

The Liberty Pledge News

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

FEBRUARY '88

VICTORY!!!!

Reverend Jimmy Clifton came in first in a five-way race for three seats on the Village Board of Addison, Michigan. This was a partisan race with Rev. Clifton out-polling two Republicans and two Democrats. This brings to over 80, the list of elected and appointed Libertarians serving in over 22 states.

Congratulations Rev. Clifton and Michigan Libertarians!!! I think we are going to see more of this all over the country this year.

LEWIS TRIAL

Jim Lewis, our 1984 Vice-Presidential candidate, was convicted at his February trial of 3 counts of willful failure to file

with the IRS. Jim will be sentenced on April 6th.

PAUL IN THE NEWS

Ron Paul has been active in the media lately, appearing on William Buckley's "Firing Line" and on CNN's "Crossfire". Ron was also mentioned in an article about the presidential candidates campaigning on college campuses that ran in the March issue of "Newsweek On Campus".

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This will be the last issue of "Liberty Pledge News" as you will receive in its place "The Activist Network News". We hope you'll enjoy this new premium and would appreciate your comments in this regard.

National news

To Libertarian candidate, least government is best

By Robert Di Veroli
Tribune Staff Writer

If the Libertarian Party had a motto, it would probably be: "Government — leave me alone," says former Texas congressman Ron Paul, the party's 1988 presidential candidate.

Libertarian Party members believe, as did Thomas Jefferson, that the government is best that governs least. Government in this country, however, has become meddlesome at home and abroad, Paul said.

Paul took part in his party's 15th annual statewide convention at the Kona Kai Club on Shelter Island. The four-day convention ends today.

"We think the market ought to be left alone and we think we ought to leave foreign-governments alone, so, yes, that's a pretty good motto," Paul said in an interview.

Paul, 52, an obstetrician, was a Republican congressman from Texas from 1976 to 1984 and joined the Libertarian Party in February 1987.



RON PAUL
Party's White House hopeful

Libertarians believe government should be primarily an umpire that settles disputes and guarantees the rights of its citizens. It should not assume the role of a father constantly seeking to take care of his children, Paul said.

"We emphasize the right of the individual to live his life as he chooses, free of interference by government or anyone else, but if somebody violates my rights I need help in settling the problem and that's where government comes in," Paul said.

"I don't want to live in an uncivilized world where if somebody steals my property I have to take my gun and settle the dispute. That's the government's job."

A major Libertarian Party goal is repeal of the federal income tax, a measure Paul said grew out of the need to fund welfare at home and perceived American interests abroad. The result of the income tax has produced bigger and bigger gov-

ernment and saddled the country with deficit financing and a mounting public debt.

The dilemma, however, is that while many Americans now realize this, they have also become addicted to government "goodies," Paul said.

"People become dependent on government, and politicians like passing out all that wealth," Paul said.

The Libertarian Party's biggest task is convincing the American people they really don't need big government as much as they think, Paul said.

Besides doing away with income taxes, Libertarians would like to close out U.S. military outposts throughout the world; withdraw from the United Nations and NATO, ban forced jury duty and military con-

(cont. on back page)

The Liberty Pledge News is produced monthly for members of the National Libertarian Party's Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to State Party Chairs and National Committee members in appreciation of their contributions and to make available information on Headquarters activities and Libertarians in the news. Clippings and other items of interest are greatly appreciated.

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Can we be of help? Want to raise your pledge? Call 1-800-682-1776.

Maverick candidate trying to stay with the pack

In the world of political reality, each U.S. presidential election has its share of well-defined Republican, Democratic and "deep-end" candidates.

But the bizarre political events of the past year have blurred those distinctions to such an extent that some of the mainstream candidates are looking like mavericks, and the mavericks are running respectable campaigns.

John A. Nagy

ANALYSIS

Gary Hart's in-again, out-again antics; Pat Robertson's transformation from preacher to politician and the rise of a mish-mash of political unknowns is strong proof that, in 1988, we must start expecting the unexpected.

And that is where Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul fits in. Unlike the host of other "deep-end" presidential candidates, such as former Florida Gov. Claude Kirk — who's running a surrogate presidential campaign for Chrysler Corporation chairman Lee Iacocca — and right-wing extremist Lyndon LaRouche, Paul is trying to show that unconventional methods are the only solution to the nation's problems.

The Libertarian Party is a fledgling in the political scene. The party, formed in 1971 with the goals of providing minimal government with individual rights superior to government policies, boasts about 1.5 million members.

The 52-year-old former four-term congressman from Texas is running on a platform of less government and more individual freedoms. What that translates into, however, could shock even some of the staunchest liberals: Removal of all U.S. soldiers from foreign countries, dissolution the FBI and CIA, repeal of the federal income tax and abolition of welfare and Social Security.

"The American people are totally frustrated," Paul said in an interview Wednesday evening. "They're going to be

do anything, we could be going in a very negative way. We're going to face challenges no other generation will see."

But it's not idle rhetoric Paul is throwing out to people just to be noticed. He firmly believes that the American economy will be thrown into a tumultuous uproar if the current system goes unchanged. He is proud of the numerous predictions of a stock-market collapse he made several months prior to the market's fall last October.

"We have to explain that the road we're taking will collapse. Instead of me being defensive, the politicians in Congress need to defend their system."

If many of the mainstream candidates are fighting an uphill battle to win the election, Paul's task is to scale Mt. Everest without a rope to help pull him up. Unlike the Democratic and Republican candidates, Paul must get on the November election ballot by gathering a required number of signatures.

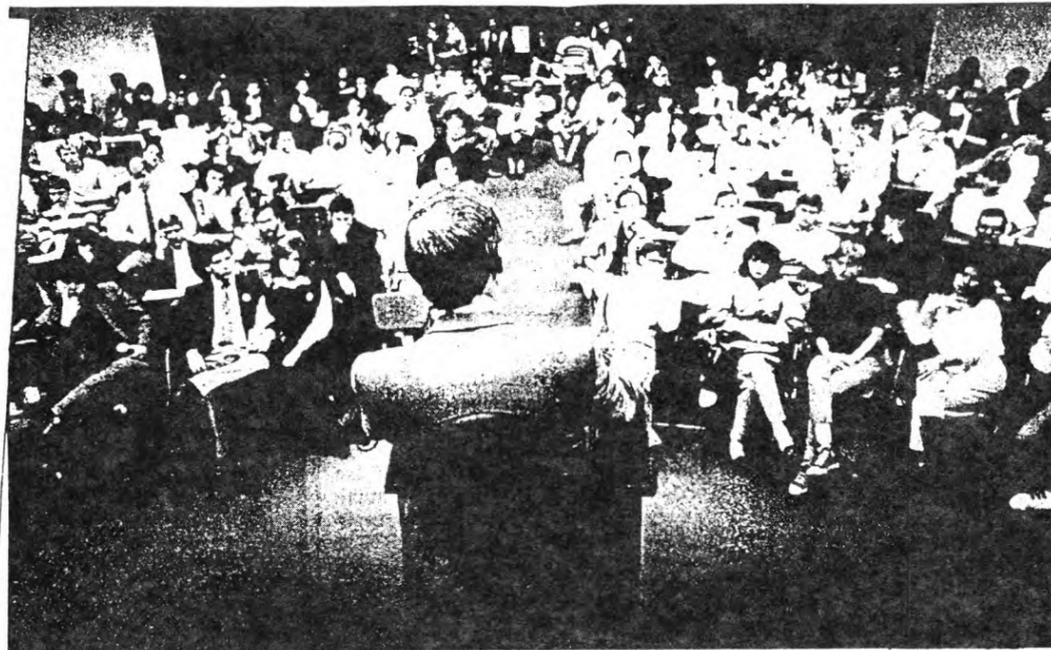
In Florida, Paul needs 56,312 signatures by July 15 to get on the ballot. Campaign organizers are not sure how many signatures they have obtained, but say they still have a long way to go. Organizers gathered between 50 and 100 signatures at Wednesday night's rally.

Paul doesn't seriously expect to win the White House in November, but he's convinced the Libertarians can make a difference in the campaign.

"We have a good solid base for the Libertarian Party. It's not like 1980," when Libertarian candidate Ed Clark won about one million votes for president. "The ultimate test this time is to get into the debates with the other candidates."

But the ultimate test for Paul and the Libertarians will be making it to the 1992 presidential election. Third parties have never had long survival rates. But Paul believes the changing times will dictate the need for a new style of politics.

"There are certain times in history when third parties become necessary," Paul said. "That time in history is now."



GENE PAGE/ALLIGATOR

Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul speaks to a packed house in Turlington Hall Wednesday. Paul was in Gainesville as part of his Florida tour.



"The American people are totally frustrated. They're going to be turned off by what they're getting. This is an opener for us to explain our ideas."

— Ron Paul
Libertarian candidate

turned off by what they're getting. This is an opener for us to explain our ideas."

While established politicians and political observers snicker at the thought of eliminating such institutions, Paul, at least, has people listening to him.

Many of the people taking notice of Paul's ideas are college students. Eric Rittberg, the national coordinator of

the Students for Ron Paul Committee, said Paul's campaign has attracted the largest number of college students — more than any other presidential candidate. There are more than 100 chapters of Students for Ron Paul across the nation.

"Students today are mostly fiscally conservative and socially liberal, so they like what Ron Paul stands for," Rittberg said.

Paul said the purpose of his campaign is to "get the message out. Once the people hear it, they'll agree. I don't think it's hard to convince people. They're begging and pleading for information."

While the people may be pleading for information, they may not necessarily like what they're hearing from Paul. The doom and gloom he preaches at rallies doesn't exactly leave audiences with a glowing national spirit.

"There is no capitalism anymore. There is no capital. There is no money," Paul told about 200 students and local residents at a rally Wednesday evening at UF. "If we don't



TONIE NATHAN

... Ideas being accepted.

Libertarian official visits LV, explains party's aims

By George McCabe Feb. 2, 1988
SUN Staff Writer

Despite its third-party status, Libertarian Party ideology is making inroads into American government, the first woman ever to receive an electoral vote in a presidential campaign said during a visit to Las Vegas last week.

Tonie Nathan, who in 1972 received one Electoral College vote as the Libertarian Party's first candidate for vice president, said Libertarian views have become part of American government more often than the party's candidates have.

"Our ideas are going to be fought because we're not within the establishment," Nathan said. "But many of our ideas are being accepted."

For example, she cited Libertarian views that favor teaching children at home, reducing the size of the government, initiating free trade with all nations and keeping the United States military a voluntary army that does not interfere in the affairs of other nations.

Nathan said many politicians espouse Libertarian views when they see the public responding favorably to them.

"Many of Ronald Reagan's ideas are

Libertarian," she said. "His rhetoric is Libertarian. At one time, Reagan called himself a Libertarian."

However, she added that mainstream Republicans and Democrats still increase the troublesome government bureaucracy, regulation and the massive national deficit that Libertarians campaign against.

"They're inconsistent," she said of the two major parties. "Republicans and Democrats are so much alike. They cater to special interests — just different special interests."

Nathan, now the party's national media relations chairman, was in Las Vegas pro-

moting the campaign of Ron Paul, the 1988 Libertarian candidate for president.

She said that Paul, a former four-term congressman from Houston, Texas, expects to earn enough votes in some states to be a factor that will determine which of the two major-party candidates wins. It is unrealistic, she admitted, to hope for more than that from a candidate from a third party that first fielded a presidential ticket in 1972.

She added that, with a majority of all registered Libertarians less than 30 years old, the party has progressed since then, and should grow stronger in the future.

Libertarian candidate Paul sees party gaining influence

By Jennifer Miller
News staff writer

The Libertarian Party presidential candidate said Thursday that while he doesn't expect victory in the November election, his party is gaining support that forces government officials to consider its philosophies when making decisions.

Don Paul, a former congressman from Texas, spoke to about 50 people at Furman University. Paul, 52, also spoke in Columbia at the University of South Carolina before leaving for Texas.

"We're not predicting victory in '88, but we'll get there," Paul said after the speech.

Paul, a physician who served four terms in Congress, said the Libertarian Party defends the principle of individual liberty. People should basically be left alone, he said, but they have no right to initiate aggressions against anyone. He also said all associations, both economic and personal, should be voluntary.

Paul said as president he would eliminate income taxes, cut most of the government and pull the U.S. military out of all foreign countries so it could protect this country.

"The purpose of government is to insure that you have a right to live your life, you have a right to pursue your happiness and you have a right to keep what you earn," he said.

Welfare systems should be abolished because individuals

have the right to decide if they will help others, he said.

Government interferes in all aspects of the work force through many regulations, Paul said.

"Government never sets out to protect you from yourself," he said. "It means that you have to accept some responsibility. The government is there to limit your actions to the point that you don't harm anybody else, but it cannot assume the role (of) protecting you, of making you a better person.

"That doesn't mean we endorse what people do. But we say they are allowed to do it as long as it is limited to their own behavior."

The government should not be interfering with other countries, but rather preserving the security of the United States, Paul said.

It is the government's interference in all aspects of life and in other countries' affairs that has caused the rising deficits and current economic problems, he said.

"We are facing another major crisis," he said. "We have literally consumed the wealth we have accumulated. We have undermined and destroyed the monetary system and now we have this unbelievable national and international debt that, frankly, is unpayable."

The Democratic and Republican parties are basically the same because they support government intervention, he said. It is the Libertarians whose beliefs are

opposite, he said.

Also, candidates from either

major party tend to move toward the other side while in office, Paul said.

President Ronald Reagan, for example, ran on a platform of cutting government spending, Paul said. Yet, under the Reagan administration the national debt has skyrocketed, he said.

Libertarians are divided on the question of abortion, Paul said. He said he believes a fetus is a life, so no one, not even the mother, has the right to interfere with it.



RON PAUL

Greenville News (SC)

The Alligator (Gainesville, FL)

Jan. 8, 1988

Libertarian Marrou seeks vice presidency

Candidate: Bring all U.S. troops home

By Jay Bhattacharya
Staff writer

Andre Marrou, the Libertarian Party's 1988 vice presidential candidate, in a Sunday interview here called for a non-interventionist foreign policy and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from all foreign commitments, including Japan and Western Europe.

Marrou's stance echoes a traditional Libertarian platform that emphasizes decreased government involvement in nearly every aspect of American life.

Arguing that "individual freedom and civil liberties gain directly" from a minimization of government interference, Marrou said he advocates free trade, a reduction in governmental bureaucracy and the abolition of the income tax.

"The troops serve no purpose in foreign countries. . . . They should be called back to defend America," he said. "U.S. troops (in Western Europe) can't defend (West) Germany against a Soviet attack. . . . We must ask the fundamental question: What are our troops for? We must have them to defend this country, and for no other reason."

Eliminating U.S. military presence abroad "would save over \$200 billion," Marrou said, and would be a significant step toward a balanced budget.

According to Marrou, events in other countries should not be important in determining U.S. policy. Regarding the Persian Gulf, for example, Marrou asks, "Why are our ships defending an area that provides us with only 4 percent of our oil, while the Alaska pipeline, which gives us 25 percent of it, is left open . . . to terrorist attack?"

While Marrou said he believes

that the United States should continue to draw oil from the Gulf, he said he recommends that those nations (such as Japan) that draw the majority of their oil from the region provide its defense.

Marrou's platform contains other controversial defense policies, including a reduction in the total number of American nuclear warheads from 35,000 to 5000.

"There are too many warheads now, and there is no way to deliver them all to the Soviet Union. . . . We don't have the delivery systems (to support our warheads). Just having them around serves no purpose."

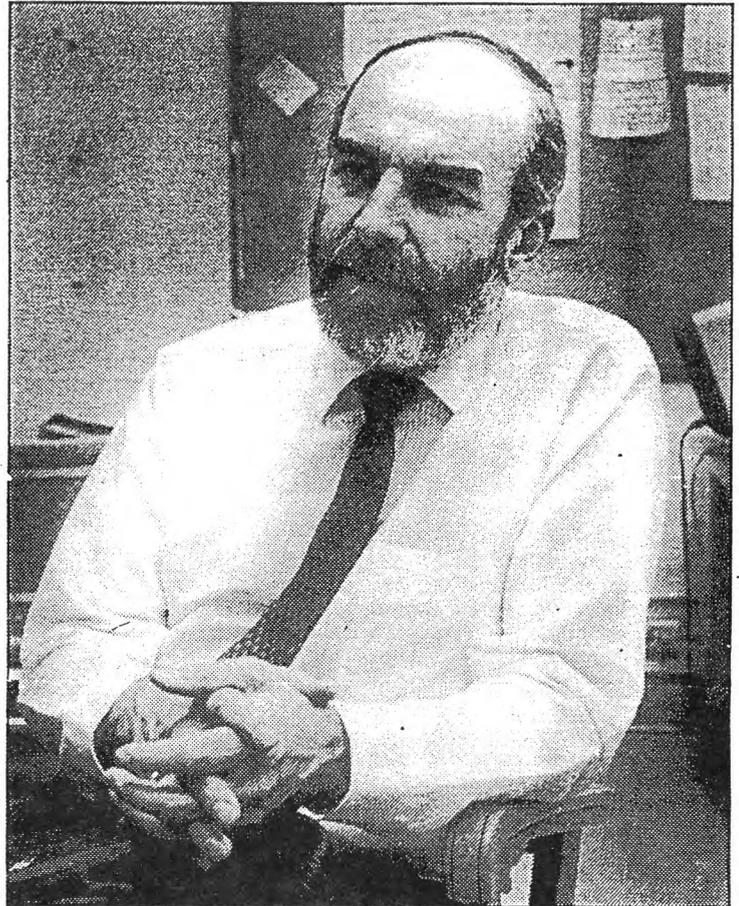
Marrou's position on issues such as social security and welfare follow that of the Libertarian Party's. "Government (welfare and social security) programs waste a large portion of money allotted to them on useless bureaucracies," he said.

"Private charities are best equipped to deal with the problems of homelessness and poverty because they don't waste money on excess administration," Marrou said.

The current government actually inhibits private organizations from helping the homeless, Marrou said. For example, zoning laws prevent the establishment of shelters for the homeless in many cities, he said.

To combat the national budget deficit, "the government should stop replacing bureaucrats who leave their jobs," Marrou said, adding that recalling troops from abroad will also help reduce the national debt.

Marrou said he also advocates eliminating public education, a drastic step toward reducing government spending. Public education is poorer in quality and more costly



Mark Scheeff/Daily

Andre Marrou, the Libertarian Party's vice presidential candidate called on the United States to withdraw troops from all foreign commitments.

than private schooling, he said.

He further argued that education should not be mandatory. "People should have a choice" in whether they want to have an education, Marrou said, adding that he ex-

pected most people to choose to go to school.

Marrou suggested that the government subsidize the educations of those who cannot afford private schooling.

(cont. from front page)

scription, shut down the U.S. Postal Service, repeal the laws covering minimum wage, child labor, anti-trust matters, prostitution and utility franchises, and end subsidies to farmers.

They also want to bring back the gold standard and abolish the Federal Reserve, which Paul calls a "secret body" not accountable to Congress. He said it is responsible for a weak currency that is robbing working people of their savings.

Libertarians also oppose laws mandating the use of seat belts on cars, no-smoking ordinances and or-

dinances that would close down bathhouses to combat AIDS.

Paul said government has no right to force AIDS testing, quarantine AIDS patients or forbid employers or insurance companies from asking questions about AIDS.

He said that "education and persuasion" could do more to solve the AIDS problem than government action.

On the international scene, Paul said Libertarians believe the U.S. government cannot hope to solve every problem that arises and that through neither the CIA nor foreign aid inducements should it intrude in the internal affairs of other nations.

If a communist threat looms, the case for action should be presented for Congress to decide, Paul said.

He said the Reagan administration's support of the Contras fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua is an example of unwarranted

U.S. government intrusion in another nation's affairs and is also inconsistent with its policy of making economic aid available to Soviet-bloc nations.

"We like to think that we've

brought back the whole philosophy of freedom and put it back together again. In the 20th century, the conservatives and liberals each took half of it and we've had chaos ever since."

Paul said that despite a relatively

small campaign budget of \$600,000 for the presidential campaign, party members believe the Libertarian credo will advance. Libertarian candidates will be on the November ballot in all 50 states this year, he said.