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LPRC To Meet In New York

The LPRC is now making plans for its first National Conference, to be held at PRESCON '83, the National LP Convention in New York City, August 29 to September 5, 1983. At this one-day meeting LPRC members will adopt a Strategy Statement for the coming two-year period and will organize the LPRC presence at the National Convention.

Make plans now to attend this important meeting. The exact place and time will be announced in the next issue of *Libertarian Vanguard*. All LPRC members will be eligible to vote as delegates to the National Conference. Members are those persons who have signed the statement indicating agreement with the Ten Points. Mailing labels of members show an "M" in the upper right-hand corner; subscribers' labels show an "S". □

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Chris R. Tame

by Mark Brady
and David Ramsay Steele

THE LIBERTARIAN ALLIANCE, Britain's only real libertarian activist group, is coming out of a crisis precipitated by the wholly improper, quite immoral and sometimes unlawful actions of Chris R. Tame, formerly Secretary of the LA.

On October 25 and 26, 1982, Tame wrote to James Alexander, David McDonagh, M. L. Rantala, David Ramsay Steele and Michael Zegarac, claiming to expel them from the Executive Committee (EC), the ruling body of the LA. Supposedly all of these except McDonagh were also expelled from the LA, and had their subscriptions returned. Tame also wrote to all 240 members and subscribers of

the LA announcing (quite falsely) that the LA was now a limited company.

Tame's letter to the membership stated that the Libertarian Alliance, "its journal, meetings and publications will continue in the customary manner." Tame's letter did not, however, explain that the people who produced the journal, ran the meetings and wrote the publications had all purportedly been kicked out.

Tame and two other EC members (Dave Davis and Sarah Levy) were pretending to "expel" five other EC members. The five "expelled" did ninety percent of the work of the LA, and virtually ran it from top to bottom, whereas Tame's two supporters rarely even put in an appearance at monthly EC meetings. None of the five "expelled" were presented with any charges, or given any opportunity to defend themselves. The EC consisted of thirteen members. Of the five remaining, subtracting the "expelled" five and Tame's three, at least four were not consulted in advance about the "expulsions," and two (Mark Brady and Richard Collier) were not even told afterwards.

Tame's actions took place one week after an EC meeting, at which there was no whisper of expulsions, and one week before another EC meeting, called specially in order to discuss a written constitution for the LA. There was no doubt that a written constitution would be agreed and passed, and the LA's first annual meeting had been fixed for January 1983, to give the new constitution (providing for an EC elected by the membership) the endorsement of that membership.

Election Update

by Eric Garriss

LIBERTARIAN results keep trickling in; here, as we go to press, is an update on the November election.

Another victory! Steve Oviatt was elected High Bailiff of Grand Isle County, Vermont. The only duty of the High Bailiff is to arrest the Sheriff if he breaks the law.

And in Canada, three Libertarians were elected to municipal offices in Ontario in November.

The median percentage for LP candidates for Governor increased over past years. Following is a list of median percentages for LP gubernatorial candidates:

1973-74	0.17%
1976	0.22%
1977-78	0.42%
1980	0.48%
1981-82	0.70%

Here are the updated results by state (or country):

CANADA: Sally Hayes was elected City Councilwoman to represent the Otonabee Ward in the City of Peterborough (pop. 60,000). In her second try for the office, she displaced a 12-year incumbent in a five-way race for two seats.

Terry Ryan was elected to the York School Board in the Town of Markham. He came in first in a four-way race for two seats.

Ian Murray was elected as one of four councillors for Amherst Island (pop. 350).

All three winners were in Ontario.

Frank Abrams ran for City Council in North York (a suburb of Toronto) and received 34% in a two-way race. John Simonsen ran for Town Council in Pickering and received 8.2% of the vote in a three-way race. Eric Big-

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What LPRC Members Must Do

Every LPRC member is familiar with the Ten Points, having signed a statement indicating agreement with the principles upon which our organization is founded. But the Ten Points is a relatively *abstract* document. To make its application more concrete, LPRC members should ask themselves the following questions about their state and local parties:

- Does my state party have a platform that it amends regularly, thus providing a forum for discussion of current issues and a vehicle for keeping party members up-to-date on the application of our principles to those issues?
- Does my party newsletter contain articles on political ideas or issues (especially analysis of current issues and exposition of the party's platform), or is it merely a glorified calendar of events?
- Does my organization place at least as much emphasis on reaching the public with our principles as it does with grabbing attention with a few highly visible campaigns or media spots? Does it emphasize creating a long-term libertarian constituency with libertarian values?
- Does my organization require members to sign a pledge of agreement with the basic libertarian principle of nonaggression, or even better, the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party?
- Does my state party concentrate on running knowledgeable and qualified candidates for office, or is it only interested in a high "body count"?
- Does my organization concentrate on nurturing a "combat party" prepared to engage in a long battle against the State, or does it build hopes for short-run gains excessively high, thus assuring disillusionment?
- Do spokespersons for my organization take care to never endorse aggressive actions by the State, such as taxation or zoning, when advocating transition measures to reduce these burdens? (Exam-

ple of what not to say: "Of course, some taxation will always be necessary, but we advocate cutting the sales tax by 50%.")

- Do the LPRC members in my state plan on running as many of their numbers as possible for seats as delegates to the National LP Convention (as well as my state convention) and making an all-out effort to get them there?
- What can I do to become active in my state and local parties to see that these things happen? How can I best join with other LPRC members to see that they do?

If you can answer yes to the first eight questions, then skip the last, for your state is a model organization and probably consists of nothing but LPRC members. If not, however, then ask yourself the last question. And if you find yourself wondering if there *are* any other LPRC members in your state, or exactly who they are, then *set up an LPRC table and get-together at your state convention.*

Better yet, volunteer to become an LPRC State Coordinator. The duties are:

1. To recruit new LPRC members by talking to LP members, placing ads in party newsletters, etc.
2. To organize LPRC activities at state conventions (tabling, meeting, endorsing proposals or candidates, etc.)
3. To file reports on state party and LPRC activities with the LPRC Central Committee
4. To recruit LPRC members to run for seats as delegates to the National LP Convention
5. To assist LPRC activities on the floor of the National LP Convention
6. To recruit Local Coordinators where possible

To apply to become a State Coordinator, please write us a letter giving your LP background and qualifications and what you think the best way is of recruiting and organizing members in your state.

And if you decide that you would just like to help with one or more of these tasks on a one-time basis, then let us know and we'll assist you however we can. The important thing is that we make every LP member aware of the LPRC and our point of view. □

Alliance

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Tame's *putsch* was in progress. Looking back, it was bound to fail. But only looking back. What possessed Tame to embark upon this ill-fated seizure of the LA, in contravention of all its rules and against the wishes of its members? Why did he think he could get away with it, and why was he unscrupulous enough to try?

FORMATION OF THE LA

THE LIBERTARIAN Alliance was formed in late 1979 after a long series of preparatory discussions by Mark Brady, Judy Englander, David Ramsay Steele and Chris Tame. The founders formed themselves into a self-appointed Executive Committee onto which they co-opted

new members by majority vote, as they saw fit. The idea was that after a few years to establish the doctrines and image of the LA, driving away those who were not truly libertarians, the LA would adopt a constitution providing for an Executive Committee elected by the membership.

A different conception was advocated by Tony Hollick, one of those co-opted early to the EC. Hollick maintained that there was something unlibertarian about "democracy," and that a libertarian propaganda organization should be owned outright by a handful of close friends. It should have customers rather than active members.

Hollick, however, resigned from the EC, and from membership in the LA, in September 1980. From then on, he declared himself utterly out of sympathy with the way the LA was developing. He reappeared after an absence of two years to finance and otherwise abet Tame's *putsch*.

In Hollick's absence, the LA made great strides. It brought out a quarterly journal, *Free Life*, which steadily improved in quality. It produced a range of leaflets, organized many successful meetings, and started pulling in dozens of young people who there found the principled libertarianism they had been groping for. After a slow growth in membership, recruitment was leaping ahead as never before, on the basis of careful preparatory work done over the previous three years. Then almost all LA activity was brought to a halt by Tame's *putsch*.

THE ALTERNATIVE BOOKSHOP

BY A STROKE OF good fortune, or so it seemed then, early 1979 saw the opening of the Alternative Bookshop, a free market bookstore superbly situated in central London. There was never any official connection between the Alternative Bookshop and the Libertarian Alli-

ance, but Chris Tame, Secretary of the Libertarian Alliance, was employed as manager of the Alternative Bookshop.

The Alternative Bookshop provided the LA with a mailing address and an informal rendezvous. The LA gained members from the Bookshop, and the Bookshop gained customers from the LA.

Many people supposed that there was some official link between Bookshop and LA. Many people superficially assumed that Chris Tame, as manager of the Bookshop, was someone special in the LA. Unfortunately, one of these people was Chris Tame.

In many respects the policies of the Alternative Bookshop were eccentric, and this was a liability for the LA, more so when another organization, the Anti-Soviet Society, began to use the Bookshop as a mailing address. The Anti-Soviet Society, aptly known as ASS, began to feature more prominently than the LA in Bookshop displays, and Brian Micklethwait, founder and leader of ASS, became employed at the Bookshop as Assistant to Tame.

The LA had to take the Bookshop or leave it. The LA had no right to interfere in the Bookshop's policies. The Alternative Bookshop, equally, had to take the LA or leave it. The Bookshop could not interfere in the LA's policies. The LA could have left the Bookshop, but decided, on balance, to remain. Chris Tame could have kicked the LA out of the Bookshop, but did not do so. Little did anyone dream that he would instead use his position at the Bookshop to brush aside two-thirds of the EC and try for a *putsch*. Anyone, that is, except Christopher Ronald Tame.

ASS AND NTS

WHEN MICKLETHWAIT founded ASS, even Tame could see that it was a bad idea. Rantala and Steele scoffed at it mercilessly, but Micklethwait was a good-natured fellow, and did not seem to mind. He proceeded calmly to build up ASS.

ASS began as a broad front of all opponents of the Soviet regime, and special care was taken to include various socialists opposed to totalitarianism. After a few months, this stance was abandoned, and ASS became resolutely "right-wing." At about the same time, it began to promote a Russian emigré group known as NTS. Indeed, it was clearly observable

that ASS was doing little else. George Miller, head of British NTS, became a regular visitor to the Alternative Bookshop, and a personal friend of both Micklethwait and Tame.

Then, in June 1982, the anti-fascist journal *Searchlight* published a story on the NTS link with ASS, mentioning the LA and Chris Tame by name. *Searchlight*

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contended that NTS had collaborated with the Nazis during the war—in itself not necessarily very serious, since "collaboration with the Nazis" could mean almost anything, and the war was a long time ago. On July 9, Steele was informed by Murray Rothbard and Williamson Evers that NTS was "a notorious fascist organization," and began to take a slightly more serious view of the matter.

Subsequently, Brady and Steele were horrified to learn that the LA was organizing a "day seminar" in London on the subject of foreign policy. Not only were all four lecturers at this projected seminar pro-NATO, but the four included Brian Micklethwait, head of ASS, and George Miller, head of NTS. Brady and Steele spent several days in their respective libraries in New York and Chicago, and uncovered the dirt on NTS. NTS was founded in 1930, in emulation of Mussolini's corporatism. It was explicitly anti-liberal, anti-rational, and anticapitalist, as well as anti-Marxist. It collaborated with the National Socialist regime in the East because of ideological compatibility. NTS was and is "Great Russian imperialist," bitterly opposed to secession for Russia's colonies within the U.S.S.R. Since the war, it has changed its public face towards democracy and liberalism, but is far from candid about its past, and is still led by some of the same individuals at the top during the forties. NTS is widely described in the literature as a con game to separate right-wing loonies and (via intelligence agencies) the taxpayers

from their money, on behalf of an active underground network in the Soviet Union, a network which is almost entirely imaginary.

Steele made calls to London, and a special EC meeting was held. The invitation to George Miller was rescinded, and the seminar went ahead without him. (Brady and Steele had no objection to

the LA's giving Miller a platform under different circumstances, for instance, as one of a series of outside speakers at LA public meetings.) Miller suggested that the historical evidence which Brady and Steele had dug up was fabricated by the KGB, and in this he was loyally backed up by Tame, who voted against rescinding the invitation.

THE "PLOT" TAKES SHAPE

CHRIS TAME WAS ABSENT from the EC meeting of September 17. That meeting did two things Tame did not like; it passed a statement, "We oppose NTS," for publication in *Free Life*, and it co-opted Michael Zegarac onto the EC. When Tame found out, he formed the opinion that the meeting had been rigged. He had been told by M. L. Rantala that nothing important was due to come up at the meeting, and concluded she had lied to keep him away.

Tame suspected a plot, and he took measures to get more evidence of this plot. All the most active LA members were frequent callers at the Bookshop, to such an extent that they had been issued with keys. As a matter of course, they sent mail from the Bookshop and left cases and files there. Spurred on by suspicion, Tame adopted the practice of searching cases and going through all mail. He soon found further morsels of evidence of a "plot," though exactly what sort of plot was not entirely clear. He found a photocopy of a Bookshop bank

statement showing the Bookshop deeply in the red. He found photocopies of NTS policy documents, kept in an NTS file at the Bookshop. (There was a free photocopier in the Bookshop, to which libertarian activists had free access.) He found the draft of a letter from Michael Zegarac, which spoke of—though it did not welcome—a possible forthcoming “split” in the LA.

From the standpoint of most EC members, the minor crisis over NTS was over. All that remained, in the opinion of Brady, Rantala and Steele, was to publish a reply to the *Searchlight* allegations, making clear the LA's detestation of NTS. Other EC members—Hawdon, Layson, McDonagh—felt that too much fuss was being made, and it would be best to say nothing. No one, of course, had any sympathy with the quasi-fascist ideology of “Russian solidarism,” so it was essentially a matter of P.R. tactics. But for Chris Tame it was much more: the crisis was just beginning; the *putsch* was brewing.

THE EC MEETING OF OCTOBER 18

AT THE EC meeting of October 18 Chris Tame showed up with Dave Davis and Sarah Levy. He quite unexpectedly and shockingly baited James Alexander for his poor job as editor of the LA journal *Free Life*. Following this, Tame launched into a hate-filled paroxysm of rage, in which some EC members feared physical violence. The objects of his venom were Steele and Rantala, who then lived in Chicago, and to whom he referred throughout as “Lenin” and “Lenin's envoy” respectively. Tame confidently assured the EC members present that Steele had written a **BRICKBAT** in *Libertarian Vanguard* [LV, August 1982, No. 21], attacking the LA for its association with NTS. He implied that Steele had written the **BRICKBAT** as part of some plot against

Tame's position on the EC. He told the EC meeting that the Libertarian Party Radical Caucus, publishers of *Vanguard*, had “supported the IRA.” Ironically, Steele had had no contact whatsoever with *Vanguard*, and at the moment when Tame was asserting Steele had written the **BRICKBAT**, Steele had not even read it. Thus it was that Tame succeeded in getting the “We Oppose NTS” statement rescinded.

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

AT ABOUT 9:30 P.M. ON October 26, 1982, Tame, Davis, Levy and Thom Robinson, a member of the LA and of ASS, used a pretext to get James Alexander to let them into his home. In a curiously precise and stilted voice (for the benefit of a concealed tape recorder), Davis asked Alexander for “the LA mailing list which you picked up a couple of weeks ago.” Alexander was surprised by this request and asked why they wanted it. The “mailing list” was a computer print-out of mailing labels, which any member of the EC could collect between nine and five any weekday. They replied that print-outs were expensive and difficult to get. Alexander knew these to be lies, so careless that they were not even trying to be convincing. They also explained that they needed to get a mailing out quickly for the annual meeting. But since Alexander knew that the annual meeting was fixed for January 1983, he knew this too was a lie.

Alexander remembered the recent, bitter EC meeting and felt intimidated by the four, especially in view of Tame's well-known lip-smacking approach to violence. (Tame kept an iron bar and a police truncheon ready in the Alternative Bookshop, and often expressed relish at the possibility of a set-to.) Alexander told the four that he thought he had given the mailing list to Michael Zegarac, a recently appointed member of the EC. The four immediately stood up and walked out of the house. (This being the underdeveloped U.K., neither Alexander nor Zegarac had a telephone, so a warning could not be passed.)

POLICE CALLED

AT 11:30 THAT NIGHT, Zegarac walked into the kitchen of his apartment. There he was astounded to find Tame, Davis, Levy and Robinson. To his further aston-

ishment, they asked him for a copy of the LA mailing list. Since Zegarac had never seen this list, and since he was just as entitled to have it as Tame, Davis or Levy, Zegarac was quite baffled. He told the four that he didn't know what they were talking about.

Their manner became threatening. They told Zegarac that they had just tape-recorded Alexander and were now tape-recording him. They told him he was in serious trouble and must hand over the list. When he replied that he was a member of the EC, they said that the Libertarian Alliance had been incorporated as a limited company, and Zegarac had been expelled. Robinson then left to call the police. Zegarac repeatedly asked Tame: “What's this all about? What's going on?” Tame replied: “You will have to take me to court to find out.” As the police station was only twenty yards away, Robinson was able to return with two police officers within an hour. The police were as puzzled as Zegarac, and left with the Three Musketeers and D'Artagnan in tow, but without Zegarac, who went back to bed.

INTELLIGENCE LINKS

CHRIS TAME'S PRECISE motivations in unleashing the crisis are partly a matter of guesswork. It is clear that he suspected some sort of plot, but this scarcely explains his behavior. Why did he not first approach the “plotters” with his evidence and demand an explanation? Alternatively, why did he not raise the matter at an EC meeting? One might expect that his sensational, audacious actions of October 25 and 26 would be followed by an equally bold announcement of what he had done and why. But instead, the wretched “plotters” demanded that everything be brought out into the light of day and shouted from the rooftops. Tame did everything he could to hush the matter up, eventually resorting to a barrage of menacing attorneys' letters threatening libel actions and worse. (Libel law is much stricter in England than in the U.S.)

Among the background factors are Tame's links with British intelligence, and the way he has been accorded special considerations by other EC members. These factors are connected in a curious way.

Chris Tame's wife, Judy Englander, took a job with the Economic League,

Hunter & Ready

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COLIN HUNTER

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a private espionage organization which compiles blacklists of union trouble-makers and other left-wingers for the benefit of employers, and which also cooperates with Scotland Yard's Special Branch. In the course of her work, she was instructed to join the Territorial Army (closest equivalent to the National Guard), and there received intelligence training. Judy raised the possibility that the Economic League might investigate the LA, find it to be an undesirable subversive organization, and that her job might suffer. So for LA purposes she adopted the pseudonym Sarah Levy. This was just one of many ways in which Tame was humored and given special consideration by other EC members, because of his hold over the LA through control of the Bookshop. No doubt this constant humoring helped to build up in Tame's mind the notion that he was unofficial leader of the LA. If he had been dealt with less patiently in the past, the recent crisis would not have occurred.

RED INFILTRATION

TAME'S ACCESS TO intelligence gossip reinforced his belief that Britain was overrun with Soviet agents, who especially controlled the organs of socialist propaganda such as the anti-fascist journal, *Searchlight*. Tame's vitriolic and unreasoning hatred for *Searchlight* began when he worked as a researcher for the Freedom Association, a conservative anti-union organization. Tame apparently sincerely believes that *Searchlight* is directed by Moscow, and that its staff go in for firebombing. Furthermore, Tame and Hollick have told several people that they had been tipped off by British Intelligence that there was a Soviet agent in the LA.

Another element in Tame's thinking was his opinion that, since the LA was not legally incorporated and had no written constitution, it had no legal existence and could be seized by the first person to try. Legally, this is bunk, but there is no doubt Tame believed it in September and October 1982. He was told by ASS lawyer Howard Gray that if he went for legal incorporation and hastily adopted a constitution, the LA would be his. Tame had to act quickly, for an EC meeting to adopt a written constitution was scheduled for November 1.

From Tame's point of view, he would

have the Bookshop, on which the LA was heavily dependent. As Secretary, he would have the only copy of the membership list, and he began to hide it away from other EC members. Finally, the "plot" he had uncovered could be used to get the support of waverers. Then Tame learned that Alexander had picked up a print-out of the LA mailing list, and

Libertarian Alliance

so he launched upon his "Night of the Long Knives" shortly after returning from a holiday in Sicily.

THE PUTSCH FOILED

HAVING "EXPULSED" THE FIVE "plot-
ters," Tame called a meeting of some EC members to endorse his actions. He told the assembled persons that they were the "management committee" of a new company, "Libertarian Alliance and Free Life Ltd.," with directors Chris Tame and Dave Davis. But the assembled persons were uneasy about this and told Tame he would have to attend an EC meeting of the LA to explain and justify his actions. Tame, Davis and Levy promised to attend such a meeting on November 5. Before that meeting, Levy/Englander phoned EC member Bob Layson and said that Chris was worried out of his mind and could not sleep. What was going to happen at the EC meeting on November 5? Layson confirmed that Tame would have to answer for his actions, and that there was no guarantee that the EC would approve of them. After that call, Tame decided not to attend the EC meeting. The *putsch* was foiled, though it is taking several months' hard work to convince him of this fact.

Steele had flown to London in response to Tame's *putsch*. Steele and Tame talked over a possible compromise, one which would involve the EC giving up all claim to the Libertarian Alliance—each faction to change its name to something differ-

ent. The subsequent meeting rejected the compromise by five votes to none, with two abstentions.

From then on, things became nasty. Tame had become encouraged by the reappearance of Hollick, who had straightway given him £1,000 and promised much more. Tame and Hollick had attorneys' letters sent to the EC majority

in an attempt to demoralize them. Tame refused to hand over to the EC the assets of the Libertarian Alliance, which the EC had entrusted him with. All this and more. Yet Hollick insists that they are "fair, generous, and acting in accordance with generally agreed libertarian principles"!

Hollick emerged as the active campaigner, Tame remaining silent. The litany of Hollick's accusations and innuendoes is very long. They embrace the very unpleasant and the totally absurd. He has (quite untruthfully) accused Zegarac of threatening to arrange the firebombing of the Bookshop, and he has hinted strongly and unmistakably to Brady that Rantala is a KGB agent!

Of course, the LA lost its mailing address, and all its tangible assets are still held by Tame. The former EC majority, now the LA, consists mainly of students with low incomes. They have had to make new arrangements and ironically, they have done what Hollister and Tame endlessly prattled about but never got round to doing: they have registered the name "Libertarian Alliance" by forming a limited company of that name. They need all the help they can get to put the LA back on its feet. If you are unable to send a donation, please at least become a member of the Libertarian Alliance, which will entitle you to future publications. Membership is \$18 a year, all checks payable to the Libertarian Alliance Ltd. Send to the Libertarian Alliance, 9 Poland Street, London W1, England. □

Issue Analysis

Imperial America: Saboteur of Liberty

by Justin Raimondo

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE US government in world politics?

This is the subject of a wide-ranging, ongoing debate within our movement regarding the principled Libertarian stance on US foreign policy and national defense. What is our attitude toward our own ruling class? Just what is it that the libertarian advocates of "a strong national defense" are so intent on defending?

Giving such people the benefit of a doubt, what they quite legitimately and unknowingly seek to defend are the gains of the American Revolution. These gains are embodied in the Bill of Rights and the American quasi-libertarian tradition—however corrupted that heritage may be. Many rightwing libertarians correctly realize that, although many of these gains are eroded or lost, what remains is worth defending—indeed, *must* be defended.

Defended—*by whom?* By the same US ruling circles responsible for usurping, perverting and *reversing* the revolutionary victory of 1776? The root of the rightist error springs from the fact that they have cast the Revolution's worst betrayers in the role of its best defenders. These rightists imagine, therefore, that the world is divided into two camps: pro- and anti-Soviet. Not only do they see the USSR as the main danger to liberty on the domestic front, but they actually contend that Imperial America can or will defend liberty on an international scale.

THE CASE OF NICARAGUA

NOTHING COULD DO MORE to blast this absurd theory of "two camps" to bits than the case of Nicaragua—where a significant third force has now arisen. What could do more to expose the real role of the US government as the *mortal enemy* of authentic anti-Communism than the Nicaraguan tragi-comedy? For this is where the ostensibly "anti-Communist" Reagan administration has written off the possibility of a democratic revolution, defused all viable opposition to the increasingly repressive and unpopular Sandinistas, and virtually delivered an

entire nation into the hands of avowed totalitarians.

A year after the Reagan administration publicly announced its intention of toppling the FSLN (Sandinista Liberation Front) in a well-publicized "leak," the major media have suddenly discovered Washington's rapidly escalating covert action program. *Newsweek* (Nov. 8, 1982) has recently published a belated exposé of "Washington's Secret War"—notable not because it verifies what has been common knowledge for over a year, but because it so precisely exposes the treachery of Washington in the starkest terms imaginable. The article becomes a devastating indictment of the US role in world affairs simply by reiterating the facts of Nicaragua's recent history.

After backing the losing side in the civil war that ended Somoza's bloody rule, the US characteristically backed losers once again in a last-ditch attempt to restore American domination of the region. This scheme to reverse the outcome of what was a Nicaraguan version of our own War for Independence naturally attracted the support of the local "Tory" element. Staking their hopes on the small, isolated *comprador* section of Nicaragua's upper-middle class—symbolized by COSEP (a local version of the National Association of Manufacturers) and a few pitifully small ultra-conservative political parties—the US sought to oppose rather than influence the FSLN.

This was no mere tactical error. This policy was dictated by the nature of US imperialism itself. Since the Nicaraguan revolution had ended US domination, US policy analysts reasoned, the FSLN was the enemy by definition.

Having refused to join the fight against Somoza until the last possible moment, COSEP and the rightwing parties lost out. Never having had a mass base to begin with, US-financed ultraconservatives had no hope of acquiring one. Any group which had not participated in the revolution was politically discredited in the eyes of newly-liberated Nicaraguans.

The Reagan administration then turned to the *Somocistas*, members of Somoza's notoriously brutal National Guard; training, equipping and deploying these forces along the Honduran border. Exploiting the outrage of Miskitu Indians on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast—forcibly uprooted and "relocated" by FSLN central planners—these CIA-backed terrorists have recruited around two thousand Miskitu refugees to do their dirty work. The activities of these groups are limited to small-time sabotage and the assassination of noncombatant civilians as well as Sandinista militia. Although bothersome, especially in the Atlantic Coast region, they pose no real threat to the leftist junta. The cynical Cold Warrior politics of US policymakers have nothing to do with liberating Nicaragua from the leftist yoke. As *Newsweek* observes: "... the constant pressure on Nicaragua from the border areas is designed to keep the four-year-old Sandinista government in a jumpy state of alert." The *contras* are disposable pawns, to be used and then discarded—as are the "moderates" within Nicaragua the US is ultimately counting on to achieve its foreign policy objectives in the region. "While US officials maintain that the primary objection of the operation remains cutting off the [alleged] supply routes [to El Salvador's rebels], they also hope that a threatened Sandinista government will bring itself down *by further repressing its internal opposition, thereby strengthening the determination of moderate forces to resist.*" (*Newsweek*; p. 48) (emphasis added) How repression will "strengthen" the opposition is a mystery known only to the same unnamed US official whom *Newsweek* quoted as saying that in such an event "then the Sandinistas will fall like a house of cards in a wind."

What the "third force" opposition to the usurpers in Managua has consistently argued—that Washington's intervention has done more to keep the FSLN in power than any other single factor—is the truth and the tragedy of it.

THIRD FORCE

THIS THIRD FORCE IS THE Revolutionary Democratic Alliance of Eden Pastora, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, Brooklyn Rivera and Fernando Chamorro Rappaccioli. Rivera is a dissident Miskitu Indian leader who broke with the FSLN after Misura-

sata, the Miskitu self-governing organization, was banned and its leaders arrested in the wake of forced relocations. Rivera refused to link up with Stedman Fagoth's CIA-backed operation, wanting nothing to do with the *Somocistas* who finance and direct it. Alfonso Robelo is the leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), centered chiefly in Managua and other cities. Robelo was briefly a member of the ruling junta before his split with the FSLN. Like the flamboyant Eden Pastora, Rappacioli is a longtime opponent of both the Somoza regime and its leftist successor.

As for Eden Pastora, the revolutionary hero now declared an outlaw in the country he fought so hard to liberate speaks for the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance when he says:

All we ask is that the United States withdraw and allow democratic Nicaragua to resolve things. If you removed the guard from the north, the [FSLN] directorate wouldn't stay in power longer than a fly on a monkey's ear. But the CIA is doing what the Sandinistas want; the entire country would rise up against any force that invaded under the flag of the hated National Guard. (*NY Times*; 11/15/82)

Better known as "Commandante Zero," Eden Pastora was a leading figure in the FSLN from the outset of the revolutionary struggle. It was he who led the spectacular assault on Somoza's palace in August of 1979—a feat which marked the turning point of the civil war and the beginning of the end for Anastasio Debayle Somoza. Pastora's "Tercerista" faction of the FSLN had called for a national insurrection long before the two rather stodgy neo-Stalinist factions which made up the rest of the Sandinista coalition decided to tail after what had become, by then, a popular uprising.

After the revolution Pastora was denied a seat on the national directorate. The failure of the new rulers to call free elections, strict censorship of the media and Managua's drift into Havana's orbit led to an inevitable parting of the ways. In July of 1981 Pastora resigned his post as deputy minister of defense. His subsequent attempt to win over his ex-comrades to a more pluralistic policy failed, leaving him no alternative but to go into opposition. Last April he denounced the leftist junta's betrayal of the Nicaraguan revolution, attacking the swift consoli-

HERE'S OUR STRATEGY FOR NICARAGUA - WE RUN COVERT OPERATIONS TO GET THEM RATTLED...



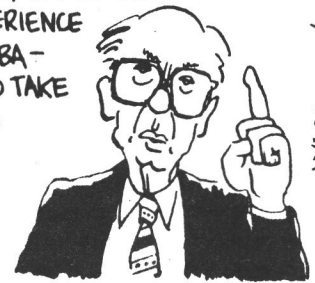
THEY TIGHTEN SECURITY AND SQUELCH DISSENT... THE REPRESSION FUELS UNREST...



THE PEOPLE RISE UP... THE GOVERNMENT FALLS... AND FRIENDS OF THE U.S. TAKE POWER!



OF COURSE, BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH CUBA - IT COULD TAKE A WHILE



WASSERMAN
© 1982 LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE

dation of a planned economy and a one-party state, threatening to personally drag the new elite "from their mansions and Mercedes Benzes" at gunpoint.

When Reagan took office and a full-scale covert action program was undertaken against Managua, recruiting Pastora was high on the CIA's list of priorities. But Pastora and his Sandino Revolutionary Front would have nothing to do with them. "I didn't need the KGB before," he told the *New York Times*, "and I don't need the CIA now." Pastora outlines the role of the US in the region with crystal clarity: "The United States doesn't want any revolution, and the Sandinist National Directorate wants to hold on to power at all cost. Between the two of them, they're leading the country to disaster." (*NY Times*; 11/15/82)

THE TREACHERY OF WASHINGTON

THE MAN AT the epicenter of US covert action against Nicaragua, American ambassador to Honduras John Negroponte, has virtually declared war on the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance. According to *Newsweek*:

Negroponte has now frozen [Pastora] out of the action. Pastora and other disillusioned Sandinistas, such as former junta member Alfonso Robelo, have been told that "Honduras is closed to us, we cannot work here," said one of

them. *Newsweek* has learned that Pastora made two clandestine trips to Honduras last spring to try to win support and establish base camps. Both times he was kept under virtual house arrest by the military. "He couldn't make a phone call, let alone organize. . . ." said one Honduran military officer. "The orders came from [Honduran Army commander-in-chief General Gustavo Adolfo] Alvarez himself that our American friends did not want this guy to have any of the action."

This is what is meant by "the treachery of Washington." For US policy in the region, as Pastora has implied, is nothing less than *objectively pro-Communist*. Let those who doubt the logic of the LPRC's contention that it is US imperialism which is the main danger to liberty in the world learn the lesson of Nicaragua.

The American campaign to disrupt and discredit Pastora's group led to the dissolution of the Sandino Revolutionary Front. "Alvarez tried to keep me in Honduras so my presence would serve as an endorsement of the [pro-Somocista National] guard," says Pastora. "I then saw their game. Columns of 'contras' penetrated Nicaragua and, when they attacked, they'd shout 'Viva Eden!' 'Viva Zero!' People in Nicaragua became confused. The Sandinists pointed to this as proof I was a traitor. My reply to both the CIA and the National Directorate was to dissolve the Sandino Revolutionary

Front." Disbanding the Front meant the end of the group's military capacity, a serious setback for the anti-imperialist democratic opposition.

While busy sabotaging Pastora's cause, the US is also busy coordinating the terrorist activities of what one European

observer quoted by *Newsweek* calls "the only truly evil alternative." Just how evil the US-backed *Somocistas* are was summed up by one of them quite well: "Come the counterrevolution," one ex-Guardsmen confided to *Newsweek*, "there will be a massacre in Managua.

We have a lot of scores to settle. There will be bodies from the border to Managua."

Although supposedly under orders from Washington to stay away from the *Somocistas*—who have degenerated into little more than roving bandit gangs—Ambassador Negroponte merely followed the fundamentals of American foreign policy to their disastrous and inevitable conclusion. "That wasn't the original plan," said one US official to *Newsweek*. "He had to improvise." But this is an improvisation on an old theme.

The Ten Points of the LPRC

(Adopted by the Central Committee, July, 1979)

The Radical Caucus of the Libertarian Party is dedicated to building the Libertarian Party by emphasizing the following ten points:

1. **Principled Mass Party**—The Libertarian Party should be a mass-participation party operating in the electoral arena and elsewhere, devoted to consistent libertarian principle, and committed to liberty and justice for all.
2. **Resistance & The Oppressed**—The Libertarian Party should make a special effort to recruit members from groups most oppressed by the government so that the indignation of those who experience oppression is joined to those who oppose oppression in principle. The Libertarian Party should never approve of the initiation of force, nor should it rule out self-defense and resistance to tyranny.
3. **Anti-State Coalition**—The Radical Caucus agrees to the view, adopted by the Libertarian Party at its 1974 Dallas convention, that for purposes of party programs and activities the issue of the ultimate legitimacy of government per se is not relevant. We oppose all efforts to exclude either anarchists or minimal statist from party life.
4. **Populism**—The Libertarian Party should trust in and rely on the people to welcome a program of liberty and justice. The Libertarian Party should always aim strategically at convincing the bulk of the people of the soundness of libertarian doctrine.
5. **No Compromise**—The Radical Caucus insists that all reforms advocated by the Libertarian Party must diminish governmental power and that no such reforms are to contradict the goal of a totally free society. Holding high our principles means avoiding completely the quagmire of self-imposed, obligatory gradualism: We must avoid the view that, in the name of fairness, abating suffering, or fulfilling expectations, we must temporize and stall on the road to liberty.
6. **Anti-Imperialism & Centrality of Foreign Policy**—Because the United States government aspires to world-wide control of events, foreign policy is always potentially the most important issue of our time. The Libertarian Party should bring to the public the truth about the U. S. government's major responsibility for the cold war and the continuing threat to world peace posed by U. S. foreign policy. No one should be deceived by the notion that any government, like the American, which has a relatively benign domestic policy, therefore has a relatively benign foreign policy.
Our goal is to build an international revolutionary libertarian movement, and our task is to hold up the banner of liberty so that all the world's peoples and races can rally around it.
7. **Mutual Disarmament**—The Libertarian Party should support general, joint, and complete disarmament down to police levels. The Libertarian Party should be in the forefront of efforts to end policies that prepare for mass murder.
8. **Rights Are Primary**—The central commitment of the Libertarian Party must be to individual liberty on the basis of rights and moral principle, and not on the basis of economic cost-benefit estimates.
9. **Power Elite Analysis**—American society is divided into a government-oppressed class and government-privileged class and is ruled by a power elite. Libertarian Party strategy and pronouncements should reflect these facts.
10. **Land Reform**—Because of past land theft and original claims not based on homesteading, many landholdings in American are illegitimate. The Libertarian Party in cases of theft (for example, from the Native Americans and Chicanos) should support restoration to the victims or their heirs and in cases of invalid claims should advocate re-opening the land for homesteading.

ARCHITECTS OF DEFEAT

RIGHTWING LIBERTARIANS who see the US as the main bulwark against Communism may attribute US policy to mere incompetence, an episodic aberration easily reversed by a personnel change. But Eden Pastora has understood what rightwing "anti-Communists" and many Libertarians have yet to grasp: that the US government can only sacrifice anti-totalitarian forces abroad on the altar of an imperialist foreign policy. Why is the US supporting criminal gangs and seeking to destroy Eden Pastora? Because, as Pastora says, "the United States knows that my democratic anti-imperialist revolution would be imitated across the region."

The case of Nicaragua is archetypal, but hardly unique. As US taxpayers subsidize the interest on the Polish debt, yet another chapter in the long history of US betrayals is written by those great architects of defeat—the US ruling class.

If the defense of liberty in Central and even North American is to be left to the Ronald Reagans of this world, then our cause is doomed from the start. Just as Libertarians do not and cannot entrust Reagan and his ilk with the defense of liberty at home, so we can hardly entrust him with a similar task abroad.

Irreconcilable opposition is the only possible attitude for an American Libertarian to take toward his or her own ruling class. For Libertarians, freedom needs to be defended against its alleged "defenders" as well as its avowed enemies; for us, the main enemy is at home.

If the world is to be divided into two camps, then our cause is futile. There must be a third camp, counterposed to leftist totalitarianism and rightist terror—the camp of liberty.

In The Movement

The JudComm Ploy

by Murray N. Rothbard

IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE Crane Machine would respond in some frenetic way to the firing of National Director Eric O'Keefe by National Chair Alicia Clark on August 8. The decisive ouster of O'Keefe, and the subsequent resignation of his staff at National Headquarters, meant the loss of the Craniacs' major *foco* in the national party. The Crane Machine would now have to fall back on the small handful of state parties that they control, and even in some of these a rebellion is brewing against their rule.* To keep their fighting spirit and their sense of outrage intact, the Machine decided to use what it felt to be its trump card, its only national *foco* still remaining: the Judicial Committee.

The JudComm is traditionally appointed by the NatCom at its first session, at the end of the national convention, to last until the next convention. Before 1981, the JudComm's power was virtually limited to ruling during a convention on petitions signed by 10% of convention delegates on whether or not a platform plank or resolution violated the LP's Statement of Principles. Generally, the JudComm consisted of judicious, gray-beard types, and had little or nothing to do. Thus, one year John Hospers and I were on the JudComm together, and we were presented with but one question about whether a proposed plank (I think repudiation of the public debt) violated the Statement, and we unanimously agreed that it did not. All very gentlemanly.

Unfortunately, in an action noticed by no one amidst the dramatic issues and conflicts at Denver, the 1981 Convention passed an unprecedented ByLaw

*Best estimates are that the Crane Machine only controls seven state parties, with total delegates of 125 out of 719 at the 1983 convention, for 17% of the vote. These are Alaska, Arkansas, District of Columbia (where Craniac employees are concentrated), Kansas (the Koch fiefdom), New Jersey, New York, and Wisconsin (the Leslie Key machine). And rebellions are reportedly brewing in their two major strongholds of Alaska and New York.

change giving the hitherto quiescent JudComm the absolute power to veto any action of the NatCom, upon receiving a petition signed by 5% of national LP members. And at the Denver NatCom meeting, the one meeting at which the Crane Machine exerted total power over its tired and demoralized opposition, the Craniacs managed to pack the JudComm with third-rate young Machine hacks, and not a judicious graybeard in the lot. Specifically, of the nine JudComm members, Chairman Craig Franklin was an independent non-Craniac, as was Jim Clarkson and John Mason. The other six were Crane tools, consisting of David Boaz (a Crane employee), Tom Palmer (long-time Crane Machine operative), Gary Greenberg, Ciskey Webb, Frank Horn, and Janet Nelson (Crane employee).

And so the response of the Crane Machine to the ouster of O'Keefe was (in addition to a flurry of frenzied memoranda) to circulate petitions across the country taking the dismissal of the martyred O'Keefe to their kept JudComm. In charge of the petition effort was Howie Rich, Craniac straw boss on the NatCom. By early December, they claimed to have the necessary signatures, and appealed to the JudComm on the basis of Article 8, Section 12 of the new By-Laws: "Upon appeal by 5% of the [National] Party members, the Judicial Committee shall consider the question of whether or not a decision of the National Committee contravenes specified sections of the ByLaws. If the decision is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it shall be declared null and void." Led by Tom Palmer, the major Crane overseer on the JudComm, the Crane majority on the JudComm tried to push through a quick decision overturning the ouster of O'Keefe, and declaring the martyred ex-National Director *still* the National Director of the LP. They attempted to rush this action through by meeting at Orlando alongside the NatCom meeting on December 4-5, but their attempted kangaroo court was blocked by Chair-

man Craig Franklin, who insisted on proper judicial proceedings. As a result of Franklin's insistence on due process, the JudComm will not be able to complete its action until late January or February.

The Craniac JudComm ploy, however, involves a series of irregularities, *each one of which* makes any JudComm decision illegal and invalid:

1) Each signature would have to be carefully checked to make sure (a) that every signatory is indeed a national member, and (b) that they constitute 5% of the total. And yet, the Crane Machine has maintained that it doesn't have to check the signatures with those on membership cards, *and* it refuses to make the names of the signatories public to either the National Secretary or the NatCom itself. In short, Rich and his compatriots are arrogantly demanding that we all accept a pig in a poke: they claim to have the signatories, but these are to remain secret, since apparently Rich has promised some of the signatories their "right of privacy." Indeed! Who in hell has ever heard of a secret petition? Who ever heard of someone saying grandiosely: "I have a thousand names here on this petition, but I can't reveal any of them because it interferes with their right of privacy"? The Richian pretension should be treated for what it is: an absurd and even grisly joke.

At Orlando, the NatCom voted to request that the JudComm turn over the secret names to the Secretary and to itself, but there is so far no indication that Rich or the JudComm will comply with this request.

2) According to any reasonable interpretation of Article 8, Section 12 of the ByLaws, the complaining petitions must cite concrete actions of the NatCom which allegedly contravened specified sections of the ByLaws. The Rich/Crane petitions, however, do not do so. They cite only actions of the National Chair and not of the NatCom, they do not specify contraventions, and they only refer to "discussion" of Alicia's action without specifying the goal of such discussion. Hence, the Richian petitions are invalid.

3) It is improper, in any proceeding purporting to be "judicial," for the judges to declare their decision in advance of any hearing or having the case come before them. Yet at least three of the Jud-

Comm members, Craniacs all—Boaz, Horn, and Nelson—have already publicly condemned the firing of O’Keefe as illegal. They therefore should recuse themselves from any vote; they have not, of course, done so.

4) According to various parliamentarians, part of the Denver election of JudComm members was invalid, because many were elected by a plurality rather than by a requisite majority. One view is that all elected except Franklin and Clarkson are invalid; another is that Horn, Mason, and Webb are invalid. Unfortunately, a decree of invalidity was withdrawn from the NatCom agenda at Orlando.

5) Even if all the above points were set aside for sake of argument, the JudComm, even under the new ByLaws, has absolutely no power to command; all it can do is to veto. At Orlando, the National Committee reconfirmed the firing of O’Keefe by an overwhelming vote of 17 to 3, with 9 abstentions. (At Billings, it had not done so directly. The Natcom had confirmed the right of Alicia Clark to fire O’Keefe and had approved the hiring of Honey Lanham in his place.) So that even if the JudComm illegally decides to veto the Billings actions, it cannot *also* set aside the Orlando action at the same time. In order to do so, the Craniacs would have to get *another* petition,

with 5% of member names signing it, and present *that* new petition for another JudComm hearing. Even if the membership is willing to sit still for another round of pestering for signatures, it is doubtful whether the JudComm could even hear the new petition before the August convention, when the whole affair will be moot.

It should be noted that even under the ludicrous and absurd proposition of the Crane Machine—that a two-thirds vote of the NatCom is needed to fire O’Keefe—the Orlando vote meets that test, and with plenty to spare.

Despite this quadruple or quintuple invalidity, reports are that Tom Palmer, Craniac straw boss on the JudComm, has set forth a “loose construction” of JudComm powers that would make the power-hungry John Marshall look like a strict constructionist. According to Palmer, once any field of discussion has come under the official notice of the JudComm, it has total, absolute, and unquestionable power to interpret its own powers, and to interpret the ByLaws setting forth such powers.

It is absurd to think that libertarians would sit still for a JudComm, this mere creature of the NatCom in the first place, getting away with claims to absolute power and total obedience. Having this sort of mindset, it is likely that the Craniac majority on JudComm will eventually declare all actions of the NatCom at Billings and Orlando to be invalid. It will proclaim the martyr O’Keefe to be past, present, and eternal National Director entitled to back pay, and perhaps even call upon Ms. Lanham to return her back salary to the LP.

Libertarians will not sit still for a shameless *coup d’état* by a runaway JudComm any more than they would for the Supreme Court of the United States. If the Crane/Palmer JudComm should make such a decision, there is only one proper action for Alicia Clark and the NatCom to take: to ignore the illegal and demented acts of a power-hungry JudComm and to go about their business unperturbed. In effect, to say as Andrew Jackson did of the Supreme Court: “John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it.” If the NatCom takes this firm and principled course, the Craniac JudComm will fade away and take its deserved place in the dustbin of history.

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Election

continued from page 1

gins was defeated in his bid for reelection as Councillor in the Township of St. Vincent. He had been the first Libertarian in Canada to be elected two years ago.

ARIZONA: I mistakenly reported that all Arizona LP candidates ran as independents. All in fact were listed as Libertarians. Sorry, comrades.

ILLINOIS: Bea Armstrong received 24,417 votes for 0.66% for Governor. Other statewide candidates received between 0.52% and 2.78%.

IOWA: Farrington (first name unavailable) received 3,307 votes for 0.32% for Lt. Governor.

KENTUCKY: Three candidates for Congress received between 0.43% and 0.98%. (I mistakenly reported this as two candidates for legislature.)

MISSISSIPPI: Ballot status was achieved through bureaucratic recognition by the Secretary of State, bringing total ballot status states up to 15.

NEW JERSEY: Henry Koch received 9,934 votes for 0.45% for Governor. The LP ran candidates for all 14 Congressional seats, receiving between 0.33% and 1.25%.

NORTH CAROLINA: Libertarians in North Carolina filled all 11 Congressional races, receiving between 0.43% and 1.28% in three-way races. One candidate in a two-way race, John Rankin, received 7.29%.

OHIO: I mistakenly reported that Thomas Brown, who received 6.11% for State Treasurer, ran in a two-way race. He was opposed by two major-party opponents.

PENNSYLVANIA: Three statewide candidates received between 0.28% and 0.73%. Eight Congressional candidates received between 0.22% and 3.66%.

VERMONT: Steve Oviatt was elected High Bailiff of Grand Isle County.

Please send in any other results to be listed in future election updates.

I wish to apologize to *frontlines*, which reported incorrectly that John Davis was reelected to the Kenai Borough Assembly in Alaska. I gave them the information, which I received from Dick Randolph, but received a correction in time for my *Vanguard* article.

Are You Moving?

Please send us *both* your old address and your new address so you won't miss an issue.

Letter from Ron Paul

Justin Raimondo
Libertarian Vanguard

Dear Justin:

Recently someone showed me the article you wrote for *Vanguard* regarding my political views. I wanted to let you know my thoughts about the article.

I was disappointed that there seemed to be so little we agreed on—though I doubt that this is really true. It is quite disturbing to live with the liberals and conservatives of the two major parties and be routinely condemned for my views. But it is even more disturbing when the condemnation comes from someone whose political philosophy is so similar to mine—i.e., minimizing government and maximizing individual freedom.

Quite frankly, some of your criticisms and those of Libertarian Party members are justified. You've obviously put a great deal of effort into your research and analysis of my rec-

ord, and I admit that I do not have a perfect Libertarian voting record. (I have to wonder, though, who should be the author of this kind of "scorecard.")

And although your interpretations of my positions did contain a few errors, this is understandable.

I believe our differences are less than you would imagine, and less than your article implied. If you are ever in the Washington area, come by. I would be pleased to meet with you and find out if this might not in fact be the case.

Sincerely,

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

Editor's Reply: We thank Rep. Paul for his courteous reply, but we notice that he neither explains nor repudiates his non-libertarian stands.

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Brickbats & Bouquets

• The Kane County Libertarians newsletter (of Illinois) is one of many typed, mimeographed, and stapled local publications that helps keep the movement rolling, but with a difference. A **BOUQUET** to them for demonstrating that even a small newsletter can have political content and be more than just an announcement sheet that contains no food for thought (and can appear regularly as well). The short articles, letters and replies, and thought-provoking quotes are the kind of writing that ought to be in every newsletter, no matter what size. . . . Are we exchanging with *your* newsletter? See the last page of this issue for instructions on how to arrange this. And even if you aren't a newsletter editor, send us the address of your newsletter and we will write to *them* with an offer. . . .

• Another newsletter we exchange with is *The Messenger*, published by the Illinois Valley Libertarian Association. We hereby award them a **BOUQUET** for "Sell The Roads," which appeared in their most recent issue. They note that the interstate highway system has displaced 125,000 residences, almost 30,000 businesses, and over a million people, all via the power of eminent domain. . . .

• Most libertarians have seen many three-panel campaign brochures (you know—folded from a single 8½ by 11 inch sheet), and many of these are about as interesting as your doormat. So it gives us pleasure to award a **BOUQUET** to Duncan Scott, recent candidate for Montana State Senate, for the best-looking brochure we've seen in a long time—and it was printed in black-and-white, yet! . . . Send us a SASE for a copy of this brochure. . . . And send us *your* brochure or one from a libertarian campaign in your area. . . .

• Latest word has it that Reagan has flat taxes on his mind again (he's got to find some way of "enhancing" government revenue to lower the deficit), so we were glad to see that libertarians haven't forgotten this issue already. Don Ernsberger merits a **BOUQUET** for his article "The Flat Tax Fraud" in the December 1982 *Individual Liberty*, in which he writes, "Evils cannot be made good by making them more universal, and taxes cannot be made less onerous by making them more 'equitable'". . . .

• You read in the last *Vanguard* and elsewhere about the Republican radio ads in Alaska which attacked the LP for intending to legalize "kiddie porn." And maybe you wrinkled your brow at Dick Randolph's response, which was to label the ads a "repulsive smear campaign," rather than make any attempt to explain the libertarian position and thus tie all sorts of issues together. But did you see the response in December's *Update* to a letter on this subject? The **BRICKBAT**-worthy reply claimed that "it would have been irresponsible for Randolph to have addressed [the issues raised in the ads] as though they were either relevant or a complete portrayal of Libertarian positions (who said they were complete?) and, more astonishingly, "it is by no means clear that if the LP had its way, kiddie porn would be allowed!" We think *Update* readers deserve an explanation on that one. . . .

• We're all in favor of libertarian magazines continuing to pound away at the scores of wasteful and harmful government programs. But in doing so, they should *never* imply that leaving some programs in place is okay, especially military ones. So why does Don Lambro's article "30 Ways To Erase the Deficit" in the January 1983 *Inquiry* contain this: "It

is not easy to cut the Pentagon budget in the short run, except in the areas of pay and pensions, because of long-term contractual obligations. Based on conversations with OMB officials, however, I think we can pursue defense spending at a slower pace than presently set by the administration. . . . All told, there is no reason why at least a 4 percent reduction cannot be achieved without fundamentally altering the administration's proposed military buildup." A **BRICKBAT** built to military specs to Lambro and *Inquiry*—Cap Weinberger couldn't have said it better. . . .

• Todd Mikuriya, former chairman of the Alameda County (California) LP, recently announced that he has registered as a Democrat, and he urged members of his organization to do the same. A **BRICKBAT** for this and for his audacity in running for re-election to his LP post *after* his announcement. He lost, 9 to 3. Another **BRICKBAT** to the three Libertarians (?) who voted for him. . . .

LPRC Notes

• Dianne Pilcher, vice-chair of the Florida Libertarian Party, was recently named to two important positions. She is now a member of the Libertarian Party National Committee as the representative from Region 19, and was also elected in January to the Central Committee of the LPRC. Congratulations, Dianne!

• Greg Kaza has been named by the LPRC Central Committee as Youth Liaison for the LPRC. Contact him at 339 8th Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, phone: (202) 546-8353.

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