

CALIBER

CALifornia
LIBERTarian
NEWS

April 1978

Volume VI, No. 3

THREAT TO LIBERTY PASSES SENATE

By Sally Foster

AN UPDATE ON SB 1437

Yes, SB 1437 cleared the Senate, as predicted and feared, with Cranston voting against it, Hayakawa, in favor. Total count was 72 for, 15 against.

SB 1437 is the "Criminal Code Reform Act of 1977," a huge revision of the U.S. Criminal Code, which is actually this year's version of SB 1. This is a very dangerous bill, which, if passed would put incredible restrictions on many political activities such as tax resistance and protesting. There are also frightening sections on conspiracy, complicity, and "solicitation," a new offense. The most chilling section of the bill is that entitled "Offenders with Mental Disease or Defect," which would permit the state to hold an "offender," (a tax protester, perhaps) *without trial, for an indefinite period of time* on the grounds that he is unable to stand trial. The bill is a libertarian's nightmare.

It is out of the Senate and is now being considered by the House Sub-committee on Criminal Justice, which is chaired by James R. Mann of South Carolina. Seven subcommittee hearings were scheduled, with the last to be held in late March.

The bill had a lot of conservative support in the Senate, as it is considered a good "law and order" bill. Considering that the makeup of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice is essentially conservative, it looks pretty grim for those of us who value liberty. *But* before you give up on the conservatives, I want to point out that of the fifteen dissenting votes in the Senate, thirteen were from "right wingers."

INDECISION IN THE HOUSE

One very conservative LA area Congressman (Robert Dornan) told me he really hasn't made up his mind. "It's a tough bill [to decide about]," he said. He seemed very aware of the dangers inherent in it, and predicted a long debate on the floor of the House. However, since there is a five minute limit on debate, it seems unlikely that much could get said which would lead to any great changes, or even to the adoption of significant amendments. Frank Wilkinson of

The National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (N.C.A.R.L.) which has been actively lobbying against SB 1437, fears that if it gets out of the subcommittee it will slide right through the House in spite of debate. Let's hope he is wrong.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO WRITE

One Californian is on the sub-committee—Mr. Charles E. Wiggins. You can exert influence by writing him, especially if you are one of his constituency. Also, write your local congressman. Get a copy of the bill *as sent to the House*. These may be obtained by writing or telephoning the offices of Alan Cranston or S.I. Hayakawa. You might also contact N.C.A.R.L., which incidentally is not a libertarian organization, for a brief updated analysis. The analysis is free, but a return stamped address is requested. Write to N.C.A.R.L., 1250 Wilshire Blvd., Room 501, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or call (213) 481-2435.

Inside this *Caliber*

More on SB 1437. U.S. Senate passes SB 1437. House subcommittee hearings scheduled for March. Story on page 1.

Ed Clark Campaign Gathers Steam. Ed Clark gathers support and funds at the LPC Convention and makes plans for the campaign and petition drive. Story on page 8.

The Bare Facts. Major results of the 1978 convention of the Libertarian Party of California are outlined on page 5.

And More. A fictionalized conversation about the convention appears on pages 4 and 5.

Unusual Opportunity. Libertarian Bernie Perra may be the only opposition for the incumbent Assemblyman from the 70th District. Story on page 3.

Departments:

From the Editors, on page 7.

From the Chair, on page 3.

From the Regions, on page 2.

From Our Readers, on page 6.

Execom Meeting Notice

The next Executive Committee Meeting of the LPC is tentatively scheduled for May 6 and 7, 1978, at the Holiday Inn in Belmont. Belmont is about five miles south of San Francisco Airport. Transportation is available from the airport to the Holiday Inn. For further information call LPC Northern California Vice Chair Cynthia Hilton at (415) 835-2689

News from the Regions . . .

Region 1 (Northern Counties).

Richard Harmon has resumed the post of Region 1 Chair. Bill Davey is Vice Chair. George Robinson is Secretary Treasurer. (Source: Richard Harmon.)

Region 4 (San Francisco/San Mateo).

San Francisco County (not Region 4) officers are John Cotter (Chair), Ron Dorsey (Vice Chair), Kate O'Brien (Treasurer). (Source: John Ryland.)

Region 5 (Santa Cruz).

New officers for Region 5 are Don Atkinson, Chair; Bill Anderson, Vice-Chair; and Oswald Lake, Secretary-Treasurer. New Santa Cruz County officers are Dave Merrick, Chair; Elizabeth Monk, Vice-Chair; and Renee Levy, Secretary-Treasurer. . . . In line with its main thrust of education and registration, the Region has distributed 28,000 books since June of 1977. . . . *The Santa Cruz Sentinel* published the Associated Press news release regarding Ed Clark's candidacy for governor, and mentioned the LPC in its lead editorial that day. Region 5 is following up with frequent news releases to all local papers and to radio. (Source: Elizabeth Monk.)

Region 6 (East Bay).

Officers of Region 6 are Peter Van Sant, Chair; Robert Hoover, Vice-Chair; Bill Carson, Secretary/Treasurer; State Platform Representative, Walter Turner; and Martin Buerger, Howard Olsen, Tom Rose, Walter Turner and Jerry White, Judicial Committee. Region 6 holds regular meetings the third Wednesday of each month at the San Francisco Federal Savings and Loan Building at Shattuck and University in Berkeley. The business meeting starts at 7:30 P.M. with a speaker at 8 P.M. For further information call 415-655-3138.

Region 7 (Santa Clara).

Officers of Region 7 are Karen Huffman, Vice-Chair; Janice Allen, Secretary; Dale Burrow, Treasurer; and Bill White, Membership Chair. . . . Region 7 meets the third Thursday of every month at the Northern California Savings and Loan Building, corner of Prospect and Saratoga Avenues in San Jose, at 8 P.M.

Regions 5, 6, and 7.

Regions 5, 6 and 7 will host the 1979 Convention of the Libertarian Party of California in San Jose.

Region 9 (Channel Counties).

Bill Stanley was elected Chair. . . . Saul Rackauskas and Bill

Stanley wrote the LP's seventh and eighth ballot arguments in Ventura County. The LP has been on the winning side in 3 of the 6 previous elections. (Source: Bill Stanley.)

Region 13 (Pasadena).

Ed Ogawa announced at the February meeting that he would run for the 42nd Assembly seat. His platform will be based on reducing taxes and the size of government. . . . Region 13 meets in Pasadena on the first Thursday of each month at California Federal Savings, at Del Mar and Lake. Plans for future meeting subjects include: April—Tax Protest and Avoidance; May—Jarvis-Gann Initiative, June—Legalized Prostitution. For further information, write David Carl Argall, 1300 Ballista, La Puente, CA 91744. (Source: LPC Region *Lucky 13 Newsletter*.)

Officers of Region 13 are Steve Malmberg, Chair; Bill Wingfield, Vice Chair; Dave Argall, Secretary; Rudy Tietz, Treasurer; Ed Ogawa, Committee Chairman and also State Executive Committee Member; and Pat Tietze, alternate Executive Committee member.

Region 14 (Central Los Angeles, Hollywood, Glendale).

Elections of regional officers were planned for the monthly meeting, Thursday, March 16. Bruce Lagasse, California LP Chairman, was scheduled to speak on "Overcoming Fear of Public Speaking." Region 14 meets the third Thursday of every month at The Copper Penny Restaurant, 315 S. Brand Avenue, Glendale. Dinner is at 6:30 P.M. The business meeting starts about 8:00. (Source: Sally Foster.)

Region 17 (Long Beach).

Region 17 was officially chartered by the State Executive Committee on February 20, 1978. Regions remaining unchartered are 3, 8, 15 and 19.

Region 20 (San Diego).

The San Diego LP Convention was held January 21, 1978. Edward Wallace was reelected Chair. Also reelected were Carol Sanders, Secretary, and Jack Sanders, Treasurer. Other officers and representatives are Corby Somerville, Vice Chair for San Diego City; Jerry Schwab, Vice Chair for San Diego County; Sara Baase and Susan Murphy, State Executive Committee Representatives; and Jean Martinez, Dean Sandin, Jeannie Martin, Fritz Sands, and Jim Esmeyer, local Executive Committee. (Source: *Libertarian Alternative*.)

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SKIERS - VACATIONERS

BEAR VALLEY houses and condominiums for rent by the day, weekend or week for groups of one to 50 people. Three different libertarians individually own 2 condominiums, a 4 bedroom house and a 7 bedroom house with lots of extra space for sleeping bags on the floor. Rates negotiable, but based on % off of comparable Bear Valley lodge facilities and services required. Contact Doug at LIBERTY Bookstore, (415) 965-1776 or write to 811 Castro St., Mountain View for more information.

“Vote for Larry Libertarian”

Toward Political Impact

Regarding the improving situation as the tide of World War II began to turn against Hitler, Winston Churchill commented, “It is not the end. Nor, even, the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Such is the current status of the Libertarian Party in California. We have reached the end of the beginning. The old balancing act over education vs. actual political impact may be shifting toward political impact.

The goal for the gubernatorial race this year is to obtain more votes than the difference between the two major party candidates. This would be not just a “moral” victory, it would be a *victory* in almost every sense of the word.

To outpoll the difference between the demicans and the republocrats would be a great shot in the arm for the LPC. It would indicate to the general public and the major political parties alike that the Libertarian Party has clout.

The Balance of Power

Linger on that concept.

Clout.

That means the Libertarian Party will have a constituency that is regarded as important and influential, not only for elections of candidates but possibly, as well, for passage of legislation.

If we can get the balance of power, that *will* be the end of the beginning.

It could mean the end of always having to scratch, beg and cajole the news media for attention. If the Libertarian Party and its candidates become the major reason why a Republican (or a Democrat) loses instead of wins, the news media will seek us out.

Other doors will open. Other political organizations, major, minor and special-interest, will approach us. Groups who would previously not have given us the time of day will now solicit our support. The reason is apparent. We will have shown that we speak for a significant number of people, whose votes can actually affect elections and legislation.

Why Vote for Us?

Many of us in the LPC (myself included) have been following what I now consider to be a mistaken procedure in trying to convince people to support us.

Let me illustrate what I believe to be the correct procedure.

The other day, while driving to work, I saw on a freeway underpass, a snipe sheet saying “Vote for _____.” I’ve seen solicitations of this nature for many years and have generally ignored them. but this time a thought occurred to me: “*Why* should I vote for you?”

When you are trying to get the average voter to vote for Larry (or Louise) Libertarian, they will probably ask questions like “What do they stand for; what do they advocate?”

But what they really want to know, and what your answer should address is, *What’s in it for them if they vote libertarian?*

That’s the bottom line.

A voter is asking, “*Why* should I vote for your candidate?” And you’ve got to tell him why.

You do *not* say that capitalism is superior to socialism. Even though it’s true.

You do *not* say that victimless crime laws are immoral. Even though it’s true.

What you *do* say is that Larry Libertarian *will do things that the voter wants.*

Larry Libertarian will put a lid on his (the voter’s) property taxes and save him from being thrown out on the street.

Larry Libertarian will give his kids a chance to get a decent education.

Larry Libertarian will give him better law enforcement and fire protection.

Larry Libertarian will improve his chances of getting a better, more stable job.

And then, when they ask how, you tell them!

And because libertarian solutions work, you have successfully answered the question, “Why should I vote for Larry Libertarian?”

And since you have given the voter the answer he wanted (whether he asked for it or not), it’s possible that Larry Libertarian has just picked up a vote.



Bruce Lagasse

Bernie Perra for Assembly

“If I’m elected I won’t be living off stolen money,” says Bernie Perra, Libertarian Party candidate for State Assembly from the 70th District.

Perra bases his expectation of an unusually strong showing and possible victory in Orange County on the fact that his opponent, the incumbent Republican Bruce Nestand, is likely to be the only other candidate on the ballot. Assembly District 70 includes Yorba Linda, Orange, Tustin, and portions of Santa Ana, Anaheim, Placentia, and Fullerton. Perra believes that out of a population of roughly 150,000, he may outpoll Roger MacBride’s vote total for the entire state of California.

The Perra for Assembly campaign is well under way, complete with campaign manager (Jack Dean of Garden Grove), budget (\$20,000), and brochure (scheduled to be ready by the time you receive this issue of CALIBER). His platform includes three election promises:

- (1) he will “definitely not accept any money from the state as salary,” he will accept only voluntary contributions;
- (2) he will introduce legislation to reduce expenditures to the point at which the state income tax can be eliminated;
- (3) he will introduce legislation to return the \$2.7 billion surplus to the taxpayers.

Perra expects to have an unusual number of opportunities to present his case to the voters. Right now he can use your contribution to help prepare that case and insure his place on the ballot. Make checks payable to “The Perra for Assembly Committee” and send them to 19711 Fernwood Plaza, Yorba Linda, CA 92686.

CONVENTION TALK

At a table surrounded by green leafy fronds, in a bar called the Palm Room, we relaxed and held forth in a low-key interview with one participant of the California convention. We had wanted to find a typical delegate for our interview, but looking around the convention floor, we realized that all libertarians are quite unique, so we chose a pleasant young woman new to California LP politics.

The convention of February 17-20, 1978, had been named "Machinery of Freedom" conjuring a picture of energetic motion with gears and pistons, and maybe a few nuts. It was energetic and businesslike and somewhat sparsely attended. Often, during the general sessions, there were fewer than seventy delegates on the floor. Our informant remembered several quorum calls. She said there was a sense of purposefulness about the convention.

"Everybody wanted to produce a good platform and when they disagreed, disagreements were mostly good-natured. . . . Nobody seemed to mind replacing a few 'eventuals' with a few 'immediates' It seems like the only time a suggestion failed to pass was when it was amended to death by too many other suggestions."

Ed Clark was nominated for Governor, as anticipated. Asked what she thought of him as a candidate, our friend said, "I like him. He gives the impression of tremendous integrity and sincerity. I think he'll be great on TV. . . . I think he will get more recognition than Roger MacBride, but I wish he had more of Woody Jenkins' rabble rousing excitement." (Jenkins is the young, dynamic Louisiana legislator who related his impressive accomplishments in Louisiana at the Convention Banquet.) She said, "I think Woody Jenkins would make a great LP candidate—too bad he's a Democrat." We pointed out that Ed Clark's low-key style could be turned to our advantage by contrasting him with the public image of a politician.

The closest thing to a confrontation on the floor came over a resolution called "Return of Ownership" which finally passed 26-25 after being referred to a committee of proponents and opponents for drastic rewriting. "Lots of people got more involved over that one,"

she said, "some people were worried that they were voting to say their homes should be given to the Indians. . . ." (See page 4 for a rough draft of this Resolution).

"What else of note happened during the general sessions," we asked over refills.

"Well," she answered, "I remember some people were annoyed with Bill Evers for bypassing the Platform Committee and bringing up about five new planks at the last minute. . . . but they all voted for them anyway. . . . Back at the beginning Eric Garris gave a speech about intolerance for people's life styles and how that cost us some activists. Later, when Peter Van Sant was nominating Cynthia Hilton for Northern Vice Chair, he said that

continued

CONVENTION TALK

San Francisco had lost five activists over the last several months, and that this is bound to leave a vacuum, but that people will come and go in our organization and that we should expect this. . . ."

Dave Nolan's keynote address scenario of a possible future for the LP was one of the highlights of the convention. We asked her response to his predictions and were not surprised to hear that her feelings during the address ranged from "that must have been an in joke" to "that nearly brought tears to my eyes."

We were interested in what the results of the convention might have been for its participants, so we asked, "What do you think was the overall effect of all the workshops and emphasis on practical politics?"

She paused for a minute before answering, "I didn't attend very many workshops. . . . in general, though, it seemed that a lot of people have lots of great ideas about what *somebody else* should do. I overheard an animated conversation between two men on the convention floor, during which one man was telling the other what kinds of things should be done to spread libertarianism. I got the impression that they thought that generating the ideas was enough, and that someone else should somehow carry out the plan. I think overhearing this conversation was a turning point for me because I realized. . . . that all of us are good thinkers, really, and we all come up with good ideas. But what we need to do is to *act* on our ideas, and not expect others to if we do not. There are still so few of us libertarian activists that I don't think I can wait any longer for an 'expert' or 'professional' to come along and do it. If I want to get anything done, I'm going to do it myself. . . . with friends, hopefully, but if they're not available, then on my own. . . . I am going to get involved in the Ed Clark campaign and the Jarvis-Gann Initiative too. . . . If I hadn't come to the convention, I don't know that I would have gotten involved with either."

"How was Paul Gann's speech," we asked, prompted by her mention of the Tax Limiting Initiative that will be Proposition 13 on the ballot this June.

She got more animated as she replied. "I enjoyed his talk. He seems to be a really experienced and persuasive speaker. I thought he hammed it up a little too much for our particular audience, but he was colorful. He is very optimistic about Proposition 13's chances. Yet, after hearing that a tax initiative failed on the ballot in Alaska recently, it makes me realize that lots of people are afraid to actually lower taxes when they have the chance.

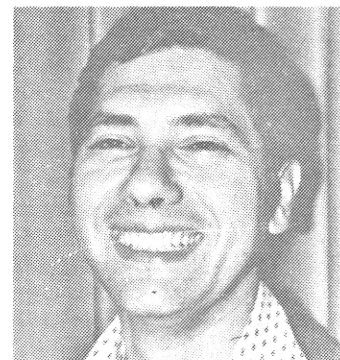
"And I wonder why it wasn't our initiative to begin with? I keep thinking we need to be out there politicking as long as we're a political party, then I remember everyone else is *saying* the same thing—I guess we have a long way to go before we have a Libertarian Tax Elimination Initiative on the ballot. . . ."

We countered with "So what do you think we should be doing?" That brought us back to mellow tones of consideration: ". . . . We need to get across the idea that libertarians are the only politicians who are really seriously against taxes, and we also need to convince people that lowering taxes is *really* in their best interest.

continued on page 5, column 2



LPC Chairman Bruce Lagasse.



LPC Southern Vice Chair Dan Wiener.



LPC Secretary June Genis.

CONVENTION FACTS

It will take a while to collect, reproduce and disseminate all the results of the 1978 Convention of the Libertarian Party of California (held February 17-20 in Los Angeles). What follows is a partial list of significant results.



Ed Clark, LPC candidate for governor.

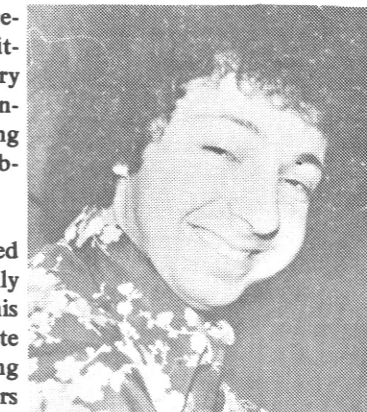
Ed Clark received the Convention's unanimous endorsement for Governor of California. (See the Winter, 1977 issue of CALIBER for Ed's background and qualifications, and see the story on page 8 of this issue for further developments in his campaign.)

Bruce Lagasse was elected LPC Chair. He ran as the incumbent and was unopposed, having been appointed by the Executive Committee to fill Ray Cunningham's unexpired term. Bruce was previously Southern Vice Chair and, before that, Editor of CALIBER.

Cynthia Hilton was elected Northern Vice Chair. She was previously Region 6 (East Bay) Chair and is currently also State Vice Chair for LIBRE (the Libertarian Registration Effort).

Dan Wiener was elected Southern Vice Chair. He ran as the incumbent, having been appointed to fill Bruce Lagasse's term. Dan was previously LPC Treasurer and unsuccessful candidate for LPC Elder Statesman.

June Genis was elected Secretary. She was previously Region 7 (Santa Clara County) Chair and is currently also State Chair of LIBRE. The previous Secretary, Michelle Kurtz, has agreed to stay on as *de facto* Recording Secretary for the Executive Committee, while June will have primary responsibility for the maintenance of the computerized mailing lists of the LPC (including subscription records for CALIBER).



LPC Treasurer Mike Zeldis.

Mike Zeldis was reelected Treasurer. Mike is the only officer who was elected to his current position at the 1977 State Convention. He must be doing something right. (Other officers take note!)

For the first time in the history of the LPC, the Convention completed deliberations on the report of the Platform Committee. Most of its recommendations were accepted. New planks not in the original report included one on water and weather modification and one on the proposed California space program. A style committee, consisting of Ellen Baker, Glenda Bull and Ray Strong, was appointed to make grammatical changes, remove sexist language, and organize the 1978 LPC Platform.

The newly elected Judicial Committee includes Gordon Johnson, Don LaSalle, Linda Rader, Ray Strong and Bill Westmiller. Linda

continued

CONVENTION FACTS

Rader was elected chair.

Tentative titles of some of the Resolutions passed include:

- Apartment Owners and Dwellers Rights
- In Support of Proposition 13
- Carriers (re Assembly Bill 860)
- Return of Stolen Property
- Rent Control
- Midwifery
- Removal of Sexist Language
- Balance the Budget
- Gay Tax Protest

An expression of thanks is due the organizers of "The Machinery of Freedom" Convention including Mike Hall, Jane Heider, Sally Foster, Bruce Lagasse, Gordon Johnson, Bill Maxfield, Linda Rader, Cliff Shirk, Laura Twombly, Sandy Webb and Bill Webster.

Convention Talk

continued

"I like Bernie Perra's idea of making his salary [if elected] into a voluntary contribution by returning the share of any taxpayer who asks for it. [Bernie Perra is running for State Assembly in the 70th District. See the story on page 3.] Murray Rothbard mentioned a similar idea. He wanted a 'blind trust' for the salary of any elected libertarian so the donors would be anonymous." Murray gave an optimistic, amusing talk at the Birthday Party Friday



LPC Northern Vice Chair Cynthia Hilton.

night. "Did you attend John Hospers talk?" we asked. "Yes, I did," she said, "I liked it, but I disagreed with some of his points. He talked about the media and the fact that it systematically ignores atrocities which occur in Russia while playing up and maybe even staging atrocities against blacks in Rhodesia and South Africa. He also mentioned that there are endless books and movies about the evils of Nazism and few about the evils of Russian communism. He seemed to see conspiracies at work. I see a simpler explanation. I think it's just human nature to ignore a seemingly hopeless situation such as in Russia and to relive over and over, in movies especially, the Allies' victory of Nazism. As for fabricating stories about the plight of blacks in Rhodesia—I see that as sad and ironic, but I don't see evidence of conspiracy in that or in the sum total of his remarks."

We asked her about Ed Crane's breakfast talk on Monday, but she said, "I was up too late the night before so I missed it. But I nearly (from Ed Crane himself, in fact) that it was brilliant!"

It was getting late and we were beginning to talk a lot more than our interviewee (a fact carefully disguised by our clever editing). We asked whether she thought we could sell the ideas we had been talking about. We did a lot of analyzing and speculating and arrived at the conclusion that, yes, we can, if we raise the money. The party broke up as the bill arrived and we said we would meet again next convention to discuss how we did. (We split the bill.)

Letters

Elections Not So Bleak

I was glad to see election news for Libertarian Party candidates for 1977 from all over the country, in the March 1978 CALIBER.

However, Alan Vogel received .49% of the total vote cast for Mayor of Houston, not .05% of the total vote.

Also, you left out some of the LP's best 1977 showings:

1. In Meriden, Connecticut (population 58,000), LP candidate for Mayor Bob Maloney received 2,065 votes, or 10.5%. This is a *partisan* race. It is an outstanding showing. I wrote the *LP News* in Washington because they omitted it also. I have the official returns and he is listed as the Libertarian Party candidate. The rest of the LP slate polled between 7% and 9%

2. In Deerfield Beach, Florida, Edwin Pole, a Libertarian, ran for City Commissioner, a non-partisan race. He placed second in a 3-person race, polling 1,100 votes (19.4%).

3. In Lexington, Massachusetts, Libertarian Warren Roberts polled 55% of the vote for Town Meeting member. This was another non-partisan race. He didn't win because the number of candidates (14, for 9 openings) permitted someone to get a majority yet still not win.

4. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, LP candidates for city council averaged 2.5%. This is a partisan office.

5. In a special election for State Senator in Flint, Michigan, Libertarian Gail Shantaram polled over 1%.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, CA

A Poor Choice of Labels

Bishop Mikhail F. Itkin's article in your Jan./Feb. issue is full of mind boggling terms. If the LP is to be a party of principle it had better get its terms defined—and insist on like clarity from its members, at least in publications.

Libertarian-Socialist is a contradiction in terms. Individual freedom of choice cannot co-exist with government control of the means of production.

Libertarians for Gay Rights is a pernicious redundancy. Gays do not have rights. Individuals have rights. Libertarians stand for the right of the *individual*, to be gay or not, as he chooses.

I would hope that, in the future, CALIBER will exhibit a higher caliber of thinking by putting clarity, not confusion, before its readers.

Elizabeth G. Monk
Santa Cruz, CA

Editor's reply: *We don't know what Libertarian-Socialist means either—your point is well taken. In the future we hope to do a number of articles identifying and describing organizations with which libertarians are likely to affiliate; but it would have been better if we had asked Bishop Itkin for a description of his. The Libertarians for Gay Rights group has been identified in CALIBER. We suspect most members of LGR would agree with your assessment of "redundancy" but would maintain that their name is a useful rather than a "pernicious" shorthand.*

Immediate Action

The purpose of this letter is to announce the formation of two political action committees. This decision has been arrived at after my announcement during the General Session of the California Convention, 1978.

Committee No. 1.—“Stop the State.” The purpose of this committee is to demonstrate to the public how the “State” is taking control over private property by purchase, eminent domain rights, etc. We will use mailing campaigns, pickets and personal confrontation to bring this expansion to the public mind and to offer alternatives to State control.

Committee No. 2.—“Sell the State.” Wherever State property is unproductive, we will urge its sale to the private sector. We will ask for a private trust to be established for monies received from the sales, and to be held until it is determined from whom it was stolen.

I urge all members to report flagrant violations of State abuses to me. (For those individuals who voted for the immediate sale of government lands during the last convention, I expect to hear from you first.)

Stephen I. Malmberg
4133 Camino Real
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Register LIBERTARIAN

Return of Ownership

Editor's Note: *The following is a rough draft of the "Return of Ownership" Resolution which was passed by the California Libertarian Party Convention on Monday, February 20, 1978. This is not the official wording, but represents the sense of the resolution. An official version will be available after the next Executive Committee Meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 7th.*

“Whereas every individual has the right to his or her own property and whereas the right to property includes the right of use, control and disposal, and whereas, when property is coercively disposed of by the State against the will of the valid owners, whether by military conquest, eminent domain or other Statist action, the owners are deprived of their property rights.

We therefore resolve that the State and others in possession of stolen property should give up its possession and return it to those persons documenting ownership in the private sector, fully recognizing the rights of private parties, who have come into possession of stolen property unknowingly, to seek redress from the guilty parties.”

A State Without Victims

We got a new tax form in the mail yesterday—a business property tax form. Our first reaction was “we probably won’t have to pay much because we are a very small business with very little property.” As we read the form we began to realize that we might not pay much money, but we sure would pay with blood, sweat and tears while filling out the long and detailed form. The main impact of this tax is on our *time*.

We have read many studies with conclusions about how much of each person’s time is spent working for various governments (to pay taxes). These studies usually ignore the extra time spent acquiring the data and filling out the forms. We often enjoy our work and find ourselves forgetting the fact that some of our pay is taken by Uncle Sam; but we hate filling out forms for government bureaucrats. In a free economy we would pay for services received, although we find it inconceivable that we would pay as much as we now pay in taxes. But we would be billed for those services—we wouldn’t have to spend days counting the paper clips on hand, as demanded by our new business property tax form. The tax laws force us to use accounting methods inappropriate to our business. In general, tax laws work heavily against small businesses. They skew the economies of scale by making it more reasonable for most of us to work for larger corporations with full time accounting departments to handle the myriad forms generated by the bureaucrats.

When we get a new tax form in the mail, we sometimes feel like quitting. And this is thinking like a victim. We have noticed that, when people operate from the position that the state is doing it to them, they rarely accomplish their goals. They may get angry and even join a group of hate-the-staters, but eventually they seem to dissipate their righteous indignation into indifference, resignation and apathy.

Not wanting to think of ourselves as victims, we contemplate ways to accept and even profit from the current state of affairs (i.e. taxation). Many individuals pay a great deal of money for the services of accountants and tax consultants who will handle the forms.

“How about computer programs to generate the garbage required on the form,” we muse. “We could start with our own business and an inexpensive minicomputer,” we imagine. “Then we could adapt the programs for lots of others,” we dream. Of course, the govern-

ments change the forms every year, so we would have to stay busy rewriting programs, and we still haven’t solved the data acquisition problem (counting the paper clips). A little victimese is creeping back into our thinking.

Let’s reassess our situation. We now have taxes and all the waste, dislocation, and frustration they require. Taxation isn’t killing us. For us it’s just an unpleasant waste of time. We don’t want to risk going to jail (another unpleasant waste of time). Instead of seeing ourselves as victims of the state and letting this attitude get us down let’s find ways to end taxation—let’s welcome the chance to be the generation that put an end to taxes. And let’s start by passing Proposition 13, the Jarvis-Gann Initiative, not because it’s an end for taxes, but because it’s a beginning for the idea that taxation’s days are numbered.

Excerpt from Keynote Address

Editor’s Note: *This excerpt from Dave Nolan’s keynote address is part of a Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate’s speech on nationwide TV just before the 1988 elections. The scene is a Presidential Campaign with polls giving the Libertarian a 50-50 chance of winning. The main campaign issue is whether the U.S. should intervene in a growing MidEast conflict.*

“There are those who believe that we can have a government with the power to intervene in the affairs of other nations, yet no power to intervene in our own lives. History has shown this to be false; once assembled, massive government power becomes a law unto itself.

We must not allow ourselves to be drawn into an overseas conflict ever again; if death and destruction are to come to the MidEast, let them come without our participation. The choice we face is between peace and freedom for America on one hand, and war and subjugation on the other. I pray that you will choose wisely and well.”

Libertarians for Prop. 13 Forming

A new, statewide organization is being formed to provide support for the Jarvis-Gann Amendment, which would limit property tax in California to one percent of the assessed valuation. Those interested in helping in this all important effort, please contact Steve Sparling, (916)-265-6273. (Source: The Feb. 1978 *North State Libertarian News*.)

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Ed Clark Campaign on Track

The Ed Clark for Governor campaign pulled out of the station (the California Convention) with a full head of steam (media coverage, interviews, funds, and plans).

EARLY IMPACT ON MEDIA

On the way to public recognition as a serious candidate for Governor of California, Ed and the Libertarian Party received coverage in the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner and the Associated Press. In Los Angeles his television coverage extended to CBS, NBC, and the local channel 13.

Ed also received TV coverage in San Diego. Also, all news radio stations KNX and KFWB in Los Angeles mentioned the new candidate and he was interviewed for radio stations from San Diego to San Francisco. The local press of the San Gabriel Valley is particularly interested, since this is his home region. One Pasadena newspaper has already interviewed him and expressed its wish to be kept informed on developments of his campaign.

SEND MONEY

By the end of the Convention, Ed Clark had raised approximately \$20,000 with several thousands additional in pledges. The amount is of course far short of the planned \$375,000, being exactly five and one-third percent of that goal. However, it should be sufficient to allow the campaign and major fund raising drives to get under way. Contributions should be made payable to "Ed Clark for Governor" and mailed to P. O. Box 71383, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

PRODIGIOUS PLANS

Between now and June, Ed plans weekend trips to San Francisco, Orange County, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterrey and Santa

Cruz, Sacramento, and Palo Alto and Santa Clara. These trips are in addition to the already scheduled appearances around the state with Dr. Thomas Szasz (see last two issues of CALIBER). Ed hopes to encourage spontaneous activity on behalf of his campaign all over California. As an example of the busy schedule being mapped out for Ed, consider March 21, 1978. On this Tuesday, he was scheduled to appear on a radio talk show in Los Angeles in the afternoon, and to speak to the San Francisco LP in the evening.

POSSIBILITIES

The air is full of possibilities for the Ed Clark for Governor campaign. Radio advertising as early as June is being discussed. A new brochure should be ready by this CALIBER's mailing date. Chances are being turned into opportunities. Opportunities can be converted to realized gains. The fuel for all this potential progress is your contribution. Keep the fuel coming and Ed will gear up for success.

CALifornia LIBERTarian NEWS is published monthly by the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA.

For information, subscriptions, or address changes write to:

CALIBER Subscription Department
c/o Libertarian Party of California
P. O. Box 71383
Los Angeles, CA 90071

One year subscription is \$5.00; \$6.00 for first class mail delivery. Individual copies are \$.40 each.

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Libertarianism

Libertarianism is nothing more nor less than the politics of Liberty. While some other parties and groups seek to use the tools of politics to give some groups power over others, to enrich some at the expense of others, or to impose some set of values on those who disagree with those values, Libertarians seek nothing more than Liberty.

The position paper entitled "Libertarianism," is available from the Libertarian Party National Headquarters, 1516 P Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

CALIBER

CALifornia
LIBERTarian
NEWS

Published monthly by
THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA

Northern Headquarters:
P.O. Box 2617, San Francisco 94126

Southern Headquarters:
P.O. Box 71383, Los Angeles 90071.

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