

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

JANUARY 2001

Ex-LP member picked for Secretary of Interior

A former Libertarian Party member has been picked by president-elect George W. Bush to be the next Secretary of the Interior — a move that could mark a “step in the right direction” towards more sensible federal environmental and land-use policies, say party leaders.

In late December, Gale Norton, 46, was picked by Bush to head the Interior Department, which manages nearly 500 million acres of government-controlled land, including national parks and wildlife refuges.

With a long history of speaking out against governmental “taking” of property via environmental regulations, and against the regulatory excesses of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Norton may be “the best possible” nominee for the position, said Steve



■ Norton: “Best possible” pick?

and an appreciation of the value of private property,” he said. “She’s certainly more Republican than Libertarian, but may be the best possible nominee we could expect from George W. Bush.”

Norton’s nomination will also help focus public attention on Libertarian solutions to environmental problems, and on alternatives to government control of so-called “public” land, predicted Dasbach.

“If nothing else, her

Dasbach, the Libertarian Party’s national director.

“Norton appears to have a generally libertarian mindset about environmental protection,

nomination certainly helps lend credibility to libertarian-style environmental policies that balance the need for a healthy environment with the importance of liberty, property rights, and a Constitutionally limited government,” he said.

Delegate

Norton had been a Colorado LP member in 1979-1980, a delegate at the party’s presidential nominating convention in 1979, the Colorado state coordinator for the Ed Clark for President campaign in 1980, and had applied for the position of LP National Director in 1980. She later withdrew her name and apparently allowed her party membership to lapse.

At around the same time, Norton went to work for the Mountain States Legal Foundation, part of

the “wise use” movement that attempted to balance environmental action with protection of private property.

By the mid-1980s, she was active in the Republican Party, and served as assistant solicitor at the Department of the Interior (1985-90), and Colorado attorney general (1991-98).

Her tenure as Colorado’s attorney general drew mixed reviews from Libertarians in that state.

“When she served as attorney general, many party members were annoyed at her for the positions her office took,” said longtime LP activist David C. Bryant.

While she was criticized for supporting the multi-billion dollar lawsuit against tobacco companies, he said, “she did a good job of reducing government interference with many licensed professions in the state.”

Kubbys get hung jury in medical marijuana case

The medical marijuana trial of Steve and Michele Kubby has ended in a mistrial after a “hopelessly deadlocked” jury voted 11-1 in favor of acquitting the former LP gubernatorial candidate and his wife.

After deliberating for five days, the jury in Auburn, California said on December 21 it could not reach a verdict

on the most significant charges against the Kubbys — conspiracy, cultivation, and possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

After the trial, a jury spokesman said even though there was overwhelming consensus that the Kubbys were not guilty of the marijuana charges, one lone juror refused to agree.

During the four-month trial, the Kubbys argued they were legitimate medical marijuana patients, and were protected by Proposition 215, the state law that legalized medical marijuana.

Steve Kubby was the LP’s gubernatorial candidate in California in 1998, and played a key role in Proposition 215, which was

passed by voters in 1996.

The jury was apparently swayed by the so-called Oakland Guidelines, which allow patients to grow up to 144 marijuana plants for medical reasons.

“The important thing is the jury upheld the Oakland Guidelines,” said Steve Kubby. “Everything else is really superfluous.”

for the people

By Stephen Goode

Massachusetts Democrats Serve Up Green Eggs and Pork

Someone over at the Libertarian Party headquarters certainly got creative recently and sent along the following. It's a poem in the style of Dr. Seuss that was composed in reaction to the fact that in the appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is \$400,000 earmarked for a memorial to Dr. Seuss, the author of such children's classics as *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Cat in the Hat* and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

The memorial is to be built by the Springfield Library and Museum Association in Springfield, Mass., so it's not surprising (the Libertarians point out) that "this pork provision was inserted into the bill" by two Bay State Democrats: Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep.

Richard Neal. Here's the Libertarian reaction:

*We do not like it / Pork-I-Am,
This spendaholic / Uncle Sam.
We do not like those / Rs and Ds,
Who can't resist more / subsidies.*

*We do not like the case they waste;
Sky-high taxes spent in haste.
Frugality, they have erased,
And every bill, of pork it tastes.*

*We do not like it on the Hill,
Or snuck into HUD's spending bill.
It shouldn't pass — we bet it will;
More money from the public till.*

*If you don't like / This Pork-I-Am
Start voting / Libertarian.*

*We would not vote for / Pork-I-Am
Or subsidize /green eggs and ham.*

*Job-training programs for the
Grinch? / We would not even
Budge an inch.*

*And if a cat / Needed p hat?
Free enterprise is / There for that.*

*We would not do it for a moose
We would not do it for a goose
And as you may by now deduce —
We'd vote "no" on Dr. Seuss.*

*Let us hear your ideas for this
feature. Write to Insight, For the People,
3600 New York Ave. N.E., Washington,
DC 20002. Or fax us: (202) 529-2484;
e-mail: Insight@wi.inf.net.*

▲ *Insight*, Washington, DC, January 1, 2001

▼ *The Detroit News*, Detroit, Michigan, December 1, 2000

Candidate sues over Patterson letter

Libertarian wants complaint reopened in campaign dispute.

By Kevin Lynch
The Detroit News

PONTIAC — A Libertarian candidate defeated by L. Brooks Patterson in November is suing the Secretary of State's office because it dismissed a campaign finance complaint he filed in May against the Oakland County Executive.

Paul Champion, a 35-year-old auto body designer who lives in Holly, is asking an Oakland County judge to order the Secretary of State's office to reopen its investigation into his complaint. At issue is a May press release announcing Patterson's candidacy for re-election. Cham-

pion filed a lawsuit asking for judicial review of the matter Wednesday.

Because Patterson spokesman Bob Dustman sent the release on county stationery, Champion and Patterson's Republican challenger both complained the announcement violated a state law that forbids candidates from using public resources for campaigning.

But the Secretary of State's Bureau of Legal Services dismissed the complaint with a warning for Brooks in a Sept. 21 letter from compliance director Anne Corgan.

"In our view, the May 9 press release assists you in your reelection and is therefore subject to section 57 (of the campaign finance law)," according to Corgan's letter. "The fact that the re-



"I just can't believe Champion is looking for judicial review on this. He must have gone to the Al Gore school of (politics)."

L. BROOKS PATTERSON
Oakland County Executive

election announcement is meshed with a long list of your accomplishments does not result in a different conclusion. Since public resources were used to produce and disseminate the release, there may be reason to believe that a violation of (law) has occurred."

In his lawsuit, Champion claims the decision to dismiss his complaint violates state law and the Michigan Constitution.

"Public money is everyone's

money," said Champion. "The people who don't want to support a particular candidate — or any candidate for that matter — shouldn't be paying to help them keep their jobs."

David Murley, an attorney with the Secretary of State's office said Patterson's complaint was handled the same as many complaints filed under the 1997 law. The law is still being interpreted in an ongoing Ingham Circuit Court case involving public

money used to fight Proposal 1.

"Our purpose under the statute is not punitive, but is designed to prevent possible violations in the future," Murley said.

Patterson said there will be no future violations.

"We're going to abide by the secretary of state's decision. We didn't see it their way at first, and maybe it's a debatable issue, but it's not worth the hassle. ... It's not going to happen again — end of story."

"I just can't believe Champion is looking for judicial review on this. He must have gone to the Al Gore school of (politics)."

You can reach Kevin Lynch at (248) 647-7225 or at klynch@detnews.com.

Inside Politics



Compiled by Jennifer Harper

Seuss on the loose

Two Massachusetts Democrats want \$400,000 to build a memorial to the Cat in the Hat — or his creator, at least.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Rep. Richard E. Neal tucked the sum into a HUD appropriations bill, due to be voted on this week. It would go toward a memorial in Springfield, Mass., for Theodor Geisel, or "Dr. Seuss."

The author's widow has already contributed \$1 million to the cause.

Nevertheless, the Libertarian Party is not is not pleased, saying the cat fund is pure pork.

"We do not like it, Pork-I-am. This spendaholic, Uncle Ham," the party noted in a rather Seussian statement.

"We do not like it on the Hill, when stuck into HUD's spending bill. It shouldn't pass. We bet it will," the statement concluded.

▲ (TOP CENTER) *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC
December 6, 2000

▲ (TOP RIGHT) *The Ann Arbor News*
Ann Arbor, Michigan
November 21, 2000

► *The Simi Valley Star*
Simi Valley, California
December 18, 2000

Medical marijuana group renews effort

A group of people who want the city to permit medical uses for marijuana resurfaced at the Ann Arbor City Council's regular Monday meeting, after a failed attempt to get the measure put on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Libertarians for Medical Marijuana Reform spokesman Charles Goodman said the group had gathered 250 more signatures on a petition for a referendum since the earlier attempt, and said the group would seek to get the issue on the ballot in 2001.

Goodman, who was a Libertarian mayoral candidate during this election, asked the council to put it on the ballot without a petition.

"We believe the people of Ann Arbor overwhelmingly support medical marijuana," he said. "I hope that City Council will embrace this historic opportunity."

Libertarian Party food drive begins

From staff reports

The Libertarian Party of Ventura County is collecting food for the needy during its second annual Holiday Food Drive.

"It's a way for the Libertarian Party to give back to the community," said Robin Westmiller, who sits on the holiday drive committee.

Donations, which should be canned, prepackaged and nonperishable food — can be dropped off at the Paper Depot of Thousand Oaks. Food will then be passed on to the Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank.

"It's a good organization that you know is legitimate and will get the food where it needs to go," said Westmiller. "We've been getting a lot of food. It's so nice to see this much participation from people."

The Paper Depot, located at 1321 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite 102, will take donations Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

What political animal captured the Nov. 7 U.S. election? The government behemoth

THE REAL WINNER in this year's election was big, ever-expanding government. Americans, whether they realized it or not, voted overwhelmingly for big government. Americans may have differed somewhat in what they want that big government to do, but they seemed to agree that they want the government to be expansive, intrusive, and expensive.

Americans voted to create yet another bureaucracy. This time, the new bureaucracy will steal from the young, statistically the poorest demographic, to give prescription drugs to the elderly, statistically the wealthiest demographic. This reverse Robin Hood phenomenon is the product of the American assumption that bigger government is the answer to all of our problems.

Americans validated the drug war by voting in huge numbers for candidates who promise to expand that war—this despite the fact that the drug war has resulted in hundreds of thousands of incarcerated Americans whose only “crime” is the harm that they do to themselves; despite the fact that just as with alcohol prohibition, drug prohibition has resulted in the terror of our inner cities. Similar to ban on alcohol that Al Capone exploited in the 1920s, the prohibition of drugs has created a violent market for the product.

Americans also said “yes” to a tax system that takes almost 50 percent of our income, thus requiring that half of our day’s labor be given in tribute to Caesar. These are the funds that feed the big-government beast.

Americans said “no” to the Constitution,

COMMENT John Mitton

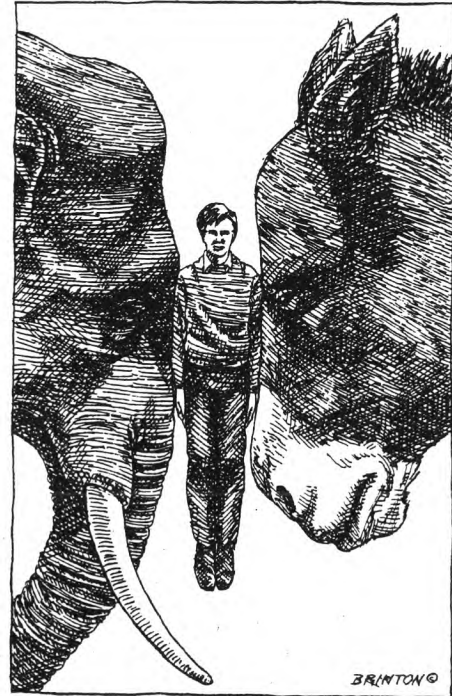
which strictly limits the role of the federal government.

Frankly, most voters did not *consciously* cast a vote for big government. Most voters actually say that they want smaller government. However, they tend to vote for the candidate who will give them something. Americans do not generally consider that the “free candy” given to them is taken from someone else. Most Americans do not realize that if we paid no income tax, we could easily ourselves afford the candy and a great deal else without the help of government and still be able to help those few truly needy citizens.

However, I am still an optimist. Right here in the 1st Congressional District of Virginia, where so many died in the cause of freedom, nearly 10,000 voters took a stand for the small, inexpensive, unintrusive government envisioned by the Founding Fathers. The voters took this stand when they voted for Sharon Wood, the only congressional candidate who vowed to restore the Constitution.

I believe that Sharon’s libertarian message will inevitably succeed. As Americans begin to realize that big government is much more society’s problem than it is society’s solution, more of them will cast their ballots only for candidates who promise to restore the freedom promised by the Founders.

While Americans across the country



overwhelmingly voted for big, intrusive government, a small group of voters struck a blow for Liberty right here in the place where Liberty was first won.

JOHN MITTON of Stafford County is vice chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia.

▲ *The Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg, Virginia, November 21, 2000 ▼ *The Register-Guard*, Eugene, Oregon, November 28, 2000

THE REGISTER-GUARD **OPINION** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2000

13A

Smoking ban puts government, not people, in control

By TONIE NATHAN

IN A NOV. 15 EDITORIAL on the new smoking ban recently passed by the Eugene City Council, *The Register-Guard* adds one more coal on the fire of widespread discontent among Americans over increasing governmental intrusiveness into their private lives.

Millions of Americans already have voluntarily quite smoking, even though it's a habit more addictive than heroin, according to former Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano. Additional Americans also will quit smoking if they suffer from health problems or incur continuing disapproval from their families, peers and employers. But, alas, *The Register-Guard* cannot wait for the growing anti-smoking sentiment to take effect.

"If tobacco smoke is harmful ...

there's no point in going halfway toward protecting public health," *The Register-Guard* opines.

Sure, right! Following that principle, why not go all the way and dictate the diets of all citizens? Too much sugar is harmful, fast foods are harmful, extreme dieting is harmful and overeating is harmful, too. Perhaps the do-gooders on the City Council could dictate a living regime that will ensure health for all of us. Oh, joy! After all, "there's no point in going halfway."

Let's face it, folks—it's time to take a stand! When do we say no to those bleeding hearts who want to save us from our foolish behavior? Do we really want to be controlled from the cradle to the grave? Or do we believe that a free society must allow normal adults to pursue any peaceful behavior that doesn't hurt others?

Well, smoking does hurt others.

At least, that is alleged by experts in the field. But how many hours do you have to be exposed to second-hand smoke before it becomes unhealthy? In a quick survey of workers' compensation insurance companies, I found no claims for injuries due to cigarette smoke inhalation. If there were such claims, you can be sure the insurance companies would increase premiums sufficiently to end smoking in those establishments. Then we wouldn't need a city ordinance.

The new ordinance prohibits "smoking in all public places ... including but not limited to all restaurants, taverns, bars, cocktail lounges and bingo parlors." The main concern, according to *The Register-Guard*, "... is the health of workers and customers in establishments where smoking is allowed."

Ah, yes. And I remember when alcohol was also prohibited for

similar reasons. That led to the growth of speakeasies, bootlegging, poisonous alcohol, gangs and drive-by shootings. But since we know alcohol is bad for one's health, maybe we should ban it again.

The problem with prohibition in any form, and the Eugene smoking ban in particular, is that it ignores the fact that both customers and workers choose to smoke and to patronize or work in private businesses where smoking is permitted. No one forces them into such private establishments. Further, since some businesses recognize that many of us prefer smoke-free environments, they do not permit smoking.

If there is a demand for smoke-free public places, the marketplace will provide them. Of course, the new ordinance will probably reduce business for these specialized bars and restaurants since every other business also would be smoke-free.

It is obvious that the smoking ban ordinance will deprive smokers of a place to go in Eugene where they can drink, eat or play bingo and smoke. So smokers will smoke at home where their kids are. Or smokers will take their business out of the city limits, thus depriving local businesses of clientele. But although the lost business argument has merit, it is not the main issue.

As a nonsmoker who was raised by naturopathic parents, my anger is triggered by the injustice of a local ordinance that is aimed at controlling the choices of peaceful private citizens. As adults, we should be free to control our bodies and our private property as we see fit, as long as our actions do not endanger others. We should be free to decide

our personal health care needs. We should be free to decide where we work and whom to patronize. And

we should assume the responsibility for our actions.

Most of us know that smoking is not healthy. I don't allow smoking in my home because it is unhealthy. But should I stand by when our elected council members decide that they will force my views on my peaceful fellow citizens?

I am not standing by. The Eugene Free Choice Committee is circulating petitions to place a measure on a coming city ballot that would repeal the Eugene smoking ban. I am already getting signatures. Anyone who would like to sign the petition or circulate it may call the EFCC at 689-3632.

It's time to say to the government, "Stop running our lives."

Tonie Nathan of Eugene is chairwoman of the Lane County Libertarian Party.