

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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SEPTEMBER 2001 *newsletter*

Libertarian response to the terrorist attack

Highlights of the statement from James W. Lark, III, chairman of the Libertarian Party, in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks:

On behalf of the Libertarian Party, I wish to express our profound sorrow and grief for the tragic loss of life and suffering caused by yesterday's terrorist attacks. Our hearts go out to the victims . . .

The Libertarian Party condemns the barbaric attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. There is no excuse for such savage acts. These actions demonstrate in the starkest way possible that the initiation of force is never an appropriate way to settle political or social differences. The result of such violence is more hatred, more grieving relatives and friends, more tombstones — and, ultimately, more violence . . .

The Libertarian Party calls for justice to be meted out to the terrorists responsible for the attacks. However, we encourage the U.S. government to be sure that any response is appropriate and measured. Action should not be taken that will cause innocent people in other countries to be killed. Such a response would only continue the cycle of violence and revenge.

In the past, some have responded to terrorism with proposals to restrict the civil liberties of Americans. We must resist that tendency. The fundamental rights that define the essence of America should not be destroyed in an effort to deal with terrorism. We must remain vigilant that terrorists don't win by turning America into a nation where our cherished freedoms are a memory.

Finally, the Libertarian Party hopes these attacks will elicit a thoughtful discussion about how we can prevent similar tragedies in the future. Of course, there is no way to guarantee that evil will not strike again. However, a foreign policy that limits our intervention in the affairs of other nations is a foreign policy that will reduce the chance that terrorists will strike at America . . .

Again, our hearts go out to the Americans who suffered a loss during the terrible events of September 11, 2001. It is a tragic day that will live in our memories — but is also a day that will allow the best of America to shine through by virtue of our response.

'Bill Clinton' joins Libertarian Party

Bill Clinton has joined the Libertarian Party. Well, sorta. It depends on what your definition of "Bill Clinton" is.

Damian Mason, a professional impersonator who has made a lucrative living over the past eight years pretending to be the former Rogue-in-Chief, has signed up as an official LP member.

"After working with both Republicans and Democrats, I've come to realize that Libertarians are the only ones that I trust to follow through with what they say," he said.

Welcome

LP National Director Steve Dasbach welcomed Mason into the party — with a sigh of relief.

"We'd have a lot of explaining to do if the *real* Bill Clinton joined the party," he said. "However, we cheerfully welcome Mr. Mason, who has made a career of mocking the president who exemplified the worst excesses of big government and personal dishonesty."

Mason — who performs under the stage name "The President" — got his start when, dressed as Bill Clinton, he won a 1993 Halloween costume contest at a San



■ Clinton impersonator Damian Mason: "Libertarians are the only ones I trust."

Diego nightclub.

Since then, he has impersonated Clinton in 44 states and five foreign countries at events for corporations, including Ford, Shell Oil, IBM, and McDonalds.

He has also appeared on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, on the sitcom *Women of the House*, and in several commercials.

Now that Bill Clinton is out of office, will Mason be "term-limited" out of performing as the ex-president?

Not likely, he said.

"Much like Richard Nixon, the persona of Bill Clinton will have people laughing for years," he said.

Libertarian candidate creates test in ballot filing for Lakewood post

KAYE SPECTOR
Plain Dealer Reporter

LAKEWOOD — The city's at-large City Council race will be the venue for a showdown on whether the Ohio Libertarian Party can keep its name on the ballot in Ohio this year.

The first round will be in two weeks, when the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is expected to decide whether John Hartman can run for the council post as a Libertarian Party candidate.

When Hartman filed his petitions to enter the race earlier this month, county elections officials told him the Libertarian Party is not recognized by the state.

But the Libertarians expected that and plan to use Hartman's case to mount a legal challenge.

Party officials received a letter in early January from Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Black-

well's office saying that, by state law, the party's name cannot appear on this year's ballot because Libertarians failed to get 5 percent of the vote in the fall presidential election.

Not being recognized as a political party will bar Libertarian candidates from listing their party affiliation on the ballot. Without it, Libertarians must run either as independents or write-in candidates.

Ohio Libertarians submitted a petition in November 1999 with enough signatures to put the party on last year's statewide ballot.

The timing of the petition submission allows the party name to be on this year's general election ballot as well, said Jeff Zwebber, the Libertarian Party's Ohio chairman.

But Blackwell's office is firm that the only criterion at play is getting 5 percent of the vote.

"They did not do that," said James Lee, a Blackwell spokesman. "It's not necessarily that it's a ruling. It's a matter of fact."

Hartman and the Libertarian Party can argue their case before the elections board when it meets next month, said Thomas Jeleps, the elections board director.

If Hartman is not identified on the ballot as a Libertarian candidate, the party plans to sue, Zwebber said.

Hartman, who unsuccessfully ran for an Ohio House seat in the fall, agreed to be a test case for the Libertarian Party, Zwebber said.

Having the Libertarian name on the ballot is important for members, who are working to raise the party's profile, Zwebber said.

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Petition to repeal smoking ban filed

□ About 800 signatures gathered in hopes of putting question on ballot

GREG JOHNSON
Managing Editor

MONROSE — A Western Slope Libertarian Party effort to repeal Montrose's clean indoor air ordinance was bolstered Friday when a petition signed by about 800 people was presented to city officials.

Should the petition include the required 470 valid signatures of registered voters, a question will be placed on the November ballot asking voters to repeal the ordinance, which bans smoking in most public places, Montrose Deputy City Clerk Sharleen Walker said.

"This is just the beginning," said Tim Jacobs, co-chairman of the WSLP.

"We're doing this for the children. I want them to grow up in a society where rights mean something."

— Tim Jacobs, co-chair WSLP

"We're looking forward to a hard-fought campaign and we're going to give it our best shot and try to make sure the voters

understand this (repeal effort) isn't about smoking, it's about property rights."

The clean indoor air ordinance, approved by a 54 percent majority of Montrose voters April 3, bans smoking in public places within the city, except taverns and restaurants. In addition, the ordinance requires restaurants that allow smoking have a segregated smoking section with separate ventilation.

Proponents of the clean indoor air ordinance have said maintaining the community's health was a primary factor in putting the ordinance to a vote in the first place. Repeated attempts to

contact members of Montrose Citizens for Clean Indoor Air (MCCIA), the group that petitioned the anti-smoking ordinance onto the April ballot, were unsuccessful by press time.

Jacobs disagrees, maintaining that businesses should make decisions about whether or not to allow smoking.

"We're doing this for the children," Jacobs said. "I want them to grow up in a society where rights mean something."



—Daily Press/Greg Johnson

Members of the Western Slope Libertarian Party hand over a petition asking for a ballot question to repeal Montrose's Clean Indoor Air Ordinance. Bob Ray, left, hands over the petition to Montrose City Clerk Mary Watt. Looking on are, from left, JoJo Ping, John Duncan, Mike Humbert and Lane Mills.

▲ (TOP) *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, Ohio, July 26, 2001

▲ *The Montrose Daily Press*, Montrose, Colorado, August 5, 2001

Libertarians organize, name Gividen

By John Clark
jclark@therepublic.com

A third party plans to contend for Bartholomew County seats in the next election.

The Libertarian Party of Bartholomew County held its first organizational meeting Saturday and filed the paperwork Monday to become a recognized political party.

Kenn Gividen was chosen as the party's first chairman and he will also be the party's first candidate. Gividen announced that he plans to seek the Indiana House District 59 seat now held by Rep. David Yount, R-Columbus.

Gividen said that he thinks the Libertarian platform will give Bartholomew County voters another choice on the ballot.

"We are not anti-Republican, we are not anti-Democrat, we are pro-liberty," Gividen said.

But Gividen said the Democrats and Republicans have done little with their time in control of government in the 30 years he has been following politics.

"What we have got done is a \$600 tax rebate," Gividen said. "That is like going to (a steakhouse) and ordering a steak and getting back a Cheerio. It is something but it is not much."

Libertarians believe in a smaller, less intrusive federal government and less government control over personal freedom and

Preview

WHO: Kenn Gividen
WHAT: Chairman of Bartholomew County Libertarian Party, announced Libertarian candidate for Indiana House District 59.

OCCUPATION: Self-employed with Columbus Marketing Group.

AGE: 48

FAMILY: Paul, 18, son; Laurie, 23, daughter; two grandchildren.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: State director of the Moral Majority in the 1970s.

ON THE WEB: 812.cjb.net
INFORMATION: 372-1663.

actions.

"The folks from Bartholomew County, I think, basically think that way," Gividen said. "We have a lot of conservative people, gun owners for example. If you were to go through and do a random check, I think you would find probably that three quarters of the people in the county are aligned philosophically."

For Gividen, the issue that separated him from his Republican roots was the state seat belt law.

"The little axiom that goes around is that Libertarians are people who believe you have the

right to be stupid," Gividen said.

Some of the more controversial elements of the national Libertarian agenda are decriminalizing drugs, pornography and prostitution.

"A lot of folks don't know the difference between a Libertarian and a libertine," Gividen said. "A Libertarian is someone who believes you have the right to be stupid. A libertine believes you not only have the right, but you need to be stupid."

The new party's first order of business will be recruitment. Less than a dozen people turned out for the meeting at the library Saturday.

"You can't do much if you don't have warm Libertarian bodies and cold cash," Gividen said.

According to a state Libertarian Party press release, Bartholomew County will be the 27th county with a Libertarian Party organization.

"This is fantastic to see a motivated, organized group like this kicking things off in Bartholomew County," wrote Brad Klopfenstein, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Indiana.

"Kenn Gividen will be a great county chairman, and he has several plans to hit the ground running and make the Libertarian Party a political force in Bartholomew County.

"This also now gives us county organizations in every county between Louisville and Indianapolis."

Libertarians take drug-war poll with pennies

DOVER — The Libertarian Party of Delaware says it might be time for the state to reassess its drug laws.

Kent County Libertarian Chair Jim Conk said the party has tallied the results of its informal polling at the Delaware State Fair.

Attendees had an opportunity to vote on the question "Does the war on drugs do more harm than good?" at the Libertarian Party booth.

Two jars were set up, marked "yes" and "no" where people could vote using pennies.

Mr. Conk said he was surprised by the number of people who felt so strongly about the issue, they voted with larger coins and bills.

The money collected, about \$60, is being donated to Narcotics Anonymous.

The total number of coins and bills collected was 522.

Of those, 74 percent voted "yes" and 26 percent voted "no."

The Libertarian Party also surveyed 272 fairgoers, asking four questions.

■ Do you favor the medical use of marijuana? 70 percent yes, 23 percent no, 7 percent not sure

■ Do you favor ending mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses? 47 percent yes, 6 percent not sure, 37 percent no

■ Do you favor legalization of marijuana? 52 percent yes, 6 percent not sure, 42 percent no

■ Do you favor legalization of all drugs? 15 percent yes, 9 percent not sure, 76 percent no



CHATTERBOX

"It's time to shake the shackles of government."

— Ed Thompson, mayor of Tomah and brother of former Gov. Tommy Thompson, while at a fund-raiser in Delafield this week. Thompson is eyeing a run for governor as a Libertarian.



▲ (TOP) *The Republic*, Columbus, Indiana, July 31, 2001

▲ *The Freeman*, Waukesha, Wisconsin, August 18, 2001

◀ *The Delaware State News*, Dover, Delaware, August 6, 2001

Virginia settles Libertarian suit, will identify party of all on ballot

RICHMOND (AP) — The state settled a lawsuit filed by the Libertarian Party of Virginia by agreeing to identify all candidates, not just Republicans and Democrats, by party on ballots in statewide, legislative and federal elections.

U.S. District Judge Robert Payne signed a consent decree in the case yesterday.

"With elections coming up in a little more than two months, it was important to come to a quick resolution of this case," said Kent Willis, state executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented the Libertarians.

The Nov. 6 elections for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general will be the first statewide voting under the new law. It was championed by Republicans and narrowly approved by the 2000 General Assembly. All 100 House of Delegates seats also will be up for election.

Randy Davis, a spokesman for Attorney General Randolph A.

Beales, said lawyers for the state decided it would be in the best interest of voters to settle the case.

"This agreement will ensure that elections will go forward as scheduled, with party labels, as intended by the General Assembly," he said.

The law required ballots to list the party affiliation of candidates from political parties recognized by the state.

To be recognized, a party had to run a candidate in at least one of the two preceding elections, and that candidate had to receive 10 percent or more of the vote in one of those elections.

The Libertarians claimed the requirement amounted to preferential treatment for Democrats and Republicans, the only parties currently recognized by the state. Candidates from smaller parties that failed to meet the 10 percent standard would have been listed on the ballot as independents.

"We just thought it was unfair and thought we had legal precedent

on our side," said William Redpath, the Libertarian nominee for governor. "There's a lot of information conveyed with the word Libertarian, and we thought it was important to get that information out."

Listing all minor-party candidates as independents would be a disservice to the voters, Mr. Redpath said.

Mr. Redpath said his only remaining concern is that the consent decree allows the party identification to be an initial or abbreviation. Voters will know what "R" and "D" stand for, he said, but might find "L" and other abbreviations puzzling.

Mr. Willis said he hoped local election officials would post signs explaining the abbreviations.

Other plaintiffs in the lawsuit were Gary Reams, the party's candidate for lieutenant governor; Timothy Belton and John Girardeau, who are seeking the party's nomination for House of Delegates seats; and Libertarian supporters John Buckley and Shelley Tamres.

East Tennessean to run for governor as Libertarian

MARYVILLE — Charles Wilhoit, a retired US Navy captain and resident of the Townsend area in East Tennessee, has announced his candidacy for Tennessee governor on the Libertarian Party platform.

Wilhoit is the first Libertarian candidate to enter the race for governor. The Libertarian Party will officially select its candidate at its state convention next spring.

The general election is in Nov. 2002.

"Tennesseans have made it very clear that they don't want an income tax. We know Democrats favor it. We've learned that Republicans can't be trusted to oppose it. Only a Libertarian will make the income tax a dead issue," Wilhoit says in a news release.

Wilhoit stresses a need for spending reform instead of a tax reform as a solution to Tennessee's budget problems.

Wilhoit was born in Alcoa and



Wilhoit

attended schools in Blount County and Columbia Military Academy, Columbia, Tenn., prior to his appointment to the US Naval Academy from the 2nd Congressional District of Tennessee.

He entered the Naval Academy in June 1942 and graduated in June 1945 at which time he was commissioned an ensign in the Navy.

Wilhoit retired from the Navy in July 1974 while in command of Destroyer Squadron 27 in Long Beach, Calif.

His political involvement includes a run for the Tennessee Senate and service as the chairman of the Tennessee Libertarian Party. He is currently serving as the vice chairman of the Blount County Libertarian Party and as organization coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Tennessee.

The Libertarian Party set a Tennessee record for third-parties last year by running 18 candidates in the 2000 elections.

▲ *The Washington Times*, Washington, DC, August 17, 2001

▲ *The Herald-Citizen*, Cookeville, Tennessee, August 5, 2001

► *The St. Paul Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, Minnesota, August 6, 2001

TWIN CITIES UPDATE

AIRLINES

Drink limit received coolly

To curb air rage incidents, U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., proposed last month that airlines limit passengers to two drinks, but she uncorked plenty of dissent in the process. The nation's largest flight attendant union quickly chimed in that this wasn't such a good idea, fearing that drink-restricted travelers would instead be more likely to lash out at flight crews. Airlines seemed cool to the concept, not wanting to deny their best customers in first class any perks. But it was the Libertarian Party's response that iced the dissent by proposing a new drink called a "Feinstein." "one part jet fuel, one part Absolut arrogance, one part California whine. Shake vigorously until some common sense emerges. Garnish with a wedge of media limelight."

— Eric Torbenson