

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

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LP's "Racial Category" campaign wins support

The LP's project to eliminate "official" government racial classifications won the endorsement this month of Ward Connerly, the influential Chairman of California's Proposition 209 campaign — and is also generating nationwide media attention for the party.

The goal of the "Just Say No to Racial Classifications" (JSNTRC) campaign, launched in July, is to abolish the U.S.'s five "official" racial categories, and to urge Americans to refuse to disclose their race during the 2000 census.

The campaign scored a breakthrough on August 8th, when Connerly, one of the nation's best-known spokesmen on racial issues, endorsed the effort.

"I strongly support the Libertarian Party's campaign to remove racial classifications from U.S. census forms," said Connerly. "The elimination of these absurd little boxes is an important step toward our goal of a colorblind nation."

The JSNTRC campaign is also attracting media attention, with LP spokespeople appearing on six radio interviews and a nationwide cable TV program during the past month.

"We want to use this campaign to build public awareness of how politicians exploit racial classifications to divide the nation along racial grounds," said Steve Dasbach, LP National Chairman. "And we want to tell every single American to strike a blow for a colorblind society by saying 'no' to the census takers and 'no' to racial classifications. We're all Americans — what else does the government need to know?"

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

Media Comments on Libertarianism

"Libertarianism has contributed much to defining American political thought in the '90s. Libertarian themes — such as the relationship between private property and democracy, the unwise reliance on interventionist economic solutions and the importance of personal responsibility — are part of contemporary political discourse."

—DON FRAZEN, *The Los Angeles Times*, January 19, 1997

"Libertarian ideas — abolishing the federal income tax, privatizing Social Security and eliminating welfare, for instance — [are] clearly becoming more popular. Libertarians are more and more driving the political debate in this country."

—LARRY HICKS, *The York Dispatch (PA)*, January 24, 1997

LP puts anti-curfew question on 1998 Anchorage ballot

Anchorage residents will have the opportunity to repeal a citywide teenage curfew next year, thanks to the efforts of an Alaska Libertarian who collected enough signatures to put the question on the ballot.

LP member Scott Kohlhaas submitted 11,000 petitions to the city on August 19th to put a curfew-repeal referendum question on the ballot, and says his campaign will educate people about the unjust nature of the curfew — and perhaps help recruit the next generation of Libertarian activists.

"We're telling people that it's a family decision — not a government decision" when it comes to deciding how late teenagers should be allowed to stay out, said Kohlhaas.

Voters will decide the issue at the city-wide elections on April 2, 1998 — and the final outcome is far from certain. "At this point, we could lose big," admitted Kohlhaas. "We have a long campaign ahead of us."

But he said he already has \$17,000 in pledges committed to wage an anti-curfew information campaign, and plans to spend most of it on radio ads.

But even if he doesn't win, Kohlhaas said his campaign will accomplish another important goal: Bring the Libertarian message to the teenagers of Alaska. "We need a new generation of Libertarians," he said. "If we fight for them when no one else will, they'll remember us. That's how we build a new constituency. We're planting seeds now."

40,000,000 "Libertarians"!

Forty million and counting — that's the number of times the word "libertarian" appeared in print in the United States over the past four months, according to figures from the Libertarian Party's clipping services.

"We're getting closer to the day when Americans will be able to read about libertarianism *every* day in their newspaper," said LP Deputy Communications Director George Getz.

According to Bacon's Information, Inc., the party's clipping service, from April to July the word "Libertarian" was mentioned in 22 magazines and 227 newspapers with a combined circulation of 40,133,970.

Included were LP press releases; LP-written op-ed pieces; and news stories about LP affiliate parties, legal action, and campaigns. In addition, the number includes some stories about "libertarian" organizations like the Cato Institute, or civil-libertarian issues, or about general political issues.

If current trends keep up, the word "Libertarian" should appear in print more than 100 million times this year.

◀ Honolulu
Advertiser
Honolulu,
Hawaii
June 27, 1997

▼ Ludington
Daily News
July 16, 1997

Become an extremist

Island Voices

RICHARD O. ROWLAND

their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Extreme? If so, I plead guilty and I do so with pride, as well as humility.

Our governments, state and national, are, to an advanced degree, out of control of the people they supposedly serve. The majority of our citizens know this but have chosen to suffer in "mainstream" silence. To quote again from the Declaration of Independence: "... Experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

And later, discussing the evils the king had visited on the colonies: "He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat

out their substance."

Well, we are all in the process of having our "substance" eaten out with 40 to 50 percent of our earnings being taken as taxes that we "voluntarily" pay.

Shucks, I think I'll get even more "extreme."

Want to join me?

By the way, my remarks were received by all at the luncheon with startled looks, followed by thoughtful, accepting expressions of agreement.

All is not lost, folks. Not yet anyway.

All we need to do is get active in the next election and back candidates who sincerely wish to limit government to core functions only and thereby cut taxes.

And we must "just say no" to the offers that the government manipulators make to transfer wealth or benefits to us at the expense of unseen others. That's how they've been able to corrupt us in the past. If we "just say no," they lose their power.

Become an extremist. It's kind of fun as well as a little scary, sometimes because these power brokers really get angry and vicious when you cross them.

Richard O. Rowland is chairman of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii.

A few weeks ago I was at a business luncheon with 12 or so persons in attendance. In the course of the conversation some political matter came up with four or five people expressing thoughts and views on the subject.

I finally spoke up with my own philosophy about the situation, only to have a fellow immediately chime in with a friendly but pointed comment: "Remember, Rowland is an extremist," implying that no one should give my thought much credence.

My retort was swift and to the point: "Indeed, I am an extremist, in the same way that Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison and all the other Founding Fathers of our nation were extremists."

Here are two more extremist views: "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country" and "Give me liberty or give me death."

And so were these views from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving

but also the Michigan Constitution. As such, it should be held in as high a regard as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. A lot of people have died preserving these rights over the last 221 years and our goal is to remind people that every right is important to them."

A key point of the rally will be a memorial service for the millions of victims of gun control throughout the world. Affiliate vice chair Brian Kluesner of Manistee has designed and built a permanent memorial to the victims.

"We felt that if we were going to hold a rally to celebrate our right to keep and bear arms, it was important that we also remember the millions of people around the world who lost their lives because governments took that right away from them," explained Kluesner.

The picnic and rally is being held at Rose Lake County Park near Tustin. It will begin at noon. The rally starts at 2 p.m. For more information and directions contact Brian Kluesner at 616-723-8599.

Libertarians plan 2nd Amendment rally at Aug. 9 picnic

MANISTEE - The Libertarian Party of Mid-West Michigan will hold a 2nd Amendment rally in conjunction with their annual picnic Aug. 9.

The "Keep and Bear Fair," which is open to the public at no charge, will feature speakers from throughout the state, games, and an Operation Politically Homeless booth.

"We see this as a family event we would like to hold every year," said party chair John Willis. "The right to keep and bear arms is a long held tradition in this country. It is not only part of the United States Constitution

Is 'Xer' thought really Libertarian philosophy?

Dear Genny X: I get a chance to read your column only sporadically, but I wondered whether you would consider yourself a Libertarian. Not to generalize, but several national polls indicate that many twentysomething people have a Libertarian outlook, whether they know it or not.

I haven't read much positive commentary about politicians or political parties in your writing. Do you have any comments on the Libertarian Party? The obvious criticism is that it isn't effective since there aren't many Libertarians in office — only about 170 elected and appointed Libertarians around the country, mostly at the local level.

— Ken in Bloomington

Hey Ken: I have little faith in a political system full of monomaniacal blowhards, spineless sell-outs and out-of-touch geezers. When I pause even momentarily to ponder national politics, my vision is blocked by huge egos and the wreckage of abandoned ethics.

- ▶ Newt Gingrich sputtering about his latest book.
- ▶ Gary Hart engaged in a seaside lap-dance with a bimbo.
- ▶ Oliver North leering over the paper-shredder.
- ▶ Bob Packwood pawing a female page in a back room.
- ▶ Bill Clinton with his zipper caught in Paula Jones' badly permed hair.

Even semiyoung, otherwise hip political advisers James Carville and Mary Matalin, after be-



ing wildly overexposed by the media, became distracted by the cash cow of endorsements.

In high school, I was so confused about politics that I joined both the Republican and Democrat groups. Several of us, searching for clues about any actual differences between the two major parties, grew so bored by partisan bickering that we started a new group called Politically Concerned Students. A Libertarian rally was held in our auditorium, but — forgive me — I chalked it up as same crock, different hue.

So when I got your letter I called Bill Winter, national director of communication for the Libertarian Party. He says young people who are cynical about government, believe in social tolerance, but don't buy the effectiveness of massive social programs are "instinctively Libertarian" in their ideals, even if they have never been able to put a label on it.

Citing national polls, Minnesota party chair Charles Test contends that 20 percent of Americans consider themselves Libertarians even if they don't know the definition of the word. "Young Americans are cynical. They look at a Social Security system that will most likely be bank-

rupt by the time they retire, and they don't trust politicians," he said. "Yet they are the most tolerant generation in American history; they've grown up in a very diverse atmosphere and don't believe that politicians have the right to tell people how to live their lives."

Libertarians believe government should stay out of your wallet and your bedroom. (So if you leave your wallet in your bedroom, in a Libertarian regime it would be doubly safe.)

Anthony Sanders, 21, a senior at Hamline University in St. Paul who's on the executive committee of the state Libertarian Party, said young people are much more open to third parties, but there are sticking points for both liberal and conservative people attracted to Libertarianism: The first have a problem with its anti-interference belief in people's "unrestricted freedom to bear arms," and the second don't like its anti-interference belief in legalizing drugs.

Winter said that younger people's ease with the relatively unregulated Internet may pull them toward his party's philosophy: "Why stop at the Internet? Let's get government regulation out of other parts of society."

"We believe that individuals can spend their own money better than the politicians can, and, like liberals, we believe in social tolerance. We combine the best aspects of traditional liberalism and the best aspects of traditional conservatism. The difference is that we mean it and they don't."

OK, Mr. Winter, but — to change the subject for a moment to empty rhetoric — why does that last boast sound so familiar?

For more info

▶ The national Libertarian Party Web page is www.lp.org/ and the Minnesota Libertarian Web page is www.lpmn.org and an online newsletter is at www.lpmn.org/newsletter.html. Both pages include bylaws, the party platform, history, links, a directory and information on how to join. By regular mail, write to **Libertarian Party of Minnesota**, P.O. Box 580774, Minneapolis, MN 55488. Or call 788-2660.

◀ *The Star Tribune*
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 13, 1997

▼ *The Times Leader*
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania,
July 6, 1997

Libertarians roll up sleeves for park clean up

By JENNIFER L. HENN

Times Leader Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE — In an effort to prove they're not all talk and no action, the Luzerne County Libertarian Party helped clean up the Fourth of July mess in Kirby Park on Saturday.

Their purpose was to take an active role in the community — and to stand behind the principle that people don't need the government to take care of them.

"We're out here to show that we can make a difference, that we don't need government because we can do it ourselves," said Betsy Summers, cleanup coordinator.

About 12 members of the Luzerne

County Libertarian Party came to the park at 7 a.m. They picked up litter and other items from Friday night's celebration.

"There was some interesting garbage there," Summers said. "I won't say what it was, but I was amazed that people could leave there without some of it."

The cleanup was complete by 11 a.m.

"We felt good about what we had done," Summers said. "We got out here and worked for the community because that's the way we believe it should be done."

"We even got to meet a newly registered member of the party."

The new member, Summers says, is

one of many. Three years ago Luzerne County had 20 registered Libertarians. Today there are almost 220.

Summers credits dissatisfaction with government for the party's growth. She says people are realizing that the government isn't very effective when it comes to problem-solving or anything else.

With the last paper napkin thrown in the trash, Summers suspects the Libertarians managed to save the taxpayers in Wilkes-Barre some money Saturday.

"I bet the city workers who were assigned to clean up the park got to leave early thanks to all the work we did," Summers said. "Maybe that saved the city a little money."

A different kind of L word

The black gentleman sitting across the desk from me spoke with confident ease, wonderful articulation and a politeness befitting the elected office he holds. The message he came to deliver was not.

Libertarians, he asserted, are fundamentally racist. By extension, then, I, too, must be a bigot because I work for a newspaper whose owners have championed libertarian philosophy.

I've never been much for assigning guilt by association, nor do I have much respect for those whose powers of deduction are so dangerously stunted. For the record, though, working for a company whose stockholders believe in applying libertarian thought to practical problem solving no more makes me a libertarian than selling Japanese-made cars or stereos means the employee is Oriental.

Espousing libertarian principles is also different from being a politicized member of the Libertarian Party, as our corporate leaders have emphasized to us.

And so far as I know, I have never met a libertarian who is a racist. Libertarian beliefs, in fact, strongly support equality for the races, genders and social classes.

Perhaps the man in my office confused the libertarian battle cry of limited government and its clarion call for free market solutions instead of government programs for bigotry. It's that same guilt by association reaction.

Although there is not sufficient space to defend the premise here, the truth of the matter is that this country's founding fathers were on the libertarian scale of the political continuum.

And the country is swinging back to those core principles.

The Feb. 6 issue of the Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call reported on two surveys that found growing popularity for libertarian positions.

Penn & Schoenn Associates conducted a poll after the 1996



BY THE WAY

DAN E. WAY / DDT EDITOR

election that determined "30 percent of Americans agree government should stay out of people's lives so they can solve their problems without interference or regulation."

A solid 65 percent said "government is too big and must be cut back."

The Lake/Tarrance Group's November 1996 poll showed 24 percent of Americans agree government should do as little as possible to interfere in individuals' lives other than providing for national defense and the fair administration of justice.

And 51 percent said "you can't trust government to do what's right."

Libertarian office holders are at an all-time high of 192 nationwide. Nearly all are at the local level, though party officials believe that is the staging point for statewide and, later, national elected office.

Hugh Downs, co-host of the popular 20/20 news program, was a guest on the Politically Incorrect television show March 31 when he made this telling remark:

"I think it might be important to point out that this country is a one-party country. Half of that party is called Republican and half is called Democrat. It doesn't make any difference. All the really good ideas belong to the Libertarians." Downs went so far as to say the party of Lincoln would be surprised to find Honest Abe would be a Libertarian today, not a Republican.

In early May, movie star Kurt Russell followed Hollywood celebrities Clint Eastwood and John Laroquette in announcing he is a Libertarian.

"I think a lot of people are libertarians and are afraid to admit it — or don't know,"

Russell said. If they don't know, there is a way to find out.

Advocates for Self-Government, a nonprofit, educational organization whose purpose is to present libertarianism honestly and persuasively, has developed what it calls the World's Smallest Political Quiz. Conservative icon Rush Limbaugh once took the test on the air. His score revealed that he is on the borderline between conservative and Libertarian.

The quiz comprises 10 questions, five each on personal and economic issues. Point values are awarded for each response, and the total score determines whether the test-taker is an authoritarian, left liberal, centrist, right conservative or a Libertarian.

There are three possible responses: yes, maybe, and no. The questions are:

Personal Issues

- Military service should be voluntary (no draft).
- Government should not control radio, TV or the press.
- Repeal regulations on sex by consenting adults.
- Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.
- Let people immigrate and emigrate freely.

Economic Issues

- Businesses and farms should operate without government subsidies.
- People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.
- Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal them.
- End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.
- Europe and Japan should provide their own defense.

I have no particular interest in your political leaning, nor do I wish to change them.

But if you are interested in taking the time to answer the test I would be happy to compare your responses to the quiz scale to determine where you fall on the self-government compass. Simply submit the clearly marked responses to me in the order the questions are listed.

◀ *The Delta Democrat Times*
Greenville,
Mississippi
June 27, 1997

▼ *The American*
Westhampton
Beach,
New York
July 9, 1997

lucky we ever show Is a member of Congress worth more than \$800 a day? That's what they're getting, based on the number of days they schedule to work on legislation. The Libertarian Party has counted up the legislative days in the last session — 167 — and figured that at the current pay of \$133,600, it works out to \$822 a day.