

Santa Clara Libertarian

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Cynical Thoughts on the Democratic Process

by Dante DeAmicis

Congratulations. We have survived another electoral expression of the will of the people. Let us forget for a moment that representative democracy is a sacred cow immune from the scrutiny we reserve for rational processes and take a look at this charade from beginning to end.

First, we have to start with the assumption that it is proper for politicians to force their ideas on everyone else, having been given a mandate of the popular majority. But is it a majority?

Starting with 100% of the populace we must deduct 25% to 30% who are not old enough to vote by law, although they are considered old enough to obey the law.

Another 35% just don't vote. Either they don't believe the political process accomplishes anything worthwhile, don't like the choice of candidates, or are too spaced out to care. Not voting is considered just cause for losing one's right to complain about some transgression against individual rights inflicted by the agents of mob rule, by those who do vote.

The remaining 35% to 40% of us naive enough to vote usually begin the process at the party primary. Sometimes we might like a candidate better in another party but the law requires that he win without our vote. After the primary, assuming two candidates and bare majorities in each party race for simplicity, half the people have lost their candidate. So now 17% of the population are going to vote for their choice in the general election.

The winner of the general election probably isn't going to get more than 60% of the aforementioned 17%. That is 10%. Does that mean that 10% IS TOTALLY satisfied with the outcome? Hardly.

Even a candidate's fervent supporters are not going to agree with him on all the issues he takes stands on. Usually voters end up voting against someone instead of for someone. Furthermore, the greater the number of issues a candidate takes stands on the greater the level of disagreement among his supporters will be. So a half-hearted 10% converts to a 5% level of approval from the people bound by all the laws this politician will help enact.

If certain other assumptions are not made this 5% political approval figure will evaporate further. These are that the politician has been honest about his true views and is competent enough to implement them. Some people may not think these last assumptions are reasonable. I can't imagine why.

(NOTE: Similar end results have been found in gambling casinos and lemming migrations.)

Draft Registration Returns Jan. 5

Libertarians planned to continue their voter registration drive in protest of the registration for the draft of those men born in 1962. If enough people register Libertarian, we may be able to prevent an actual draft.

County Convention Meets in Sunnyvale

On Thursday, January 15, 1981, the annual convention of the Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County will meet in the second floor meeting room of the Co-op Market at the corner of Fremont Avenue and Saratoga Sunnyvale Road in Sunnyvale. The County Central Committee of the Libertarian Party will meet at 7:30 p.m. and the convention will begin at 8:00 p.m.

NOTES

• **CLC members who wish to be delegates** to the CLC Convention in February but cannot attend the January 15th county meeting must notify Lory DeAmicis, Region 7's secretary, prior to the meeting. Telephone her at 408/CRY-FREE to have your name placed on the prospective delegates list.

• **A permanent meeting place is needed.** The latest new location for meetings costs the County CLC \$15 per month. If you know of a better and/or cheaper room that will hold at least 50 persons please telephone CRY-FREE to let us know.

• **A local libertarian study and discussion group** is forming. The first meeting will be on January 22nd at 4:00 p.m. on the Stanford campus. The group will have an informal, bi-weekly series of discussions of both basic and advanced ideas about the nature of a free society. Those who sign up will receive by mail a recent paper or article by a libertarian scholar or researcher. The participants should prepare a very short commentary prior to the meeting. If you wish to join (space is limited) please write to the sponsor, Stanford Libertarians, at P.O. Box 9360, Stanford, CA 94305 for a list of proposed topics.

• **CMi '82 (California Marijuana Initiative)** petitions are now available for circulation. This initiative would guarantee adults, aged 18 or over, the right to possess, cultivate, and transport marijuana for personal use. It calls for the destruction of records for marijuana offenses. But does not change the laws prohibiting driving after marijuana use. It also sets up a commission (non-compensated) to do a one-year study of the agricultural, economic and tax benefits of a free market in marijuana. To obtain petitions locally telephone Karen at 252-0947.

• **The Libertarian Supper Club of San Francisco** meets monthly at various San Francisco restaurants. If you would like detailed information on the upcoming dinner please telephone the sponsor, Beverly Locke, at 415/864-3969 or write to her at 117 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

Calendar

SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 12. 7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Seven Oaks Room of the A.P. Giannini branch of the Bank of America at Third Avenue and El Camino in San Mateo. Information phone: Don Smith at 415/368-8148.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL CONVENTION

Thursday, January 15. 8:00 p.m.

The annual Region 7 CLC convention will include election of county officers, election of four state CLC executive committee representatives, election of 16 delegates to the State CLC convention in San Diego in February, and discussion of the proposed amendments to the By-laws of the region. **New Location:** Second floor meeting room of the *Co-op* grocery store in the shopping center at the corner of Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and Fremont Avenue in Sunnyvale. A meeting of the County CLC executive committee is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. For more details about the business meeting or the location, phone 408/252-0947.

"ALTERNATIVE FINANCING OF SCHOOLS"— A TALK BY FRANK FORTKAMP.

Thursday, January 15. 4:00 p.m.

Frank Fortkamp, Director of the Center of Independent Education in San Francisco, will be speaking on the current efforts to free education from the grip of the state. Location: Stanford University campus, Terman Engineering Building, Room 332. Sponsor: The Decisions and Ethics Center of the Department of Engineering-Economics Systems at Stanford University. Information phone: Scott Olmsted at 415/497-1767 or 415/856-0766.

"THE INHOLDERS VERSUS GOVERNMENT CONTROLS"— A TALK BY CHARLES CUSHMAN.

Thursday, January 29. 3:30 p.m.

Charles Cushman of the National Inholders (owners of land that has subsequently been designated as a federal reserve) Association will be speaking on the practical problems of government land use controls. Location: Terman Engineering Bldg, Room 217. See the above entry for additional details.

LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL BOOTH AT THE DE ANZA FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 7. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed, especially in the morning, to staff our permanent information and merchandise booth at the DeAnza Flea Market in Cupertino. Help raise money to support local projects and educate yourself and others on the issues. Donations of books and other fast-selling items are needed and may be dropped off at the flea market. Location: DeAnza College Parking Lot A, Stevens Creek Blvd. and Stelling Road in Cupertino. For more information or to volunteer call Dante or Lory DeAmicis at 408/CRY-FREE.

CALIFORNIA LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL AND LIBERTARIAN PARTY CONVENTION '81— A LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION OF IDEAS.

Friday, February 13 through Monday, February 16.

The California Libertarian Council & Libertarian Party will hold its eighth annual convention in San Diego. For a brochure giving all the details write to: San Diego Convention Committee, 3808 Rosecrans St. #265, San Diego, CA 92110. Information phone: 714/223-3313. The discount price reservation deadline is January 23, 1981.

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Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County officers are:

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at

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Stevens Creek Boulevard and
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February 7

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information or booth reservations call 996-4946

Sponsored by Associated Students of De Anza College.