

The Liberty Pledge News

Chicago Tribune 4-25-1988

Pastor's election sets state history

He wins office on Libertarian ticket

By Kathleen Bohland
News Staff Writer

A church pastor has won the post of village trustee in Addison with 62 votes, becoming the first elected Libertarian Party official in Michigan.

The Rev. James W. Clifton, 36, of Addison United Church of Christ, won a two-year term Monday for one of three seats, outpolling four other candidates in the partisan election. Addison is a village of 650 people 15 miles south of Jackson.

Mr. Clifton had been appointed to a vacancy on the six-member board of trustees six months ago.

He has lived in Addison about 16 months, and said he has "flirted off and on" with the Libertarian Party since 1976 and formally joined it a year ago.

"THE BASIC attraction to me was the party's belief in minimal government, free trade and open borders and a non-interventionist foreign policy," he said.

Locally, Mr. Clifton emphasized minimal taxes and property rights in his campaign, which he said attracted some of the village's conservative Republican voters.

(con't. back page)

Libertarians vie for piece of the pie

By R. Bruce Dold

Still looking for a presidential candidate who can wrest the campaign away from the Evening Snooze? The Libertarians are back, and they want your attention.

They've got a presidential candidate, Ron Paul, who looks like a Republican (dark blue suits), talks like a Dixiecrat (with a Texas twang) and likes to heap praise on Jesse Jackson (probably just to miff some Democrats).

Paul, a former Republican congressman from the Houston area, was in Chicago over the weekend for a round of speaking engagements and an appearance at the state convention of Libertarians held at the Congress Hotel, where he gave the keynote address Saturday night.

When Paul went to Congress in 1979, he endeared himself to his colleagues by calling on them to give up their August vacations, take a pay cut every time the cost-of-living index rose, and vote in public to approve travel junkets to foreign lands.

That's the kind of stuff Libertarians just love. But then, they're people who, for yuks, talk about turning the federal tax system into a "supermarket," where you could buy just what you want with your taxes. Say, a share of a MX missile or a custodian's monthly salary at the Dirksen Federal Building.

There's a free-market answer to every question for them. So the federal government can't collect taxes on those cash-and-skip-the-receipt deals? Then

abolish the income tax and legalize the whole "underground economy."

"Have you ever thought about it? There's no unemployment there," Paul told a crowd Friday afternoon at a City Club of Chicago luncheon. "Everybody has a job and nobody has to fill out any forms so they can give more to the government."

Want another one? If you legalize heroin, the drug pushers will go out of business because the profit margin will shrink and the overdoses will decrease because the quality of the drug will be known. "We have an epidemic. It's an epidemic of drug laws," Paul told the City Club.

Yet even Libertarians have some troubles with their own tenets. Paul rejects the party's platform that protects a woman's right to an abortion. Paul argues that he fundamentally opposes "any act of aggression against anyone," and he considers abortion an aggression against a fetus.

They are ideas that certainly sound more entertaining than the drab debates that have filled the 1988 presidential campaign. Yet the Libertarians are Sweet Sixteen and never been kissed by more than a few devoted lovers.

They have a bunch of small victories—Libertarians grabbed control of the City Council in Big Water, Utah, last year. Nationally, the party has struggled.

In 1972, at its inception, the party made a minor splash when

(con't. next page)

The Liberty Pledge News is produced monthly for members of the National Libertarian Party's Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to State Party Chairs and National Committee members in appreciation of their contributions and to make available information on Headquarters activities and Libertarians in the news. Clippings and other items of interest are greatly appreciated.

Libertarian Party Headquarters * 1528 Pennsylvania Ave., SE * Washington, DC 20003
Can we be of help? Want to raise your pledge? Call 1-800-682-1776.

Libertarian v.p. hopeful; Legalize drugs, dump IRS

By Stacey Evers
Daily Staff Reporter

People who vote in November for the Libertarian Party's presidential ticket will be casting ballots for legalized drugs and the elimination of the income tax, the party's candidate for vice president, Andre Marrou, said Thursday in Winchester.

Libertarians consider themselves members of "the party of principle," Marrou said. He and presidential hopeful Ron Paul were nominated at the party's national convention in September in Seattle, Wash.

The Libertarian Party does not fit on the political spectrum because it advocates full civil and economic rights by maximizing individual liberty and minimizing the government's power, Marrou said.

The party favors legalizing drugs such as marijuana and cocaine, which would restore per-

sonal responsibilities that the law has removed, he said. Drug laws passed in 1914 established the drug problem because they created a profit motive for dealers, he said. Also, the high cost of illegal drugs forces addicts to steal, prostitute themselves and commit other crimes to support their habit.

Marrou, who joined the Libertarian Party in 1976, served one term in the Alaska state legislature in 1984-85. Paul served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican representing Houston, Texas, but left the GOP "in disgust" over President Reagan and his faulty economic policies, Marrou said.

The party has about 6,000 registered members and its mailing list contains about 60,000 names. But the figures do not adequately reflect the number of votes a Libertarian candidate can obtain, Marrou said, partly because many states do not allow voters to register as Libertarians.

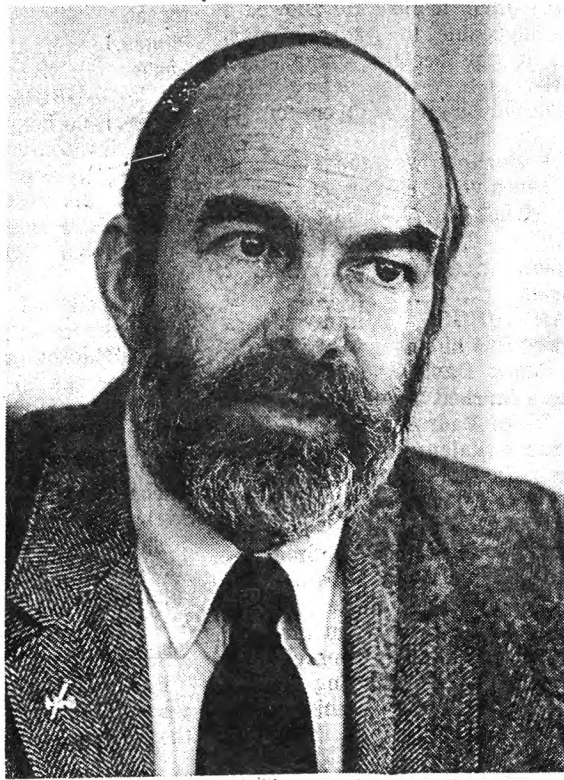
If elected, Marrou and Paul would immediately stop hiring "federal bureaucrats," Marrou said. About 10 percent of federal employees leave the government each year, allowing about a 40 percent cut of the bureaucracy over four years, he said. The decrease would allow a 25 percent reduction in the income tax. Marrou said the tax is unconstitutional.

Libertarians also advocate a non-interventionist foreign policy.

"We would get rid of foreign aid," Marrou said. "For one government to give something to another, it must first be removed by force — through taxes," he said. Aid should be replaced by international trade, which is voluntary, he said.

Such a policy would bring back to the United States troops now abroad and would mean "an end to U.S. government meddling, interfering and getting involved in the affairs of other countries,"

Northern Virginia Daily 4-15-1988



Daily staff photo by Alan Lehman

Andre Marrou, the Libertarian Party's candidate for vice president, says the party wants to legalize drugs such as marijuana and cocaine.

the party got its candidate on the ballot in only 38 states and won only 227,204 votes.

Paul and Illinois Libertarians hope they can sneak up on Chicago with a good showing here. They reason that if their three candidates for University of Illinois trustee can get 5 percent of the vote in the November general election, they can qualify a candidate for the ballot in the next Chicago mayoral election. After all, Ed Vrdolyak got on

the ballot as the Illinois Solidarity Party candidate for mayor because former Sen. Adlai Stevenson received better than 5 percent of the vote as the party's candidate for governor.

The Libertarians lay claim to being the third largest party in America, with 200,000 registered members and some 75 elected officeholders. But their toughest task is getting beyond novelty and being taken seriously.

Some Libertarians concede

this may not be the year they crack 1 million votes. Ah, but if the Libertarians were ever to succeed, much of the fun would be drained from Libertarianism.

"When I told my wife that I was going to run for Congress, she said, 'That would be a very dangerous thing because you might get elected,'" Paul said. "I said that that would not be the case because I was going to run on principle."

Oh, those rascal'y Libertarians.

Libertarian Dick Jacobs to challenge Riegle; wants to stop big-spending

LANSING (AP) — Dick Jacobs, saying he wants to stop the big-spending "fools in Washington," announced Wednesday he is running against Sen Donald W. Riegle Jr. as a Libertarian Party candidate.

"I want each of you here to know — and you can quote me on this — that I could not live with myself if I didn't try and stop those damn fools in Washington who are driving my granddaughter and future generations of Americans into bankruptcy," Jacobs said, holding up a picture of his newest granddaughter, who will be 3 weeks old Friday.



Those devils in Washington have created a cesspool of special interest welfare and warfare programs, fed by a cancerous spending program that is destroying our country. It is time they were stopped."

Jacobs, announcing his candidacy at a Capitol news conference, described Riegle, a Flint Democrat, as a "special interest politician who opposes the balanced budget concept and supports both foreign and domestic special interest subsidies."

Jacobs, 49, formerly of Owosso and Grand Blanc but now of Holland, vowed his campaign will reflect

the Libertarian Party principles of self-sufficiency and that he would not spend more than \$100,000 in his pursuit of the U.S. Senate seat.

"I will not accept money from any special interest groups," he said.

"Mine's going to be a grass roots campaign. I'm looking for 2,500 people in Michigan to kick in 50 bucks apiece, turn their television sets off five nights a week for an hour, get on the phone, go out and talk to their neighbors and get involved," Jacobs said. "If they aren't ready to do that, then they deserve the kind of government they're getting."

Jacobs, who unsuccessfully ran for governor as the Libertarian candidate in 1982, acknowledged he would be waging "a David and Goliath race."

Jacobs advocates eliminating the income tax and the Internal Revenue Service, and making up the lost revenue by eliminating all special interest subsidies, including price support programs for farmers.

He said he also wants to end subsidies to foreign governments, bring home all U.S. military forces stationed abroad, and legalize drug use.

"I don't advocate or condone the use of drugs, but I do favor their legalization," he said.

"If history has taught us anything, it should have taught us that Prohibition doesn't work."

Libertarian Party offers public a choice

The presidential primaries are in full swing and once again the Republicans and Democrats have given us quite a sorry collection of candidates from which to choose. The best of the bunch would merely mean more of the same; more of the same steady advance of big government intruding

into the personal and economic lives of individual Americans. The rest would offer a quicker pace to the same bad destination.

If Americans want more government, higher taxes, larger bureaucracies, and less personal freedoms, they need only to support any one of the

"Republicrats" now running for president. They may endorse any of the candidates, from either party, as they are unfortunately interchangeable. The differences on important issues between the most liberal of the bunch to the most conservative are so small as to not matter much at all.

If, however, Americans want a return to the traditional limited role of government, a return to the moral values that made this country strong, free, and prosperous, may I suggest the Libertarian Party. Libertarian values are traditional American values. They are freedom, private property, individual rights, and individual responsibilities. Thomas Jefferson said it better when he called them, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Far from being old-fashioned, it is these principles that we need most in our current situation. The two major parties are not offering us a meaningful alternative. Fortunately there is another, better choice. America's third largest party is alive and growing. The Libertarian Party has American solutions to America's problems.

Richard G. Martin
Irvine

Orange County Register (CA) 3-6-1988

Old Saybrook man convicted of not filing tax returns

By CAROLYN FARRAR
Courant Staff Writer

NEW HAVEN — James A. Lewis of Old Saybrook, a Libertarian Party member who argued that the federal income tax is illegal, was convicted by a U.S. District Court jury Wednesday of three counts of failing to file tax returns.

"It shows you the level of America's justice system," Lewis said as he left the courtroom where he had represented himself during a three-day trial.

The jury returned a verdict shortly after 5 p.m., after deliberating about two hours. Lewis stood motionless as the jury foreman repeated the guilty verdict for the three

counts.

Lewis faces a maximum one year in prison on each count of willful failure to file a tax return, covering the years 1981, '82 and '83. He also faces a \$10,000 fine for the first count and a \$25,000 fine for each of the other two.

Lewis, who said he will not appeal the verdict, is to be sentenced April 6. Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas S. Lavine said it was office policy not to comment on jury verdicts.

Lewis's trial had been adopted as a cause by other Libertarians and members of tax-protest and individuals' rights groups. Three dozen people were in the courtroom Monday, the first day of the trial, and about 20 came Wednesday.

"Jim Lewis has become our latest martyr, whether he wanted to or not," said Andrew Melechinsky of Enfield, a member of Constitutional Revival, a group he said favors "maximum freedom through minimum government."

Before the jury was brought in for closing arguments, Melechinsky was dragged from his seat by sheriffs after a heated discussion with Judge Ellen Bree Burns.

Lavine told Burns he thought Melechinsky intended to disrupt the arguments because Melechinsky had petitioned to address the jury. Lewis said he did not support the petition.

Burns asked Melechinsky for assurances that he would not disrupt proceedings, but he gave no answer.

Burns asked Melechinsky to move from his seat at the rear of the room to one by the door, but he said he would prefer to stay where he was.

"I don't care what you prefer," Burns said.

The sheriffs dragged Melechinsky across the courtroom to a seat by the door. Lewis said he would prefer Melechinsky out of the courtroom, but Burns said she would not eject him.

Melechinsky was silent during the arguments.

During the closing arguments, both sides focused on whether Lewis's failure to file was, by legal definition, willful. Lewis has admitted not filing returns since 1979.

In giving the charge to the jury,

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Thursday, February 25, 1988



JAMES A. LEWIS
Challenged legality of income tax

(con't. from page 1)

He also sent out 320 campaign brochures that said he would resign from office if he failed to address a resident's complaint or problem within 48 hours.

"That impressed people because it showed I had an interest in their problems and cared about them," he said.

MOST PEOPLE were more bothered by the fact he is a minister than a member of the Libertarian Party, he said.

Mr. Clifton was the leading vote-getter among three candidates elected to the council Monday, said Joe Overton, of Midland, Libertarian Party state chairman.

He received 62 votes, while two incumbent Republican candidates, Stan Behrman and Don Dennis, received 55 votes apiece. The two Democrats on the ballot trailed: Bernard Elston polled 45 votes and his son Robert, 31.

Overton said Libertarian candidates had won seats in Michigan running as independents in the past, but none had won under the Libertarian banner. The state party was formed in 1971.

Mr. Clifton, who said he has "politics in my blood," vowed to run someday for the state Legislature.

"I HAVE ALWAYS been very interested in politics," said Mr. Clifton, who grew up in the South. "I would eventually like to serve in the Legislature.

"When I was in high school and college, I plan to become governor of Mississippi."

Libertarians profess a platform of reduced government and taxes and more individual freedom.

Paul Jacob, national political director for the Libertarian Party, said there are 80 elected or appointed Libertarians now holding office.

Libertarian candidate presents 'alternatives'

By AL FRANK

For Ron Paul, "Super Tuesday" is just another day because, in his quest to be President of the United States, the 52-year-old Texas physician already has his party's nomination.

While the Libertarian Party candidate was not campaigning himself into exhaustion this weekend before the 20-state round of primaries and caucuses, Paul was bringing his message to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Yesterday, the former, four-term congressman greeted the party faithful as the Libertarians held their state convention at the Holiday Inn in Kenilworth.

In an interview, Paul acknowledged he was a Republican while serving in Congress from 1976-84 but became disillusioned after the deficit ballooned.

But he said Republicans and Democrats must share the blame because both parties make deals aimed more at staying in power than solving the country's problems.

"There's no way anyone can expect conservatives and liberals to do anything about those problems," Paul said. "Both serve each other's purposes."

Because he feels other voters have become similarly disgusted with the status quo, 1988 should prove a good year for Libertarians, Paul said, predicting his name will be on the ballots of at least 47 states, including New Jersey.

"Undecided seems to have the big-

gest majority," he said, claiming no mainstream party candidate has emerged with broad support or a substantive platform.

Libertarians, on the other hand, offer a striking alternative to business as usual.

"We believe the country would be better off with a limited government rather than a government that pretends it can regulate the economy and infringes on individual liberties," Paul said.

As president he said he would end income taxes and welfare and abolish the Federal Reserve. All troops outside the country would be called home.

About 90 percent of the State Department could be eliminated because the country would no longer involve itself in such debates as whether Manuel Antonio Noriega should remain in power in Panama.

The government departments remaining after paring or outright scrapping could be funded even without an income tax because corporate taxes, Social Security and franchise taxes would be retained, Paul said.

The candidate, whose running mate is Andre Marrou, a former Alaska legislator, said his views have not changed radically from his days in the House of Representatives.

Paul represented the 22d District, in Texas until he was defeated in the Republican primary for Senate by Phil Gramm who later went on to win the seat.

Newark Star Ledger 3-6-1988

Libertarian candidate predicts party's growth

By Stephanie Ward/Gazette-Journal

Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul figures the best way to solve the many problems plaguing the country is to lessen government intervention and abolish the income tax system.

During one of many campaign stops in Reno Monday, Paul said the Libertarian Party principal of less government and more private competition is the only way to cure the ailing federal government.

"The best chance for people's prosperity is with the Libertarian Party," Paul said.

After serving four times as a U.S. Congressman from Houston, Paul said he could no longer stand the lies of Republicans and decided to switch parties.

A combination of events caused Paul to leave the Republican party. One of the biggest was President Reagan's promise to balance the budget. Instead of balancing the budget, he doubled the federal deficit, he said.

These kinds of empty promises by Republicans, whose only interest is big business, Paul claims, is a glaring example of how a government that was designed to help the people only serves to hurt them once it is too big, corrupt and out of control.

Paul wants to dismantle almost all federal programs except those that serve to protect the public and administer laws.

"People know how to spend money better than the federal government," he said.

By abolishing the income tax system, it puts people back in control of their lives and their country, he said.

"Is there a need for an income tax? Only if we perpetuate the American



Paul

empire abroad and welfarism at home," he said.

Withdrawing troops from foreign countries, ending all foreign aid, stopping all grants to corporations and abolishing social transfer payments is the only way to balance the budget, he said.

Paul wants to legalize all drugs, thus reducing the crime associated with drug trafficking.

He favors a strong defense but wants the money to be spent on defense at home.

Paul said that he and Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson are the only ones with real insight to the crisis America faces if it continues to operate under the present system. But Jackson wants more government intervention as opposed to less, he said.

The Libertarian Party, which has about 200,000 registered members, 200 in Washoe County, is quickly becoming the people's alternative, Paul said.