

FREE TEXAS

News and Views of Texas libertarians, published by the Libertarian Party of Texas.

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Feeling Socially Insecure

Federal program pits young against old

If there is an issue that shows the ineptitude of Democrat and Republican administrations in dealing with serious problems, it is Social Security.

Here we have an insurance scheme that, if sold in the private sector, would be laughed off the market and land the seller in jail for fraud.

Here we have a program stealing hundreds of billions of dollars worth of Americans' property, limiting our freedom, destroying jobs, and depriving our economy of badly needed capital.

Here we have a promise of financial

security after retirement which they later said was never promised and which couldn't be kept anyway.

The establishment parties' response has been to call for cosmetic reforms in order to delay for another year the day of reckoning. These reforms include raising the Social Security tax, which is becoming a yearly ritual.

By 1983, revenue from Social Security taxes will total 33 percent of total federal government revenue. Between 1950 and 1982 the tax increased from 1.5 percent of taxable income to 6.7 percent. The maximum tax of \$145 per year in 1950

was \$2171 by 1982. And each year the government issues new warnings about the system's impending collapse unless additional tax increases are granted.

They have also called for increasing the age of eligibility for benefits to as high as 68, an age many people will never even reach. Other "solutions" involve financing the system through general revenues which would merely hide Social Security taxes behind the mountain of other existing taxes or to tinker with cost of living adjustments, which again would do little to ease the system's mounting debt.

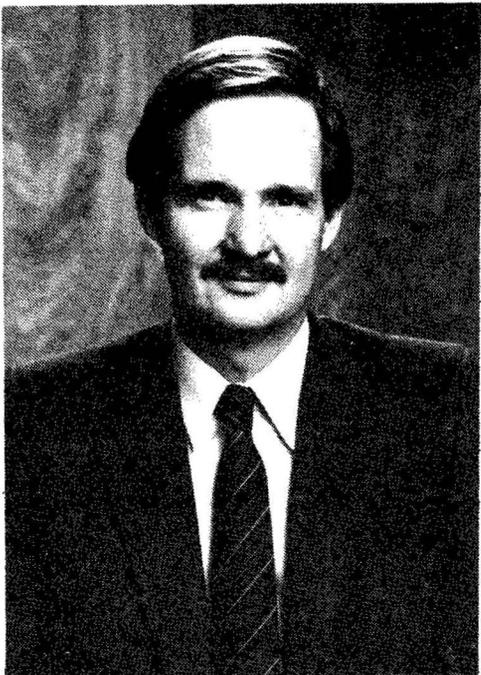
In short, the establishment parties

continue to promise benefits they know they cannot pay and to call for tax increases that limit the liberty and prosperity of Americans.

The irony of it all is that from the start, Social Security benefits have enabled politicians to cover up the tragic effects that decades of government intervention has had on the elderly. The question of what to do about Social Security includes the more fundamental question of why it is so difficult for many elderly and disabled Americans to adequately save for their future.

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Gibson gives Gramm a run for his money



By SCOTT BIESER
FREE TEXAS EDITOR

H. Martin Gibson of Duncanville is running a race against time as well as well-financed Republicrats in his bid for U.S. Congress, Dist. 6 on the Libertarian Party ticket.

Incumbent Phil Gramm, a former Democrat who resigned his office so he could run again as a Republican in a Feb. 12 special election, "is extremely vulnerable if people in the district learn about him fast enough," Gibson says.

The Libertarian candidate, running on a campaign of "bringing moral principle to Congress," is castigating Gramm's record, which includes a vote for "the largest tax increase in American history. Among other things he voted for a

withholding tax on interest on savings accounts, taxes on unemployment benefits, a decrease in the deduction for medical expenses if you suffer a catastrophic illness; he doubled the tax on aviation fuel, and increased the tax on airline tickets by 60 percent."

In a speech to farmers in Waxahachie, Gibson said, "Texas farmers have always had a vast reservoir of hope to keep them going. What's discouraging them now is that the hope Phil Gramm is offering is an illusion - he's actually part of the problem but he's not telling them. Gramm has never sponsored a Federal budget that was smaller than the previous year's; the 'tax cuts' he bragged about never reduced your total tax bill."

The way Gibson tells it, the other candidates in this race - including Gramm and at least two other Democrats - are beholden to either President Reagan or House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill. Thus, in this race voters have a choice between the politics of Reagan or O'Neill - or Thomas Jefferson.

"Martin Gibson doesn't just oppose increases in the size and power of government because they are unpopular. As a Libertarian, he believes that they are fundamentally and morally wrong," his campaign literature tells us. "Martin agrees with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence that we are all endowed with inalienable rights to life, liberty and property. And he knows that the only way to stop politicians from violating our rights is to drastically cut the power of government."

In his statements to farmers Gibson is outlining a seven-step program to improve their condition:

1) Get interest rates down by cutting the Federal budget by something significant - on the order of \$200 billion.

2) Repeal Phil Gramm's massive 1982

tax bill and oppose any new tax bills of any kind.

3) Eliminate all restrictions on domestic production and on the sale of agricultural commodities world wide.

4) Abolish the Federal Estate Tax so that a family is not forced to sell a farm to pay taxes when one of the parents dies.

5) Get trucking de-regulation back on track so farmers can get the benefit of lower transportation rates.

6) Repeal the 'windfall profits tax' on oil so farmers' fuel costs can fall to more reasonable levels.

7) Revise the bankruptcy laws so that when a farmer puts his products in a grain elevator, but doesn't sell the products to the elevator operator, he retains title to the products.

On topics of more general interest, Gibson opposes the bureaucratic paternalism of such federal agencies as the Food and Drug Administration, denounces gun control as a threat to people's right to defend their lives, liberty and property, and favors the volunteer armed forces as the best and most appropriate way to defend America.

But the Duncanville Libertarian is doing more than pontificating; he is running the most active campaign of any LPT candidate other than Dave Hutzelman's 1982 gubernatorial bid.

Gibson has spent late January and early February traveling throughout his district, which is a classic gerrymander snaking from southern Dallas County down to northern Harris County.

Stops on the Gibson campaign trail include such places as Alvaredo, Bryan, Cleburg, Corsicana, Ennis, Granbury, Hubbard, Hillsboro, Mexia, Midlothian, and of course Waxahachie.

In each town, he stops to pay a visit to the local newspaper editor and radio station, if there is one. If a town on the

route doesn't have a media outlet, Gibson stops anyway to shake hands and leave posters and campaign literature.

"I am amazed at how favorable the response is in these towns, both from the media and the public," he said. In contrast, the big-city press covering the race has either ignored the Libertarian or has been somewhat hostile.

Gibson's appeal to his rural constituents may be due to his own background as a cattle rancher in Ellis County. With that experience he can really understand the plight of today's farmers and ranchers, and they apparently they can sense his understanding.

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Feeling Socially Insecure

from p. 1



Why People Have Become Dependent

There are many government policies which effectively eliminate hope for the elderly and disabled – hope for better lives, free from the fickleness of Social Security.

At the top of the list is inflation. Inflation is not a mysterious disease but a deliberate government policy implemented by the Federal Reserve's artificial expansion of the supply of money and credit. This policy has made it nearly impossible for people to survive on fixed incomes.

In 1950, a savings of \$10,000 would have been a healthy nest egg for the future. Today, because of inflation, it will hardly provide basic services for more than a year. The dollar has lost 86 percent of its purchasing power since 1960 and 69 percent since 1970. Under such conditions, the value of a life savings or pension rapidly diminishes. The work of a lifetime is destroyed by the politicians' greed.

Taxes harm us directly by inhibiting our means to invest in the future, and indirectly by creating unemployment and reducing productivity. Property taxes have literally driven retired people from their homes. Sales taxes increase the costs of consumer goods. Further, the

withholding tax and regulations make it too costly to employ the elderly.

Government policy regarding private pension plans, particularly the burdensome requirements of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) has made it difficult and often unprofitable for companies to set up their own private pension plans.

Zoning regulations also harm people on fixed incomes by depriving them of home-based businesses such as child care and handicrafts which are ideal for the elderly or disabled whose vigor or mobility may be limited.

The list of government restrictions goes on, but the point is that inflation, taxes, and regulations raise the cost of financial independence and conspire to keep the elderly and disabled poor, bored, and dependent on the government. Such policies *must* end.

Inherent Problems of Social Security

The root of the Social Security problem is the same as with many other problems in society – the lack of freedom.

We have no choice but to participate in Social Security, regardless of our means, desires, values, or tastes. We are not allowed to decide for ourselves what we want to collect when we retire. Distant bureaucrats decide.

We cannot express our dissatisfaction with the system's administrators by cancelling our policies and finding another company. The public till doesn't require happy customers, only the power of taxation.

The coercive manner by which the Social Security system is funded – taxation – is cause enough to oppose it. Libertarians believe in liberty – that individuals have the right to freedom and the fruits of their labor.

Libertarians, then, oppose Social Security on ethical grounds. But, the Social Security system creates many other problems and injustices in its operation, as well.

It is important to realize that Social Security was started and continues to be maintained for two distinct purposes: insurance and welfare. It is insurance because payroll contributions entitle workers or their families to benefits. It is welfare because the first recipients paid nothing into the system and because benefits today are unrelated to how much a worker has personally contributed.

The major source of trouble in the system, a consequence of this contradiction in purpose, is its pay-as-you-go method of funding.

It works like the following scheme: Someone offers to sell you an insurance policy. Weekly payments entitle you to benefits when you retire. Each week your payments to the company are paid out as

benefits to others who were sold the same policy years ago. The company plans to pay you benefits from payments made by people who will be working when you are retired. If you think this sounds like one of those fraudulent pyramid schemes, you are right.

Many people thought the original intent of Social Security was to set up a pension fund which would take their contributions and invest them, returning that money plus interest on retirement.

However, a few years ago, Americans were told the truth. Social Security Commissioner Sanford G. Ross announced that people must recognize the payroll tax for what it is – a tax on workers to support the elderly, disabled and their families. He said the myth that the tax was really a contribution "proved valuable in the early days of the program, but ... is helping to confuse the debate over Social Security today."

The Future of Social Security

Today, Social Security has unfunded liabilities of more than \$4 trillion. Benefits for today's workers depends on the government's power to tax future workers because there is no fund of money previously paid in.

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frontlines

NATIONWIDE LIBERTARIAN SURVEY

During discussions among Libertarians, especially discussions regarding the party platform, certain topics have heated the debate and divided the party.

These topics - abortion, nuclear power, and national defense - produce two or more schools of libertarian thought, and factions sometimes wind up arguing over which position is held by "the majority" of libertarians.

The fact is, no one really knows where

the rank and file comes down on these tough issues. So far the Harris, Yankelovich and other national pollsters have not seen fit to measure Libertarians' opinions on these weighty matters.

But fear not, for the Reason Foundation is coming to the rescue. **FRONTLINES**, the foundation's newsletter for libertarian activists, is running a nationwide survey of libertarian opinion with the assistance of a variety of

libertarian publications, including **FREE TEXAS**.

This information will aid party representatives in writing platforms, assist educationalists in deciding where to concentrate their efforts, and give everyone a better understanding of where this great movement is going.

Therefore **FREE TEXAS** asks all its readers, whether they are particularly "active" or not, to complete the survey on

pages 5-6 and send it to **FRONTLINES** at the address given at the end of the survey form. Results will be published in **FREE TEXAS** as well as in **FRONTLINES**.

If for some reason you feel this survey is incomplete or inadequate, you are welcome to write **FREE TEXAS** or **FRONTLINES** explaining your thoughts. Letters to **FREE TEXAS** on any subject of interest to libertarians are always encouraged.

For each of the following, please check the answer that is the closest to your views.

1. Abortion

- Abortion is wrong and should be prohibited by government
- Abortion is a private matter; government should neither regulate it nor subsidize it
- Abortion is a private matter until that stage of fetal development when the fetus develops human-type brain waves
- Abortion should be legal, and as long as the government pays for other medical services, it should pay for abortions as well

2. "Recreational" Drugs

- All drugs should be decriminalized (i.e. penalties against use and sale removed)
- "Soft" (i.e. nonaddictive) drugs should be decriminalized
- All drugs should be legalized (i.e. regulated and taxed like tobacco and alcohol)

3. Children's Rights

- Children have the same rights as adults and the laws should be changed to reflect this
- Children are inherently dependent; present laws correctly take this into account
- Children have rights that are not adequately protected by current law - but not the same rights as adults

4. Conscription

- Any form of conscription is a violation of rights
- Conscription is unjustified except during wartime
- Conscription is just a form of taxation and is a necessary evil under present circumstances

5. Nuclear Power

- Nuclear power plants violate rights and should be closed down
- Nuclear power should be neither regulated nor subsidized by government
- Nuclear power is safe and economical; government R&D and liability limits are realistic measures to support this technology

6. Intelligence Agencies

- The FBI and CIA are threats to liberty and should be abolished
- The FBI and CIA are important and legitimate defenses against domestic and foreign threats to liberty and should be maintained essentially intact
- Both the FBI and CIA have violated people's rights, but agencies of this sort are necessary; the agencies should be reformed, not abolished

7. Immigration

- All restrictions on immigration should be abolished; we should have open borders
- Immigration controls should only be lifted if noncitizens are made ineligible for welfare programs
- Controls on immigration must remain until the United States achieves a free-market economy
- Some limits on immigration are necessary and proper for any society

8. Government Debt

- Government debts are illegitimate and should be repudiated
- Government must honor existing obligations to its creditors, but should do so only by selling off assets
- Government must honor its obligations to creditors, even if this requires use of tax funds

9. Nuclear Weapons

- Nuclear weapons are immoral, per se, and their use can never be condoned
- Nuclear weapons are completely legitimate; present arsenals should be maintained or expanded
- Nuclear weapons should be used only against specific military targets; they should be made smaller and more accurate

10. Strategic Defense

- The US should work to preserve stable mutual deterrence by not building ABM systems or engaging in civil defense
- Mutual assured destruction is immoral; the US should build defenses against nuclear attack

11. Nuclear Disarmament

- Arms limitation treaties have seldom worked; mutual disarmament is unrealistic
- We should pursue disarmament negotiations, but strictly on a mutual basis
- The United States should disarm unilaterally

12. Alliances

- Military alliances violate libertarian principle; the US should therefore withdraw from all alliances
- Military alliances are proper under some circumstances, but present US military alliances (NATO, Japan, etc.) are unwise and should be terminated
- The United States must maintain its alliances and continue as leader of the free world

13. Foreign/Defense Policy

- US defense forces should be restricted to US territory
- US defense forces should operate in the oceans and outer space, as well as on US soil
- US defense forces should be used to defend non-communist countries from communist attack

(Continued other side)

FRONTLINES NATIONWIDE LIBERTARIAN SURVEY

14. Transition Measures. For this question, please check off all of the proposals listed which you would support as transition steps toward a fully free-market society.

- Education vouchers
Education tax credits
Balanced budget amendment
Flat-rate income tax
Contracting out of public services to private firms
User fees instead of taxes to pay for public services
Mandatory private retirement accounts (IRAs) and paying off Social Security's existing obligations with general revenues
Negative income tax to replace all present welfare
Housing vouchers for the poor instead of construction and rent subsidies

15. What is your:

- Age
Sex
Ethnic group
Household income
Highest level of formal education
Marital status
Occupation
Religion

16. How many years have you identified yourself as a libertarian?

17. What was your ideological position before you became a libertarian?

- Conservative
Liberal
Middle-of-Road
Other

18. As a libertarian, do you consider yourself an advocate of:

- Anarchism/anarchocapitalism
Limited government

19. In general, do you favor a strategy of:

- Gradualism
Abolitionism

20. Which of the following activities are you personally willing to engage in (check all that apply):

- Participation in LP politics
Educational activities
Participation in Republican or Democratic politics
Civil disobedience

21. What one writer or thinker has most influenced your development as a libertarian?

- Harry Browne
Andrew Galambos
Ludwig von Mises
F. A. Hayek
Robert Ringer
Robert Heinlein
Ed Clark
Ayn Rand
Murray Rothbard
Robert Le Fevre
Milton Friedman
Roger MacBride
Other

22. Who is your first choice for 1984 LP presidential candidate?

23. Are there any positions that you recognize as based on libertarian principle, but which you personally find difficult to accept? If so, what?

Please return this survey form to FRONTLINES, Box 40105, Santa Barbara, California, 93103. All individual responses will be kept confidential. The results of this survey will be published in an upcoming issue of FRONTLINES.

Texas ballot access used to be easier

By RICHARD WINGER
FREE TEXAS CORRESPONDENT

Believe it or not, Texas once had one of the freest election laws in the country, relative to a new political party getting on the ballot. The law was drastically revised for the worse in 1967, and it has not changed substantially since.

Before 1953, any new or small party could get its nominees on the general election ballot simply by calling a state convention and nominating candidates. There was no petition requirement.

In 1953, the law was stiffened somewhat by a requirement that any such party must hold county conventions in at least 20 counties, prior to holding the state convention. In practice, the 20 county conventions rule was not enforced, and the law continued to be very lenient in practice.

(In 1960, the Prohibition Party got on

the ballot in Texas. Every single PP candidate for presidential elector was from the same county, which leads one to believe that in fact, the PP was only organized in that one county; nevertheless, the party was put on the November ballot.)

In the summer of 1967 I had just graduated from school and was taking an automobile trip across the country before starting my first full-time job. I visited the Secretary of State's office in Austin to obtain old, hard-to-get election returns. While I was there, the State Director of Elections introduced herself to me.

She was a very charming, friendly person, and I regret that I now cannot remember her name. She happened to mention that the legislature had just completely revised the law as it pertains to a new political party getting on the ballot. I was horrified (because back then, I already had my attitudes that very difficult ballot access laws were very bad)

as she showed me the text of the new law, which is substantially the law which exists today.

I asked her why the legislature made such a drastic change. She said the sole reason for the change was that Texas election officials and state government officials were generally upset by the factional infighting in the Constitution Party.

The CP had been the only third party to appear on the Texas ballot from 1954-66, with the exception of the Prohibition Party in 1960.

Infighting within the CP had led to a split into two wings of the party. Both factions claimed to be the legitimate Constitution Party. The two factions sued one another, and either threatened to sue the Secretary of State, or actually did so, over the issue of which faction was the "real" CP. In the 1966 election, each faction's set of nominees appeared on the ballot, one under the label "Constitution"

and the other under the label "Conservative."

The State Director of Elections who was relaying this information to me vividly and forcefully expressed that this factional infighting was an enormous headache to her and to the staff in the Attorney General's office and the Secretary of State's office. She said that the legislature had no other motive in making the 1967 changes.

In retrospect, the new law does not appear to have made life easier for election officials and the state's lawyers. Not only does the Secretary of State wind up getting sued in nearly every election year, but their office faces the onerous task of counting and verifying tens of thousands of ballot petition signatures.

There is just a chance that if these facts were brought to the attention of the present Texas Legislature, they could be persuaded to reform the state's draconian ballot access requirements.

Socially Insecure from p. 2

The system is completely at the mercy of population trends and changes in economic conditions. The number of potential benefit recipients will rapidly increase in the next few decades as the baby boom generation matures. Meanwhile, the number of workers paying in will actually decline.

In 1950, there were 16 workers paying in for every beneficiary. By 1960, there were only five per beneficiary, and by 1980, there were *only three workers paying in per beneficiary!*

Demographic projections indicate that by the year 2000, there will be only two workers paying in per beneficiary, putting an intolerable burden on young workers and leading to political battles between young and old, taxpayer and tax-recipient. Moreover, inflation sends benefits climbing through cost of living adjustments, while the accompanying unemployment diminishes wage-tax collections.

Social Security vs. Private Insurance

There is a major difference between Social Security and private insurance plans. All private plans invest the premiums of their policyholders so when the policy pays off, it returns both the original investment plus interest. The terms are known in advance. Fraud can be redressed in the courts.

Not so with Social Security. Payment terms are not clearly spelled out. Social Security tax increases passed by Congress are unrelated to the benefit structure. There is no certainty that when *you* retire Congress won't cut benefits regardless of what you paid in.

The U.S. Supreme Court made this clear in its 1960 decisions, *Fleming v. Nestor*, 363 U.S. 603, which held that the government has the power to renege on Social Security benefits promises despite the payment of past taxes in anticipation of such benefits. A private company conducting business this way would be charged with fraud, but at the Social Security Administration, it is business-as-usual. Again, the government can do this because of the coercive nature of funding. Social Security has no incentive to be honest with the American people.

Social Security compares unfavorably with most private plans on many other counts. In the private sector, people can choose the plan best suited to *their* needs. Social Security has only one plan. With a private plan, benefits are paid without strings; policyholders can collect a lump sum or arrange to have it paid in increments. Social Security benefits are

laden with restrictions: Benefits are paid monthly, retired persons are limited in how much outside income they can make, widows lose survivor benefits if they remarry, etc., etc.

If consumers don't like one company's services they can take their money to another. This is the most effective influence a consumer can have; yet, it is absent in Social Security. Politicians and bureaucrats whose incomes don't depend on the consent of the taxpayer run the system. At best, if people want to change Social Security they must organize a national movement to persuade Congress or elect a new Congress. Compare this to the ease of cancelling a private policy you dislike and buying a new one.

Immune from market forces, the Social Security system has become a uniform, expensive system on the brink of bankruptcy. Economists have estimated that the real rate of return on Social Security is 1-2 percent. In comparison, Harvard economist Martin Feldstein estimates that private plans would yield workers a return of 13-15 percent.

An end to the Social Security tax would have a tremendous impact on our ability to plan for our own retirement. Social Security expert Peter Ferrara reports that a male, low-wage earner making \$5732 in 1980, if married, would receive annual Social Security benefits of \$9212.

In contrast, if he had put his Social Security payments into a private plan paying six percent, he would accumulate a trust fund of \$299,450, which would pay annual interest of \$17,967 when he retired. Or he could buy an annuity that would pay him \$33,894 for life.

If his wife worked, they could accumulate a fund of more than half a million dollars. If low-wage earners could leave that kind of legacy to their heirs, imagine what would happen to the poverty cycle! With Social Security, benefits end when the retiree dies, with no trust fund to pass on.

How Certain Groups Are Hurt

Social Security hurts specific groups in specific ways, besides those already mentioned. The poor are hurt because the payroll tax is regressive; in effect, they pay a greater percentage of their income because income over \$25,000 is not taxed. They also tend to start working earlier in life and die sooner than wealthier people.

The system harms all workers because their disposable income is reduced by the tax. We are not permitted to apportion current and future spending according to our own values; distant bureaucrats make

the decisions for us.

The system has paved the way for future disaster by deluding younger workers into believing the government will take care of them in old age. Fortunately, many workers are developing a healthy skepticism about receiving benefits. A recent Gallup poll revealed that 3/5 of workers believe they will never receive any benefits. Still, Feldstein estimates that in 1971 Social Security reduced personal savings by \$40 to \$60 billion.

The Social Security system has devastating hidden effects on the economy, because it siphons off savings and capital investment, reducing economic growth and decreasing employment. The reason is the pay-as-you-go principle. Unlike private insurance plans, Social Security payments are not invested; they are paid as benefits and consumed. The lost opportunities, though unmeasurable, are real.

The system is poignant testimony to the fact that, ultimately, any plan by government to coercively redistribute wealth only benefits those who control the wealth - politicians and bureaucrats. The choice is between freedom and financial security on the one hand, and government and poverty on the other.

New politicians pledging reform will not make a difference since mere reform would still maintain the same coercive aspects of the system. So long as people are forced to participate and the system is funded by taxation, there will be strong political incentives to increase taxes and expand benefits in the hope of buying more votes for the next election.

It should be apparent by now why the Libertarian Party calls not for reform but

for abolition of the Social Security system and a repeal of the Social Security tax.

Libertarians, however, recognize that those who have been coerced into participating in Social Security and who have paid into the system with expectations of receiving benefits upon retirement have been wronged. Still, forcing more people into the system to pay off past victims will not improve the situation. Instead, Libertarians believe those victims have a valid claim on government assets and that those claims should be paid.

Of course, Libertarians recognize that in addition to those who are kept dependent on Social Security because of other government policies, there exist some who simply cannot help themselves. We cannot predict exactly how voluntary institutions would help these people, but this help must be provided without violating individual rights. Establishment politicians seek to score political points with their compassion and then oddly demonstrate their compassion by using *other people's money* for government welfare programs. Instead, Libertarians look to the community and to themselves for aid honestly and voluntarily given.

The solution, then, is not a revised Social Security system, but the repeal of government taxes, regulations, and inflation policies which make it impossible for many to survive on fixed incomes and for others to save for their futures.

This is the only sane and truly humane alternative. A de-taxed, de-regulated, free America will create the conditions necessary for Americans to provide for their own security and will give us the means to increase *voluntarily* aid to those who cannot help themselves.

Gibson from page 1

Gibson, 40, left ranching to study law, and is now a practicing attorney specializing in oil and gas law. He resides in the Dallas suburb of Duncanville and is married with two children. A more attractive candidate is hard to find.

If all other things were equal, there would be no reason to doubt Gibson stands a great chance of winning. But there is one problem - money.

So far the Libertarian has raised more than \$5,000 to finance his campaign, compared with the projected \$700,000 war chest of Gramm and the hundreds of

thousands of dollars the Democratic candidates hope to raise and spend.

Nonetheless Gibson has put together a working volunteer campaign force which includes longtime Libertarian activist Bill Howell and a number of Gibson's personal friends and business associates.

The campaign will reach a climax Feb. 10 as all candidates are scheduled to participate in a forum at Texas A&M University.

Inquiries and contributions may be sent to the Gibson Campaign Fund, 406 Royal Oak, Duncanville, TX 75116.



Libertarian Party of Texas

Yes, I want to be a part of America's fastest growing political party, The Libertarian Party.

National and State Membership - \$16 National Membership Only - \$10

Note: We must receive your response by February 10 in order to count it toward our delegate allotment at the 1983 national convention.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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

Signature _____

Occupation & employer _____ (Federal election law requires that we ask for this information.)

Make check payable to: Libertarian Party of Texas
P.O. Box 56426, Houston, Texas 77256

State exec-com sets 1983 agenda

By LOUIS HUEY
FREE TEXAS CORRESPONDENT

A 1983 budget and priorities for 1983-84 were hammered out in Dallas Jan. 8-9 by Texas Libertarian activists at the State Executive Committee workshop and meeting.

Tom Glass, representative from Region 3, will develop a volunteer ballot access drive for 1984 based on a plan laid out by Dallas activist Bill Howell. Under the plan, Glass will recruit more than 300 activists who will collect at least 100 signatures each during the 10-week petitioning period. Prior to the petitioning period, volunteers will develop neighbor-

hood walking lists using voter registration information from county and state agencies. Each petitioner will then be assigned a walking route, and hopefully be able to collect at least five signatures per hour.

Howell told the committee he experimented with this system in a few Dallas neighborhoods during the 1982 ballot drive and found it is workable. Some exec-com members were skeptical, however, about Howell's claims. But State Chair Bill Fraser said the project could be started this year, and if the needed volunteers are not organized by early 1984 there will still be time to organize the time-tested paid petitioner program.

Since paid ballot petitioning cost the party \$35,000 in 1982 and will likely cost more next time because more signatures will be required, a volunteer effort is a highly attractive program. If it is successful, not only will candidates know farther in advance whether the LP nominees will be on the ballot so they can start raising money sooner, but the majority of the party's finances can then be spent on actual campaigning rather than paying petitioners, Fraser said.

Exec-com members spent Saturday revising the Mission and Goals Statement of the party. Most of the changes had the effect of streamlining the statement, and minor revisions were made as some of the old provisions have proved to be either unworkable or not as important as earlier believed.

The new statement outline reads as follows:

Mission Statement

The mission of the Libertarian Party of Texas is to increase the individual liberty of Texans through political activity.

Goals

- 1) Get on and stay on the ballot.
- 2) Recruit, train, run and elect Libertarians to public office.
- 3) Build effective party organizations.
- 4) Increase party membership.
- 5) Maintain and enhance public recognition of the LPT.
- 6) Educate the public and party members as to the desirability of Libertarian policies and principles.
- 7) Promote libertarian ideas.

On budget matters, the amount of money the Independence Pledge program will generate, the FREE TEXAS publication schedule and compensating the Harris County LP for lending the state party office space were the most controversial.

Mike Holmes, Finance Committee Chair, gave exec-com members three sets

of income figures based upon pessimistic, most likely and optimistic scenarios. The Independence Pledge could be expected to bring at least \$18,000 in 1983, at most \$35,000 and most likely \$25,000, he said.

However, the Dallas representatives disputed Holmes' figures, pointing out that the pledge program only raised roughly \$15,000 in 1982. Howell, who is not a committee member, said that same figure should be used as the 1983 income projection.

After the arguments were finished the committee voted to budget \$20,000 in income, with \$18,000 coming from the Independence Pledge and \$2,000 coming from memberships and FREE TEXAS subscriptions and advertising.

After considerable debate the exec-com voted to change the way FREE TEXAS is produced and distributed.

Scott Bieser, Region 2 representative, submitted three alternatives for publishing the party newspaper: Option A gave expenses for publishing the 8-page tabloid six times per year and mailing it to the entire state party mailing list, Option B outlined expenses for producing two 16-page outreach tabloids for the entire mailing list and four 8-page tabloids to be mailed only to party activists and contributors, and Option C was pretty much the same as Option B except that the 8-page tabloids would be sent to one-fourth of the mailing list on a rotating basis.

Joe Barnett of Fort Worth, Tarrant County LP chair and former aide to U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Lake Jackson, proposed to abandon the tabloid and publish a regular newsletter 10 times per year.

After extensive debate on the matter, Fraser declared that the committee wanted to have both an outreach tabloid and a more frequent newsletter, and proposed to publish the newsletter and two 8-page outreach tabloids. The committee then voted 4-3 to go with Fraser's plan, which is expected to cost the party \$10,800, including \$6,000 in fees for the publications editor.

Other expenses approved by the committee were \$3,200 for Independence Pledge costs, \$100 for bank charges, \$500 for meeting expenses, \$200 for supplies, \$500 for incidental postage, \$200 for telephone bills, \$200 for maintaining the computerized mailing list and \$4,500 to pay off debts incurred during 1982. The committee also approved \$1,500 for a January membership mailing and \$300 to cover ballot drive organizing expenses.

Also approved were two "budget additions," which will be spent if Holmes is right and the party raises more money than the committee expects. Approved

was \$2,000 to produce an illustrated introductory pamphlet and \$1,200 to compensate the Harris County LP for sharing its headquarters office space.

Houston representatives were divided over whether the Harris County party could continue to pay rent on its office without state party help. Glass said he believes the Houston group should be able to maintain the office on their own, but Holmes and Fraser doubted the county party's ability to continue the office without state party compensation.

Before adjournment the committee voted to hold its next meeting March 26 in San Antonio, at a location to be announced.

Notes from the Chair

By BILL FRASER
STATE CHAIR

The year is starting out to be a good one. Martin Gibson of Dallas is running against Phil Gramm for Congress. Martin has put together a good team and should be getting good coverage for himself, the party and Libertarian ideas.

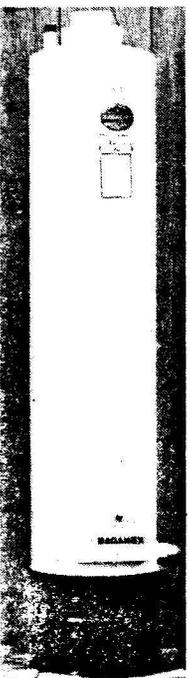
To participate in the exciting events of the year, please join the Libertarian Party now. For \$10, you can join the National Libertarian Party and for \$16, you can join both National and the LP of Texas. By joining the National Party, you will receive LP News on a bi-monthly basis. By joining the LPT, you will get FREE TEXAS and Free Texas Reports, a brand-new activists newsletter to be published ten times per year.

The LP National Convention will take place this coming August in New York City. Texas could have the largest state delegation. The number of delegates is determined mainly by the number of National Members in each state. So we need to get as many new National Members as we can by Feb. 28.

By having a large delegation, more Texans can go to the convention as delegates and they will have more influence over the election of National officers and most importance over the choice of the 1984 Presidential Nominee and his VP.

In addition, if Texas can get 10 percent of the National membership, we will be entitled to another representative on the National Executive Committee. Texas is setting the pace for the nation and we should be adequately represented at the convention.

Please fill in the membership coupon in this issue and mail at once to the LPT.



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Cliches of Statism

'What about the little people?'

By Dr. JOHN HOSPERS

"Libertarianism is all right for you capable people" I heard a secretary say to her libertarian employer. "But you never think of us little people who don't have as much ability as you do. We would have nothing."

She apparently thought of libertarianism as some kind of Nietzschean Superman doctrine, in which those who are "capable" trample ruthlessly over the "little people" who have less ability or less clout. She did not seem to realize that whatever there is of a Nietzschean flavor in libertarianism is tempered by a most important doctrine, that of individual rights.

In a libertarian society, others might compete with her for jobs and other peaceful activities, but they could not trample over her, coerce her, or control her life without her consent. Her failure to perceive this is one of the most common fallacies concerning what libertarians believe.

Even had she perceived this important feature of libertarianism, however, she would still have been dissatisfied with it. "We would have nothing." She would have felt insecure in attempting to survive on her own; she would feel, and perhaps actually be, less capable than many others. She might have to be satisfied with a lesser-paying job than some of her peers. She would not like this, of course, and she would feel that she needed help. Indeed, she would gladly vote to take a portion of others' paychecks in order to have the money go to her and to countless others of the "less capable" group.

What she did not realize was that only to the extent that individuals have freedom of production and trade, she would indeed "have something" and that in inhibiting production via the ballot-box, she was cutting off the very source of such affluence as she herself enjoyed.

As she sat there, she was operating a typewriter. Did she ever consider how such things as typewriters came to be invented and distributed so that countless persons such as herself could use them and have jobs based on their use?

She was able to buy shoes for a portion of a day's wage, as opposed to her grandmother who had to work for many hours or pay many days' wages for one pair of shoes - as citizens of the Soviet Union still have to do. Her apartment was adorned with countless accoutrements of mass production, whose presence and availability she owed to the free enterprise system which she despised. She lived in a heated apartment, complaining about the rent she had to pay but living in comfort unknown to her forbears.

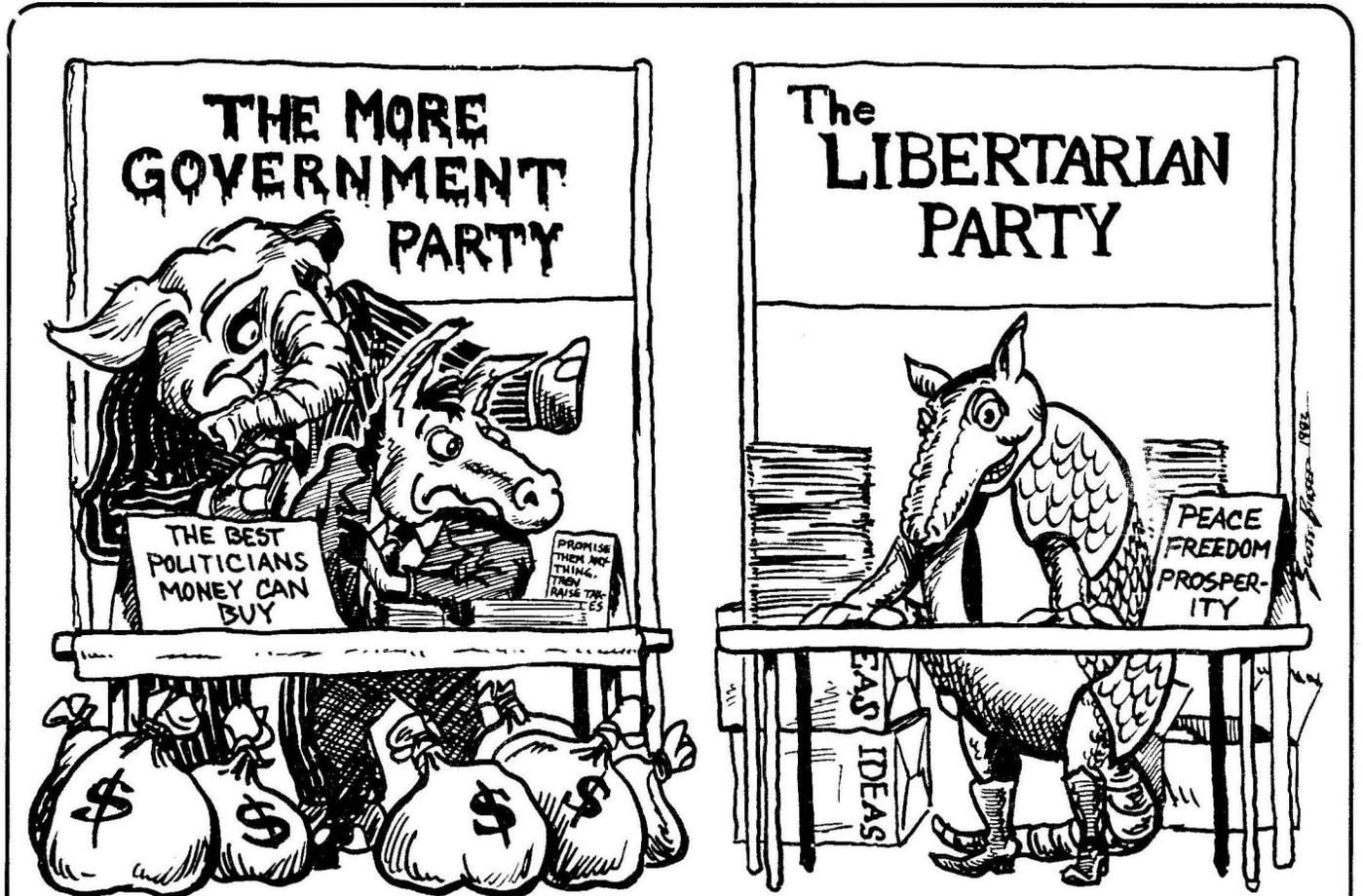
Whence came these benefits? She had done little, if anything, to make them possible; left to herself, she would have produced virtually nothing. To what, then, did she owe the fact that she was the

beneficiary of so many things she valued in life, which she did nothing to bring about and which she would have been unable even to conceive of until someone else had thought of them? She owed it to the very same "capable people" whose income (and motivation to continue) she wanted to tap.

"Stand on an empty stretch of soil in a wilderness unexplored by men," wrote Ayn Rand, "and ask yourself what manner of survival you would achieve and how long you would last if you refused to think, with no one around to teach you the motions or, if you chose to think, how much your mind would be able to discover. Ask yourself how many independent conclusions you have

reached in the course of your life and how much of your time was spent performing the actions you learned from others. Ask yourself whether you would be able to invent a wheel, a lever, an induction coil, a generator, an electronic tube - and then decide whether men of ability are exploiters who live by the fruit of your labor and rob you of the wealth that you produce." (Atlas Shrugged, pp. 1048-9)

"CLICHES OF STATISM" series is provided by the Internal Education Committee of the Libertarian National Committee. If you have a "cliche" you'd like to see answered, send it to: I.E.C., PO Box 1984, Warminster, PA 18974.



Support a REAL two-party system!

For too long the incumbent "More Government" Party has been making our lives miserable.

Whether it's infringing upon our civil liberties, raising taxes, regulating the economy on behalf of special interests, sending American troops all over the globe, creating monstrous deficits, or simply growing larger and larger, the government is out of control under the "More Government" Party. Whether they call themselves liberals or conservatives, Democrats or Republicans, the choice is clear. It's either them or us.

Fortunately the Libertarian Party provides a common sense alternative. We stand for less government, period. Sure their Party can out-tax, out-spend and even out-vote us for a while, but their ideas simply do not work. Individual liberty does work and doesn't cause the constant state of crisis caused by larger and more burdensome government.

But it takes money. That's why we ask you to join the Independence Pledge program. Contribute just \$5 per month (or more) and the Libertarian Party of Texas will have the financial strength to provide the principled alternative to "More Government" politics. Each month the Independence Pledge will send you a monthly reminder, a postage paid envelope, a special Independence Newsletter of LPT activities, and other items of interest. Annually, you'll receive LPT financial statements, budgets and special reports. We think it's a pretty good offer in exchange for a real political choice.

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All Independence Pledge participants will receive monthly mailings. We request that monthly pledges be a minimum of \$5/mo.

*** Please make checks payable to the "Independence Pledge" P.O. Box 56426 Houston, Texas 77256-6426. ***

Emerson once remarked that if a man made a better mousetrap the world would beat a path to his door, but he neglected to mention what some of the folks would do when they got there. It is to be expected that the Amalgamated Mice of America would mouse-cott the new arrangement, nor can one help sympathizing with those who may be hurt in the short run by the march of progress.

But more than likely, the Emerson Better Mousetrap Company would come in for a lot of opposition from others with less obvious reasons for objecting to the innovation. Unfortunately, it seems that ever since our stone age grandparents thought of moving out of the cave, anyone who upset the status quo by trying to do things a bit more efficiently has been suspect. Doubtless that is why human history is largely the story of poverty and stagnation.

We often fail to realize how hard it was to get the machine age in motion and how hostile forces threatened to swallow the fresh new ideas which sparked this revolution before it got started.

The sudden burst of productivity, coming nearly two centuries ago to a world with a chronic and psychopathic fear of abundance, generated a bitterness against the machine which persists even today.

Edward P. Coleson

Calendar of Events

STATEWIDE

February -- Social Security Awareness: National LP program to promote the Libertarian solution; activities include press conferences, letters-to-the editor and letters-to-congressman campaigns, public speaking. Contact your local county chair for details.

AUSTIN

Feb. 17 -- Press conference and rally for city council candidate Scott Bieser, at the corner of East 6th and Trinity at 10 p.m. For details call 512/480-8597.

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

Feb. 10 -- Candidates forum for U.S. Rep., Dist. 6 special election, (Includes Martin Gibson, LP candidate) at Texas A&M Univ. For details call 214/780-1128.

DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Feb. 9 -- Tarrant County LP meets to plan for 1983. 7:30 p.m., 2428 Annglen, Fort Worth. Call Joe Barnett at 817/261-7819.

Feb. 13 -- Transit planning meeting for everyone interested in alternatives to tax-funded transit monopolies. 2 p.m., 1013 Rosewood Lane, Arlington. Call 817/261-7819 for details.

HOUSTON

Feb. 9 -- Dinner for Libertarians at Tilla's Cantina Tacaria, 616 Westheimer. Call 713/520-1524 for details.

Important notice to all FREE TEXAS readers

Beginning with this issue, the publication schedule of FREE TEXAS is changed. The familiar tabloid publication mailed out to the entire LPT mailing list will only be published twice this year.

For those readers wishing more in-depth issue analysis of current topics and more up-to-date news of Libertarian activities, the Libertarian Party of Texas introduces Free Texas Reports, a lively, timely newsletter which will keep you current on what the government's doing to you and what the libertarian movement is doing for you.

Subscriptions for FTR are \$10 annually for ten issues, the first of which is due out Feb. 28, 1983. Current subscribers to FREE TEXAS will have their subscriptions continued with FTR. To subscribe send a check or money order to The Libertarian Party of Texas, PO Box 56426, Houston, TX 77256.

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