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Unexpected Praise From GOP Governor

New Hampshire's Republican Governor Steve Merrill had amazingly good things to say last month about a group of his fiercest critics: The Libertarian Party.

"Libertarians speak an important and thoughtful message of lower taxes and less government," said the first-term GOP governor in late July. "At a time when some in our state want to spend every dollar on more programs, the Libertarians can be counted on to try their best to turn the argument around and ask: 'Why should this money be spent at all?' The Libertarians know what they believe, and they are willing to fight for their beliefs."

Merrill's surprising comments came not long after Don Gorman, the leader of New Hampshire's four-man Libertarian State Representative delegation, had delivered a blistering attack against a new business tax proposed by the governor. And although the Libertarian delegation has applauded some of Merrill's fiscally conservative decisions, they have also voted unanimously against other proposals by Merrill to increase or extend taxes.

Merrill is scheduled to be the special guest speaker at the LPNH monthly meeting on September 8th in the state capitol, Concord. It is believed to be the first time a seated governor has ever addressed a Libertarian Party meeting.

At Last Minute, Perot Cancels Dinner With LP Activist

It was a case of "Guess Who *Isn't* Coming To Dinner" last month, when political maverick Ross Perot unexpectedly canceled a scheduled dinner with Libertarian Party of Nevada activist Tamara Clark in Las Vegas on July 17th.

"I was disappointed," admitted Clark, the former Chair of the Nevada LP. "We did not get to go to dinner; we did not get to speak; we did not get to discuss ballot access."

The dinner invitation came about after Clark warned the scrappy Texas billionaire about a bid to exempt independent candidates from a proposed ballot access reform bill in Nevada several months ago. Clark's quick action allowed Perot to marshal his lobbying forces in time, and the bill passed as originally written. In gratitude, Perot extended the dinner invitation.

Clark planned to use the meeting to enlist the support of the former independent presidential candidate for the Penny

Stuart Reges, 90210

Libertarian Party National Director Stuart Reges got a taste of what it's like to be a teen idol when he was swarmed by a crowd of enthusiastic high school students following a speech he gave in Washington, DC last month.

"It was exciting!" said Reges. "I had not been afforded that kind of celebrity status before!"

Reges had been invited to address 250 Junior Statesmen in the Russell Senate Office Building on July 22nd as part of a day-long convention which also featured seven U.S. Senators and several other Washington VIPs.

His 30-minute speech addressed the War on Drugs from a Libertarian perspective, comparing it to the McCarthyist "witch-hunts" of the 1950's. "I tried to show them that the War on Drugs was unjust and impractical," said Reges.

The speech was met with a spontaneous standing ovation. "That was also unusual for me," Reges admitted. It was especially unexpected, he said, because he anticipated a tepid response — "I expected them to be student government types who believed in obeying the rules!"

Following the speech, a crowd of students followed Reges into the hallway. "About 25 or 30 students wanted to get my autograph, or to have their picture taken with me, or to ask me more about the Libertarian Party," he said of the teenage onslaught. "I was rather shocked! It was like I was a tourist attraction!"

Bills, which would ease ballot access restrictions in all 50 states. [See story in July issue of *Liberty Pledge News*.]

But the unpredictable Perot rearranged his visit to Nevada at the last minute, flying out of the state well before the scheduled dinner. "The [United We Stand America] state organizer came over and told me," said Clark. "She was mortified. There was an extreme lack of communication between the national Perot people and his state people."

The biggest disappointment, said Clark, was the missed opportunity for a major breakthrough in ballot access reform. "The message about the Penny Bills was important — and important to *his* people as well — and Perot could have really pushed it forward, all around the nation," she said.

Clark said she did get Penny Bills information in the hands of Perot's regional coordinator. "Whether he'll ever get it, I don't know," she conceded.

Third candidate joins race in the 116th

Libertarian candidate Daniel O'Neill rounds out field of three in race for 116th rep seat

By Jim Troyer

PROCTOR POINT — Daniel J. O'Neill is from Proctor Point near the 50-mile marker on Lake of the Ozarks. The little community has its own fire station and not much of anything else. O'Neill, Libertarian candidate for Missouri state representative in the 116th District, likes it that way.

O'Neill is the alternative choice to the big party candidates in the July 20 special election. If people would just look at the issues for a change instead of party labels, O'Neill believes he could be their representative in Jefferson City. There

"Libertarians advocate responsible use of tax dollars. That is lacking in the other parties."

- Libertarian candidate for state representative in the 116th District
Daniel O'Neill



would also be a lot less government.

The voters will choose a replacement for Rep. Larry Whitten, D-Camdenton. Gov. Mel Carnahan tapped the popular legislator to become chief of the Missouri Water Patrol last spring. The Democrats have fielded Camdenton lawyer John Walker and the Republicans

Versailles mayor and businessman Charles R. "Chuck" Pryor.

O'Neill doesn't think that's much of a choice.

"Libertarians advocate responsible use of tax dollars," O'Neill said. "That is lacking in the other

parties."

The Libertarian Party is issue oriented, O'Neill argues. When a group of Libertarians get together they talk about ways to cut the high cost of government or about individual liberties. When the Republicans or the Democrats get together they talk about raising campaign money, he said.

"There are a lot of things that separate us from the Republicans and Democrats. We look at them as two factions of the same party and that party is the 'fund-raising' party."

It's hard to visit with any Libertarian without coming away with a fistful of brochures or platform statements, and O'Neill is no exception: Some he will hand you include: "The Destruction of the Dollar," "America's Medical Crisis: Is Government the Cure or the Culprit?," "Privatization: Providing Better Services With Lower Taxes."

Unlike the major parties, O'Neill argues, the Libertarians put their beliefs into their political platform. Voters should not be concerned that Libertarian candidates, himself included, lack experience in the public office.

"The more important thing is in our message... in economics and civil liberties. We believe in citizen candidates."

That approach may be working. The Libertarians have emerged as a viable third party, running more than 700 candidates last year. A Libertarian handout claims the party "has elected over one hundred candidates, and in 1990 polled over four million votes."

O'Neill has attended Colorado Technical College,

the University of Colorado and Pike's Peak Community College in Colorado Springs with course work in geology, communication and psychology.

He has worked as a drivers' education instructor, an energy auditor and a realtor associate. He is currently employed at Millstone Lodge.

O'Neill likes to give people from the opposing parties a crack at the Libertarian quiz. The 20-question device measures individual commitment to personal and economic freedoms and breaks the hold that the major parties have on many voters, he says. People often find that they fit the Libertarian mold better than the Republican or Democratic. O'Neill's scores place him firmly into the Libertarian camp. And that's where most Americans would find themselves if they just looked at the issues, he insists.

Lake Sun Leader
Camdenton, Missouri
June 23, 1993

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 25, 1993

Libertarians oppose airport plans

The Libertarian Party of Washington County announced Sunday its opposition to the proposed expansion of the West Bend Municipal Airport.

"If there is truly a need for airport expansion, then let the businesses and people who want it pay for it," said Kevin Scheuemann, chairman of the county Libertarian Party.

A Libertarian Party representative will speak to the Common Council Monday when it will consider the airport expansion proposals, Scheuemann said. Libertarians have been circulating petitions opposing the airport expansion.

West Bend Daily News
West Bend, Indiana
July 19, 1993



By KENNETH R. LAMKE
Sentinel staff writer

Larry A. Boger, the Libertarian Party candidate in Tuesday's special election in the 14th Assembly District, brings the kind of real-world experience to the race that, we are told, was typical of candidates in the era before politicians began launching their professional political careers as teenagers.

Boger is opposed in Tuesday's election by two such candidates, both well-qualified in their own right.

Democrat Christopher Ament, 27, was raised in a political environment — his father

is County Executive F. Thomas Ament. Chris Ament's current job is political, as a staff aide for the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Republican Scott K. Walker, 25, has been active in Republican politics since his college days. Two and a half years ago, he ran for an Assembly seat in Milwaukee. Walker is chairman of the 5th Congressional District GOP organization. By occupation, Walker is on the staff of the American Red Cross.

Boger, by contrast, owns and operates two inner city Milwaukee hot dog restaurants.

A native of Indiana, he worked for McDonald's for 15 years before opening his own establishments here about six years ago. Boger employs about 35 people and does more than \$1 million a year in business.

Unlike his two major party opponents, Boger, 35, is both a homeowner and a parent.

His life experiences give him a different perspective on some issues.

For example, gun control. Boger's two restaurants have



"The more likely a criminal is to believe there might be a gun on the scene, the less likely he is to go there."

— LARRY A. BOGER
Libertarian Party candidate

been held up 12 times in six years.

"One of the measures we had to take in order to slow things down was to put an armed guard in. Immediately, we noticed the robbers went away when there was an armed guard there," Boger says.

"If there was a gun on the premises, we didn't get robbed. When it was readily known that there was no gun on the premises, we continued to get robbed," he says.

"It was a problem partly of our own making because it turned out we had some inside help that was calling an outside person and saying, 'Hey, the gun is gone. Now. Now's the

And now for something completely different: Those feisty Libertarians are at it again, this time rallying on behalf of more than 50 frustrated ferret owners and friends supporting ferret legalization. They're after State Sen. Lucy Killea to introduce a bill to free the ferret. Pat Wright says Killea made the mistake of saying there weren't enough people interested in the issue. It may come as no surprise to business folk familiar with the California bureaucracy, but ferrets are legal in every state except California. There are an estimated 3.5 million ferrets kept as pets in the U.S., and California has more ferrets than any other state, an estimated 500,000. Believe it or not, harboring a ferret is a misdemeanor in California with a six month jail sentence and \$1,000 fine per offense. Wright says ferret fanatics are given the choice of having their ferrets killed or shipped out of state at the owners' expense. You can almost see the T-shirts: "Free the ferret 500,000."

La Jolla Light
La Jolla, California
July 15, 1993

Augusta Chronicle
Augusta, Georgia
June 26, 1993

Libertarian wants state judges' votes

■ Doug Greene appeals to S.C. Supreme Court over county council election

By Stephen Delaney Hale
South Carolina Bureau

AIKEN — The Libertarian Party candidate who lost a county council election by five votes in April has filed an appeal with the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Doug Greene, L-Langley, lost to incumbent LaWana McKenzie, D-Langley, 628 to 623, in the April 27 election.

He appealed the election to the Aiken County Election Commission, which ruled in favor of Mrs. McKenzie.

Mr. Greene also lost his next appeal when the South Carolina Election Commission upheld the local commission's decision.

Mrs. McKenzie was sworn in after the state commission announced its decision.

Mr. Greene announced Friday that he will take his appeal to the ultimate arbitrator with the backing of the local and state party.

"There was a vote margin of five votes. The state board found that at least six voters were denied the right to vote in District 3 by election officials," said Mr. Greene's attorney, James L. Leslie, Jr.

"According to South Carolina

... there were major flaws in the Aiken County Council race. These flaws could have affected the outcome of this election.

Roger Leaks,
State Election Board

case law, if election officials incorrectly deny qualified voters the right to vote, those votes should be added to the losing candidate's total. In this case, there is a substantial possibility the election results would have been affected, thus invalidating the election," Mr. Leslie said in prepared remarks.

The state Libertarian Party release cited what they called a "strongly worded dissenting opinion by State Election Board of Canvassers Vice Chairman Roger Leaks. They quote from Mr. Leaks' opinion that "there were major flaws in the Aiken County Council race. These flaws could, have affected the outcome of this election."

Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Vandervele said that "Whether we win office or not, as Libertarians, we must attempt to defend liberty where possible, no matter the odds."

and go, buy their supplies and leave, with no problems. The more likely a criminal is to believe there might be a gun on the scene, the less likely he is to go there."

Boger also has a practical perspective on welfare reform.

While Ament and Walker were telling the audience at a recent candidates' forum that they backed Republican Gov. Tommy G. Thompson's latest plan to push welfare recipients into jobs by setting a two-year time limit for welfare benefits, Boger said simply, "I have created jobs which have taken people off of welfare."

"The problem isn't with the people," Boger said about the welfare situation. "It's with the environment they live in. Specifically, businesses don't want to be there" in the inner city.

The reason, Boger said flatly, is crime.

Businesses don't want to risk the safety of their employees and customers by locating in crime-ridden areas, he said.

In other words, Boger said, it

isn't the lack of jobs that's causing crime in the Inner City. It's the other way around. Crime is causing a lack of jobs.

Boger offered no solution to crime, but suggested both a carrot and stick approach.

Some way has to be found, he said almost plaintively, to intervene in the lives of those youngsters who otherwise are destined to become what he called "hardened" at an appallingly early age.

For the rest, said Boger, "build more prisons."

By the way, don't expect Boger to win Tuesday.

The 14th Assembly District generally votes strongly Republican, and Walker won an impressive victory in the GOP primary June 1, garnering 2,580 votes.

Ament was unopposed in the Democratic primary. He is believed to have a small chance at upsetting Walker, largely because of his well-known name.

In the Libertarian Party primary, Boger defeated his opponent, 21 votes to 8.

Down with meters

Libertarians launch drive for free parking

By GARY JAHRRIG
of the Missoulian

Wyatt Vaught believes there are at least 3,950 registered voters in the City of Missoula who have a gripe with the downtown parking meters.

And Vaught is banking on that many disgruntled parkers to sign a petition to place an initiative on the November election ballot outlawing parking meters in downtown Missoula.

"We've all had bad experiences with parking meters," said Vaught, chairman of a newly formed group called Libertarians for Parking Reform. "This is the most annoying form of taxation by far."

Vaught, a 23-year-old University of Montana junior majoring in philosophy and geography, and "about eight or nine" other people banded together about two weeks ago to form the parking reform group. Vaught said the group is an outgrowth of the Missoula County Libertarian Party and is dedicated to furthering the Libertarian cause in Missoula.

"It's not just about getting rid of parking meters," he said in an interview Tuesday. "It's about Libertarianism and what we stand for."

The group has called a press conference for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in front of the Missoula Parking Commission office on West Main Street. At that time, Vaught said the group will formally announce its plans to gather enough signatures to get an initiative on the election ballot.

In a press release issued this week, the group said that parking

meters are detrimental to the downtown economy and fines collected only go to "foster the further bureaucratic needs of the Missoula Parking Commission."

"The public streets of Missoula are paid for through the income and property taxes of the Missoula citizens. Yet when Missoula citizens go downtown and park on these same public streets, they are forced to pay an additional tax in the form of parking meters," said the press release.

Vaught, who moved to Missoula from Atlanta 2½ years ago, said his own personal grudge against parking meters stems from a downtown apartment he lived in where he had to pay a meter to park in front of his residence.

The group only received permission this week to run the petition drive, but if early indications are indicative of what lies ahead, Vaught said he believes the group should have no problem gathering the 3,950 signatures by the July 25 deadline.

"So far the hardest part has been getting permission to go to the people," Vaught said. "But just about everybody we've talked to has said they will sign it."

Vaught said he hopes the recent failure of the state to pass a 4 percent sales tax and efforts by a group, led by University of Montana law professor Robert Natelson, to quash a proposed income tax hike will work in favor of the Libertarians for Parking Reform. Vaught also said he believes the conviction of former Missoula Parking Commission Director Tom Kosena, who was caught last year stealing quarters from parking meters, will help convince people to sign the petitions.

The attempt to outlaw parking meters is also only the beginning of the local Libertarian group's quest to reform taxation in Missoula and Montana, Vaught said.

"Ideally we would like to get rid of all taxes, but we see that's not coming anytime soon," he said. "But we do take the view that every tax can stand to be reduced."

Vaught said anyone interested in the petition drive can call him at 728-2707.

The Missoula Missoulian

Missoula, Montana

June 23, 1993

Libertarians get pep talk, pick leaders

By Liam T.A. Ford
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

To win elections, Libertarians must play up issues such as lowering taxes and cutting government pork, a New Hampshire state representative told members of the Alabama Libertarian Party on Saturday.

About 40 people gathered at the Statehouse Inn in Montgomery to elect officers of the state's Libertarian Party and hear speakers such as New Hampshire Libertarian Andy Borsa, a first-term state representative.

Rep. Borsa said the four Libertarian New Hampshire state representatives have gained the re-

spect of the Republicans and Democrats in their state legislature, and the Libertarians hope to double that number in 1994 elections.

The New Hampshire House has 400 members.

Libertarians running for office have to apply libertarian ideas to a local issues such as "taxes, government spending and budget cuts," Rep. Borsa said. But Libertarians — who often characterize themselves as overly philosophical — must realize winning elections requires "shaking hands and patting people on the back," he said.

James D. Blake of Birmingham, the state's party chairman, who was re-elected during a

morning business session, said the Libertarians believe in small government, minimal regulation of private life by government and low tax rates.

Dr. Blake said his party plans to enter candidates in many state and local elections in 1994. But Alabama's third parties face "the most regressive election laws in the country," Dr. Blake said in an interview.

Alabama's Libertarian Party is trying, with the help of some Alabama State Representatives, to get the election laws changed to make it easier for third-party candidates to get on the ballot, Dr. Blake said. A bill to liberalize Alabama's ballot access laws died in the Alabama House this year

after being considered by a House committee, he said.

Other than Dr. Blake, the following people were elected as leaders of the Alabama Libertarian Party at the morning business session: Jerome Shockley of Valley, vice chairman; Charles Russell, Montgomery, secretary; and Robert Burns, M.D., Montgomery, treasurer.

Topics addressed by speakers at the convention included solutions to the health-care crisis in Alabama and Georgia. Mike Tanner, a policy analyst for the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., a free-market think tank, said the elimination of certain state regulations could help decrease the cost of health care.

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Alabama

July 18, 1993



KURT WILSON/Missoulian

WYATT VAUGHT is chairman of Libertarians for Parking Reform, a group that will begin circulating petitions to remove Missoula's parking meters.