

# Minnesota Libertarian

The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota



Libertarian candidate Rich Osness MN House 27B Austin shakes hands with Tom Workman (R) 47A Chanhassen. MN Rep. Workman recently joined the Libertarian Party and endorsed Osness.

# V O T E



Libertarian Party of Minnesota Attorney General candidate Ruth Mason of New Brighton welcomes State Fair goers at the LP of MN's Grandstand booth. Behind her are photographs of the LP of MN's five state-wide, four US House, one MN House, one City Council candidates. Most Minnesotans can vote for Libertarians in 5 of 6 offices in '98.

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- FREE Libertarian Voter's Guide '98

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday September 25 7 PM  
Frank Germann on Ch. 2 Almanac TV show

Thursday October 8 7-9 PM  
Star/Tribune & Minnesota Citizens' Forum  
Call Frank Germann for the location

Sunday October 11 3 PM  
Freedom of Education Rally on Capitol steps  
Call (612) 457-4280 for details

Saturday October 17 9 AM  
Rural Landuse Conference at Cragun's in Brainerd  
Email Ken Nebel for details: ken1@cpinternet.com

Tuesday November 3  
General election VOTE Libertarian

Tuesday December 15  
United States Bill of Rights Day



The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota  
Minnesota Libertarian  
P.O. Box 580774, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0774  
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# Clinton's Job Performance Puzzle

By Sheldon Richman

The pundits are bewildered over the public's apparently contradictory response to President Clinton during his recent troubles. Most people have a low opinion of his character. Yet at least 60 percent of those polled think he's doing a terrific job and should not resign. How can this be?

Assuming the polling results are accurate, it may be possible to make sense of this strange combination of opinions. First, we can dismiss the theory that most Americans are cynics who care about nothing but money. Of course, they do

value the economic well-being of themselves and their families. No one should object to that. Contrary to the pundits, who make their living writing and chattering about government, the world does not revolve around Washington, D.C. The rest of us know there are more important things than government.

Nevertheless, Americans do think character is important. That's why they frown on the President's admitted moral lapse.

What needs explaining is the connection between the good economy and the President's positive job-performance rating. People

assume that if the inflation and unemployment are low and incomes are rising, the President deserves credit. Why?

The main reason is that most people went through government-run schools. Those schools repeatedly and self-servingly teach children that the government is responsible for the economic health of the nation. Although the federal government has been meddling in our private economic activities for well over a century, the explicit idea that it is the steward of the economy goes back to the Great Depression of the 1930s. That calamity supposedly proved that government is the glue that

holds the economy together. As a result, since the days of Franklin Roosevelt, Washington has openly assumed responsibility for all economic matters.

Planners and administrators came to the capital in droves beginning in 1933 and found an abundance of work. When World War II came along, they found even more to do. The restoration of peace did not send them packing. The agencies they ran were expected to maintain full employment, manage the money supply, calibrate the level of taxation and spending just right, and do all the other specialized tasks that a great economy couldn't do for itself. That was the

theory anyway. When it comes to central planning any level of interference imposes costs and the poorest people suffer most. The government really has only two basic choices: leave the people alone or really mess things up. Goodness knows that President Clinton has favored policies taxes and regulations that would have created major hardship had the economy been less resilient. Perhaps he deserves credit for not coming up with more inane interventionist policies than he has.

While economic indicators have been favorable, good times are not guaranteed. Some government policy could bring things

crashing down at any time. We should be thankful that Clinton's problems have stayed his hand from intervening even more in our productive activities.

Presidents cannot "grow the economy" or create prosperity. Free people do that. The most government can do is stay out of the way. If the American people had the economic education they lack, they would see President Clinton in a far different light. ■

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., and editor of The Freeman magazine.

## U.S.C. Title 18 Crimes and Criminal Procedure Part 1 Crimes Chapter 47 Fraud and False Statements

1001. Statements or entries generally

Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

U.S.C. TITLE 18 - CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE PART I - CRIMES CHAPTER 79 PERJURY

1621. Perjury generally

Whoever -  
(1) having taken an oath before a competent tri-

bunal, officer, or person, in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed, is true, willfully and contrary to such oath states or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true; or

(2) in any declaration, certificate, verification, or statement under penalty of perjury as permitted under section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, willfully subscribes as true any material matter which he does not believe to be true; is guilty of perjury and shall, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. This section is applicable whether the statement or subscrip-

tion is made within or without the United States.

1622. Subornation of perjury

Whoever procures another to commit any perjury is guilty of subornation of perjury, and shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

1623. False declarations before grand jury or court

(a) Whoever under oath (or in any declaration, certificate, verification, or statement under penalty of perjury as permitted under section 1746 of title 28, United States Code) in any proceeding before or ancillary to any court or grand jury of the United States knowingly makes any false material declaration or makes or uses any other information, including any book, paper, document, record, recording, or other

material, knowing the same to contain any false material declaration, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(b) This section is applicable whether the conduct occurred within or without the United States.

(c) An indictment or information for violation of this section alleging that, in any proceedings before or ancillary to any court or grand jury of the United States, the defendant under oath has knowingly made two or more declarations, which are inconsistent to the degree that one of them is necessarily false, need not specify which declaration is false if:

(1) each declaration was material to the point in question, and  
(2) each declaration was made within the period of the statute of limitations for the offense charged under this section. In any prose-

cution under this section, the falsity of a declaration set forth in the indictment or information shall be established sufficient for conviction by proof that the defendant while under oath made irreconcilably contradictory declarations material to the point in question in any proceeding before or ancillary to any court or grand jury. It shall be a defense to an indictment or information made pursuant to the first sentence of this subsection that the defendant at the time he made each declaration believed the declaration was true.

(d) Where, in the same continuous court or grand jury proceeding in which a dec-

laration is made, the person making the declaration admits such declaration to be false, such admission shall bar prosecution under this section if, at the time the admission is made, the declaration has not substantially affected the proceeding, or it has not become manifest that such falsity has been or will be exposed.

(e) Proof beyond a reasonable doubt under this section is sufficient for conviction. It shall not be necessary that such proof be made by any particular number of witnesses or by documentary or other type of evidence. ■

## Elected or appointed Minnesota Libertarians

David Buelow (Elected)  
School Board,  
Waubun School Board  
RR 2 Box 225  
Waubun, MN 56589-9329  
(218) 734-2262

Maynard Meyer (Elected)  
City Council-member,  
Madison City Council  
P O BOX 70  
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Work: (320) 598-7301

Larry Fuhol (Appointed)  
Planning Commissioner,  
Isanti Town Planning Commission  
515 County Road 5 W  
Isanti, MN 55040-9305  
(612) 444-9008  
fuhol@usfamily.net

Peter Eiden (Appointed)  
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Eric M. Johnson (Appointed)  
Park Commissioner,  
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Libertarian Party  
of Minnesota

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Please submit ads and articles (ideally) on a 3.5" computer disk in ASCII text, Quark, MacWrite, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, WordPerfect, or WriteNow. The Minnesota Libertarian is produced on a Macintosh computer.

Articles typed on paper are acceptable, too.

Article submissions should be sent to:

Charles Test c/o Libertarian Party of Minnesota

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Advertisements do not imply the endorsement of the Libertarian Party.  
The LPMN reserves the right to refuse advertising.

Articles do not necessarily imply official Libertarian Party positions. Articles may be reprinted if the writer and this newsletter are credited.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIR

A lot has happened since the last "From the Chair," including the national Libertarian Party convention, ballot access petitioning, county fairs, State Fair, and campaigns in general. Brent Jass, Bob Smith and Kevin Houston have improved our web



• Charles Test

site, [www.lpmn.org](http://www.lpmn.org), it's been updated and each LPMN candidate now has their own web page. Bob Smith has automated more of our membership and prospect mailings and has written a new improved prospect letter which is bringing in more new members. Our candidates are also working harder than ever in spite of broken bones, full time jobs and family obligations.

The Minnesota Libertarian Party was well represented. Our members were active in many fields. Forrest Wilkinson provided us with the best decorations on the convention floor. We even set off a minor competition among the states.

Ed Contoski gave his talk: "Best Kept Environmental Secrets-What You Haven't Been Told and Why" three times by popular demand. His book *Makers & Takers* was well received I think it should become standard libertarian reading fare.

Rich Osness of Austin wrote the most popular convention resolution calling for Clinton and Gore's impeachment for Bill of Rights violations.

At the "Gala Banquet" Saturday night I challenged everyone to match their NAT LP contributions with equal contributions to their state parties. State Libertarian parties must be funded to meet the demands of growth. For example, the LP of MN's membership has grown 92% in the last year and a half and we need more money and organization to keep up. State affiliates must be able to do as good a job as the national office in serving members and prospects.

1998 set another record for Libertarian candidates on the ballot. We have a full slate of state-wide candidates for constitutional office, four of eight US House districts covered, and Rich Osness for MN House 27B.

Ballot access petitioning was significantly easier this year even with a record number of candidates. Most of our candidates got onto the ballot before the two week deadline, several within a week. I encountered many more who were people familiar with the Libertarian Party and favorable to us than in 1994. My petitioning line, while pointing to my tri-corn colonial-type hat was, "Libertarians believe in Thomas Jefferson, the Bill of Rights, in limited government, much less government spending, and a WHOLE lot more control of your life and your money by YOU." It worked for a lot of people.

Consider, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." or "If you never give to what you really want, you'll never get what you really want." If want to live in a society where personal responsibility is rewarded and opportunity for all abounds, it's time to start investing in the only party that advocates the same, the Libertarian Party. For years now I have invested thousands of hours and thousands of dollars in building a safer, more just and wealthier America. It's time the rest of us who want the same to start investing too. The dividends will be great for ourselves and our posterity.

County fairs, parades and the State Fair kept us busy in July and August. Rich Osness, Larry Fuhol, Frank Germann went to every parade they could find. Larry Fuhol has been in over twenty-five parades this year so far. Bob Odden walked many a parade route on crutches with a broken ankle. Larry Fuhol's back has gone out again but he's still campaigning. Such dedication needs to be rewarded much more than it has been.

A few of us give most of our time and a lot of our money to the cause of freedom. Libertarians have a harder time selling freedom than the old parties have selling favors. The idea that we would ALL be better off in a society free of political favoritism is not widely recognized. Too many people just want to get theirs and let others fend for themselves. A just and moral society where government is a servant not a master is hard for people to imagine considering the present examples in government. Because Libertarians are not selling favors and re-distributing

Peter's money to pay Paul, Libertarians have a hard time raising money. This should not be. The freer the society the wealthier the society.

Freedom from government control and taxes would lift ALL boats at once. It would lift the poor the highest for they are the ones who suffer the most under the old policies of command, control and dependence. Imagine the energy released if people didn't have to always look over their shoulders to see if some new law or regulation is being violated. Imagine being able to start a business by simply offering your services to willing buyers. Imagine being able to concentrate on serving customers as opposed to bureaucratic red tape.

Libertarians must put their money and time towards these goals. Special interests invest millions in the old parties to curry favor and to hopefully get their way. It is a bargain with black-mailers. They always want more and more of your treasure or they'll take from you in a new and novel way.

Consider, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." or "If you never give to what you really want, you'll never get what you really want." If want to live in a society where personal responsibility is rewarded and opportunity for all abounds, it's time to start investing in the only party that advocates the same, the Libertarian Party. For years now I have invested thousands of hours and thousands of dollars in building a safer, more just and wealthier America. It's time the rest of us who want the same to start investing too. The dividends will be great for ourselves and our posterity.

So take that Libertarian Party of Minnesota fundraising letter out of your "to do" box and start investing in a better Minnesota by sending us some money, starting a monthly pledge and/or by volunteering to help one of your candidates when they call. It's fun and feels good to volunteer and give money to a cause you deeply believe in. Start your long term investment in Liberty today. Give until it feels REALLY good.

Remember: Your contribution of \$50 per individual or \$100 per married couple may be fully refundable through the Minnesota Political Contribution Refund program (PCR). ■



Part of your LP of MN's delegation of 19 to the Libertarian Party convention in Washington, DC. L-R Back row: Arnold Souba, Linda Souba, Forrest Wilkinson, Mike Neitzel, Felicia O'Brien, Eric Wilkinson, DJ Simerson, Ron Helwig. Sitting: Rich Osness, Colin Wilkinson, Charles Test

## Fun at the 1998 MN State Fair

By Eric Johnson

The 1998 Minnesota State Fair Libertarian Party booth was a success in getting more people on the libertarian bandwagon. The new improved display attracted bypasser's attention. Hopefully we can get an additional outside booth in two years for our Senate and Presidential candidates. We gave a copy of Minnesota author Ed Contoski's book "Makers and Takers" to one of the hundreds of people who signed up for a free subscription to the newsletter.

As the organizer for the booth volunteers, I would like to thank everyone who helped. There were many of the usual "old-timers" who have been at the fair for years, and some first time volun-

teers. It is good to see new volunteers coming forward to help promote freedom.

Calling people and organizing the time slots can be a little nerve racking, especially when the fair has started and nobody has committed to helping staff the booth for the last weekend. As it turned out, we had more than enough people to help during the Labor Day weekend, with three or four people attending the booth for some of the time slots! Frank Germann and Ruth Mason spent a few days campaigning at the fair, braving the sometimes unbearable heat.

Thanks to: Ted Ellingson, Ron Helwig, Bob Smith, Rob Babione, Colin Wilkinson, Mike McCarty, Michael Toenies, Larry Fuhol, Kevin

Houston, Rich Kleinow, Lise Dossi, Mike Strand, Eric Olson, Bill Boushka, Dennis Kurk, Owen Strand, Jason Bodin, Frank Germann, Jim Rongstad, Bob Odden, Mike Neitzel, Ken Iverson, Nick Nelson, Ruth Mason, Jack Mason, Charles Test, Kyle Vraa, Dave Wahlstedt, Christopher Stewart, Rich Osness, Dave Greenslit, Ed Ness, David Siegel, Arona Roshal, Jim Davis, Bob Gibson, and anyone else who I may have regrettably missed.

This is the event to keep in mind if you want to get some campaign experience talking to the public about libertarian ideas. We always can use more volunteers, and this is one way you can make an impact in promoting freedom. ■

### Contact your LPMN candidates:

Frank Germann for Governor fgermann@juno.com	612 455-0967
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Ken Iverson for Secretary of State kiverson@vistamn.com	612 906-0948
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Rich Osness of Austin for MN House 27B kkraft@smig.net	507 433-5734

# Libertarian Party requests impeachment of President Clinton

WASHINGTON, DC —

The Libertarian Party has become America's first political party to officially demand the impeachment of President Clinton.

On Wednesday, the party sent letters to House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, formally requesting that the "United States House begin Articles of Impeachment" against Clinton and Vice President Gore.

The action followed the party's national convention in Washington, DC, where delegates approved a resolution urging Clinton's impeachment.

Passed overwhelmingly by voice vote on July 5, the motion called for Clinton and Gore to be removed from office for "violation of their oath of office, specifically their failure to uphold and defend

the United States Constitution."

In the letter to Gingrich and Gephardt, the party's National Director Ron Crickenberger wrote: "Given their scandalously bad record of protecting the basic civil and economic liberties of the American people, it is imperative that the United States House begin Articles of Impeachment against President Clinton and Vice President Gore."

The party called for impeachment hearings to begin immediately.

"Clinton has the worst record on civil liberties since Richard Nixon, and the worst record on economic issues since Fidel Castro," explained Crickenberger. "What he's done to the Constitution should be classified as a hate crime. That's why he deserves to be impeached."

Crickenberger noted in

the letter that the party's action was not motivated by the current sex-and-lies investigation of the president, which focuses on whether Clinton lied about a sexual relationship with a White House intern.

**In the letter to Gingrich and Gephardt, the party's National Director Ron Crickenberger wrote: "Given their scandalously bad record of protecting the basic civil and economic liberties of the American people, it is imperative that the United States House begin Articles of Impeachment against President Clinton and Vice President Gore."**

"This impeachment request has nothing to do with the ongoing investigation of President Clinton by Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr," he wrote. "We are

making this request based solely on the violations of the Constitution that have been perpetrated by President Clinton and Vice President Gore during the time they have been in office."

The party documented a long list of constitutional violations in the letter, noting that Clinton and Gore:

- \* Violated the First Amendment by supporting censorship of the Internet and by demanding a ban on commercial advertising by cigarette companies.

- \* Violated the Second Amendment by signing the Brady Bill and by arbitrarily banning so-called "assault weapons."

- \* Violated the Fourth Amendment by restricting the right of Americans to employ encryption technology to prevent government

spion on electronic communications and by supporting legislation that will mandate national ID cards with biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints.

**"Our members are tired of watching a president — who put his hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution — spend his entire term of office ignoring, abusing, and violating the guiding document of this nation," said Crickenberger. "Based on his record as president, Clinton deserves nothing better than impeachment."**

- \* Violated the Fifth Amendment by supporting and expanding the power of the federal government to seize private property without compensation under asset forfeiture laws and by signing "anti-terror-

ism" legislation that sharply curtailed the right of habeas corpus.

- \* Violated the Ninth and Tenth Amendments — which reserve all power not specifically delegated to the federal government to the states and to the people — by attempting to put America's health care industry under federal control and by numerous other executive actions and decrees.

"Our members are tired of watching a president — who put his hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution — spend his entire term of office ignoring, abusing, and violating the guiding document of this nation," said Crickenberger. "Based on his record as president, Clinton deserves nothing better than impeachment." ■

# Author Peter McWilliams victim of efforts to discredit medical marijuana *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*, best-selling author jailed

WASHINGTON, DC —

The arrest of medical marijuana activist Peter McWilliams proves that the federal government is "fanatically determined to wage its War on Drugs — even if it means putting sick and dying people in jail," the Libertarian Party charged today.

"Peter McWilliams is the latest victim of the federal government's campaign to arrest and discredit advocates of medical marijuana," said Ron Crickenberger, the party's national director. "For the government's Drug Warriors, compassion is a crime, and propaganda is more important than the truth about the benefits of medical marijuana."

McWilliams, a #1 best-selling author and Libertarian Party member, was one of nine people charged in California on July 23 with conspiracy to grow marijuana plants, which McWilliams said he planned to distribute to sick people under the state's medical marijuana law.

The indictment alleged that marijuana was grown at four locations in Los Angeles County, and that McWilliams had provided the funds for the operation. Prosecutors claim that McWilliams tried to sell some of the marijuana to the Los Angeles Cannabis Buyer's Club, which has been distributing medical marijuana since 1996.

But McWilliams vehemently denied the accusations, and released a letter from prison saying, "I have never sold a drug in my life. . . . I am a vocal and

occasionally effective proponent of medical marijuana — and that is why I am in jail."

McWilliams entered a formal plea of not guilty, but remains in federal custody as he tries to raise a \$250,000 bond. If convicted, he faces a 10-year jail sentence.

**"Peter McWilliams is the latest victim of the federal government's campaign to arrest and discredit advocates of medical marijuana," said Ron Crickenberger, the party's national director. "For the government's Drug Warriors, compassion is a crime, and propaganda is more important than the truth about the benefits of medical marijuana."**

At a July 31 hearing in federal court in Los Angeles, McWilliams' attorneys accused the prison of withholding life-saving medication from the author, who is suffering from AIDS and cancer, and asked that he be released for health reasons.

The judge denied the request, and also rejected a defense motion to reduce his bond.

McWilliams — whose book, *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*, criticizes "consensual crime" laws as immoral, destructive, and a waste of law enforcement resources — is a long-time, high-profile advocate of the benefits of medical marijuana.

Just 19 days before his arrest, McWilliams blasted the federal government's vendetta against medical

marijuana at the Libertarian National Convention.

In a speech broadcast nationwide on C-SPAN, he said, "Marijuana is the finest anti-nausea medication known to science, and our leaders have lied about this consistently. Medical marijuana is the most hideous example of government interference in the private lives of individuals. It's an outrage within an outrage."

Seven months before that, his home was raided by DEA agents, who seized his computer and a book-in-progress about medical marijuana, *A Question of Compassion: An AIDS Cancer Patient Explores Medical Marijuana*. His plight was subsequently detailed on the John Stossel television special, "Sex, Drugs, and Consenting Adults."

Previously, McWilliams had taken out an advertisement in *Variety*, the trade publication of the entertainment industry, attacking the federal government's war on medical marijuana patients.

McWilliams' passion on the medical marijuana issue comes, in part, from his own life: Suffering from both cancer and AIDS, he uses the drug to combat the nausea caused by his life-saving medical treatments.

"Tragically, McWilliams already suffers from two potentially fatal diseases. Now he suffers from a cruel government that arrested him for trying to save his own life, and the lives of other sick people," said Crickenberger. "Given McWilliams' courageous opposition to the federal

government's efforts to attack, imprison, and discredit anyone who suggests that there are genuine medical benefits to marijuana, it's not surprising that he's been singled out for prosecution."



Peter McWilliams

Medical marijuana is legal in California, thanks to Proposition 215, which voters passed in November 1996. The law decriminalized marijuana when used to treat medical conditions, but was immediately attacked by the Clinton Administration, which threatened to prosecute doctors who prescribe the drug, and to arrest medical marijuana users.

Despite Clinton's actions, marijuana has a long history as a treatment for a variety of ailments, according to Dr. Lester Grinspoon, author of *Marihuanna, the Forbidden Medicine* (Yale University Press, 1997). It has been used to cure the nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy, weight-loss syndrome from AIDS, chronic pain, depression, glaucoma, and muscle spasms.

The drug was the subject of more than 100 papers published in medical journals between 1840 and

1900, and was recommended as an appetite stimulant, analgesic, muscle relaxant, sedative, and as a treatment for migraine headaches.

In 1937, when marijuana was effectively outlawed, the American Medical Association opposed the ban.

**Medical marijuana is legal in California, thanks to Proposition 215, which voters passed in November 1996. The law decriminalized marijuana when used to treat medical conditions, but was immediately attacked by the Clinton Administration, which threatened to prosecute doctors who prescribe the drug, and to arrest medical marijuana users.**

As recently as 1988, the DEA's administrative law judge, Francis L. Young, described marijuana as "one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man." Despite this, the DEA continued to list marijuana as a Schedule I drug, which means it has no accepted medical use and is unsafe even under medical supervision.

Efforts by doctors to clinically prove the medical benefits of marijuana have been stymied by the federal government. In 1994, for example, researchers at the University of California (San Francisco) tried to conduct a privately funded study comparing smoked marijuana to oral synthetic THC (the active ingredient in marijuana). However, the DEA prevented the researchers from legally obtaining the marijuana

needed for the study.

Ironically, since the 1970s, the federal government has furnished medical marijuana — grown at a government pot farm in Mississippi — for victims of multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, and other ailments, at taxpayer expense.

Peter McWilliams, 48, is the owner of Prelude Press and a multi-million-copy-selling author who has written on subjects as wide-ranging as curing depression, emotional loss, victimless crimes, meditation, and computers.

Among his best-known titles are *How to Survive the Loss of a Love* (which sold over two million copies); *The Personal Computer Book*; *DO IT! Let's Get Off Our Buts* (with co-author John-Roger), a #1 New York Times bestseller; and *Portraits* (a book of photographs).

McWilliams is probably best known to Libertarians for *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*, a scathing attack on the foolishness of arresting people for "consensual crimes." First published in 1993, it was called "highly readable and entertaining" by Hugh Downs of ABC News. ■

**MORE INFORMATION**  
To hear Peter McWilliams' speech to the Libertarian National Convention, go to: <http://aennet.com/libertarian/mcwilliams.htm>

For updates on Peter McWilliams' imprisonment, check: <http://www.marijuanamagazine.com/jail/>

# Minnesota Libertarians call for Clinton & Gore's Impeachments

*They've violated their oaths of office too often.*

WASHINGTON, DC -

At their bi-annual national convention in Washington, DC, over the Independence Day weekend (July 2-5), the Libertarian Party passed a resolution calling on the United States House of Representatives to begin Articles of Impeachment against President Clinton and Vice-President Gore for violations of their oath of office, specifically their failure to uphold and defend the United States Constitution.

The resolution offered by the Minnesota delegation and authored by

Minnesota Libertarian Rich Osness of Austin and candidate for Minnesota House 27B was passed by acclamation by the 800 Libertarian delegates representing all 50 states.

Osness wrote the resolution after Carol Moore, author of *The Davidian Massacre: Disturbing Questions About Waco Which Must Be Answered*, spoke to the convention about the crimes committed by federal agents against Americans at Waco, Texas and elsewhere. Clinton and Gore are where the buck starts and stops.

Speaking to his resolution Osness said, "I don't

care about the personal life of our president. Though, it is probable that cases could be made for many dalliances, misdemeanors and even felonies."

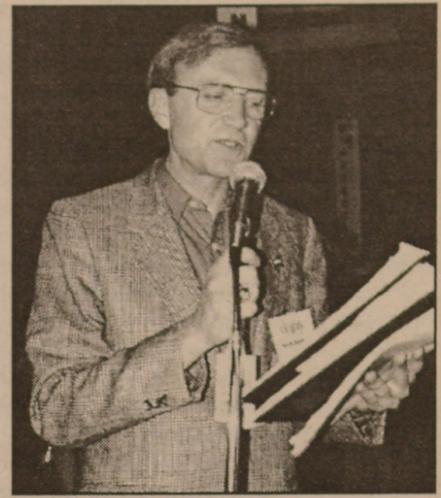
**"If insisting that our elected officials obey the law that they were elected to uphold is radical and unreasonable, then I am proud to be an unreasonable and radical man."**

"However, I can think of no crime greater than the complete failure of these two men to observe the limits placed on their authority by the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution.

If you want more specifics pick an amendment, from the Bill of Rights, from the First Amendment to the Tenth, with the possible exception of the Third Amendment, they've all been violated.

"If insisting that our elected officials obey the law that they were elected to uphold is radical and unreasonable, then I am proud to be an unreasonable and radical man."

"We all know that President Clinton is NOT going to be impeached by this Congress. If they WERE going to impeach him, this is the last reason they would cite. ALL of



Rich Osness reading his resolution to the LP-USA convention

people need to be aroused. Regular Americans are the only ones that can save the Bill of Rights and our freedoms," added Charles Test, Minnesota State Chair and Libertarian convention delegate. ■

our recent Congresses and presidents have ignored the Bill of Rights. It's getting worse and the American

## Politicians plotting to impose a new tax on the "outdoors"

WASHINGTON, DC —

You won't believe what politicians are now plotting: They want to put a tax on the outdoors.

A coalition of state and national politicians is trying to impose a federal tax of up to 5% on almost every outdoor-related product you'll ever buy — including cameras, film, bird seed, hiking boots, mountain bikes, skis, and all-terrain vehicles.

"Watch out: Politicians and environmentalists are trying to hit us with a tax that's as big as all outdoors," warned David Bergland, national chairman of the Libertarian Party. "If we don't stop it, every outdoor sport and activity will cost more."

A coalition — dubbed Teaming for Wildlife — is

now lobbying Congress to impose a so-called "conservation" tax on a wide range of sports and nature-related goods, with the money being funneled back to the states to finance wildlife habitat.

**A coalition of state and national politicians is trying to impose a federal tax of up to 5% on almost every outdoor-related product you'll ever buy — including cameras, film, bird seed, hiking boots, mountain bikes, skis, and all-terrain vehicles.**

Included on their list of taxable items: Every product that has even the remotest connection to the outdoors, including bird-baths, guide books, tents, binoculars, and all-terrain

vehicles. The tax would add up to \$100 to the price of individual products, and would cost Americans upwards of \$350 million.

The tax is supported by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, a dozen state governors, Trout Unlimited, and numerous environmental groups.

The proposed tax may be "green," but it has Libertarians seeing red.

"The problem with this tax — in addition to the fact that Americans are already massively overtaxed — is that even if you never set foot outdoors, you'll end up paying more," said Bergland.

"If you look beyond the green rhetoric, you'll see that this isn't really a tax on the outdoors; it's just another tax, plain and simple. For example, if you buy

a backpack to carry your books to school, you'll get taxed. If you buy a camera to take pictures of your children, you'll get taxed. If you buy hiking boots to walk to the grocery store, you'll get taxed," he said. "This isn't about the outdoors; it's about taxes."

For Americans who are genuinely concerned about protecting wildlife, Bergland said Libertarians have a proposal that is simpler and cheaper than a new outdoors tax.

"Let those people with a passion for wildlife protection freely and enthusiastically contribute to programs and organizations that effectively accomplish that goal," he suggested. "There are a number of private conservation organizations that do excellent work for the environment —

without the waste, coercion, and inefficiency of the government.

**"If you look beyond the green rhetoric, you'll see that this isn't really a tax on the outdoors; it's just another tax, plain and simple. For example, if you buy a backpack to carry your books to school, you'll get taxed. If you buy hiking boots to walk to the grocery store, you'll get taxed," he said. "This isn't about the outdoors; it's about taxes."**

"In addition, let parks, resorts, camping grounds, and nature preserves — where tourism or recreational activity has an

adverse impact on the environment — charge appropriate fees to cover the cost of wildlife preservation," he said. "This would mean that the people who cause harm to wildlife habitat would help to pay to restore it, rather than relying on a new, expensive, one-size-fits-all tax."

The bottom line, said Bergland: "Libertarians are in favor of conservation — and that's why we're so eager to help American families conserve their paychecks against new taxes. And Libertarians support green policies — but not when the only green involved is the color of the money that politicians want to take from you." ■

## Libertarians appeal to Black and Hispanic voters

WASHINGTON, DC —

Libertarian Party members ended their national convention this weekend with a commitment to reach out to Black and Hispanic voters — and to other Americans who never considered voting for Libertarian candidates.

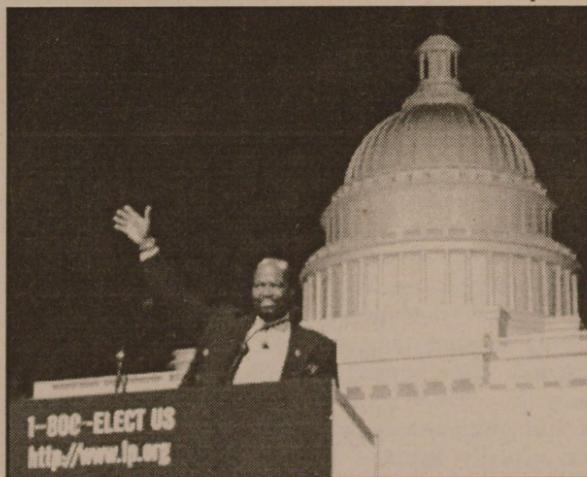
"Can the Libertarian Party save America by being the political pioneers of the 21st century?" asked Roy Innis, the African-American president of the Congress of Racial Equality and one of the major speakers at the four-day event (July 2-5) in Washington, DC.

"Yes!" shouted back the 800 delegates assembled in the Washington Convention Center.

Innis, a long-time civil rights leader who joined the Libertarian Party earlier this year, praised the Libertarians in his speech on Friday as a "new, vital, aggressive party," and described them as "one of the best-kept secrets in America."

Libertarians have political proposals that could appeal to African-American voters, he said, but the party needs to make a commit-

ment. Also on Friday, Jacob Hornberger asked Hispanic voters how long they would continue to "put up



Roy Innis, president of the Congress of Racial Equality addresses the Libertarian Party 1998

ment to "move on up-front" in the political process.

"Let's do it for the third millennium; let's do it for America!" he urged, and promised that he would give serious consideration to running as the Libertarian Party candidate for mayor of New York in

with the insults and mistreatment at the hands of Democrats and Republicans."

Hornberger, a potential candidate for the Libertarian Party's 2000 presidential nomination and president of the Virginia-based Future of Freedom Foundation, mentioned his

Hispanic heritage and delivered part of his speech in Spanish.

**In a Libertarian America, said Browne, "Every provision of the Bill of Rights will be honored. You will no longer fear that your children will fight in a foreign war. You will pay no income, estate, or gift tax — because a government limited by the Constitution will be small enough to get by on today's tariffs and excise taxes."**

In their native language, Hornberger asked: "Why don't the 20 million Hispanics in this country consider the Libertarian Party? We are the third-largest political party in America. We are fighting for freedom in America — free trade, free markets, and open immigration."

Hornberger also noted that Libertarians want to end "the tyranny of the INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service]," and abolish the IRS, which

he described as "another terrorist agency."

Appealing directly to Hispanics, Hornberger said: "We are asking that you give us your consideration — to see if our principles are indeed yours."

On Saturday, 1996 Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne pitched his speech to Americans who had never considered voting Libertarian.

"We are offering to dramatically improve the life of almost every American," Browne told the convention and C-SPAN audience. "We have far more to offer than the unreliable political promises the other parties promote."

In a Libertarian America, said Browne, "Every provision of the Bill of Rights will be honored. You will no longer fear that your children will fight in a foreign war. You will pay no income, estate, or gift tax — because a government limited by the Constitution will be small enough to get by on today's tariffs and excise

taxes." Browne said that no other political party offered a "more attractive, more beneficial, more powerful message than that" — but Libertarian Party candidates need to do a better job of presenting the "appealing" benefits of freedom.

Steve Dasbach, the outgoing National Chairman of the party, said the outreach focus of the convention was deliberate — especially the appeals to minority voters.

"Freedom benefits everyone," he said. "The Libertarian Party plans to become a major player in the American political process over the next decade, so we used our convention to invite every American to ride on the freedom train with us."

At the convention, Libertarian delegates from all 50 states elected new leadership and made minor changes to the party's platform, which calls for a dramatically smaller, less expensive, less intrusive federal government. ■

# Is Libertarianism good for lesbians and gay men?

By Bill Boushka

Maybe the right question is this: Is libertarianism good for lesbians and for gay men as individuals? This conjecture could be true, even if libertarian philosophy were not favorable for the conventional "gay rights" movement. Consider the following propositions:

1. I make my own choices for my own life and I will answer for them.
2. I consider an intimate partner or significant other to be an example of what I value in others.
3. I want a system that offers me the optimum opportunity to advance myself and to help those whom I love.

If you (gay or not) believe in these premises, then libertarianism probably will be good for you as a person.

But consider these counter-ideas:

1. My sexuality is not chosen and is not a matter of my personal choice or control.
2. The established power structure needs to be dismantled before people will have liberty.
3. I obtain my rights through the rights of my family or of my ethnic, racial, gender, or cultural associates as a whole. I do not have liberty until people who are similarly oppressed are liberated together.
4. People belonging to groups that have been disadvantaged in the past need a head start.

Many people sincerely believe these precepts, even though they don't articulate them. This mindset is somewhat the "solidarity" and group loyalty mentality of coalitions and labor unions. If this is how you feel, libertarianism is definitely not for you.

Examination of how libertarian principles, if enacted, would affect gay men and lesbians may well begin by looking at specific issues, but it will run full circle into some heady psychological controversies.

## GOVERNMENT CAUSES MOST DISCRIMINATION

Libertarianism holds that most discrimination results largely because special interests can usurp the powers of the state to get their ways at the expense of others. We should consider, for example, the Jim Crow laws in the South. Immigration laws help to

maintain certain racist stereotypes and prejudices. Real estate tax breaks help encourage de facto segregation.

## SODOMY AND 'VICTIMLESS CRIMES' LAWS

Libertarianism holds that a particular behavior should be a crime only when the behavior harms another or directly violates the free consent of another adult. Stealing, assault and murder remain crimes. Consensual sexual acts (in private), personal use of drugs, gambling, prostitution, adult pornography and even adultery are consensual and should not be crimes just because of the inability of some people to control themselves. Under libertarianism, there is no need for the state to make subjective (and unconvincing) "moral" distinctions between consensual behaviors.

**Libertarianism holds that most discrimination results largely because special interests can usurp the powers of the state to get their ways at the expense of others. We should consider, for example, the Jim Crow laws in the South. Immigration laws help to maintain certain racist stereotypes and prejudices. Real estate tax breaks help encourage de facto segregation.**

As for drug-use issues, patients with AIDS or cancer should be allowed to obtain marijuana in situations where marijuana may provide them with relief from the symptoms of chemotherapy or the wasting of the diseases themselves. Libertarianism also supports the idea of home HIV test kits, where they can be used in complete privacy.

## FREE SPEECH ISSUES

Libertarianism values the free flow of information in public discussion in all media: broadcast, motion pictures, books, periodicals, and most recently the Internet. Libertarianism opposes censorship, which some conservatives support according to the view that some vulnerable persons are harmed by access to certain controversial materials. Recently, Congress has attempted to regulate the display of information in electronic media, including individually owned web pages. Although these attempts were declared unconstitutional, they are still a threat. Clearly, government, if allowed, could prohibit the dissemination of much material educating the public about sexual orientation

and about safer sexual practices in an age of sexually transmitted diseases.

Libertarianism recognizes that some speech activities are effectively carried out as privately owned businesses. Therefore, government practices and regulations which discriminate against individual business owners (as opposed to larger companies and organizations) hinder free speech. These regulations range from discriminatory treatment of health care premiums for the self-employed, to zoning regulations imposed on private business owners.

**Libertarians believe that citizens should be able to use force to defend their own properties from intruders (and not only when there is immediate threat to life). This is of particular interest to gays, who may be more likely to live alone and have security concerns.**

Libertarianism opposes the use of tax monies to fund the speech of others. This is viewed as an infringement upon free speech. So libertarianism would oppose the National Endowment for the Arts, and the use of mandatory student fees as state universities to fund political organizations, even those which advance civil rights causes. With various proposals, libertarianism encourages the privatization of schools and libraries.

## THE MILITARY

First, we should remember that right now, the government still operates a Selective Service system, and does have the legal right to draft young men (it does require their registration at age 18). This requirement is inherently discriminatory with respect to gender, and furthermore potentially requires involuntary servitude.

For those who volunteer to defend our country, the government owes a certain respect to basic privacy once those service-members are advanced enough to "live their own lives." With respect to gays in the military, the practice of excluding "open" or "suspected" homosexuals, whether by outright "asking" or by the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy in effect since 1993, represents a gross invasion of privacy. Particularly galling are the witch-hunts that still are conducted to ferret out gay service-members.

Remember, too, what a draft in combination with a ban against gays can imply. That is, the government can legally draft young men, identify them as gay, and set them up for later dis-

crimination. The military ban obviously sets a bad example for various civilian areas such as teaching and law enforcement, as well as the Boy Scouts.

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Libertarianism would oppose all discrimination in public employment, and this would apply to the military, to holders of security clearances, law enforcement, and teachers. However, libertarianism recognizes that public employment would be significantly reduced in a libertarian society.

## WEAPONS AND CRIME

Libertarians believe that law-abiding citizens should be allowed to carry weapons. Certainly this is relevant especially to gay men, who are often mugged or bashed near their homes or establishments.

Libertarians believe that citizens should be able to use force to defend their own properties from intruders (and not only when there is immediate threat to life). This is of particular interest to gays, who may be more likely to live alone and have security concerns.

Libertarians generally believe that all violent crimes should be punished according to the severity of the crimes, and not the identities of the victims. While the law has always recognized "motive" as a relevant measure in sentencing for crimes, libertarians do not believe that "hate crime" laws are a particularly effective deterrent, because they tend to send the message that other violent crimes are somehow more tolerable.

## MARRIAGE

Libertarian principles view marriage as a private contract (which could even be a lifetime covenant) between any two consenting adults. The only proper role of the state is to enforce the obligations of the contract. The state should not itself give privileges (such as tax benefits) to people merely because they are married. (Nor should it cause tax penalties because of such relationships, and this actually happens in certain cases.) However, it is possible that private interests may rightfully give such "married" persons privileges (such as airline discounts) when they can show they have such a contract.

Libertarianism insists that same-sex couples should be treated exactly equally before the law with opposite-sex couples.

Of course, marriage

has long been a cherished social institution. In practice, there are many benefits given by the state to married couples, such as access to covering spouses with pre-tax health care benefits. As a matter of logic, these benefits must be subsidized by those who are not legally married. Perhaps we can argue that marriage ultimately pays for itself in a more productive society.

**Libertarianism asserts the right of every person to use his property (that in which he has invested his own resources according to his own priorities) without interference from government, unless the person directly harms others.**

Nevertheless, in today's world, adults who enjoy a legally recognized opposite-sex sexual relationship essentially enjoy an indirect subsidy from those who do not. This is wrong.

## CHILD CUSTODY

Libertarianism would hold that the most qualified parent (gay or not) should retain custody of children after a divorce. Libertarianism would also hold that adoptions should be placed with the best possible available families or persons, and these may not necessarily always be headed by heterosexual couples.

## DISCRIMINATION BY PRIVATE INTERESTS

Libertarianism asserts the right of every person to use his property (that in which he has invested his own resources according to his own priorities) without interference from government, unless the person directly harms others.

Therefore, libertarianism is, in principle, opposed to conventional anti-discrimination laws, even those which deal with race, gender, national origin, handicap.

Of course, one asks, "should large 'private' organizations be treated like individuals, especially since they are essentially somehow chartered by the state?" One concern would be that distinguishing between private entities according to size or according to profit status quickly brings up free speech concerns.

But weren't racial discrimination and, say, anti-Semitism and other similar problems so pervasive that it needed to be remedied by law to establish that it is unacceptable? Wouldn't private discrimination reappear if the state were not there to prevent it from occurring out of "competi-

tive advantage?" I cannot say that it could not, although the wealthier society gets, the more effective is the free market in discouraging discrimination. As a practical matter, no one believes our current civil rights laws should be dismantled.

So should sexual orientation be added to the list of attributes for which no one may discriminate? Carried even further, should homosexuality confer minority or suspect class status? One can advance some arguments as to why it should not. For example, gay-related discrimination laws (such as the proposed national Employment Non Discrimination Act [1993]) might send the message that discrimination is acceptable unless explicitly prohibited by law. Such legislation might interfere with right of private landowners or small employers to enforce their own moral or religious convictions. It might make employers afraid to hire people who "look gay" out of fear of litigation. It might force gay establishments, against their will, to open themselves to straights.

It might be difficult to enforce without establishing a system of reverse preferences. I do not question that there have been egregious examples of anti-gay discrimination. Cracker-Barrel restaurants noted "employee is gay" in its personnel records when it fired cooks and waiters. A small accounting firm was able not only to fire a gay associate but also to sue him for post-termination competition because the gay employee had actually signed a contract that excluded "homosexuality." But such contracts in the private employment world are extremely rare. I found it difficult to find good employment in Dallas late in the 1980's partly because as a never married male, I was presumed a health insurance risk for AIDS.

We do know that with race, for example, institutions have long been involved in a controversy over preferences. While "affirmative action" may have been intended to promote a no-discrimination society, in practice it has become associated with privileges for some minorities (at least to the point that employers must follow measures to prove they don't "discriminate").

Some will articulate arguments that some preferences, to offset the supposed social advantages of being "born" white or born whatever, are necessary to level the playing field at a high level, even though these preferences may result in hideous injustices in individual cases.

## HEALTH CARE

(Please go to page 7)  
(Continued from page 6)

Libertarians oppose the public funding of health care. The biggest objection is that public funding tends to politicize disease. Deciding whose illness gets the most funds becomes a political matter.

Libertarians oppose the public funding of health care. The biggest objection is that public funding tends to politicize disease. Deciding whose illness gets the most funds becomes a political matter.

Libertarianism also opposes over-regulation of medical devices and pharmaceuticals. This is an important issue for people with AIDS who need new anti-viral drugs.

Libertarianism envisions private and self-funding of health care, such as possibly the use of medical savings accounts. This could mean that persons who acquire HIV infection from their own past behavior might pay for more of their own medical care (although many do now);

or that, since men with past homosexual activity cannot legally give blood, they should pay for their own blood even in emergency situations (that they should not expect insurance to pay for it). A brutal argument, but worth stating.

#### PHILOSOPHY

Most people are accustomed to the idea that representative democracy should mediate the shared sacrifices and civil moral values that presumably are necessary for ordered liberty to survive and gradually become more prosperous.

Democracy was an apparent improvement over all other historical [such as Hegelian] philosophies concerning the role and operation of the state.

Government must presumably redistribute wealth to provide a safety net and provide a decent chance for the disadvantaged to overcome handicaps which they did not cause. Government must level the playing field. The problem is, of course, over time the "sacrifices" tend to be determined by political

coalition and muscle rather than well-thought moral principles. Government, when it tries to be responsible for all inequity in the world, tends to create dependencies. What starts out as "morality" melts into a spoils system where amalgamations of interests scheme to steal from one another.

I think that a moral philosophy of individual rights becomes ethically justified when the rights are paired with individual responsibilities and accountabilities. We would have to work toward a system in which everyone is truly accountable for the self. This is by far the simplest basis for a set of principles to maintain ordered liberty.

There is no question that people inherit tremendously different opportunities, both from their genes and from their family circumstances. Ted Koppel's recent series on prison life has shown us the amorality that results in the worst

backgrounds. But able and determined people often do overcome their own disadvantages. There is no principled way government can make everyone "equal" without destroying individual freedoms and individual choices. Everyone will just "live as they are." Whimsically, one friend suggested to me something like, "abolish all inherited wealth for one generation, then adopt libertarianism!"

I think that a moral philosophy of individual rights becomes ethically justified when the rights are paired with individual responsibilities and accountabilities. We would have to work toward a system in which everyone is truly accountable for the self. This is by far the simplest basis for a set of principles to maintain ordered liberty.

If equality (or absolute "fairness") and a simple moral order (both for societal security and to protect more vulnerable people) is intended to become the objective function of policy, open homosexual conduct with its apparent narcissism and unchanneled

"selfishness"-may become difficult to accept (other than tolerate at societal margins) and justify. One seems forced to resort to intellectually suspect appeals to total immutability. A closer look at gay partnerships, however, suggest the possibility of a world in which lifelong, committed same-sex marriages and families are accepted and even expected.

Same-sex marriage may be preferred to remaining alone or to executing personal strategies which view sexuality as a mode of personal expression rather than as a disciplined way to become permanently important to other people. I cannot deny the possibility, envisioned by "liberals," that democracy, under the pressure to promote egalitarianism while providing security and stability, can grow more respectful of the interpersonal lives of gays. Yet any world set up largely by political barter is a world much less encouraging for freedom of expression, and for the freedom to set one's own goals without the bureaucratic approval of

others. Today, society is precariously wealthier than it has been in previous decades, and indeed we may have reached a point where we won't survive unless we affirmatively embrace individual freedom and individual accountability, paired together as in a vector space.

Lesbians and gay men seem, from a historical perspective, in a unique position today to lead this transition in subtle social values. But even in the way gays build and maintain relationships, ranging from partnerships to significant others, they need to be mindful that their success or failure will become an evermore individualized and local result, depending upon the abilities, effort, and appropriate charity of each person.

A world in which people choose and execute their own goals is a world in which many goals appropriate for some people are totally wrong for others. ■

## DO ASK, DO TELL:

A Gay Conservative  
Lashes Back

Individualism, Identity, Personal Rights,  
Responsibility and Community  
in a Libertarian Third Millennium

by Bill Boushka

#### CONSEQUENTIALISM

##### A book review

By David Purcell

A look at Bill Boushka's *DO ASK, DO TELL: A Gay Conservative Lashes Back*  
High Productivity  
Publishing  
PO Box 580228  
Minneapolis MN 55401

In this volume Mr. Boushka delineates the cataclysmic events that led to a clear vision of a minimal-

ist social order that would not be conducive to such horrors; he moves from particulars to principles in a logical and lucid manner, and in so doing creates contemporary versions of the complementary antagonism of ancient yin & yang. The numerous applications lead to the essential interplay between freedom & responsibility. Also examined is creative action as opposed to adaptation. Does "peer group approval" have any presymbolic value? On a more

particularized level, orientation or inclination does not in and of itself indicate conduct; there is also no guilt by association.

Mr. Boushka goes on to look at the tendency of hyperactive government to exacerbate divisions within the populace, all the while promoting a synthetic way of life that offers a diluted sense of personal fulfillment that is "protected" in exchange for a hefty percentage of income. This is the ultimate addiction; once broken of the habit, a

fully realized organic individuality will take shape that will be so much more pleasing to all than the substance-induced numbness. The resulting self-trust will engender such attributes as creativity and judiciousness in a most dramatic manner.

Mr. Boushka then addresses Constitutional issues, proposing in full detail two new amendments. Among other things these confront a level of surveillance and encroachment that did not exist at

the time of its initial framing, particularly in regard to victimless "crimes."

The outcome of the perceptions in this book when implemented will be the cultivation of a state of consciousness that is no longer so insecure as to be threatened by differentiation; one that is eager to examine new ideas and approaches; one that is stimulated by challenge and is wary of the path of least resistance. ■

## A Parable: A story of Bill Gates & the folks at anti-trust

From Ken Nebel

Note: This poem was copyrighted in 1966 by R. W. Grant. It was found in a newsletter in 1998, not reprinted with permission. The newsletter's editor made heroic attempts to find the author all to no avail. Therefore the newsletter editor does not grant permission to reprint either. However he felt the message was too important to sit on a shelf in these troubled times just because of fear of government reprisals.

This is a story of success and plunder  
And a man, Tom Smith, who squelched  
World Hunger.

Now, Smith, an inventor, had specialized  
In toys. So people were surprised  
When they found he instead  
Of making toys, was BAKING BREAD!

The way to make bread he'd conceived  
Cost less than people could believe.  
And not just make it! This device  
Could, in addition, wrap and slice!  
The price per loaf, one loaf or many:  
The minuscule sum of under a penny.

Can you imagine what this meant?  
Can you comprehend the Consequent?  
The first time yet the world well fed!  
And all because of Tom Smith's bread.

A citation from the President  
For Smith's amazing bread.  
This and other honors too  
Were heaped upon his head.

But isn't it a wondrous thing  
How quickly fame is flown?  
Smith, the hero of today —  
Tomorrow, scarcely known.

Yes, the fickle years passed by;  
Smith was a millionaire,  
But Smith himself was now forgot -  
Though bread was everywhere.  
People, asked from whence it came,  
Would very seldom know.  
They would simply eat and ask,  
"Was it not always so?"

However, Smith cared not a bit,  
For millions ate his bread,  
And "Everything is fine," thought he,  
"I am rich and they are fed!"

Everything was fine, he thought?  
He reckoned not with fate.  
Note the sequence of events  
Starting on the date  
On which the business tax went up,  
Then, to a slight extent,  
The price of every loaf rose too:  
Up to one full cent!

"What's going on?" the public cried,  
"He's guilty of pure plunder.  
He has no right to get so rich

On other peoples' hunger!"  
(A prize cartoon depicted Smith  
With fat and drooping jowels  
Snatching bread from hungry babes  
Indifferent to their howls!)

Well, since the Public does come first,  
It could not be denied  
That in matters such as this,  
The Public must decide.  
So antitrust now took a hand.  
Of course it was appalled  
At what it found was going on.  
The "bread trust" it was called.

Now this was getting serious.  
So Smith felt that he must  
Have a friendly interview  
With the men in antitrust.  
So, hat in hand, he went to them.  
They'd surely been misled;  
No rule of law had he defied,  
But then their lawyer said:

"The rule of law in complex times,  
Has proved itself deficient.  
We much prefer the rule of men!  
It's vastly more efficient.  
Now let me state the present rules,"  
The lawyer then went on,  
"These very simple guidelines  
You can rely upon:  
Your gouging on your prices if  
You charge more than the rest.  
But it's unfair competition  
If you think you can charge less.

"A second point that we would make  
To help avoid confusion:  
Don't try to charge the same amount:  
That would be collusion!  
You must compete. But not too much,  
For if you do, you see,  
Then the market would be yours -  
And that's monopoly!"

Price too high? Or price too low?  
Now, which charge did they make?  
Well, they weren't loath to charging both  
With Public Good at stake!

In fact, they went one better -  
They charged "Monopoly!"  
No muss, no fuss, Oh woe is us,  
Egad, they charged all three!

"Five years in jail," the judge then said.  
"You're lucky it's not worse.  
Robber Barons must be taught  
Society comes first!"

Now, bread is baked by government.  
And as might be expected  
Everything is well controlled;  
The public well protected.

True, loaves cost a dollar each.  
But our leaders do their best.  
The selling price is half a cent.  
(Taxes pay the rest!)  
■

# Swedish Model Reconsidered

From Ken Nebel

Sweden is very important to us in the USA because Sweden (unlike England) is held to be "living proof" that socialism works "when it is done right". The Clinton Administration constantly reminds us what a paradise Sweden is — no crime, no poverty, almost everybody is blonde,.... Environmentalists constantly point to Sweden as the kind of eden that America should strive to emulate. Planners and other intellectuals look at Sweden's centrally planned economy and high standard of living, and come to similar conclusions: This is what America should be like. No less a group than the Planning Department of the Minnesota State Government has been pushing "the natural step" because it was developed in Sweden and has the approval of the Swedish King.

So what is Sweden really like? Here is a report from the National Center for Policy Analysis, dated 6/17/98.

"THE SWEDISH MODEL NEVER WORKED"

Sweden's economy was supposed to be the model of the "third way" between socialism and capitalism. But international observers report the country survives only thanks to the vestiges of capitalism.

Economist Peter Steiner points out that the oft-heard question, "What went wrong with the Swedish model?" wrongly assumes that the Swedish model ever worked.

A few observations illustrate the depth of Sweden's socialist plight:

1. The country's three largest newspapers all take free market editorial positions — while collecting government subsidies, which wouldn't be necessary if they weren't so heavily taxed.
2. The non-taxed black market for housing, services, alcohol and tobacco is booming, while young Swedes who can get out are moving abroad.
3. In a society where about half the adults receive half their income in government transfers, the average Swede wakes up in a rent

controlled apartment, takes his children to a government-funded day-care center and rides to work in government-subsidized public transportation.

4. In the early 1990s, while the government was spending nearly 70% of Gross Domestic Product, the national debt doubled in four years and there were three years of negative economic growth.

Economic growth since then has returned to the positive side, but unemployment has now shown signs of falling from double-digit rates. Those with jobs have seen no increase in real income since about 1980. ■

Source: Robert L. Pollock, "A Socialist 'Third Way' Turns Out to Be a Dead End", Wall St. Journal, 6/17/98.

For more on Sweden: <http://www.ncpa.org/pi/intemat/intdex9.html>



Libertarians on parade for Frank Germann for Governor at the Roseville Parade in June.

## State Auditor Has No Opinion?

By Bob Odden

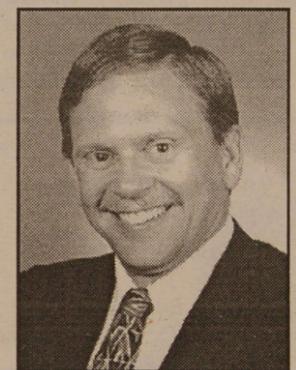
Endorsed Libertarian Party candidate for State Auditor

The Minnesota State Auditor recently released an elaborate 124-page report detailing the amount of money spent by local governments just to LOBBY our state legislature and other state agencies. Those costs were \$2.1 million in direct payments and another \$1.6 million paid through dues to other organizations... \$3.7 million spent by cities, counties, and school districts just for communicating their desires to other governmental groups.

In addition to having to spend \$3.7 million lobbying the state, those local government groups had to submit detailed reports to the Auditor's office, which then compiled this massive report.

When asked for her OPINION of those expenditures, our current State Auditor REFUSED TO

GIVE ONE, even though "The office of the State Auditor serves as a watchdog for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to assure integrity, accountability, and cost effectiveness in government throughout



Bob Odden

the state." Cost effectiveness requires a judgment, not just the gathering and publishing of vast amounts of information.

As your new State Auditor, I will not simply create more "busy work" for the bureaucracy, and I will NOT be silent when I find wasteful practices that

continue to bloat all levels of government and inflate our excessive tax load. The State Auditor could have told us how much money this lobbying effort got from the state for its efforts. They could have reminded us that this is often done over the objection of local voters like Minneapolis' lobbying efforts for a new Twin's stadium. Often the "free" state money requires local taxpayers to come up with additional money plus operating costs for the life of the project. This can affect the local governments bonding authority, like the \$130 million hockey arena in St. Paul. This "free" money from lobbying circumvents local voters and hooks tax payers throughout the entire state to the benefit of a few. Let's return to a democratic form of government. Using the Office of State Auditor to educate citizens is one way. ■

## Letter to editor

By King Banaian

Dear Editors,

The U.S. House of Representatives spent much time debating campaign finance reform. Sadly, their idea of reform is to keep the political process as it is.

Among nearly fifty amendments offered to the reform law were two from Representative Ron Paul (R-TX). Their purpose was to secure a place in public debates for third party candidates, and to lower the petition signature requirements for placing names of third party candidates on ballots. These two amendments were placed for vote on July 30th of this year, and were defeated by large margins. My own representative, Collin Peterson, chose to vote against both bills.

His stated reason, in a letter to me from an aide, was that "a vote for either of these two bills is a vote to replace the entire comprehensive reform bill with it." The decision to make these bills substitutes rather than amendments was done by a House rules committee consisting of both Republicans and Democrats.

What is the purpose of campaign reform? Incumbents enjoy many privileges of office, what with a paid staff, free mail, and access to the media. They have many substitutes for campaign funds. Their complaint is that challengers have too much money to spend in competition against them. So they seek "reform."

**What is the purpose of campaign reform? Incumbents enjoy many privileges of office, what with a paid staff, free mail, and access to the media. They have many substitutes for campaign funds. Their complaint is that challengers have too much money to spend in competition against them. So they seek "reform."**

But challengers use money to compensate for the advantages of incumbency. Spending restrictions are like telling other airlines they can't spend too much money advertising lower fares or better service. Incumbents have won more frequently since the passage of campaign reform in the 1970s. And

third party candidates must compensate not only for this, but for the fact that they are denied an assured spot on the ballot, and denied a chance to appear on a podium with the major party candidates.

My idea of campaign reform is to increase the competition of ideas.

Of course, you can argue that third party candidates never win. But as 1996 Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne put it, "When did you last vote for a candidate who actually achieved what you wanted?"

Perhaps it's time we had a chance. ■

King Banaian  
kbanaian@cloudnet.com

*Self-deceit, this fatal weakness of mankind, is the source of half the disorders of human life. If we saw ourselves in the light in which others see us, or in which they would see us if they knew us, a reformation would be generally unavoidable. We could not otherwise endure the sight.*

— Adam Smith, "The Theory of Moral Sentiments"

## Inefficiency of US education

From Ken Nebel

The US has great food — brought to us by the private sector; great entertainment brought to us mainly by the private sector; the best housing in the world — brought to us by the private sector; some of the best medical care in the world, brought to us by the private sector (in spite of meddling efforts at government intervention); and one of the worst educational systems in the world (the most expensive to run and close to rock-bottom performance) — brought to us by the public sector and public employee unions.

Is there a message here?

Recent analyses by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development establish that U.S. schools are the least efficient in the industrialized world. The studies com-

pare gains made by students ages nine to 14 across many nations.

**At \$5,300 per student, U.S. primary schools spent 75 percent more than the international average of \$3,033. And U.S. secondary schools spent 54 percent more money than the international average.**

• On average, U.S. students make just 78 percent of the year-to-year progress in reading made by students in 17 OECD countries.

• In math, U.S. students between the fourth and eighth grades made less progress than their peers in the 17 countries — gaining only 73 percent as much ground as students in those countries.

• In science, U.S. progress ranked second to last —

with 78 percent of the average gains of the foreign students.

• Yet, OECD data show U.S. school expenditures to be third highest of 22 countries — lagging behind only Switzerland and Austria.

At \$5,300 per student, U.S. primary schools spent 75 percent more than the international average of \$3,033. And U.S. secondary schools spent 54 percent more money than the international average.

Source: Chester E. Finn Jr. (Thomas B. Fordham Foundation) and Herbert J. Walberg (University of Illinois, Chicago), "The World's Least Efficient Schools," Wall Street Journal, June 22, 1998.

For more on International Comparisons

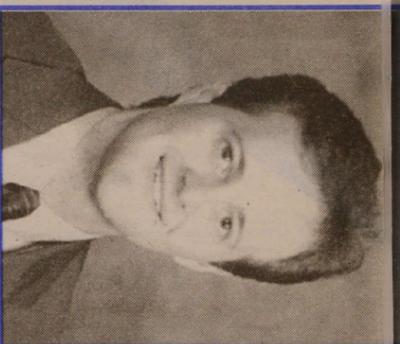
<http://www.ncpa.org/pi/edu/edu7.html>



# Libertarian Voter's Guide '98

# Vote Libertarian NOW. 3

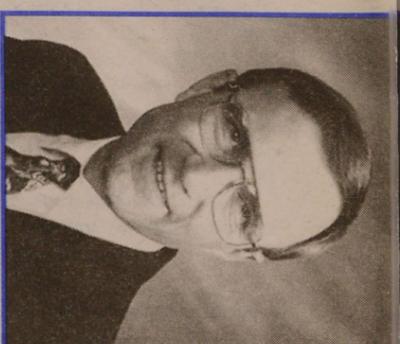
- Yes to repealing Minnesota's Income Taxes.
- Yes to objective shall-issue concealed carry reform.
- Yes to science-based environmental policies.
- Yes to local control of taxing and spending.
- Yes to parental and local control of schools.
- Yes to competition for public services, no monopolies.
- No to public subsidies for stadiums and businesses.
- No to new taxes and Yes to repealing old taxes.
- No to new spending schemes.
- No to state control of land-use.
- No to un-funded state or federal mandates.
- No to "Profile of Learning" annual education fads.



Michael A. Neitzel  
for US House 4



Kevin Houston  
for US House 5



Rich Osness  
for MN House 27B



Eric M. Johnson  
for US House 6



Larry Fuhol  
for US House 8

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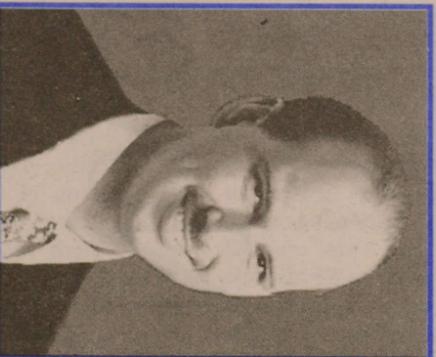
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# If you believe:

in limited government,  
**fewer taxes,**  
less government spending,  
& more control of  
your life and your money  
by **YOU...**



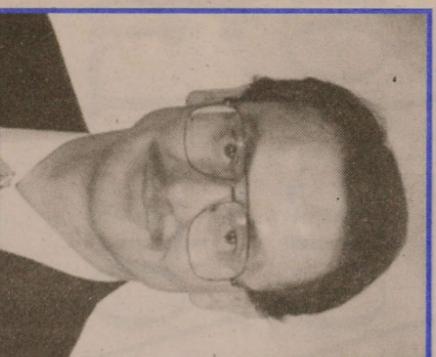
Frank Germann  
for Governor



Michael C. Strand  
for Lt. Governor



Ruth A. Mason  
for Attorney General



Kenneth Iverson  
for Secretary of State



Bob Odden  
for State Auditor



Mitchell P. Berg  
for State Treasurer



“Government  
that governs least,  
governs best.”

*Thomas Jefferson*

Vote for Freedom,  
Vote Libertarian on November 3.

# Domestic passports for Hispanic-Americans

By Jacob G. Hornberger

All of us have become accustomed to traveling with our passports when we leave the United States. But how many people realize that Hispanic-Americans must carry their passports when they travel domestically?

I recently visited my hometown of Laredo, Texas, which is located on the southern border of the United States. On the American side of the international bridge that connects Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, there are the usual U.S. government immigration officials who stop people entering the United States to question them about their citizenship. But since I stayed in Laredo and never crossed into Mexico, I didn't need to concern myself with this type of government intrusion. Wrong!

After I had gone through the metal detector at the Laredo airport, preparing to board my plane back to Virginia, I (along with the other passengers) was stopped by a U.S. immigration official and asked whether I was an American citizen. I later asked another passenger — a Mexican-American —

about this and he said that he never travels to the border without his passport, in case he has to document that he really is an American citizen. He also said that he never "dresses down" when he leaves Laredo, for fear of being mistaken for a Mexican illegal alien.

The situation is the same for automobile travelers who leave Laredo on Interstate Highway 35 for parts north. After going over a slight ridge about 30 miles north of Laredo, travelers encounter a startling sight: an immigration station that would cause any unsuspecting traveler to think that he is about to enter a foreign country! Drivers are required to slow down on the interstate and must be prepared to stop to discuss citizenship with U.S. immigration officials.

Let me be clear about this. These immigration stops are inside the domestic territory of the United States, not at the international bridge and not on the banks of the Rio Grande. Residents of Laredo and visitors returning north who have never crossed into Mexico must be prepared to stop and submit to questioning by U.S. immi-

gration officials.

And guess who customarily has to prove his citizenship to skeptical immigration officials. You've got it: dark-skinned Americans who don't appear to have lots of money. Why else would those immigration officials be at the airport and on the interstate, if not to detect and prevent Latin American illegal aliens from entering the United States?

**But sometimes authority should be questioned. Why should an American traveler who never enters a foreign country have to prove his citizenship to a domestic policeman? Why should Hispanic-Americans, just because their skin is darker, have to carry their passports when they depart America's border cities? Why should they have to be concerned about the type of clothing they wear when they travel inside the U.S? Aren't domestic passports the type of thing the Communists used in the Soviet Union?**

For example, a close friend of mine is an elderly

woman named Maria, who is a housekeeper in Laredo. Although Maria is an American citizen, having been born in Texas, both her parents were Mexicans. Maria doesn't speak English. Periodically, she travels to San Antonio on the bus.

She tells me that she always carries proof of citizenship with her because the officials at the immigration station north of Laredo frequently board the bus and require passengers to show proof of citizenship. Of course, the bus passengers are usually poorer people of Mexican descent.

I asked another traveler on my flight whether anyone ever challenges this insulting and demeaning treatment. He said, "No, Hispanics generally do not question authority."

But sometimes authority should be questioned. Why should an American traveler who never enters a foreign country have to prove his citizenship to a domestic policeman? Why should

Hispanic-Americans, just because their skin is darker, have to carry their passports when they depart America's border cities? Why should they have to be concerned about the type of clothing they

wear when they travel inside the U.S? Aren't domestic passports the type of thing the Communists used in the Soviet Union?

Historically, one of the great features of American life has been the unrestricted right of people to travel, trade, and immigrate freely between the respective cities and states of our nation. Internal passport checks are a dark blot on this great tradition. Like the Soviet Union itself, they should be dismantled and tossed into the dustbin of history. ■

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va.

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## ¿Poe que no abrir las fronteras?

Responsible:

Jacob G. Hornberger

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¿POR QUE NO ABRIR LAS  
FRONTERAS?

Por Jacob G. Hornberger

Treinta años atrás, los demócratas y los republicanos enviaron a 60.000 hombres de mi generación a sus muertes, en una guerra no declarada en el sureste del Asia. ¿Para qué? Para salvar a los pueblos de los horrores del comunismo.

Evidentemente, el comunismo ya no es tan terrible. Hoy día, el mayor peligro con que se enfrenta el refugiado cubano al escapar de la tiranía comunista, es la repatriación forzosa a manos del gobierno de Estados Unidos.

Desde luego, ésta no es más que una de las muchas maneras en que los partidarios tanto del Partido Demócrata como del Republicano maltratan y abusan de los hispanos. Desde hace varias décadas, miembros de uno y otro partido vienen encarcelando a los inmigrantes ile-

gales por haber cometido el temible crimen de cruzar la frontera en busca de empleo. Además arrestan a los ciudadanos americanos y los enjuician por dar trabajo a los inmigrantes ilegales. Las redadas de deportación del Servicio de Inmigración en hogares y negocios, no dejan tras de sí más que dolor y lágrimas.

¿Es todo esto necesario, en un país que tanto se enorgullece de su Estatua de la Libertad? Nosotros los libertarios, los que preconizamos la libertad, creemos que no. ¿Por qué no sencillamente abrir la frontera al librecambio y a la libre inmigración? ¿Por qué no dejar en paz al ser humano, libre de viajar, de comerciar, de visitar y de realizar todo tipo de actividad pacífica?

"Pero entonces todo el mundo vendría a este país." Es poco probable que así fuera. Resulta ser muy difícil — teniendo en cuenta los factores económicos, emocionales, y culturales — el desarraigarse, dejando a la familia y a las amistades de toda una vida, para mudarse a un país extranjero, y en especial a uno donde se habla una lengua distinta. Es por eso que muchos inmigrantes pronto vuelven a su patria. Los que vienen y se quedan, en general son los que toman riesgos — los que están dispuestos a pre-

scindir de la seguridad conocida en aras de la oportunidad de superarse. Estos son dignos de celebración y no de castigo, porque traen consigo la vitalidad que da nuevas energías a un pueblo. Por otra parte, si se quitaran las trabas al comercio con otros países — como por ejemplo el embargo contra Cuba — ello serviría para fomentar la prosperidad en esas tierras y así disminuir el aliciente económico para irse de allá y venir a Estados Unidos.

"Pero van a quitar empleos a los americanos." Al contrario — ¡los inmigrantes crean más empleos para los americanos! Aunque sí es cierto que a menudo los inmigrantes quitan puestos a los naturales en plazas de nivel inferior, el consumo mayor de alimentos, viviendas, automóviles, equipo electrónico y otros bienes y servicios que su presencia implica, sirve para crear plazas nuevas de nivel superior para los americanos en todos esos sectores de la economía.

"Pero es que vienen a vivir de la asistencia social." Pues el Congreso debería prohibirlo y castigar a todo burócrata que rindiera asistencia pública ilegalmente. No hay ningún requisito en la Constitución que diga que el ciudadano extranjero

tenga derecho de utilizar el Estado para quitar las riquezas al ciudadano norteamericano. En todo caso, como ya han descubierto los americanos, la asistencia pública es una droga política que destruye el alma humana. Conviene tanto a los americanos como a los inmigrantes prescindir de ella.

"Pero van a ser una carga sobre los servicios públicos." Pues entonces podemos convertir estos servicios en empresas privadas que compitan en el mercado. Cabe observar que es el sector público — las escuelas públicas, los hospitales públicos, las carreteras públicas — el que siempre se queja de que haya demasiados clientes. ¿Cuándo fue la última vez que oímos a Microsoft, a Sears, a Disney, o a McDonald's quejarse de tener muchos clientes?

"Pero es que van a contaminar la cultura nuestra." La cultura norteamericana debería ser una de libertad — en la cual cada uno queda libre para buscar el interés cultural que quiera. Después de todo, fue la cultura norteamericana de la libertad, la que inspiró a los franceses a darnos la Estatua de la Libertad.

La política de la frontera abierta no sólo mejoraría el nivel de vida tanto de los americanos como de los extranjeros, sino que

también ayudaría a restablecer en la sociedad norteamericana el sentido de moralidad y de respeto. ¿De qué modo puede tildarse de acto moral, la repatriación forzosa de seres humanos a la tiranía comunista? ¿El meter a gente en la cárcel por querer trabajar? ¿El castigar a los patrones por haberlos contratado? ¿Cómo puede todo esto conciliarse con el mandamiento de amar al prójimo tanto como a sí mismo?

En el último decenio cayó una de las murallas más horrosas en la historia — la de Berlín. Ya es hora de hacer caer la nuestra también. No necesitamos barreras que aparten a las familias, a los amigos, a los comercios. Lo que sí necesitamos son abrazos y apretones de manos que reúnan a los pueblos.

El Sr. Hornberger es presidente de The Future of Freedom Foundation en Fairfax, estado de Virginia, y corredor del libro, The Case for Free Trade and Open Immigration, editado por la Fundación. Sus abuelos maternos fueron inmigrantes mexicanos. Pronunció un discurso acerca de la apertura de las fronteras en la convención nacional del Partido Libertario, que se celebró en Washington, D.C., en julio. ■

## Tax withholding

From Bruce R. Bartlett

In the old days, you paid your taxes all at once. On March 15, you sent a check to the government for 100% of what you owed the previous year. In 1943, the government instituted withholding; meaning that you in effect paid your taxes currently.

The problem was that in that year people would have to pay twice: first for 1942's taxes and again for 1943's. So to ease the pain, for most people the 1942 tax was forgiven and ever since we have had withholding, even though it was conceived as a temporary wartime measure.

One of the people mainly responsible for the institution of withholding was Milton Friedman, who discusses how it all came about in his recently-published *Memoirs* (University of Chicago Press.) ■

# English Common Law

By Ken Nebel

A big part of the problem we have now is that back in the early 70s, law schools across the country, according to a property rights activist acquaintance of mine decided to throw out courses in English Common Law.

Under the old system, in common law there was a subdivision called "nuisance law" and someone who tried to put a slaughterhouse in the middle of a residential area would be well forewarned that his new neighbors would object strenuously.

Now English

Common Law (as opposed to the top down sort that survives in Scotland and France for instance) is the basis for the American Legal System. But it is too individualistic so the law schools, good socialist activists all, dropped Common Law. In Common Law's place they instituted series of courses that were titled on the order of "LAW AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE."

The switch from individualism to group rights was not even noticed at the time. Now we have a whole generation of lawyers and politicians who have been schooled in Statism and Group Rights, who see individualism as

something to loathe and fear. And our own taxpayer funded universities did this to us, which means we did it to ourselves!

Under the old system, in common law there was a subdivision called "nuisance law" and someone who tried to put a slaughterhouse in the middle of a residential area would be well forewarned that his new neighbors would object strenuously. Nuisance law worked well for hundreds of years but now we feel we need zoning, state planning, government oversight and regulation of the whole affair because people are too stupid to manage themselves or look out for their own rights. ■

# Punishing success

By Sheldon Richman

Let's cut to the chase: It's Microsoft's property. The company should be free to offer it on any terms it wishes. If people don't want to buy Microsoft products, they don't have to. As long as no law keeps other people from offering competing products, no one need fear Microsoft's dominance of the software market.

These points seem to have gotten lost in the thicket of fallacies that constitute the federal and 20 state-government antitrust cases against Microsoft. What we have is nothing less than a hysterical free-for-all. Any charge anyone can think of is being turned into a subject for litigation against Bill Gates. For example, a new round of suits reportedly will charge the company with unfairly pricing its Microsoft Office package. In antitrust lingo, "unfair pricing" means pricing too low! I'm waiting to see the government call consumers as witnesses in that case.

The federal government is also reportedly prepared to hit Microsoft for moving into new software areas, including WebTV and "video streaming," which permits the downloading of video from the Internet. Other "crimes" allegedly committed by Gates's firm include its aggressive campaign in behalf of Windows for networks and for hand-held computers.

Anyone familiar with the history of antitrust litigation will see an old theme: the companies that get the government's shaft are the ones that aggressively expand their product line in ways that please consumers. That's a crime in the United States of America.

Microsoft's adversaries, including the competitors

it has been besting, will reply that what is really at issue is Gates's abuse of his operating-system monopoly. Let's look at that.

The lion's share of personal computers sold these days indeed comes equipped with Microsoft Windows. It's the industry standard. Guess what: computer users seem to like it that way. It is convenient having such a widely used operating system. The large Windows market encourages software developers to write all kinds of programs. Compare that with Apple's Macintosh. The Mac is a great product, but its small user base limits its software development. We consumers benefit from Microsoft's success.

Anyone familiar with the history of antitrust litigation will see an old theme: the companies that get the government's shaft are the ones that aggressively expand their product line in ways that please consumers. That's a crime in the United States of America.

But, so goes the argument, Microsoft's control of the operating system gives the company an unfair advantage over every software maker. The paradigm case is in World Wide Web browsers. Netscape pioneered the field with Navigator. Microsoft followed with Internet Explorer, bundled it free with Windows, cut into Netscape's market share, and made it necessary for the company to give the product away. Is that unfair?

If we understand the purpose of the marketplace, the answer has to be No. Market competition is not a game. The object of games to determine which participant will win while abiding by arbitrary rules. The rules define the game, and there is no purpose

beyond them. Economic competition is quite a different thing. Its object is to deliver goods to consumers in the most efficient way possible. Imposing a "level playing field" makes sense in games, but it makes no sense in the marketplace. We consumers don't care who performs best under the same conditions. We care about getting the products we want as cheaply and quickly as possible!

The complaints about Microsoft's adding features to Windows are highly arbitrary. Long before Internet Explorer was included, Windows had features that did not have to be bundled: printer drivers, audio and video software, and more. All of these could have been sold separately by other companies. I recall the time when no word processing software included a spelling checker. You had to buy a separate program, and as a result there sometimes were problems of incompatibility. When Microsoft Word and WordPerfect started integrating spelling checkers, the companies that specialized in those programs went out of business. The same is true for thesaurus and grammar programs. Little companies found their niche markets dried up. Too bad. But consumers prospered. That's the point. They are the reason we have an economy.

Microsoft didn't create a "monopoly" in its operating system. Consumers did. And the day Microsoft, in the eyes of consumers, abuses its position, they will take it away. ■

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., and editor of *The Freeman* magazine (Foundation for Economic Education).

From Wilhelm E. Schmitt

May 1998

Congressman Dick Arme turned down \$12,000 that was being offered to charity in his name because he could not provide the Bucks County Libertarian Party of PA the citation showing where one is made liable for income taxes.

He was given ample opportunity before the town hall type meeting at the Bucks County Community College to come prepared with the information.

His excuse for not providing the information was, "I'm not a constitutional lawyer." He later admitted that he doesn't know how or where one is made liable

## Freedom of Education Rally

Sunday October 11, 1998

Minnesota Capitol steps 3:00 PM

On May 11, 1998, unknown to most MN citizens, non-elected state bureaucrats in St. Paul adopted into law the "Profile of Learning," a radical, state-mandated system of education for all MN public schools with no courses, no credits, and no grading. The State will now decide what our children will be taught, what their views should be, and how they will be assessed, without your local School Board's vote!

It is time to let our state legislators and bureaucrats know that we will not stand idly by and let them strip us of our freedom and local control of education in Minnesota at an estimated taxpayer cost of \$250,000,000 over the next two years.

For a FREE promo kit call:  
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Partial List of Sponsors: MN Educators Against the Profile, MN Family Council, Duluth Area Educational Freedom Alliance, Catholic Defense League, Alexandria Citizens for Education, Fergus Falls Citizens for Education, Maple River Education Coalition, Detroit Lakes Citizens for Rochester Citizens for Education, MN Christian Coalition, Quist/Williams Comm, Rochester Citizens for Education, MACHE, Minnesotans for Quality Rochester Citizens for Education

## Weekly TV Show LIBERTY

Libertarian Party of MN's 1/2 hour cable access show on Metro Cable Network (MCN) Channel 6. Weekly on Sundays at 11:30 AM (repeated at 4:00 PM on Sundays).

## Libertarian World Wide Web Sites:

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's World Wide Web (WWW)

Home Page is at:

<http://www.lpmn.org>

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's listserv:

[minnlib-announce@esosoft.com](mailto:minnlib-announce@esosoft.com)

National Libertarian Party World Wide Web site:

<http://www.lp.org/lp/>

Online Libertarian Party News:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lpn/>

Libertarian State Party Information:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lp-aff.html>

Online Libertarian Party Platform:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/platform/>

World's Smallest Political Quiz:  
<http://www.self-gov.org/lpquiz.shtml>

Just one drop of poison in this vast reservoir wouldn't do anyone harm," he reasoned, holding out a vial to me. For \$50, would you throw it in?" I laughed at him. I didn't want to risk polluting the water we all must drink from. How about \$500?" Was this serious? Even though a tiny bit of the noxious fluid couldn't really hurt, it was a sort of a crazy thing to do. \$5,000?" \$15,000?" \$100,000 a year plus paid vacation? Think of all the people you could help with that kind of money."

Now he was starting to make more sense. Could it, perhaps, be worth a minor compromise, a small infraction, to be able to give aid to many? Weren't there causes when the end did justify the means?

Besides, it was just one, insignificant, little drop of poison - easily diluted by so vast a reservoir.

But it was only after I emptied the eyedropper that I noticed all the other people walking away from the water's bank just like me with empty poison vials and pockets full of the wages of sin.

## Should I join the Libertarian Party?

Ask yourself: is government too big or too small? Are taxes too high too low? Does the government regulate my business too much or too little? Does the government control my personal life too much or not enough? If you agree, like most Americans, that government is too large, too expensive, and meddles too much, the Libertarian Party is for you!

# I admit it, I'm a Libertarian says MN Rep. Workman

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota is pleased to make this announcement concerning Minnesota House member Tom Workman 43A Chanhassen:

I admit it, I'm a Libertarian

"I admit it, I'm a Libertarian," says Minnesota Representative Tom Workman 43A Chanhassen. "I've joined the Libertarian Party. I still consider myself a Republican, but a Libertarian-Republican. I am fiscally conservative and socially tolerant like Libertarians. I try hard to stay consistent with my beliefs. Libertarians and I have a long history of mutual respect and I'd like to recognize it."

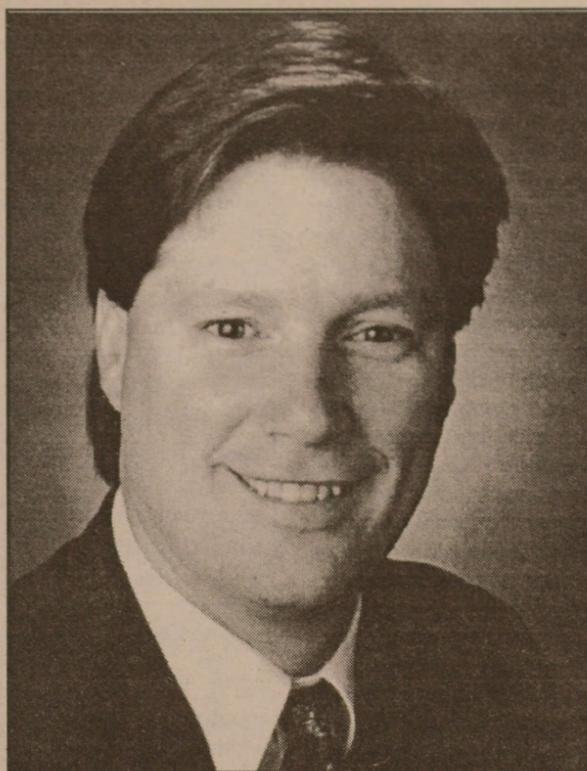
Workman continued, "The Libertarian Party of Minnesota's Give It ALL Back rallies this spring were the greatest. I supported the complete return of the over \$4 billion dollar tax over-payment too. I also want the state to stay completely out of the stadium and business subsidy rackets, as do Libertarians."

"The Libertarian Party's call for science based environmental policies makes a lot of sense to me. I've canoed down the Minnesota River with the River Warren Research Committee folks and let me tell you geology does make a big difference in an objective science-based environmental policy equation."

"I am so impressed by one of their candidates, Rich Osness of Austin who is running for Minnesota House 27B, that I'm endorsing his campaign for Minnesota House 27B. Rich Osness would be a welcome addition to the Minnesota Legislature. He's a small business person dedicated to simplifying and improving the lives of the people of Mower County,"

Tom Workman.

"Both the Republicans and Democrats can learn positive things from the Party of Principle, the Libertarian Party. Learn things like a principled philosophy beats trying to



Minnesota Representative  
Tom Workman 43A Chanhassen

hold together coalitions of factions any day. Voters respect consistency of action and I try my best to do so."

"I am so impressed by one of their candidates, Rich Osness of Austin who

is running for Minnesota House 27B, that I'm endorsing his campaign for Minnesota House 27B. Rich Osness would be a welcome addition to the Minnesota Legislature. He's a small business per-

son dedicated to simplifying and improving the lives of the people of Mower County."

"I am pleased to welcome Tom Workman into the Fold of Freedom," said Charles Test, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota. "Representative Workman is a leader in returning to Minnesotans control of their lives and their earnings. I look forward to working with him. I hope other DFL or Republican Party members will heed his example and come over to the Party of Principle, the Libertarian Party."

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota, in 1998, has five candidates for constitutional office including Frank Germann for Governor, four candidates for US Congressional Districts 4, 5, 6, 8 and Rich Osness of Austin for Minnesota House 27B. ■

## Libertarians in action

**Tax reduction:**  
The Libertarian Party was instrumental in repealing the income tax in Alaska, and Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire were leaders in the fight to roll back higher business taxes.

**Choice in education:**  
The Libertarian Party has vigorously fought for free market reform in education to increase educational opportunities for all children. We've worked for referendums and sponsored legislation to return tax money to parents so they can choose the best school for their children-instead of being at the mercy of failing government schools.

## Germann on TAX Freedom Day

By Frank Germann  
Libertarian candidate for Governor 1998

"Tax Freedom Day" is an interesting concept. Unfortunately I haven't done the math to figure out where or when it should be. I think it should be considerably further along in the calendar than most people do.

The tax/spenders want to only consider some taxes. I would like to consider them all. It would be so much easier if we only had one tax, but that would be visible, and the tax/spenders don't want that.

To be truly representative, tax freedom day should consider ALL taxes, and at all levels. Income taxes both federal and state, sales taxes, excise taxes, corporate income taxes (which corporations don't really pay, they just pass them along to the consumers), property taxes, social security taxes (both employer and employee shares), real estate taxes (both on individuals and businesses), taxes on utilities including telephone taxes, vehicle taxes, fuel taxes, liquor taxes, cigarette

taxes, taxes on airline tickets, and on down the line.

Did you know that California oranges are cheaper in Canada than in California? The Canadian government doesn't support the price of oranges because there is no political advantage.

Some of these we can control, like foregoing beer and wine to avoid the liquor tax, the 9% sales tax and other numerous taxes. If all taxes were removed from a pack of cigarettes, including corporate income taxes, personal income taxes (of employees), social security taxes, real estate taxes on tobacco farms and tobacco corporations etc etc, you could probably buy a pack of cigarettes for a dime. A car with no taxes would cost less than half of what it presently costs. Think of what that would do for the balance of payments.

Then there's the hidden cost of regulation. How much do safety and pollution requirements, OSHA and myriad other government requirements add to the price of a car? The government is forcing

us to run around in unsafe clunkers because we can not afford safe new cars.

How much do cabbage regulations add to the price of a head of cabbage? Did you know that California oranges are cheaper in Canada than in California? The Canadian government doesn't support the price of oranges because there is no political advantage. Why do we pay several times the world price for sugar, and what does this do to manufactured goods that require sugar?

Why does the government produce 40 pounds of new regulations every month? (I subscribed to the federal register one month just to find out how much it weighed, but that was 20 years ago, it is probably much more now). How much does restricting who can grow tobacco and where tobacco can be grown add to the price of tobacco products? It never ends.

Tax freedom day is impossible to figure if you consider all of the costs of government. My guess is sometime in August. Probably towards the end. ■

## Minnesota tax burden

From Ken Nebel

Minnesota has HIGH income taxes (7-8%). We also have state, city and local sales taxes, and also the most complicated property tax system in the entire country, with 29 different property classifications. For a "typical" small manufacturing company, the National Association of Industrial & Office Property managers (NAIOP) calculated typical property taxes for a group of states. Here are the results:

Minnesota \$140,000 a year

Illinois \$63,000 a year  
Wisconsin \$54,000 a year  
Ohio \$33,000 a year  
South Dakota \$22,000 a year.

You can see why many Minnesotans who own businesses have their businesses domiciled across the borders in neighboring states.

I would guess the worst taxes of all are the Value Added Taxes, which we don't see and for the most part are totally unaware of. We don't have a full VAT system like they have in Europe, but the excise taxes on tobacco, liquor and other items fig-

ure in this area. A liquor store owner once told me the "spirits" in a \$10 bottle, plus the bottle itself, plus shipping and handling, all amount to about \$1.50, and the remaining \$8.50 is federal and state taxes. Then on top of the \$8.50 tax, we add state sales tax, local sales tax, and a special local lodging, restaurants, liquor and entertainment tax. The sales tax package comes to about 11%, so the total paid for the booze is \$1.50 and the taxes total \$9.60 if my math is right. Note the sales tax is also paid on the excise taxes built into the retail price! ■

## MN Business Climate Taxation

From Ken Nebel

The MN Chapter of NAIOP (National Association of Industrial and Office Properties) has done some excellent work on comparative levels of taxation between Minnesota and neighboring states. Why do businesses move? For a building with the exact same value, business property taxes in Wisconsin are less

than half what they are in Minnesota. NAIOP's "typical" 70,000 square foot manufacturing operation employing 99 people would pay \$140,000 annually in property taxes in Minnesota and only about \$66,000 in Wisconsin — a savings of over \$70,000.

From the Report: "On a per square foot basis, a Minnesota manufacturer paid \$1.99 in business

property taxes in 1997, roughly equal to paying sales tax on its building every year. By contrast, a Wisconsin manufacturer paid only 94 cents per square foot; Iowa, 76 cents, and North Dakota, just 39 cents." ■

To get a copy of the report, call Dave at NAIOP, (612) 928-4647.

## What's a Libertarian?

To put it simply, Libertarians believe that you have the right to live your life as you wish, without the government interfering - as long as you don't violate the rights of others. Politically, this means Libertarians favor rolling back the size and cost of government, and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices.

**GOVERNMENT WARNING:** (1) According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may lead to alcoholism. (3) Moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages may cause health problems such as hypertension and breast cancer.

## Beware: health police It's for your own good

By Bob Smith

It's only a cartoon, isn't it? According to a very scary piece in the trade magazine *Nation's Restaurant News*, it's only a matter of time before pressure groups make their next moves to limit personal freedoms.

The magazine foresees the Health Police arresting restaurateurs for serving fattening or heart-disease-threatening dishes like fettuccine Alfredo, or fining patrons for wearing perfume.

This may sound crazy, the magazine says, but 30 years ago, no one would have believed that smokers could ever be arrested and fined for lighting up at their tables.

"The game plan that rendered public smoking a punishable offense ... is being used to vilify and ban other lifestyle choices," the article warns.

"For virtually every choice we can make in a restaurant - whether involving alcohol, meat, lobster, tobacco, caffeine, dairy products, even perfume - there is a special-interest group dedicated to eliminating that option in the name of the public good," it adds. "And the movement to limit choice is gaining ground."

It quotes the director of Yale's Center for Eating and Weight Disorders as

likening the fight against fattening foods to the campaign against cigarettes. And it says the Center for Science in the Public Interest wants to outlaw "excessive serving sizes" in restaurants.

**This may sound crazy, the magazine says, but 30 years ago, no one would have believed that smokers could ever be arrested and fined for lighting up at their tables.**

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), the group which brought the fur industry to its knees, gives two thumbs down to movie theater popcorn, Mexican food, Chinese cuisine, even, believe it or not, large food portions. The group seeks regulation to curb public consumption of these poisons.

From the CSPI (Center for Science in the Public Interest) web site:

Caffeine poses a health risk to millions of Americans, especially women who are or might become pregnant. Caffeine increases the risks of infertility, miscarriage, and impaired fetal growth. It also affects bone health, exacerbating the low calcium intakes of women and teenagers, and increases the risk of osteoporosis. Additionally, millions of

Americans experience unpleasant behavioral effects from caffeine such as addiction, withdrawal, anxiety, and sleeplessness.

Approximately 400,000 Americans a year die prematurely as a result of an unhealthy diet and a sedentary lifestyle. Fat and artery-clogging saturated fat are two of the main culprits. Ground beef adds more fat to the average American's diet than any other single food.

Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) today applauded long-awaited actions by the Federal Trade Commission to address alcohol advertising abuses. "These enforcement actions send a forceful reminder to alcohol promoters that some ad pitch-



Bob Smith

es are clearly out of bounds. They remind the rest of us that industry self-regulation is inadequate, and that voluntary industry advertising codes are weak, ambiguous, and unenforceable."

**A Yale University professor has seriously proposed a complete program of government regulation, including advertising restrictions, government subsidies, higher taxes and government-mandated education programs — all for the good of the children.**

And... it's not just the CSPI moving toward increased regulation of other evils.

A Yale University professor has seriously proposed a complete program of government regulation,

including advertising restrictions, government subsidies, higher taxes and government-mandated education programs — all for the good of the children.

Yale Professor Kelly D. Brownell has called for changes in public policy as a means for altering diet, including:

"Subsidizing healthy foods to increase consumption."

"Taxing unhealthy foods to discourage consumption."

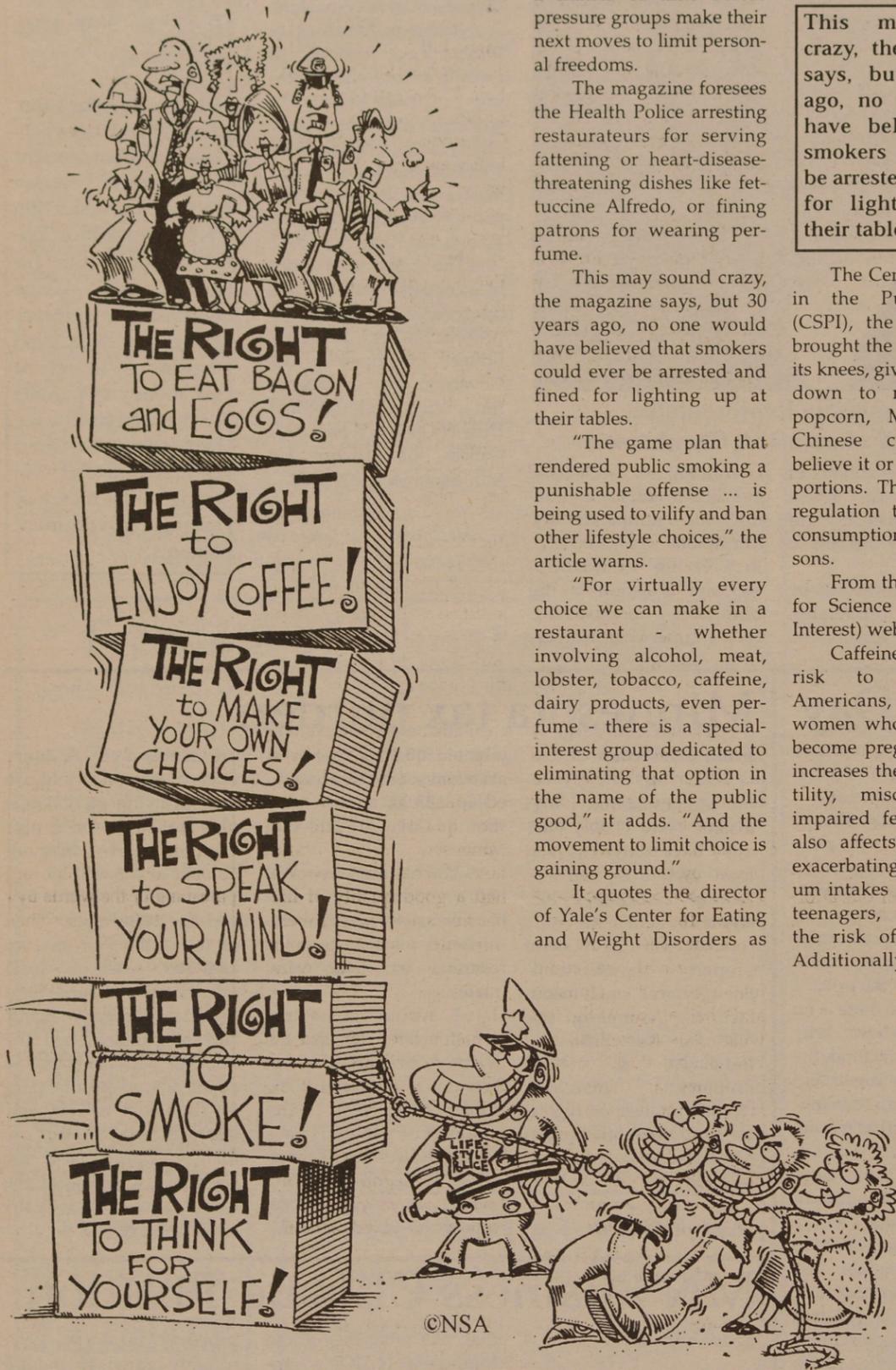
"Teaching the public about proper nutrition and encouraging a militant attitude about promotion of unhealthy foods."

"Regulating food advertising aimed at children."

"Enhancing opportunities for physical activity." Brownell has even come up with the food equivalent of the anti-smokers' environmental tobacco smoke shams. He describes individuals as being exposed to a "toxic food environment." It will come as no surprise that he published his conclusions in the journal, *Addictive Behaviors*.

Dr. C. Everett Koop, has engaged on this issue, saying if he had stayed in office for another term as U.S. Surgeon General he would have launched the same kind of national war on obesity that he waged on tobacco.

On January 12, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala called on college sports officials to immediately end their business relations with the alcohol industry. In a speech to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Shalala said the move would help curb alcohol abuse on college campuses. On April 1, U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) introduced a bill (S. 1894) to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Labeling Act of 1988. ■



## California decriminalizes Caesar salad

WASHINGTON, DC —

California decriminalized the sale of Caesar salad this week — and it's not a moment too soon, the Libertarian Party said today.

"When you outlaw Caesar salad, only outlaws will eat Caesar salad," noted the party's Director of Communications, Bill Winter.

"That's why, on the issue of Caesar salad, we Libertarians have always been pro-legalization."

Selling Caesar salad became a crime last year when California legislators passed a new health law banning the sale of food

that used raw eggs as an ingredient. Unexpectedly, the law included Caesar salad, which uses uncooked eggs in its unique dressing.

Restaurant owners and fans of the popular salad were outraged. The outcry convinced state legislators to file a new bill to cancel the criminal status of Caesar salad — and, presumably, end what might have become a flourishing black market in contraband romaine lettuce, raw eggs, and Parmesan cheese.

The bill, signed into law by Governor Pete Wilson on Monday, has Libertarians cheering — but a little surprised.

"We have to compliment California legislators for their rare display of good sense," acknowledged Winter. "Although we're a bit surprised that they were courageous enough to toss the Caesar salad law entirely."

Libertarians had expected politicians to take a more timid, gradual approach, said Winter, perhaps...

\* Implementing a five-day waiting period for Caesar salad, so the government could do a medical background check for raw-egg allergies.

\* Legalizing only "medical

Caesar salad" — whereby people with a vitamin deficiency could get a doctor's permission to buy a small amount of Caesar salad for their own personal use.

**Restaurant owners and fans of the popular salad were outraged. The outcry convinced state legislators to file a new bill to cancel the criminal status of Caesar salad — and, presumably, end what might have become a flourishing black market in contraband romaine lettuce, raw eggs, and Parmesan cheese.**

\* Launching an anti-Caesar salad TV advertising blitz, perhaps with a commercial showing a frying pan, and then showing a frying pan with a raw egg in it. The voice-over could be: "This is your brain. This is your brain on Caesar salad."

\* Allowing only adults, 21 and over, the right to buy Caesar salad, on the grounds that it may be an adolescent's gateway-salad to stronger stuff, like macaroni salad or three-bean salad.

But Libertarians say they are delighted with the bold, unexpected victory over the "Just Say No to

Caesar Salad" lobby — and argue that it's a win for libertarianism and the American way of life.

"We support the Constitutional right of every American to keep and bear a Caesar salad — or, rather, to eat and buy a Caesar salad," said Winter. "All joking aside, it's a setback for those political eggheads who think they have the right to micro-manage every aspect of our lives — down to the type of salad we buy in a restaurant."

Hopefully, politicians will learn to just lettuce alone. ■



# Case from 1685 could save N.J. woman's 1990 Honda

From Richard Sincere  
(LP Virginia)  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*  
July 16, 1998 | Front Page

By Tom Avril,  
Trenton Bureau

TRENTON —

In 1685, a British customs official seized a sloop called the Dolphin at the New Jersey port of Elizabethtown, finding that the ship violated the Navigation Acts because only one member of the crew was English.

In 1995, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office seized a 1990 blue Honda Accord belonging to a Highlands Borough woman, now 67, after arresting her son on drug charges.

The Dolphin's owner fought to have a jury trial, in the city now known as Elizabeth, and he got one. Citing that 313-year-old example, among others, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the Honda's owner, Lois McDermott, should get

one, as well.

Rife with tales of the high seas and quotes from Alexander Hamilton's writings in the Federalist papers, much of the 26-page decision reads like a history lesson. The decision made it clear that the ruling applies throughout the state.

**"Generally, if English common law provided Englishmen with a right to a trial by jury, New Jersey common law provided a comparable right to the people of this state," the court wrote.**

"I feel like we should be wearing our white wigs here," Judge Stewart G. Pollock joked during the oral arguments in March, McDermott's attorney recalled. McDermott, a widow who is in ill health, relied on her daughter to drive her around after the Honda was seized, according to her attorney, Elizabeth Macron. McDermott told the lower court she was aware of her

son's criminal record and tried in vain to prevent him from using the car. The son, Jackie, had pleaded guilty to selling heroin to undercover police.

McDermott asked the local Libertarian party to recommend an attorney, and she got one with a love of history.

Macron said she pored over old law books in the Rutgers special collections room in New Brunswick, where the temperature is kept constant and no writing implements are allowed. On the other hand, she came across the relevant Alexander Hamilton citation one night while reading the Federalist papers in her living room. For fun. "I just got back from going to Monticello on vacation," she offered as further evidence of her historical bent.

The New Jersey Constitution, both in its most recent incarnation, from 1947, and in the 1776 original, guarantees the right to a jury trial in certain instances. The main

issue in the case was whether seizure of property is one of those instances.

**"Automobiles are no less innocent in modern society than sailing ships were in colonial times," the court wrote. "New Jersey colonists insisted on jury trials for the forfeitures of ships and their contents. Automobile owners are entitled to the same protection today."**

The answer lies in English common law, the court found.

"Generally, if English common law provided Englishmen with a right to a trial by jury, New Jersey common law provided a comparable right to the people of this state," the court wrote.

"Whatever it was that you got a jury trial for at the time they adopted that language, that right remains inviolate and can't be changed," said Robert F. Williams, an expert on the state constitution and a law professor at Rutgers

University in Camden.

Forfeiture cases were among those that received jury trials, except those involving petty offenses such as violations of the fish and game acts. But a Honda seized in a drug case is another matter, the judges found.

Attorney General Peter Verniero criticized the decision, saying it would hamper efforts to deter criminals. He said he might file a motion asking the court to reconsider.

"Civil forfeiture is a vitally important tool for the law-enforcement community in its ongoing war against illicit drugs," Verniero said in a statement. "This decision will complicate and may hurt our overall efforts."

The ruling concerns the seizure of "innocent" property — that is, not the contraband itself (in this case, the heroin).

"Automobiles are no less innocent in modern society than sailing ships were in colonial times," the court wrote. "New Jersey

colonists insisted on jury trials for the forfeitures of ships and their contents. Automobile owners are entitled to the same protection today."

It remains to be seen what happens to the car, which sits in a Monmouth County impound lot. Macron said she would call the Prosecutor's Office today and see whether officials would agree to give back the car or whether they preferred to pursue a jury trial.

For the prosecutor's sake, he should hope for a better fate than what befell William Dyre, the hapless customs official in 1685. The Dolphin's owner won the case, and the jury ordered Dyre to pay a fine.

That wasn't all, the Supreme Court noted yesterday, calling it a case of "adding injury to insult."

When Dyre refused to pay the fine, the colonial-era court then seized his horse and imprisoned him, requiring him to pay an additional 3 pounds before his release. ■

## Libertarian answers to LOWV questions 98

The League of Women Voters (LOWV) asked these questions of Minnesota's 1998 governor candidates.

**Priorities if elected:**

The number one priority of the LPMN is reducing the size of state government by eliminating regulatory and tax barriers that limit the prosperity of all Minnesotans.

Specific targets include

- (1) eliminating the state income tax by reducing state spending and shifting revenue generation to user fees and consumption taxes;
- (2) a concerted effort to eliminate corporate-welfare spending programs;
- (3) a concerted effort to repeal state education mandates and open schools up to competition.

**What new programs do you envision, what would they cost and how would you pay for them?**

State programs ostensibly are implemented to solve problems. Unfortunately, the major political parties most often initiate programs (and let's be honest and call it spending) to transfer money from working people to special interest groups be it through environmental programs, capital expenditures for sports stadiums, or massive welfare programs where more is spent on administration than compassion.

If the goal is really solving problems, the answer is not new programs, but the elimination of existing spending and letting the people keep

their earnings.

**Given the present budget surplus, do you have a proposal for permanent restructuring of the MN tax system?**

Above all, we need to move from a tax code pasted together by legislators in debt to special interest groups to a code based on the simple principles that government should tax only for the amount of money it needs to provide necessary services.

Specifically, the state move to reduce the surplus by (1) reducing state income tax with the ultimate goal of abolishing it (2) eliminate excessive nuisance taxes like the annual progressive auto license tax, and (3) establish an equitable property tax system.

**How do you think the government should handle regulation of large commercial development, including feedlots, in MN?**

The LPMN supports strict liability; that is, instead of a central government controlling large commercial developments (including feedlots) through regulation, these businesses should be held responsible for damage they cause using existing legal procedures — and not just a business entity.

The corporate privilege that prevents officers and employees from being held responsible for their actions should be eliminated, making individual's responsible for the consequences of their actions.

**What is government's role in helping people get living wage jobs?**

Reducing taxes will certainly help people to increase the amount of money they can keep and spend.

The assumption in the question is that government has any role at all. The LPMN believes that creating jobs through spending programs, creating job training programs, and regulating the hiring policies of businesses - including minimum wage laws - are all beyond the legitimate scope of government and are counter-productive.

**What is your position on obtaining permits to carry a loaded, concealed weapon?**

The LPMN believes in the basic human right of self-defense. If in the individual's judgment carrying a concealed weapon provides that protection, and the individual meets reasonable objective criteria — then, as is enacted in 30 other states — that person should not be denied the right of carrying a firearm.

**What would you do to encourage businesses to locate and stay in Minnesota?**

Creating an environment that is favorable to business is a blend of many things, including a reasonable tax structure, a reasonable regulatory environment, and an educated and motivated labor pool.

The LPMN believes the best way to create this environment is by lowering taxes on both businesses

and their employees by eliminating spending for programs that are outside the legitimate functions of government; reducing the regulatory burden on businesses while holding them strictly liable for damages and illegalities under current law; and providing tax credits to parents who send their children to private schools, thus creating a competitive education environment based on choice.

**How would you meet the educational needs of our children?**

Libertarians support parental choice in education. Ideally, the state would have no involvement in education, but it is so entangled today, that to remove it completely immediately is impractical.

The state should provide tax credits to private schools, eliminate teacher-licensing programs and, in general, remove barriers to creating a system of market-driven public/private school choice.

**What role if any should the state play in creating affordable housing?**

The assumption in the question is that "affordable housing" means less costly than what is available today. What if housing costs remained stable, but people's incomes increased? Lessening unnecessary government taxation and regulation effecting buyers, lenders, landlords and builders is the way to create true (not subsidized) affordable housing.

**Would you advocate changes in Minnesota campaign finance laws?**

Who people give their money to is an individual choice that should be protected. On the flip side, voters have a right to know who is contributing to a candidate.

The LPMN favors eliminating restrictions on campaign financing replaced by the single requirement of full and public disclosure of the source of all funds spent on a campaign.

We also advocate getting the government out of campaign financing.

**How would you define and address MN's transportation needs?**

Clearly, highway congestion is a problem, so is maintaining the existing highway infrastructure; however, current gasoline and vehicle taxes should be sufficient to address these problems provided those funds are not shuttled to other transportation subsidies.

Tax dollars should not be used to subsidize public transportation at the expense of the public preference for automobile use.

**What is the most serious environmental issue facing MN?**

Clean air and water are shared by all and should be protected by government; not, however, through legislation and regulation, but through strict criminal and civil enforcement in cases where reckless or malicious damage to the environment causes harm to an individual. ■

## Private Meat Inspection

By Craig Westover

Let the government keep all its standards and regulations in place, but allow any and all businesses to opt out, provided that they notify customers that their establishments/products are not inspected or regulated by the government. Then let the market decide. (In the case of "bad meat" or injuries, people would have the standard recourse through the courts.)

My free market prediction: first their would be a weeding out period with a high reported number of restaurants (and the like) being sued for providing "bad" food. Some would be valid and some would be ambulance chasing, but very quickly a body of common law would determine what is a reasonable case and general rules for judgement. Second, a number of private inspection services would spring up that would charge less than the government, provide better, more conscientious inspection service.

These companies would, for a fee, inspect and assume some liability. Their success would depend on their credibility with the public, thus they would have a vested interest in maintaining high quality. Third, eventually non-regulated establishments would have such an advantage in the marketplace that the government regulated system would die (assuming no legislative interference — big assumption) or perhaps find a true value-added niche somewhere. ■



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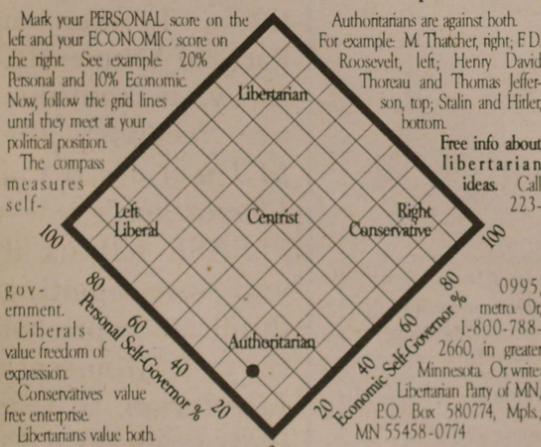
# World's Smallest Political Quiz

Take this quiz, then use the Self-Government Compass to find your political position. Circle **Y** if you agree with a statement, **M** for maybe, sometimes, or need more information, or **N** for no.

Are you a Self-Governor on PERSONAL issues?	20	10	0
• Military service should be voluntary. No draft.	Y	M	N
• Government should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet.	Y	M	N
• Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults.	Y	M	N
• Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.	Y	M	N
• Let peaceful people cross borders freely.	Y	M	N
PERSONAL Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

Are you a Self-Governor on ECONOMIC issues?	20	10	0
• Businesses and farms should operate without government subsidies.	Y	M	N
• People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.	Y	M	N
• Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal.	Y	M	N
• End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.	Y	M	N
• All foreign aid should be privately funded.	Y	M	N
ECONOMIC Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

### How to use the Self-Government Compass:



## Libertarian Party of Minnesota

Twin Cities: (612) 223-0995 Fax Phone: (612) 874-6803  
Greater MN: (800) 788-2660 WWW Site: <http://www.lpmn.org>

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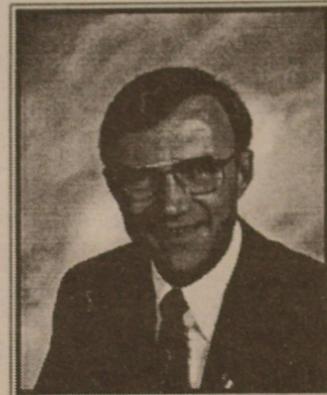
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Libertarian  
Minnesota House District 27B



This is Rich's second run for legislative office.

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- \* He's electable.
- \* He can win.

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Help distribute literature the weekends of October 23-25 and Oct 30-Nov 1. (Yes, we'll have our own Halloween party.) Call us to volunteer at (507)437-8288 or 433-5734.

Send the biggest donation you can afford, \$500 per person maximum. We are making the media buys now. We need another \$15,000 to make Rich's name as well known as possible in the last two weeks. Please fill in the following and mail it with your check to the address at the bottom.

The state requires that we ask the following of those donating \$100 in a calendar year.

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# Return to limited government

By Jim Rongstad

"In the wake of the Clinton/Democratic National Committee campaign fundraising scandals, calls have come from the press, politicians and others for "Campaign Finance Reform." These groups would have us believe that further government controls on who can contribute and how much can be contributed are the solution to the problem.

These "reformers" conveniently ignore the fact that the current scandals are about existing laws being violated and much of what they propose violates the first amendment rights of free speech. Worst of all they totally miss the root cause of big money politics: big powerful government.

The founders of this country knew from experience that governments tend to grow becoming more powerful and tyrannical. This is why they created a national government with only the limited powers they specified in the Constitution. Since the Civil War, and especially in this century, government powers have gradually been expanded to the point that government reaches into every aspect of our lives.

Government programs subsidize certain industries and government uses its tax policies to favor

some choices over others. Special interests contribute to campaigns because they can get something from government. By returning to limited government you remove the power of the government to hand out special favors.

To give government the power to take the property of taxpayers and to bestow it upon another individual (or organization) is still robbery even if it is done under the law and called taxation.

The campaign finance scandals are merely symptoms of the disease of a coercive government. When people work through private organizations such as charities, service organizations, churches or business groups they work to voluntarily enlist others in their cause.

When people work through government they force others to support their cause. When government is given the power to force others to pay for what you think is important, it is also given the power to force you to pay for what others think is important.

To give government the power to take the property of taxpayers and to bestow it upon another individual (or organization) is still robbery even if it is done under the law and called taxation.

We should respect the rights of all people by doing most things through voluntary cooperation, not by controlling others. Each person owns themselves, no one owns other human beings. In a free market, each person sells their services to other people who wish to buy these services at the price offered. Each person enters into the transaction because in their judgment the result will be beneficial. Each participant is better off according to their own values. If the individual does not wish to purchase the service or thinks the price is too high, the seller doesn't receive any revenue from that individual.

With government if an individual taxpayer doesn't want a particular service or thinks the price (i.e. taxes) for this service is too high, he is forced by law to pay for this service anyway. This is coercion or taking by force.

Government is the antithesis of the market. Those in power decide what to do with your money. If as an individual you disagree with how your tax dollar is being spent you have no right to say no. The only way you can hope to stop this spending is to gain political control, which means you need a majority of voters to agree with you. Even this is not a sure way as is demonstrated

by the ongoing farce that is the "Stadium Debate." Poll after poll shows the people do not want the state to pay for a new stadium, yet the state continues to waste our tax dollars "studying" this issue.

If Minnesota follows the pattern of other states a stadium will be built with taxpayer dollars to satisfy the greed of wealthy sports owners and their overcompensated players. If all governments would get out of the business of subsidizing pro sports, the owners would be forced by the market to reduce their obscene spend-thrift ways. Player salaries would come down to a level that could be supported by those who wished to spend their money at the ballpark.

Government power encourages more government growth because when the government grants favors or subsidizes one group, it causes other groups to seek similar favors or subsidies. These groups become special interests that lobby and contribute to politicians to retain or expand their favorite program. Most of these programs by themselves are a small part of the budget, but together they add up. However the smallness of the individual programs protects them from attack by taxpayers because their effect on an individual taxpayer is so

small.

The government consumes 57% of your income. The effect of this tax burden is that it strips middle class families of financial reserves and thereby lends support to calls for further government intervention in the economy in order to provide goods and services the family can no longer afford because of the taxes they pay. So government grows again and demands even more of your income. More special interest groups are created by this growth and the growth cycle continues.

Due to the growth of government, taxes now consume 47% of your income and if you include the costs of government regulations, the government consumes 57% of your income. The effect of this tax burden is that it strips middle class families of financial reserves and thereby lends support to calls for further government intervention in the economy in order to provide goods and services the family can no longer afford because of the taxes they

pay. So government grows again and demands even more of your income. More special interest groups are created by this growth and the growth cycle continues.

Some politicians will campaign as friends of the working man by proposing to tax rich nasty corporations but they really are taxing you! Businesses in the final analysis don't pay taxes - you do. Income and property taxes charged to businesses are added to the price of the goods or services sold by the business. In the end, you the consumer pay this tax by your purchase of these goods and services. The social security tax paid by your employer is real money that could have been used to pay you more and the cost is passed on to the consumer. Taxing businesses is a devious way of taxing individuals, because the tax is hidden from your eyes in the cost of goods and services. Since you pay the taxes indirectly, you have no idea how much you are paying.

All taxpayers need to support across the board reductions in government programs, eliminating all programs except those that are absolutely necessary to protect the rights of individuals to be secure in their person and property. This will result in true campaign finance reform. ■

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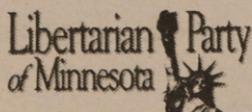
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