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Liberty Pledge

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LP mayor invited to White House

Bonnie Flickinger, the Libertarian mayor of Monroe Valley, California, was invited to the White House to witness President Bill Clinton signing the Crime Bill — and had to bite her tongue not to say what she really thought about the controversial \$30 billion bill.

Flickinger was one of hundreds of mayors and police chiefs from around the country invited to the event on September 13th. “I have no idea how I got invited!” she admitted.

Because of the ceremonial nature of the event, Flickinger said she did not speak out about her disagreements with the Crime Bill. “I’m there as an official representative of Monroe Valley, so this was not a political event. I [was] biting my tongue,” she said.

But at the event, looking at all the Congressmen and Senators, she said, “I’m saying [to myself], we need Libertarians in these power positions! We need to get into the debate! We’ve got to tell them, ‘It’s not going to work!’ ”

Flickinger did express her doubts about the crime Bill to a local newspaper before leaving, saying, “I have serious doubts whether the federal government should be taking law enforcement out of the hands of local government.”

Flickinger is one of three LP mayors in California, and one of 124 Libertarians in office around the nation.

Campaign News

Michigan: U.S. Senate candidate Jon Coons won nationwide publicity when syndicated columnist Walter Williams all but endorsed him in a September 4th column. Williams wrote that Coons was “talking liberty,” and that his campaign was evidence that Americans “have a way of not [always] doing the wrong thing.”

New York: Anti-tax activist Robert Schulz has been named by the state LP to be their candidate for governor, replacing “shock jock” Howard Stern, who withdrew from the race. Schulz is the head of the All-County Taxpayer’s Association, and has filed more than three dozen lawsuits against the state to stop government wrong-doing. Because LP ballot access petitions have been challenged, he must still win a lawsuit to get on the ballot.

Moriarty blasts Janet Reno at NatCom meeting speech

Michael Moriarty, the Emmy Award-winning TV star, launched a blistering attack on Janet Reno, Bill Clinton, and the government in general in a speech to the LP National Committee in Washington, DC on August 27th.

“After swearing to uphold the Constitution, [Reno] has criminally assaulted not just the Second Amendment rights of the Koresh cult in Waco, Texas but the First Amendment rights of anyone involved in television,” he charged. “Janet Reno wants to institute a kind of cultural martial law.”

Moriarty, star of the hit NBC series *Law & Order* for four years, has been engaged in a public feud with Reno ever since the Attorney General threatened censorship if the TV violence wasn’t curbed. He was fired from *Law & Order* shortly after speaking out against Reno last year.

This incident has made him rethink all his political beliefs, said Moriarty.

“Russia throws off the yoke of communism and the whole socialist crock of [crap] begins to fall on our own backs! National Health? Socialized pension funds? State controlled television? Search and seizure laws? Forfeiture laws? If we’re not in the Soviet Union of the United States, we certainly have returned to 1776 and taxation without representation,” he said.

Moriarty displayed surprisingly libertarian sentiments on a wide range of political issues:

> **On President Clinton:** “He’s into liberal fascism . . . which is even more infuriating than fascism. Fascism says ‘I’m going to tell you what to do because I’m in power.’ Liberal fascism says, ‘I’m going to tell you what to do because I know better than you do. I’m going to save you from yourself.’ ”

> **The federal government:** “We’ve been asleep for about 50 years. Ever since the end of World War II, we’ve just steadily handed our future and our bank accounts and our children over to the federal government.”

> **The Crime Bill:** “[A] harebrained scheme about building this nation into a police state because they haven’t the sense to realize that the War on Drugs is a domestic Vietnam.”

Moriarty has appeared in the movies *Bang the Drum Slowly* and *Pale Rider*, on *Broadway in My Fair Lady*, and on television in the *Holocaust* miniseries.

Winter's plan would spend less on schools

■ Candidate's proposal would allow parents of private schoolchildren to receive a rebate on their property taxes.

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN
Telegraph Staff

Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Steve Winter says he's the only candidate with an education reform plan that would lead to spending less on public schools.

The Newbury airline pilot claims his property tax rebate plan would do more to cut local taxes than plans offered by Republican Gov. Steve Merrill, Democrat Wayne King or GOP rival Fred Bramante.

"None of these plans look at the cost of education," Winter said during a recent interview at The Telegraph. "They all look at ways on which to feed the current system."

Winter's proposal would allow parents of private schoolchildren to receive a rebate on their property taxes equal to half of the cost of schooling.

"So if the cost per pupil in that district is \$6,000, then the parent would have a \$3,000 rebate and the district would be saving \$3,000 in costs by having that student in an alternative school," Winter explained.

Winter denied claims that his plan would hurt poor parents who cannot afford to send their children to private schools with only a \$3,000 rebate.

And he strongly rejected the view that his rebate proposal would leave public schools with the "students of last resort," those with special needs or emotional problems to whom private institutions routinely deny admission.

"To say that you are going to keep the poor people in the inferior system is an indictment of our public school system," Winter said.

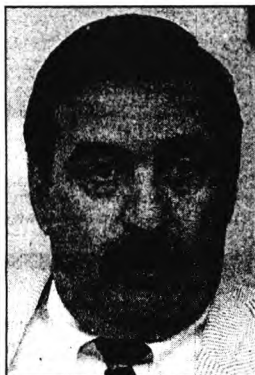
"We also think public schools would be enhanced by this form of competition with the private sector."

Winter was critical of Merrill's proposal to encourage school districts to offer public kindergarten by repealing business corporate tax credits they now enjoy.

"I think there's something wrong with our system when we have to take money out of the hands of the business community to pay for kindergarten in this state," Winter said.

Winter said he would not go so far as to support the privatization of schools but that something has to be done to expand options for parents.

"Right now, public education has a cookie-cutter system," he said. "Kids are moved ahead which



WINTER

should be held back; students who are overachievers are stunted by the pace of the learning. It's not a user-friendly system."

Winter also faulted Merrill and other GOP leaders before him by paying lip service to "choice" for parents while offering few specifics for fear of attracting the opposition of the teachers union lobby.

"I know I'm not going to get the NEA (National Education Association of New Hampshire) endorsement. I don't even care," Winter said.

"Republicans talk about choice, but they don't push any initiatives out there because it is a status quo party."

Winter's campaign is his first for public office. He faces two veteran Libertarian candidates, state Rep. Calvin Warburton, L-Raymond — a 1992 candidate — and Candia nursery owner Clarence Blevens.

On other issues:

■ **Economic development:** Winter is opposed to using tax-guaranteed loans or grants for small businesses.

"I think what the governor's job is to ensure we have an economic advantage by having a low tax climate and that this state's high quality of life is maintained," he said. "To be subsidizing economic development with our tax base, I have a problem with that."

■ **Pease Air Force Base:** Winter said the state should have sold off its interest in redevelopment of the base in Newington to the highest private bidder.

"My feeling is if we had a private interest promoting that facility, we would have that area with a lot more economic activity than it has now," he said.

■ **Illegal drugs:** Winter embraces the Libertarian Party platform, which supports ending criminal penalties for the abuse of drugs Winter said has only increased the level of violent crime in the U.S.

Some licenses have no clear benefit to anyone

Tom Cox, a Tigard computer consultant running for state labor commissioner on the Libertarian ticket, doesn't stand much of a chance against the well-heeled and experienced Democratic and Republican commissioner candidates, Mary Wendy Roberts and Jack Roberts. But he's come up with at least one idea that deserves some attention.

Cox would like to see the state get out of the licensing business, to a great degree, and let businesses and specialty professions regulate themselves in the free enterprise system. His argument is that a lot of licenses and regulations issued by the state are unnecessary and produce few real benefits for consumers or businesses.

Though some professions clearly need state oversight — we'd hate to see hair stylists, for example, nicking clients' necks left and right with no mechanism for kicking them out of the trade — the need for others to have licenses, including the shorthand reporter example Cox uses, seems fuzzy at best.

In an ideal system of government, trades thought needing licensing and regulation would have a trial period where such things were in effect. If it turned out — as with cosmetologists or pharmacists or contractors — that such regulation was useful, and helping consumers and tradespeople avoid problems, then they'd stay in place. For other professions, needless licenses and rules could be done away with after the trial period, and simple competition would allow competent practitioners to rise to the top.

Unfortunately, government rarely pulls out of the things it gets into. As a result, people like shorthand reporters are still licensed and regulated, with no clear benefit to anyone and with an administrative cost to taxpayers.

Cox may not emerge triumphant come November, but this notion of reviewing licenses and regulations and doing away with the useless ones has merit, and deserves a look from the Legislature.

JK

The opinions expressed in the above column are those of the Tidings editorial board. Members of the board are Publisher Michael O'Brien, Managing Editor Ted Taylor, and News Editor Jeff Keating. Questions? Call 482-3456.

▲ *Ashland Daily Tidings*
Ashland, Oregon
August 16, 1994

◀ *The Nashua Telegraph*
Nashua, New Hampshire
July 28, 1994

Libertarians optimistic voters will climb aboard

By PAUL NEVILLE
The Register-Guard

The Republicans have the elephant as their mascot and Democrats have their donkey. After 22 years on the ballot with little to show for their efforts, the state's Libertarian Party might consider choosing the Little Engine that Could.

"I'm very impressed with the quality of candidates that we have this year," party spokeswoman Tonia Nathan said Thursday at a sparsely attended news conference at the Eugene Hilton, where party officials introduced candidates in statewide, congressional and legislative races.

"As a party, we feel we're ripe now that the Perot movement has sparked lots of discussion within the major parties," the eternally optimistic Nathan later explained. "Now it feels like people are ready to cross over to the Libertarian Party."

Maybe. And maybe not.

Portland pollster Tim Hibbitts said he expects the Libertarians and the American Party, which achieved major party status in the 1992 election, to draw a combined total of as little as 3 percent and no more than 15 percent of the vote in this fall's election.

"I do expect them to attract more votes than in an average year," Hibbitts said. "There's still lots of frustration and anger among voters, and when that's the case more voters than usual will pull away from the major parties and go to the minor parties."



Gene Nanni
Seeks congressional seat



Tom Cox
Labor commissioner hopeful



Ron Davis
State Senate candidate



Bob Favre
Running for House seat

"They may not know who the hell (Libertarian gubernatorial candidate) Dan Vander Ploeg is, but they'll vote for him as a way of stating their dissatisfaction with the major parties," Hibbitts said.

Hibbitts said it's unclear if a third- or fourth-party gubernatorial candidate, such as Vander Ploeg or the American Party's Ed Hickam, can siphon off enough major party votes to be a spoiler in the contest between Democrat John Kitzhaber and Republican Denny Smith.

Their success rests largely in the hands of Kitzhaber and Smith, he

said. "If Kitzhaber and Smith end up cutting each other up, then you'll see voters going to Vander Ploeg or Hickam — not because voters agree with them ideologically but because they want to cast a vote of protest," Hibbitts said.

Libertarian candidates introduced at Thursday's news conference included Gene Nanni, a restaurateur running in the 3rd Congressional District; Tom Cox, a 29-year-old Portland data processing consultant who is running for state labor commissioner; Ron Davis, a 51-year-

old laboratory supervisor who is running in state Senate District 22; and Bob Favre, a retired electrical engineer who is again running in House District 39.

Vander Ploeg, a 51-year-old Portland technical editor, was unable to appear at the news conference because of a work conflict, party officials said.

Libertarians have been affording Oregonians an opportunity to cast protest votes since 1972, when the party began spreading its political gospel of greater personal liberty and less government.

Over the years, the Libertarian Party has taken a range of controversial stands that have kept it on the fringes of Oregon politics.

At various times, the party's candidates have called for legalized drugs and an end to such government programs as public education, welfare, Social Security and the U.S. Postal Service.

Nathan, who was the party's 1972 vice presidential candidate and won nearly 14 percent of the vote in a 1990 race against 4th District Congressman Peter DeFazio, a Democrat, estimated that Libertarians are

on the ballot this year in nearly 800 races nationwide.

In Oregon, Libertarians are running in 14 statewide, congressional and legislative races — the largest number in recent years.

"Our growth has been explosive and exponential," said Nanni, 44, who is also the party's state chairman.

Nanni estimated that nearly 10,000 of Oregon's 1.7 million voters are registered as Libertarians, a number that cannot be verified since state elections officials lump Libertarians in a category that includes several minor parties.

The Libertarian Party has yet to elect a candidate to any major office in Oregon. But party officials say their hopes have been buoyed by victories at the city council and school board levels in several communities — and by strong showings such as the 14.4 percent of the vote won by Mary Ann Ruggiero in her 1990 race against Democratic state Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts.

In 1992, the best showing among Libertarian candidates was the 14 percent of the vote won by Favre against Democrat Jim Edmunson in Eugene's House District 39 race. The worst showing was Shaun Savage's 2 percent in a four-way race for Secretary of State.

The last Libertarian to run for governor, a Clackamas County farmer named Fred Oerther, drew 3.3 percent of the vote in 1990.

'I expect to win'

Libertarian scoffs at odds in Senate bid

By Chris Coppola
Tribune writer

Scott Grainger doesn't hesitate when asked. "I expect to win," he boldly proclaims.

It's a quite a boast from the Mesa resident, who has qualified for the state ballot this fall as the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate.

The Libertarian Party has qualified to appear on the statewide ballot alongside Republican and Democratic candidates in the November general election. Despite ballot status, Grainger knows his is a dark-horse candidacy going up against far better-known — and better-financed — opposition.

So why commit to such an uphill climb?

"Somebody had to do it," he said. "I think the time is definitely right for an alternative. More and more people are just fed up with the overregulation from the federal government, paying higher taxes and getting less services."

Grainger, 46, has lived with his wife in Mesa for three years, previously having resided in several rural Arizona towns. He owns and operates Grainger Consulting, a Mesa company that installs commercial and residential sprinkler systems.

He admits to having only limited recent involvement with the Libertarian Party, which advocates less government regulation and interference in the lives of Americans and more free-market handling of services.

Those principles guide Grainger's basic campaign platform. Perhaps his most controversial stance is a belief that drug possession and use should be legalized — though he prefers the term "decriminalization."

"You have a situation right now that is similar to Prohibition," he said, referring to rival gang wars and violence stemming from the illicit drug trade. "If you just take it out of their hands, the price would go down and that would all stop."

Though he generally touts less government regulation, he concedes the federal government would somehow have to become involved in regu-



DANIELLE BEAUGUREAU/Tribune

Scott Grainger, owner of Grainger Consulting in Mesa, is running for U.S. Senate as a Libertarian.

lation of drug use under the change.

In other areas, Grainger believes a federal health care system that encourages tax-free medical savings accounts while doing away with the Food and Drug Administration is the way to go. He said overseeing drug development and quality should be privatized.

He also believes federal agencies such as the departments of Education and Labor should be eliminated to start stemming the bureaucracy that has grown too costly and burdensome for average Americans.

Grainger believes his message can appeal to Democrats and Republicans alike.

▲ *The Register-Guard*
Eugene, Oregon
August 19, 1994

◀ *Mesa Tribune*
Mesa, Arizona
July 25, 1994

► *The Washington Post*
Washington, DC
September 10, 1994

A Third, Libertarian Way

In one way, The Post's front-page story "Independence a Trait Voters Find Attractive" [Aug. 29] was right on target—voters are becoming increasingly disgusted with the Republican and Democratic parties.

But to focus only on the Ross Perot spin-off parties and the occasional renegade Democrat ignores the largest third-party movement in America today—the Libertarian Party. For example, The Post reported that there are "independent or third-party candidates for governor or senator in 20 states." The Libertarian Party is running 14 candidates for the Senate and 11 for governor in 1994—more than all the other third parties combined.

The Libertarian Party is also winning more votes and more elections. About 120 Libertarians serve in office around the nation, including four state representatives in New Hampshire and three mayors in California. And Libertarian candidates for state and federal offices won more than 3.7 million votes in 1992.

In addition, a recent Gallup poll of American political beliefs revealed that libertarians are the second-largest contingent of the electorate, with 22 percent of voters categorized as libertarian. That's a large constituency for future growth of the Libertarian Party—larger even than Ross Perot's base of support.

BILL WINTER
Director of Communications
Libertarian Party
Washington

Libertarians work on platform of change

Libertarian Party candidates would like to see a hands off policy in government.

Terri Higgins
Courier Times

MONTGOMERY COUNTY — A drastic reduction of taxes, more parental power in deciding where children should be sent to school and a general hands-off attitude by government in most day-to-day activities are among the priorities of the Libertarian Party.

Such was the case recently at a Montgomery County meeting of Libertarians in Worcester where candidates presented themselves to a gathering of about 30 people.

U.S. Senate candidate Don Ernsberger of Warminster said he attributes the growing attention Libertarians are receiving to the significant number of votes

and attention that independent candidate Ross Perot received in the last presidential election.

"I think a lot of people who voted for Perot were not necessarily voting for the man but for the individual choice," he said.

In the coming November election, Ernsberger said there are more than 1,000 Libertarian candidates nationwide. Of those, 100 are running for U.S. Congress and 28 are running for Pennsylvania positions, he said.

Lee Hustead of East Norriton, who is running for the 13th District congressional seat against Democratic incumbent Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky and Republican Jon Fox, lumps his opponents into one category: "Demo-

publicans."

The Constitution does not give government the authority to get involved in many of the things it is involved in concerning health, education and welfare, he said.

"Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky has admitted herself that the Social Security fund is going to be busted, totally broke," he said. "You should own your own pension plan. The same with your medical care — not some corporation, employer or the federal government."

The Libertarian candidates said that government should not be involved in a woman's decision about whether she should have an abortion. The government also should not force people who are opposed to abortion to help in federal funding, the candidates said.

Kenn Jacobine of Abington is

running for state Senate in the 12th District, including from Abington to Montgomery townships in Montgomery County and from Warminster to New Britain in Bucks County. He is running against Republican incumbent Stewart J. Greenleaf and Democrat Anthony Repici Jr.

Jacobine spoke out against government taxation, stating that in the 1950s the total tax burden on a middle-class American family was about 12 percent of income. Now, he said the tax bite is more than 30 percent of income.

Jacobine said taxes should be reduced — particularly business taxes — and tax-free enterprise zones should be established in the most economically depressed areas.

Also, certain services now provided by government, such as

liquor stores, highway repair and insurance, should be privatized, he said.

Jacobine said he also would like welfare recipients to be gradually moved off the public dole through deregulation, education and a greater reliance on private charitable organizations.

Charlie McIlvaine of Springfield, seeking the 154th District seat in the state House against Democrat incumbent Lawrence Curry and Republican Val Wilson, said he would like to ask voters if "Republicans and Democrats have done a bang-up job in your lifetime?"

He also said he would like to limit government power.

Higgins is a reporter for The Daily Intelligencer.

▲ *Bucks County Courier Times*
Levittown, Pennsylvania, August 19, 1994

▼ *The Arizona Republic*
Phoenix, Arizona, August 21, 1994

Libertarians' open primary is Sept. 13

Party setting precedent with statewide vote

By **Mary Jo Pitzl**
The Arizona Republic

Send them your Greens, your independents, your New Alliance Party devotees.

Arizona's Libertarians are making history by opening up their Sept. 13 primary election to any voter not registered with the Republican or Democratic parties.

That means that people who normally don't have the opportunity to vote in a primary election can go to the polls and vote on the ballot provided for Libertarians.

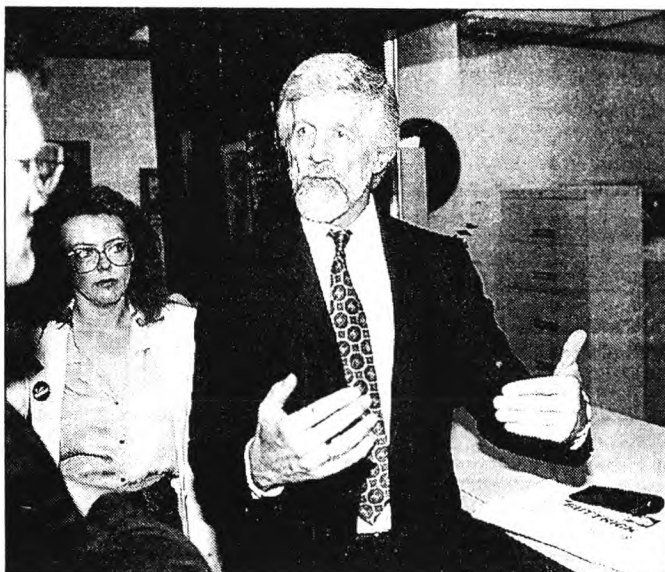
They won't have much of a choice, since none of the five Libertarian candidates on the statewide ticket is facing opposition in the primary.

But state Libertarian Party Chairman Rick Tompkins says the non-contested primary is a bogus issue.

The real message, he said, is that the 13 percent of voters who don't claim Democratic or Republican loyalties will get a chance to flex their political muscle.

And politicians should take note, Tompkins said, since independents and other third-party voters are motivated citizens who take the time to vote.

"People who register independent do so for a reason," Tompkins said. "Whereas a lot of Republicans and Democrats are that way 'because' — because that's how they started



Charles Krejcsi/The Arizona Republic

Rick Tompkins, chairman of the state Libertarian Party, says the 13 percent of voters who don't claim Democratic or Republican loyalties will get a chance to flex their political muscle next month. None of the five Libertarian candidates on the ticket is facing opposition in the statewide primary on Sept. 13.

and that's just that."

Deputy Secretary of State Margaret Stears said the Libertarians are setting a precedent by staging an open statewide primary. County elections offices are arming themselves with more ballots "should all those persons show up," she said.

Last fall, the Libertarians opened their primary during the Tucson City Council elections.

The turnout wasn't very high, said Peter Schmerl, Pima County chairman of the Libertarian Party — a fact he attributed to the difficulties of changing entrenched habits.

But Schmerl, like Tompkins, said the move to an open Libertarian primary is just one step toward the ultimate goal of throwing out the closed-primary system.

Schmerl argues that parties should be free to

choose their nominees in whatever fashion they please.

In probably the highest-profile example this year, the New York Libertarian Party picked their nominee for governor, radio shock-jock Howard Stern, in a party caucus. Stern has since dropped out of the race.

"New York is typical of most states, which allow small parties to have an alternative method (to primaries) of nominating candidates in a way that doesn't cost the taxpayers a lot of money," Schmerl said.

Tompkins said the Libertarians are before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, challenging Arizona's closed-primary system, claiming it's unconstitutional.

In the meantime, Tompkins said he hopes the open primary next month catches voters' attention.