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LIBERTARIAN PENN
12G Lark Circle
York, Pa. 17404

Libertarian Penn

JULY, 1975 - VOL 3.7

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Two young toads fell into a pail of cream. Since they had not yet learned to swim, they were in a dire predicament, indeed.

One toad croaked and said, "Oh dear, what's the use. I can't swim. I'm going to die someday anyway, so it might as well be now." And he sank to the bottom, a very dead toad.

The other toad said, "I can't swim, but I sure don't want to sink!" and he started thrashing about as only a toad can. With all that thrashing, the cream turned into butter. The toad got a solid footing and hopped out of the pail, a very live toad.

Moral of this Toad Tale: EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SWIM, THRASH ABOUT A BIT.

Which brings us to the subject of this issue: Libertarian Action. Starting on the following page are two views of the nature of the action that Libertarians in Pennsylvania can/should/might/will undertake.

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JoAnne Chernow, Chair
12G Lark Circle, York, Pa. 17404

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD INDIVIDUALS
TO . . . swim or thrash, whatever you
can do will AID THE PARTY.

The response from members since "Libertas '75" has been encouraging--all of you who wrote have my undying gratitude and more importantly, a chance to put your money and ability where your mouth is.

A lot of attention among Libertarians has been focussed on the "lead, follow, or get out of the way" debate. Since I'm not interested in being on either side of a power struggle situation, I hope Pennsylvanians will add a third alternative--individual initiative. The Libertarian population of Pennsylvania is so widely scattered that our best approach seems to be to rely on each individual to

- 1) solicit members,
- 2) raise money, and
- 3) generate publicity.

1) is easy--enclosed is a membership application for the LPP--pass it on to someone who expresses interest. Pa. headquarters has files of non-members who have expressed an interest in the Party. At your request we'll mail you a list of those people in your area, and even if you can't convince them to join, you may find someone to help with 2) and 3).

2) Sometimes people who aren't "joiners" will make a donation if you're supporting a position they like--and we have some of the best positions going! Hopefully we will soon have position papers on various topics which can be sent to special-interest groups, but until then, National Headquarters (550 Kearny Street, San Francisco, Ca 94108) has an attractive flyer titled 1776-1984: There Is No Middle Ground. Order a bunch (\$1.00 for 20, \$2.00 minimum order), write in State Headquarters' address on the back, and distribute to people who are fed up with "the system" and becoming disenchanted with major party politics (the woods are full of 'em).

3) Some of our members have been doing it all the while the rest of us have been floundering--they've been writing letters-to-the-editor and keeping our name and ideas before the public. Work the name and address of the Libertarian Party into your letter if you can. Since Pennsylvania has no official State position on anything, we'd be willing to let you present as a LPP party position any plank in the National LP platform. Use your judgment, and send us a copy if you get into print.

Political activism in a nutshell? Not quite, but a logical start. I personally think that the LP is the best educational and political approach to the situation, and I presume that if you've read this far, you're thinking along the same lines. Now, let's get truckin'!

Joann Chernow

LPP Chair

Ed. Note: The "most requested event" at the coming National Convention is the seminar on Personal Promotion of Libertarianism. Evidently we all feel the need for honing our techniques. Be there if you can.

And about those Letters-to-the-editors: a well-thought-out one can be more than half way to a position paper!

A PARTY IS MORE . . .

I received the Libertarian Penn yesterday and was so impressed by the timely eloquence of the Ibsen quotation that I thought I'd send along the following from H.L. Mencken's "A Glance Ahead," originally published in 1926 in his Notes On Democracy:

Thus politics, under democracy, resolves itself into impossible alternatives. Whatever the label on the parties, or the war cries issuing from the demagogues who lead them, the practical choice is between the plutocracy on one side and rabble of preposterous impossibilists on the other. It is a pity that this is so. For what democracy needs most of all is a party that will separate the good that is in it theoretically from the evils that beset it practically, and then try to erect that good into a workable system. What it needs beyond everything is a party of liberty. It produces, true enough, occasional

libertarians, just as despotism produces occasional regicides, but it treats them in the same drum-head way. It will never have a party of them until it invents and installs a genuine aristocracy, to breed them and secure them.

I assume that he speaks of the kind of aristocracy that Jefferson spoke of--the kind Leonard E. Read writes of in his book, The Coming Aristocracy. An aristocrat figuratively, never literally. If so, why then, That's us! The trouble is, we have not yet been installed. Part of the blame for that rests squarely on our shoulders. Even the most dim-witted electorate can not vote to install libertarians if libertarians do not offer to be so installed at the polls. I can't run for office because I am legally barred from doing so, but I'd work like hell to get one of you elected. Until we are ready to field a candidate (a tax collector who refused to collect taxes, e.g.) I find all this talk of us being a political party faintly superficial. Do you think we can heighten the prospects?

Yours in the cause of liberty,

Bill

Bill Lewis

Ed. Note: What can be said? Most of us, myself included, shrink back at the thought of candidacy and think: "Oh no, not me, or at least not yet. I don't know enough, or I'd make a fool of myself, or I haven't the time, money, charisma, etc." All of which is true, but timid.

Exceptions--Olga is grooming herself for the School Board eventually. Stew Engle has a strong opinion that anybody can be a candidate. We hope to hear from him in a future issue. Anyone else have any ideas on how to "heighten the prospects"?

Congratulations to LPP member William Morris of Wilmington, Delaware, who is the first Chair of the fledgling Delaware Libertarian Party. Since Delaware is a sure shot for ballot status, we'd like to invite their contingent to Pa. to help us when the time comes.

THE PARTY'S BUSINESS

The delegates from LPP to the National Convention at the end of August will be choosing the LP presidential candidate. They are representing all of us, but there has been no "instruction" of the delegates in the sense of binding them to represent the views of the rest of the LPP members. However, they surely should go with a "sense of the party", i.e. some idea of what the rest of us think.

If you get the LP News out of the National Headquarters, and Reason magazine, you know as much about the candidates as has been published except for a letter from Guy Riggs to delegates. Here's a personal, subjective rundown of the candidates by your editor. If it arouses disagreement, good. Communicate your views to your nearest delegate.

Roger McBride--we know him. He spoke to us at Libertas '74 and was the Republican elector who gave us the electoral college vote. Has connections to money and power, has experience in national politics, is bound to appear the most serious candidate to the press. Questions about his principles? Even such a skeptic as Don Ernsberger of SIL was impressed by his "hard core" attitudes.

Kay Harroff--Must be doing something right, but no one seems to know quite what. Personal impressions--i.e. hearing one speech--make one wonder further. But, she has been the most successful Libertarian candidate in terms of vote getting and cost. Speaks with an Objectivist tongue, and wants to present a clear-cut image, i.e. not muddled toward conservatism. (Is she implying that is McBrides' image?) She has some state delegations already committed to her.

Guy Riggs--The only candidate to openly face the question of "who's paying for all of this" by requesting a salary to be our "salesman of liberty", with money incentives for more votes gained. Sounds gimmicky at first, but he's actually saying that politics is a market place activity--we should pay for what we want in straight-out business terms rather than "donating". But why him? and is the number of votes our real objective? Need to hear more.

Jim Trotter--Only candidate announced for Vice Presidential position--he comes out of the left and thinks he could be a bridge in that direction. A sound idea in itself.

Personally, I'd like to see a ticket of Andrea Millen and Trotter, but I understand Andrea is committed to McBride.

Your delegates again: JoAnne, Olga and Bill Chauncey, Gerry Morris, Roy Euvrard, Stew Engle. Mildred as alternate.

"I AM A LAISSEZ FAIRE CAPITALIST . . ."

said Howard Ruff to an audience of 600, most of whom probably had little idea of what the term meant. And he went on to condemn government-arranged sale of wheat to Russia and took a few broadsides at foreign aid in general, as well as at farm price supports.

The audience was the joint convention of the Natural Foods Assoc. and the Pa. Organic Farmers and Consumers Organization, gathered at Selinsgrove, Pa. on July 28. Howard Ruff is the author of Famine and Survival in America. He is busy stirring up controversies in any field he touches--questioning the nutritional value of most commercial food storage "packages" on one hand, and presenting unfamiliar ideas of economic collapse to nutrition groups. He plans a publicity walk throughout California next month.

The group at Selinsgrove was composed of people who have been involved in the fight against FDA vitamin regulations for years (but many of them would like to see the FDA ban white sugar). With astute perception of their thinking, Ruff drove home his points with the unkindest cut of all: "When food rationing comes, do you want the FDA to be controlling what food rations you get?"

ACTION IN THE CHAPTERS:

CENTRAL: There will be a meeting of the Central Pa. Chapter on Thursday, August 14 at 8 pm for the purpose of electing new officers and discussing the direction the chapter will take if it is to continue. The meeting will be at JoAnne Chernow's, 12G Lark Circle, York. Call 792-1750 for directions.

WESTERN: A note from Bertha Murphy. "We had our July LP meeting and had a total of 12 people attending, so we were quite pleased by our growing membership."

DAVID E. LONG IS RUNNING FOR MAYOR OF BOSTON

The Massachusetts Libertarian Party is getting into candidate level politics and biting off quite a mouthful--the Mayoralty of Boston. It's an off-year race which will draw a lot of national publicity because Boston is currently in the news.

Their candidate, David E. Long is chairperson of the MLP and considers himself a "radical libertarian."

David recently received first page coverage in The Boston Globe. At his press conference he called for the abolition of the Boston School Committee, for decentralization of school control to the neighborhood level, and for a citywide voucher system. The Globe quoted him as an advocate of power to the people "in its most fundamental sense--by granting individuals full control over their lives and property" and as working toward "the immediate deregulation and ultimate repeal of all laws regulating transportation, gambling, alcoholic beverages, sexual relations between consenting adults, construction and zoning, prices, wages, and rents." Other positions Long has been emphasizing include "drastic decentralization" of the Boston Police Department and a program designed to reduce the size of city government by offering "tax rebates to any person or group who privately contracts for services now provided by the city."

And, of course, there is a committee raising funds from Libertarians everywhere because "David's candidacy will not be simply a local matter." It's the

Committee to Elect David E. Long
Mayor of Boston
Box 2610
Boston, MA 02208

GOING FAST!

State headquarters has available a sufficient number of copies of the 1974 LP(National) Platform for all the LPP membership, but we can't afford postage, so if you would like a copy, send us a 10 cent stamp with your request.

The platform will be revised at the convention in New York, so if you have recommendations for the platform committee to consider, mail them to Platform Committee-person JoAnne Chernow before the convention.

AND SPEAKING OF CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNS . . .

It's going to take about \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to conduct an effective presidential campaign on the National Level. And realistically, the National feels it needs \$50,000 by Labor day---that's \$25 from every capable member, for the LIBERTY '76 FUND. Have you made a dent in that amount? Send checks payable to LIBERTY '76 FUND to the National Headquarters: 550 Kearny Street, Dept A, San Francisco, CA 94108