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Liberty Pledge

➤ NEWSLETTER

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GOP wants LP out of "key" races

Republicans are starting to get nervous about increasing Libertarian Party votes totals, and are pressuring LP candidates to drop out of important races, reports Don Ernsberger, U.S. Senate candidate in Pennsylvania.

Ernsberger had a private meeting with Congressman Rick Santorum (R-PA) in Washington DC on July 13th. "Rick asked me not to run as the LP candidate for Senate this fall. I learned during our meeting that the Republican Party in Pennsylvania and nationally are very concerned about the growth of the Libertarian Party. They are afraid that we will attract enough votes away from their candidates to make the difference in November," said Ernsberger.

"I also learned that Newt Gingrich, the Republican Minority Leader in the U.S. House wants LP candidates in certain key states to drop out . . . to allow the same old two party election to occur. During our meeting, Rep. Santorum had several other major Republican Congressman stop by to talk to me about not running this year."

Ernsberger's response? "I told Rick and his Republican team that Don Ernsberger is still running . . . now harder than ever!"

LP activist continues to lobby for Penny bills

Are the Penny Bills dead? Not yet, says Libertarian activist Donald Gallick, who is spearheading a campaign to convince at least one member of Congress to re-introduce the bills next year.

Rep. Tim Penny (D-MN) won praise from Libertarians in 1993 when he introduced HR-1753, which would make it easier for third-party presidential candidates to appear in debates, and HR-1755, which would ease ballot access restrictions in many states. But the bills stalled in committee, and appeared doomed when Penny announced that he won't seek re-election next year.

"These bill will cease to exist at the beginning of next year's session," said Gallick, who encouraged all Libertarians to write their Representatives in Washington and urge them to re-introduce HR-1753 and HR-1755.

LP National Director speaks at DC gun rally

Libertarian Party National Director Perry Willis was one of the speakers at a Second Amendment rally held in Washington on August 14th that attracted gun-rights supporters from around the nation.

Standing at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial, Willis said, "Do you want to repeal all gun laws? Do you want to repeal gun registration laws? That's the Libertarian Party platform!"

Other speakers included Larry Pratt from Gun Owners of America, civil rights activist Roy Innis, and Ron Long from the Committee of 1776, which organized the rally. The speeches were broadcast on C-SPAN later that week.

Attendance at the rally was somewhat disappointing, with crowd estimates ranging from a mere 2,000 to 20,000.

Libertarians challenge unfair election laws

Libertarians around the country continue to battle unfair ballot and election laws, with action moving forward in at least three states:

> **South Carolina:** Aiken County LP Chairman Tom King is vowing to take a lawsuit over a contested Aiken City Council election all the way to the Supreme Court, after an appeal was rejected by the state Supreme Court. The suit revolves around a 1993 election where Libertarian Doug Greene lost by five votes.

> **Missouri:** The state Libertarian Party has charged that election judges were negligent in the first-ever LP primary on August 2nd. Congressional candidate Jim Higgins said, "Election officials admit some election judges were ignoring instructions to offer the Libertarian ballot" — forcing voters to make a special request. Party officers say they will request that election judges be certified for competency for future elections.

> **New Hampshire:** Party member Paula Werme filed suit on August 5th in Federal District Court to force the state to allow Libertarians to become ballot clerks. "I assumed that since our party had ballot status, we would have the right to have our own election inspectors at the election," she said. Werme said LP ballot clerks are needed because of irregularities with Libertarian vote totals in both the 1990 and 1992 elections.

Luce Says Time Has Come for NH To Get Out of the Liquor Business

By JOHN DISTASO
Union Leader Staff

CONCORD — The three state liquor commissioners and agency staffers spend too much time dealing with other state officials and lawmakers and too little time selling liquor, Commissioner Miriam Luce said yesterday.

It's no one's fault, said Luce, a Libertarian who was appointed by Gov. Steve Merrill nearly a year ago.

"Many people in the executive and legislative branches perceive it as their responsibility to the taxpayers to have substantial oversight," she said.

"I don't question that. I just say that when they do that, it is politics and not business that drives the organization.

"They're here all the time," said Luce. "It's the environment. It's their job and they do it well.

"Playing political defense is always the primary activity," Luce said.

But, Luce contended, if the agency were in private hands, agency managers and staffers would be free of political oversight, perhaps answering instead to a board of directors.

Luce first disclosed in a Union Leader interview on Wednesday that her review of operations has convinced her that New Hampshire should end its 60-year status as a "control state" and should hand the liquor industry over to private hands.

Yesterday, Luce said she does not necessarily back a conversion to a conventional setup.

"I do not see this organization being dismantled," she said.

She said she sees no reason why the entire state liquor operation, from wholesaling and warehousing to the 68 outlet stores cannot be sold to a single private entity. She said that other private entities could be encouraged later to come into the state and compete with the large entity. The state would retain all enforcement responsibilities under her plan.

Luce said privatizing jibes with her Libertarian philosophy of the less government the better. She said it's simply better business, too, and contended the state could make more money.

But Chairman Joseph Acorace said that while he respects Luce, he disagrees. "There is no doubt in my mind that there would be a significant loss of revenue," Acorace said.

He said the SLC has an operating budget of \$19.7 million in the current fiscal year and is expected to net — after those expenses — about \$45.5 million from the sale of liquor and wine, and an additional \$11 million through the administration of the beer tax.

With about 65 percent of its business from out-of-state, New Hampshire liquor is generally cheaper than in most other states because of lower overhead, Acorace said. He said the state is able to lease space for stores at bargain prices because "it's such a major attraction to an area." The state also has "no middlemen to contend with. We're the purchasers and the direct sellers."

"We don't pay taxes," said Acorace. "For

private sellers, that comes out of their profit, or they increase prices. Privatizing, there is no question that the price of the product is going to go up and the market is going to diminish."

Acorace, in his own 1991 study, presented figures showing Iowa lost revenue after gradually privatizing from 1985-1987. But Iowa's director of Alcoholic Beverages, James Kuhlman, said that by privatizing, Iowa had a one-time budget windfall of \$9 million and an annual savings of about \$8 million.

Luce said other factors led to her conclusion. First, she said, she has research by Amos Tuck School of Business students showing "control" states are no better at controlling the negative aspects of consuming alcohol — such as drunk driving — than states with private operations.

Elsewhere among state leaders, there was little support for Luce's suggestion:

- Gov. Merrill continues to oppose privatization but "put Miriam Luce on the commission to foster debate in privatization and is looking forward to seeing what she has to offer on the matter."

- State Employees Association Executive Director Denis Parker called on Luce to resign, saying, "This is extremely demoralizing" to the SLC's 300 employees, he said.

- House Regulated Revenues Committee Chairman Robert Kelley, R-Merrimack, and Vice Chairman Thomas Behrens, R-Sunapee, also voiced opposition to privatization.

▲ Manchester
Union Leader
Manchester,
New Hampshire
July 15, 1994

Lost freedom leaves sour taste

INDEPENDENCE DAY IS A GOOD time to reflect on our freedoms, which took a good deal of fighting to secure. I took the occasion this year to haul off the bookshelf a copy of Robert Ringer's "Restoring the American Dream," published by QED and distributed by Harper & Row in 1979.

Ringer's book is loaded with the kind of nuggets of wisdom you want to frame and put up on your wall — those thoughts which so clearly spell out what you, as a good conservative, know to be the truths of our time. The book is still timely, even though it predated the Reagan Revolution.

The Revolution, after all, is over the the Turncoats are back in office, *changing* things.

Ringer writes of James Madison's warning in "The Federalist Papers," "In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

I like former secretary of the treasury, William Simon's advice. "If you would not confront your neighbor and demand his money at the point of a gun to solve every new problem that may appear in your life, you should not allow the government to do it for you."

Or maybe, as we endure another election year, Lysander Spooner's words should be emblazoned on your wall: "A man is none the less a slave, because he is allowed to choose a new master once in a term of years."

Ringer, whose best-selling book was not this one but "Looking Out For No. 1," is a



George Smith
Kennebec Journal
Contributor

THE NATIVE CONSERVATIVE

Libertarian. The book I have is a surprisingly simple explanation of the concepts of Libertarian philosophy and should be read by every American who still thinks he or she lives in the "land of the free."

As a Libertarian, Ringer believes the functions of government should be very limited. In rather convincing fashion, he takes apart the functions which our present government has come to perform.

I particularly enjoyed his chapter on Government Function Number One: Redistribution of the Wealth, entitled, "The Gourmet Banquet." Ringer writes, "We've come a long way since FDR. What started out as a ham sandwich and a glass of milk has evolved into a gourmet banquet, with all 220 million of us pushing and shoving one another in an effort to stuff ourselves with as many of Sammy's 'free' delicacies as possible."

What a glorious analogy! And there are many more. Some other government functions according to Ringer are "Business Regulation" which "takes the free out of free enterprise, and "Promoting the General Welfare" in which, among other things, politicians try to impose their moral standards on others.

Libertarians base their philosophy on what they refer to as Natural Law. They believe that each man owns his own life and therefore has the right to do anything he wishes with that life, so long as he does not forcibly interfere with the life of any other man. Liberty, to those who believe as Ringer does, must be given a higher value than all other objectives.

In the gospel according to Ringer, "a free person is one who is 'not under the control or power of another . . . to the degree that one is controlled by others, he is enslaved.'" And with that as his measure, he concludes that we Americans are enslaved.

"Government by the people," says Ringer, "has come to mean government by those in power. This government can take a substantial amount of your income, can evict you from your home if you refuse to pay the real-estate taxes it establishes, can close the doors to your business if you do not do as it tells you (including handing over a large percentage of your profits), can print worthless dollars to help others compete with your hard-earned dollars for the goods and services available in the marketplace, can dictate what prices you must charge for your products and what you must pay your employees, can tell you what you can and cannot put into your own body, and can interfere with your private sexual behavior, to name but a few examples."

That has a ring to it, but not the ring of the Liberty Bell.

Ringer outlines our choice in the last paragraph of his book. Freedom or free lunch. "We either restore the American Dream, right here and now, or we most certainly will never live to experience it again."

A sobering thought for reflection on this national Independence Day.

Kennebec Journal
Augusta, Maine
July 4, 1994

Libertarians may file lawsuit over rejected candidate list

By Ed Vogel
Donrey Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — The Nevada Libertarian Party intends to sue Secretary of State Cheryl Lau for refusing to allow it to add new candidates to its list of people running for office this year.

James Burns, state Libertarian chairman, said Wednesday that Lau's election division deputy, Alfredo Alonso, incorrectly told party leaders they could run candidates who until recently had been registered members of other parties.

His party filed a list of candidates June 1 that included Gary Wood, a former Republican, as its candidate for the 1st Congressional District seat, and Rick Bell, also a former Republican, as an attorney general candidate.

On that same day, Lau issued an opinion that the Libertarians, as all other parties, must follow a law that prevents people from running if they changed their party registration since the previous Sept. 1.

The Lau order has blocked the Libertarians from putting up any candidates in the races where Wood and Bell would have run. Since a state law stipulates that minor political parties cannot change their candidate list once they have submitted it to the sec-



retary of state, the Libertarians cannot nominate replacement candidates.

"She has bushwhacked us," Burns said. "She is acting in a fundamentally unfair manner. If they told us one day sooner, we could have changed our candidates."

Alonso readily admitted he improperly advised the Libertarians that they could run candidates who had been recent members of other parties.

But he said he contacted key party members before they submitted their candidate list and told them about Lau's order.

"I take full responsibility for the mistake, but no one was bushwhacked," Alonso said. "They had the proper interpretation that morning."

The Libertarians should have changed candidates, but instead submitted the list with several unqualified people, Alonso said.

"They could have waited until the list was correct, but they choose to file anyway," he said.

Lau said no harm was done to the Libertarians and they were given adequate time to change

their candidate lists. But they made no changes.

Unlike Democrats and Republicans, who had to file their candidacies by June 7, minor parties have until Friday to submit their candidate list.

Scott Kjar, Libertarian Party secretary, said he had several discussions with Alonso and told him the party would file its candidate list at 9:30 a.m. June 1. The party planned a news conferences and other events to tout their campaigns.

Kjar recruited Bell, a radio talk show host, who had planned to run as a Republican, and he changed his registration to become the party's attorney general candidate.

Just minutes before he filed the candidate list, Kjar said he called Alonso and then was told Lau was issuing her opinion blocking Bell and others from running.

Burns hopes Lau changes her mind and allows the party to run new candidates.

If she doesn't, then the Libertarians and other minor parties will join in a suit against the secretary of state, Burns said.

Two years ago, several minor parties sued to win ballot status. A federal judge ruled in their favor, forcing the printing of new ballots.

Libertarian seeks repeal of old laws

DOVER, N.H. — Walking on the left side of crosswalks, selling margarine in square pats, and performing magic tricks without telling your town selectmen are all illegal in New Hampshire.

But if Libertarian Brad Dorsey of Hopkinton has his way, that one day will change.

Dorsey, who has been studying laws he considers antiquated, plans to lobby for their repeal.

Libertarian state Rep. Donald Gorman of Deerfield agreed, and said it's no laughing matter.

There are too many government mandates now, he said, and the Legislature only creates more. Gorman is hoping to sponsor a bill that will repeal frivolous laws.

Among the laws Dorsey found are:

- A rule that pedestrians "shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks;"

- A ban on public dancing prior to 2 p.m. on Sundays;

- Regulations governing the sale of colored margarine, including rules that restaurants must identify margarine either by labeling or by serving it in triangular pats.

Another law has made magician B. J. Hickman of Dover a lawbreaker, even though he's been pulling rabbits out of hats for nearly 20 years.

An obscure state law requires "showmen" to get a license from selectmen. The community has the power to create a licensing board which can charge up to \$300 a day for the performance.

Hickman said he's never heard of the law.

"I wonder if I can incorporate it into my act, somehow," he said. (AP)

▲ *Boston Globe*
Boston, Massachusetts
July 4, 1994

▲ *Las Vegas Journal Review* ♦ Las Vegas Nevada ♦ June 23, 1994

Libertarian Party asks court to keep TEP from agreeing to Palo Verde annexation

By Joe Burchell
The Arizona Daily Star

The Libertarian Party has asked a Superior court judge to issue a restraining order blocking Tucson Electric Power from signing city annexation petitions for the Palo Verde corridor.

In court documents filed Monday, attorney Peter Schmerl said annexation of TEP's generating station at South Palo Verde Boulevard and East Irvington Road would significantly increase the company's operating cost, through higher taxes, "without any corresponding benefit or service to the corporation."

The party, which owns one share of TEP stock, contends court action is the only way to prevent TEP shareholders from suffering financial damages as a result of annexation.

Judge Lina Rodriguez will hold a hearing on the request tomorrow.

The city expects to collect about \$3.7 million in new taxes from the proposed 3.5-square-mile Palo Verde annexation district, with about \$1 million of that coming from TEP.

The city's proposed annexation district takes in the area south of East Golf Links between Davis-Monthan Air Force Base on the east and the city

limits on the west. It extends as far south as East Nebraska Street.

The TEP generating station, with an assessed value of \$52 million, represents more than half of the district's \$101 million value.

That means if TEP signs the annexation petitions it would be enough to allow the city to take the area regardless of the wishes of the other 600 businesses and 430 residents there.

Emily Nottingham, spokeswoman for the city annexation team, said the city will be watching the suit closely, but will not get involved in a dispute between the utility and its shareholders.

Jay Gonzales, TEP spokesman, said Libertarian assertions that company officials have already agreed to sign annexation petitions are false.

"We're just talking to the city, trying to find out what the tax ramifications of annexation are and what benefits we can expect," he said.

Gonzales said the court action is premature because nothing has been done yet.

He said TEP shareholders elect the board of directors to make decisions. If the board makes a decision that results in financial damages to its shareholders, that would be the time to sue.

Arizona Daily Star
Tucson, Arizona
July 13, 1994

The Oakland Press
Pontiac,
Michigan
June 13, 1994

EDITORIAL

All Libertarian Party needs is known, respected national leader

While all eyes have been on Ross Perot's challenge of the two major political parties, a much more coherent alternative is quietly taking shape.

It's the Libertarian Party which received nearly 4 million votes in 1992, for candidates at all levels of government. U.S. Senate candidates alone received a million votes

And that has been done without a national leader of the prominence of Perot. What does the Libertarian Party stand for?

For an increasing number of people it combines the most sensible approaches of both the Democrats and Republicans.

Republicans are all for the government keeping its hands off when it comes to the business world, but they think it's the government's job to interfere in the arena of personal freedoms.

It doesn't want to regulate factories but it does want to regulate what we do with our own bodies.

Democrats usually are just the opposite. They're great ones for meddling with industry, but they'd otherwise pretty much leave us alone.

Libertarians, by contrast, would regulate neither business nor people's private lives.

And they'd go a step further than most Democrats. Drugs would be legalized. Inordinate amounts of the resources of the criminal justice system and expensive prison space no longer would be devoted a "war" that is not being won.

Libertarians do not advocate drug use, but they believe Prohibition should have taught us a lesson.

Legalization, they argue, would eliminate drug-related violent

crime, just as the distributors of alcohol no longer shoot each other to gain sales territory.

As you might expect, in the area of education Libertarians believe in the effectiveness of competition, such as schools of choice. They'd use tax credits to make true choice affordable for the poor.

Somewhat like Perot, the Libertarian Party sees government corruption, or special privilege, as a major issue, especially at the federal level. They would, for example, make Congress comply with the laws it imposes on others and put an end to the various benefits available only to members.

They don't deny there is a problem in the way we provide health care, but believe the answer is less government involvement, not more.

Among other things, they would allow nurses, pharmacists, midwives and others do things only physicians are licensed to do now.

They would eliminate state-mandated insurance benefits which also increase costs, and would improve access to insurance by such things as community rating and portability of coverage from job to job.

The Libertarian approach is for the government to establish the rules of whatever game is being played, and then get out of the way.

They would not have government impose the values of a majority in Congress on an entire nation.

The suspicion is that all Libertarians need to gain major party status is a well-known and respected leader to spread the word.

NEIL MUNRO

GOOD MORNING

Looks like school administrators ought to get an F in filling out forms.

N.M.

LEAKY LOGIC

BY GREG LAND

It was a political act. They just wanted to be the first to step up and urinate," said attorney Harvey Harkness, representing three Libertarian candidates in Federal Court last Friday. The objects of Harkness' scorn were Georgia legislators and a state law requiring all candidates for constitutional office to pass a urine test.

Every election year, as candidates for the General Assembly, governor, lieutenant governor and other statewide offices solicit contributions, a 1990 law forces them to make a donation of their own — a jar of urine, to be provided and tested no more than 30 days prior to qualifying.

"While Governor Miller may have no objection to being tested like a farm animal," said Walker Chandler, a candidate for lieutenant governor. "I do."

Chandler joins Sharon Harris, Libertarian candidate for agriculture commissioner, and James Walker, running for the House 85th District seat, in challenging the law, which was passed amid great hoopla as lawmakers claimed they were proud to prove themselves drug-free.

"I'm not worried about them using drugs," said Harris. "These tests don't tell us what we really need to know about our government officials: Can they pass a moral test? An ethical test? An intelligence test? Can they even pass a polygraph test? Somebody has to stand up and say, 'This has gone far enough!'"

Harkness said he had been unable to find any similar law in other states. Asserting that the current test is both intrusive and easy to manipulate, attorney Harkness told Judge Orinda Evans that the sampling, as administered, means little when measuring a candidate's likelihood of drug use.

"There is no requirement that the sampling be observed," he said, "or even that anyone be close enough to hear the act... The state will argue that that somehow makes it less intrusive, but it actually goes against the public interest."

Citing numerous cases in which testing of individuals not in the "front line" of law enforcement have been overturned, Harkness said that generalized arguments calling for testing to bolster integrity and confidence in a work force have been "uniformly found to be inadequate" to support such programs.

In response, Deputy State Attorney Michael Hobbs asserted that the tests were not so intrusive as to run counter to constitutional safeguards, and that candidates for public office should be held to a higher standard. He also noted that opinion polls showed that faith in public officials is at an all-time low. Harkness' response that drug tests are unlikely to change that perception drew a smile from the judge.

Noting that qualification for the Libertarian candidates must be completed by June 25, Judge Evans said that she would read over some of the cases cited by the attorneys and return an opinion early this week.

Afterward, state attorney Hobbs said that the apparent laxity of the testing process was less a problem than Harkness made it appear.

"There are other precautions," he said. "I've talked to some of the labs, and they use other techniques — coloring the water, checking the temperature — to make sure."

During the hearing, Harkness has also noted that if the General Assembly was really serious about ensuring drug-free lawmakers, they'd adopt a random-testing program. Asked whether such measures might be likely, Hobbs smiled.

"I wouldn't want to ask the Legislature to do that."

▼ Woodridge News
Woodridge,
Illinois
July 7, 1994

Poll says officials do a rotten job

by Tim Frystak

A recent poll of residents streaming through last month's Downers Grove Heritage Festival revealed most residents are disenchanted with the way government operates.

According to the results of a poll conducted by the Libertarian Party of Illinois between June 24 and June 26, more than 82 percent of those polled said government seldom or never does a good job.

After being given a penny by party members, festival-goers were asked the question, "How often does the government do a good job?" Of the 892 people who responded, 406 (45.5 percent) replied "never" and 326 (36.6 percent) replied "seldom/once in a while." Ninety people (10.1 percent) replied "half of the time" and 41 people (4.6 percent) replied "most of the time." Only 29 people (3.3 percent) thought government "always" does a good job.

"I'm not all that surprised," said Ralph Miron, a Libertarian Party member and Libertarian congressional chairman of the 6th District in Illinois.

Although he described many people in today's society as "hypocritical" — they say they don't like politicians but elect the same politicians into office over and over — Miron claimed that change may soon be on the horizon.

According to the results of a more detailed survey

taken by 38 people at the festival, 23 came out as "libertarians" and nine came out as "centralists," or middle-of-the-road. Only two scored as "liberals" and three as "conservatives." One person scored as "authoritarian," a political party diametrically opposed to libertarians, said Miron.

As a result, Miron said the nation is really made up of libertarians, centrists and authoritarians, and not liberals and conservatives.

"The typical libertarian ... is socially tolerant. A lot of people say we're anarchists. We're not. We're for the government that the Founding Fathers set up ...

(The nation) was set up as a republic, not as a democracy. We're for individual rights, not for group of special rights," he said.

Miron claimed the Libertarian Party, founded in 1971 in Colorado by a group of conservative Republicans, is slowly gaining ground throughout the country. He said there are three Libertarians elected to local offices in Illinois, three representatives in New Hampshire and Libertarian mayors in California and Alabama.

This is the second year the Libertarian Party of Illinois has kept tabs on survey results at Heritage Festival. The party also conducts a poll at DuPage County fairs and plans on conducting polls at other festivals in the county.

Creative Loafing
Atlanta, Georgia
June 25, 1994