

# Free Texas Reports

Newsletter of the  
Libertarian Party of Texas.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vol. I No. 5  
September 1983



## Prescon '83 results

# Bergland, Lewis top LP ticket

By Scott Bieser  
and Bill Howell

David Bergland, LP nominee for Vice-President of the U.S. in 1976, emerged as LP nominee for President in 1984 from the turmoil caused by Gene Burns' abrupt departure from the race just days before the LP 1983 Presidential Nominating Convention.

In what one month ago appeared a foregone conclusion Prescon '83 delegates took four ballots to pick a presidential nominee from the ranks of six contenders, five of whom entered the race after Burns called it quits. It likewise took four ballots for Jim Lewis of Connecticut to finally win the LP Vice-Presidential nomination, who faced four opponents at the convention.

Several party figures associated with the Ed Clark presidential campaign of 1980 supported foreign policy expert Earl Ravenal. Ravenal actually led Bergland in the early ballots, although Bergland received a boost from Mary Ruwart of Michigan, a third presidential contender who withdrew in Bergland's favor after the second ballot.

Ruwart then ran again for the Veep slot on the LP ticket, failing again in what seemed a generally lackluster contest which produced numerous write-in votes from discontented delegates. Other contenders in this race were Martin Cote of New York, Joe Fuhrig of California, David Nolan of Colorado, and Lewis, who finally edged his way over the top. Write-in votes included such names as David Hutzelman, Honey Lanham, Howie Rich, Albert Jay Nock, John Hancock (the original, one presumes), Bob Dobbs and Mickey Mouse.

The final ballot tally for President gave Bergland 270, Ravenal 242, None Of The Above 24, and novelists Robert Heinlein and Ayn Rand each one vote.

Bergland kicked off his new campaign by raising more than \$42,000 at the convention's Saturday night banquet, and told news media covering Prescon '83 that the Libertarian Party would not moderate its stands to win support of voters aligned with the major parties. "What reasonable person," he told the Washington Post, "could take the Republicans or Democrats seriously?"



David Bergland

In the contests for national party offices, Houstonian Matt Monroe moved from Region XIII Representative to an At-Large seat on the Libertarian National Committee. As LP Finance Chair Monroe helped lead the party out of an enormous debt, much of which was amassed in the 1980 presidential campaign. That debt has been reduced from more than \$165,000 as of two years ago to effectively nothing at convention time.

Gary Johnson of Austin was chosen by Region XIII delegates to take Monroe's old seat on the LNC. Johnson is Secretary to the LP of Texas Executive Committee and a leading Austin LP activist.

Paul Grant of Colorado ran unopposed to become the new National Chair; Mary Gingell of California was elected Vice-Chair and Dave Walter of Pennsylvania is the new Treasurer. Other At-Large representatives are Ed Clark, Jeff Steinberg of Pennsylvania, Steven Fielder of West Virginia, Dale Hemming of Minnesota, Murray Rothbard of New York, and Ruth Bennett of Colorado.

Elected to the National Judicial Committee were Michael Grossberg of Austin, LP co-founder David Nolan of Colorado, Bill White of California, Sylvia Sanders of Iowa, and Steven Davis.

Three Texans battled on the convention floor for and against amendments to the national LP Platform, with substantive expansions to the Children's Rights, Health Care, and Communication (formerly Free Speech) planks proposed by former FREE TEXAS editor Grossberg gaining delegates' approval. However, amendments to foreign and military policy as well as Social Security planks proposed by Jeff Hummel, a former Austinite and University of Texas graduate now residing in Anaheim, Calif., were defeated.

Cont. on page 2.

## Inside:

DART approved	page 4
Speak Out	page 2
Fundraising report	page 6
ExecCom plans	page 7

# LP activists Speak Out

Dozens of Libertarians responded to LPT Chair Alma Kucymbala's offer to give a free subscription for Free Texas Reports to people who send in a published letter-to-the-editor of a daily newspaper which offers a libertarian viewpoint. Thus, while we had no entries for the June-July double issue, we have more for the September issue than we can print. Selecting the best of the bunch has been a time-consuming but eminently satisfying task.

Individuals whose letters appear in this column will receive a year's subscription to FTR. It should be noted, however, that some of the people who sent letters in are already subscribers or contributors to the Party. These people deserve our special appreciation.

And now, on to the letters:

President Reagan has proclaimed 1983 as the "Year of the Bible." Mr. Reagan's proclamation states in part:

"Whereas the Bible, the Word of God, has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation ...

"Whereas renewing our knowledge of, and faith in God, through Holy Scriptures can strengthen us as a nation ... our national need (is) to study and apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures ...

"I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America ... do hereby proclaim 1983 the Year of the Bible ... I encourage all citizens each in his or her own way, to re-examine and discover its priceless and timeless message."

Asking non-Christian Americans (we really do exist, have always and will always) to study and apply the teachings of the Bible is a violation of our religious rights. How would the Christian Americans feel if the president had instead proclaimed it the year of the Koran or the Talmud? I'm sure they would be outraged if the president had encouraged us all to study and apply the teachings of Krishna, Buddah or Joseph Smith.

As a libertarian and a Unitarian-Universalist, the Bible Year edict disturbs me — just another instance of government men and voices in an area where they have no right to be.

Our constitutional form of government guarantees us the separation of church and state. (Public ele-

## Prescon cont.

from page 1

Leading opposition to the Hummel planks was Tom Glass of Houston, who is also Region 3 Representative to the LP of Texas Executive Committee. Glass, a Texas A&M graduate, raised numerous questions in the form of points of information about Hummel's foreign policy amendments which served to kill them on the floor.

The Social Security debate centered on whether the LP should call for keeping the bankrupt system and making participation in it voluntary or else simply call for its complete abolition. Hummel favored abolition whereas the majority of the delegates felt candidates should be free to propose a voluntary SS.

The only new plank added to the platform was one proposed by Bill Howell of Dallas which states that cohabitation should be no legal defense against charges of sexual assault.

Also added to the platform is a new Preamble, the text of which is included in the box accompanying this story. Other platform changes will be reported on in greater detail in future issues of Free Texas Reports.

Bill Howell is a long-time LP activist from Dallas and was Texas' representative to this year's national LP Platform Committee. Bieser is FTR editor.

mentary teachers please note: This means no singing "Jesus loves the little children.")

We will remain free to worship or not worship the God or gods of our choice only as long as we strive to retain that strict separation of church and state.

I consider President Reagan's Bible Year edict another step backward on the road to freedom and suggest that the road to hell is paved with government intentions.

**Jerry Crane**  
Acting Chair  
Ector County LP  
Odessa  
(Odessa American)

I am appalled at the recent Senate passage of the Simpson-Mazolli immigration bill. This draconian legislation is immoral and violates the founding principles of this nation. America was built by immigrants and their descendants. It is unfortunate to see us turn our backs on historically our greatest source of wealth — individuals seeking to be free to prosper through hard work. All of us benefit from working people who produce goods and services. We should return to the immigration policy set forth in the inscription at the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Furthermore, I believe this bill to be racist as are many of the recent immigration and trade policies of the United States.

**Thomas P. Bernhardt**  
Houston  
(Houston Chronicle)

I disagree with Ernest Conine's article on interest tax withholding (Editorial page, March 9). First, he bases it on a false premise. No one "owes" anything unless he has made a purchase or signed a contract. Taxation is merely the forcible seizure of a person's assets.

Cont. on page 6.

## Preamble to the LP Platform

The following is the new Preamble to the Libertarian Party Platform, approved by delegates to the 1983 LP Presidential Nominating Convention in New York City:

"As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefits of others.

"We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

"Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

"In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.

"These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands."

- Thousands of U.S. troops sent to Central America and the Middle East, not to mention the tens of thousands in Europe and Asia . . .
- New and higher Social Security taxes, gas taxes, excise taxes, "user fees" and harsh new laws against tax shelters and taxpayers . . .
- Dozens of young draft resisters jailed by a President who says he "doesn't believe in the draft" . . .
- Hundreds of restrictions on local police, the IRS, SEC, FBI, INS, CIA, BATF suddenly lifted to "crack down" on newly discovered government enemies — all of which leave the average citizen increasingly defenseless against police state methods . . .
- And in the face of endless promises to the contrary, no end in sight, or even the slightest reduction, in new and more powerful government bureaucracies, agencies, "task forces", "emergency legislation" and the numberless rules, regulations, edicts and decrees issued by all politicians of the conventional stripes . . .
- Without a doubt, we face a MAD DOG GOVERNMENT . . . OUT OF CONTROL!

# MAD DOG GOVERNMENT:



## OUT OF CONTROL!

There is only one sure solution, one cure, for this "mad dog". Only the Libertarian Party has the fundamental theory and practical solutions to ever more powerful, ever more costly, and more dangerous government power. Only a consistent advocacy of individual rights and responsibilities can put an end to this growing social cancer. Government exists only by the sanction of the people to protect our rights and liberties, and "Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it . . ." (*Declaration of Independence, 1776*). The American and Texas revolutions were based in large measure on libertarian principles, and unfortunately that struggle is not yet over.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The Libertarian Party of Texas is funded entirely on a voluntary basis by its members and supporters. Most of our ongoing funds are raised through the Independence Pledge program. We ask that you pledge a monthly amount (or a single lump sum payment) and each month we keep you up to date on LPT news and send you financial reports and special articles and items of interest. You'll also receive postage paid envelopes for your contributions and will be added to LPT publication mailing lists. And, more importantly, you'll be helping to end "mad dog" government through the democratic process. Just send in the coupon below and we'll do the rest.

..... Please clip pledge card and mail to the address below. ....

I want to make a monthly pledge of \$10 \$25\* \$50\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the next 12 mos. beginning the mo. of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a lump sum contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Enclosed is my first month's pledge or lump sum payment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contributors of \$25-\$49 per month will be named Finance Committee Consulting Members.  
 \*\*Contributors of \$50+ per month will be named to the Finance Committee Advisory Board.  
 All Independence Pledge participants will receive monthly mailings. We request that monthly pledges be a minimum of \$5/month.  
 \*\*\*\*\*Please make checks payable to the "Independence Pledge" P.O. Box 56426 Houston, Texas 77256-6426\*\*\*\*\*

★ ★ Big D votes for big boondoggle

# The bus system that will eat Dallas

By Scott Bieser  
FTR Editor

Although opponents of government mass transit monopolies lost the battle when Dallas voters approved creation of a Dallas Area Rapid Transit system last month, they came out better able to wage war in the future.

"The city fathers made the biggest mistake of their lives (in promoting DART). They had people working together who had never worked together before. Heck, they even had Jim Collins and the AFL-CIO on the same side," said Ken Fisher, a Dallas Libertarian active in the anti-DART movement.

Seven civic groups, the local bus driver's union and several other prominent individuals joined with LP activists in a coalition against DART which will provide a political base for future opposition to transit statist's plans, Fisher said.

Voters in the city of Dallas approved DART by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent. The total vote county-wide was 58 percent in favor and 42 percent against. However, five suburbs in the southern part of the county — Mesquite, Grand Prairie, Duncanville, The Colony and Cockrell Hill, voted the measure down and will therefore not be included in DART's service area.

"Martin Gibson was the one who was responsible for DART not passing in Duncanville," Fisher said. Gibson, who had gained considerable name recognition from his campaign in the special election for Rep. Phil Gramm's district this spring, sent out two mass mailings in his home town of Duncanville. One of these contained a map showing the large areas DART would have the power to condemn for redevelopment. The mailings caused "quite a stink" in the area, gaining considerable local media attention, Fisher explained.

Otherwise, the pro-DART forces had several advantages over their opponents:

\* Most of Dallas' banks, development companies and other large businesses gave DART considerable support in money, endorsements and volunteer labor. In fact, many large businesses spent considerable sums of time and money selling the DART idea to their employees, and frequently those employees who expressed opposition to DART were subject to harassment.

\* The pro-DART Transportation Task Force spent nearly two years meeting quietly with neighborhood associations and other groups spreading their statist propaganda. Anti-DART activist Terry Elkins discovered this when she made the same circuit herself weeks or months later.

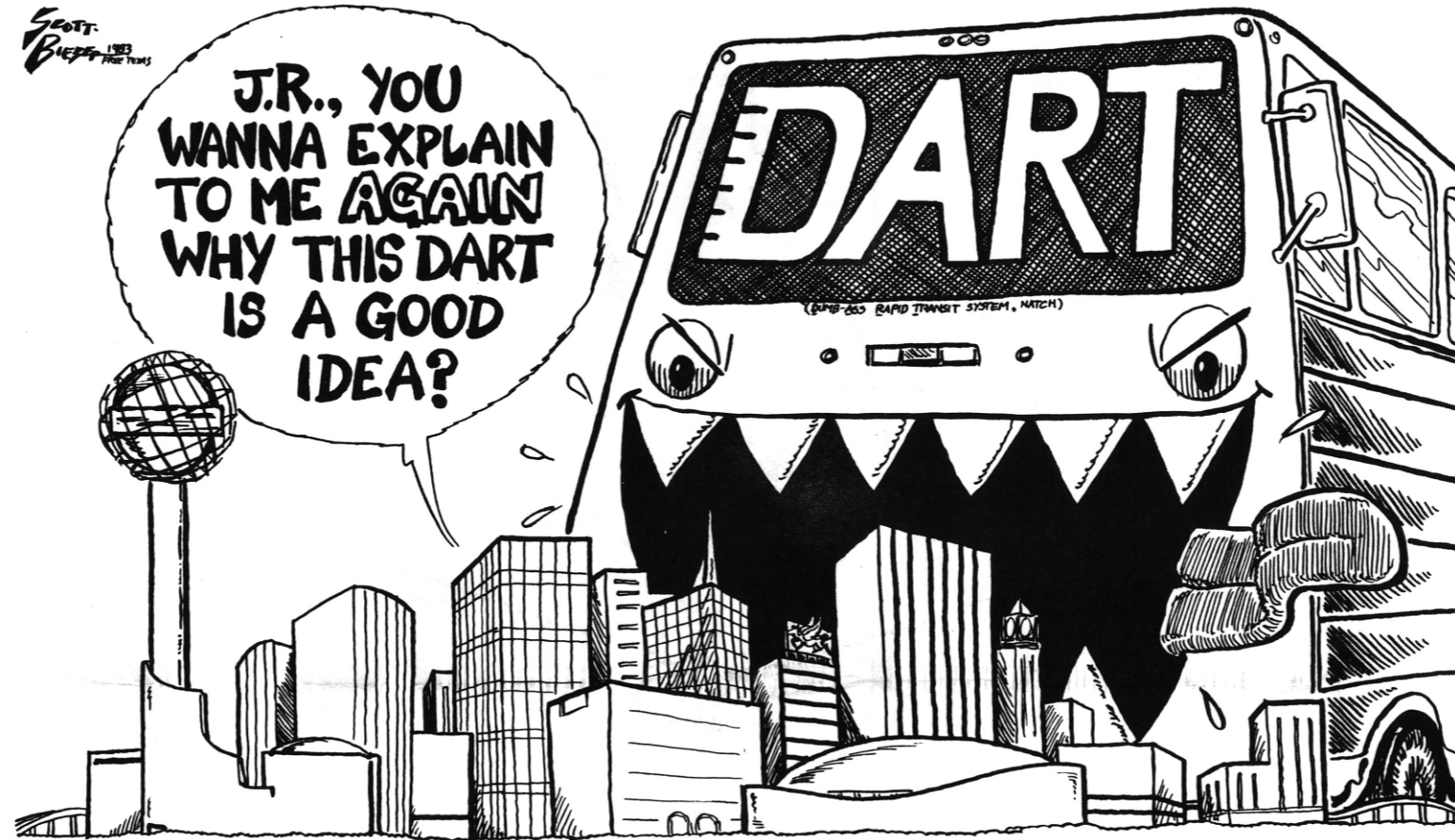
\* Dallas' two major newspapers and most other news media in the area supported DART, and the newspapers especially had a strong pro-DART bias in their news coverage. Only two of the city's five local T.V. stations gave reasonably fair coverage to anti-DART activists during the campaign's final four weeks.

\* The general public were far too accepting of misinformation they received from newspapers and television, Fisher said. Many people were only made aware of arguments against DART when they read anti-DART brochures distributed by Libertarian and other groups late in the campaign.

\* As of one month prior to the August 13 referendum, pro-DART forces had raised \$680,000, according to campaign finance reports. At that time a survey showed voters were split 40 percent for, 40 percent against and 20 percent undecided. They therefore redoubled their fundraising efforts and established a campaign kitty of \$1.2 million by election day, making this one of the most high-priced referendum campaigns Dallas has ever had.

In contrast, Fisher estimated all anti-DART groups together raised only \$17,000, purchasing 500 bumper stickers and 750 yard signs as well as several hundred brochures and buttons. The pro-DART groups had 30 million bumper stickers and 10,000 yard signs.

According to Fisher these "visuals" had a strong impact on the public, although many people who were against DART



were reluctant to wear anti-DART buttons or put up yard signs in part because of pressure from their employers and because the issue was emotionally charged.

Of course, the anti-DART forces had the power of being right on their side, and several activists were quite articulate spokespersons. One such activist is Dennis McCuistion, a banker, consultant and educator who heads an organization called For a Limited American Government (FLAG), which promotes free enterprise through public lectures and forums. McCuistion is a trained public speaker and was so adept at demolishing arguments for DART that the TTF refused to accept him as the anti-DART spokesman in debates, Fisher said.

"FLAG was the philosophical opponent (aside from the Libertarians) and had the best overall media coverage, was the most-recognized opponent to DART," he added.

Two individuals, Francis S. Wynn of Fast Tax, a company that provides computer programs for small and medium business bookkeeping, and Lamar Phillips, an executive with the American Automobile Association, spent their own money to purchase anti-DART ads in the major newspapers, and construction contractor Pete Gifford paid for anti-DART radio ads.

Elected officials who spoke against DART were Dallas City Councilmember Elsie Fae Higgins, state representative John Leadam and U.S. Rep. Jim Collins. Fisher said the media paid considerable attention to Leadam and Collins, which was unfortunate because McCuistion and other anti-DART activists were far more articulate and convincing.

Much of the opposition to DART came from people who were not ideologically opposed to government monopolies but were dissatisfied with the transit system being proposed.

The DART Interim Authority proposed to spend \$8 billion on a combination rail and bus system, increasing the existing Dallas Transit System bus fleet by 35 percent, building

25 time-transfer bus stations, laying 160 miles of track for the rail line by 2010 with 98 stations, and reducing fares by 29 percent. All this and they plan to have farebox revenues cover 50 percent of operating costs. DART proponents said this system would be "a showplace for the world."

But there were several problems with the plan. In the first place, it favored the more affluent sections of northern Dallas and the north suburbs at the expense of southern Dallas and the south suburbs. A large number of the city's blacks live in South Dallas, and several black activists formed Down With Dart, which developed a large number of members and was successful in defeating DART in many of Dallas' southern precincts.

Also, the Amalgamated Transit Union, which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, decided worker benefits under the DART plan would actually be reduced and therefore organized its membership against the proposal, manning phone banks and stuffing envelopes.

Several Dallas Libertarians spent considerable time and much of their money in the effort, with David Helber, Joe Paul Barnett, Martin Gibson, Fisher, Tommy Glenn, Pat Little and Larry Burford producing brochures, buttons and yard signs calling for DART's defeat. LPT Chair Alma Kucymbala also took time from her other duties to assist the local group.

Intellectual ammunition was provided by Libertarian out-of-towners Barry Klein of Houston and Robert Poole, Jr., president of the Reason Foundation in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Klein, the leading Libertarian activist against government transit in Houston, supplied considerable material about Metropolitan Transit Authorities and Houston's sour experiences with their MTA. The Houstonian is now working to set up an information network of free market transit activists in several cities.

Poole, who has amassed considerable information about private transit alternatives, came to Dallas in late July to address forums and talk to the media about ways the free market could solve transit problems if the government would lift its various and sundry restrictions against it.

At a forum sponsored by FLAG Poole detailed free market jitney services in large foreign cities such as Caracas, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur which provide either a majority or large minority of transit capacity in their respective areas. Jitneys are illegal in nearly all American cities, except for a handful of them where a limited number of jipneys are allowed to operate in some areas.

Poole also suggested lifting restrictions on the number of cabs, shared-ride cabs and subscription bus service as viable free market transit alternatives. He pointed out that state and local governments set up price controls and restrict competition in nearly all areas of public transit.

San Francisco's BART system is similar to DART, Poole said, and a follow-up study of BART by one of its designers revealed that most of its users were college educated, middle and upper income people who were being subsidized by lower-income taxpayers.

"Compassion for the poor? It seems compassion means taxing them to death," he declared. "People on Welfare pay taxes so that young lawyers can ride the trains."

Also at the forum was Dr. James Ramsey, a New York City transit expert who has written a book suggesting the city privatize its subway system as a solution to its fiscal crisis. Ramsey assailed DART's projections on service costs and revenues.

"These cost projections bear about as much resemblance to what actually happens as if I were asked for figures about Dallas and I just plucked them out of the air," he said. Ramsey said experiences of other cities' transit systems showed that initial cost figures rise by at least a factor of four.

In refuting DART claims its system would reduce pollution, Ramsey pointed out that during the last New York City transit strike, which affected 85 percent of the city's commuters, air quality improved 20 percent in the first three days.

The main problem with government operation of transit systems is that due to political pressure they defer needed maintenance spending in order to pay rapidly-increasing wages to its employees, he said. As a result systems deteriorate and we now have what the major news media point out as a crisis of collapsing infrastructure. Political pressure also keeps government managers from raising fares enough to cover costs, resulting in higher taxes to pay the difference or, in New York's case, catastrophic financial debts.

"The DART system spends your money, and it's spent by people who do not have their own money at stake in the system," he added.

Clifford Long, a manufacturing company executive and vice-president of FLAG, pointed out that changes in the state law enabling DART's creation would permit the sales tax which funds DART to be increased above the one-cent maximum provided elsewhere in that law. All DART would have to do is issue revenue bonds, which do not require voter approval, in an amount greater than can be covered by its farebox and tax income. The state government could then impose a limited sales tax on the DART service area to pay back the bonds.

Long's warning was echoed by columnist Mike Niebuhr in the neighborhood publication Oak Lawn Today, who also pointed out that DART can acquire a large amount of property near its stations by eminent domain and then lease the space back to private companies who would enjoy DART's legislated exemption from property taxes. He also warned DART will have its own police force with jurisdiction over state and city as well as DART Authority laws.

## Finance report

# Fundraisers battle recession

By Mike Holmes  
LPT Finance Chair

Despite the traditional "off-year" lull in political activism and the oil and gas depression in Texas, LPT Finance Committee members and party contributors continue the struggle for solvency.

"LPT contributions tend to follow our cycles of political activism," notes Bill Elliot, immediate past Treasurer, "and the first half of 1983 is probably the least active period we've experienced in quite some time."

Independence Pledge contributions have continued at levels near those of 1982, however, despite the fact that many contributors have faced financial reverses and are experiencing unemployment. Some pledgers have been forced to reduce or temporarily halt their contributions for these reasons.

However, the Finance Committee will keep past contributors in the program even if they are no longer able to contribute temporarily due to joblessness.

Despite the political and economic lulls, the Independence Pledge has raised about \$8,500 through the end of July at a cost of approximately \$1,800. This brings the total amount raised by the IP effort since February 1981 to about \$44,200.

The Consolidated LPT Financial Statements for fiscal year 1982 were issued by Elliot in May and showed that \$44,781 was raised in total by the LPT last year. Of that amount, \$27,198 was raised for the ballot drive and \$14,780 was raised by the pledge program. These figures do not include funds raised by individual LPT candidates in 1982, which are estimated at \$20-30,000.

On the cost side, the largest categories in 1982 were the Ballot Drive (\$37,771), Free Texas (\$3,339) and IP fundraising costs (\$2,740). We ended the year with a debt of about \$4,000, of which about \$1,950 remained outstanding as of June 6. Finance Committee Advisory Board member and Dallas activist Sarah Helber generously forgave \$1,000 of the 1982 debt, and Elliot forgave \$960 of the debt. Appreciation should also be extended to former LPT Chair and 1982 Ballot Drive Chair Bill Fraser, who contributed heavily to the ballot drive effort at considerable personal sacrifice.

The 1983 LPT Budget was adopted in January by the LPT Executive Committee with total revenues projected at \$20,000 with total expenditures of \$21,980.

"While we don't advocate deficit spending, our IP cash

flow does allow us to safely carry a limited amount of short term debt without much risk," observed Finance Committee member Richard Sansing.

The IP is budgeted to raise \$18,000 in 1983 with the remainder coming from party memberships and Free Texas ads and subscriptions.

Major budgeted costs for 1983 include \$1,780 for Free Texas, \$3,000 for Free Texas Reports, \$6,000 for publications director fees, \$4,500 for debt service and \$3,200 for IP fundraising. Other costs are for postage, supplies, meeting expense and 1984 Ballot Drive start-up costs.

Most costs are running below budget and the Austin Conference, which was not budgeted, managed to squeak out a \$50 profit.

Another unbudgeted production is the new cartoon format "Introduction to the Libertarian Party" by publications editor Scott Bieser, which is considered an important outreach effort. The Finance Committee believes additional revenue can be made by licensing republication rights to the cartoon booklet for use by other state LP groups and also by individual sales of the booklet.

The Finance Committee is also offering for sale a 150-page booklet which compiles all of the Independence Pledge mailings since inception, all of the promotional letters and ads, as well as a 44-page Accounting Guide for LP organizations. This booklet was produced in limited quantities and is available to LP groups and activists while supplies last for \$35. These and other sale items were made available at the LPT booth during the Presidential Nominating Convention in New York City.

Several Finance Committee members have also been busy lending a hand to the National LP Finance Committee as working members. Bill Elliot, Sue Bjornseth, Mike Holmes and David Scott have been pulling this double duty, assisting the national effort led by Dr. Matt Monroe, who retired from the LPT Finance Committee Chairmanship to take over the National Finance Committee in the spring of 1982.

The Finance Committee would also like to thank David Buelow of Austin for becoming an Advisory Board member this spring (Advisory Board members pledge \$50 or more per month) and we encourage others able to do so to join. Interested persons may join the Independence Pledge by sending in the coupon in the ad on page 3 of this issue or by sending in your pledge or lump-sum contribution to: The Independence Pledge, P.O. Box 56426, Houston, TX 77256.

## Speak Out cont. from page 2

Conine's terminology is also wrong. He defines those who attempt to keep their money from tax collectors as "chiselers." According to Webster's Dictionary, a chiseler is a "cheat or swindler." I do not see where this applies to a person who is only trying to keep his own money.

The Internal Revenue Service could have the decency to refer to itself accurately: tax collectors. Changing the name doesn't change the nature of anything.

Robert A. Cotten  
Houston  
(Chronicle)

When Uncle Sam prints worthless paper money, it's called "priming the pump."

When Billy Cannon prints worthless paper money, it's called "counterfeiting."

No wonder our children are having so much trouble learning English.

Jeff Daiell  
Houston  
(Houston Post)

Cont. on page 8.

## Odessa activists jump into action

The ranks of Libertarian publications in Texas has been increased by one with the creation of the newsletter Free West Texas in Odessa, published by the Ector County Independent Libertarian Party.

"The Ector County Independent Libertarian Party has taken a jackrabbit, quantum, leap for the advancement of the Libertarian viewpoint in West Texas," reports FWT editor Ellen Smith.

"Much hard work and diligent effort has gone into the formation of the ECILP in order to introduce and provide a format for the Libertarian Party in West Texas.

"Jerry Crane, the chairman, has spent a year and a half in reserach and organization for the Libertarian Party in West Texas. He is to be commended for his efforts to help West Texas better understand the Libertarian Party," she said.

The ECILP elected seven officers in August: Jerry Crane — chairman, G. Donaghe Smith — vice chair and research, Jeannie Austin — secretary, Ronald Holder — publicity, J.D. Cooper — FWT typesetting and layout, Ellen Smith — FWT editor, and Bill Swaffer — entertainment committee.

# ExecCom eyes future expansion

The LPT Executive Committee appointed a new party treasurer, formally adopted a policy of having an all-volunteer ballot drive next year, considered upgrading the party computer mailing list system and changes in publications policy at their Aug. 21 meeting in Houston.

Earlier reports in FTR and the Independence Pledge newsletter that the ExecCom approved an all-volunteer ballot drive at its June meeting in Austin were premature. Although some members had left that meeting believing the plan by Region 3 Representative and Ballot Drive Coordinator Tom Glass was approved, minutes of the meeting showed the matter had actually been tabled.

Region 2 Representative Robert Mitchell reiterated an opinion expressed at the June meeting by Region 1 Rep. C.B. Mauldin, that if the party cannot get sufficient volunteer support to get on the ballot the LPT does not deserve to be on the ballot. That statement was incorrectly attributed to Region 1 Rep. Gwynn Groggel in the last issue of FTR.

At the end of the meeting LPT Vice-Chair Joe Paul Barnett submitted a lengthy resolution detailing a volunteer ballot drive plan and calling for its adoption. However, since the resolution was so long and involved in the ExecCom voted to table consideration until its next meeting.

At the meeting's end Region 2 Rep. Scott Bieser proposed a much shorter resolution which simply called for making an all-volunteer ballot drive in 1984 the official LPT policy. That motion was adopted by a 4-3 vote.

Also at the meeting Glass announced he has appointed Catherine Elliot of Houston as Ballot Drive Finance Chair.

David Guier of Irving was appointed LPT Treasurer by unanimous vote. Guier, who is a CPA, was an LP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 1982 elections. As of Sept. 15 Guier replaces Bill Elliot of Houston, who had spent a considerable portion of his spare time as LPT Treasurer since the summer of 1982.

Tom Bernhardt of Houston, who has been helping Mailing List Chair Kurtis Bottke maintain the mailing list on his computer system, proposed the LPT lease-purchase a 10-20 megabyte hard disk for list maintenance. Bernhardt and Bottke said the present floppy-disk system has reached its limits with the party's current mailing list of more than 8,700 names, and that a hard disk would make handling, coding and expanding the list much more simple and efficient. The cost of such a purchase to the LPT would be roughly \$100 per month.

Some ExecCom members, noting that the National LP may move its headquarters to Houston, said it might be better to put its mailing list on the national party's computer system, perhaps in exchange for giving the National LP access

to the Texas list. Others pointed out that such a move by the national party was far from certain and even if it happens, it may not be in the best interests of the LPT to share mailing list facilities with the NLP.

The entire matter of the mailing list was tabled until the next ExecCom meeting. In related news Bottke has announced his resignation as Mailing List Chair, and the ExecCom has yet to appoint a successor.

LPT Chair Alma Kucymbala reported on conferences she has had with several ExecCom members regarding publications policy. At present, there is no formal policy except for one clause in the LPT By-Laws which states that a publications editor may be appointed by the ExecCom and serves at the pleasure of the chair. Kucymbala included in her report a copy of the National LP publications policy to give an example of how a publications policy could work.

Bieser, who is LPT publications editor, said he has consulted with Kathleen Richman, editor of the NLP publication LP News. Richman said she likes having a formal, written policy because it insulates her from conflicting expectations of National Committee members. Bieser told the committee he would like to have some sort of written publications policy, although it should not be quite as comprehensive as national's, which he said "locks the editor into a straight jacket."

Region 3 Rep. Katherine Glass said someone should write up a proposed publications policy and present it to the ExecCom for its consideration. Bieser said he would write such a policy and circulate it to ExecCom members by mail so they would have time to familiarize themselves with it and suggest changes before it is brought up at the next meeting.

## National HQ will move to Houston

The national Libertarian Party headquarters will move to Houston in the near future to take advantage of that city's large number of party volunteers, it was decided at the 1983 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention.

Gary Johnson, who became Region XIII representative to the LP National Committee at the New York convention, said the decision was made by the LPNC which ended its term at the end of August, and that decision was not overturned by either convention delegates or the new committee.

The LPNC had been debating a move from its current Washington, D.C., headquarters for several months.

# DIRECTORY

The Libertarian Party of Texas  
P. O. Box 56426  
Houston, TX 77256

FREE TEXAS/  
Free Texas Reports  
P. O. Box 6023  
Austin, TX 78762  
512 480-8597

Region XIII Natcom Representative  
Gary Johnson  
1500 Royal Crest #132  
Austin, TX 78741  
512-441-6378

NatCom Alternate  
Roger Gary  
723 Againer  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
512 732-5692

LPT Chair  
Alma Kucymbala  
P. O. Box 2271  
Dallas, TX 75221  
214 521-8596

LPT Vice-Chair  
Joe Barnett  
1013 Rosewood  
Arlington, TX 76010  
817 261-7819

LPT Secretary  
Gary Johnson  
1500 Royal Crest #132  
Austin, TX 78741  
512 441 6378

LPT Treasurer  
Bill Elliott  
7711 Deadwood  
Houston, TX 77040  
713 896-9707

Finance Committee  
Michael Holmes, Chair  
Bill Ware  
David Scott  
Richard Sansing  
Sue Bjornseth

Mailing List  
Kurtis Bottke, Chair  
Bill Elliott  
Tom Radloff  
Tom Bernhardt

#### Region 1 Representatives

Robert Mitchell  
Rt. 1, Box 176  
Tolar, TX 76476  
817 835-4879

C. B. Mauldin  
2428 Annglenn Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76119  
817 536-0127

Gwynn Groggel  
4949 Thunder Road  
Dallas, TX 75234  
214 991-2336

Alternate -  
Rick Wood  
1408 South Clinton  
Dallas, TX 75224  
214 941-3593

#### Region 2 Representatives

Theresa Doyle  
8202 Brixton  
San Antonio, TX 78256  
512 681-0522

Fred Ebner  
1941 Gaston Place #115  
Austin, TX 78723  
512 929-3091

Scott Bieser  
2401 Manor Road #134  
Austin, TX 78722  
512 480-8597

Alternate -  
William R. Kirkham  
8607 Jones-Maltsberger #606  
San Antonio, TX 78716  
512 340-2596

#### Region 3 Representatives

Tom Glass  
Katherine Youngblood-Glass  
11515 Burdine #530  
Houston, TX 77035  
713 728-1322

Peter Elloway  
PO Box 685  
Houston, TX 77001  
713-529-5208



Alternate -  
Tom Bernhardt  
7655 Athlone  
Houston, TX 77088  
713 999-5199

# Speak Out cont. from page 6

In your recent series on religion in Austin, Dr. Howard Miller of the University of Texas stated, "One of the oldest ideas in the western world is the necessary connection between church and state ..." It was necessary for the rulers to perpetuate the connection. Historically, the rulers have made the

\*\*\*\*\*

# CLASSIFIED

Is freedom worth defending? If you believe it is, subscribe to AMERICAN DEFENSE, newsletter of the Libertarian Party Defense Caucus, \$10.00/yr. PO Box 1064, Bolton, CA 92324.

**PLUGGED ARTERIES** are responsible for half the deaths each year through heart disease, strokes, etc. combination of vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and gland extracts has been shown to clean out the arteries safely. Health World, 1964 Civic Circle, Amarillo, Texas 79109.

**LIBERTARIAN GRAPHICS** — cartoons, illustrations, custom designs for newsletters, advertising, posters, t-shirts, etc. Professional quality, versatile. Scott Bieser, P.O. Box 6023, Austin, TX 78762, ph. 512-480-8597.

**SUPPORT THE PARTY** and make money at the same time by selling advertising for **FREE TEXAS** and Free Texas Reports. 30 % commission offered. For ad rates and other info write LPT Publications, P.O. Box 6023, Austin, TX 78762.

rules. If the people believe in a supreme being with ultimate power, then any ruler acting in His name also has ultimate power over the people.

Dr. Miller also stated, "... establishing religion is one of the most important ways to control public morality." The absence of religion does not mean an automatic lack of morality, nor does the presence of religion guarantee morality. Each man should have power over his own destiny. In America, any ruler who claims divine intervention is not acting in the best interest of the people he or she is to serve.

**David H. Raun**  
**Round Rock**  
(Austin American-  
Statesman)

=====

Free Texas Reports is published 10 times per year by the Libertarian Party of Texas. Subscriptions are \$10 per year; checks and address changes should be sent to The Libertarian Party of Texas, P.O. Box 56426, Houston, TX 77256. Articles, letters, photos and cartoons are welcome, but will only be returned with SASE, and should be sent to Free Texas Reports, PO Box 6023, Austin, TX 78762.

Classified ad rate is 10 cents per word. For business card and display rates write to FTR at the Austin address listed above or call 512-480-8597. FTR will not accept ads which are libelous, racist, sexist, or advocate the initiation of force.

**Editor:** Scott Bieser  
**Contributors:** Mike Holmes, Bill Howell  
**Distribution:** Keith Vanderlee, Gary Johnson, Heidi Hazlett, Carl Hickerson-Bull, Vincent May, Frank Bieser, Janice Sharp.  
**Printing:** The Acorn Press

=====

**Libertarian**  
**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**OF TEXAS**  
**P.O. BOX 56426**  
**HOUSTON, TX 77256-8426**

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTIN TX  
PERMIT No. 918

Address correction requested

Project Liberty  
1041 Cherokee Street  
Denver, CO 80204