

The Illinois Libertarian

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS • BOX 313 • CHICAGO 60690

VOL. 3 NO. 11

'78 CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

NEARLY 80 LIBERTARIANS GATHERED IN OAK PARK OCTOBER 14 TO MEET THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS' STATE CANDIDATES. THE BANQUET FEATURED SHORT SPEECHES FROM ALL THE CANDIDATES, SOME HEATED RHETORIC, AND SOME COLD CASH FOR OUR 1978 CAMPAIGN.

GIVEN OUR EARLY START, THE PARTY IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE GOING INTO THE CAMPAIGN. ALREADY, PETITIONS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED, LITERATURE IS BEING PREPARED, AND CANDIDATES ARE BEING BRIEFED ON THE ISSUES. ALL THIS IS OCCURRING EARLY ENOUGH TO ASSURE THAT OUR EFFORTS WILL BE CAREFULLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED PROPERLY.

THE PARTY'S STRATEGY CENTERS ON APPEALING TO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WE FEEL WILL BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO A LIBERTARIAN PITCH. TAXPAYERS, UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, GAY RIGHTS GROUPS, SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS, FEMINIST GROUPS, ANTI-WAR GROUPS, AND OPPONENTS OF GUN CONTROL HEAD THE LIST OF POTENTIAL AREAS OF SUPPORT WE INTEND TO GO AFTER.

I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL A TWINGE OF AMUSEMENT LOOKING AT THAT LIST, WITH ITS DELIGHTFUL JUXTAPOSITION OF "LEFT-WING" AND "RIGHT-WING" ISSUES. IT SHOWS A HAPPY DISREGARD FOR THE CONVENTIONAL POLITICAL CATEGORIES. SURELY, TO EVEN THINK ABOUT RUNNING A CAMPAIGN THAT ATTRACTS BOTH OPPONENTS OF U.S. IMPERIALISM AND OPPONENTS OF GUN CONTROL SHOULD CONVINCE ANYONE THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS WHEN WE CLAIM WE ARE A NEW POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE.

BUILDING GRASS-ROOTS SUPPORT IS A MAJOR GOAL OF THIS CAMPAIGN, AND WE PLAN TO DO THIS BY CONTACTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND ARRANGING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH THEM. THIS TYPE OF WORK CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF OUR MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATES BY AGGRESSIVELY SEEKING OUT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS FOR LPI CANDIDATES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. AND FOR EVERY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT, WE NEED AT LEAST 2 MEMBERS WHO WILL RUN A MEMBERSHIP TABLE AND PASS OUT LITERATURE.

INSIDE, YOU WILL FIND PLENTY OF SUGGESTIONS AND EXHORTATIONS FOR WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN HELP OUR CAMPAIGN EFFORT IN THESE CRUCIAL EARLY STAGES. VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PETITION DRIVE, OUR MOST IMMEDIATE NEED, CAN CALL THE NUMBER IN THE LOCAL CLUBS SECTION. INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN FINDING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS BEFORE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD CONTACT MILTON MUELLER AT 525-6231.

more photos on page 3



"What is there to say about Percy's record? Attacking Percy is like taking on a sponge."

BRUCE GREEN
LPI SENATE
CANDIDATE

REVERIE

BY ROBERT OSTERLUND

I have a dream. LPI's membership, each and every Party member, spends next Saturday petitioning to get our candidates on the ballot next November. In just one day, 250 members petitioning for eight hours at 15 signatures per hour (many do better than this rate) gather 30,000 signatures, 5,000 more than the legal requirement. One day, 30,000 signatures.

Think of what this means! With the petition drive over, we can devote all our time and energies in the next year to the election campaign. We are on equal footing with The Two Major Parties (who have permanent automatic ballot status), and we are that much ahead of the socialist/fascist rabble, the other third parties. Throughout the coming year we can approach the press and financial donors with our credibility assured (no more doubts until the last minute that we will make it on the ballot). In the election, due to the time we spent campaigning, we win over 5% of the vote, thus achieving permanent ballot status and making future petition drives unnecessary. Yes, we're for real, LPI has finally, truly arrived.

Then I wake up. And I recall that less than one third of the membership participated at all in the last two petition drives (1976 statewide, 1977 Chicago), and only half of that third significantly (by submitting more than one or two petitions). I remember what it was like to be one of the active few, doggedly going out weekend after weekend, at times day after day, piling up totals of 100,500, and finally 1200 signatures. I remember my bitter disappointment last April when the Chicago petition drive fell a mere 600 signatures short of the 20,000 total. 600 signatures is less than half a complete petition per every Chicago member who didn't participate. Is there a Chicago member who doesn't have a dozen or so friends? I ask myself if I am willing to make such a sacrifice again, and I know of others who are asking themselves the same question.

Let me relate briefly my petitioning experience. I filled my very first petition within hours after receiving it. That was on a Wednesday and by Friday I had filled two more. How? Simply by carrying my clipboard around with me at work and asking everyone I knew if they would sign (most said yes). The first petition drive, I got over 100 signatures that way--by asking, in the course of my normal daily routine, friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers and nodding acquaintances to sign my petition.

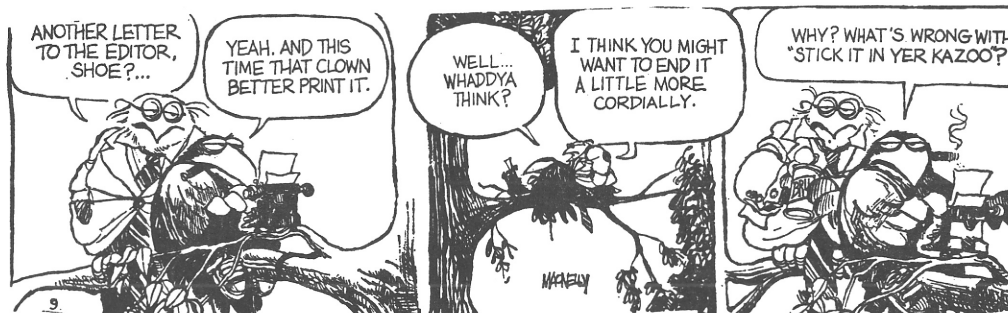
My first time out on the street, my partner (who was also new at petitioning) stood on one side of Michigan Avenue and I stood on another. After one hour, I had only 6 signatures; my partner had four. Undaunted, we moved south, to the State Street sidewalk by Marshall Field's. By late afternoon, he had 47 signatures, about 14 per hour, and I had 60, about 18 an hour. After that, I never fell below 25 per hour. I do not mean to brag. The point is that you improve. Stick to it; the more you do, the better you become.

I have petitioned all over the area, on street corners and on train platforms, in shopping centers, at carnivals, concerts, museums, on campuses and at work. No, it's not the most fun activity in the world; but it's seldom unpleasant, and it can even be rewarding: you become more at ease, better with others. Try it, you may like it. But like it or not, it's got to be done.

I have a dream. It goes like this:

Each and every Party member collects one signature per day from now until the first day of spring, at which time we have 30,000 signatures and can close down the petition drive.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Or it goes like this: Each and every Party member collects three signatures per week and we have 30,000 by the August 1st deadline. Or: each and every Party member petitions one hour per month from now until the deadline; or each and every Party member collects 100 signatures (4 full sheets) however he/she chooses. The results are all the same: the petition drive is over quickly, painlessly, and the most active Party members are freed from having to do more than their share of petitioning and can devote their time instead to planning and implementing a successful election campaign.

Well, each and every Party member, how about it? Shall we make the dream come true?

PLEDGE SHEET

ROBERT, YOU HAVE TOUCHED MY SOUL. I PROMISE TO GET ONE LOUSY SIGNATURE PER DAY UNTIL APRIL.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ PLEASE SEND ME _____ PETITION FORMS (25 SIG/SHEET)

ROBERT, YOU HAVE INSPIRED ME WITH YOUR VISION OF LIBERTARIANISM TRIUMPHANT, THANKS TO MY PETITION SIGNATURES. I PROMISE TO COLLECT PETITIONS ONE HOUR A MONTH FROM NOW UNTIL AUGUST.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ PLEASE SEND ME _____ PETITION FORMS

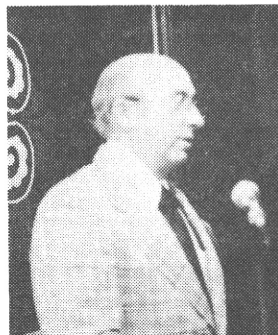
ROBERT, I HATE PETITION-GATHERING, BUT I'M GOING TO COLLECT 100 PETITION SIGNATURES JUST SO THAT YOU'LL SHUT UP AND STOP BOTHERING ME.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ PLEASE SEND ME _____ PETITION FORMS

CANDIDATES NIGHT PHOTOS BY MICHAEL RAY



MARJI KOHLS, LPI CANDIDATE FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



BILL MITCHELL
LPI CANDIDATE FOR U. OF I. TRUSTEE



DICK RASMUSSEN, LPI CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS, 1ST DISTRICT



EVERETT MOFFAT
LPI CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER



AN ACT OF COMPULSION: Government Schools

by George O'Brien

Most people seem to find the Libertarian opposition to "public education" hard to take. Sure, they don't like spiraling taxes, but they still want to save the schools. So compulsory public schools, while less popular than they once were, remain one of the State's most sacred of sacred cows.

When libertarians take on the State, they must destroy the myth of public education. It is not enough to call for private financing. The real implication of libertarian ideals is the total destruction of the educational system as we know it. And such destruction of the ultimate in coercive institutions is desireable.

THE CULT OF EDUCATIONISM

"Everyone must have an education." "Since many parents wouldn't pay for their children's education voluntarily, they must be taxed." "Since an educated populace is good for society, everybody must be forced to pay for it." "Since parents might not send their children to school the police must force them to go to school." "Schools are necessary to produce good citizens." To sum it up, schools are thought to be for the "good of society," so therefore it is "justified" to use any means necessary to get children into school.

IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO

Radical theorists such as John Holt, Paul Goodman, Ivan Illich and others began writing a number of articles and books suggesting that public education was far from a "great social blessing," and in fact constituted one of society's worst curses. Compulsory education was described as a kind of glorified concentration camp designed to destroy a child's individuality. The goal of public schools is political, not educational: plastic, pliable zombies. The conditioning process has the effect of creating people with high tolerance for "taking shit" without doing anything about it. Acceptance of authority figures substitutes for thinking. Creative thinking is stifled.

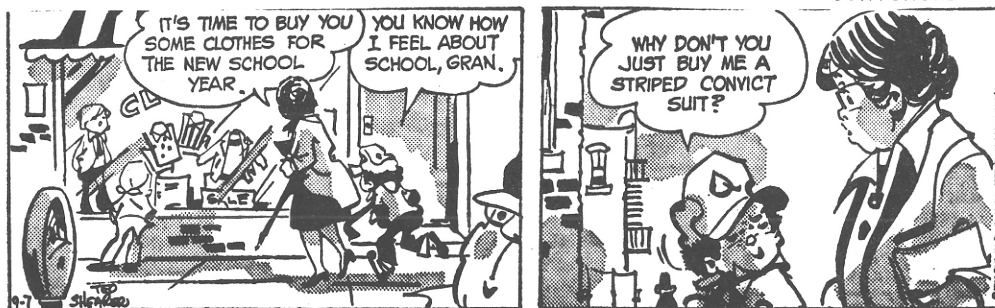
A study was done to find out at what age creativity starts to decline. Starting with subjects 45 years old, researchers found that only about 2% of the population was truly creative. They kept reducing the age of their subjects to find the point where creativity starts to decline. Finally, they found an age where 80% of the subjects were truly creative: five-year-olds. Just before they went to school and were taught not to think.

Many educational theorists have noted that the natural inquisitiveness of children is all but destroyed by schools that force "education" on them. Learning ceases to be an adventure and becomes a test of will. To maintain their integrity, many students refuse to surrender to the teacher and do what is asked. The teacher can use force to compell actions, but force is impotent on a mind.

FREEDOM: A REAL ALTERNATIVE

John Holt in *Instead of Education*, previously reviewed by this journal, makes a large number of creative suggestions on how to promote learning without compulsion. One of my favorite ideas of his is to have people wear "Reading Assistants" buttons, so that anytime a student has problems with a word, one of these people can be asked what a particular word or group of words means. Apprenticeships, another idea of Holt's, is a natural not merely for skilled trades, but all sorts of activities. Working at minimal pay can provide a young person with a view of what is needed to succeed, making the desire to learn even greater. It has been suggested that minimum wage laws and child labor laws may have done more to create unemployable people than anything else. People kept out of the labor market by these laws never gain the skills and values necessary for success. It is a myth that "uneducated children" don't learn things. They simply learn what they find useful to know. The key is that they learn what they want to know not what "educators" think they ought to know.

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MORE BUREAUCRACY--Editorial Reply

BY ANNE MCCRACKEN

Why, Oh Why is Channel 7 so eager to jump on the Environmental Protection Agency bandwagon to test new cars before they enter the State of Illinois? They've already been tested by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency! If the State EPA doesn't trust the Federal EPA, why should we trust either of them? Why should taxpayers support another layer of State bureaucracy to duplicate the work done by the Federal bureaucracy?

It will slow up the flow of Federally inspected cars onto our highways to replace the old cars that have never been tested. Old cars constitute 80% of the millions of cars on our roads. WLS-TV should stop to consider that today's new car is tomorrow's old car. Unless we have an abundant supply of new cars, we will not have enough good, clean used cars to replace the old cars less affluent men and women drive.

Expanding the EPA to test new cars again and again is irrational. Of course, the desire to reproduce is perfectly normal in a healthy, young bureaucracy. But this inbreeding of the State and Federal EPA will lead to undesirable mutations at the County and City level, perhaps reaching as far as the local level of government. One day, your precinct captain might demand the right to inspect all new cars before they enter his ward!



GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS CONTINUED

Critics of public education always encounter some form of "Yes, but..." when they propose alternatives. So deeply entrenched is the public schools myth that few people comprehend how much effect it has on children. Much worse, they fail to see how much it affected themselves. "I didn't want to go to school, but they forced me to go and I turned out all right." Such statements are an indication of how successful government schools have been at brainwashing their subjects. But brainwashing is not learning.

Some of the defenses of compulsory education are astounding in their distance from reality. "If school attendance were not compulsory, we would all be illiterates." Somehow, government monopolization of our minds and schools makes people believe that skills (such as reading) which are universally valued, economically beneficial, and even fun if not crammed down our throats, could not possibly be learned voluntarily. This myth becomes even more infuriating when we realize that compulsory schooling was not implemented for educational reasons at all. Compulsory education was the U.S. governments way of Americanizing immigrants and other groups whose values were not those of official America. Illiteracy was not a problem before compulsion was initiated. Nor has it been eradicated since.

Another commonly-heard objection is that "only the rich would be educated unless the State provides public education. But the poor are the primary victims of public education. Elementary-level education can be remarkably inexpensive if the teachers and students involved feel as if they are part of a learning process, and not cogs in a coercive institution. Conversely, public education is expensive both in terms of dollars and the alienation, vandalism, disciplinary problems and bureaucracy it spawns.

The only requirement for learning is a free mind. High-priced wardens only hinder the process. To be against public schools is to be for education--for all people.

REDLINE FEVER

by George O'Brien

It is characteristic of a certain kind of mentality to perceive businesspeople as the cause of all economic problems. A glaring example of this is the controversy over "Redlining," the alleged refusal of banks to make loans in inner city neighborhoods.

Redlining might make economic sense in neighborhoods where property values are declining, thus threatening to stick the bank with unmarketable property. But there are not many neighborhoods where property values are declining in this period of extended inflation. Further, from the banks' point of view it does not make sense to deny loans to qualified borrowers. (Qualified borrowers are those who have the full downpayment and show sufficient income to be able to meet the mortgage payments.)

The real problem may not be redlining at all. The problem may simply be the lack of qualified borrowers who desire property in these neighborhoods. A study conducted in Rochester, New York indicates that this is the case.

Professor George J. Benston of the University of Rochester used an unusual method in his study. He utilized direct polling of neighborhood residents to identify demand for mortgages. The results of this poll were startling. There was no evidence of any large demand for loans that was going unsatisfied.

Professor Benston noted that previous studies on redlining generally assumed that if no money went into a neighborhood, credit-worthy residents were being arbitrarily deprived. His study casts serious doubts on this assumption. Furthermore, he discovered that the 8½ per cent interest ceiling in New York was for a time below the actual market rate, giving banks every incentive not to loan.

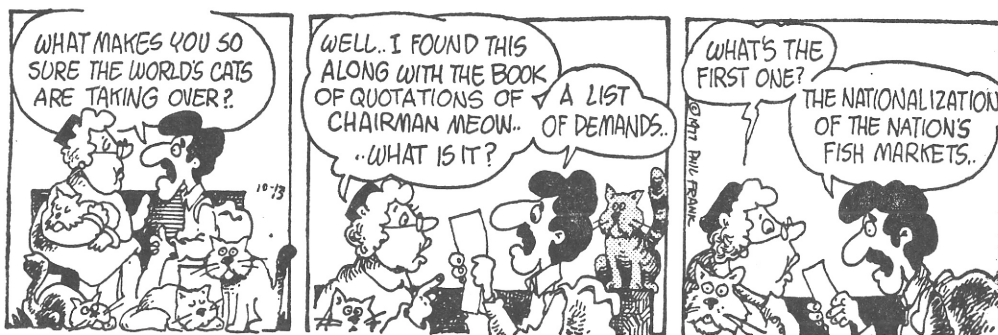
In New York there is a statewide Mortgage Review Fund, set up by 92 savings banks to handle allegations of redlining. With \$57 million available, it could only find 12 eligible mortgagors in the entire state of New York who had not received loans. All of them were multi-family buildings.

The president of Green Point Savings Bank in New York has been praised by community groups for putting money into their neighborhoods. Yet he claims that redlining is a phony issue that is being exploited for political purposes. If the other savings banks in Brooklyn gave local mortgages at the rate Green Point Savings did, he says, his bank would go out of business, because the additional valid demand just isn't there.

What can be done about blighted neighborhoods? The problem is not redlining, but that credit-worthy individuals don't desire to live or work there. Why don't they find these neighborhoods economically attractive? Because the restrictions imposed by government stifle economic activity. A libertarian answer is to remove the deterrents to economic activity:

1. Eliminate all property taxes. This would reduce the costs of owning property and eliminate the "increased valuation" deterrent to improving property.
2. Make building regulations the responsibility of insurance companies rather than the city. This would eliminate much of the common graft that characterizes cities like Chicago, and provide an incentive to use only economically feasible building restrictions. It would also open up the use of less costly methods of construction.
3. Eliminate zoning. This would mean property could be easily converted to its most productive uses, without the cost of bribes or bureaucratic delays.
4. Eliminate laws prohibiting the use of non-union labor. This would substantially reduce the cost of building and remodeling, and provide important job openings for inner-city residents who have been excluded from construction unions for years.

While there are no overnight solutions to urban blight, the rhetoric of redlining only obscures the real problems and delays making the crucial changes.



Local Club News

THE LOCAL CLUBS MUST FUNCTION AS THE BACKBONE OF OUR PETITIONING EFFORT IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. AUTONOMOUS ACTIVISTS IN EACH AREA ARE NEEDED TO ORGANIZE PETITIONING OUTINGS AND TO ARRANGE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS FOR OUR CANDIDATES. IN ADDITION, THE LPI HAS JUST RECEIVED SEVERAL THOUSAND OF THE NEW STUDENT RECRUITING TABLOID PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL LP. VOLUNTEERS FOR HANDING OUT THESE TABLOIDS ON COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES ARE NEEDED. CALL MILTON AT 925-1111 OR 525-6231 TO HELP.

OUR PETITIONING HOTLINE IS A NUMBER TO CALL FOR PETITION FORMS, HELP IN ORGANIZING PETITIONING, AND ADVICE ON WHERE AND HOW TO PETITION SUCCESSFULLY. FOR THIS INFORMATION, CALL:

MICHAEL HEPPLER 736-9734 DAYS 328-3654 EVENINGS (AREA CODE 312)

NORTH SIDE

Joe McCaffrey
1960 N. Lincoln Park W., Chicago, 60614
312/ 528-9083

SOUTH SIDE

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

SOUTH SUBURBAN

James C. Jones
11123 St. Lawrence, Chicago 60628
312/ 468-8805

NORTHWEST SIDE

Wayne Openlander
3132 N. Lowell, Chicago 60641
312/ 283-1690 (home)
312/ 966-4752 (work)

LAKE COUNTY

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

DuPAGE COUNTY

Ray Birks
4718 Lee Ave, Downers Grove 60515
312/ 968-6006

NORTH SHORE

Michael Hepple
312/ 328-3654

WEST SUBURBAN

Debbie Carbaugh
234 S. Maple H3, Oak Park,
312/ 849-6371 (home)
815/ 727-5626 (work)

PEORIA

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

McHENRY COUNTY

Robert Randall
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815/ 459-4929 (home)
312/ 276-8500 (work)

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618/ 656-4351

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217/ 787-1451

CHAMPAIGN/URBANA

Jeff Dehn
217/ 359-3583

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Bill Mitchell
618/ 439-6004

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James Dunkel
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815/ 877-6321

DEKALB

Marc Swanson
815/ 758-4073

TRI-CITIES

Loretta Swett
16420 78 Ave. West, Taylor Ridge
309/ 798-2675



"I'm J. Calhoun Langdon who achieved, at the age of 37, the presidency of Alpha Plastics; 12 directorships; multimulti-millionaire; and one day it hit me what's it all about. Now, I want to pursue this meaning and become one of the best damn gurus in the business."

& news & notes

SCC MEETING for November will be held in the home of Ed May November 20, a Sunday, at 2:00. Ed lives at 5086 Euclid Lane in Richton Park, a suburb on the far south side. Call Ed at 312/747-0481 for directions.

* * *

LIBERTARIANS FOR GAY RIGHTS meets again November 20 at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be held at 736 Briar Pl., in Chicago. For general information about LGR, call 312/925-1111.

* * *

RULES COMMITTEE forming. As the State Convention nears, the Rules Committee will meet to recommend changes in the Party constitution and by-laws. The past year has revealed several areas of Party activity left undefined by the present constitution; if you want to participate in the important (but unglorious) task of revising the Party constitution, volunteer to serve on the Rules committee. Interested parties should call Milton Mueller at 525-6231.

* * *

TULLY DUCKS ASSESSORS RACE. Cook County Assessor Thomas Tully announced that he would not seek re-election in 1978. The Assessors office was one of the prime targets of the tax revolt in North Shore, since the huge tax increases resulted from a change in assessment methods. According to WBBM radio, Tully will not run for elective office at all in 1978, but will wait until 1979 to seek another

office. We think that this decision of Tully's might have a little bit to do with escaping the wrath of the tax revolt. The Assessors office proved to be unfertile ground for an ambitious young politician.

* * *

SCC MINUTES for October. The October meeting was held in the 9th Congressional District in the home of Milton Mueller.

A meeting of the Convention planning committee was set for October 30.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$180.00. Membership was reported at 250.

Plans for the petition drive were discussed, along with various interest groups the LPI could appeal to. A Rules Committee was established for the State Con.

* * *

CANDIDATE APPROVAL BALLOTS received from many Party members overwhelmingly approved the slate of candidates. Thanks for responding.



HOME RULE CHALLENGED.

Libertarian Bernie Sommers of Glenview is collecting petition signatures to bring the issue of home rule to a referendum. "Home rule," started in 1971 under the new State Constitution, allows local governments to respond to local issues by levying taxes and selling obligational bonds which taxpayers must pay off. In Chicago, Daley put the home rule powers into effect constantly to levy taxes without any kind of vote. Bernie wants to reduce the village's power to increase taxes. Since home rule began, he points out, Glenview's population has increased by 20%, while its taxes have increased by 250%. Last April, the Lisle voters rejected home rule in referendum. Bernie hopes to achieve the same results in Glenview.

* * *

LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN LPI SLATE. Alice Strzalka, who was listed in our last newsletter as one of our candidates for University of Illinois Trustee, cancelled her candidacy October 14. Her replacement is John Adrian. John is a long-time foe of compulsory government education. He works as a linotype operator in Chicago. Since 1960, he has attended many public conferences on education, attempting to create greater public interest in the issues of compulsory school attendance and accountability of educators to students. In the late '60's he went to the Air Force Association conference on education in Washington D.C; in 1970 he attended Educon, in Chicago; in 1972 he went to the Milwaukee conference sponsored by CIE (which resulted in the book, The Twelve Year Sentence; and was present at all three conferences of the Alternative Schools Network in Chicago. John has two sons, 18 and 20.

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 should be submitted to the editor, The Illinois Libertarian; membership and other inquiries should be directed to the LPI, P.O. Box 313, Chicago IL, 60690.