



The Liberty Pledge

APRIL 1985

NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the participants in the National Libertarian Party Pledge program. Because of your contribution, we are able to carry on the daily activities of the Party, and we want you to know what we are doing. We also want the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and let you know about others who are helping the Party as volunteers and contributors. So, first, thank you!

NEW CHAIRMAN -- Randy T. Ver Hagen, Wisconsin coordinator of the Bergland for President campaign, was appointed Chair of the Libertarian Party by the National Committee meeting in Seattle on April 20. Under LP Bylaws Ver Hagen's appointment is to complete the term vacated by the recent resignation of Paul Grant. New Party Officers will be elected at the regular business convention in Phoenix August 14-18.

Current Vice-Chair Mary Gingell and 1980 presidential candidate Ed Clark had each been encouraged to run for national Chair, but both deferred to Ver Hagen, who was attending the Seattle meeting in preparation for a possible run for a full term for Chair in August. He was nominated for the position by 1984 presidential candidate and former national Chair David Bergland.

"In some ways, it looks like I've inherited a can of worms," Ver Hagen said, "but I like to go fishing. I'm very, very optimistic about the Party's future. It's going to take lots of work and new directions." He said he "absolutely" would run for a full term in August.

Ver Hagen, who is 32 and the owner of a Milwaukee insurance agency, received 40% of the vote in a race for Waukesha County Board of Supervisors in 1982 against a 20-year incumbent, and led in one of five wards. Since joining the Libertarian Party in 1981, Ver Hagen has been secretary, media coordinator, and platform committee chair for the Wisconsin LP and chair of the Waukesha County LP. As Wisconsin coordinator during the 1984 Bergland/Lewis campaign he arranged five campaign tours and managed other campaign activities.

1987 CONVENTION -- Reno, Nevada was selected by the National Committee on April 20 as the site for the 1987 Presidential Nominating Convention following a presentation by Lyn Sapowsky of Redwood City, California. Several northern California Libertarians will be actively working with the Nevada LP on the convention, scheduled for August 1987, although it may be moved to April 1988.

Bids for the convention were also made by Libertarians from two other cities: for San Antonio, by Greg Clark and Texas Chair Roger Gary, and for Seattle, by Skip Barron, organizer of the successful Northwestern Freedom Conference which hosted the National Committee meeting. Barron said Seattle Libertarians would hold another regional conference next year and would also bid again for the next national convention.

1985 CONVENTION -- A 16-page tabloid promoting **Freedom Reborn**, the 1985 National LP Convention, has just been mailed to Libertarians by the Convention Committee. Major speakers include Larry Dodge, Karl Hess, Gene Burns, Sam Steiger, and Dick Boddie. The deadline for early registration discounts is July 4.

Committee appointments were made by the National Committee April 20 for the three convention committees.

Appointed to the Platform Committee from the large states are David Nolan of Colorado, temporary Chair, Steve Givot of Illinois, and Sharon Ayres,

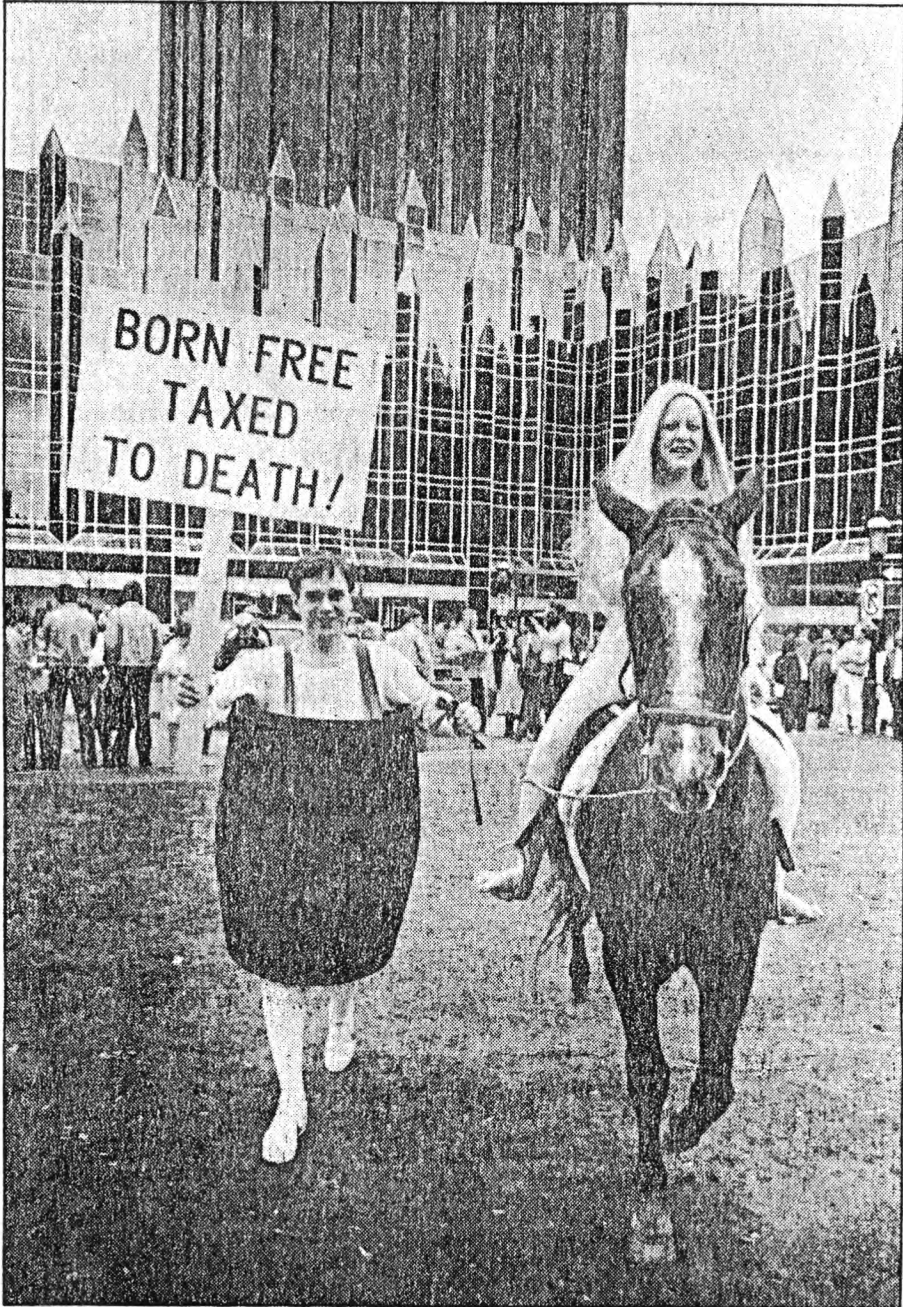
Now that's real "tax reform"

The proper name for taxation is "theft." Some people (those in government) use the power they have to take, by force or the threat of it, the earnings and property of others. Voluntary compliance it ain't. If a man with a gun regularly seized a portion of your weekly earnings and threatened to lock you up or shoot you if you resisted, that would clearly violate your rights and you would properly label it "armed robbery." If the robber told you he intended to do good things with your money, such as defending you from other robbers, or tutoring poor children, or feeding hungry refugees, you would justifiably reject these rationalizations. The institutionalized thievery of taxation has burdened the human race for centuries. Can we lighten the burden?

Let us set as our goal the total elimination of the Federal Income Tax. . . A most fundamental and important change needed is in our view of the people in government and the jobs they do. Think of government as a conglomerate of service businesses. . . Must the people providing these services be government employees? Must these services be paid for with taxes? The answer to both questions is clearly: No. . . The path to that goal (tax elimination) is through greater reliance on market-provided services in place of government and by adopting voluntary methods of raising funds to pay for services which government continues to provide.

— DAVID BERGLAND, 1984 presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party.

The Pittsburgh Press FRONT PAGE Tuesday, April 16, 1985



Bill Wade/The Pittsburgh Press

Making a point

The Libertarian Party chose an unusual, if not original, method to protest taxes yesterday. Richard E. Caligiuri wears a barrel as he leads Lady Godiva, Susan Wroblewski of Carrick, through Market Square. (See Phil Musick column, page B1)

Local News in Brief

Health Inspectors Clamp Lid on Libertarian Protest Soup

San Fernando Valley Libertarian Party members cooked up more than they had bargained for Monday when they set up a soup line in Van Nuys to protest income-tax laws that they claim finance a meddlesome government.

Los Angeles County health inspectors cited the group for dispensing food without a permit and ordered a halt to the noontime soup-serving to crowds visiting the Van Nuys Boulevard federal building for tax forms or to mail tax returns.

The action left more than 10

gallons of chicken-vegetable soup steaming on a camp stove. It left the Libertarians steaming mad. "This simply represents one more example of the omnipotent, ubiquitous state of things," said John Vernon, 45, who prepared the soup at his Van Nuys home.

Health officials said they spotted the soup from their office across the street. "It was out there in the open, susceptible to flies and people coughing into the kettles," said Frank Litick, chief sanitarian in the health department's West Valley Health Center.

Wants Albany to 'Give it Back'

Nassau Libertarians will begin their 'Give It Back' campaign on April 15. The campaign is to convince the state legislature to return their pay increases. Last December, after the elections were past, the Legislature passed by votes of 44-14 in the Senate and 113-31 in the Assembly pay increases for themselves and state officials. These "defenders of the taxpayer," Republicans and Democrats alike, gave themselves a Christmas present of 30.5% in salary, bringing them up to \$43,000. They added more "lulus" for powerful legislators and raised the pay of 70 state commissioners and 1100 judges. For information call 212-226-6483.

LEVITTOWN TRIBUNE - LEVITTOWN, N.Y. - APRIL 4



Phil Musick

PITTSBURGH PRESS - APRIL 16

LADY GODIVA — deviating from her standard roles as a singer of telegrams and stand-up comedian — rode into Market Square at high noon yesterday aboard a docile, 17-year-old oat-burner named Joplin and lent a bit of good-natured humor to the otherwise solemn occasion that marked the day.

Libertarians, lechers and lacerated taxpayers among you will, of course, recall that the original Godiva rode through the streets of Coventry, England, in the 11th century, protected from a chill only by her flowing tresses. She was protesting taxes levied by her husband, Leofric, the avaricious Earl of Mercia and Lord of Coventry.

Her modern-day counterpart, Sue Wroblewski, 27, of Carrick, a blond wig trailing to her thighs, was modestly attired, at the cops' behest. She wore a flesh-colored body stocking only tight enough to reveal a bruise.

She was accompanied by the originator of the mild protest against taxation, Richard Caligiuri, who is the mayor's first cousin even if their surnames are spelled differently. Carrying a sign that said, "Born free — taxed to death," he was cloaked in white long johns and a barrel held in place by bright red suspenders. Joplin wore his customary brown saddle.

"No nudity is allowed around, ah, Liberty Avenue," Caligiuri said, explaining the body stocking.

Any number of male wits in the crowd cried, "Take it off," but Ms. Wroblewski just smiled demurely and said a number of times to inquiries, "Noooo, I'm not married."

"I'm used to running around in odd costumes; all they'll remember is the hair," she was telling a guy while Joplin plodded around the parklet to the stony-eyed indifference of Square regulars who wouldn't have raised an eye if his rider had been nude. "Other years, the Libertarians burned tax forms and picketed the post office."

Presumably the minions of the Internal Revenue Service, busy wrenching the last farthing from the populace on the final day of national terror, were unmoved by the peaceful demonstration.

Libertarians — "there are about 30 people in the county who are real active," Caligiuri said — oppose a bunch of things, the federal government putting its collective hand in their pockets foremost among them.

"We believe in freedom," Caligiuri said as a crowd of perhaps 500, which had pressed forward eagerly upon Joplin's entrance into Market Square, seemed to disappear en masse when it became apparent Ms. Wroblewski was not a purist.

In the interest of furthering his beliefs and publicly branding the IRS as a collection of greedy bureaucrats, Caligiuri had husbanded the notion of Godiva Revisited since November. He and his colleagues spent \$600 to arrange the noontime demonstration, a small portion of which paid Ms.



Dennis McCarthy

I couldn't let the government's day for calling in all markers slip by without comment, so the promised column on Rand McNally's oversights in the San Fernando Valley will have to wait a day. The tax man taketh precedence.

That benevolent old uncle of ours changed into skinflint Scrooge again, didn't he? "Pay up, Cratchett, and why ain't that kid of yours working yet?"

Besides alimony, there isn't a more rotten check to write during the year than the one that balances the ledgers with the Internal Revenue Service.

It humbles the working class, makes their hands shake in anger, their sweat glands work overtime. By the time they get to the signature line, they start feeling like Rodney Dangerfield doing five minutes at an IRS convention.

I went out Monday looking for tax revolt on the streets — maybe a sit-in at an IRS office, or a post office under siege. I was really hoping for something big, like a mass-burning of W-2 forms on the lawn of the federal building.

And then they make you wait

But, no luck. We taxpayers are a beaten lot. Not only does the government take our money on the 15th, but it makes us wait an hour at the post office to give it up. That's like saying thanks to the guy who robs you.

I did find one mini-protest. But it was more in mock fun than anger. A group from the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Libertarian Party set up a free soup kitchen adjacent to the federal building and post office in Van Nuys.

They dished out vegetable soup to the walking wounded leaving the post office. Surprisingly, many taxpayers took them up on the free soup. There's something about a soup line that binds people together.

"If we keep paying taxes, we'll all end up on the soup line," complained Barbara Briggs, an Agoura woman who preaches the Libertarian Party line of the-less-government-the-better.

You can't get away with that

But you just knew the government was not going to let these upstarts get away with their tax protest, didn't you? Let one group have its way and pretty soon, the whole country will be crawling with soup kitchen protesters.

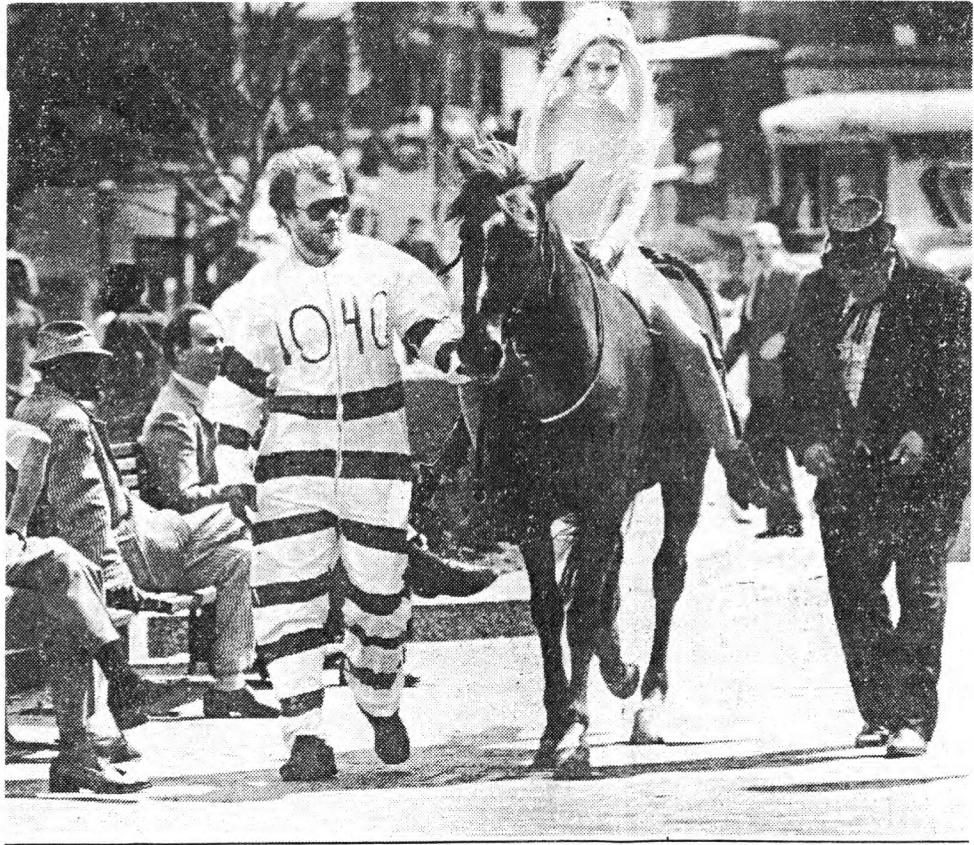
And then what? A complete breakdown of law and order? Free soup now, free government later? Wisely, bureaucrats were sent out to nip this thing.

Los Angeles County Health Department officials threatened to impound the soup unless the makeshift kitchen was closed down. It had something to do with the soup's not being prepared in an approved facility.

"How do you impound soup?" asked one of the Libertarians.

"We red-tag it," came the health department reply.

Facing that kind of logic, the Libertarians realized they were beaten, and they moved their crocks off the street. If the taxpayers want soup, let them pay for it at an approved facility.



PLAIN-DEALER, CLEVELAND, OHIO - APRIL 16 (FRONT PAGE) PD/TIMOTHY C. BARMANN

Teasy rider

THE CHRONICLE TELEGRAM (FRONT PAGE)
ELYRIA, OHIO - APRIL 16

'Lady Godiva' stops traffic in tax protest

By STEVE NOVAK
C-T Staff Writer

CLEVELAND — A few minutes before noon Monday, three Cleveland mounted policemen rode by Public Square on their horses. As usual, no one stopped to look and stare at the horses and riders.

A couple of minutes after noon, a Lady Godiva look-alike rode by Public Square, clad in a full body stocking, a blond wig and a smile.

This time, a lot of people stopped and stared. Maybe it was the absence of a police uniform that did it.

Lady Godiva was really Susan Pope, a Clevelander and a member of the Ohio Libertarian Party. The horse ride was the idea of the Libertarian Party to protest taxation on April 15, the last official day for the filing of federal income tax returns. Godiva was born in 1040, the same number as the federal tax return.

"Lady Godiva just paid her taxes and she's got nothing left," a voice on a bullhorn shouted as Godiva rode around Public Square.

A FEW of the onlookers who did not have a direct view debated whether or not Godiva was wearing a body stocking. Others crowded close enough for their own verification of her wardrobe.

"We're basically trying to have a little bit of fun," said Katie S. Smith, the spokeswoman for the Northeast Regional of the Ohio Libertarians. "Once you get the people's attention, you can give them something serious to consider."

Ms. Smith can at least claim a victory in gaining the people's attention. Every bench seat was taken on the Public Square quadrant, and automobile bumpers came within a few inches of each other in near collisions, thanks to drivers whose eyes were not on the road.

AMY MORRIS of Spencer,

Ohio, said she was in Cleveland on some other matters and decided to attend the protest when she saw the lady on the horse.

"I think it's a good idea," Ms. Morris said. "With taxes, it seems you work half for yourself and half for the government."

The Libertarians asked the crowd to shout their opposition to taxes. The loudest of the retorts came from a scream by the Spencer woman's 4-year-old daughter, Christine. Christine then said that she was not going

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Lady Godiva rides again

FROM PAGE A-1

to pay taxes when she grew up. Luckily, no IRS agents were near Christine at the time she was speaking.

About 1 p.m., as the crowd began to walk back to their downtown jobs, many of the people carried pamphlets from the Libertarians that explained the party's opposition to taxation.

MS. SMITH rated the event a success, saying that it gave more people a chance to learn about the party's position on taxes.

"The official (party) line is for the elimination or the reduction of all taxes," she said.

"There's a lot of people who don't like the idea ... of taxes. I think we had a good response."

Ralph Pierce also said the event was a success. Pierce owns VIP Carriage Co. and he rented Godiva's horse to the Libertarians.

The horse is an 8-year-old gelding named Milo, and it is a former harness race horse. Pierce said that after years of hauling harness drivers, this is Milo's first ride with a Lady Godiva. So what's next for Milo?

Next month, he is supposed to carry a woman dressed as the Statue of Liberty. The choice of her wardrobe has not yet been mentioned.

Bill Evers, and Mark Hinkle, all of California. Appointments from the small states are Larry Dodge of Montana, Murray Rothbard of Nevada, James Martin of Washington, Dale Pratt of Hawaii, and Jim Hedbor of Vermont. Ranked alternates from the large states are 1) Scott Bieser of Texas, and 2) Dick Eagleson of California. Small states alternates are 1) Llew Rockwell of Alabama, and 2) Dean Ahmad of Maryland.

Bylaws and Rules Committee appointments are Bill White, temporary Chair, David Bergland, and Richard Winger, all of California, Skip Barron and Ruth Bennett of Washington, Dale Hemming of Minnesota, Hugh Butler of Utah, David Walter of Pennsylvania, Roger Gary of Texas, and Ken Bennett of Indiana. Alternates appointed are 1) Paul Kunberger of Maryland, and Jim Turney of Virginia.

The Credentials Committee appointments are Lyn Sapowsky, temporary Chair, of California, Heide Hartmann-Davis of South Carolina, Frances Eddy of Maryland, Peggy Jeney of Arizona, and Gary Johnson of Texas. Alternates are Kate O'Brien of California, and Lee Nason of Massachusetts.

The ten largest states also will each appoint a member to the Platform Committee by no later than one month prior to the convention. Already appointed are Helen Heyden from Illinois and Henry Haller from Pennsylvania. The other eight states entitled to appoint a committee member are California, Texas, New York, Michigan, Florida, Alaska, Colorado, and Ohio. The Platform Committee is required by Convention Rules to meet at least two months prior to the convention.

The five largest states also will each appoint a member to the Credentials Committee by no later than one month prior to the convention. Already appointed is Mary Alice Strzalka from Illinois.

BUDGET CRUNCHED -- In other action at the Seattle meeting, the National Committee reacted to the income shortfall during early 1985 by scaling back budgeted expenditures by 11%, including a 22% cut in the budget for **LP News**. Editor Mike Holmes anticipates that he will be able to hold to his bi-monthly publishing schedule through the convention in August, but that the size of the issues and the number mailed will be reduced.

FREE LUNCH BUNCH -- National Finance Chair Matt Monroe has announced the formation of a new special group of Libertarian Party supporters to be called the **Torch Club**. Membership is open to anyone who contributes \$1,000 or more to the Libertarian Party in any calendar year. Sharon Ayres of California has agreed to be the director and 20 persons have already joined for 1985. Among the special benefits of membership will be an invitation to a "free lunch" at the Phoenix convention in August.

ALASKA DEREGULATION -- Libertarian State Representative Andre Marrou has succeeded in shepherding one of his bills through the state house. The bill deregulates concert promoters, one of 15 regulated professions in Alaska. It will now be automatically introduced in the state senate at the beginning of the next session.

You may find it more convenient to have your pledge automatically credited to the LP without writing a check each month. If you would like to convert to Mastercard or VISA, please fill out and return this form. We will debit your card account on approximately the 7th of each month during the term of your pledge. If you prefer to make an open-ended pledge, just leave the "until" space blank and we will keep you enrolled in the Liberty Pledge until you notify us otherwise.

Bill my Liberty Pledge of \$ _____ to my MasterCard VISA From _____ Until _____.

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____