

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## newsletter

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AUGUST 2000

## California LP runs 291 candidates

The California LP has concluded the most successful candidate recruitment effort in Libertarian Party history — signing up almost 300 candidates for this November's ballot.

"We have achieved a new milestone in LP history!" said state Executive Director Juan Ros. "I can't express how excited I am to be running so many candidates."

The candidate recruitment project — dubbed "Operation Breakthrough" — convinced 178 Libertarians to run for non-partisan office this November.

Added to the 113 candidates already committed to running for partisan office, a total of 291 LP candidates will be on the ballot this fall in California.

"[That]'s the most for

any Libertarian state party ever" — and almost 50% "over the LPC's stated goal of 200 candidates for the year," said Ros.



■ Juan Ros: A new milestone

In Operation Breakthrough, the California LP matched a list of every non-partisan office up for grabs in the state against a database of the state's 87,000 registered Libertarians. LP activists called those voters, and asked them to run for office.

### Reaching out

"By reaching out to registered Libertarians, we have energized and grown the party and have established

a farm team of Libertarians who want to make a positive difference," said Ros. "Clearly, this is something we as a party needed to do."

As the list of candidates grew, another benefit of Operation Breakthrough emerged, he said: Guaranteed victories in November.

"At least six Libertarian candidates [have] already won their elections by default due to not enough candidates contesting the election," said Ros.

LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger praised Operation Breakthrough as "one of the most important programs" in party history.

"This was the most innovative candidate recruitment effort I have seen, and a model for every other state party to emulate," he said.

## CAMPAIGN 2000

### Browne speaks at big Arkansas gun rights rally

Libertarian Party presidential candidate Harry Browne stressed his support for Second Amendment rights at a forum in Arkansas, where he appeared with the state's governor and the head of the NRA

before an audience of more than 1,000 people.

On August 8, Browne was one of the featured speakers at a Second Amendment



■ Browne: 1st ballot victory.

rally sponsored by the Dixie Southern Shooting Association at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Browne appeared with Arkansas's Republican governor, Mike Huckabee, and the executive director of the NRA, Wayne LaPierre.

In his remarks, Browne disagreed with Republican speakers who said the government "should be enforcing existing gun laws, rather than proposing new ones."

"I say that the Second Amendment doesn't allow for exceptions — or else it would have read that the right 'to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, unless Congress chooses otherwise,'" he said.

## LP national director appears on 20/20

The national director of the Libertarian Party appeared on ABC's 20/20 news program — and used the opportunity to blast the Republicans and Democrats for taking taxpayer money to fund their lavish national conventions.

Steve Dasbach, who heads the party's office in Washington, DC, was interviewed on the August 18 edition of John Stossel's "Give Me A Break" segment on

the popular news program.

"It was a great opportunity for Libertarians to point out that we didn't take taxpayer money to finance our convention — unlike Republicans and Democrats, who each took \$12 million to pay for drinks, balloons, and hors d'oeuvres," said Dasbach.

The segment focused on the millions of dollars taxpayers shell out for the Republican, Democratic, and Reform party's national

conventions—a little-known fact that caused Stossel to utter his exasperated signature line, "Give me a break!"

Stossel pointed out that "no public money" went to fund the Libertarian Party convention — and then cut to Dasbach, who said, "George Bush, Al Gore, and Pat Buchanan are, frankly, political welfare queens."

Stossel noted that the LP thinks no government money should go to conventions.

# Jesus: No Republican or Democrat

If Jesus were alive today, would he be a Republican or Democrat? Would he establish a police state in order to eradicate all social ills?

Or would Jesus be a libertarian? He never did put a gun to anyone's head and say, "follow me!" Instead, he said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me."

Thus, Jesus would enter by invitation only, through persuasion rather than force. A libertarian.

I learned 43 years ago from my wife, Ruth, that you can't force someone to love you. All you can do is stalk them and hope they panic and give in. The trouble with life is, you're halfway through it before you realize it's a do-it-yourself thing. It's a delicate balancing act between family, friends, community and self, and I don't need any fat government thumbs tipping the scales.

Contrast Jesus' methods with those of government. The common denominator in all government activity is the use of force: government either forces you to do things or forces you not to do things. For



Guy Curtis

## One Guy's Opinion

example, the income tax has been the most devastating thing ever to happen to our society because it has forced moms to work.

If Jesus seldom used force to accomplish his ends, then who are people (including Christians) to initiate force in the name of God? Jesus understood that power corrupts. (Politicians go further saying power corrupts, and absolute power is kinda neat.)

There is no biblical promise of some utopian society without poverty, racism, drugs, illiteracy, or other social ills; much less that secular government can bring about such a society. And yet, every day, politicians ask for greater taxes and spending to cure these ills. It is especially discouraging when church leaders do the same. Where do they get the idea that government can accomplish what God himself never promises?

They could learn from the story about the man who dies and goes to a wonderful place where every desire is met immediately. After a short time, he becomes miserable and asks, please, could he go to hell instead. He's told, "But that's where you are."

When Jesus says to give to the poor, he does not mandate a welfare department and expanded powers for the tax police. In fact, he repeats the Old Testament commandment against theft, thus putting his stamp of approval on private property. The New Testament also states that, "If a man shall not work, he shall not eat" and

that "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." God asks for a voluntary contribution of 10 percent of our earnings, whereas Caesar puts a gun to our heads for half of our earnings. Jesus would be astounded at the idea that the politicians should run our lives or the country.

Am I just cherry picking from the philosophy of Jesus to find support for my libertarian views? No. Libertarianism is unique among political institutions in that it consistently says that government cannot solve problems, and that we shouldn't count on it to do so. Jesus, likewise, never suggested that we look to Caesar to solve our problems. How much better life would be if laws were simpler— if people were allowed to do anything that's peaceful. Or as St. Augustine put it, "Love, and do as you will."

This doesn't mean that Christians shouldn't act on their real concerns about these social problems. Jesus never suggested, however, that we could rebuild society through politics. His kingdom was not of this earth. The works Jesus exhorts us to do involve taking care of individual needs voluntarily. As a voluntarist, Jesus was truly a libertarian.

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▲ *The North Platte Telegraph*, North Platte, Nebraska, July 5, 2000

▼ *Human Events*, Washington, DC, July 21, 2000

## Brown and Olivier at Top of Ticket for November

# Libertarian Party Holds National Convention in Anaheim

The Libertarian Party held its National Convention in Anaheim, Calif., June 29 to July 3. The five-day event was marked by excitement and enthusiasm as the party prepared for election 2000 with high hopes for a better showing than last time around.

To no one's surprise, Harry Browne, a well-known author and investment advisor, won the party's presidential nomination on the first ballot by collecting 493 (56%) of the delegate votes, easily outdistancing Don Gorman, the runnerup, who got 19%. Rounding out the five-member field were Jacob Hornberger, with 13%, Barry Hess, with 6%, and Dave Hollist, 1%.

Browne, who was also the party's presidential nominee in 1996, looks to build on the "strongest political message in the world" by making more voters aware of the Libertarian option.

"We need to make all Americans aware that there's a party that wants to make them free, to reduce government to its constitutional limits, to free them from the income tax, to let them out of Social Security, to end the insane War on Drugs, and to stop the dangerous foreign policy of the past 60 years."

Despite Hornberger's concerns over Browne's publicly stated intention to defy Federal Election Commission (FEC) reporting and contribution limit regulations and what Hornberger called Browne's "suspicious" fundrais-

ing tactics, the party remained unified behind its nominee, and even championed his refusal to cooperate with the FEC. Party Press Secretary George Getz said that Browne's decision to resist the FEC has proved to be an excellent way to "call attention to unfair laws."

Browne comes into the 2000 election with an enthusiastic party that claims to be three times the size of the one he led in 1996, when he received 473,000 votes. Libertarian officials say the party has the very real potential of being on the ballot in all 50 states. Although Browne acknowledges that his chances are slim, he sees this campaign as a way to make the entire country familiar with the Libertarian Party and its policies.

## Abortion Not in Constitution

The party platform underwent some very minor changes at the convention, but still strongly advocates a limited role for the government in society.

Remarkably on the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Nebraska's ban on partial-birth abortions, Getz argued that neither Congress nor the Supreme Court should have addressed this issue because it is not explicitly given the power under the Constitution.

Although the Libertarian platform states that government should have no control over abortion, the party is largely split on the morality of the issue. A majority of

members are pro-choice, but many belong to Libertarians for Life, believing that the unborn child should be declared to be a living, separate person and that abortion would then be handled in the same way as any other crime against a person. Browne, incidentally, is pro-life but backs his party's stance on no government regulation.

Delegate Liz Maleski added that although the party isn't unanimous on all specific issues, it is in complete agreement that the role of the government needs to be limited. Even though there might possibly be a time when the federal government could be used to overturn a state law that hinders the free market, Getz said that the Libertarians would not advocate a government role. Instead, he said, "The voters will show their dismay at the next election."

Art Olivier won the party's vice-presidential nomination by receiving 54% of the votes in a runoff with Steve Kubby. Olivier, the former mayor of Bellflower, Calif., is best known, the party says, for his implementation of Libertarian policies in "weeding out corruption and lowering taxes."

In addition to Browne and Olivier, the party plans to have candidates for more than 2,000 elected offices on both the federal and state levels. In his acceptance speech, Browne lambasted Republicans and Democrats, saying that "only Libertarians believe in you. Only Libertarians recognize you are the rightful owner of your life."

## The Other Conservatives Libertarians Are In It for the Long Haul

IF they were better known, this would be the year of the Libertarians in Oklahoma. After all, three of the five candidates who filed for an Oklahoma Corporation Commission seat are members of the Libertarian Party.

This sets the stage for what's believed to be the first Libertarian primary in state history. And the three Libertarian Corporation Commission candidates aren't alone. There will be a Libertarian candidate on the ballot in each of the six congressional district races this year as well as in six legislative races. The Tulsa World reported that there are only 360 registered Libertarians in the entire state. This means that with 15 candidates the party will have more than 4 percent of its registered members on the ballot this year.

Who are these people?

"Libertarianism is the heart and soul of conservatism," Oklahoma Libertarian Chairman Robert T. Murphy told the World. The national party's Web site says Libertarians are committed to a free-market economy of "abundance and prosperity," individual liberty and personal responsibility and a foreign policy of nonintervention, peace and free trade.

Perhaps you missed news of the party's national convention earlier this month. Harry Browne was nominated for the presidency, as he was in 1996. The choice for vice president is Art Olivier, a former mayor of a Los Angeles suburb who boasts that he helped privatize tree-trimming in that city. The convention was held near Disneyland, leading one pundit to suggest that Goofy would be an appropriate choice as the party's vice presidential nominee.

Libertarianism is no laughing matter to the party's leaders,

but they don't take themselves too seriously. Murphy admits that winning the Corporation Commission seat isn't a realistic goal and that two of the party's candidates actually want to abolish the commission. Besides, Murphy told the World, incumbent Bob Anthony is "probably one of the best corporation commissioners we've had." Now *that's* debatable.

Rather than winning any of the races for which Libertarians filed, the party wants to establish its identity as an alternative to the status quo. Some of its positions seem close to conventional conservative Republicanism, but Libertarians differ sharply from Republicans in other areas. For example, the party supports the decriminalization of drugs.

Libertarians plan to spend less than \$9 million on the presidential race, a paltry sum by today's standard, but none of that money will come from tax dollars. "No one but a Libertarian will reduce your taxes dramatically, allow you to live your life as a free American and restrict the federal government to its constitutional limits," says a Browne campaign statement.

In Oklahoma, Norman seems to be a hotbed for the party — strange considering that Norman isn't a hotbed of conservatism in general. All four of the party's officers have Norman addressees. Murphy, the chairman, is running against Ernest Istook in the 5th Congressional District even though Norman isn't in the district. He's not alone. Three other Libertarians are vying to represent a congressional district in which they don't live.

Goofy? Perhaps, but with so few members the party has to stretch itself over a broad area.

## Abington Libertarian passed over for shot at vice presidential bid

By Evelyn Short  
Staff Writer

Elkins Park resident Ken Krawchuk was defeated in his bid for the Libertarian Party's vice presidential nomination.

"I lost, but I didn't lose on the first ballot," Krawchuk said. "It was an interesting time."

In the Libertarian Party, the presidential candidate does not appoint a running mate for vice president. The Libertarian Party nominated its candidates for president and vice president at its national convention last week in Anaheim, Calif.

"There were four of us who were running and on the first ballot the woman who was in fourth place, she lost," Krawchuk said.

That candidate was dropped off the ballot leaving two other candidates and Krawchuk, who was in third place.

"What I did was I endorsed one of the two other people and he went on ahead and won," Krawchuk said. "It seems I tilted the vice presidential selection. Who would've thought it, strange days indeed."

This spring, Krawchuk campaigned at several Libertarian conventions in neighboring states.

In June, he packed up his entire family and took a train to Denver, where they rented a vehicle, camped and campaigned until they reached the national convention.

Krawchuk was on the ballot as the Libertarian candidate for governor of Pennsylvania in 1998. He has already committed to run for governor in 2002.

He also hopes the increased name recognition will help him become the next commissioner of Ward 4 in Abington Township in 2001.

## At the Liberty Bell, justice can be elusive

It was the Fourth of July. Libertarian John Featherman was standing mere paces from the Liberty Bell on Independence Mall. It wasn't the kind of place he expected to get booted from for engaging in political activity.

Featherman, who is exploring a run for the U.S. Senate, says he was outside the Liberty Bell pavilion gathering signatures to qualify him for the ballot on Tuesday when a park guard shooed him away, saying that Featherman was not standing in an official "free-speech" zone. He left. But, Featherman claims, someone from his campaign later saw Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Ron Klink, who is a U.S. representative, campaigning in the same spot.

According to a letter written to Independence National Historic Park officials by Featherman's lawyer, Samuel C. Stretton, a park guard told Featherman's campaign manager that "Klink was allowed to be there because he was an 'elected official,' and Mr. Featherman was not."

Phil Sheridan, spokesman for the park, said Featherman was told he could stand in a free-speech zone just north of the pavilion, and was not ejected from the entire park. He said that any rules applying to Featherman would have applied to Klink as well, elected official or not, "Whether you're a candidate from party X, Y, or Z," Sheridan said, "we wish to treat you equitably and fairly."

— Clea Benson

### Browne ties Buchanan

The Libertarian Party is hailing a national survey by Rasmussen Research showing that their presidential candidate, Harry Browne, is now tied with Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan.

The men each had 1.6 percent in the Rasmussen three-day rolling average of 2,250 voters. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader garnered 4 percent.

"Harry Browne has caught up with Pat Buchanan, whose campaign is leaking air like a punctured Zeppelin," said Steve Dabasch, the Libertarians' national director. "And Ralph Nader better start looking into the rear-view mirror of his puttering Corvair — because Harry Browne is aiming to pass him next."

▲ *The Daily Oklahoman*  
Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma,  
July 20, 2000

◀ *The Washington Times*  
Washington, DC  
August 9, 2000

▲ (TOP) *The Glenside News*  
Glenside, Pennsylvania  
July 5, 2000

▲ *The Philadelphia Inquirer*  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
July 9, 2000

# After years in political exile, Browne is Libertarians' man

► *The Washington Times*  
Washington,  
DC • August  
9, 2000

By Teresa Joerger  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Harry Browne distanced himself from politics in the 1960s, feeling disenchanted with America's two-party system. Over 30 years later, he is the Libertarian Party's candidate for president for the second time.

It all began with a suggestion made in 1992 by his wife, Pamela.

"One night we were having dinner and watching TV. There was a politician on, and Harry was disagreeing with everything they were saying with a little bit of a raised voice, so later that evening I just suggested that he should run," she said.

Mr. Browne said that at first he did not take her suggestion seriously, but after thinking it over and discussing it for a few years, he thought he might be able to make a difference.

"I realized that public opinion had changed so dramatically from the 1960s, when I quit voting, that it was quite possible that we could stop the growth of government, that we could do something to turn this around and head it in the other direction," he said.

The investment author and consultant is running on a platform of reducing the scope of the federal government, leaving more issues in the hands of individual Americans.

"The most important message of the campaign is very simple: We want you to be free to live your life as you want to live it, not as Al Gore or George Bush thinks is best for you," he said.

According to Mr. Browne, the cornerstone of the Libertarian platform is the "Great Libertarian Offer," which asks Americans to give up their favorite federal programs in exchange for repealing the federal income tax. The party argues that the \$150 billion that the country earns from excise taxes and tariffs is sufficient to provide for federal responsibilities such as national defense and the court system.

"This has very broad appeal to people who think that they're getting something from the government but don't realize how much they are paying for it," he said. "We could get rid of all these things at once, and the reward would be that you would never have to pay income tax again, your children



Harry Browne

would never have to pay income tax, and your grandchildren would never, ever face the burden of taxation that you have had to put up with."

His platform also includes repealing the 15 percent Social Security tax, allowing people to plan for their retirement however they wish; eliminating the federal debt by auctioning off unnecessary federal assets; bringing home American troops and ensuring that foreign policy issues are directly related to national security; and ending the war on drugs and its Prohibition-like consequences.

"We want to reduce the government to its constitutional size, which means getting it out of education, health care, law enforcement, welfare, all these areas that it's made such a mess of during the 20th century," he said.

Art Olivier, the party's vice-presidential candidate, succeeded in implementing Libertarian policies while serving as mayor of Bellflower, Calif., reducing the size of government and eliminating the drug war.

In the past four years, the Libertarian Party membership has grown substantially, and the party anticipates spending \$8.5 million on the 2000 campaign, which is more than double the amount spent in 1996. One hundred sixty-six libertarians currently hold office, more than all the other third parties combined.

One recent recruit is Jim Babka,

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*"We want you to be free to live your life as you want to live it."*

*Harry Browne*

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a disgruntled Republican who was drawn to the Libertarian Party after seeing Mr. Browne on television in 1996. He is now the press secretary for the Browne campaign.

Mr. Babka feels Mr. Browne is an excellent candidate for the party because he is "very presidential and a very good spokesman for our party."

"He articulates our message well and is committed to seeing this happen," he said.

The Libertarian Party plans to be on the ballot in all 50 states, becoming the first third party in American history to achieve this in three consecutive presidential elections. The party also will run up to 2,000 candidates in 2000 for local, state and federal office, including over 200 candidates for the House of Representatives.

Mr. Browne said that he will be able to use his campaign experience from 1996 to his advantage in 2000. For example, this time around he will not fail to focus on the groups that already believe in the Libertarian platform, including people who have been personally hurt by the drug war, people who would like to see gun laws repealed, and the people who would like to abandon the 15 percent Social Security tax.

Mr. Browne is aware that his chances of victory are slim, but he wants to make sure Americans know that there is an alternative to the two mainstream parties.

"What I want more than anything else is for my campaign to be so visible that at the end of it everyone will know that the Libertarians are the ones who want to get government out of their lives. If that's the case, then we are going to bring a lot of people off the sidelines who are not voting, who will become more active and will help us — help us with votes, help us with money, help us by joining the party and pave the way for much more significant gains in 2002," he said.