

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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## FAMOUS LIBERTARIANS . . .

### LP's David Nolan: One of the top 2000 intellectuals of 20th Century

**D**avid Nolan, the man who founded the Libertarian Party, has been named one of the "2,000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 20th Century" by a British publishing company.

In May, Nolan was notified by the Cambridgeshire, England-based International Biographical Centre (IBC) that he would be included in their upcoming reference work which features the greatest thinkers of the past 100 years.

Nolan's reaction? "Amusement, mostly. I really don't think I'm one of the 2000 leading intellectuals of this or any other century . . . but then again, maybe I am," he said — especially considering "what idiots most intellectuals really are."

Although the IBC did not explain their selection criteria to Nolan, he speculated his inclusion was due to



**David Nolan:**  
"Amused"

the so-called Nolan Chart, which pioneered the measurement of political beliefs on a four-way Liberal/Conservative/Libertarian/Authoritarian scale, rather than the old-fashioned Left-Right spectrum.

"I'm pretty sure it's because of my two-axis 'map' of the political universe," he said. "It's appeared in countless textbooks, and Sharon Harris at the Advocates for Self-Government told me their on-line Political Quiz [based on the Nolan Chart] is one of the most linked-to sites on the Web, with over 3,000 links."

The finished book, entitled *2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 20th Century*, will be published in late 2000, according to the IBC.

### Senator Bob Smith: Wants to be the LP's presidential nominee?

**T**he Libertarian Party may soon have a new contender for its presidential nomination — one who is pro-War on Drugs, pro-increased military spending, pro-flag burning amendment, pro-prayer in government schools, and anti-abortion.

In mid May, Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), a contender for the Republican presidential nomination who is languishing at 1% in the national polls, announced he might seek the nomination of the Libertarian, U.S. Taxpayer's, or Reform parties — or all three.

"I'm doing all the research now," said Smith. "I've talked to a lot of experts on third parties. You name them, I've talked to them in the last [few] weeks."

#### No contact

Officials at LP headquarters in Washington, DC said they haven't been contacted by Smith's campaign.

"We'd be happy to explain to Senator Smith how to go about seeking our presidential nomination — but he hasn't asked us," said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger, who noted that the LP presidential candidate is chosen by delegates at the party's national convention.

Although considered a fiscal conservative and good on Second Amendment issues, Smith could run into problems with Libertarians because of his support for "concentration camps" for non-violent drug users, increased military spending, and a Constitutional amendment to make flag-burning illegal.

### Shocker: Jacob Hornberger drops out

**J**ust 66 days after he launched a presidential exploratory committee, Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger has dropped out of the race for the Libertarian Party's nomination in 2000.

Hornberger made the surprising announcement at the Washington state LP's annual convention on June 12.

"Since the formation of my exploratory committee two months ago, it has become clear that it is impossible for me to operate simultaneously the Future of Freedom Foundation and a presidential [campaign]," he explained. "There's no point in doing both endeavors ineffectively."

Following his announcement, Hornberger said he would remain neutral in the race for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination.

# Libertarian gains predicted

## Presidential candidate says party will attract independent voters

BY FRITZ WENZEL  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

FINDLAY - The Libertarian Party's 2000 presidential candidate told the party faithful here yesterday that they stand to attract the growing number of independent voters in years to come, but only if they stand by their conservative principles.

Jacob Hornberger, a former Texas lawyer who gave up his practice 12 years ago to begin a Libertarian think tank near Washington, told the party's state conventioners that they ought not be focused on ballot-box victories yet, but should keep spreading their mantra of limited government.

"It's not a question of what you've won or what you've lost. It's

a question of standing your ground," he said. "Your weapon is your principles. Without principles, you become just like the Democrats and Republicans."

In a speech to about 85 people at the Findlay Inn, Mr. Hornberger called for Libertarians to guard against erosion of the freedoms outlined in the Declaration of Independence.

"You should be able to do whatever you like, as long as you don't murder, steal, rape, burglarize, or defraud," he said. "It is the role of government to protect these freedoms."

"The primary purpose of government under Democrats and Republicans is to take wealth from one person and give it to another," he said.

"We have a right to do as we please . . . without asking for permission. The choice is ours. These rights pre-exist government."

Mr. Hornberger denounced Social Security as a government program that takes not only tax money but also the initiative to help elderly family members from American workers. To call for the abolition of Social Security, he said, is to "argue whether we can be trusted to honor our mothers and fathers."

He said Americans must "recapture that sense of self-reliance. It is incumbent upon us to do that."

Speaking against what he called the government's failed war on illegal drugs, Mr. Hornberger criticized the federal system as too intrusive. He said it should be up to individuals to decide whether they want to destroy their own lives by abusing drugs.

"Under what [constitutional] authority does the collective force this upon me, to prevent me from doing harm to myself?"

He told the group that the Libertarian message of self-reliance must move into the country's central cities before it can experience a "breakthrough" to major political party status. He also criticized Democrats and Republicans for conspiring through restrictive ballot access laws to freeze Libertarians out of the political process.

Mr. Hornberger, 49, was the keynote speaker at the weekend convention. He is the founder of the Future of Freedom Foundation.



BLADE PHOTO

Hornberger: He backs rights.

▲ *The Blade*, Toledo, Ohio, May 16, 1999

▼ *The Daily Press*, Victorville, California, May 18, 1999

# Taxes: Libertarians say 'give it back'

By WYATT HAUPT  
Staff Writer

Cries of "Give It Back" are echoing throughout the state from the Libertarian Party of California in response to the announcement the state has an estimated budget surplus of \$4 billion.

The figure was unveiled Friday by Gov. Gray Davis, who quickly earmarked the excess cash for education, infrastructure programs, local governments and other programs.

But, Libertarian State Chairman Mark Hinkle said the political faction would like to see the excess revenues go back to the state's taxpayers. The party has 76,830 registered voters in the state, 2,694 of which are registered in San Bernardino County.

"We call it the 'Give It Back' plan. Give back the entire surplus to everyone who filed an income tax return. No meaningless tax cuts, no new pork projects — just a full refund. It's the right thing to do," Hinkle said in a statement.

Hinkle said if the \$4 billion was given back to the roughly

12.1 million individuals who file state income tax returns annually, then it would equate to a \$330.58 refund for each taxpayer.

"The term 'surplus' is a euphemism for 'We've taken too much.' The state has overcharged taxpayers, who are now entitled to a refund," Hinkle said.

"Since individuals know how to spend their money better than the government does, our plan would allow taxpayers to save or spend as they see fit, thus benefiting themselves and the economy at the same time."

Dave Hollist, database manager for the party's San Bernardino County chapter, also backed the proposal.

"Yes, it's a good idea. Simply because the amount of money gets to be so large it seems like a reasonable thing to do," Hollist said.

"It seems like when it (the surplus) is in the billions of dollars, it justifies the return of the money back to the taxpayers."

The Libertarian Party's proposal is far different than that

of the governor.

Davis proposed the following expenditures for the surplus:

- \$1.2 billion for public education to make the state's schools safer and higher education more affordable.
- \$1 billion for capital improvements to finance local projects and to rebuild schools and parks.
- \$650 million to strengthen public safety.
- \$570 million into the state's reserve for economic uncertainties.
- \$178 million to protect California's environment.

"This year, California must seize the special opportunity presented by our strongest economy in decades to invest in California's future without saddling future generations with spiraling costs," Davis said in a statement.

Hinkle said Davis' proposed plan is unacceptable.

"The state does not have an entitlement to tax money. That money belongs to the people and should be returned to the people," Hinkle said.

## Libertarian Party of Michigan holds convention

The Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM) held its annual convention at the Ramada Inn in Southfield the weekend of May 1 and 2. Michigan's largest "minor" political party elected Stacy Van Oast from Richmond its new chair.

"I'm looking forward to helping advance the cause of returning our country to its libertarian roots," said the former two-term LPM Vice Chair. "The party is beginning to gain some real momentum and I feel privileged to take up the cause from the dedicated Libertarians who preceded me and who preserved through more than a quarter century of painstaking progress."

Teresa Pollock of Brighton was chosen Vice Chair; Keith Edwards of St. Clair Shores was elected Secretary; David Nagy of Livonia was re-elected to the Treasurer post.

In addition, Mark Heil of Harrison Township, Doug MacDonald of Livonia, Nancy O'Brien of Allen Park, Bruce Hoepner of Southfield, and Dan LaFavers of Ypsilanti were elected as At-Large Directors.

The new chair of the country's fifth largest state affiliate of the Libertarian Party outlined an ambitious plan for accelerating the growth of the 1,500-member Michigan organization.

"My first official act," said Van Oast, "was to appoint my immediate predecessor in this office, Tim O'Brien, to a newly created position of Executive Director."

O'Brien served as party chair

▲ *The Albion Recorder*  
Albion, Michigan, May 7, 1999

► *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette*  
Worcester, Massachusetts, April 18, 1999

from May of 1997 until last weekend when he did not seek reelection to that position. His two-term tenure saw party membership rise by more than 40% and the party budget more than doubled.

He also began a monthly op-ed column which now runs regularly in the *Detroit News* and *Free Press* as well as numerous other papers throughout the state.

"Tim has given us a much higher profile and taken us to a new level of professionalism," said Van Oast. "Making him Executive Director along with assembling this kind of Executive Committee team was the next logical step. We intend to make the Libertarian Party a force to be reckoned with in Campaign 2000...and into the next millennium."

## Libertarians plot party-building

By Timothy J. Connolly  
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

**BEDFORD** — You can register to join the Libertarian Party when you renew your driver's license.

You can also choose Republican, Democrat or no party (unenrolled). The Libertarians gained that listing in November when two of their statewide candidates, David Atkinson for secretary of state and Carla Howell for auditor, received more than 3 percent of the vote.

"Now that we have major party status, we have to start acting like a major party," David Rizzo of Marblehead told the state party convention yesterday at the Renaissance Hotel. "... We have to put a governor in the governor's mansion."

Several of the 200 party members at the convention snickered at Rizzo's mistake — there is no governor's mansion in Massachusetts — but everyone applauded his enthusiasm. Rizzo is already campaigning for state representative in the 8th Essex District in the 2000 election.



Browne

There was plenty of enthusiasm at the convention. Whether talking about abolishing income taxes, legalizing marijuana or shrinking government, people were energized.

The highly animated luncheon speaker, author Shelley Davis, found out just how energized when she suggested that pointing out that the Internal Revenue Service is illegal might not help the Libertarian cause. She was booed and hissed, and then a man stood to challenge her.

Davis, a veteran of the speaking circuit, continued explaining her position, hoping that the man would sit down. He did not. At the first opportunity, the man said most Americans agree with him that the IRS is illegal and should be put out of business. Davis disagreed.

### LESS GOVERNMENT

"Let's debate," he said.

"This isn't a debate, it's a luncheon talk," shouted someone in the back.

Some people headed for the exit. But, generally, cooler heads prevailed.

The Libertarians found much to agree on at the convention, among the largest such gatherings in the country. Their goal of a free society with less government was echoed by speaker after speaker.

"This is really great," said Harry Browne, the party candidate for president in 1996. "In some states you only get 25 people at the convention."

Browne and Jacob Hornberger, both potential party candidates for president next year, spoke to the convention. Browne, an investment adviser and radio talk show host, is still weighing his options before announcing whether he will run. Hornberger, the head of an education foundation, yesterday announced he is forming a committee to explore a campaign.

A Browne campaign in 2000 would look much like his effort in '96. He has three main issues: eliminate the federal income tax, eliminate Social Security and end the "insane" war on drugs.

Browne said the first two can be accomplished by shrinking government and auctioning off surplus federal holdings. Money from the auction would be used to replace Social Security with private lifetime annuities for people who had already paid into the system.

When someone asked him about the federal government's war on drugs, Browne said, "That's insane war on drugs." By making drugs illegal the government created a black market controlled by violent gangs, he said. To fight the gangs, the government has re-

sorted to violating civil liberties, he said.

If Hornberger decides to run, his would be a "pure Libertarian" campaign. He would seek to repeal Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the war on drugs and the war on poverty.

"I look at it as a great big student council race," said Hornberger, whose last election victory was for a high school student council seat.

"There would be a strong moral tone to the campaign, with an emphasis on self reliance, free markets and voluntary charity," he said.

Whether its Browne or Hornberger carrying the Libertarian banner, the candidate will be important to the state party's momentum. In the 2000 election, a Libertarian candidate will need to get 3 percent of the vote to retain its major party status. Howell, running for U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's seat, will be the only other Libertarian on the statewide ballot.

If the presidential candidate and Howell fail to get 3 percent, the Libertarians would need to register about 30,000 people to keep its status. The party has between 7,000 and 8,000 members now and would need between 37,000 to 40,000, or 1 percent of all voters, to maintain its position with the Democrats

and Republicans.

One of the party-building strategies is to recruit candidates for state representative seats. The Libertarians ran four candidates for state representative last year and its goal in 2000 is 20. They are not planning on winning these races, only contesting them.

Michael Tuniewicz noted that 70 percent of the state House and Senate seats were uncontested in last year's election. The Republican party ran 65 candidates for the 160 seats in Statehouse. The Libertarians consider that a weak effort and an opening for them.

"Wherever there is a weak second party, we have the opportunity to become the second party," Tuniewicz said. "As a first step in that direction, let me say that the days of the Republican Party in Massachusetts are numbered."

Rizzo caught the convention's attention by sharing a folksy dream with the audience. He said he sees a day 30 years from now when he is sitting on his front porch swing with grandchildren gathered around him. His wife will bring out a pitcher of lemonade and one of the youngsters will get his attention.

"One of the grand kids will say, 'Tell us again, grandpa, how you helped build the Libertarian Party in Massachusetts,'" Rizzo said, as applause filled the room.



# Privacy going same way as Pony Express

## New postal regulations treat citizens as if all are guilty of breaking laws

**O**UR benevolent government is at it again. Barely one month after the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation rescinded its Know Your Customer proposal to spy on bank customers, the Postal Service has issued new regulations that sound uncannily similar.

Published in the Federal Register of March 25, the new postal regulations require private mailbox customers to furnish two forms of identification — including one with a photo — when renting a private mailbox. In addition, mail delivered to private mailboxes must bear a new address designation — PMB — or risk being undelivered.

The identification provision took effect April 26. Private mailbox customers have an additional six months to notify senders to use the new address designation.

According to the Postal Service, the new rules are designed to combat mail fraud. Sounds reasonable, doesn't it? In fact, at first glance the rules seem fairly innocuous.

But look closer and you'll see the same sort of bureaucratic, paternalistic thinking that has allowed government at all levels to grow at increasing rates over the last 40

### LOCAL VIEW By Juan C. Ros

years while slowly eroding the individual liberties that the Framers of the Constitution held so dear.

It's the sort of thinking that led the FDIC to propose Know Your Customer last December. Had that regulation been adopted, banks would have been required to develop profiles on every customer and report suspicious banking activity to the government. Thanks to a campaign led by the Libertarian Party, the FDIC dropped the proposed rules in March.

The new postal regulations carry many of the same hallmarks as Know Your Customer. To wit:

■ The regulations increase the burden on business. Private mailbox firms such as Mailboxes Etc. — known in the industry as Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies or CMRAs — must now bear the responsibility for verifying each customer's identity. CMRAs have an

interest in reducing fraud, but they have no interest in inconveniencing customers. They should not be forced to do the Postal Service's dirty work.

■ The regulations eliminate privacy. Many private mailbox renters have good reasons for wanting to keep a low profile — battered spouses in hiding, police officers who wish to keep their home addresses confidential and celebrities. Thanks to the new PMB designation, that privacy is gone, and some of these individuals may become endangered. Small businesses getting off the ground — such as those started in homes and garages — may rent a private mailbox to give the appearance of having a physical office. Those businesses stand to lose under the new regulations.

But even worse, anyone — not just police — can request to see a customer's application information if that customer is doing or soliciting business from his or her private mailbox.

■ The regulations require reporting to the government. CMRAs always had to file a list of customers with the Postal Service, but that requirement was annual. Under the new rules, CMRAs must provide quarterly lists of new customers, current customers and customers terminated within six months, implying that the Postal Service will be taking a closer look at customer information — not a comforting

thought.

■ The regulations operate under the assumption that the customer is guilty until proven innocent. This is probably the saddest fact of all. Like Know Your Customer, the Postal Service is depriving the many of their liberties for the sake of a very small few lawbreakers. The problem is, criminals do not follow the law and will find ways around these rules, while law-abiding customers are forced to sacrifice their privacy.

In the last two years of the Clinton administration, 8,645 regulations have been adopted. It makes one wonder how many other onerous regulations have slipped past the public's radar.

Anyone who cares about individual privacy should oppose these regulations. Unfortunately, the only way to reverse them — outside of the Postal Service experiencing an epiphany — is through an act of Congress.

So call, write, fax or e-mail your representative. Urge them to recognize the erosion of American privacy — and to stop it before privacy goes the way of the Pony Express.

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## Libertarian leader urges party members to stir up some 'trouble'

By CHRIS STARRS  
Staff Reporter

According to Mark Antieau, one of the first steps in the sojourn toward "choosing freedom" begins with being a troublemaker.

Antieau, who ran for secretary of state last year under the banner of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, spoke to approximately 35 east metro residents in Conyers Thursday evening, reminding them that they'll never effect political or social change if they don't get off the couch.

"You have to choose freedom and you have to work for freedom," said Antieau, who was joined by state party executive director Mark Mosley at the meeting of the East Metro Libertarian Party. "Sitting at home in front of the TV won't cut it. Hopefully, you want to live in a Libertarian society, or at least make the Republicans and Democrats act like Libertarians."

Espousing the Libertarian tenets of smaller government, fewer regulations and restrictions and personal freedom, Antieau pointed out that the party's sentiments are beginning to catch on.

He said that Libertarian

candidates running for statewide office in Georgia earned 4 percent of the popular vote last November, adding in some counties where the party has active chapters, as many as 10 percent of the voters expressed a preference for Libertarians.

"When you get 4 percent of the vote, you're getting somebody's attention," he said. "Our state chairman got a lot of calls from Republicans and Democrats last year, begging us not to run candidates. In many close elections, we're the deciding factor. We're getting the message out to the voters."

Libertarians may be playing a role in deciding the outcome of close political races, but Antieau and Mosley agree that having a hand in a political race and winning a campaign are two different things.

**MOSLEY POINTED** out that there are two elected officials (both on city councils) who espouse Libertarian beliefs in Georgia and approximately 150 party members holding elected office around the country. But national party membership has grown three-fold in the last two years, jumping from 10,000 card-carrying Libertarians to

more than 30,000.

"In this off-election year, we're building our infrastructure of county parties," said Mosley, who's been involved with the party for more than 20 years. "And we're getting in touch with people to let them know we exist and that we're here to stay. We offer a pro-freedom choice that's distinctly different from the other two parties."

Antieau, who also ran for a seat on the state's Public Service Commission in 1996, shared with the group his five levels of political activism: checkbook activism, casual activism, becoming a "go-to" activist, becoming an "organizer," and becoming a "troublemaker."

"I love stirring up trouble," said Antieau, who added he probably won't run for political office in 2000. "I'm not talking about overturning the government. I'm talking about getting just mad enough with the way things are going to stand up and say no. I've always been afraid of public speaking, but I felt this was so important that I had to overcome my fears, stand up and say no. If you're ready to choose freedom, it's time to get active."

## Lib Party backs 215

Citing the prosecution of Steve Kubby, its candidate for governor, the Libertarian Party of California has launched a web site — [www.215Now.com](http://www.215Now.com) — to pressure government officials into implementing Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative.

"Two years, five months, and 20 days have passed since Prop 215 went into effect, but patients and physicians continue to be harassed, arrested, and prosecuted," said Mark Hinkle, the party's state chairman.

The 215Now.com site was inspired by the January arrests of Steve Kubby, the 1998 Libertarian candidate for governor, and his wife Michele.

The first phase of 215Now.com — dubbed "Reschedule Marijuana now!" — will urge officials to change marijuana's legal status from a Schedule-I to a Schedule-II drug.

— Journal staff report

▲ (TOP) *The Daily News*  
Woodland Hills, California, May 9, 1999

▲ *The Auburn Journal*  
Auburn, California, May 17, 1999

◀ *The Rockdale Citizen*  
Conyers, Georgia, May 14, 1999