



L. P. WYO NEWS



The Newsletter of the Wyoming Libertarian Party

ALICIA CLARK NEW NATIONAL CHAIR

In what may prove the most important decision made at the Libertarian Party's national convention in Denver this August, Alicia Clark was elected to serve as Chair of the Party. She led in each of the first two votes taken, finally winning a clear majority on the third.

For the first time in LP history, the race was hotly contested. The three major candidates, all outstanding in their qualifications, were **Kent Guida, John Mason, and Alicia Clark**. In a last minute announcement the day before the final election, **Vernon Brown**, with Minority Education Enterprises, threw his hat into the ring as well, but later withdrew. To cap it off, a speech was made on behalf of **None of the Above**, a dark horse candidate whose platform called for leaving the office unfilled since we would be reinforcing our anti-authoritarian commitments and learning to do with fewer central decision makers.

To editorialize, This Reporter will say that he is of the opinion that Ms. Clark's campaign themes, (should they accurately foreshadow later performance,) promise best to fulfill the admirable goals of the NOTA advocate. It appears to me that her win, symbolizing the triumph of the cooperative spirit as opposed to the non-conciliatory factionalism that might have broken us had it prevailed, will provide the Party with the best brew of talent that it could reasonably expect. Fiscal responsibility, continued participation of partisans, and a heavy emphasis on self-reliant grass-roots organization spells a strong and successful Libertarian Party in my guidebook, and this is what Alicia Clark seems to offer.

In closing, I offer my dedication to work wholeheartedly with our new Chair, and I hope she and Ed aren't mad at me just because I wore a Mason button throughout the convention.

.....Reith

FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

Now that the National Convention is over, everyone is regenerated toward accomplishing some of our earlier goals; having monthly meetings somewhere in the state in order to build membership and spread Libertarian philosophy; getting on the state ballot (a legal hurdle); and getting people to run for office and getting elected and finally....putting ideas of individual freedom into political practice.

To any of you throughout the state of Wyoming...if you are interested in having some of us come and conduct a meeting in your area, please contact us so that we can begin to work it into our very busy calendar. (Ed. note: we are working on a Speaker's Bureau program, and would like to speak at High Schools in your area. We need local coordinators to set up dates and so on.) In addition, we would like input as to a location and date for our next state Convention, which should be in early 1982. Address: Wyoming Libertarian Party, P.O. Box 1972, Casper, WY 82602.

We are in the process of obtaining the new brochure on the Party titled "Q & A about the Libertarian Party"...if you want one, write to us, and if you want an extra one for a friend, send the address and we'll mail one. This brochure contains short descriptions of how Libertarians stand on different issues...easy to read and understand.

If President Reagan spends all the money that is budgeted (not to mention off budget money too,) there really won't be much change from the historic past...so Americans will still be wondering what IS the solution to our many problems. If **you** feel that we need some real changes, join with us **right now**...get in the action. There are lots of ways to help...be a contributor, an activist, a personal envoy, a candidate, a student, and on and on. So, let's do it!

**Larry Gray, Acting Chair
Buffalo, WY.**

WHERE FROM HERE?

The Wyoming LP is in crises.

But we might as well say that the LP is always in crises, for we use the word in its traditional Chinese sense: that of great opportunity and great danger.

The LP can see great success in Wyoming; both electoral and in terms of propagating the libertarian alternative.

But in order for this to come to pass, those presently involved must do some work. Like all other entrepreneurial endeavors, an investment must be made.

What, then, am I asking? I am asking that my readers join in the project that several of us have embarked upon. We cannot, as they say, do it alone; and my task is to convince others that it is worth your time to join in. If I cannot, then my original judgement concerning the viability of this company may have been wrong.

Let's look at the vital signs, the operating data. In Sheridan there are three or four people making respectable investment in Libertarian activity. Seeing the results of even this minimal effort convinces me that just ten making an equivalent investment, or twenty making half that, or forty at half again, and so on, we can run serious challengers at election time and insure that in other ways, libertarian proposals get the high spot on the agenda. To condense: we can achieve success. A certain, **attainable** number of people will mean the condensation of the necessary critical mass. The only unknowns, as far as I can see, are the approach I use to maximize effectiveness, and the time between effort and yield or return. So I am making an approach thus, and as yet cannot give you a specific timetable.

In order to accurately assess the value for these unknowns, we must at least outline some specifics of the action program that represents the LP marketing strategy and tactics.

From the start it is clear that without a larger and stronger Party we will be unable to do much more than get an occasional public forum for our ideas. If the sum total of communications on public policy is X²173, we may be able to fill the ears of listeners with X²2 amount of data. To increase this to a majority, or more, we need more people educating themselves and then going up to speak, write letters, and so on.

The first need, then, is to build the Party.

To build the Party we need each person presently involved to make an effort to recruit from among friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and members of sympathetic single issue groups.

PROTECTIONISM EXPOSED

by Sheldon Richman

[final installment]

This is the answer to those who ask what will happen to domestic steel- and automakers if imports increase. Should those industries become obsolete, valuable labor, capital, land and entrepreneurship will be available for things we can't afford now. Of course, some people will have to adjust to new conditions. But they knew of that risk when they entered their lines of work. There is no right to a frozen station in the economy regardless of consumer valuation and desires.

Moreover, the intricate network of worldwide exchange that results from free trade is a great force for peace; war is less likely with so much to lose. That is the answer to those who fear for national security under free trade.

State action to protect so-called mature industries has several harmful effects: First, by design it increases costs to anyone buying the products involved. Ironically, one of the things that raises American automaker's costs is protection of the steel industry. Second, protectionism harms the workers in the protected industry because their employers are sheltered from the need to find better production methods. They are also harmed because consumer prices are kept artificially high and new job opportunities are prevented from emerging on the market. American exporters are hurt because foreigners can't afford to buy their products if they can't sell. Besides this, foreign nations may retaliate (in more ways than one!)

A new, more sophisticated argument for protectionism has lately been making the rounds. Stumped by the arguments just outlined, the neo-mercantilist answers, "Sure, I'm for free trade, as long as it's **fair** trade and the conditions are the same for everyone." Since conditions are never identical, they have an easy time finding excuses for import quotas, "orderly marketing" agreements, trigger-price mechanisms, countervailing duties, etc.

Dumping is the most egregious offense for the neo-mercantilists. But precisely what dumping is they haven't said. We may deduce that dumping occurs when a foreign seller charges prices below costs of production, fair-market value or home-market prices. Let's assume for the moment that these criteria are meaningful: the neo-mercantilists have never shown that dumping is inconsistent with fair competition. Competition is not a game in which players agree to abide by arbitrary rules. It is a process in which producers are left free to satisfy consumers in non-coercive, non-fraudulent ways. Nothing about it excludes dumping from fairness. The charge of dumping simply masks the envy of sellers who can't price as low as their rivals.

The only criterion of a fair price is the consent of buyers and sellers. The inability of competitors to meet a given price signifies nothing in the realm of ethics. The criteria of dumping not only have nothing to do with fairness, they are invalid as pricing standards of any kind: All costs, including costs of production, are opportunities

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And what might we need in order to effectively recruit? This is clear: we need to be salesmen and women. Larry has a tape which outlines three points to good sales: 1. Believe in the product; 2. Talk to a lot of people; and 3. Ask for the sale. All this means is that we should try to become well educated in Libertarian thought; we have to know the product in order to believe in it credibly and explain it well. We also should try to be good listeners, patient, friendly, and understanding. If we want to talk to a lot of people we won't be able to do it if we are bad with people. Now, besides the investment of money that we might make in adding to our already huge libraries of libertarian works (!), educating ourselves and asking others is not a major hurdle. It takes a little spunk, which individualists tend to have, and it takes a willingness to accept no for an answer. If we are too afraid of rejection, we never make an effort.

Asking for the sale can mean many things, but it requires that one have a product that the buyer receives. In this case, the product would be an on going program of activities and education. In two other words: local groups. Since most of my readers live in far flung corners, (there doesn't seem to be anything else in Wyoming), what you need is to get a group of people together weekly or bi-weekly to study, talk, listen to tapes, and plan for things like campaigns, literature distribution, and fundraising.

At first, meeting activities may be sparse; we can import a few of ourselves to speak; we can get copies of tapes (which, by the way, we are considering doing as an aid for local groups); drafting letters, and so on. Later, when there is a number of live groups and cores around the state we can coordinate statewide activity which is necessary for running national candidates, having successful petition drives and referendi to abolish this that or the other arm of the state.

How many? How much? In the smaller towns and cities, just a few people on the ball can bring libertarian values to the fore because there is generally a political vacuum, a lack of debate, and a ready made constituency of the disaffected. In larger cities, a few more, with a base support group half again as large as the cadre of principled activists, can do the same and better. Letters to the editor; literature distribution door-to-door projects, a lot of interpersonal talk, and we have got the essential, operative structure of the movement that will then sweep the country in a tide of popular sentiment and understanding.

Each local group and each local candidate lends credibility to every other one in the whole country and world. Each conspicuous absence robs that credibility; and when we are perceived as being real, strong, mature, and active, we are going to see all those frustrating fence-sitters finally come over. Do something this week, today. Fill out the center insert and send it to the box in Casper. We'll get in touch...continuing to respect that you may not want to throw your whole being into it.

ORGANIZATIONS BULLETIN

Some of us are Christians. There. I said it. You can relax now.

For the record, there are all manner of christians, from Catholics and Protestants to latter Day Saints and amorphous Fundamentalists, in the Libertarian movement. I view this with naught but pleasure, because it means that Falwell's claim about having a Watts line to God is not taken on faith in all quarters. Those of you who exercise an exemplary disdain for current events might still be unaware that a certain Prominent Minority is about to make the Nazional Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiters Partie take an historiacal back seat, and if anyone can defuse that gang, it is those few Christians who see the error in substituting a secular state power for personal divine guidance. (One might take a grim cynical pleasure in noting the inconguity in calls for a pure morality made by those who succumb to the temptations of power...) Anyway, Christians and Libertarians need each other, and the existent detente and mutual aid alliance is cause for thanks.

Two outreach/crossbreeding organizations exist that I am aware of; both have important roles to play and deserve our support. **The Galatians Fellowship**, (Galatians Communications, inc., Box 368, Far Hills, N.J. 07931) has a growing body of mature and impressive literature, well worth reading even if (you think) Christ doesn't have a place in your life.

But beware. Once you discover that the Correct Line of the Boob-Tube preachers, "It's God's money...and he wants it back!" isn't the last word on the subject, An historical figure of reknown may become more fascinating. After all, calling the cops wasn't the way. Recall that bit when the frothy mouthed moral ones wanted to stone an adulteress? Who among you, etc. without sin and all that. Morevoer, says Our Man, - to the victim - "Go, and sin no more." There are a few it seems who know what the non-aggression axiom is all about....

Send this group five dollars and ask for copies of their literature, including Report No. 1, **Christian Libertarianism**.

The other group worthy of note is called the **Libertarian Deseret Society**. The LDS in the title ought to tip you off that it is oriented toward outreach to the mormon community. And for those of you not given to perusing of the less publicized doctrines, let me spice up the column with a few from my Quotes Out of Context series. Section 134 of the **Doctrine and Convenants**, "A declaration of belief regarding governments and laws in general, "holds this gem:

"We believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of concience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life. We believe

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foregone; they are subjective, ephemeral, unquantifiable, and inscrutable to others. Fair market value is meaningless apart from the real market activities of real people. Home market prices may be the result of conditions different from those of export markets. and so cannot be used to judge the fairness of prices.

The upshot is that whatever price emerges on the free market is fair. Dumping is a red herring.

The neo-mercantilists may concede all this, but then charge that the market isn't free. "Japan," they say, subsidizes its industries; underpricing but its firms is not the result of superior productivity. That's unfair competition.

At first glance, there seems to be some merit to this. The governments of Japan and other nations do force their citizens, directly and indirectly, to aid certain industries. The issue, however, isn't so simple. Regulations accompany subsidies and they may do more harm than the subsidies do "good." Moreover, some alleged subsidies - tax credits, faster depreciation, etc.....are not such because they merely allow producers to keep their own property.

But even if there were genuine subsidies, the case for protection isn't helped. Obviously, the neo-mercantilists are not concerned about foreign citizens being forced to subsidize business. If they were, they wouldn't advocate the same treatment for Americans. More importantly, even large subsidies don't make competition unfair. To be sure, foreign citizens are victims, but no one is being unfair to the American firms.

The subsidy issue is another red herring. Free market advocates, of course, hope that foreign citizens throw off the yoke of protectionism and subsidy in their own countries. But the U.S. government has neither the responsibili-

ty, the ability, nor the right to do anything about it. To try would be hypocrisy for it would harm American citizens and grant special privileges to American industries.

One final issue: Many people who claim to be free traders qualify their position by demanding that we not drop our trade barriers until our trading partners do. This also has some surface plausibility, but it withers upon examination. If free trade is good, one-sided free trade, while not as good, must be better than fully controlled trade. Goods are what count! This is true even if foreign governments insist on staunching the flow of goods to their citizens. Rather than making Americans chumps, unilateral free trade would be a shrewd move that would enhance our well being. In short order, other nations will realize what we've done and rush to do the same. Demands for reciprocity are akin to two persons strangling **themselves** and each declaring that he or she won't stop until the other one does.

None of the arguments for protectionism succeeds in shrouding the real motives for its imposition. All of these measures have but one purpose, the granting of special privileges to certain interest groups at the expense of everyone else. We all are ultimately impoverished by these coercive political acts. But more importantly, protectionism breeds international hostility. So it is not only in defense of our prosperity that we oppose protectionism, it is in defense of our peace and liberty as well.

Sheldon Richman, a long-time Libertarian activist, is the Research Director of the Council for a Competitive Economy. He was the Chair of the 1981 Libertarian Party Platform Committee, and won the position of Vice Chair of the Party in Denver at the 1981 Convention.

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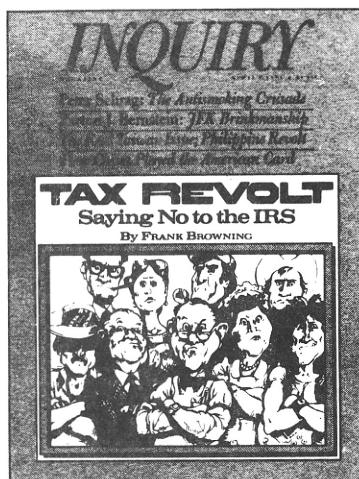
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Please send me information on how I can help the Libertarian Party. I am especially interested in: (mark or more)

- Raising money
- Helping on a political campaign
- Speaking on Libertarian views to local groups
- Handling telephone calls from interested people
- Assisting the editor with the Party newsletter
- Assisting in preparing mailings
- Catalyzing single-issue coalitions in my area
- Writing letters to the editor
- Running for office
- Helping Libertarians on campus
- Forming a local Libertarian party organization
- Becoming a monthly financial contributor
- Attending the next State-wide Libertarian Party meeting
- Helping with Libertarian booths at fairs or other special events
- Starting a Libertarian discussion group
- Promoting media coverage of the Libertarian Party
- Participating in a literature distribution campaign in my town
- Other: _____

Here are some names of people I know who would be interested. Please send them some information.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Attach a list if you can; we want to expand our base.)

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our

own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual; namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private

property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders, and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

THE WYOMING LIBERTARIAN PARTY
Box 1972
Casper, Wyoming 82801

YES, I'm tired of:

- Letting politicians (run my life, take my money, restrict my options, ad infinitum/nauseum*
- Idly watching the growing trend toward Modern American Totalitarianism*
- Catering to the whims of capricious power-mongers*
- Concluding that there is no hope*

*(From the four point program of the Statist Party) (invest some energy in the Anti-Statist party and help it to succeed.)

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"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of attaining social or political ends."

Signature _____

BITS AND PIECES

The Montana Party held a weekend marathon with **Michael Emerling**, political consultant, at the end of October in Kalispell. This edition of WYO News too late to report in advance...anyway, look for an explosion of success stories out of Montana. Larry Gray and the Executive Committee had a good meeting in Lander, exposed some newcomers to our perspective; I am told that one listener despairs. In answer, all I can offer is this: if the conspiracy is so effective, we wouldn't still be able to talk about abolishing it. Enough said. **On the Cheyenne!** Again, Casper seems to be winning the never ending/no holds barred contest between the big cities...Several of the more active from Buffalo, Riverton, and Casper were planning to take the city of Cheyenne by storm around the 13th and 14th of November....I am at the present moment unaware of specifics, but they were planning to get some local contacts involved in a meeting which should spark the creation of a stronghold in the last bastions of the counterrevolution.... And then, they hope, on to Laramie, where students will have their first real chance to learn the truth....Let's see a few on our mailing list express interest in an SLS chapter...The Nat'l SLS HQ is bugging us for your names and I don't even know which of you are students! Students in Casper made a respectable showing when Clark spoke there...I want to be able to report visits by Rothbard and so on!...We're still a bit away from my cherished goal of being able to blanket Sheridan with Q. & A. brochures...maybe eight, nine hundred dollars would get us the lit., and going door-to-door will build membership and awareness. The spoken part? "Hi, I'm with the Wyoming Libertarian Party, and we're going to be running some candidates in '82, so I'd like to give you this so that you'll be more familiar with us later on." You get it...now do it....Larry has a tremendous idea: he has been calling independent voters (list at the county courthouse) and asking them if they'd be interested in some info! Many good responses as Reagan's Thatcher imitation becomes more evident...Jack Polster and I handed out about four hundred of the LP anti-conscription leaflets at the High School a few days ago...target demographics for **real**...and with some far reaching affects.

Reith Breaks International Barrier

One evening in late August-early September, a thirty man tour stayed overnight at our motel. Nothing unusual about this; but at breakfast in the morning (I work a graveyard shift,) I learned their point of origin. Mainland China. They were in town for the day to tour the mines and look over heavy equipment with an eye to possible purchase.

Excited by the thought of engineers witnessing

capitalist production, I wished for copies of **Human Action or Man, Economy, and State** in chinese to give the adventurers so as to complete the subversion.

Wondering from my breakfast table whether any of them knew English, I mulled over rushing home to get some appropriate pamphlet. Both slim chances: I probably couldn't make it back before they were done eating.

I felt around for my keys anyway, reluctant to give up so easily. In one pocket, forgotten, was Rothbard's booklet, **The Essential Von Mises**. My dilemma was solved. I reached over, tapped a likely looking prospect on the shoulder and handed him the little green booklet. "A gift," I said, and smiled. He nodded and took it.

I wondered for a moment what would happen at the border. Maybe some top level translator would be assigned to it. They've been given their chance; I suppose it's too much to ask that the regime step down gracefully.

CONVENTION NOTES

"I thought the convention was great; Everybody fired up into moving ahead. Most important: people became more united in spite of various political races going on. Extremely well organized. Dave Bergland did an excellent job moderating; Split second decisions had to be made. Overall, I was pleased with meeting and seeing so many individuals who shared my concerns." **Chris Gosch, Sheridan.**

"What struck me most was the kind of membership I saw in Denver; motivated self-starters. We are a case for optimism in and of ourselves." **Jack Polster, Decker**

Since the '79 LP nominating convention, America has not seen a gathering to equal the talent and clear vision on today's problems that sat together at the Libertarian Party Tenth Anniversary National Convention. An immense pool made up of longtime activists and theoreticians, Party newcomers, and well known luminaries like Ed Clark, Murraray Rothbard, Bob Poole, Dave Nolan, Roy Childs, (to name but a few), made for what is likely to be the most relevant and -in terms of consequences- far reaching political event of the year. The delegates swam in thought-provoking literature and had multiple opportunities to listen while the best and brightest demolished current policy error and elaborated the Libertarian alternative. We even had the pleasure of being addressed by one Mister Patrick Henry during a recess on the floor. Henry argued in favor of his resolution to put the colony in a state of defense, concluding, "Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty

or give me death!" Mr. Henry's resolutions were adopted.

Of special note were the various workshops and panels; experts addressed Reagan's first six months, Libertarian perspectives on foreign policy and defense, minority outreach, resources and the environment, civil liberties, the draft, techniques of running campaigns, and much more. The whole convention was recorded by Liberty Audio, on both cassette and videotape, and tapes are available from them at 824 West Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23220. Collections of tapes make a good reason to gather with friends....and start the nucleus of a healthy local Libertarian group.

To much went on at the convention to be reported in this modest journal; others, larger, will no doubt be taking on that task for a while. A major success for the organizers and for the Party, I can only conclude by saying I am glad I attended.

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G. Reith, Ed.

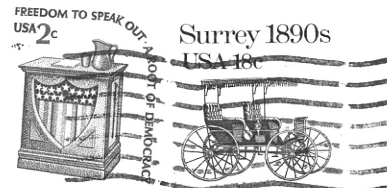
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that....the civil magistrate should restrain crime, but never control conscience....that all men are justified in defending themselves, their friends, and property....from the unlawful assaults and encroachments of all persons in times of exigency, where immediate appeal cannot be made to the laws, and relief afforded."

Portions skipped over include mention of how civil magistrates deserve respect and so on, but we should recall that at one point the authors were having a spot of trouble with rather ornery civil magistrates and their cronies. Although the mormons may not be anarcho-capitalists, they are probably the closest modern analogue of market oriented minarchists. They administer their own voluntary charity programs, dislike government schools, have no distaste for honest profit, and so on. The truth is that most mormons are libertarians; only they just don't know it yet. This has some rather exciting implications for Western states politics in general and for Party fundraising in particular if I may be so crass. Moving on, I suggest that you send some money to the Libertarian Deseret Society, Box 2094, Oceanside, CA 92054. Ask for a sub to the newsletter. And get involved! I know there are some fine Latter Day Saints on my mailing list, who rendered invaluable aid during the Clark campaign. This group needs your maturity and wisdom.

Many thanks, once again to
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