



The Liberty Pledge

FEBRUARY 1985
NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the participants in the National Libertarian Party Pledge program. Because of your contribution, we are able to carry on the daily activities of the Party, and we want you to know what we are doing. We also want the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and let you know about others who are helping the Party as volunteers and contributors. So, first, thank you!

ELECTIONS PAST -- Libertarian Party candidate William Murray finished fourth in a field of seven for Mayor of Burlington, Vermont on March 5. Even though voters re-elected the city's Socialist Mayor without a run-off, Murray says his effort made a lot of new contacts and was well worth it. He plans to run for Alderman next year and expects the Libertarians to field candidates in all six city wards.

Missouri Libertarian Mary Tennison made an unsuccessful bid for a district city council seat in Kansas City on February 5. She ran a low budget, grass roots campaign against well-financed opponents in the non-partisan race and views her effort as a very positive learning experience.

San Antonio Libertarians earned from 10 to 18 percent of the vote in three local races in January. James Robinson and Kenneth Hendrix ran for seats on the river authority board, and Dr. Eva Lee Snead was a candidate for the board of trustees of the Edwards Aquifer Underground Water District.

Libertarian Selectman John Kelleher reports that nearly one-third of the voters in Epsom, New Hampshire voted to abolish the Planning Board at the March 12 town meeting. He says there is a definite shift in attitude toward the role of local government and that a vote of this size against zoning would have been impossible just a few years ago. His petition forcing the vote so worried planning advocates that they organized a counter-petition to require a two-thirds majority to abolish the board. Kelleher began writing a weekly letter-to-the-editor of the county paper in January, and the zoning issue quickly became the prime letters topic.

ELECTIONS TO COME -- A total of seven Libertarians will be running for local offices in Illinois on April 2. In addition to the five candidates mentioned in the previous Liberty Pledge Newsletter are George Clowes, running for Trustee of the Mt. Prospect Park District, and Jim Young, running for city council in Normal.

SEATTLE MEETINGS -- A Northwest Regional Libertarian Conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Seattle April 19-21 in conjunction with a scheduled business meeting of the Libertarian National Committee. The Conference will feature speakers, workshops and panel discussions. A major item of business for the National Committee will be the selection of a site for the 1987 Presidential Nominating Convention. For further Conference information, contact Skip Barron at 206-789-4812.

1985 CONVENTION -- Preliminary membership totals for the Phoenix convention in August show the ten largest states to be California, Texas, New York, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, Alaska, Colorado, and Ohio. The National Secretary will report final tallies and delegate allocations by April 1.

Other convention related deadlines: April 1 - applicants for convention committees must submit applications to the National Committee; April 20-21 - the National Committee to appoint the Bylaws and Rules Committee, the Platform Committee, and the Credentials Committee, as well as Interim Committee Chairs; June 14 - Platform Committee pre-convention meeting; July 14 - delegates and alternates lists mailed to National Secretary, and Platform Committee report mailed.

Libertarian Letters Sent to Legislators

To the EDITOR:

This is in response to your editorial "The Libertarian Fizzle" which ran last month.

The editorial stated that it cost the state of Wyoming \$20,000 to put the Libertarian Party on the ballot. Of this, \$15,000 was attorney's fees since the party had to go to court to get on the ballot, and \$5,000 was to change the state's computer voting registration list.

If the Wyoming Legislature and the Wyoming secretary of state had paid any attention to Libertarian Party suggestions in 1981 and 1983, none of this expense would have occurred. I personally wrote every member of the Wyoming Legislature both in 1981 and again in 1983, pointing out that the U.S. Supreme Court had said back in 1974 that every state is required to have a procedure by which a new party can get on the ballot, and that Wyoming was the only state which lacked such a procedure. No legislator even answered my letters. Similar letters were written by Wyoming Libertarians.

If the Wyoming Legislature and the secretary of state had heeded our pleas for fairness, there would have been no lawsuit and no attorney's fees.

Furthermore, I wrote the bill which was introduced in the 1984 session of the Legislature and it was written so that the cost to the state would be minimal. New parties were to nominate by convention, not by primary, and 5,000 signatures were to be required. With such a plan there would have been far less expense. But after it was introduced, it was amended to provide that new parties be provided with their own primary, and the costs to the state rose for that reason.

Also, your editorial stated that the Libertarian Party polled only .019 percent for Congress, and .012 percent for president. The true figures were 100 times greater. The Lib in percent

for Congress was 2.03 percent; for president, 1.25 percent. Almost 4,000 Wyoming voters would have lost their right to vote as they pleased if the Libertarian Party had been kept off the ballot.

RICHARD WINGER

2 N.C. Parties Don't Exist, Officials Say

RALEIGH (UPI) — The Libertarian and Socialist Workers parties no longer exist in North Carolina because they failed to get enough votes in the last election to stay alive, officials said yesterday.

State election laws specify that parties must collect at least 10 percent of the entire vote cast for governor or president in order to be recognized in North Carolina.

Law Provides 'Safeguard'

Alex K. Brock, the state elections director, said that the law provides a "safeguard" against having an abundance of dormant political parties. The state's action yesterday raised the ire of leaders of the parties.

"We still have a party," said Bobby Emory, who was the Libertarian's Senate candidate in 1984. "If the government doesn't choose to recognize us, a party is affiliated. Of interest in North Carolina that I considered that I could do a Social. The gr become Caroli Stat may f enough quest

By ANDY COURT
Monitor Staff Writer

EPSOM — John F. Kelleher, an Epsom selectman, isn't much for government. He'd rather not have public schools. He'd rather not have public parks. And he certainly doesn't want zoning.

So Kelleher, who is a Libertarian, has proposed doing away with the town's planning board. He has gathered 111 signatures on a petition and will put the issue before voters at the March 12 town meeting.

As Kelleher sees it, whether you want to put a plastic flamingo on your property or build a three-family house, it's your property and you're entitled to do with it as you please — as long as you don't damage anybody else's property in the process.

"I see more and more control of property is

College class hears Libertarian official

THE EVENING NEWS, MONROE, MICHIGAN, FEB 2, 1985

Paul Jacob is not a typical draft dodger. He spends more time advocating a downsized government than he does talking about his days as a fugitive.

Mr. Jacob, 24, is past chairman of the Arkansas Libertarian Party and a member of the board of Students for a Libertarian Society.

He was in Michigan this week to appear on Public Broadcasting System's "Latenight America" program Wednesday. Friday morning he addressed a social problems class at Monroe County Community College.

Although his party has been described as both liberal and conservative, Mr. Jacob says its policies of less government and encouragement of individual freedom is attracting many converts on college campuses.

"We got a tremendous reception at the (Monroe County) community college," he said. "A number of people asked me for information about becoming involved with the party."

"These are young people who have knowledge of the history of the draft and feel people should have the right to do what their beliefs tell them to. We're opposed to foreign intervention. Young people are willing to fight if it's for the defense of the country."

Emory said that LibPlease don't be offended by the size of starting a petition drive. I am a college student registered party in North with a fixed budget. Some day I'll be able the 1986 elections. Emto help a lot of people a lot more. For that his group must now I and you will have to be contented 67,000 signatures durinwith \$15.00 now and then. drive, which he said wBest wishes and love to freedom lovers all ortarians \$10,000. over the world. Sincere)X

Mr. Jacob's own involvement with the party began while he was attending Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. He worked on the campaign of a Jeffersonian Democrat whose philosophy was basically Libertarian.

He publicly refused to register for the draft and was indicted in 1982. He said he left Arkansas and was a fugitive from September, 1982, until last December when he returned to his home state and was arrested. His case comes to trial on May 6.

"I will argue that I was selectively prosecuted because I was vocal," Mr. Jacob said. "Also there is a higher morality than that set by the human beings in Washington."

He said he pays his taxes but supports those who refuse to pay because they feel the tax laws are unjust.

Although he was somewhat disappointed with his party's showing in the presidential race last November, Mr. Jacob said the Libertarians have established themselves as the country's third party.

"I think the generation that's in power has had its politics determined by the depression, World War II and big government," he said. "What we're seeing right now is a repudiation of that big government."

New look at politics Ideological spectrum realigned

THE CLARION-LEDGER, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DEC 13

Americans might clarify their political thinking by re-examining the terms liberal and conservative, which have become harder and harder to define. An interesting attempt to do just this has just been completed by William S. Maddox and Stuart A. Lilie and published in a book, *Beyond Liberal and Conservative: Reassessing the Political Spectrum*.

They begin by noting that political scientists generally divide the electorate into two groups: liberals, who favor government intervention in the economy and expansion of civil liberties, and conservatives, who oppose economic intervention and expanded civil liberties.

Maddox and Lilie, associate professors of political science at the University of Central Florida, add two more groups: populists, who favor economic intervention of government and oppose civil liberties, and libertarians, who oppose government involvement in the economy and support expansion of civil liberties.

Using Center for Political Studies data for 1980, they break the electorate down into 24 percent liberals, 17 percent conservatives, 26 percent populists and 18 percent libertarians (with 15 percent unclassified).

Their yardstick helps explain, for example, the surprising success of Gary Hart in the Democratic pri-

maries and the emergence of the "yuppies," who were attracted to Hart's attacks on traditional Democratic spending policies. They also say younger Republicans reject the GOP's Moral Majority positions while embracing its fiscal conservatism.

The Maddox-Lilie formula is far from airtight. Populists may be swayed by pro-government and anti-civil liberties sentiments, but they also may be less influenced by ideology than by the style and charm of their favorite, especially in such a champion's ability to appear as one of them and to share their feelings, prejudicial and otherwise.

Nevertheless, the book may set Americans to thinking, and its timely appearance comes as the scholars and everyday political buffs are trying to find the keys to Reagan's two successive overwhelming victories.

"Those of us who have been struggling to make sense of what has become an increasingly confused splintering of political ideological categorizations will find this (an) edifying and useful book," says Mervin D. Field of the Field Institute.

The new approach is refreshing, and it may be a prelude to a redefinition of political positions. At the very least it's a remarkable alternative to conventional political terminology and analysis.

Epsom Selectman Seeks A Twilight To Zoning

shifting from the owner to the planning board," Kelleher said. "Is there any difference between the planning board and the People's Committee on Land Usage in the Soviet Union? In each instance, the individual is denied control over his or her property."

Audrey Ellis, chairman of the planning board, respectfully wishes that Kelleher would enter the twentieth century. If the town votes out the planning board, its zoning board and zoning ordinance would disappear in two years. And without zoning, Ellis said, people could subdivide their land into quarter-acre lots and happily dump sewage into each other's wells.

"If you listen to John, it sounds so reasonable and logical," Ellis said. "But when you get into the specifics of 'what if?' you get in trouble. Look at what's happened down in --ton. Look at the harbor. People have to sp billions of dollars to

clean up an act that wasn't thought about."

And just what would happen in Epsom without zoning?

"You put anything you want anywhere you want," said Selectman George Wiggan, who's less than thrilled with that prospect. "The town's wide open. The only way you can control it is by ordinances passed by the town selectmen, which are good for only one year unless they're passed at town meeting."

This, in fact, was the way it was in Epsom before the town adopted zoning about 16 years ago.

And what if someone decides to turn their family room into a hazardous waste dump?

Kelleher figured someone would mention that. In the first place, he said, that's not the kind of thing the planning board normally handles. In the second place, "Be it Stablex or any other individual, no one has the right to destroy another's prop-

erty. You can't dump waste into another person's well. There are laws that take care of that."

In less extreme cases, like a 14-foot neon sign or a life-size replica of the leaning tower of Pisa, neighbors would have to rely on persuasion rather than governmental force, Kelleher said. "My experience is that when people have to cooperate, you go out of the way not to intrude on your neighbor's land."

Because of the way the state has written its law, even if the town votes to abolish the planning board, the zoning ordinances will stay on the books for two years. That means the town would have another chance to reconsider its decision at the next town meeting. If the town doesn't change its mind by then, however, the zoning regulations join the ghosts of ordinances past.