

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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N.C. Libertarians win 'gang symbol' battle

A group of Libertarian activists in Durham, North Carolina has convinced the city to remove signs prohibiting "gang symbols" on public property — after pointing out the ordinance was so broad that it would allow police to harass innocent people.

In mid-June, the Durham city government removed signs from the city-run DATA bus station that prohibited "Gang Related Symbols, Signs and Gestures" on city property.

The sign removal was a victory for a group of local Libertarians who had threatened to hold a peaceful rally at the bus station to protest the ordinance.

"When a small group of activists takes on the mayor, the police, and the city-owned bus system, which is likely to win? Why, the ones armed with the Constitution, of course," said North Carolina LP activist Tom Howe.

Black bandana

The gang symbol debate began in April, when Libertarians heard that police had harassed a young man at the bus station for wearing a black bandana. The head gear, said police, violated an ordinance against gang symbols, signs, and gestures.

The ordinance was

directed against gangs like the Crips and the Bloods, which wear signature colors to identify members.

Libertarians were outraged, said Howe.

"The sign [in the bus station didn't] define 'gang,' nor reference any ordinance or statute for its authority," he said. "The only effect of the sign was to give police an excuse to badger disfavored people without that awkward due process business."

So, local LP activist Ray



■ Ubinger: Hold rally.

Ubinger announced a June 9 rally against the signs.

Then, just before the rally, the signs disappeared, said Howe.

"The City of Durham apparently got the message," he said. "We hope that people will remember that Libertarians will stand up for the rights of the unpopular."

One person already has remembered, said Howe.

After the signs were taken down, "The young man with the black bandana said, 'Thank you' " to local Libertarians, he said. "Victory is sweet."

NEWS FROM AROUND THE USA

POLL: LP HAS DRUG REFORM APPEAL

An online poll at a website dedicated to "bringing about an end to the War on Drugs" has discovered that a majority of anti-Drug War activists feel most comfortable with the Libertarian Party.

The survey, taken at www.Smokedot.com in mid-July, revealed that 32% of poll-takers said the Libertarian Party is the political party that their "views fit in with the most."

Coming in second was the Green Party (24%), followed by a tie between the Communist Party (9%) and "Don't care" (9%). The Republican and Democratic parties each received 5% of the vote.

While not scientific, the poll suggests the LP may be best positioned to capitalize on the growing public sentiment against the War on Drugs, said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

"If 32% of the tens of millions of Americans who are opposed to the drug war voted for Libertarian candidates, we would quickly become a powerful force in politics," he said. "And the fact that only 5% of poll-takers chose the Republicans or Democrats indicates there is a 'market demand' the old parties are not filling. That's good news for us."

More than 500 people took the poll at www.Smokedot.com, a site that seeks to end the War on Drugs by "informing and educating people."

'TAXATIONLAND' IS LEGAL, SAYS COURT

Maine resident David Chittim can describe his home state as "Taxationland" without committing a crime, the Maine Supreme Court has ruled.

On July 26, the state's high court ruled that Chittim did not illegally deface his license plate by changing the state's slogan "Vacationland" to "Taxationland."

Because Chittim — a past member of the Libertarian Party — altered the license plates before a law took effect in 1996, what he did was not illegal, the justices decided in a unanimous decision. They ordered the state to refund his \$20 fine.

Chittim, who argued that he was merely exercising his First Amendment rights, said, "I'm so pleased I'm getting my 20 bucks back." He had put the "Taxationland" sticker on his license plate, he said, because state residents are overtaxed.

Libertarian candidate for 51st signs no-tax pledge

By CHRIS NEWMAN

cnewman@potomacnews.com

Libertarian candidate James E. Simpson, running in the 51st District race, became the first non-Republican to sign the no-tax increase pledge being administered by the Prince William Taxpayers Alliance.

Simpson is running against Republican incumbent Michele McQuigg and Democrat Denise Oppenhagen. Republicans Scott Lingamfelter in the 31st District race and Bob Berry in the 52nd District race also have signed the pledge in their quests to represent voters in the Virginia House of Delegates.

"Let's stop taxing ourselves to death and look at initiatives for transportation," Simpson said in an interview. Something needs to be done to reduce congestion, but "as a taxpayer, I just don't think increasing taxes to throw more money at the transportation issue is the way to go," he said.

Simpson's proposal that he

released Monday seeks to establish tax credits for companies that let their employees work from home two or more days a week. He said estimates of how many people can perform their jobs at home range as high as 50 percent for metropolitan areas like D.C. and Richmond, and every 1 percent of drivers off the roads leads to 3 percent less congestion.

His opponents say his numbers do not add up and incentives for telecommuting are nothing new.

"We've done different programs and incentive programs for telecommuting, and I've been a strong proponent of that for years and trying to get that to occur," McQuigg said. "We still have congested roads, so I don't quite see his math making it ... there's just so many vehicles."

McQuigg supports a referendum for a half-cent sales tax increase to go to transportation projects, and Oppenhagen supports a referendum for a 1-cent sales tax to go to transportation and education.

"We're in a situation where we're reaching a crisis point," Oppenhagen said. "People can't get to work. If you have a truck overturn on I-95, forget it, you're gone for the day." With education, Northern Virginia gets only 40 cents for every dollar it sends to Richmond, and voters should have the right to vote on getting more for children in classrooms without air conditioning or in trailers, she said.

Oppenhagen said the state government needs to be streamlined — being away from Richmond she said she is not privy to the numbers — but there is waste in the system, she said.

Taxpayers Alliance spokesman Faisal Gill said revenues to the state's \$50 billion budget have grown by nearly 40 percent over the last four years, and more of that money should have gone to transportation. Only 13 percent of the state budget goes to transportation, he said.

Simpson could not give exact estimates of how his tax-credit

plan would work, but he emphasized the importance of his fresh perspective. Alternatives need to be found to solve the state's problems, not just spending more money, he said.

Gill said the Taxpayer's Alliance will advertise the fact that Simpson signed the pledge. Many members of the group have been active in Lingamfelter's campaign, but Gill said that is on members' own individual accord. The Taxpayers Alliance has not yet discussed with Simpson his stances on the issues, he said, so he cannot speak on whether individuals will volunteer for him.

Simpson said he is not expecting campaign help from the alliance. He signed the pledge to show his dedication, he said.

"You've heard all the statistics that we pay 50 percent to taxes in one form or another," he said. "That's just extraordinary. It's ridiculous, actually."

Staff writer Chris Newman can be reached at (703) 878-8062.

- ▲ *The Potomac News*, Woodbridge, Virginia, July 12, 2001
- ▶ *The Holland Sentinel*, Holland, Michigan, May 29, 2001
- ▼ *The Herald-Palladium*, Saint Joseph, Michigan, June 20, 2001

Libertarians join historic district expansion foes

The Ottawa County Libertarian Party has joined the fight to halt expansion of the Holland Historic District.

The party joined the cause after Bill Leonard, a resident of the area affected by the proposed expansion, attended the organization's May 22 meeting and asked for its support.

The Libertarians plan on starting a letter writing campaign, aiding in protests, and

helping to purchase "No Historic District" yard signs.

Vice Chair Tim Campbell described the historical district as an example of everything wrong with local government.

"The historical district expansion will strip residents of their property rights and place control of their homes in the hands of bureaucrats," Campbell stated.

Libertarians aren't opposed to history, he said, but they believe that people should voluntarily organize to keep homes historic, rather than forcing it on others.

"Many of this expansion's proponents don't live in historic houses. Let's see the city commission live up to the standards it wants to put on other people," said Campbell.

The two major parties are practically identical

What's the difference between Democrats and Republicans?

Can somebody give me some help here? As a Libertarian, I am having a tough time telling the Republicans in government from the Democrats. Try as I might, I just don't see much in the way of significant differences. I will admit they frequently talk differently, but they certainly don't seem to act differently, and action is what counts. They both spend taxpayers' money as if we had an unending supply. Well, I don't. And I'll bet you don't either.

Republican President George Bush has requested a pay hike for federal workers of 3.6 percent. The average federal civilian employee already makes about \$50,000 per year. Both the D's and R's apparently feel this

isn't enough.

The Bush administration wants Congress to spend an additional \$282 million of our money on former Democratic President Clinton's AmeriCorps. Democrats certainly do not want to spend any less.

Republican Attorney General John Ashcroft has said that he wants the Justice Department to spend as much of our money on the tobacco wars as Democrat Janet Reno did. No difference here.

Although Republicans had previously promised to eliminate the federal Department of Education, Bush now wants to spend an additional \$18.6 billion of our money on it instead. Looks like more agreement to me.

Three years ago under a Democratic administration, conservatives



Opinion Maker

William Bradley

claimed that a \$2.3 billion hidden tax on our telephone bills was unconstitutional because the Federal Communications Commission had imposed it, instead of Congress. Now the Bush administration is working to keep the tax. No difference here either.

Republican Bush ordered the Health & Human Services Department to implement Democrat Clinton's so-called "privacy" rules immediately, even though 24,000 letters were received from the public in opposition to the rules. Incidentally, the rules are actually anti-privacy, but in Washington nobody seems to know the difference.

Conservatives have been asking for years why the federal government funds a radio network with taxpayers' money when there are thousands of free-market stations that manage to stay in business while competing for listeners. Yet Republican Bush wants to increase the funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by another \$10 million. Democrats certainly don't want to spend any less of our money on PBS.

Republican Ashcroft has promised a "renewed commitment" to enforcing the 20,000 gun laws we already have in this country and wants to

spend an additional \$158 million of our money to do it. No argument from the Democrats on this one either.

During the last election campaign Republican Bush argued strongly for partially privatizing Social Security for younger workers while many Democrats objected. Now Bush has decided this is a hot potato and has handed it off to a federal commission for more study, with the Democrats' blessing.

A few years ago Republicans harshly criticized the Internal Revenue Service at congressional hearings for mistreating taxpayers and running roughshod over the law. Now, Bush wants to give the IRS \$400 million more of our money so they can hire 4,000 additional tax collectors. Democrats always like to see more

people on the federal payroll and more tax money coming in too.

Bush says he wants to continue the Clinton-era ban on private wetlands development, since "this is the way environmental policy should work." Both major parties just love to spend our money and to run our lives. It has gotten to the point where having your name on a land deed only means you are the person who gets to pay the taxes. Bureaucrats get to decide everything else.

Am I missing something somewhere? Will somebody please explain the difference between Republicans and Democrats to me? This Libertarian really needs some help. Contact me at my e-mail address: bbradley@cybersol.com.

William Bradley is chairman of the Van Buren County Libertarian Party.



Sen. Dianne Feinstein's proposal to curb drinking on airlines is running into turbulence.

Federalized skies

Sen. Dianne Feinstein's proposal

to limit airline passengers to two alcoholic drinks — by law, if she has to — isn't flying well with the airline industry, first-class passengers who expect certain perks for high-priced tickets, or the Libertarian Party.

The California Democrat says she'll wait to see if major airlines volunteer to restrict passenger to two drinks, but if they don't, she will introduce legislation requiring them to do so.

"Who else but a drunk-with-power politician could decide that she knows better than the airlines, flight attendants — and you, the airline passenger — about how many drinks are appropriate," asks Libertarian national director Steve Dasbach. "The fact is, this is not a decision that should be made by politicians."

The Association of Flight Attendants opposes the senator's move, arguing it could actually increase disturbances and leave passengers and crews less safe.

But Mrs. Feinstein believes "air rage" incidents, which number about 4,000 cases per year, would decline under her proposal.

▲ *The Washington Times*, Washington, DC, August 1, 2001

▶ *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Richmond, Virginia, July 6, 2001

▼ *The Charleston Daily Mail*, Charleston, West Virginia, July 2, 2001

Libertarians added to ballot in 2 races

BY TYLER WHITLEY
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

The contests for governor and lieutenant governor each will have a third candidate on the ballot.

William B. Redpath of Herndon and Gary A. Reams of Mason Neck qualified as candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, according to the State Board of Elections.

Both have been endorsed by the Libertarian Party but will be running as independents because the party is not recognized as a political party in Virginia. Redpath and Reams both work as consultants in Fairfax County.

The Libertarian Party generally opposes government regulations, taxes and social intervention in people's lives.

Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, an associate professor of political science at Mary Washington College, said third-party candidates generally fare poorly in Virginia because they are unable to gain attention against the major-party candidates. The races would

have to be unusually close for them to make a difference, he said.

Reams, however, has an attention-getting platform. He wants to make the contest solely a referendum, or "referendum" as he calls it, on the legalization of marijuana.

Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party candidate for president last year, got only 15,198 votes in Virginia. A third-party candidate for governor in 1997, Sue Harris DeBauche, received 26,000 votes, just 1.5 percent of the total.

Republican Mark L. Earley of Chesterfield, formerly of Chesapeake, and Democrat Mark R. Warner of Alexandria are the major-party candidates for governor. Republican Del. Jay Katzen of Fauquier and Democrat Timothy M. Kaine, Richmond's mayor, are the major-party candidates for lieutenant governor.

The election is Nov. 6.

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Americans are not really free

As always, government threatens liberty

By RICHARD KERR

ON July 4th, we, the American people, will loudly profess our love of liberty. Bands will play, politicians will orate, and newspapers and TV stations will recount our proud history of revolution and freedom. Fireworks will cap the celebration.

But the whole show will be a sham. We are not free.

The freedom that was our nation's defining principle was the result of having the federal government bound up, as Jefferson said, in the chains of the Constitution. Individual citizens can be free only to the extent that the government is restrained.

Today our federal government is totally unrestrained. We have had essentially the same Constitution since the

ratification of the Bill of Rights in the 1790s. But since about 1935, the people have lacked the will to enforce it.

We let the federal government tell us what limits, if any, the Constitution imposes upon the federal government. It is a classical case of the fox guarding the hen house!

We are told that the right to elect our masters is the same thing as being free. It is not. Free people have no earthly master.

Government may properly restrain us from using force or fraud to harm other people or their property, but should otherwise leave us alone.

Free people have the right to pursue their own goals and their own version of happiness.

The current practice of putting some Americans into the involuntary service of others, through confiscatory taxes, is unworthy of a free society.

Furthermore, government has no authority to restrain us from harming ourselves.

If you are an adult and think you live in a free country protected by the Bill of Rights,

here are some reality checks:

■ Try to spend \$5,000 of your own money to buy television ads for a congressional candidate who shares your values.

■ Try to buy a drug that might cure your life-threatening illness, but which has not yet received approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

■ Grow and smoke whatever herb you find pleasing to you.

■ Decline to surrender your hard-earned money for use in supporting irresponsible parents and their kids.

■ Decline to let the Drug Enforcement Administration or the Internal Revenue Service enter your home or business without a warrant.

■ Decline, as congressmen do, to participate in the Social Security program.

■ Practice your religion in an unconventional manner, in what the FBI describes as a "compound."

Any one of these acts can result in fine, imprisonment, or worse.

Few Americans realize that today we have only a pathetic remnant of the liberty that our

Founding Fathers secured for us. Fewer yet even care.

Most discouraging is the fact that many Americans would actually reject freedom if it were thrust upon them, since freedom carries with it responsibilities.

Benjamin Franklin warned that he who would surrender liberty for security will, in the end, have neither liberty nor security.

We have made that fool's bargain.

Libertarians and others who treasure liberty will continue to celebrate the birth of our beloved republic, and to rededicate themselves to preserving and restoring its promise of liberty.

We also urge all West Virginians to take time this Independence Day to read the Constitution and to dedicate themselves to defending it, peacefully, against the only serious threat the Constitution has ever faced — the United States government.

Kerr is chairman of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia.

Across the USA

News from every state

Virginia: Richmond — The Libertarian Party of Virginia is suing the state over a law requiring candidates to be identified by political party. The lawsuit claims the legislation violates smaller political parties' constitutional rights to free speech and due process. Candidates whose political party gets less than 10% of the vote in a prior election must be listed on the ballot as independents.

◀ *USA Today*, Arlington, Virginia, July 26, 2001

▶ *The Lebanon Advertiser*, Lebanon, Illinois, June 27, 2001

▼ *The Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville, Florida, July 4, 2001

MILITARY DRAFT

End registration

The Libertarian Party's drive to end Selective Service registration couldn't have come at a more appropriate time.

It was on this date in 1776 that the Declaration of Independence was approved. The founders thought that if they signed the document and later were captured by the British, they almost certainly would be hanged as traitors. But, being men of considerable courage, they signed it anyway.

That sense of patriotism has stood the test of time. Americans aren't always eager to fight in protracted overseas "police actions," such as Vietnam. But when there is a legitimate struggle for national survival, they step forward in droves to fight and die. Military induction centers were packed at the outset of World War II, for example, and there is every reason to think future generations also will respond the next time there is a similar crisis.

That's why the military draft, and draft registration, were eliminated in the mid 1970s.

The draft has never been revived. But Jimmy Carter reinstated registration after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. His hope was to send the Soviets a message that the United States was ready to go to war, if pushed.

Even if that decision made sense at

the time, which it didn't, it's outdated. There is no Soviet Union, no Warsaw Pact and no Communist expansionism. Also, the United States now relies less on a large standing army and more on precision military weapons that wreak destruction from afar.

The last U.S. president argued that registration still was needed as a defense "insurance policy."

But even the Pentagon disagrees.

"... our new military requires a great deal of training, a great deal of expertise and technological skills that, frankly, don't lend themselves to a short-term draft," it argued in a report to the president.

Even during the Cold War, the value of a draft was dubious. As Ronald Reagan said at the time, there isn't much value in computer lists of inexperienced young men. There is, however, considerable value in an experienced army, a million-man reserve and new weapons systems.

It costs \$25 million a year to register young men for a draft that doesn't exist.

Even if it did exist, it might not be much help. A modern war probably would be over before conscripts could be drafted, trained and sent to the battlefields.

How odd that many of those who protested the draft during the Vietnam era now want to continue registration.

Libertarians defend midwives

The Libertarian Party of Illinois (LPI) has demanded that families retain their rights to home birth options, in light of the state's efforts to stamp out midwives. The government has allegedly spent about \$2 MILLION in prosecuting Libertarian Yvonne Cryns, a Nationally Certified Professional Midwife, on grounds not supported by parents of the baby, but by an overzealous State's Attorney, Michael Waller.

"The regulation-happy Democrats and Republicans are just chomping on the bit, at an opportunity to expand their realm of taxation and control over the Illinois economy," said Austin Hough, LPI State Chairman. "Yvonne should be able to practice her profession without undue government harassment. We support private licensing options, instead of rewarding inefficient, law-breaking state bureaucratic regulatory agencies.

"State bureaucrats continually mislead the public, instead of focusing on the real facts. What are taxpayers receiving for their hard-earned money? A cease and desist order issued without a single shred of evidence of wrongdoing, a Department of Professional Regulation civil trial in which the judge found Yvonne's actions did NOT constitute the practice of medicine or nursing and 2 criminal cases which ended with Yvonne's exoneration on one charge and a hung jury on the other. In other words, the State got NOTHING for your money!" says the LPI.

Yvonne Cryns spoke at the Sunday, June 23, 2001, Illinois Forum meeting at the Willard Field Airport in Champaign. The Illinois Forum is Chaired by Bob Redfern and former member of Congress Dan Crane.

"With Libertarians in state government, intrusive government harassment such as it would be eliminated. Libertarians will increase the number of choices available to families for health care by greatly removing government bureaucracy and regulations," said Hough.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois (LPI) is the Illinois affiliate of the Libertarian Party, America's third largest political party. Its platform advocates free markets, low taxes, social tolerance, personal freedom, and personal responsibility. More than 200 Libertarians hold elective office, more than twice as many as all other "third" parties combined throughout the United States.