's "Freedom of Commerce: The most vital and misunderstood human right." Dr. Peter Breggin delighted a Sunday morning breakfast banquet with a discussion of the role of love and joy in human relations, which was amplified by Rebecca Shipman speaking on "Compassion and communication in the Libertarian Movement."

A panel discussion on Sunday focused on the topic "Campaign '84." Gary Greenberg (New York City) cautioned FLP candidates from getting "candidate fever" and setting unrealistic goals in a campaign. Our primary goal should be communication and education, he said, "so talk about things on a level that people understand." Greenberg, the 1980 candidate for Governor, emphasized the importance of a good campaign manager in planning and executing the work and goals of the campaign.

David Hoesly (Rochester) spoke on the panel about building a general recognition of the LP in a locality through "Letters to the Editor." Rochester Libertarians, he reported, have had over 300 letters published in local newspapers during the past thirteen months, over half of which identified the writer as a Libertarian. As a result, when the Rochester FLP conducts a petition drives, they encounter growing recognition of the party.

The third panelist, Dottie Lou Brokaw (Cortland), discussed the problems facing candidates in areas with few activists. "Remember, you are not alone. Don't hesitate to call on other Libertarians around the state." Brokaw also told of the value of campaign signs for use on cars and front lawns.

Ed Jowett (Binghamton) spoke on the importance of counting voters and organizing to run campaigns. The Binghamton chapter, he reported, has been highly successful in door-to-door petitioning. This approach allows the activist to combine actual campaigning with the job of getting signatures. The chapter prepares its petition drive by identifying registered voters in neighborhoods where the work will be done. These voters are then visited during petitioning. Jowett urged activists to build campaigns around local candidates in 1984. This must be done, he said, if the FLP is to attain permanent ballot status in 1986.

...continued next page

The convention concluded with a business meeting at which the 1984 petition drive was planned and FLP officers for the coming year elected. The party's chapters agreed to mount an all-volunteer petition drive aimed at obtaining 47,000 signatures (20,000 are needed to place the Bergland-Lewis ticket on the ballot).

The members at the business meeting elected John Francis (New York City) to his second term as State Chair. Dottie Lou Brokaw (Cortland) and Bill McMillan (Albany) won election as Vice Chair. Bill Stoker (Nassau) was elected Treasurer and Christine Gopalan (Albany) Secretary. Elected as At-Large Members of the State Committee were: Fred Cookinham (New York City), Reed Halstead (Westchester), Margaret Piasecki (Albany), Chuck Steber (Albany), and George Wager (Albany). The State Committee also includes representatives of the party's chapters.

The FLP candidates who have declared their candidacy for office in "Campaign '84" are:

- * Rick Horan - 5th Congressional District
- * Wanda Hudak - Broome County Executive
- * Dave Kahn - 17th Congressional District
- * Darrel Mentro - 95th Assembly District
- * Art Svensson - 39th Senate District

On this note the convention closed. Much was accomplished. Much remains to be done in the months ahead. The State Committee will meet in Albany in early June to finalize plans for the petition drive. Members who wish to run for election are urged to contact John Francis, State Chair, or your local chapter chair. The petition drive begins on August 7th. Mark that date on your calendar. COMMITMENT NOW MEANS BALLOT STATUS IN NOVEMBER. And that means one more step on the road to Liberty.

Nat Com Report

by John Francis

The first NatCom meeting of 1984 took place in Pittsburgh from March 30th to April 1st. The meeting coincided with the LP of Pennsylvania State Convention.

The most important thing to report is that The Houston office, party headquarters, is operating at normal and that all the backlog of work which piled up since the move from Washington has been cleared away.

Every effort is being made to be on the ballot in all 50 states, but some states, Florida, Mass., Oregon, Oklahoma, Missouri, are proving quite difficult.

Telephone fund raising is now in full swing. Early results for both party and the Bergland campaign are encouraging.

National member ship stands at 6,140 (3-27-84).

State Com Report

The last State Com meeting was on February 4, 1984 at party headquarters. At this meeting plans were finalized for the May state convention. Plans were also set up for the April Tax protest (see related article).

A motion to purchase a banner was passed. A prior motion to hire someone to have expired members rejoin the party was passed. For every ex-member, the person would receive 1/3rd the yearly dues. The FLP would, in addition, pick up the cost of phone calling.

At the meeting Dottie Lou Brokaw, Bill McMillan and Reed Halstead volunteered to head the Bergland petition drive and campaign. Bill Stocker is the treasurer.

It was learned that Rockland County membership is below 10 members. Orange County has organized a separate chapter. Genesee County is organizing a chapter. Buffalo has re-activated its chapter.

Robert Cogan

Free Spirit

1940-1984

NYC-FLP

On Monday evening, several Libertarians performed the annual ritual of picketing and leafleting at the main post office, as taxpayers rushed up the long granite steps to beat the midnight tax return filing deadline. This, the main post office in NYC, is the one that bears the famous inscription about snow, rain and gloom of night. Unlike last year, it didn't rain, but there weren't quite so many people around, due to its being the first night of Passover. Nevertheless, we handed out hundreds of leaflets, got a grimly amused response to our cheery greeting of "Happy Tax Day!", and also to our sign, which said, "Down with DEBTocrats and DESTRUCTlians." We were interviewed by a reporter from UPI. We got three more names of prospects. The one thing that annoyed us no end was that Sen. Bill Bradley of NJ was inside the post office handing out flyers on his tax proposal, but when our Tom Lowy tried the same thing, the federal police threw him out. Other than that, though, it was a profitable evening.

At the Binghamton Post Office on the night of April 17th, eight local Libertarians, joined by some volunteers from the general public, protested taxes in the pouring rain. They handed out national LP's parody of the 1040 EZ form to about 300 people, and got the participation of passing motorists from their signs which said, "Honk if you hate taxes." Local press and TV covered the activities of the Binghamton group. At the final deadline of midnight, they dispersed, feeling proud of a job well done.

They didn't heave tea into the water, but members of the Libertarian Party of Kentucky staged their own modern-day version of the Boston Tea Party in Frankfort yesterday by tossing boxes covered with federal income tax forms into the Kentucky River.

"We've had too much," said Suruda, who wore a three-cornered black hat. Warned by state officials that throwing anything into the river could be considered littering, the protesters promptly retrieved the boxes.

Regional Reports

Jim Lewis at NYU and Plans for Spring & Summer

New York City Club:

by Fred Cookinham

VP candidate Jim Lewis spoke at NYU on Wednesday, March 28. Despite a pouring rain, snow, sleet, etc., a crowd of 28 attended. At least half were people I'd never seen before. Jim's talk was excellent. He told us a lot of good news from the campaign trail, such as the Rhode Island radio talk show that attracted a listener who was so impressed that he has contributed generously to the campaign and has almost singlehandedly revitalized the Rhode Island LP and gotten it working with the local tax rebels. The discussion that followed Jim's talk was one of the liveliest I've ever seen, with one neophyte actually having his mind changed about the education issue on the spot, after half the people in the room jumped in to augment Jim's criticisms of government schools.

We didn't have time to announce this event in the FLP newsletter, as we had the Jerry Tuccille talk in February, and I apologize to anyone who didn't get the word, but otherwise this was a blessing in disguise. It demonstrated that it pays to talk to people. We called the NYC FLP list-about 150 names- to announce the event, and this gave us (in this case, "us" means Sieggy Kress and myself) the chance to speak to people who have never shown their faces at a function before, and to whom we had never even spoken, or hadn't in a very long time. Any other local chapter may think it strange that calling people on the phone is such a new and revelatory experience for us, but I think that this is an effect of being the local chapter that happens to also be the seat of the state party, its office and most of its officers. You tend to forget to do the things that a local chapter normally does. So I want our NYC members-all of them- to know that I, as local chair, want to call and meet all of you eventually.

A famous author in our midst? Richard Cernuelle, author of Reclaiming The American Dream and Healing America, is an FLP member here in NYC, and is unfortunately unable to be April's speaker, but will perhaps favor us with a talk in the Fall at NYU. In the meantime, we need volunteers for tabling on the nice, sunny weekends that are hopefully coming up, and also for "Recruit Night" at the FLP. This is a program we'll be starting soon where two or three of us, well versed in answering the tough questions about Libertarianism, will give a presentation or class or briefing or call it what you will, on a certain night each week, at the FLP office, on Libertarianism for the uninitiated. This could be a great tool for growth, but there's a catch: you-the NYC and vicinity membership-must provide the bodies. We may be showing World Research films on these occasions, but we don't want you to come unless you bring a ~~potential~~ potential recruit. I know several people I'd like to bring, myself. Please be thinking of friends, relatives, etc., who you can bring or send to learn about Libertarianism in an environment where we will be prepared with facts and arguments when they ask who will build the roads in a Laissez Faire society. This program, if you will volunteer to be a speaker, can also be your chance to practice public speaking, which is a nice thing to have even if you never run for office, and is fun,

US-Tibet Committee

A talk by a member of the US-Tibet Committee concluded our Spring series of events at NYU's Loeb Student Center. Mr. Tenzin Tethong, representative of the Tibetan government in exile, spoke on the history and human rights problems of that country under Chinese occupation. Since US policy currently is to woo Beijing, Tibet is being officially ignored; as a result, the Committee was very happy to find a group that was interested in what they had to say, and the FLP has thus made some new friends. Never let it be said that the FLP is "Isolationist" in the sense of not caring about the world beyond US borders!



David Bergland

LAISSEZ FAIRE

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CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

BERGLAND FOR PRESIDENT '84

The goal of the Libertarian Presidential campaign is to continue to spread and implement the ideas of individual rights throughout American Society. By being on the ballot in all 50 states David Bergland, and hundreds of other Libertarian candidates, will give every American the opportunity to expand their freedom by voting to cut back the federal government, the principal source of oppression within our country.

Our goal is to remove all controls on the peaceful, voluntary and honest actions of all Americans, to abolish draft registration and the threat of the draft, to repeal the federal personal income tax, and to reform American foreign policy so as to promote peace and better defend Americans.

We seek as quickly as possible the end of all government violation of individual rights, including the end of the seizure of the wages and savings of the American people by income, excise, property, gross receipts, capital gains or any other tax.

As immediate reforms in the route to these goals, we seek:

A. The expansion of economic freedom and the increase of employment, productivity and prosperity by the immediate:

- 1) Repeal of laws which discourage work, such as minimum wage laws, licensing and permit restrictions.
- 2) End of the expansion of the money supply by the federal government, the cause of inflation.
- 3) Establishment of gold, silver or other commodity money as a further protection against inflation.
- 4) The elimination of all subsidies to industry and agriculture, and major reductions in social and military spending so as to reduce the federal deficit at the same time the personal income tax is eliminated.
- 5) Reduction of federal revenues by one-third, including an immediate end to the federal personal income tax.

B. The establishment of peaceful international relationships and the defense of the United States as the principal goals of American foreign policy by the:

- 1) Immediate and permanent withdrawal of the United States from all entangling military alliances to eliminate the risk of involving us in new wars.
- 2) Returning all United States military personnel to this country to protect Americans and their property here, with total numbers reduced as appropriate for that mission.
- 3) Development of adequate defensive weapons to protect the United States against nuclear attack.
- 4) Establishment of a "no first strike" nuclear policy.
- 5) Incremental reductions in United States nuclear arsenal as part of arms reduction negotiations with the Soviets.

6) Establishment of a firm policy of free trade with all nations and the elimination of protectionist trade barriers.

C. The establishment of a social policy firmly supporting the right of Americans to control their own lives and to educate and protect their families, including as interim reforms:

- 1) The establishment of a tax credit of \$1500 for anyone who pays for the education of any student in any private school or government operated school, such tax credit to continue until the repeal of the federal income tax. This tax credit will be a direct reduction in the tax liability of any individual or corporate taxpayer who pays to educate a child regardless of whether the taxpayer is related to the student. This plan will introduce competition into the educational marketplace and give millions of Americans a better choice in the education of their children.
- 2) Replacement of the compulsory and deficit-ridden Social Security System with voluntary alternatives while providing present beneficiaries with payments from private annuities purchased with the proceeds of the sale of land and other assets of the federal government. With the end of the income tax and Social Security taxes, younger Americans will be able to purchase annuities or alternative private retirement programs providing better benefits than Social Security.
- 3) A firm policy to support the natural and constitutional right to keep and bear arms as a necessary means of self-protection.

The Libertarian Party is the only organized, nationwide political movement in the United States working consistently on every issue for less government and more hope for the American people. The Libertarian Party is now a permanent part of American politics and thus provides, for the first time in a generation, an outlet for all those who share our view that the federal government and its policies have become the principal barrier to a better life for most people.

We believe the implementation of our principles and interim reforms is both possible and practical. Recent declines in the standard of living in the United States, caused by rising taxes, inflation and government spending, have so alienated voters that barely half of them vote. Millions have lost any hope that traditional political policies can improve anything.

We believe Americans are looking for the kind of alternative the Libertarian Party offers and that they will increasingly turn to the voluntary cooperative system of the free market to improve economic conditions. As each Libertarian reform of cutting government programs and spending, eliminating government intrusiveness, lower taxes, and deregulation is implemented, we believe the obvious benefits of the Libertarian way will cause the public to want more of the same.

Libertarian candidates will thus give voters the opportunity to cast a truly meaningful vote in 1984. A Libertarian vote will be the strongest statement that can be made that we all want to be free of the crushing burden of taxation, free of social control and free of the U.S. government's dangerous foreign policy with its resultant risks of war. Every vote for every Libertarian candidate will be a powerful message that millions of Americans demand respect for their right to keep their earnings, their right to exercise control over and responsibility for themselves, and their right to have the federal government adopt a foreign policy that will provide a growing hope for peace.

For Your Consideration

The profits from Pres Con 1984 have been invested to yield the greatest possible 'no-risk' return. As such, we can expect about \$2,000 a year.

This seed money is available to chapters for undertaking some new and original project designed to enhance public awareness of libertarianism.

One such project, now under study, is a series of tv shows on libertarian ideas. These will be available for cable use within the state and as rental income from the rest of the country.

Another project would be a high school essay contest. Prize money would be provided by the FLP. This contest could be scheduled this fall to coincide with the elections. Topics could range from: What would Jefferson say about today's candidates?", "Which candidate best defends natural rights", etc. However, any time of the year is good for this kind of effort. It could be an annual event!

Should difficulty arise in having a political party sponsor such an event, we plan to have a back up sponsor for it.

If you are interested in this idea, or in any other project, fill out the application below and send to headquarters.

CHAPTER _____

PERSON IN CHARGE OF PROJECT _____ PHONE _____

EXPLAIN THE PROJECT _____

COST AND BENEFITS OF PROJECT _____

The New York Chapter of Libertarians for Gay & Lesbian Concerns meets monthly to discuss various topics of interest to gay libertarians. We also sponsor occasional parties and other special events. For instance, we will march on Gay Pride Day (June 24th), and share a table with the FLP. Please contact Milt at (212) 861-3759 for more information.



Camille Castorina, see p. 1.

Would you like to have better answers for media interviews? **A Liberty Primer** is the solution! Send \$7.95 to: Genesee Valley Society for Individual Liberty, Box 10224, Drawer CFLP, Rochester, NY 14610

DAVID KAHN: SPOKESPERSON FOR THE FREE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



Channel 7 claims that New York City's plan to subsidize the construction of 34 homes and to allocate them by lottery shows concern for the middle class. Unfortunately, the subsidy is financed mostly by the middle class, the vast majority of which will not win a lottery and are worse off than before. Should a winning family become wealthy enough to afford another home, it will still keep the subsidized home, because its cheap for them, and deprive another family who needs it more.

If the city were serious about providing affordable homes it would repeal rent control laws, which discourage the construction of rental housing; abolish construction codes, which mandate the use of unnecessarily expensive building materials; and eliminate zoning regulations, which favor low density housing and thus fewer and costlier homes in any given area.

The City's winner take all game may distract us from reconsidering the policies that created the housing shortage, but it will not significantly reduce that shortage.

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