

Free Orange County

"You should never have your best trousers on when you turn out to fight for freedom and truth."

—Henrik Ibsen

Newsletter of the Orange County Libertarian Party • May 1991

Measure J is a crime against taxpayers

By David Bergland

All right, kiddies, repeat after me: "A" is for apple; "B" is for ball; "J" is for jail. "J" is also for a tax increase.

Libertarians should have little trouble deciding to vote NO on Measure J, which will appear on the ballot in a special election on May 14, 1991. If passed, Measure J will increase the sales tax by one-half per cent in Orange County for the purpose of building more jail space.

For libertarians, there is nothing to recommend Measure J. The Orange County government, like all others, is a bloated bureaucracy staffed by people who blind themselves to the possibility of cutting back government spending, staff or activity. Their solution to all "problems" is to raise taxes, thereby taking more control out of the hands of the people.

A no vote may get their attention.

An even more fundamental consideration is that the jails are overcrowded only because so many people in them shouldn't be there in the first place. About one-half of law enforcement resources (cops, courts and jails) are spent on harassing people engaged in peaceful and consensual activities.

Victimless crimes, such as possession of marijuana or cocaine, possession of so-called assault rifles, prostitution and tax resistance should not be crimes at all. If those convicted of such victimless crimes were to be pardoned or released, no new jails would be required.

Even the Orange County Bar Association has come out against Measure J. The Bar Association points out that the language of the measure does not pin down how much money would go toward

—cont. on page 3

Sprik wins 'pin shoot,' aims for Assembly

By Roger Bloxham

OK, you ask, what's a "pin shoot?" It's a marksmanship contest using worn out bowling pins as targets. The pin shoot in question was recently held at the Straight Shooter, an Orange County pistol range, to commemorate the anniversary of April 19, 1775.

Eric Sprik, Libertarian Party candidate for the 35th State Senatorial district seat, was the winner with his 1911 Colt 45. (Just one more good reason to VOTE FOR SPRIK on Tuesday, May 14.) While he had our attention, Eric also enjoyed giving everyone a history lesson about April 19, 1775.

It seems that King George the third had noticed unrest among his American Colonists over their taxes. There were ominous demonstrations, such as people dressed as Indians dumping bales of tea into Boston Harbor.

King George and his Governors decided that certain guns were "too dangerous" for private citizens to own. They determined that anything with a long barrel that was designed to shoot a solid bullet should not be allowed. Cooperation at turning in these guns was nil.

Sprik went on to explain that a weapons confiscation team was formed of 700 red-coated soldiers. They marched through Lexington and

— cont. on page 2

Poole featured at OC Supper Club inaugural

By Roger Bloxham

Orange County is getting a Libertarian Supper Club. It is sponsored by the OCLP Central Committee and will be a once-a-month "Date Nite" on the town with a big "L" flavor.

You and yourse can dine sumptuously, enjoy an informative and enlightening speaker, be entertained theatricly with a Libertarian presentation (not amateur) and then wind down the evening with dancing to live music and socializing. A "no host" bar will also be provided.

The featured presentation this month will be a talk by Robert W. Poole, Jr., publisher of REASON magazine and president of the Reason Foundation.

You (or your company, association or group) can buy a table that seats 10 for \$400. Admission is otherwise \$90 for a couple or \$50 per person.

The location is stellar! It is at the Newport Beach Country Club at 1600 PCH in Newport Beach. We can handle up to 150 people. There is a marvelous view of the Bay and the Ocean and plenty of free parking.

I hope to see all of you on Saturday night, June 15. The doors will be open at 7 p.m. Reservations only. Don't miss out! There will be lots of new faces and lots fo people you haven't had a chance to enjoy in quite a while.

Call me at (714) 642-2002 for your reservations or information.

'Pin shoot' —from page one

met 70 colonists on a field at Concord 216 years ago on April 19. The Red Coats lined up and readied their 700 rifles against the 70. The colonists' leader, John Parker, told his friends, "Stand your ground. Do not fire unless fired upon. If they mean to have a war, let it begin here!" Whereupon many of the 70 were murdered on the spot by their own government.

Sprik did not draw any conclusions or parallels for us in his lesson on early American history. But, Government firearm confiscation teams exist in California right now, and 500,000 normally peaceful and productive private citizens have chosen not to comply with recently passed gun registration laws. They view, with justification, registration as vital and immediately prior to seizure of their

honestly acquired and peacefully owned private property.

A lot of those resistors are Libertarians. It is a comfort and important to know that while the Libertarian Party does stand for self-defense, a condition of belonging to the LP is that the initiation of force is renounced as a means to achieve political or social goals.

The Pin Shoot contest? A lady was second. Me? Don't ask.

Supreme Court to rule on political party endorsements

On April 23, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments over whether a state can make it illegal for a political party to endorse or oppose a candidate for non-partisan office. The California Constitution was amended in 1986 to make it a crime if a qualified political party passes a resolution, either in support of, or against, a candidate for non-partisan office. In California, all county, city, school and judicial elections are non-partisan.

The Supreme Court will probably issue its opinion during June or July. The Democratic and Libertarian Parties of California filed an amicus curiae brief in opposition to the California law.

—Excerpted from *Ballot Access News*.

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A paleo-con comes out of the closet

By Scott Bieser

While this country is not completely free it's free enough that anyone can call himself a "libertarian" if he wants to, no matter how other libertarians feel about it.

But what to do about someone who identifies himself as a libertarian, and in fact has long been involved in libertarian causes, who comes out publicly with an horrendously anti-libertarian position?

In March we were treated to an article from Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr., published in the L.A. Times and USA Today, in which he virtually commended the police beating of Rodney King and endorsed "paddy-wagon justice" as normal policy.

Rockwell is president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, and co-editor of the Rothbard-Rockwell Report, published by the Center for Libertarian Studies.

"Street criminals have what economists call a "high time preference," Rockwell wrote. "To old-fashioned criminologists, felons seeking immediate gratification had to be punished quickly. Otherwise, there would be no deterrence."

True, our criminal justice system has become a sad joke. But Rockwell is not talking about making our courts more efficient. He's talking about wiping out almost eight centuries of common law tradition by making the police act as judge and jury, and administering instant punishment.

Several libertarians have publicly criticized him for these comments, and he has stubbornly dug in and reiterated his police-state position. Sticking to

one's guns can be virtuous, but only if those guns are pointed in the right direction.

Rockwell has of late been cultivating alliances with elements of the Old Right, whom he calls "paleo-conservatives." It would appear that his comments regarding the King affair are part of that cultivation, or are a consequence.

The position if *this* libertarian is, that Rockwell has crossed over into the paleo-conservative camp. Organizations that he runs, and publications he edits, are conservative organs, not libertarian ones. While it may be appropriate for libertarians to form ad-hoc alliances with Rockwell and his fellow paleo-cons, we should remember that despite whatever label he uses, in my view he is no longer one of us.

Measure J - from page one

rehabilitation centers and courts and how much would be spent for new jail construction. Further, no specific site for any new jail is stated in the measure, although county officials have stated their preference is a 6,720 bed facility in Gypsum Canyon, near Anaheim.

The United States holds a higher percentage of its citizens in prison than any other western nation. All over the country, prisons are overcrowded and governments seek to raise taxes to build more prisons. Here in Orange County we have the opportunity to lead the way by telling the politicians we don't want more jails, we want repeal of all victimless crime laws so that the jails can be emptied and peaceful people can get on with their lives free of an intrusive police state.

VOTE NO ON MEASURE J!

Membership Application

Libertarian Party of California

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

_____ signature _____ date

- I am voluntarily setting my dues at:
 - \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other _____
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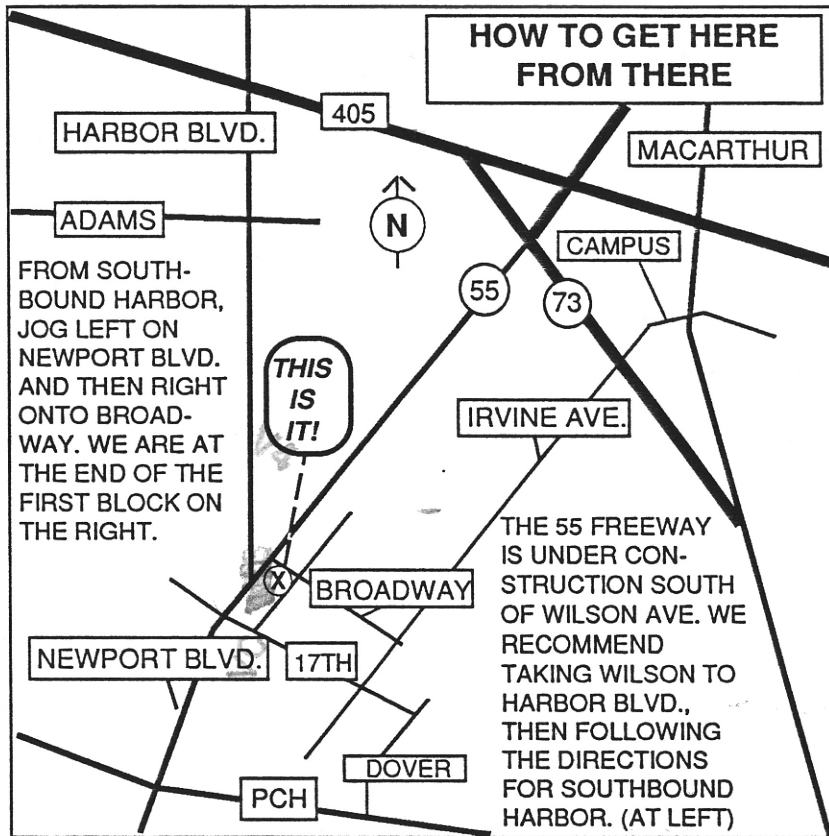
The Orange County Libertarian Party will meet Tuesday, May 21 at 149 Broadway in Costa Mesa. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For up-to-the-minute details concerning the next meeting please call party Chair Roger Bloxham at (714) 642-2002.

South County Meeting

Libertarians in the southern party of the county also meet the fourth Tuesday of each month in Laguna Beach.

Jim and Linda Rushing organize these meetings at the Laguna Beach Hotel, 425 S. Coast Highway. This month the meeting will be in the Catalina Room from 7 to 10 p.m.



The Libertarian Party of
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