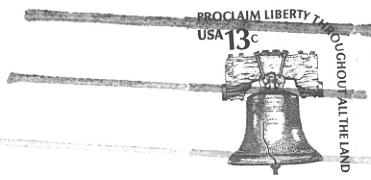


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The Illinois Libertarian

VOL. 3 NO. 12 DECEMBER 1977

L.P.I. Starts Monthly Dinners

As part of our campaign effort, the Libertarian Party of Illinois is sponsoring monthly dinners in the Chicago area. These regular events will be marked by good food, speakers on a variety of topics, and ample opportunities for discussion and socializing.

To help stimulate our petition drive, anyone arriving at the door with a sheet of petition signatures, notarized and signed, will receive dinner at half price. The individual who turns in the largest amount of petition signatures will be officially proclaimed "Libertarian of the Month," and receive his or her meal free of charge, (along with a crown, scepter, and a promenade down the aisle with Monty Hall while the Party glee club hums the "Pomp and Circumstance" march).

The first of these dinners will be January 16 at the Victorian House restaurant, at Belmont and Halsted (3200 N and 800 W) in Chicago. The next will be February 18 at the Red Star Inn, 4179 Irving Park Road (Irving at the Kennedy Expressway). Ensuing months will alternate between the Victorian House and the Red Star Inn, to accommodate both dwellers within Chicago's north-side "libertarian ghetto," and suburbanites.

Until now, there have been no regular meetings of the Party that could appeal to people who were simply interested in the Party and wanted to talk to members about libertarianism. ~~Business and State Central Committee meetings would turn a prospective member's hair white,~~ while special events such as the convention and campaign dinners are too infrequent and too much oriented to fundraising. These meetings will be the perfect way to introduce people to the Libertarian Party of Illinois--so bring your friends, relatives, reporters, dogs... But don't get too excited. There really is no Party glee club.

Details about times and speakers will come in next month's newsletter.

L.P. Voice at National Women's Conference

by Milton Mueller

The National Women's Conference held in Houston, Texas, had a libertarian delegate--Toni Nathan of Oregon. Toni is the head of the Association of Libertarian Feminists (ALF) and was the Libertarian Party's vice-presidential candidate in 1972. She was the first woman ever to receive an electoral vote.

"The conference," says Toni, "was a great opportunity for exposure, and we got lots of it." A special mailing appealing for help from fellow libertarians resulted in an enthusiastic coterie of libertarians who accompanied Toni to the event. Many people stopped at the ALF booth and received libertarian literature. One person, Mary Helms, a State Senator from Oklahoma, sought out Toni during the conference and informed her that she was a libertarian.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Why Libertarians Oppose Foreign Intervention

by George O'Brien

In a debate once I asked the question, "Can you name a government program which does not enrich a special interest group, increase the size of the bureaucracy, provide a means by which politicians can buy votes or meddle in other people's private affairs?" After a moment of silence, my opponent agreed that no such program exists. Government people are like every other group of people: they work for their interests or those of their allies, except, of course, that they can use the power of the gun.

While most libertarians are aware that the high-minded rhetoric of government inevitably translates into rip-offs and power-grabs in domestic issues, a few seem to think the government is different when it comes to foreign policy. Somehow, interventionist foreign policy is supposed to avoid all the pitfalls and the coercion which characterize domestic economic interventionism.

Ever since Plato, statist intellectuals have longed for a "philosopher king" who could wield absolute power without ever becoming a tyrant. The demand for an "interventionist, non-coercive" foreign policy is really a demand for a philosopher king. Yet even Plato finally concluded that a true philosopher king was an impossibility. By becoming king, he ceased being a philosopher. Acton's dictum that power corrupts is based on sound psychology. There are no philosopher kings. There are only real people who look out for "number one," which is not a threat as long as they don't have the power to enforce their whims.

But how can there be an interventionist foreign policy compatible with libertarianism without a philosopher king? The answer, hard as it is many people to accept, is that interventionism is incompatible with libertarianism.

American interventionist foreign policy since World War II has been based on the goal of "defeating or slowing the spread of communism." But without even mentioning the folly of such a policy in itself, its side effects have been to create a huge military-industrial complex, build "spheres of influence" in quasi-puppet states, provide millions of dollars in subsidies to certain well-connected firms, in sum, interventionist foreign policy has created a sophisticated mercantilist program for the establishment. Dictators are preferred over democracies because they can be more cheaply bought and easily controlled. Foreign Aid is popular because certain strings attached to the money requires countries to buy their goods from the U.S. (with certain firms getting most of the subsidized sales.) Military hardware is practically given away to make sure the arms industry keeps going strong. Military bases provide an excellent means of manipulating governments for ends desired by the U.S. government and its friends.

Throughout the whole anti-communism campaign there has been no discussion of the value of free trade or free societies. The State Department has viewed the Soviet Union, not as a country with a rival social system, but merely as a rival gang in the quest for spoils. "Anti-communism" is a device of one of history's biggest shams.

The common response to the discovery that anti-communism has been a smoke screen for an incredible rip-off is that without U.S. containment of communism the world would be in bad shape. Would it be? One wonders how.

American containment of communism is rather correctly viewed by most of the world's radicals as a kind of shadow imperialism. The Soviet Union, at least, opposed the dictators despised by them. The American government supported those very dictators. So they allied with the communists. Without the American government propping up those dictators, the radicals would be less inclined to seek support from the Russians. Few are happy with the Soviet Union anyway.

More importantly, the radicals might seriously consider the market system if they were exposed to it. The CIA was all they ever really saw. (The limited success Mike Oliver had promoting laissez-faire in certain areas of the Bahamas has been very revealing.)

Many people seem to feel that a withdrawal from Europe would mean a Russian invasion of Germany. As implausible as this may seem, if this is actually a big fear, then I am sure such people would be willing to contribute money to the German army. Such an approach has been quite workable in Israel. If the people who complain about the Russians invading Europe are not willing to give money for such a cause, then on what basis do they demand tax money for the purpose?

It is possible to dislike communism without supporting statist policies which pretend to oppose it. Consistent advocacy of freedom is the only practical way of opposing statism, whether communist or fascist. Interventionism will benefit only the State and the rip-off artists who feed on it.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 1

The co-chair of the Iowa delegation was so impressed with what she heard about libertarianism that she later wrote to and joined the Iowa Party. After the conference, the Los Angeles Times printed an article by Toni about decriminalizing prostitution.

Feminism has emerged as a major issue this year, and libertarians are both plagued and blessed with an alternative substantially different from the "both sides" we hear so much about in the news. Our alternative combines the best of the goal of individual autonomy and political equality advocated by the left, and the oppositon to government dominance coming from the right. If libertarians can redefine the issues of the women's movement in a more rational way than they have been, we could make some very important gains. The right-wing forces of Phyllis Schlafly have as their goal the use of government power to enforce traditional morality and the family structure. They oppose the right to choose lesbianism as a life-style. They oppose the abolition of protective labor legislation. They openly declare their hostility towards being responsible for their own support, and want to maintain the sexist marriage laws which require that men be held responsible for support of the family. But the left offers an equally unattractive array of coercive measures: taxpayers who oppose abortion should be forced to pay for them; public schools should indoctrinate children with their view of what women should be; quotas for the hiring of women should be enforced. As Toni stated, "Both sides are looking for political (i.e., coercive) solutions. The libértarian, anti-political viewpoint is the only one consistent with the feminist goal of personal freedom."

Nathan was critical of how the conference was run, and she felt that many delegates--not just the Schlaflyites--began to feel that they were being exploited and manipulated. On the grounds of "unity," delegates were pressured not to attempt to amend or debate the program put forth by the leaders of the conference. Leaders of the "Pro-Plan" caucus wore buttons that identified them on the floor, and organized efforts to thwart any change or debate; yet the "Plan" included such controversial proposals as a call for a national "guaranteed" income, federally-funded day care centers, and many other paternalistic items. With one notable exception, "The Plan" was pushed through, but Nathan warned that this does not mean that the majority of the women really supported the agenda that came out of Houston. The one item rejected by the conference reflected the women's feelings. They voted against the creation of a "Department of Women," which came to be seen by many delegates as simply a way of finagling a cabinet-level job for Bella Abzug. According to Toni, this vote was symbolic of the way in which many delegates felt manipulated by the conference leaders.

Toni made some proposals herself, which were not considered because of the attempt to railroad the "Plan" through. One proposal was a call for Congress to remove its prohibition of contraceptive advertising in the mail or in broadcast media. She pointed out that legalizing advertising of contraceptives would help educate young people and low-income people about methods of birth control, so that tax-funded abortions would not be necessary.

Toni and ALF were enthusiastic about the conference; ALF is incorporating as a result. We hope to have Toni appear at our State Convention in March.

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE: NEARING THE END

by George O'Brien

The Government has carried mail from the very beginning. For many, many years the Post Office was the only contact most citizens ever had with the Federal government. Its popularity is now on the decline, and the reasons for its failure provide a classic example of how government works.

Most everyone liked the Postal System at one time. Sure, a few entrepreneurs got upset because the government forbade competition with its first class mail service. But most people were satisfied because they could send letters and packages almost anywhere for a relatively low price. Advertisers liked having bulk-rate mail subsidized, small package shippers liked having their goods subsidized, publishers liked having their periodicals subsidized; yet the first class mailers felt little pressure.

Obviously, if so amny people were being subsidized, then someone was getting ripped off. The "losers" in this game of "Post Office" were those people who paid taxes and sent or received

little mail. For a long time they put up with the rip-off, but finally it got out of hand and they ended it. Prices rose, and the impact has been interesting.

Package delivery has been taken up by United Parcel Service, Railway Express, Cannonball Delivery, Greyhound, and others. Each found different parts of the market which they could serve more cheaply and efficiently than the Post Office. The Post Office had been losing money in this area, yet private competitors are making profits.

More recently, the increasing costs of bulk mail has led to "bag-on-door" delivery companies. "Junk Mail" has made many firms rich, while the Post Office often loses money on such mail. Lately, magazine companies have investigated using similar services for their mailings (perhaps modelled along the lines of paper routes).

As time passes, the Post Office has been pushed more and more toward specializing in first

A STRATEGY FOR THE L.P.

BY MARK KRAUSZ

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM A SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. KRAUSZ AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS IN NOVEMBER.)

The question for you and all members of the Libertarian Party is a most complex one. Can high-minded individuals who espouse the noble philosophy of the libertarian movement deliver on their promise to remove the burden of statism? If so, how? In a nation where every welfare penny for the poor is matched by a welfare penny for the non-poor, the answers are not as easy as one might expect. Frequently those constituencies which would most strongly agree with libertarianism are the very constituencies which by comparison benefit by going along with the present system because they have the most to lose by attempting to fight it.

A laborer who insists on the right to negotiate the terms of his own livelihood with his employer may be the first to demand that the government deprive foreign workers of the opportunity to compete in the international marketplace. Those proud elderly who have always felt independent and have reacted in horror at the growing size of government, lobby for and receive from the government a growing array of subsidies, supplements and programs at the expense of those who must pay for but may never collect those same benefits. Young people who discuss the discriminatory tax burden on single people postmaritally change their tune when it comes time for their fellow young singles to foot the bill for educating their children. Corporations caught between the massive growth of state and federal governments encourage and endorse new agencies, new consolidation, and federal administration of state programs and finances. Sadly, even citizens elected to office with a singleness of libertarian purpose soon learn that you can no longer stir the soup once you've jumped into the pot.

"IMPOVERISHED BY OUR INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL GREED, WE LIE LIKE SO MANY BEGGARS AT THE MASTER'S TABLE, HOPING FOR A CRUMB OF BREAD FROM THE LOAF WHICH WE BAKED."

Clearly impoverished by our individual and institutional greed, we lie like so many beggars at the master's table, hoping for a crumb of bread from the loaf which we baked.

So my answer to the question of whether or not libertarians can significantly de-statise the country is a "yes," depending on how you try to do it. Explain yourself, you say. I'll try.

In a recent proposal to the At-large members of the Libertarian Party's National Committee, Murray Rothbard offered the following stated purposes for the L.P.:

- A. To provide the means for useful and important political activity for Libertarians to advance their cause in the real world.
- B. To roll back the state.

While Mr. Rothbard offered additional purposes, I feel that these two come to the heart of why I am here today. Further, they clearly summarize elements which, taken together, point to one of many possible methods for de-statizing America.

What are those elements? First, any political activity of the L.P. must:

1. Be consistent with widely held Libertarian philosophy.
2. Be attractive to a broad section of the voting public.
3. Have significant implications for all units of government.
4. Place opposition and established political figures in a politically and "morally" indefensible position.
5. Give a strong, permanent tool to "the people" for greater determination of their own affairs.
6. Be a headline grabber, to heighten the profile of the L.P., its candidates, and ideas.
7. Provide a fundamental and potent tool for the execution and furtherance of L.P. or allied goals.
8. Correct inequities in the balance of political power without posing an ostensible or immediate threat to the existing political structure.
9. Increase the tactical flexibility of Libertarians in achieving local, state, or national goals.
10. Put money back into the pockets of taxpayers.
11. Unite the diverse elements of the L.P. and draw heavily upon disillusioned members of other parties.
12. Be self-funding due to its emotional appeal.
13. Open the door to seriously undermining the pseudo "fiscal integrity" of certain politicians and their governmental units.
14. Most importantly--be attainable.

In essence, through popularly accepted political processes, the L.P. must permanently return the power of government financial resources directly to the people. Other than the generally accepted role of government in protecting lives and property, all other powers of government stem from its ability to tax and spend our wealth with relative impunity. How do we do this? What is the agenda I spoke of earlier?

At the present time only 22 states and a few municipalities provide for initiative or referendum. In a few cases, the law permits voters to redress against new or existing financial burdens. But in most cases appropriations and tax measures (other than bond issuance) are the exclusive prerogative of the state and/or local legislative body. The result is a lack of public scrutiny, understanding or control over tax dollars.

* * *

"THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY MUST PERMANENTLY RETURN THE POWER OF CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE...SO THAT ALL TAXES AND EXPENDITURES OF GOVERNMENT ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL AND REPEAL OF THE ELECTORATE."

* * *

What I am saying is that a concerted effort to change the state and local initiative and referendum laws so that ALL taxes and expenditures of government are subject to the approval and repeal of the electorate would put a potent tool for self-determination into the hands of the public--and at the same time, make the Libertarian Party a force to be reckoned with.

Let's operate under the assumption that this convention asked you to return to your states with a two-year agenda to make sure that comprehensive initiative and referendum laws exist at the state and local level. If they don't exist, then enactment of such laws, or the removal of laws prohibiting them, becomes step one.

However, most states have initiative and referendum laws, but those laws preclude public referendum on tax and expenditure measures. So your agenda would be to have public initiative referendum on financial matters made a part of your state and municipal codes.

What are the advantages of such an approach? If you recall, the 14 elements of effective libertarian political action I recited earlier, all of them are satisfied by the initiative referendum effort. While your campaign must be carefully researched and designed for the long haul, at no point is the L.P. or its supporters placed on the defensive. In fact, every effort to halt your campaign only makes the opposition look more arrogant and greedy.

* * *

"WHAT POLITICIAN OR MEDIA IS GOING TO SAY PUBLICALLY THAT THE PEOPLE ARE TOO STUPID TO MAKE DECISIONS OR SECOND-GUESS IN FINANCIAL MATTERS?"

* * *

What politician is going to say publicly that the people are too stupid to make decisions or second guess in financial matters? If this were said or implied, the epithets and sloganizing of an outraged public could and should force the election of a new (libertarian?) legislator at the next election. Besides, through bond issues and renewals the public already makes billion dollar decisions.

What newspaper or media could do anything but endorse or fence-sit the proposal? "If I'm too ignorant to determine how my tax dollars should be spent, maybe it comes from reading your newspaper! Cancel my subscription."

The proposal has excellent appeal and good chances for success. There are 5500 cities in America with populations of 2,500 or more. These cities are home to 150 million people. A good target for such a campaign would be cities with a Moody's rating of Baa or less. In light of New York City's experience it should be a real treat watching politicians explain to an auditorium of Libertarian Party led initiative referendum supporters why their city does not have an A1, Aaa, Aa, or even an A rating. The same applies to state governments.

Being pessimistic, if the L.P. won the initiative referendum battle in only 10% of those cities with an average population of only 20,000, Libertarian candidates and literature could say, "The Libertarian Party has returned power over tax dollars and spending to 10 million citizens in 500 cities." It reads a lot better than "Libertarians in Maine try to eliminate import quotas and subsidies for Maine shoe manufacturers."

Local Club News

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312/ 528-9083

SOUTH SIDE

Robert Osterlund
5301 So. Kimbark, Chicago 60615
312/ 752-6866

NORTHWEST SIDE

Wayne Openlander
3132 N. Lowell, Chicago 60641
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312/ 966-4752 (work)

LAKE COUNTY

Marji Kohls
1002 Valley Dr., Wildwood 60030
312/ 223-8417 (home)
312/ 546-8215 (work)

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Jeff Dehn
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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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Gary Burpo
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217/ 787-1451

PEORIA

William Scudder
113 Pebble St., East Peoria, 61611
309/ 699-0922

THE HYDE PARK/SOUTH SIDE CLUB WILL MEET DECEMBER 13, 7:00, AT THE HOME OF MERRILYN SWEET, 5722 S. MARYLAND AVE. THE DuPAGE COUNTY CLUB MET WITH THE LEADER OF THE "COALITION FOR POLITICAL HONESTY," A GROUP DEDICATED TO CHANGING PRIMARY LAWS. THE DuPAGERS REPORTEDLY TRIED TO GET HIM INTERESTED IN "NONE OF THE ABOVE" AS A BALLOT ALTERNATIVE. FOR PETITION FORMS, AND/OR HELP IN ORGANIZING PETITIONING OUTINGS, CALL MIKE HEPPLER AT 736-9734, OR 328-3654.

POST OFFICE FROM PAGE 3

class mail--its most profitable area. But the specialization has not prevented dramatic rate increases and service cuts, which were still necessary for it to stay solvent.

What happened to cause increasing costs and decreasing services? There has been a revolution in labor costs. Working for the Post Office used to be attractive because of job security, which outweighed the comparatively low wages. But once the postal workers accepted the "no depression" philosophy of the post-WW II era, that advantage lost its appeal. So the postal workers unionized and began to force up wage scales to private levels, while maintaining obsolete work rules and civil service "protection". The Postal System has now become inherently unmanageable, and what little technology is applied is often misused. One mailman tells of how he has a vehicle to drive him to and from his route, yet it is barely used while he delivers mail. One truck could deliver twenty mailworkers to their routes for a fraction of the cost.

As prices go up, first class mail delivery becomes more and more attractive to private competitors. Every year dozens of lawsuits are filed by the Postal Employees Union against firms carrying first class mail (invariably with better service at a lower price). Many "delivery" and "courier" services are right on the borderline and get sued. One of the most interesting suits sought to stop electronic wire transfers between

banks. Millions of dollars in correspondance is being eliminated as bank computers talk to each other. Another area under attack is the use of machines like "Teledex," which send images of documents over telephone lines to receivers which can duplicate the image of the object.

The favored "constituency" of the Post Office is declining as many businesses are finding private alternatives to government mail service. As this trend continues, a coalition to end the government monopoly becomes feasible. The biggest hurdle is the Postal Employees union. They know its a fight to the death, and they have financed their defense fairly well. So far, the victims of their monopoly--professional people with a lot of correspondance, financial institutions, potential carriers, and city dwellers in general--have not been organized. Of they get organized, their chances are fairly good.

Libertarians should realize that an effective use of our principles can bring success on this issue. Challenging the morality of a big monopoly stamping out the little guys who dare to compete with it is an attractive issue. The "little guys" used by the Postal System to justify their monopoly are rural mailers. But we can demonstrate that while the cost of serving them would be high, it would be far less than the cost imposed by an inefficient system little changed since Ben Franklin. It is also interesting to note that the Post Office's fiercest competitors tend to come from places like Pittsburgh, Kansas, a small town in a rural area if there ever was one.

L.P. STRATEGY FROM PAGE 5

In other words, the initiative/referendum strategy permits the execution of national uniformity of Libertarian Party goals at the local level, while being flexible as to local strategy, implementation, and tactics. For example, it would hardly benefit the Party's National ticket if at the conclusion of a local issues campaign season, the accomplishments were:

- public funding of mental health eliminated in two cities.
- local tax subsidies to industry eliminated in seven cities, etc.

What a local Party sees as a valid target in their own community may well be abhorrent to the majority of people in other states or communities.

To be more specific, the principal value of the initiative/referendum agenda is that it is wholly credible at the local level; and credibility at the local level is the lifeblood of a political movement. A Party which elects candidates alone only proves one thing: it can elect candidates, usually by ignoring issues and concentrating on personalities and the more mundane mechanics of the electoral process.

The Libertarian Party is ideally situated to play a potent role in the issues area through the initiative/referendum, thereby exerting great influence over the decisions of non-Libertarian office holders. This is important, because for the Libertarian Party to elect a meaningful number of candidates at this stage of the game would force a close examination and critique of the Libertarian Party--a critique which could be devastating to Libertarian candidates by hanging the somewhat revolutionary goals of the Party around the candidate's neck. This says nothing of the enormous drain on Party financial resources which broad-based candidate elections inevitably require. This proposal can give the Party all of the advantages which come from fielding candidates and incumbancy without any of the disadvantages. Simultaneously, it fosters a local, state and national political climate conducive to Libertarian Party growth and eventually candidates, without being destroyed by the demagoguery which could and would be blasted at Libertarian candidates.

At this point you might be agreeing that this approach will accomplish all that I have said--but what happens after we change the initiative/referendum laws making tax and revenue measures subject to a vote of the people. The answer to that is limited only by your imagination and the Party's willingness to mobilize the machinery established in the initiative/referendum campaigns.

Once you have the political tool of initiative/referendum, and if you agree that control of "public" money is the heart of political power, then why not initiate ballot questions for the voters? And here the flexibility and appeal of the approach shines through. Some examples:

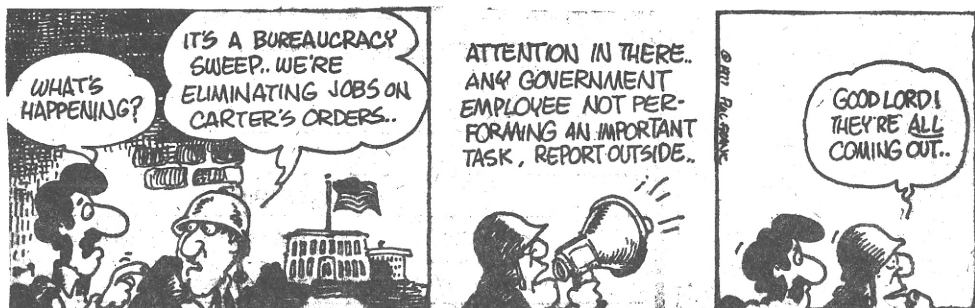
Resolved: that all costs for public schools shall be born only on a per capita basis by those wishing to send their children to the public school system.

Resolved: that any services or goods currently provided by a given unit of government must be open for bid by the private sector.

While these suggestions lack the legalese of properly worded ballot issues, I'm sure you get the idea. I'm equally sure you can come up with even better examples.

Obviously, this strategy could save billions of dollars in thousands of governmental units. Each local or state Party, allied with sympathetic organizations and individuals could tailor initiative/referendum proposals to the particular political realities and needs of the area.

While I might be accused of being a compromiser or gradualist, I think this approach goes far toward clearing the road for greater Libertarian Party victories, and creating a receptive environment for more sophisticated libertarian philosophy. I realize that much of what I have said may not satisfy those who envision an overnight revolutionary change from what is happening today. However, one of the rules of any political movement is pragmatism. The initiative/referendum agenda provides this essential element.



& news & notes

SCC MEETING FOR DECEMBER will be at the home of Bill and Loretta Swett, 16420 78th Ave. West, Taylor Ridge Illinois. The date is DECEMBER 18, time: 2:00. Directions will be sent by mail to SCC members. Others can get instructions by calling the Swetts at (309)798-2675.

* * *

FIRST LPI MONTHLY DINNER will be held JANUARY 16 at the Victorian House restaurant, Belmont and Halsted in Chicago. The 16th is a Monday night; dinner costs \$6; with a full sheet of petition signatures, \$3. The speaker will be announced in next month's issue.

* * *

GLENVIEW SCHOOL BOND ISSUE was defeated by a record-breaking turnout of voters. The bond issue was the first test of the Taxpayer's Protest Committee's clout since the tax strike. Jim Tobin led opposition to the bond issue, stressing the possibility of replacing public schools with a voucher system. This time, the teachers were organized. They prepared an expensive slide show about the needs of the school, and packed one of the meetings called by Tobin with their own ranks. Despite this, the bond issue was defeated by a substantial margin.

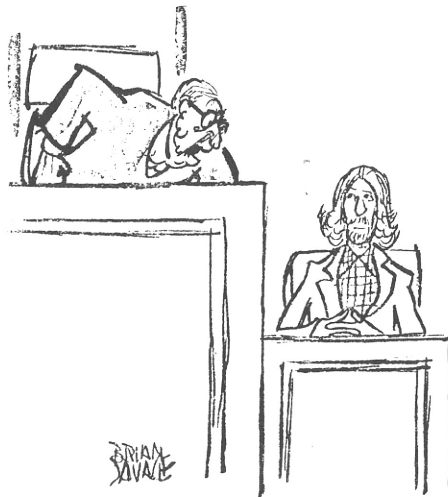
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LIBERTARIANS FOR GAY RIGHTS meets again December 18, at 5:00 pm, at 736 Briar Place in Chicago. For general information about LGR, call 925-1111.

20-25 PROTESTERS MARCHED outside the Federal building in Chicago November 14, protesting Senate Bill 1437. S 1437 is the "son of S. 1," the re-codification of the entire Criminal Code that contained massive numbers of threats to the civil liberties of accused persons. The revised version of S. 1 is improved, but still objectionable in many cases. The demonstration, sponsored by the Citizens's Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), focused on the threats the bill would pose to mental patients. CCHR charged that S. 1437 would "allow any citizen charged with a federal offense to be taken out of the courtroom during his trial, without a hearing or chance to defend himself, and sent to a mental institution." CCHR is aware of the stand the L.P. has taken on involuntary commitment, and is willing to work with us on any future protests.

* * *

RULES COMMITTEE MEETS December 19, 7:00, at the home of Milton Mueller, 1864 N. Sheffield, Chicago. Any member can attend.



"You'd better show me the proper respect, sonny!
I kissed a lot of ass to get this job!"

* * *

NATHANIEL BRANDEN RETURNS to Chicago in January for another lecture. The evening with Nathaniel Branden will be January 24. Advance tickets can be bought by writing Ed Pearl, 100 N. LaSalle Suite 1000, Chicago IL. Admission is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. More details will be in next month's newsletter. The next intensive in Chicago will be in February.

* * *

TAXI SCANDAL SPARKS LPI ACTION. The revelations about Mayor Bilandic's role in the taxi fare increase in Chicago has proved to be a perfect opportunity for libertarians to advocate deregulation of the industry. Sheldon Waxman, our candidate for Attorney General, sent letters to all the City Council members who were appointed to a special committee to investigate the increase. The letter explained that taxi regulations--such as the restricted number of licenses, the restrictions on what kind of car can be used, etc--simply protect established cab firms from competition at the expense of riders who must pay higher fares, inner city areas which are left without transportation, and fewer job opportunities for minorities. Waxman cited the example of Washington, D.C.--which has none of Chicago's restrictions--as an indication of the better transportation at lower cost that would occur if taxis were deregulated.

In addition, a member of the Libertarian Club of DuPage called for deregulation on a radio rebuttal.

The L.P.I. is attempting to make contact with jitney cab operators in an attempt to demonstrate public support for deregulation.

The Illinois Libertarian is published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Illinois. Subscription included with annual membership in the Libertarian Party of Illinois: \$20/sustaining; \$8/regular; \$6/student. Subscription for non-members: \$6/year. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of LPI, its officers, or the editor, George O'Brien. Articles and letters should be submitted to the editor, The Illinois Libertarian; membership and other inquiries should be sent to the L.P.I., Postal Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690.