



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

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LP to Congress: Abolish FEC, or raise contribution limits

Congress should abolish the Federal Election Commission, a Libertarian Party representative advised an influential Congressional committee — or, at the very least, raise legal contribution limits and reduce the regulatory burden on smaller political parties.

“We want you to do something to help third parties in this country because America won’t survive without its independent voters and third party candidates,” former LP National Director Stuart Reges testified to the House Oversight Committee on December 12th.

At the hearing on campaign finance reform — broadcast live on C-SPAN — Reges joined the chairmen of the Republican and Democratic National Committees to urge Congress to allow Americans to make larger contributions to political parties and candidates.

But unlike his Republican and Democratic counterparts, Reges said the real solution is to get the government out of the election business. “We believe that federal involvement in elections has been far more harmful than helpful, and would prefer to see Congress repeal the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, eliminate all public funding of campaigns, and abolish the FEC,” he said.

Staggering burden

Reges also gave the Committee a primer on how FEC regulations impose a staggering burden on third parties. “Federal election law is now so complex that third parties have to spend 5% or more of their budget on compliance issues. In 1992, the Libertarian Party spent almost as much on compliance as it did on TV ads,” he said.

Part of the problem, he continued, is that the FEC considers “what impact their actions will have on Democrats and Republicans, but it never seems to occur to them to consider what impact their actions will have on smaller parties like ours. We feel that Congress should consider a different regulatory standard for minor parties.”

Reges hastened to add that the LP did not want the same government subsidies the major parties get.

“We don’t want a hand-out and we don’t want you to regulate us or our opponents to death. Just get out of the way by increasing contribution limits and decreasing regulatory burdens. We’ll take it from there,” he said.

Reges was National Director of the LP from 1992 to 1993, and remains a consultant to the party on election law and FEC compliance.

Libertarian News Notes

The LP is now a “trendy” statistic

The Libertarian Party has made an appearance in one of America’s cultural landmarks — *Harper’s Index*.

The trendy and oft-imitated “Index” appears monthly in *Harper’s* magazine, and features unusual, topical, or surprising facts presented in the form of statistics, ratios, or numbers.

The Libertarian Party joined this exclusive circle of chic statistics in the November issue. The entry: “Chances that an American member of the Libertarian Party joined within the last five year: 1 in 3.”

“It’s a slightly oblique statistic, but seems to refer to the fact that Libertarian Party membership has increased by more than a third in the last five years,” explained LP National Director Perry Willis.

LNC votes to oppose military action in Bosnia

The Libertarian National Committee, at their quarterly meeting in Washington, DC in early December, unanimously passed a resolution condemning American military involvement in Bosnia, and urged “immediate U.S. military withdrawal and a rededication to a foreign policy of no foreign wars.”

“The U.S. is not a global empire, or policemen of the world. The vital interests of the United States — namely, our Constitutional liberties, our national independence, and our security from invasion — are not at stake in Bosnia,” said National LP Chair Steve Dasbach.

Maryland LP sues over ballot denial

The Libertarian Party of Maryland — with the help of the ACLU — will file suit after one of their candidates was refused a place on the ballot.

Bob Creager filed his papers to run for Congress on December 8th, but was notified by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws that he didn’t qualify — unlike his Republican and Democratic opponents.

The LP of Maryland had submitted more than 13,000 petitions in May 1995 to win a spot on the 1996 ballot, and the right to register as Libertarians.

“This is a direct attack on the people’s right to choose who they want representing them. By denying Libertarians the same right to get on the ballot that the Democrats and Republicans have, the state is discriminating against a whole class of people,” charged Creager.

Libertarians aim for 3 M's of politics

By Amy Gianfcaro
Staff Writer

A self-described "Generation X wannabe" and a Quakertown businessman asked about 20 Bucks County Libertarians for a vote in '96 and a donation in '95.

Jo Jorgenson of South Carolina, on her way from New Hampshire to Maryland, stopped in Warrington on Thursday night to pitch her vice presidential candidacy at a rally sponsored by the Bucks County Libertarian Party.

At the same event, Richard Piotrowski, a desktop publisher from Upper Bucks, announced he will seek the Eighth District seat in Congress now held by James Greenwood.

Candidates and party leaders

preached the need for three things: members, money and media.

In Bucks County, membership is up from last year by more than 50 percent. According to the election board, 1,116 of the county's 303,654 registered voters are Libertarians.

That's one-fifth of the state's 5,500 registered Libertarians.

In Montgomery County, 733 of 317,233 registered voters are Libertarian.

Ken Sturzennacker, state party chairman, said Bucks County's demographics make it a breeding ground for Libertarians. The party's growth, he said, is with people 45 years old and younger.

Party vice chairman Wayne Seifert said demographics aren't as important as recruiting and activity when it

comes to growth in Bucks.

But while members differ on the priority factor contributing to party growth, most at Thursday's meeting agreed libertarians are poised to capture more attention and votes next year as the country's fascination with a third party increases.

Jorgenson said the Libertarian Party, the country's third largest political group, is beginning to appeal to Americans who want smaller government and "see that the Republicans aren't delivering."

A 38-year-old part-owner of a software duplication company and mother of two, Jorgenson said she's a "Generation X wannabe." A youthful woman

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Libertarians are aiming to make their mark

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whose hobbies include flying and rollerblading, she describes her platform as "traditional Libertarian."

While she has not endorsed nor will she team with any of the four declared Libertarians for president, Jorgenson said she favors candidate Harry Browne's plan to cut the budget by two-thirds during the first year.

Eliminating Departments of Education and Agriculture, pulling military out of all foreign countries and abolishing the income tax, said Jorgenson, would be a start.

"It's not that tough to get the budget down to \$500 billion, just cut down the line," she said. "A lot of people are saying yes, we need less government, but we're not sure why or how. People need to see across-the-board cuts. Nobody wants to give up their share unless everyone else is giving it up too."

The vice presidential candidate grabbed 2 percent of the vote when she ran in South Carolina as a Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress in 1992. She was former vice chairman of the South Carolina party and worked as marking director for the party nationally.

Jorgenson said Libertarians have traditionally lacked both money and media attention and have found it hard to get one without the other. She's hopeful that her party can ride the third party wave into 1996.

Piotrowski, 36, said he's never run for political office and is entering the congressional race because "the level of government that is most out of control is the federal."

He said the country's mood is more accepting of a third party than in a long time.

Don Ernsberger, chairman of the county party, asked Bucks

Libertarians to contribute \$1 per day to the campaign fund.

But, he said, Libertarians are used to doing more with less.

"The best example of how we would run the government is how we've been able to run the party historically. We don't believe that it can't be done," said Ernsberger.

▼ *The New York Times*
(National Edition)
New York, NY
November 5, 1995

▲ *The Intelligencer*, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, October 20, 1995

▼ *The Argus*, Freemont, California, November 18, 1995

Libertarians ready to party over government shutdown

By Daniel Vasquez
STAFF WRITER

NEWARK — While the government shutdown that sent 800,000 federal employees home has irked a lot of folks, especially those in need of a passport or vacation trip to Yosemite National Park, long-time Libertarian Terry Savage is celebrating.

In fact, Savage is planning a pizza party celebration in Newark.

"I'll be inviting people who be-

lieve in small government across the board, Libertarians, as well as both conservative Republicans and Democrats . . . anybody who believes our federal government is too big and who can get behind the notion that this (shutdown) is not a terrible thing," said Savage.

"I hope the government doesn't start back up before Tuesday, but we'll have the party either way."

Please see **Party**, A-12

Party: Less government is better, say the Libertarians

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Savage, who plans to run for Congress in the 13th District in 1996, said the fact that the federal government has been partially shutdown since midnight Monday, after Clinton vetoed a stopgap bill because it raised Medicare premiums, and the sky has not fallen proves, in

essence, that there are too many bureaucrats running the country.

"Cutting the government back to these levels is a good thing," he said. "I mean, I wouldn't keep the national parks closed or things like that, but we definitely could cut out 40 percent of the workers and bureaucrats." The 800,000 "nonessential" employees that have

become pawns in a budget battle represent roughly 40 percent of the federal work force.

"I intend to attend the party, but this is not exactly what we want," said fellow Libertarian Robert Gough, a Fremont business owner. "This is only a temporary (work force) cutback and it essentially means a paid vacation for 800,000

workers. We want to see something more permanent.

"But, it is worth celebrating because bureaucrats are a lot less dangerous sitting at home watching Oprah than sitting behind a desk signing papers."

The "shutdown" party is at 7 p.m. at Round Table Pizza at 5544 Thornton Ave. Call 796-4040.

A Fountainhead of Campus Libertarians?

Are more college students clutching copies of "The Fountainhead," by Ayn Rand, the procapitalist, proindividualist writer-philosopher?

Could be. Libertarianism — whose adherents tend to favor maximum civil liberties and minimum government involvement — is staging a modest comeback on campuses from Berkeley, Calif., to Cambridge, Mass.

"There does seem to be a growing interest," said Marty Zupan, who runs summer seminars on libertarianism at George Mason University's Institute for Humane Studies in Fairfax, Va. This summer 300 people, mostly students, attended, she says, compared with about 70 each summer

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during the mid-1980's.

At the University of Virginia, libertarians gather under the banner of Students for Individual Liberty. At the University of Michigan, the Michigan Review, formerly a Republican publication, now has an editor with libertarian views.

Scott Banister, a 19-year-old

sophomore at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, says he helped found College Libertarians on his campus last year, after he concluded that his views didn't fit into a left-right political continuum.

His economic views are vehemently free-market, he said. But he is "adamant about free speech and abandoning the drug prohibition."

Georgia is tough for third parties

Libertarians pave the way: Victories in Avondale Estates and Auburn city races give the group a toehold on elective politics.

By **Kathy Alexander**
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Van Buren's political opponents thought they had the perfect weapon against his bid for an Avondale Estates City Council seat: expose him as a Libertarian favoring legalized drugs and minimalist government.

But both Van Buren and a Libertarian city council candidate in Auburn, Ga., prevailed in last week's elections. They are the first officeholders elected in Georgia from the party that has been clawing for a foothold for 20 years.

"It's a major first step," said Van Buren. "We have to do what Republicans did in Georgia: win in small elections and convince people that we don't have horns on our heads."

It's been difficult to overcome the third party stigma in Georgia. In fact, until recently it was hard to overcome being anything but a Democrat.

Now, supporters of Texas billionaire Ross Perot will be the latest group seeking to firmly establish a third party here when they begin organizing their Independence Party in Georgia this month.

The Perot movement is the most visible of the third parties, and is considered the most likely to find success. But so far, Perot followers remain but one part of a vast quilt of outsider party efforts — mostly unsuccessful — that dot Georgia's political history.

No independent or third-party candidate has won a statewide race in Georgia since the 1968 presidential campaign, when Alabama Gov. George Wallace carried the state with his American Independent Party's pitch to be a voice for Southern whites.

About 17 parties in various stages of preparedness are registered as political groups in the state, including newcomers like the Georgia Patriot Party, formed at Georgia State University this year. But only the Libertarians have consistently won enough votes to have their statewide candidates automatically included on the ballot.

"Usually, they hop out, go for a while, and you don't hear from them again," Jeff Lanier, head of the Secretary of State elections division, said of third party candidates. "Because of their views, most of them really don't expect to win. They just hope to influence the process."

The Marion Party, for example, registered with the state 15 years ago on a platform that included the dismantling of nuclear arms and the banning from public office of Communists, mafia members, Masons and divorced men. The crusade



Georgia supporters of Ross Perot plan to organize an Independence Party.

"We're just trying to keep the Democrats and Republicans honest and straight."

RAYMOND YOUNG

Populist Party chairman

soon lapsed into oblivion.

Likewise, the Georgia Socialist Workers Party, formed to educate the working class and overthrow capitalism, and both the Liberal Party of Georgia and the Conservative Society of America have failed to make an impact.

Experts say difficulty in getting on the ballot is often the reason.

"Georgia has, in a sense, the craziest ballot access laws in the country," said Richard Winger of Ballot Access News, who monitors election laws nationwide.

To run statewide, a political entity must collect signatures from 1 percent of the registered voters from the last general election — currently, just under 32,000 people. For congressional or state legislative posts, it's 5 percent of voters within the district.

The requirements have tripped up several candidates. Twenty years ago, former Gov. Lester Maddox ran for president, but couldn't get on the ballot in his own state.

Last year, the Georgia Populist Party couldn't get a gubernatorial candidate on the ballot. But like many other third parties, their leaders say acting as a watchdog can mean almost as much as getting elected.

"We're just a threat," said Raymond Young, a Sumner veterinarian and chairman of the Populist Party of Georgia. "We're just trying to keep the Democrats and Republicans honest and straight."

Libertarian Leader: Party Can Attract Disaffected Voters

CONCORD — The Libertarian Party is ideally positioned to pick up members and elected representatives, according to former state party chairman Bill Winter, because Republicans are failing to deliver on campaign promises that sounded a lot like the Libertarian anti-government philosophy.

Addressing party members at the state convention yesterday, Winter, now national communications director for the party, said polls and vote results in the 1994 elections show strong support for the Libertarians' goal of cutting government.

Winter said polls show the American electorate is moving toward the Libertarian Party, or at least its pro-business, anti-government philosophy. In the 1994 elections, he said, when the party fielded 82 congressional candidates, 15 Senate candidates and 15 gubernatorial candidates, "more than 2.2 million people voted for Libertarian candidates."

The party will field nearly 1,000 candidates for various offices in 1996, he said, and the party has qualified to run candidates in a majority of states.

National party chairman Steve Dasbach said the 24-year-old party is the strongest it's ever been, but needs to continue recruiting members and contributors and building a strong party organization.

"If we're going to be a majority party . . . then we have to become

as strong organizationally" as the Republicans and Democrats, he said. The party has about 112,000 registered Libertarians and about 15,000 regular contributors, he said.

Dasbach said the Republicans' failure to make good on their campaign promises to cut government and government spending presents great opportunities for Libertarians. He said even House Speaker Newt Gingrich talks about slowing the increase in government spending. "We don't need to slow the rate of increase, we need to cut," said Dasbach.

"The Libertarian Party is the only true opposition to big government," he said, insisting the Republicans are being hypocritical when they claim to oppose big government.

Winter dismissed the possibility that Ross Perot's Independence Party could become a viable third party, saying it will field only one candidate, likely Perot for President. That's "not the same as a permanent, broad-based, growing party," he said. In contrast, he said, the Libertarian Party is unified and stable and can provide voters with candidates who have a core of beliefs and guiding principles and stands on a variety of issues.

Among the speakers at the convention were Presidential hopefuls Harry Browne and Irwin Schiff, and vice presidential candidate Jo Jorgensen.

▲ *The Manchester Union Leader*, Manchester, New Hampshire, October 16, 1885

◀ *The Atlanta Journal*, Atlanta, Georgia, November 14, 195

▼ *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, Ohio, November 17, 1995

Shutdown just the thing for Libertarians

By **ELIZABETH SCHWINN**
HEARST NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — While Democrats and Republicans bemoaned the capital's gridlock, members of a less visible political party — the Libertarians — cheerfully celebrated Tuesday's government shutdown.

"A shutdown of the government would be good medicine for America," said Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarian Party, which stresses individual rights and smaller government. Dasbach spoke as 800,000 federal workers — about one-third of Uncle Sam's employees — were sent home and parts of the federal government, including monuments and national parks, closed down.

The closed parts of government will remain shuttered until Congress and Clinton agree on a budget.

The Libertarian Party, founded in 1971 in opposition to President Nixon's wage and price controls, has 230,000 registered voters who advocate abolishing subsidies and selling off public property.

The Libertarians' delight over the federal shutdown stood out in a town devoted to the business of government.

Although some Republicans said early in the budget debate it would be good for bureaucrats to send them home without pay, by Tuesday that bravado evaporated. The gravity of sending federal workers home left both major parties pointing fingers at each other.

"Bill Clinton is shutting down the government because he is afraid to make the hard decisions necessary to balance the budget," said Haley Barbour, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

A spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee insists the GOP is to blame.

"Back in April, Newt Gingrich said he would create a 'titantic legislative standoff,'" said spokeswoman Diane Reis. "The Republicans are willing to go to extremes to push their right-wing agenda."

But Dasbach, the Libertarian, is pleased to point out: "A shutdown will remind Americans that Republican and Democratic politicians are frantically spending our nation into bankruptcy."

"What's the greatest fear of the big-government Republicans and bigger-government Democrats? That they have a shutdown of government and nobody notices. . . . We Libertarians hope a shutdown will cause the American public to ask: how can something so big and expensive do so little?"

Libertarian Hopeful Sets Sights on IRS

■ Tax resister Irwin Schiff will tell the state Libertarian convention today that the federal income tax is illegal.

By PAT HAMMOND
Sunday News Staff

Irwin A. Schiff doesn't want to be President. He wants to RUN for President.

And if the Las Vegas-based income tax-resister who hopes to be Libertarian Party candidate for President in 1996 had his way, the IRS would be running, too — for its life.

When Schiff asks New Hampshire Libertarians for their support during a luncheon address in Concord today, he'll do so by telling them why the federal income tax is illegal, a contention he substantiates with references to wording on the 1040A income tax form.

Schiff acted on these beliefs by not filing tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service, which landed him in federal prison for four years and cost him his business and marriage.

The time he served in Danbury and three other federal prisons intensified, rather than discouraged, his battle stance. Schiff writes books, makes speeches, and spars on radio talk shows, a man driven by the conviction that government illegally extorts income taxes from the people, and gets away with it because federal judges and prosecuting attorneys are corrupt.

Schiff isn't the only Libertarian vying to be the party's Presidential nominee. Harry Browne, an investment adviser in Tennessee, is running, as are Rick Tompkins and Douglas Ohmen, the two who will not be at the state convention today.

Browne's message is more traditional Libertarian than Schiff's. "The principal theme of my talk on Sunday," he said last week, "will be Americans now want a Libertarian society. Libertarians are now the mainstream. We have won the educational battle. Now we have to win the political battle."

▼ *The Juneau Empire*
Juneau, Alaska
November 27, 1995

Browne, 62, says, "If you ask people — store clerks, barbers, taxi divers, anyone — whether they want more government, less government, or what we have now — at least seven out of ten will say they want less. Their reasons and hopes may be different from ours in some ways, but they want to move in the same direction ... The desire for less government isn't a passing fad."

Schiff's major crusade is persuading the public that federal income tax filing is not compulsory. He cites the IRS commissioner's message on page three of 1040A form which begins, "Thank you for making this nation's tax system the most effective system of voluntary compliance in the world." Schiff says the operative word is "voluntary."

Schiff offers \$5,000 to anyone who can cite a law that says income taxes have to be filed and paid. He says he's made that offer for years and nobody has found such a citation.

Schiff, who holds a degree in economics, says the word voluntary is used for a reason. "Voluntary" says the IRS may give information to the Department of Justice and other federal agencies, as provided by law. So, when you give information to the government you can tell them it's okay to use this information against you? Could the government REQUIRE you to do that? No. The only way is to voluntarily do it."

Schiff said you don't have to go far to witness the implications of the IRS providing information to law enforcement agencies. Newspaper files substantiate that a Chester couple was convicted last spring in U.S. District Court, District of New Hampshire, of evading more than \$100,000 in income taxes. Stuart and Kathie (Schneider) Tulchinsky had participated in a tax protest by



LIBERTARIAN presidential nomination hopefuls Harry Browne of Tennessee, above, and Irwin A. Schiff, right, of Las Vegas.



throwing income tax forms into Boston Harbor. The couple also owned a Nashua store that sold drug paraphernalia. Their attorney, William A. Cohan of California, said the case set a precedent, at least in New Hampshire, that the IRS may serve as an information gathering agency for other federal agencies such as the Justice Department.

Schiff wants the party to adopt a new platform that includes "pledging ourselves to help expose the illegal, unconstitutional, and tyrannical manner by which the federal government has been extorting income taxes from the American public... so that those Americans who want to pay it may do so, but those who do not wish to pay it will not be illegally prosecuted or otherwise harassed for not having done so."

"On Sunday," he said, "I will probably criticize Harry Browne because he talks about abolishing the income tax, and that's a dishonest, hypocritical approach because there is no income tax to abolish."

"I don't tell people not to pay," he said several times during the interview. "I just tell them there is no law."

Schiff also wants the party platform to demand that the Federal Reserve Board be abolished; declare paper money worthless because the constitution only permits authorization of gold and silver coin; end foreign aid because it is not authorized in the constitution; and remove the im-

munity from civil suit and criminal prosecution that federal judges now enjoy.

In a telephone interview, Browne said his goal as President would be to strip government of all its powers except the "absolute defense of the country, nothing to do with bringing peace to Bosnia or Kuwait."

"And I would disentangle us from all foreign treaties and peace-keeping operations. NAFTA and GATT serve no purpose at all. You don't tear down other people's protectionist barriers by treaty, you do so by tearing down your own."

Libertarians generally agree on the principle that the least government is the best government. In recent interviews New Hampshire Libertarians defined their own more specific reasons for becoming members of the party.

"For me, the central principles are designing a society where fraud and force are not allowed," said Miriam B. Luce, whose run for governor attracted enough voters to assure ballot status for the Libertarian Party.

"The major issue for the Libertarians is convincing the electorate that the Republicans are not getting the job done, in New Hampshire or anywhere," said Luce, who was appointed to the state liquor commission by Republican Governor Merrill.

"Their rhetoric is closer to what the Libertarians are looking for than the Democrats', but their performance falls short," she said.

The Opposite Of Libertarian

W. T. Buller did a nice job defending the honorable word "libertarian," [letters, Dec. 5], but he erred when he suggested that political crank Lyndon LaRouche used to be affiliated with the Libertarian Party.

For the record, Mr. LaRouche is not a Libertarian Party member and has never been one. He has never run for president, or any other public office, as a Libertarian. (In fact, he and his followers run for office as Democrats.) He has never held any leadership position in the party, and his organization has no affiliation with the party.

Nor is Mr. LaRouche in any sense a philosophical libertarian. His platform of massive governmental control is diametrically opposed to ours and to all of the ideas that political thinkers traditionally associate with the word "libertarian."

BILL WINTER
Washington

The writer is director of communications for the Libertarian Party.

▲ *The Washington Post*
Washington, DC
December 14, 1995

◀ *The Manchester Union Leader*
Manchester, New Hampshire
October 15, 1995

Libertarians poised to appear on ballot

■ Supporters to turn in petitions to Election Division today

By MARK SABBATINI
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

A former Alaska lawmaker was the national Libertarian Party's nominee for president in 1992. That won't happen again in 1996, but someone from the party will likely be represented on the state ballot.

A petition with about 5,500 signatures was scheduled to be turned in today to the state Division of Elections office in Anchorage to ensure the party's presidential and vice-presidential can-

didates are on next year's ballot.

The party must get 2,508 signatures from qualified voters — equal to one percent of the voters who cast ballots in the 1992 election — 90 days before the election.

"We resolved to get it done way before that," said Len Karpinski, Alaska chairman of the Libertarian Party, in a phone interview today from Anchorage.

Andre Marrou, a former state representative from Homer, ran a distant fourth as the nominee for the party, which is strongly anti-government, in 1992.

"Perot stole a lot of votes from us last time," Karpinski said.

The new Libertarian candidates will be chosen during the

party's Washington, D.C., convention next July, but Karpinski said he considers California investor Harry Browne the front-runner for the presidential nomination. Browne, who has authored several books, would be the party's nominee for the first time.

"He's got the most money for the campaign and he's been sending out the most mail," Karpinski said. "Even among third parties, that's probably an indicator he's got the best organization."

Another strong candidate for the nomination is Irwin Schiff, a national protester against income taxes, Karpinski said. He said several other candidates are also running, but none are from Alas-

ka. The nominee will be brought to Alaska for a short tour and there are party supporters in Juneau who could house him, Karpinski said. But he said a decision on travel plans won't be made until the state party's March convention in Anchorage.

The Libertarian Party has fared well in Alaska in the past, seating several state legislators during the 1980s. But Karpinski said the surge of another alternative party, the Alaskan Independence Party during former Gov. Walter J. Hickel's 1990 campaign on its ticket, hurt. There are no Libertarian members in the Legislature today.