

# Libertarian Party

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL LIBERTARIAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 31 - February 1, 1976

New Orleans, Louisiana

by Kathleen McAdam, Region 7 (Mid-Atlantic) Representative

On the fourth anniversary of the first press conference announcing the formation of the Libertarian Party, the National LP Executive Committee held a 1½ day meeting at the Fairmount Hotel in New Orleans.

## ROGER MacBRIDE FOR PRESIDENT

**MACBRIDE CAMPAIGN:** The highlight of the meeting was an hour discussion with LP presidential candidate Roger Lea MacBride about his extensive campaign activities. MacBride estimated that the media coverage of his campaigning since October has enabled him to reach approximately 20 million Americans. Although he has received little or no national coverage because of the "equal time" provision, he has obtained excellent coverage from smaller television stations in big cities. He reported that his news conferences have been well attended and that he has done especially well on radio and television talk shows and on college campuses.

MacBride stated that people like our non-interventionist foreign policy and that they are beginning to seriously listen to our position on the legalization of hard drugs. MacBride pointed out that he tries always to bring specific questions back to the basic libertarian philosophy.

MacBride reported that he and his campaign advisers had decided not to go through with the New Hampshire Democratic primary race because it would have required tremendous amounts of time and money. It would have been ineffective unless he had taken at least two weeks to campaign there and that would have necessitated cancelling many engagements in other states.

When asked about the growing concern among some LP members that the LP may stretch the truth in order to appeal to the media, MacBride replied, "There is no point to lying, and no need to lie. What we are all about is telling it like it is!" He emphasized

that we must establish a strong LP absolutely devoted to principle.

MacBride mentioned that we can never get votes by saying that we cannot possibly win, but he does concede that an LP victory is improbable.

POTOMAC magazine, the highly influential Sunday supplement to the Washington POST contained a lengthy article on the MacBride campaign in the January 25 issue headlined on the front cover "The Political Poetry of the Libertarian Party". The headline on the article stated "Roger Lea MacBride wants to be President of the land of the free where that government is best which governs least - or not at all."

**KARL BRAY:** During his recent campaign swing through Utah, MacBride visited former Execom member Karl Bray who is currently being held in the Salt Lake City/County jail as a result of his outspoken stands against the IRS. MacBride reported that Karl looked hale and hearty (he's growing long hair and a beard), that he is very busy reading and writing, and that his "courage is remarkable."

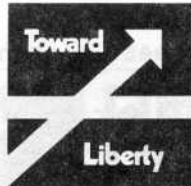
**FEC:** LP Chairman Ed Crane led a lengthy discussion of the January 30 Supreme Court decision regarding the Federal Election Campaign Act. He emphasized that the upshot of the 277 page decision is not good since it declared disclosure to be constitutional, maintained the \$1000 limit on individual contributions, and upheld the constitutionality of the public financing of election campaigns. Political parties can accept up to \$25000 in contributions, and candidates can spend as much of their own money as they want. This part of the decision makes it almost imperative that a wealthy person be nominated for president. In the future it will become harder and harder for the LP and other independent parties to compete with government subsidies for campaigning.



**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Lee Schubert (NY) began a discussion of the disclosure of funds donated to the LP. He suggested that the source of funds could be reported to the next Execom meeting. Many Execom members expressed their concern with maintaining strict protection of donors' privacy, and others stated their concern with avoiding situations in which the membership may think that the LP leadership is being too secretive.

Ed Crane emphasized that the answer to questions about past funds has always been available to anyone who asked the questions.

A motion by Ed Clark (California) that all contributions in excess of \$1000 in a calendar year be made known to the Execom was defeated.



**TYPE STYLES AND LOGO:** A motion by Dave Nolan (Colorado) to use one type style on all National LP material was defeated.

The motion passed in Chicago to adopt some version of the libersign and the words "Toward Liberty" as a national logo was rescinded. Ed Crane apologized for not having come up with an alternative to the logo proposed by Dave Nolan. Toni Nathan (Oregon) offered a new proposed logo, "A New Dawn for Freedom". Kathy McAdam (NJ) read an NJLP resolution against the proposed logos and excerpts from a letter from Joanne Chernow (Pa. Chair) also speaking against the Nolan proposal.

Because of the lack of any strong feelings in favor of any of the proposals, motions to adopt the libersign, "A New Dawn for Freedom" and the porcupine were all defeated.

**STATE AFFILIATIONS:** Affiliations were accepted for the North Carolina and South Carolina organizations.

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:** Because Bill Evers (CA.) is now on the Execom, his Judiciary Committee position will be filled by the first alternate Bobbi Jahn (Ky). The Secretary will notify all members by mail that they have been appointed to the Committee.

**MAIL BALLOT:** A discussion of the September mail ballot was begun by Kathy McAdam (NJ) on behalf of absent Execom member Dave Long (Mass.). Ed Crane said that Long should have called him about the subjects covered in the ballot before he circulated his letter to all the Execom members. Rich Kenney (Wash.) commented about the suddenness of the decisions to move to Washington DC and to make Crane's job a salaried position. He questioned the necessity of making these decisions so quickly.

Ed Crane mentioned that he honestly had not planned to move from California until after he had met with and been intimidated by the FEC. He said that he still has the very same reservations about an office in DC as he had when he ran for Chair in Dallas in 1974.

A motion by Brian Donerly (Fla.) to change the By-Laws to enable mail ballots to be started by 2 Execom members (amended to 5) was defeated.

**PARTY MATERIALS:** Campaign bumperstickers are now available from national headquarters (1516 P Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005). Billboard posters may also be available if enough orders are received. Radio spots of 30-60 seconds will be coming later in the campaign.

**76 CONVENTION:** Ed Crane said he hopes to get between 1000-2000 attendees at the annual convention and that it should be held in a major media center after both major party conventions. He suggested Chicago because of its central location. After a discussion of Los Angeles, Chicago, and DC, the outcome of the vote was Washington DC, Los Angeles, and Chicago in that order. Pending the availability of hotel accommodations in DC, the convention will be held in DC in mid September.

**PLATFORM:** A proposal to add Roy Child's position paper on Libertarianism as a preface to the Platform did not receive Execom support.

Rich Kenney noted that the Population and Seccession planks retained from the previous platform were omitted in the current printing. Other errors in wording and typing were also noted. A motion was passed to include an errata sheet with all copies of the platform.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Total Assets as of 12/31 were \$15,188.21. Expenditures for the period 6/1 - 12/31/75 were \$71,293.11. The Income Statement will be mailed to Execom members in the near future and approval will be requested by mail.



**DUES CHANGES:** Dave Nolan questioned the dues for Life and Life Sustaining Members shown on the new 1776-1984 brochure. Ed Crane said that he changed them to \$250 and \$1000 respectively, and acknowledged that he should not have made the changes without Execom approval. A motion to adopt the dues changes was passed.

**1975 CONVENTION REPORTING:** The Secretary will prepare a 2 page summary of the 1975 convention and the tapes of the proceedings will serve as an official transcript.



**BALLOT DRIVES:** Ed Crane urged all Execom members to become active in the ballot drives and commended Dale Hemmings (MN) for his tremendous job in Region 4.

Crane conducted a complete review and discussion of the ballot drives in all 50 states. Restrictive petition requirements will prevent some states such as California, Penn., and Maryland from obtaining ballot status. Other states such as Tenn. have not been able to get a clear interpretation of the state law. The Florida LP is required to submit 10¢ with every signature (3600 are needed), and this money will then be used by the government to finance the checking of the signatures. Crane said that Nebraska will probably not be on the ballot; he mentioned that the National headquarters had been fed fallacious information about the status of the drive and that Bob Meier has been there trying to pull things together at the last minute.

Crane mentioned that MacBride is willing to run as an Independent in any state where the petition requirements are too restrictive to enable the LP to get on the ballot.

**RESIGNATIONS:** Mike Thompson (Execom Region 3 Rep.) has resigned. Daniel H. Haak (Neb. Chair) has resigned and been replaced by Gale Arch of Lincoln.

**HONESTY:** A resolution by Ed Clark was passed unanimously that the policy of the LP be to avoid any misstatements of fact in all publications, press releases, and other statements which it may issue.

A lengthy discussion followed about the "10,000 dues paying members" statement released at the National Convention and the "organized in all 50 states" statement on the blue "It's About Time" cards. Reference was also made to the remark made by Roy Childs at the FLP Special Convention (which I attended on October 12 in NYC): "If lying helps, then I say lie."

Lee Schubert remarked that "organized" is a vague word and that it is accurate by some definitions to say that the LP is "organized in all 50 states". Rich Kenney suggested that "organized nationally" would be a more accurate statement. Bill Evers commented that journalists are attentive to statements we give them and that we should be careful to give them some hint of what we mean because if they feel they have been defrauded they will never trust anything we say again.

John Hathaway (NY) said that it is to our self interest to be as accurate as we can because the press does thrive on our inconsistencies and may try to trip us up.

Bill Susel (CA) emphasized that we have between 5,000 - 10,000 registered libertarians in the state of California alone, and that we are looking for a sense of the extent of our support not a real numerical figure. Dave Nolan commented that there is a difference between "legitimate puffery and flatout fraudulent" statements.

Andrea Millen reported that Childs had made the above statement but that he made it in the context of a discussion characterized by "rising hysteria" in which "rash accusations were made with no opportunity being given to answer them". She called Child's statement "inexcusable hyperbole" and mentioned that Childs had gotten carried away by the atmosphere of the meeting and intends to apologize for the remark at a meeting to be held in NYC on Feb. 3.

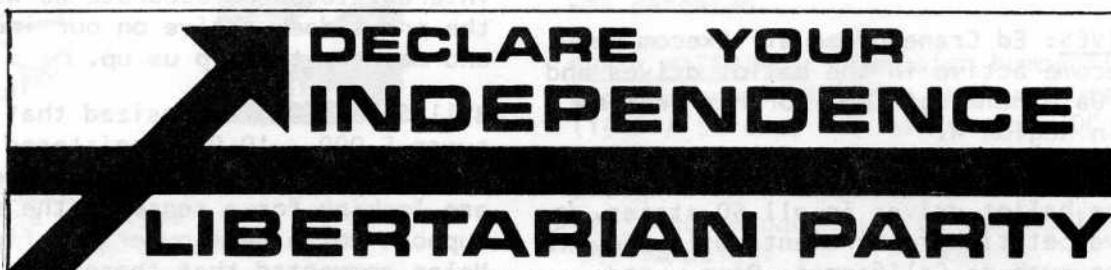
**EXECOM RULES:** Motions were passed instructing the Secretary to 1) collate all past Execom resolutions and motions and make them available to members, and 2) send minutes of Execom meetings to all Execom members within a month.

**NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES:** Because of the FEC regulations, it would be detrimental for the National LP not to support other candidates than the presidential candidates, therefore the Execom ruled that the National LP will support Senate and Congressional candidates who meet the following requirements:

- 1) ballot status
- 2) the governing body of the state party verifies that the candidate is an active candidate
- 3) if the candidate is an "Independent", it is because LP ballot status is impossible (no support will be given to Democratic or Republican candidates)
- 4) the state organization certifies that the candidate will refrain from supporting any other national ticket

**NEXT EXECOM MEETING:** The next meeting of the National Execom will be immediately before the National Convention in Sept. Conference calls will be made to Execom members in June to keep them up-to-date on the status of the ballot drives.

**LP NEWS:** Bill Evers noted that additional copy and especially action photos are needed for the LP NEWS. Send all copy and photos to National Headquarters (1516 P Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005).



*Thanks for your letter!*

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