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# LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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## Initiative Activists Try to Provide Educational Choice, Stop Marijuana Recriminalization

Last month, a number of ballot initiatives were mentioned, but there are more. One initiative effort gaining publicity is the Oregonians for Educational Choice initiative. The measure would create open districting and a tax reimbursement for up to \$2500 of school expenses.

A recent poll shows 48% favoring the proposal, 47 opposed, and 5% undecided. The campaign is being coordinated by LP activists Steve Buckstein and Ed Marihart. The initiative was written by LP activist Martin Buchanan.

The proposal has been very successful with earning national media coverage. In recent weeks, the initiative has been covered on page one of the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the Sept. 3 issue of *Time* magazine, *USA Today*, and the Sept. 2 installment of the syndicated television show, the McLaughlin Group. The measure was endorsed by all the participants on the McLaughlin Group, as well as Milton Friedman, John Chubb, Walter Williams, and Pete DuPont.

Another initiative of interest seeks to recriminalize marijuana in Alaska. Libertarians are actively involved in the opposition. They are currently looking into the possibility of throwing the item off the ballot on technical grounds.

The Illinois Tax Accountability Amendment mentioned last month was thrown off the ballot by the State Supreme Court, claiming the state constitution does not permit voter-brought initiatives to make substantive changes but only to change the governmental structure, such as changing the number of state legislators. A *Chicago Sun-Times* poll showed callers favored letting voters decide the issue by an 11-1 margin. Both major party candidates for governor have vowed to follow the principles of the proposal.

In a recent *Boston Globe* poll, the Massachusetts Fair Ballot Access Initiative was favored by 49%, opposed by 33%, with 18% undecided. Boston radio personality Gene Burns has agreed to do the commercials for the initiative.

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### And Other Items of Interest...

- Ron Paul made a very positive impact during his appearance on a call-in talk show on C-Span last month. The appearance inspired over 300 calls for more information on the LP.

- Another candidate with a campaign of interest is Dr. Robert Marshall. Marshall is running against Dan Rostenkowski for Illinois' 8th district congressional seat in a two-way race. Marshall, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, served in Vietnam as a medic. He is a director of

National Taxpayers United of Illinois. His major campaign issues are cutting taxes and spending, privatizing Savings & Loan insurance, making Social Security voluntary, and protecting the right to bear arms.

- The New York LP recently completed its ballot drive. Gary Johnson, LP candidate for governor of New York, is running a very aggressive race and has been getting some attention lately, in particular on the issue of drug legalization. (See *New York Tribune* article, inside.)

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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INTERVIEW

# Legalizing Drugs Is the Best Solution, Libertarian's Governor Candidate Says

BY TIMOTHY QUINLAN  
New York City Tribune Staff

In a state where a philosophy of "hardly any government" has little or no market value in the political arena, the Libertarian Party candidate for governor, W. Gary Johnson, knows that he won't unseat Democratic incumbent Mario Cuomo in the November election. But the 35-year-old fledgling political figure insists that he can still advance the cause of Libertarianism, and help shape the future of New York's political landscape at the same time — particularly with regard to one inflammatory issue that he sees as being on the cutting edge of tomorrow's world: the legalization of narcotic substances.

"This is the most controversial position that Libertarians espouse," Johnson said during a recent interview with the *New York City Tribune*. "I think that the campaign for the legalization of drugs is also our most effective policy — and the one that will bring our party to the fore in years to come."

Johnson — who favors the repeal of laws prohibiting the possession and sale of cocaine, marijuana and heroin — says that the Libertarian rationale as to why such substances should be commonly available has been given short shrift in a world too accustomed to visceral solutions, glib political statements, subterfuge, crime and violence.

"Still, in 4 to 6 years I think you will see Republican candidates coming out and endorsing drug legalization," he said.

Johnson said he believes this because several Manhattan-based Republican Party clubs — venues where Conservatives, Libertarians and similar political "kindred spirits" can be found — have taken up the drug legalization issue at special forums in recent months.

"The people who have an interest in the future of the Republican Party want to measure the reaction to the idea of drug legalization," Johnson said.

"There was a very large, vocal group of people sympathetic to the pro-legalization, anti-prohibition point of view" at two such GOP events that he attended, the Libertarian candidate maintained.

Turning to the tough questions about crack, heroin and cocaine, Johnson defended his controversial point of view.

"If you were to legalize cocaine and marijuana, you wouldn't have crack," Johnson insisted.

The cheap, potent narcotic, he said, was developed in the early 1980s, largely because the Reagan administration waged a successful war on marijuana, seizing it in large quantities.

"Crack was made, in part, to give the drug dealers something to sell instead of marijuana, which became too bulky to smuggle effectively," Johnson said.

Were cocaine and other drugs to be made legal, he said, people would use them in "clinical settings," run by legitimate businessmen.

"Criminals would no longer control the market, and there would be no dirty needles passed around in back alleys," Johnson said. "In fact, you probably wouldn't have needles at all because most drugs would be taken orally."

Pressed on the question of whether such a future would signal a return of such establishments as hashish parlors or glitzy drug palaces, Johnson agreed that such a result would be likely.

"I think it's going to be tried, yes, with access limited to adults," Johnson said. "In New York, in the 1880s and 1890s you had hashish parlors, and you had opium parlors."

Regarding the powerful addictive nature of some illegal substances, the candidate did not think them any more dangerous than nicotine or alcohol.

"Cocaine takes over a person's life because they become preoccupied with obtaining the drug," Johnson argued, alluding to the difficulty of getting an illegal substance. "I do not necessarily believe that more people would become drug addicts than now if cocaine and marijuana were made legal."

The rate of addiction to nicotine and tobacco "is actually higher" than it is for any of the illegal drugs," he said, adding that dangers of creating waves of new drug addicts could be averted by modeling the sale of narcotics after procedures initiated to control liquor sales by the state liquor authority.

The Libertarian candidate also said he was strongly opposed to recently passed state criminal forfeiture laws, by which the assets of suspects arrested in narcotics cases are seized by federal and local authorities.

"It is a denial of due process, taking a person's property," he said. "In effect, you are convicting that person and

fining them before they can have a fair trial."

Johnson, an insurance salesman for the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, said that he is waging his campaign for governor while retaining his full-time job.

Denying that his candidacy is merely a "symbolic" one, the Libertarian contender said a prime goal in this election is to obtain more than 500,000 votes so that his party can win a place on the ballot along with other political organizations — a status that the Libertarians do not currently enjoy.

During the 1988 presidential election, some 12,109 New York voters pulled the lever for Ron Paul, the Libertarian Party's candidate.

Commenting on his party's philosophy of free markets and *laissez-faire* government, Johnson said "the key word is choice."

"In a nutshell, I would say that the party is based on the idea of self-government — that you have the right to run your own life as long as you are responsible for your own actions, and as long as you accept the idea that other people have the right to live their lives according to their choosing."



PHOTO BY SPENCER PLATT FOR THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE  
W. GARY JOHNSON: "I do not necessarily believe that more people would become drug addicts than now if cocaine and marijuana were made legal."

Medford, OR, Mail Tribune, Aug. 11, 1990.

# Candidate would sell forests

Tonie Nathan would sell the federal forests and remove criminal penalties for personal use of drugs if she had her way with Congress.

Nathan concedes that she's unlikely to unseat U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, a Democrat seeking his third two-year term from the 4th District of southwest Oregon. Nathan is the Libertarian Party nominee for the Nov. 8 general election. No Republican chose to run.

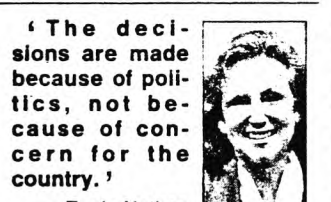
But Nathan says voters can blame only themselves when they complain about Congress, yet re-elected 98 percent of House incumbents who sought new terms in 1988 and 1989.

"When they return incumbents to office, they're saying, 'Keep doing what you've been doing,'" Nathan says.

Parts of Jackson and Josephine counties are in the 4th District.

Nathan says if she were in Congress, she'd try to persuade members to sell federal forests and let the purchasers manage the lands, whether they were companies producing timber or environmental groups protecting forest habitat.

"The decisions now are made by people who don't understand the problems in differ-



'The decisions are made because of politics, not because of concern for the country.' — Tonie Nathan

ent parts of the country," she says. "The rest of Congress is not concerned about our logging industry."

"We have a forest industry in the United States that acts like agriculture in the Soviet Union. The decisions are made because of politics, not because of concern for the country."

DeFazio has championed a ban on the export of logs from all lands, public and private. Nathan calls such a ban "one more nail in the coffin of liberty, which is based on private property rights."

Nathan also criticized the federal war against illegal drugs.

"We have a drug enforcement program that is encouraging police-state tactics," she says.

She says the personal use of drugs by adults should be considered a medical and social problem, requiring treatment and education programs, but not a criminal problem that will lead to ever-expanding police forces and prisons.

Nathan, 67, is the national media director for the Libertarian Party. She was the party's first nominee for vice president in 1972. She was an independent candidate for the 4th District seat in 1976, Libertarian nominee for the U.S. Senate in 1980, and a finalist for the non-partisan office of Lane County commissioner in 1984.

She says the party's presidential ticket, headed by former Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, received little media attention in 1988. But she says party membership jumped by 30 percent in the past year and party principles are gaining favor.

"Eastern Europe is talking about free markets and multi-party systems," she says. "We don't have a two-party system. We have one party with two factions."

Ft. Wayne, IN, News-Sentinel  
Aug. 6, 1990.

## Are major parties afraid of write-in candidates?

HERE'S A TIP for Hoosier state officials: Stop even thinking about appealing the ruling of U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker that invalidated Indiana's ban of write-in candidates. The ban was an abomination, and an appeal will cause Hoosier citizens, who now merely mistrust you, to vilify you as unscrupulous scoundrels.

Barker's ruling put the matter in plain language: "Indiana's complete ban on write-in candidates is not narrowly tailored to combat fraudulent candidates because it bans all write-in candidates. The prohibition stifles serious candidates along with the possibly spurious votes. The citizens' right to vote for the candidates of their choice is of paramount importance."

The ban, enacted in 1986, is a naked assault on First Amendment rights to free speech, and Barker has given it the treatment it deserves.

The state defends the ban as "a legal barrier to frivolous candidates with no significant base of support." What self-serving nonsense. The ban is meant to protect Democrats and Republicans — the "serious" candidates with a "significant base of support" — from competition. It's an attempt by people with a monopoly on power to keep that monopoly.

The suit Barker ruled on was brought by candidates of the Libertarian Party, which for years has been fighting the state for greater ballot access. Another law that should be scrapped is Indiana's requirement that a minority political party gather petition signatures equal to 2 percent of the votes for the office of secretary of state in the previous election, a difficult and insulting requirement. Unable to get on the ballot and not permitted to run as write-ins, non-mainstream candidates have no access to voters. And voters have no choices except those provided by the entrenched political power structures.

The candidates the state seeks to keep out — the ones with no "solid base of support" — are the very ones the voters need to hear more from. Such candidates feel freer to make provocative and outrageous proposals, the kind that get the debates going and truly inform the electorate.

Those who try to keep other ideas out of the marketplace cannot be too certain of the validity of their own ideas or their ability to sell them. Let the major political parties mull that over. The voters will.

Libertarians constitute a major political party under Vermont law. An article in Wednesday's Free Press incorrectly named only Republicans and Democrats as major parties bound by certain candidate filing deadlines.

Manchester, NH, Union Leader  
July 17, 1990.

## Will Vote Libertarian

Addressed to Jim Finnegan, director of Editorial Page: Your editorial on June 28, 1990, entitled "He Doesn't Need Us Anymore" correctly pointed out the danger President Bush is in of having traditional conservative supporters jump ship in 1992. You fell short, however, in pointing out appropriate options for the disillusioned voter when you suggested that the only alternative was the Democratic Party.

As a person who has always voted "the lesser of the two evils" and has always voted Republican I tell you that in 1992 this man is going to go with his principles and vote for the Libertarian presidential candidate.

My choice may not win, but at least I'll be voting for someone who believes, as I do, that the federal government under both Democrats and the Republicans has become too big for its britches, and has its fingers in way too many pies.

RICHARD J. ZORE

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Brookline, 03003

## State notes

### Libertarian candidate joins race for governor

MONTPELIER — Legalization of marijuana and repeal of the state's growth management law are among proposals offered by Vermont's latest candidate for governor, Libertarian David Atkinson of Randolph.

Atkinson, a 50-year-old tree surgeon, joins four other candidates: Democrats Peter Welch and William Gwin and Republicans Richard Snelling and Richard Gottlieb, a Liberty Union party member.

Atkinson, who announced his candidacy Wednesday, ran for the Vermont House in 1980 as a Libertarian. He received 13 percent of the vote among the five contestants for the two Orange County seats.

Calling himself a serious contender, Atkinson pledged to limit campaign spending to \$5,000 and called on voters to make their judgments based on the issues.

Atkinson's platform calls for a binding referendum March 4 on Vermont's secession from the United States; repealing the mandatory helmet law; returning the drinking age to 18; and limiting elected officials to two consecutive terms in office.

Libertarians constitute a major political party under Vermont law. An article in Wednesday's Free Press incorrectly named only Republicans and Democrats as major parties bound by certain candidate filing deadlines.



ATKINSON

Burlington, VT, Free Press, July 20, 1990.

Pueblo, CO, Chieftain, July 10, 1990.

## Libertarians name Folkerth lieutenant governor hopeful

Chieftain Denver Bureau DENVER — Robin Heid, Libertarian candidate for governor, said Monday that his running mate will be Mike Folkerth, the party's choice for lieutenant governor.

Folkerth runs Mountain Mike's Restaurant in Hotchkiss, about 40 miles east of Delta and, according to Heid, he has been "an Alaska bush pilot, a high-wire electrician, over-the-road trucker, professional hunting guide, and prize-winning writer."

The Heid-Folkerth ticket needs 1,000 valid petition signatures to qualify the Libertarian Party candidates for the Nov. 6 election ballot.

## Libertarian proposes legalizing marijuana

Neif Davis, Libertarian candidate for the 10th Congressional District, said Monday that legalizing marijuana would help farmers and the environment. Citing a U.S. Agriculture Department bulletin, Davis said marijuana hemp is superior to trees as a source of paper pulp and also could be used to manufacture fabric. "We are denying our farmers a valuable source of income at the same time we are deforesting the United States and polluting our water," Davis said. He and Republican David Beihartz, 34, both of Austin, are seeking to unseat U.S. Rep. Jake Pickle, Democrat of Austin.

## What Are We to Expect?

A mayoral candidate forum was held at Southeast's Holy Comforter School on July 11. The topic of the evening was the candidates' positions on crime — one of the most pressing issues facing this city.

The forum was scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. I was disappointed to see that none of the "top contenders" bothered to show up on time, although John Ray called to say he would be late. Walter E. Fauntroy and Maurice T. Turner Jr. did not even attend. One of the few candidates to arrive on time — in fact early — was Nancy Lord of the Libertarian Party.

Dave Clarke, Charlene Drew Jarvis and Sharon Pratt Dixon all showed up at least one hour late, causing the forum to be condensed, forcing the elimination of some of the panel's questions and curtailing discussion.

With the crime rate soaring, the drug epidemic still present and police being underfunded, one would think the candidates would address public-safety issues with a higher degree of seriousness by arriving on time. If the citizens of the District can't count on candidates to be responsive to these issues in a public forum, what can we count on being done by the next mayor's administration?

WENDY KARHU  
Washington

Washington Post, July 22, 1990.

Lansdale, PA, Reporter, July 7, 1990.

# Libertarians to aid school-spending activist

By CAROLYN M. BORING  
Staff Writer

The president of the Pennridge Community Taxpayers' Association has asked for the help of the Libertarian Party in supporting his plans for keeping school spending in check.

John Bolger has been fighting taxes in the Pennridge School District since 1988, when teachers there struck for about four weeks and ultimately received a contract that awarded pay raises of 63.7 percent over four years.

Bolger, an outspoken critic of school board policies since then,

has come up with a plan that would require school districts to seek voter approval for borrowing or teacher wage increases that exceed 5 percent a year.

He is seeking legislation prior to the November election and hoping for the creation of a statewide coalition that would work for the defeat of legislators who oppose the proposals.

He made his pitch to the Bucks County Libertarian Committee last month, whose members accepted it enthusiastically, though voiced doubts as to whether the plan could be implemented before November because of the time element.

In his proposal, Bolger said it would be "painfully evident" that school boards have been incapable of performing the functions for which they have been created.

He said school boards have become too powerful and abuse the authority and responsibility they have been given. He added that they have become pawns of superintendents.

Bolger's proposal includes six provisions:

■ No school board may approve a collective bargaining agreement calling for more than a 5 percent increase in wages or fringe benefits, nor approve tax

increases of more than 5 percent, without voter approval. Voters will be given a choice of either the increase recommended by the school board or a zero percentage.

■ No school board may approve any debt obligation or construction in excess of \$500,000 without approval of the electorate.

■ No school superintendent, principal, administrator or employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement may be given a multi-year contract and each individual must be reviewed annually by his or her supervisor. The school board is the

immediate supervisor of the school superintendent.

■ No school director not running for re-election may vote on any issue or contract that will affect any school year after school year that his or her term expires.

■ No union contract may be proved by a school board prior Jan. 1 of the calendar year which it becomes effective, or may a union contract be renegotiated during its term.

■ No school board director related to a member of the teachers' union (local, state or national) may vote on a union contract or grievance.

## POLITICS

# FIGHTING THE THIRD PARTY STIGMA *Libertarians Dig in for the 90's*

Tax day, April 17: Procrastinating taxpayers are scurrying to file income tax forms before the IRS deadline. On the return trip to the car, they are interrupted by six members of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (LPNH) who have stationed themselves outside the Manchester post office to get their political message out — smaller government, lower taxes.

"Don't let the government find out!" calls Lionel Tandy on the other end of the sidewalk, organizer of the second annual LPNH Tax Day Protest. A million dollars is a tempting offer to many — the figure specifically chosen to symbolize how much the government spends every six seconds.

to have smaller government and complete personal freedom. Only one stop along a statewide speaking excursion, the Gene Burns tour has been an incredible boost for the party in both membership and publicity. Now people are at least listening. But whether or not the LPNH can maintain the momentum and find enough support for its candidates is a question troubling many party members.



(l to r) Miriam Luce, Bill Winter and John Elsnaw host the Libertarian Party's monthly meeting in Concord.

advertising executive from Denver, Colo., and complete with chapters in every state.

A quick synopsis of its political stance would include minimal government and maximum personal freedoms. Libertarians believe the government's role should be limited to protecting citizens' lives, constitutional rights and property. While this may sound like an easy philosophy to follow, the party meets with plenty of criticism on key issues such as eliminating mandatory income taxes and legalizing all drugs. But while the more controversial issues alienate some potential members, they attract many others and supply important media attention. Libertarians cite the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights as undisputed statements of their ideals, saying the government has wandered from them as governing principles. They claim Thomas Jefferson as a founding father, for he empowered citizens with their personal rights, previously considered rewards to be granted by those in power only.

Monthly LPNH meetings usually feature guest speakers who discuss current issues in the context of Libertarian philosophy. Recent meetings have included appearances by State Representative Stephanie Micklon (R-Salem), who spoke on abortion rights; and State Representative Michael Weddle (R-Portsmouth), who talked about his plan for the legalization of drugs. Also making several appearances at Libertarian events has been Republican Chris Tremblay, currently running for the District One U.S. Congressional seat. While none of these political figures concur with all of the Libertarian Party's views, they still see the party as a key group in backing their ideas. Single-issue points of agreement between the LPNH and other political groups have been vital to the recent increase in publicity about the party.

For instance, Rep. Weddle's plan to legalize drugs is coupled with an extensive government-run education and rehabilitation program, which goes completely against the party's economic philosophy. Tremblay agrees "the government overregulates, overspends and overtaxes," but would fervently argue against the legalization of drugs.

"We have been trying to broaden our base by going to groups who agree on one issue with us," says

LPNH chairman Bill Winter. "The general public hasn't really heard about us yet, but we're beginning to reach the groups that are active."

Members of the Gun Owners of New Hampshire, another group which has worked with the LPNH, often disagree with the Libertarian stance on drug legalization and abortion rights. Members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) agree with the pro-choice aspect, but for the most part, disagree with the lack of social programs which would come with less government. "For those kind of single-issue people, they need to make the connection that the one issue they agree on isn't the only one where the government abuses people's rights," says Winter.

A largely single-issue campaign is

**"The general public hasn't really heard about us yet, but we're beginning to reach the groups that are active."**

what brought the antitax Straight Arrows into power in Laconia in November 1989. John Hilberg, lifetime Libertarian Party member and executive director of the Straight Arrow Committee, which swept the 1989 Laconia City Council elections, is facing a McCarthyism-style attack by local opponents upset by the committee's victory.

Since the Libertarian name became associated with the Straight Arrows through Hilberg, citizens and local politicians have been keeping a tight and seemingly fearful rein on the actions of suspected members. Voters became scared when Laconia School Board member Philip McLaughlin called Hilberg's motives in leading the Straight Arrow Committee into question, implying that Hilberg is using the committee as a front to get Libertarian ideas put into action. "I respect Hilberg as a worthy opponent. But he has failed in letting the citizens know his personal agenda," McLaughlin said in an article in *The Laconia Evening Citizen* in February. Hilberg's guest appearance at the December

LPNH meeting and frequent mention of Straight Arrow activities in *Libertarian Lines* has fueled the dispute.

Laconia City Mayor Thomas Tardif, who ran for reelection on the Straight Arrow platform, has also been put on the defensive by citizens who suspect he and Hilberg share strong political ties. Tardif claims residents of Laconia have even staked out his home to see if he holds any sort of secret meetings with political allies.

While the citizens of Laconia cower at the thought of Libertarian policies invading their city, residents of the small town of Epsom have welcomed the lower taxes that came with changes made by former Libertarian Selectman Jack Kelleher. During his two terms, Kelleher privatized the town's ambulance service, property assessors and highway department. He boasts that the town of Epsom does not own a shovel, yet the roads are in top condition. The elimination of the ambulance service saved the town approximately \$30,000, he estimates.

Kelleher complains, however, state laws don't allow towns to go far enough in solving their own tax woes. State laws stood in the way of solutions he proposed, such as charging user fees for libraries and repealing or lowering compulsory education laws. As a result, influencing legislators to change such laws is a primary goal of Kelleher's.

A key part of the party's recent success has been Winter's push to professionalize. Since coming under his leadership in October 1988, the LPNH has become one of the fastest growing and most active chapters in the nation. Party membership has tripled in the past 18 months, and although the current membership of 250 is small, its growth spurt has yet to slow down.

"I think we can become a really strong pressure group," Winter says. His goals for the party are very realistic. He does not see a Libertarian candidate being elected to major office any time soon, but he does sense the party can become a powerful force in the political process, "a special-interest-group-for-freedom kind of thing."

Although Winter's dedication and down-to-earth realism may indicate a long-time dedication to this type of business, he has only been a member of the LPNH since 1985, and only started becoming involved during the 1988 presidential race, when former Texas Congressman Ron Paul's candidacy motivated Winter. In New Hamp-

## POLITICS



Diehard Libertarians spread their ideology at the annual Tax Day Protest held on April 17.

shire, a petition of 3,000 signatures is necessary to get a third party candidate on the ballot—a project which at the time required many volunteers since there were only about 50 LPNH members. So entered Winter and his commitment to the Libertarian Party.

Easing into situations, Miriam Luce has an obvious talent for gently introducing a point of view to bystanders and cajoling them her way. At the Tax Day Protest, she seemed to capture the warmest responses from people. Though her six-foot frame makes it difficult to look non-threatening when approaching people outside of the Manchester Post Office, she glides toward them, leaning forward slightly, and asks "Would you like a million dollars to pay next year's taxes?" getting at least a warm smile and a chuckle from most people.

"The trick is to move toward them without looking like you're attacking them," she says. But now Luce is on the attack, recently announcing her bid for governor in the upcoming state elections. Her battle cry at public appearances has been "You don't have to read my mind or my lips to know that I mean NO NEW TAXES!" Party members have been working to gather 3,000 signatures from New Hampshire voters to put Luce, along with U.S. Senate candidate John Elsnau, on the ballot.

Ironically, Luce has always been a political contradiction. Raised in a family of Republicans, in college Luce found herself leaning toward

Communist beliefs. "I thought, 'wouldn't it be nice if you did everything for people,' but I realized that didn't work," Luce reflects. "When the state has that much power they don't use it the way we want them to. People do a lot better when they are personally empowered."

In her thirteenth year as a party member, she discovered the Libertarian Party when her sister became active. It was not a matter of changing her political perspective to fit the party platform, Luce says; it was more like "finding a political home." She voted for McGovern in 1972 as an antiwar vote, but has been voting Libertarian ever since. Many other members describe a similar experience of feeling politically homeless before discovering the party.

Winter classifies most Libertarians into two groups: "those who have always been Libertarians even if they didn't know a group existed for it, and those who are really mad at the government on one issue and make the conceptual leap that it isn't only that issue which the government is overstepping on." Winter and Luce both place themselves in the first category.

Luce's current political contradiction comes in her membership in both the LPNH and NOW. "The feminist agenda is very socialist," Luce says, adding while she was living in New York NOW members would turn their backs on her or become hostile when she talked about Libertarian ideas. In New Hampshire, however, things are

more relaxed. "Many women here are Republicans and can understand," she says. But despite the more open-mindedness of New Hampshire NOW members, Luce does not feel like she can wholeheartedly dedicate herself to the organization. "I'm not getting any higher in an organization that is so far away from where I want it to be."

The litmus test for the LPNH will be 1991. So far this year has been good to the party with the Burns roadshow and increased publicity.

William Zebuhr, a founding member of the LPNH and former party chairman, speculates hitting only a "low estimate" of next year's potential. "We have all the steam from Gene Burns, and then people relax and say 'that was great,'" he says, predicting strong leaders and a high amount of energy will be the key to increasing numbers and strength.

A party member since 1988 and last year's vice-chairman, Zebuhr's son, David, sees a slightly brighter picture of the party's future. "We've doubled our membership in the past two years. I wouldn't be surprised to see that continue for the next ten years," he says.

Also, the younger Zebuhr believes electing a Libertarian to the State House of Representatives is a possibility, though it may be an idealistic view. While Libertarians do hold positions such as selectman and school board member in some small towns, the concept of a Libertarian in a major office with any sort of power may continue to scare many voters. The statement, "I'm a Libertarian," is often answered with anxiety, hostility and bad jokes—Laconia being a prime example of the third party phobia many people harbor.

"People think of third parties and start shaking in their boots," Luce says. "It's hard, because [they] confuse us with Larouche." This stigma is a large obstacle indeed, the toughest one facing party members who are just trying to get a foothold within New Hampshire's steadfast political elite. Seeking politically curious individuals within an ardently traditional, two-party state is a difficult, but necessary, task if the LPNH wants to make any kind of impact. ■

**KATHLEEN HALEY  
CONCORD**