



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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National Committee Sets '91 Budget At White Plains Meeting this Month

The Libertarian National Committee met earlier this month in White Plains, NY, to set the party's 1991 budget and address other business.

The LNC also reviewed and discussed the LP's performance in last month's elections, expressing great optimism and enthusiasm. In addition to producing several winners, the elections gave Libertarian candidates more than double the number of votes they received in the 1988 elections (even with more candidates running in

1988), and vote percentage increases were even more impressive.

The LNC approved a budget based on restraint and hopes to increase budgeted amounts at its April meeting in Atlanta if first quarter fundraising results are not adversely affected by economic recession and other factors of concern.

The LNC also approved the first increase in membership dues in a number of years, from \$15 to \$25 annually for basic membership. Proponents of the change noted that the increase was justified by recent increases in LP membership services, such as making *Libertarian Party News* monthly rather than bimonthly. Other membership categories and dues were also changed. Of note for Liberty Pledgers, pledgers will no longer automatically have their memberships renewed, but will renew their memberships the same as other members, as of February 1st.

In other business, the National Committee chose Salt Lake City as the site of its 1993 National Convention.

The committee also received several pledges from the Andre Marrou, candidate for the LP presidential nomination, regarding his intention to seek federal matching funds which will be used solely for television advertising, to give the LP equal rights to his campaign mailing list at the conclusion of his campaign, and to open his campaign's books to an LP auditor throughout the campaign period.

Offer of Bounty for Clippings Brings News from All Over

Many thanks for all the wonderful clippings sent by activists from around the country. The quality (and timeliness) of clippings sent by activists is so much higher than those we received from the clipping service. We did receive many more than we could use, and it looks like the competition is going to be tough. But **please keep them coming!** We would love to have LP activity in every state represented in the clipping pages. Remember, originals or good copies (no FAXs, please), and include the date, paper, and city with your clipping. Send to the LP Headquarters, Attention: Liberty Pledge Newsletter.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Tucson Citizen
November 19, 1990

Win gives Libertarians some respect

By JOSEPH GARCIA
Citizen Staff Writer

Until the Nov. 6 general election, the Libertarian Party had a credibility problem — and it wasn't from George Bush-type "read my lips" statements. The Rodney Dangerfield of political parties simply got no respect because no Libertarian candidate had ever been elected in Pima County. That is, until last election.

In a non-partisan race for the Marana Unified School District board, 21-year-old Eric Ewing made history and broke the Libertarian winless streak. "If nothing else, it's a psychological victory," said Peter Schmerl, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Pima County. "Eric's election gives us much-needed credibility."

Ewing said he made no effort to conceal his membership to a party that believes less government is the best government.

"While campaigning, half the people asked what I was registered as," said Ewing, who runs Ewing Janitorial-Cleaning Service. "Some said it's OK (to be Libertarian) as long as you're not a Republican or a Democrat. I had no negative response."

Ewing, who unseated one incumbent and collected more votes than the other who was re-elected, said his campaign platform was "very Libertarian."

He supports more parental and less governmental involvement in education and favors open enrollment and a voucher system. He opposed the ACE initiative, the failed proposition that called for an additional \$100 per pupil per year.

Schmerl said, "The fact it was a non-partisan race is significant because it means people liked what he said without being prejudiced about a party they may be unfamiliar with."

The national party was founded in 1951, and Schmerl said the party has been active in Pima County since the 1970s.

Ewing registered as a Libertarian just last August, but notes, "I've probably known and held the philosophy for about two years."

"I like what I see in the Libertarian Party," he said. "They say what they mean and stand behind it. That's what I plan to do on the board. I don't see that type of honesty and sincerity in the other two parties. I'd say the Libertarian Party probably is my party of choice."



Ewing

VICTORY, continued/4E

Victory gives Libertarians respect

Continued from 1B

for life, unless something happens and they start getting dishonest, too."

Ewing said he ran not with the intention of becoming the first Libertarian elected locally, but to change the Marana school district.

One of his stepsons transferred to the district with straight As but his new teacher was "very cold, very unimpressed and very unwelcoming."

His other stepson was placed in a learning-disabled class for reading, which Ewing said amounted to little more than being placed in a library unsupervised, Ewing said.

In an Iowa testing exam, the child later scored a grade above his class in reading. "I don't know if they wanted extra money from the state or what," Ewing said.

Through an exchange program, both children now attend the Amphitheater School District, but they may be brought back if the Marana district improves, Ewing said.

"I think the Libertarian Party needs to start at the bottom and work its way up, instead of running for president and Senate," Ewing said. "Otherwise, people see it as 'third-party propaganda garbage.' This way, if people don't like what I'm doing, they can throw me out. It's a proving ground."

Schmerl said having a Libertarian hold elected office can only help his party, which has about 980 registered members, an 8.9 percent decrease since 1988.

"A lot of Libertarians say, 'Hey, what's the use? We can't elect anybody anyway,'" Schmerl said. "We've suffered from serious burnout, and that just comes from years and years of burning our wheels."

"With this election, it's a shot in the arm. In the total scheme of things, Eric may not have a huge policy impact. But more than that, it's a psychological lift that we can actually elect somebody."

Schmerl said he hopes for the same in the upcoming City Council races. The party hopes to run four candidates — one for mayor and three for the council.

The Enterprise Saturday, Nov. 24, 1990

Libertarian on council: Part of a trend?

Sandi Webb's election may indicate fringe party's desire for experience in local government

By Carol Tucker
The Enterprise Staff

Libertarian Sandi Webb's election to the Simi Valley City Council could be part of a trend toward more candidates from the so-called independent party running for local offices.

Webb's election has given rise to questions of what Libertarians stand for and whether her affiliation will affect her decisions on the council.

Party officials say that if the Libertarians have their way, government control would be

minimized and personal freedom increased. As such:

- There would be more police to protect people from violent crimes such as murder and robbery, but victimless crimes such as drugs and prostitution would be legal.
- There would be no taxes eating up the weekly paycheck, but people would depend on private industry for social services.
- There would be no regulations protecting the environment, but it would be up to consumers to boycott companies

abusing natural resources, and up to property owners to protect their land from pollution.

While it sounds radical, party officials assert they are not anarchists and believe in gradual changes.

"In essence, we believe government has some legitimate functions," said Lawrence Goldberg, a spokesman for the Libertarian Party's Hollywood region. "National defense, internal security. Most Libertarians are gradualists; they believe it takes time to make changes."

SPECIAL REPORT

Daniel Wiener, Webb's husband through a contract marriage, said Thomas Jefferson best summed up the Libertarian philosophy: "He said the government that governs best, governs least — and that would be what Libertarians believe."

Party officials say a tide of dissatisfaction with existing

state and federal government has paved the way for more Libertarians to make inroads in the country's political system.

In the November election, Libertarian candidates won 5 percent of the average statewide vote, and the results on propositions ran almost exactly according to the party's recommendations, Goldberg said.

"People are very upset with government and the two-party system. They are upset at the way government is exploiting (Please see WEBB, Page 10)



ELECTED: Libertarian Sandi Webb has won a council seat.

Webb

(Cont. from Page 1)

our freedom," said Goldberg, who hosts a public access TV show called "Freedom Forum."

He added: "We're realizing that experience in government is important and local areas are sometimes the best places to get that."

Wiener agreed that Libertarians stand a better chance of winning local races because of the way the state Senatorial and Assembly districts are gerrymandered in California.

"It's very hard to win against an entrenched incumbent," said Wiener, a former chairman of the California Libertarian Party who ran against Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley; former congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler, from the same district, and Assemblywoman Cathie Wright, R-Simi Valley.

As a city councilwoman, Webb said her affiliation will not have a bearing on her council decisions.

But the underlying Libertarian philosophy will no doubt leave its footprint on those decisions.

Indeed, her main campaign themes of beefing up police and cutting government red tape run true to the Libertarian ideology.

"I would say that when things come up for vote that add more levels of government I would vote against them," Webb said. Most issues relating to Libertarians —

including radical ones such as legalizing drugs and prostitution — fall in the state and federal realm.

"Gosh no," Webb said, when asked if she would advocate such positions. "We have to also work within the parameters of the powers of that office and that's not within the spirit."

"I think she is going to work toward trying to have a frugal government," Wiener said, but added: "This is a non-partisan position, and it's important to treat it that way. I can't predict what her reaction will be, but in general, it will be the reaction of somebody who wants to mostly remove any obstacles the city might be putting in the way of people — to get rid of the red tape."

Began in 1972 in the Colorado living room of David and Sue Nolan, Libertarians say their movement has its roots in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They believe both documents should be honored without compromise. The Constitution espouses the rights of all people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Bill of Rights strictly limits federal government power.

In today's society, the Libertarian ideology can be thought of as aligned with the Democratic views on civil liberties and Republican Party notions about free enterprise and reducing taxes.

Cutting taxes is the issue Libertarians feel strongest about.

"Libertarians feel the money people make belongs to them. Government feels if they let people keep some money, they are actually being generous," Wiener said. "Libertarians oppose any tax increase and want to see it reduced as much as possible."

Libertarians propose balancing the budget by cutting spending.

"People could keep their money and spend it themselves on social programs. We think private charities should do a lot," Wiener said. "People are very generous if you don't take their money away."

Social Security would be wiped out under the Libertarian system and be replaced by private retirement funds. "An individual could develop his own retirement plan," Goldberg said. Practically speaking, there could be a need for a forced retirement plan if individuals refused to pay for their own retirement and ended up as welfare cases, he acknowledged.

He contended that private industry can do nearly everything as well or better than government.

To encourage businesses to fulfill roles that government fills,

Goldberg said people would politic with their pocketbooks. For instance, they could refuse to patronize businesses that pollute and fail to hire minorities or provide child care or other programs.

For example, consumers forced tuna companies to change nets for the sake of dolphins who'd been getting caught and drowning in them. The consumers did this by refusing to buy those products.

On crime, Libertarians believe strongly in law enforcement to protect the rights of victims. But they also contend victimless crimes should be legal.

Although studies have shown drug problems are linked to violent crimes, Libertarians contend that if drugs were legal, there would be less need for drug users to commit crimes for money, because the drug prices would drop.

"It opens the door for people to be responsible for themselves, and gets government out of the whole system. It turns drugs from a criminal problem into a health problem," Goldberg said.

The Atlanta Journal

October 29, 1990

Peter Kent

Vote Libertarian? This election, it's worth considering

Republicans and Democrats, the political parties no longer have clear identities. For all the talk of who represents the American public, both parties always wind up increasing taxes and expanding government.

Isn't there a political party that wants to decrease taxes and shrink government?

Yes, there is. The Libertarian Party, and it's worth a look and a listen.

I am not a card-carrying Libertarian, but my disillusionment with the mainstream political process has made me more open to Libertarian ideas. Libertarians are not the anarchist whackos I thought them to be. If anything, they are fools — optimists who believe that Americans are intelligent and energetic enough to make individual choices without needing government's

fat and pushy helping hand.

During the course of this election season I have met Libertarian candidates. Two have impressed me. Carole Ann Rand is running for governor. Elizabeth C. Goldin is campaigning for the Public Service Commission.

Viewers of the televised gubernatorial debate, sponsored by this newspaper, next Sunday evening, Nov. 4, will have a chance to hear Ms. Rand describe her party's platform.

Don't dismiss her out of hand. You may be surprised by how much you agree with her about tax reduction, government waste and spending, privatizing public services, school choice, prison sentences and bureaucratic regulation. And you may be provoked a little, too. The Libertarian Party's desire to decriminalize drugs is patently unacceptable.

Too bad Elizabeth Goldin won't have the same opportunity to air her views. Public Service Commission elections lack mass appeal. That's a shame, since the commission



oversees utility rate cases involving millions of dollars that eventually show up as increased natural gas, electricity and telephone charges. Ms. Goldin seeks to increase competition among utility-service providers, which would allow consumers greater choice and bring rates down.

Ms. Goldin is a crackpot candidate. She's an assistant professor of business management at Morehouse College. Having run for the PSC in 1988 (getting 64,000 votes), she is well versed on utility issues. Her Democratic Party opponent, Bob Durden, believes that knowing how the PSC operates is a disadvantage in representing consumers. "Ability is simply not an issue," says Mr. Durden.

And he's right if voters refuse to consider Libertarians as credible candidates.

Should you vote for Libertarians Rand and Goldin? It's not my decision to make. The choice is yours; you live with the consequences of it. That's the Libertarian way.

Area protesters bring brooms

Rally against wasteful use of tax money

By Steve Ray Linam
Bulletin Staff Writer

ONTARIO — The Inland Valley's residents have witnessed picket lines and political folderol, but a broom-besieged building turned some heads Saturday morning.

The broom-brandishing troops had more in mind than sweeping sidewalks in front of the Ontario Airport Center on Vineyard Avenue. Instead, the demonstrators showed up at 8 a.m. to put their brooms to work against politicians and what they consider wasteful use of taxpayers' money.

The Ontario rally was tied to a nationwide network of demonstrations held Saturday as part of "Taxpayer's Action Day." Protests, ranging from the West Coast to Portland, Maine, were staged to revolt against high taxes, wasteful government spending and political office-holders.

"Taxpayer's Action Day, engineered by the Washington D.C.-based Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, debuted at a time when national polls are forecasting a voter rebellion on Nov. 6."

"I would like to be optimistic and say there will be some changes in Washington and the State House in Sacramento for some newcomers if people vote the way they feel," said Edward Moss, who helped orchestrate the Ontario rally.

Already, politicians have felt the sting of a grass-roots revolt. Oklahoma voters recently slapped term limitations on officeholders. California and Colorado will decide similar measures on election day.

Also, polls are tracking voter unrest particularly as Congress wrestles with taxes as part of a federal budget compromise in the waning days before the election.

On Saturday, the Ontario demonstrators further spelled out that sentiment when they posted a taxpayers' manifesto on the office of Rep. George E. Brown Jr., a 26-year veteran of Congress. The declaration pronounced it is the taxpayer's duty to "turn the rascals out."

Brown, D-36th District, is seeking re-election against Republican challenger Robert Hammock, a San Bernardino County supervisor.



Rick Storza Daily Bulletin
Gail Lightfoot, state Libertarian Party chairwoman and 33rd Congressional District candidate, protests high taxes and government spending Saturday along Vineyard Avenue in front of the Ontario Airport Center.

The Taxpayer's Declaration of Independence was making the rounds elsewhere. See PROTEST/ Page 2

Protest/ from A1

where in Southern California.

Riverside was the site of two rallies. Brown's downtown office was on the receiving end of another manifesto at the hands of the Christian Taxpayer's Coalition.

In Barstow, angry taxpayers had planned to tack a notice of revolt at the office of Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-35th District.

Lewis is seeking re-election against Democratic candidate Barry Norton and Libertarian Party representative Jerry Johnson.

The Ontario rally attracted only about seven protesters. But the group expected a stronger show of force at a Los Angeles demonstration held later that day.

Kevin McLaughlin, a Rancho Cucamonga plumber, was unable to make the Los Angeles anti-tax parade, but was eager to grab a broom at the Ontario Rally.

"I'm making good money. But an awful lot of it goes to taxes. I wouldn't mind paying 30 or 35 percent in taxes if the government was being a good steward of its money," he said.

McLaughlin also was curious about how much money U.S. congressmen received in their last 39-percent pay hike.

He did not begrudge the salary hike, but noted it was a "big chunk of change."

The congressional pay raise remains a sore spot for one Pomona resident who joined the anti-tax chorus Saturday.

Gail Lightfoot, chairwoman of the state Libertarian Party and third-party candidate in the 33rd Congressional race, insists lawmakers should earn a salary based on the average employee's paycheck.

"They should not earn any more money than the average employee earns," Lightfoot said. Lightfoot labels the pay raise as another example of what she considers excess government spending.

In order to battle the federal deficit, Lightfoot walks the Libertarian line by stumping for less taxes and spending, the sale of unused government property and gradual cutbacks in federal programs.

Also, Lightfoot is a supporter of Proposition 140, one of two California initiatives that would place term limitations on elected officials.

The Libertarian Party is specifically supportive of the referendum's accord that would cut pensions for legislators.

"That's one of the things we

feel strongly about," she said. She opposes Proposition 131, a rival measure, on the grounds it allows public financing of campaigns.

The bankrolling of political campaigns is theft of public funds, she argued.

Some of the Ontario protesters were uncertain whether election day will produce a polling-booth backlash against office-seekers and taxes.

However, Moss remains confident.

"It will send a message to Congress that we are fed up with all this," said Moss as he jabbed the air with his broom.

BILL SHIPP

Georgia politics may change in 1994



This year's victorious Democratic and Republican candidates for public office may wish to give thanks on this holiday that they were able to run in 1990, and not 1994. In four years, Georgia's electoral process may be turned topsy turvy, says Secretary of State Max Cleland who oversees

Georgia's elections.

Looking into the crystal ball, Cleland, a Democrat and likely candidate for governor one of these days, foresees a ballot-box revolution in the statewide elections of 1994.

After the votes are counted in that distant contest, the Libertarian Party's tiny percentage could decide the balance of power.

"Turn back the clock to just 48 hours before the election this year. Suppose the Libertarian candidate for governor, Carole Ann Rand, had won the court's permission to appear in the final debate on public television with Johnny Isakson and Zell Miller," says Cleland. "Instead of getting 2.2 percent, suppose she had used that TV exposure to win 5 or 6 percent. She could have deprived either other candidate of a majority. The governor's election would have gone into a runoff."

More than 200,000 new voters will be registered in Georgia by 1994, if present trends continue, Cleland predicts. Most of those voters will live in the Atlanta TV market, which already accounts for 70 percent of the electorate in the state. Most of those new voters may be Republicans.

That means Republican Johnny Isakson's base vote of 44 percent this year could increase to, say, 47 or 48 percent, if the Republicans offer another quality candidate.

The black-bloc vote already is slipping away from the Democrats in other Southern states. In Alabama, black voters gave Republican Gov. Guy Hunt the winning edge against Democratic challenger Paul Hubbard. The same defection from the Democrats will certainly occur in Georgia.

In the next four years, the difference in the base vote of the two major parties may be separated by no more than 2 or 3 percentage points.

Meanwhile, the Libertarians, who already have won the right to appear on the Georgia ballot, may not wait next time until the 11th hour to appeal to the courts to force public TV to include them in debates. The courts are likely to order their appearance, giving the Libertarians a statewide forum and higher percentage of votes, says Cleland.

Besides, third party candidates are suddenly attractive to many voters. In this year's elections, two third-party candidates - Walter Hicckel in Alaska and Lowell P. Weicker Jr. in Connecticut - were elected governors, and another independent, Bernard Sanders, was elected to the U.S. House from Vermont.

A trend toward a more favorable attitude regarding independent candidates may be

In four years, Georgia's electoral process may be turned topsy turvy

in the works nationwide.

In Georgia in '94, the Libertarian's presence, the GOP's growing strength and the Democrats' crumbling coalition could deprive any gubernatorial candidate of the 50-percent-plus-one required to win an election.

Under present law, that would force a runoff election to decide the victor. (In 1968, no candidate for governor received a majority. The election contest between Republican Bo Callaway and Democrat Lester Maddox was thrown into the Georgia Legislature. Maddox emerged as the easy winner. The law was later changed to require a general election runoff.)

Of course, by 1994, state law may be changed again to allow a plurality instead of a majority winner. That also would alter the face of Georgia elections with more narrow-gauged, single-issue candidates offering for office.

In any event, Cleland echoes the words of retired state Attorney General Arthur Bolton who declared upon seeing Maddox become governor: "My experience with Georgia government tells me that if something strange can happen, it will happen."

Sen. Wyche Fowler may face a hard choice in the choosing of a Democratic ticket to take on President Bush in 1992, if both Sens. Sam Nunn and George Mitchell enter the presidential primaries.

Senate Majority Leader Mitchell of Maine is mentioned increasingly as the Democrats' best qualified presidential candidate in the coming election. Fowler is Mitchell's protégé. Mitchell elevated him, in his freshman term in the Senate, to the post of assistant majority leader. He also appointed Fowler to the Budget Summit.

On the other hand, Sen. Nunn, another presidential possibility, was one of the few establishment Georgia Democrats to step forward and help underdog Fowler defeat Republican Mack Mattingly in 1986.

Fowler, of course, will have his own reelection contest to worry about 1992. But Republicans named so far as his potential rivals do not appear formidable.

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COLUMN RIGHT/
WILLIAMSON M. EVERS

Polish Voters Buy Free Market Ideas

■ Tyminski tells them he'll show them how to succeed in business.

"Key to Tyminski's success was his campaign style, his business background and his best-selling book."

Stanislaw Tyminski offered the Polish people his program: immediate change-over to a capitalist economy and, as a consequence, business prosperity. Lech Walesa's campaign manager, Jacek Merkel, attacked Tyminski's program as a delusive "dream." Walesa scorned him as a "millionaire sent to us from God knows where." But Tyminski came in second in this week's presidential balloting, ahead of sitting Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and forced Walesa into a surprise runoff.

A person of "immense integrity" is how Roma Kelembet, president of the Libertarian Party of Canada, describes Tyminski, who is the party's political spokesman. Granted, Tyminski has made gaffes and blunders, and has sometimes shown poor judgment that might have knocked an American presidential contender out of the race. It is difficult to see why a person like Tyminski, who holds libertarian principles, is unwilling to condemn the martial law regime of the 1980s. Nonetheless, he appealed to voters as an outsider who knows how capitalism works. In September, he returned to Poland after 20 years as an emigré to promote his book, "Sacred Dogs," about the barriers to Polish prosperity and on how to succeed in business. Tyminski told Kelembet the night before he left for Poland, "If I can change 100 Polish minds to 'think free,' it will have been worth it."

Key to Tyminski's success was his campaign style, his business background and his best-selling book. He ran a "Western-style" political campaign. Viewers preferred his television programs. Small-business owners liked his call for lower taxes. His impoverished countrymen, especially in rural areas, admired experience as an entrepreneur in Canada and Peru.

This background contrasted sharply with the Solidarity labor union background of his two principal opponents and their similar economic programs of austerity and sacrifice. Tyminski capitalized on this sim-

ilarity with the slogan, "Neither one nor the other. Vote Tyminski."

In mid-October Tyminski was telling the voters of Poland that he had returned to his homeland to help create a "system of common sense"—a system that would provide a "prosperous future" for the children of Poland's citizens.

Tyminski's message was straightforward and hard-hitting; the Polish people have to pay their own way in the world. There is no more "free lunch."

Tyminski told the electorate about foreign trade and the centrality of exports in future Polish prosperity. He talked about changes that needed to be made in Polish agricultural and monetary policy. He stressed the importance of a middle-class in the capitalist society that should be built in Poland. He condemned the technocratic prescriptions of Harvard economist Jeffrey Sachs, whose suggestions have influenced Polish government policy and who approves of its current economic course.

Tyminski said that the bureaucrats must learn new ways and take on productive jobs. Too many Poles, he said, don't think for themselves but are accustomed to having others think for them.

In his book, Tyminski says that a successful Poland has to think of itself as a kind of guerrilla fighter. Poles should be alert, flexible, take the initiative and better utilize the strength and resources they already have.

Tyminski promised a government that would "free the forces and energy" that he says must be harnessed if Poland is to lift itself out of the economic abyss.

Tyminski argued that if socialist policies continued to bleed the country dry and socialist attitudes continued to block productivity, foreign investors would buy up the country's assets and treat Poles as merely a pool of cheap labor. The press reported this warning and prediction incorrectly. It portrayed Tyminski as opposed to foreign investment. He was in fact warning Poles that a future of "Third World-style" poverty awaited them if they did not pull up their bootstraps and develop a market-oriented business mentality.

Polish voters saw a man who left his native country because he saw no economic future for himself under communism. He is now a self-made millionaire who wants to put them on the path to becoming successful capitalists. In public-opinion polls, 56% of the Poles surveyed would trust their money to Tyminski to invest rather than the other candidates. The voters heard Tyminski smeared by his opponents as a certified lunatic, a drug smuggler and a agent of Moammar Kadafi or the KGB. But many of them voted for him anyway, convinced that, of the candidates, Tyminski alone knows how a market economy works and how to succeed in a competitive world.

A third choice for voters

One of the winners in Tuesday's elections was the state Libertarian Party. Its candidate for governor, Miriam Luce, got 14,000 votes, despite being all but ignored by the news media and debate sponsors.

Her 5 percent of the vote is 2 percent more than enough under state law to ensure that all Libertarian candidates, including those for the Legislature and for Congress, can appear on the next election ballot.

That is a significant achievement. In the past, the party has had to spend time and energy collecting petition signatures to get its candidates listed.

If there were ever a year for a Libertarian protest vote, this was it. And it appears that Luce, a 41-year-old marketing consultant from Windham, was able to tap the reservoir of voter frustration. She says her minimalist view of government attracted both pro-choice Republicans, turned off by Gov. Gregg's veto of abortion legislation, and "Preston Democrats" - anti-tax Democrats who sided with Senate President Robert Preston in the primary.

It is not certain that the Libertarians' against-the-grain views would attract more than a single-digit portion of the vote, even with more exposure. At this point, most people aren't ready to legalize drugs, remove all limits on gun ownership and begin dismantling all government-run social programs, including welfare.

Those ideas are in keeping with the party's philosophy of getting govern-

ment out of people's lives and out of the marketplace. The philosophy has strikes us as strangely detached from reality, if not selfish.

But Libertarians did deserve more attention than they got. Luce's views received only one short article in the Monitor; her name wasn't mentioned on Channel 9's hour-long pre-election special; she appeared on TV only briefly - before and after the main presentations - during one of the televised Gregg-Grandmaison debates.

And, to add insult to injury, the National Election Service, to which TV and radio stations subscribed, was not equipped for a third-party candidacy. So her totals were not broadcast Tuesday night. TV stations told voters that Gregg beat Grandmaison with 62 to 38 percent of the vote when, in fact, it was 60 to 35, with Luce at 5 percent.

Luce got 14,000 votes by spending less than \$5,000 - or around 30 cents per vote. Next time, she says, the party will go statewide with TV and radio ads.

If that happens, the news media won't be the only ones to sit up and take notice. So will the politicians.

(The most well-known Libertarian in New England is Boston radio talk-show host Gene Burns, who has been going around the state during the past year lecturing on the nature and the role of government in a free society. People interested in learning about Libertarianism can catch the last one in the series - tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the McKelvie Middle School on Liberty Hill Road in Bedford.)

Los Angeles Times Nov. 29, 1990.

CONCORD (NH) MONITOR, NOV. 8, 1990