

The

FREEDOM

FLYER

APRIL
1985

* NEWS FOR AND ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN LIBERTARIAN CLUB *

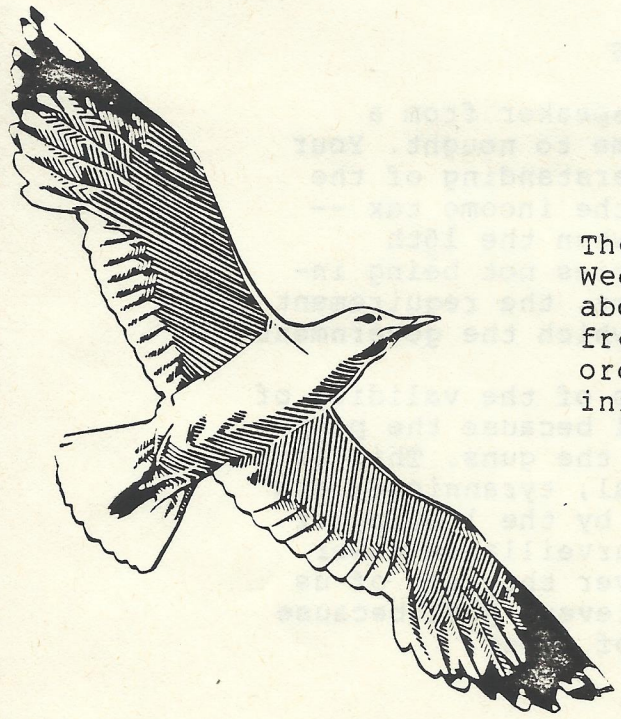
Private Wars?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1985

SPEAKERS: TOM POSEY, HEAD OF CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE

PLACE: SHONEY'S RESTAURANT
412 18th STREET SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM

The Downtown Libertarian Club meets the third Wednesday of every month to discuss and learn about current issues bearing on individual freedom. Visitors welcome. Come at 6:30 to order dinner; program begins at 7. Need more information? Call 595-9251.



The Freedom Flyer. Published monthly by Gold Word Press, 213 Stacy Circle, Birmingham, AL 35213. Phone: 595-9251. Subscription free; donations appreciated.

Editor Steve Smith

FREELY YOURS
(Editor's Notes)

Welcome to the second issue of The Freedom Flyer, an independently published newsletter for patrons of the Downtown Libertarian Club and others who are interested in individual freedom. As with the supper club, its purposes are to educate and to promote discussion.

The Freedom Flyer and the supper club also serve as rallying points for libertarian-minded people who want to do something about freedom. The "something" may be writing letters to editors, using public comment time on TV, participating in the April 15th tax protest, or speaking up at city council meetings when outrages against individual rights are committed (which is about every week).

Speaking of letters, I welcome yours. Donations too. Thanks to all who have already contributed toward printing and postage costs. Thanks, too, for the compliments on the first issue.

All opinions, unless otherwise noted, are the editor's, and do not necessarily represent the views of any other member of the Downtown Libertarian Club (but being reasonable, logical and unassailable, they probably do.)

SUPPER CLUB MEETINGS

Last month: Efforts to arrange a speaker from a Constitutionalist tax protest group came to nought. Your editor therefore presented his own understanding of the main Constitutional arguments against the income tax -- such as Ohio not really being a state when the 16th Amendment was ratified, wages and salaries not being included in the legal definition of income, the requirement that taxes be paid in gold or silver (which the government no longer circulates as money), etc.

The conclusion was that regardless of the validity of such arguments, the income tax is legal because the people in power say it's legal, and they have the guns. This is not to say the income tax is not immoral, tyrannical, and criminal. It is. But those who benefit by the looting of productive individuals -- and by the surveillance power the tax-collection system gives them over the rest of us -- will not give up their legalized thievery just because of some lines in a 200-year-old piece of paper.

This month: Ross Lowe has arranged a controversial speaker on a controversial topic. Tom Posey, head of the Alabama-based Civilian Military Assistance, will talk about his work aiding anti-Communist fighters in Central America. Depending on their perceptions of the Communist threat, Libertarians might applaud, condemn, or be indifferent to Mr. Posey's activities and aims. But in contrast to mainstream liberal-conservative thinking, most Libertarians would agree that groups like CMA have not only a right to take part in foreign causes, but more of a right than does the government. At least Mr. Posey is not forcing anyone to fund his activities. We don't have that choice when Uncle Sam decides to go tearing around the world pouring our money and lives into various ratholes to prop up "friendly" regimes (those whose ruling gangs happen to see eye-to-eye with the gang in Washington).

Sneak Preview: The May meeting will be a videotape showing of Ayn Rand's last public appearance, just before her death in 1981. Ayn Rand's writings (The Fountainhead, Atlas Shrugged, and others) had a profound impact on many of today's Libertarians. She is in fine form in this speech denouncing businessmen for abetting capitalism's destruction. Answering questions, she condemns the Moral Majority and the ERA with equal vehemence. Hers was truly a unique and powerful mind. More in the May Freedom Flyer. Thanks to Frank and Desta Monachelli for offering this.

"FEED YOUR HEAD"

That advice from the Dormouse in the old Jefferson Airplane song, "White Rabbit," should be heeded by all who wish to increase their understanding of freedom and their ability to communicate that understanding.

There's a wealth of head food out there for Libertarians. In this and subsequent issues, this column will discuss books, publications, and organizations that serve as sources of intellectual nutrition.

Bill Wingo rushed back to Birmingham from Houston with several small packages of dynamite -- copies of a book he helped publish, Jury Manual: A Guide for Prospective Jurors by William R. Pabst. If this book were placed in the hands of every person called for jury duty, we might begin to see oppressive laws effectively nullified without a single act of the legislature required.

Jury Manual is an easily read guide to jurors' rights. Its main point, repeated over and over, is that a sitting jury has more power than a judge, and that jurors have the right (and duty!) to decide not only the facts of a case, but the legitimacy of the law itself. Unfortunately, courtroom policy is to keep jurors ignorant and bamboozled as to their power and to make them think they are

there to rubber-stamp the government's case.

Your editor has a copy of Jury Manual which he will circulate among those wanting to read it. Bill can provide the details for anyone wanting to buy a copy.

Few advocates of collectivism can be found who still point to the Soviet Union and other Marxist slave states as models of utopia. But there are hordes of "democratic socialists" and "economic democrats" (whatever those mean) who are enamored of the Swedish system of social planning and control. Indeed it is difficult for the freedom advocate to warn against an Orwellian gulag state while the sunshine socialists point to those (seemingly) happy Swedes enjoying their (seemingly) benign welfare state. Unless he or she has read The New Totalitarians by Roland Huntford. Written in 1971 and since revised, it is, as one reviewer said, "Much more than a horror file. It is a study of the 'whys' of this unopposed bureaucracy...an illuminating account of the ideas in whose service the Swedes have become so compliant."

The New Totalitarians describes the system American statists seem bent on imposing here. 1984 was a picture of the ultimate Marxist or Nazi style brutalitarian state; perhaps we should look to that other great dystopian novel, Brave New World, to see what lies in store for Western societies. For as another New Totalitarians reviewer said, "Brave New World is no longer fantasy; it is Sweden."

Your editor was lucky enough to find a copy in a used bookstore. It is available, though, through Laissez Faire Books in New York.

The most powerful intellectual attack yet on our own welfare state and its underlying premises may be Losing Ground; American Social Policy 1950-1980. Roy Childs, in Laissez Faire Review, praises it as the "must-read" book of the year. Evidently, author Charles Murray has compiled an utterly damning account of Great Society type programs and their negative effect on ending poverty, illiteracy, etc. When the leading proponents of the welfare state admit to being troubled by this book, you know a nerve has been touched. (Maybe Ted Kennedy read it!)

Leaving aside the raves of friendly reviewers, here are what liberal and leftist critics are saying:

The New Republic says, "Murray's book, relentlessly logical and well-documented, should convince any serious reader that it must be squarely faced."

Meg Greenfield, in Newsweek, complains that "its acceptance has been wide and its effect profound. No matter what kind of government effort you may argue for these days in this area ... you are likely to be Charles Murrayed ... and that will be the end of the argument."

A Time writer says, "Murray unabashedly asserts that slashing social spending is the greatest favor the Government can bestow upon the poor ... No one has

documented it as thoroughly..."

Michael Harrington, America's leading socialist, calls the book "dangerous" but says, "everyone should read it."

Given its status as a cause celebre, Losing Ground may soon be in bookstores everywhere, if it isn't already. It can also be ordered through Laissez Faire Books.

There may be one legal argument against the income tax (see "Supper Club Meetings: Last Month" above) that could prove effective in removing that burden from people's lives, if what Bill Benson says is true. Benson spoke in Birmingham and one of our supper club regulars went to listen. It seems Benson went back to the records of the state legislatures and found the 16th Amendment was never actually ratified! In one instance, a state that voted against the amendment was recorded in Washington as voting for it. In other instances, state legislatures approved it with modifications, which should have killed it (an amendment is ratified only if the states approve it as written). Legislators in some states were bribed or coerced by the feds into changing "no" votes to "yes."

Benson is reported to have gotten tax avoiders acquitted in court by testifying as to his findings. He has written a book on the issue, available for \$20 from: Bill Benson, 1128 E. 160th Place, South Holland, IL 60473.

Libertarianism is an international movement. There have been three major international conferences (Zurich '82, Brussels '83, London '84), with others in the planning, including Asian and pan-American events. The umbrella organization for these activities is Libertarian International, headquartered in the U.S. A mailing says LI's current project is translating and printing libertarian materials in English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish and Russian.

LI's excellent newsletter, Free World Chronicle, will hearten you with its reporting of the efforts and successes of groups and individuals working around the world to roll back the state. You get it by joining; basic membership is \$20. Write to Libertarian International, 824 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220.

Freebies. [The following from an article by James W. Harris in The Georgia Libertarian.]

It's exciting to be a Libertarian these days! ...People are genuinely interested in the solutions that Libertarians have to offer to today's major problems.

...We're going to find ourselves faced with more and more questions from our friends, relatives and the media: "How could money exist without the government?" "How can we replace the Social Security system?" "Why shouldn't we protect American jobs and industries with protective legislation?" And, of course, the ever-popular: "What about the poor?"

...Happily, there are a number of organizations that can help you by supplying magazines, newsletters, and other material. And much of this is free.

THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION (Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533) is this country's oldest libertarian educational organization. It publishes a monthly magazine The Freeman, which is free upon request, and which features articles dealing with economics and social concerns... Over the years, many of the world's finest free-market thinkers have written for The Freeman...

THE FOUNDATION FOR RATIONAL ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION (P.O. Box 1776, Lake Jackson, TX 77566) publishes Ron Paul's Freedom Report, a newsletter that deals with major economic and social concerns in basic, understandable language. Ron Paul -- a Republican Representative from Texas with strong Libertarian views -- was a student of the great Austrian free market economist Ludwig von Mises, and this shows clearly in his writings on ... topics like the monstrous Reagan deficits, inflation, deflation, the gold standard and the income tax. The newsletter is free.

...The LUDWIG VON MISES INSTITUTE -- an organization dedicated to furthering free-market economics in the tradition of the great Austrian economist -- [is now at] Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama...The Institute publishes a newsletter, The Free Market, which features clear and concise articles on free markets and liberty by writers such as Murray Rothbard ...The Institute also sponsors seminars, conferences and speeches ... Write Ludwig von Mises Institute of Auburn University, Thach Hall, Auburn, AL 36849.

...I highly recommend these free publications. You can't beat the price! Of course, there's really no such thing as a free lunch; these organizations exist on donations, and if you like what you read, one way to show this is to contribute ...

HELP PAUL JACOB

Libertarian Paul Jacob was the first underground draft resister since Vietnam. For more than 15 months, he traveled the U.S. speaking against draft registration. On Dec. 6, 1984, he was arrested at his home in Arkansas. For daring to stand up and say there should not be slavery in America (actual "crime": refusing to register) Jacob faces legal expenses exceeding \$20,000 and possible imprisonment. Contributions are being accepted by the Paul Jacob Defense Fund, P.O. Box 15724, Little Rock, AR 72231.

There is a drive to urge the Phil Donahue show to have Jacob as a guest, where he could present his anti-draft and pro-liberty views to the nation. Write: The Phil Donahue Show, c/o WNBC-TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020. Attn: Darlene Hayes.

THUMBS DOWN

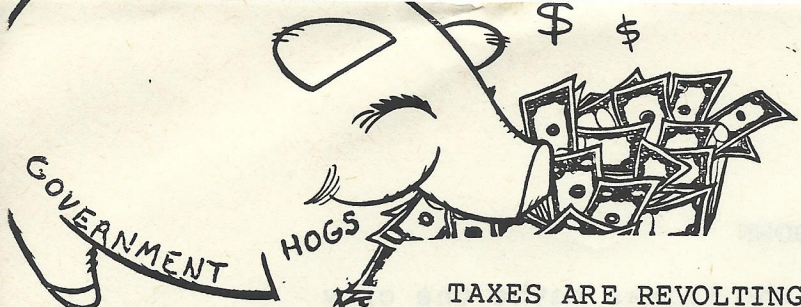
...To Richard Arrington, who thinks maybe the city should spend a million of our bucks to keep the Birmingham Stallions financially afloat. Imagine that you own a failing business. Unable to find private investors to bail you out, you hire a thug with a gun to go around to every person in the community, rich or poor, and force them to contribute. Shame on the Stallions if they go along with this scheme, shame on the city council if they approve it, and shame on the mayor for offering to play hired thug.

...To the State Legislature and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, for again treating adults like children with new rules effectively curtailing happy hours and dictating to bars how they can charge for drinks (no more ladies' nights, ladies!)

...To Congressman Erdreich, for wording a questionnaire in a way that most questions can't be answered "yes" or "no" (the only choices) by someone with pro-freedom beliefs. Example: "Do you favor an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring the Federal budget to be balanced except in times of national emergency?" Yes and no, Ben. Yes to a budget amendment, no to making an exception for "national emergency." With that escape hatch, Erdreich and his Congressional buddies probably would declare an emergency the first chance they got -- if nothing else, the "emergency" of being unable to balance the budget!

...To Morgan County officials for jailing Edmund and Sharron Pangelinan for not turning two of their children over to county welfare agents. The Pangelinans were convicted earlier of contributing to the delinquency of minors by refusing to send them to public school! This is odious on two counts: 1) The assumption that the state owns human beings, in this case school-age children; 2) The perversion of language that permits parents to be charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors by keeping their kids out of the public-school prisons.

...To Jefferson County D.A. David Barber for saying, on a radio talk show, that drugs such as marijuana should remain illegal even though this creates a high profit potential which attracts organized crime. Barber was elected because he seemed a refreshing change from predecessor John DeCarlo, who was more interested in harassing adult bookstores than in prosecuting real crime. Protect us from the murderers and robbers, David. Leave the druggies, who are just harming themselves, alone.



* * * * *

TAXES ARE REVOLTING; WHY AREN'T YOU?

Blather about "tax reform" aside, taxes are going up-up-up while our rulers busily plug the few loopholes that let us keep some of our hard-earned money. With the 15th looming, The FF presents this special section on taxes.

BIRMINGHAM LIBERTARIANS TO PROTEST

The post-office protest the night of April 15 will be supplemented this year by picketing at the IRS building in the afternoon. Please participate -- the more the merrier!

Last-minute income tax filers (and it looks as though everyone is waiting till the last minute this year) always enjoy seeing us there. One year a car stopped in the middle of the street and its occupants got out and applauded us. Here's the tax-protest calendar:

April 14: Party and meeting, Lloyd Malone's home, to make signs and final plans. Lloyd asks that people meet him at the Steak and Egg on 10th Ave. South at 7 p.m. He will lead everyone to his place, which he says is somewhat hard to find. If you miss the crowd at Steak and Egg, his place is at the corner of 15th Ave. and 18th St. S. Phone: 933-8370.

April 15: Picketing on the sidewalk in front of the IRS building, that monolithic fortress on the corner of 5th Ave. South and 22nd Street. 2:30 to 6 p.m.

Picketing and handing out leaflets near the downtown post office at the intersection of 3rd Ave. and 24th Street N. 6 p.m. until... Come for an hour or for the evening!

Lloyd Malone is acting as this year's tax protest coordinator, but he wants everyone to know he needs lots of help. He wants ideas for "dressing up" the event (one year we had a "tea party" by handing out tea bags with our flyers; another year we wore Revolutionary-era three-cornered hats). Also he needs someone who would be able to answer media questions about the income tax and our position on it. Give him a call today.

TAXFACT: There are now more than 116 taxes on a suit of clothes...151 taxes on a loaf of bread ... and 100 taxes on every egg sold in our supermarkets.