

The Liberty Pledge News

The Liberty Pledge News is produced monthly for members of the National Libertarian Party's Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to National Committee Members and State Party Chairs, in appreciation of their contributions and to make available information on activities at Headquarters and on libertarians in the news.

Clippings and other items of interest are appreciated.

Libertarian Party Headquarters

301 W. 21st St. Houston, TX 77008

713-880-1776

HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR PLEDGE? WANT TO RAISE IT? CALL 1-800-682-1776

PHONE 1776, VOLUNTEER DAY AND CLIPS

Dear Monthly Pledger,

You are the backbone of the Libertarian Party. And now is the perfect time to check on something that can form the backbone of your local Party's outreach — listing your Party phone number in the local phone directory.

In some areas, the phone book companies are within weeks of their deadlines for shutting out new listings in the 1988 book. I urge you to check with your local phone monopoly today. With the presidential campaign, 1988 is going to be a super growth year. People will be looking for our number in the phone book.

Ken Bush, Public Relations Director of the Missouri Libertarian Party, recently placed the National LP 800 number (1-800-682-1776) in the St. Louis phone directory under the Libertarian Party of Missouri. When people from Missouri call the National Office on the 800 #, we send them an info-pac of information and their name, address and information to the appropriate person in the Missouri Party.

We promise to be accommodating in working with your state or local party. Everyone using one national 800 line is very cost effective.

Mr. Bush also tells me that if persistent enough, a person can (in most places) get the last 4 numbers of the local party number changed to 1776. That sounds like a good number to me.

* * * * *

Among the people I've talked with about this idea, there is a great deal of interest in the National LP sponsoring a Volunteer Day. On January 27th, 1988 — the 15th anniversary of Nixon's ending of the draft — I propose that we bake a cake to celebrate this birthday and take that cake to the biggest downtown armed forces

recruiter. There we can pass it out to the recruiters and the public.

Of course we send out news releases and call the news media. I believe the media will view this as an extremely positive and news worthy event. I think we would all enjoy this kind of positive contact with the public.

The points we can make:

- * our government does many things we disagree with, but one thing we certainly support is the all volunteer armed forces — this is precisely how a free society defends itself.

- * voluntarism is working well in the military, Republican and Democrat politicians should stop talking about returning to the draft or a national service program.

- * a free society should not have to force citizens to defend it and in America we have always had enough volunteers.

- * the draft is unnecessary except in unjust and unpopular wars, the LP supports an end to draft registration, freedom for non-registrants like Gillam Kerley who is in federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, and the abolition of the Selective Slavery System.

- * our candidate for president, Ron Paul, has been a crusader against registration and the draft and in favor of an all volunteer force.

Let me know what you think about this idea. One problem in some areas will be the January weather, so if you have suggestions for northern states they will be most welcome. I would expect the news media to ask why Libertarians are braving the elements which presents an opportunity to tell them. References to Valley Forge would be in order.

I need your feedback.

* * * * *

Clippings include a great article on Ron Paul in the Christian Science Monitor, a column about new LNC Regional Rep. Joe Dehn, news articles from New Hampshire and Iowa, and more.

We are hoping to get reprints of the Christian Science Monitor article to distribute.

Congratulations to Mr. Joe Dehn and many others who make news by writing letters to the editor, being active or reaching out to Frank Zappa as super Oklahoma Libertarian Robert Murphy did recently (back page).

I included the Iowa and New Hampshire stories because these two states are very important politically right now. The news media is focused there and the Ron Paul campaign is now setting up air time for radio and TV ads in these two states. Activists in New Hampshire and Iowa are probably thinking about how they can promote the campaign. The news media should certainly get a release on the running of television ads.

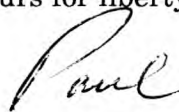
Contact the campaign at (713) 333-1988.

Let us know, Iowa and New Hampshire Libertarians, if you find some ways to get media attention from the decaying old parties' primaries. Super Tuesday and other primaries and political events are headed toward all the states.

* * * * *

I'm very happy to be working here at the National Office. Chair Jim Turney has announced that he will appoint me to the position of LNC Office Manager subject to National Committee approval. I am so excited about the coming election year and the long-term health and growth of our Party that I was willing to start immediately as a staff member. I look forward to working with and hearing from you often.

Yours for liberty,



Paul Jacob
National Office Staff

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1987

RON PAUL

In former congressman, Libertarians think party has best candidate ever

By Howard LaFranchi
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Lake Jackson, Texas

There is no tri-color bunting outside the small building where Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul has his office here, no posters or bumper stickers. Only the letters F.R.E.E. above the door, indicating the emphasis of the man inside who would be president.

"To me Libertarians stand for a freedom philosophy," says Dr. Paul, listing a few of the major elements making up that philosophy: non-interference in civil liberties; a free, "I mean really free," market; a non-interventionist foreign policy; abolition of the federal reserve system and return to a gold standard for currency; and minimal federal spending, primarily for a defensive military and "the amount necessary to ensure justice for individuals."

The Libertarians have never scored big in a presidential election. The party attracted about a million votes in 1980, in what was its best showing, for candidate Ed Clark. Many political scientists say that voters who put their "X" by the Libertarian candidate's name are generally not voting for the individual but rather are protesting the choice offered by the two major parties.

But party supporters believe the Libertarians will make

Please see PAUL next page

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR



ATTY WOOD

Paul: Party 'stands for a freedom philosophy'



Yakitori

By David Lammers

POLITICS AND TECHNOLOGY

TOKYO — It's getting into the **next political season**, and the response of most people is "ho hum." That's too bad, because current technology could give the developed world a leap into a next-generation political system that would excite every thinking man and woman.

In the U.S. the candidates for Ronald Reagan's job will include Ron Paul, a former Congressman from Texas.

Ron Who?

Ron Paul, the candidate of the **Libertarian Party**, was nominated at the party's convention, held at the Seattle Sheraton a few weeks ago. By chance, I stayed there a few days on my way back to Tokyo from summer vacation. There was never a dull moment that weekend.

The Libertarians espouse the least amount of government and the maximum amount of individual liberty possible. Ron Paul, a Texas physician, will hit the campaign trail with a platform of low taxes, a military devoted to defense, an end to foreign aid, a return to the gold standard and a philosophy of individual responsibility.

Talking to the Libertarians—many of whom work in the electronics industry, by the way—was refreshing. Here were people taking their time to support a political party with no chance of gaining power, just because they believe in something called "liberty."

VOTE BY PHONE

I believe that democracy—revitalized by modern technology—will emerge from its current doldrums and again become a system of government by the people. That wasn't possible 200 hundred years ago, when it took the Founding Fathers a week to get to Philadelphia by horseback.

Times change.

Currently, the voters elect representatives who in turn vote on bills, guided in their thinking by lobbyists, opinion polls, media commentators and the minority of constituents who are political-ly active.

Most ordinary people feel that their own opinions, and their vote, count for little. Voter turnouts have dwindled and Washington has become the battleground of special interest groups.

At the state level, particularly in California, referendums and initiatives have enjoyed a resurgence. Citizens have forced issues onto the ballot, sparking hot debates over property tax levels and schooling. Scores of other gut-level issues have been taken directly to the voting public all across the United States.

Why can't we do that on a national scale? By using touch-tone telephones, computers and cable television, nationwide referendums could be held on important issues. People can decide themselves about what kinds of programs they will pay for, and live with, or do without.

Take the education issue. Nothing is more clear to me, after eight years in Japan, that the United States must commit more of its resources to education. While 98 percent of the Japanese graduate from high school, only three out of four Americans earn a high school diploma. One in seven Americans is considered functionally illiterate.

A bill to increase federal funding for education, with accompanying taxes, might or might not be a good idea. The point is that most people in Japan, the United States and Europe have reached educational levels which permit them to vote intelligently about such important issues.

Besides newspapers, Macintosh-generated leaflets, and street corner oratory, a powerful new media is with us. Television, specifically the cable television channels devoted to airing public issues, is a forum for debates on national issues.

Can you imagine Charlie Spork taking the case for **Sematech**—and

its budget—directly to the voters on television? How about a debate between Lee Iacocca and the Japanese ambassador on the merits of the auto import quotas?

In many cases, such public debates are being held and the voters are reading and tuning in. But the missing link is that the voter can't vote on the issues that affect his future. So, really, why care?

If each voter received a private voting number, he or she could—on the designated polling days—simply pick up the telephone, call the appropriate "Yea" or "Nay" computer and punch in his number.

Technically, the information network needed to inform the voters is in place. The ability to vote by a key-telephone-computer network was demonstrated years ago.

The question now is whether the voters are confident enough in themselves to take responsibility for their own lives and their own nation. I believe the average American is smart enough to know what he wants. An era of participatory democracy could give people a compelling reason to listen, think, discuss, vote and if necessary, change his or her mind and vote the other way.

After all, it's a lot easier to blame things on Tweedledee of the Republicans or Tweedledum of the Democrats, cry in your proverbial beer and wonder why the nation's youth are going to pot.

Feedback can be sent to Easylink: 62660860; CompuServe: 76664,112; The Source: BDQ870; Telex: U.S.# 888141; or facsimile: 813-316-0961.

MARROU continued

Marrou, 48, is a real estate broker who came to Las Vegas nine months ago from Alaska, where he had served one term as a member of the state's House of Representatives as the country's only Libertarian legislator.

A native of Texas who moved to Alaska in 1973, Marrou was "kind of a Republican" who voted twice for Richard Nixon before he was wooed to the Libertarian cause in 1976.

Coming out of a small business convention, Marrou was handed a pamphlet, which he took because he said "I always want to see what these fringe groups have to say."

Marrou said the Libertarian message hit him "like a bolt out of the blue" soon after he became a member of the Anchorage party. He became state vice chairman of the party in 1977, but one year later he had a falling out with a Libertarian leader and essentially withdrew from civilization for two years.

He and a companion, who later became his wife, lived in an isolated part of Alaska, fending for themselves, reading and discussing philosophy.

"I did a lot of thinking," Marrou recalled. "I finally decided I was not going to lie down and let them (the government) roll over me."

He returned and made an unsuccessful bid for the Alaska House in 1982 before winning the seat two years later.

During his tenure, Marrou said, he introduced more legislation than any other lawmaker and managed to get three bills out of the House, one of which became law.

After losing his re-election bid last year, Marrou and his wife, Eileen, moved to Las Vegas, where her parents live. As the party's vice presidential nominee, Marrou's focus will be talking to groups in

smaller towns across the country and spreading the Libertarian message.

He and presidential candidate Paul will split a \$5 million budget and they will not accept federal matching funds. Marrou's campaign is being managed by Russell Means, a well-known American Indian activist who lost the presidential nomination to Paul in Seattle.

Marrou said the party's goals are to garner 7 percent to 10 percent of the vote for the ticket and to get Libertarians elected to state legislatures. About 60 party members are in elected posts across the country, but they are all in local government, from school boards to city councils to county commissions.

Marrou also said he will be fighting against efforts by the country's major parties to hinder efforts by third parties such as the Libertarians to get on ballots.

A Reno federal judge ruled last year that Nevada Libertarians would have access to the ballot and the party fielded several dozen candidates in the state. But concern still exists here and in other states, Marrou said.

"They (Democrats and Republicans) want to keep the American public from having a choice," Marrou said. "All we ask for is an equal opportunity to compete for votes."

Marrou also believes the Libertarians have a forum to present their views and he will be traveling to communities presenting his stands and those of the party.

Some of his positions on domestic and foreign policy issues include:

—The Persian Gulf: "We should not be there at all. People who should be there are those who use the oil in the region."

—Aid to the Contras: "I'm against it. Look what happened in Vietnam."

—Domestic subsidies: "I would get rid of all agricultural subsidies, like tobacco. I would also stop subsidizing dairy products."

—Federal government: "I would cut the government bureaucracy down to a fraction of the size it is now. I would drastically reduce what all Americans contribute to the government."

Idaho Statesman,

Boise, ID 9-20-87

Libertarians, Hansen

On Sept. 7 and 8, The Statesman ran articles in which former Congressman George Hansen claims that Libertarians have asked him to be their presidential nominee. This claim appeared two days after the Libertarian Party, meeting in Seattle, nominated former Texas Congressman Ron Paul as the party's 1988 presidential candidate.

Libertarians in Idaho and throughout the nation appreciate the battle which Mr. Hansen has waged against both IRS and FEC tyranny; however, for Mr. Hansen to suggest that he has been asked by Libertarians to run for the presidency is ludicrous. No substantiation exists for this claim in libertarian movement newsletters; not once was Hansen mentioned in this context by any of the 700 individuals who attended the Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention over the Labor Day weekend.

Libertarians also decline Mr. Hansen's offer to form a coalition of libertarians with conservatives. Libertarians are not conservatives; we neither wish nor seek an alliance with the ultraright-wing parties enamored with Mr. Hansen. Specifically, we refuse to associate the good name of liberty with the racist, xenophobic, sexist and homophobic fear-mongering that characterizes Mr. Hansen's friends among the Populists and other ultraright organizations.

SANDY SONNTAG and three co-signers
Boise

Register-Citizen, Torrington, CT 9-3-87

Libertarian Sloan joins race for mayor

By CHRIS HEALY
Register Citizen Staff

TORRINGTON — Add Libertarian Mark W. Sloan to the mayoral race.

Sloan, 31, who garnered 106 votes as the party's mayoral candidate in 1985, said Wednesday he will enter the fray, contingent upon a state party nomination.

Sloan has until Sept. 9 to file a candidacy with the City Clerk's office, and needs a validated endorsement before he makes it on the ballot against Republican incumbent Delia R. Donne, Demo-

crat Harry A. Hamzy and petitioning candidate Aldene "Senator" Burton.

"So many people are asking me to run, I felt I would let them down if I didn't," said Sloan. "They felt disillusioned with the two major parties, and I feel that I'm much more responsive than they ever could be."

According to figures in the office of the Registrar of Voters, there are three registered Libertarians on the city voting rolls.

Sloan dismisses the lack of "on paper" voters and argued that

many rank and file will listen and respond to his message.

"I feel much better known than I was before and I'm surprised at the amount of elderly support I have received," said Sloan. "They agreed with a majority of what I had to say."

During the 1985 campaign, Sloan proposed enlisting retired residents to teach or tutor public school students. He also proposed decriminalizing the possession of marijuana and suggested a city-wide lottery to pay for capital improvement projects.

Sloan said his stand on drugs is realistic.

"If a person does drugs it doesn't mean they're addicts. If they're addicts then they should be treated," he said. "We don't throw alcoholics in jail unless they hurt someone."

"Not endorsing drugs, but education is better than legislation," he said.

Sloan, who is single, is a graduate of Lewis Mills High School in Burlington and has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Connecticut.

NATIONAL

PAUL from preceding page

a substantially better showing in 1988 than in the past, in large part because Paul is a former four-term Republican congressman with a track record for drawing voter interest, winning elections, and raising money. They expect that Paul, as the party's standard bearer, will be instrumental in placing the Libertarian ticket on the ballot in all 50 states - so far they have qualified for 20 - and in electing Libertarians to various local and state posts.

Gary Johnson, Libertarian Party secretary for Texas, says he expects Paul to do at least as well as John Anderson in 1980, who took about 6 percent of the vote.

"We've never had a candidate like Ron Paul before," Mr. Johnson says. "Before we've always run the intellectual professor type," he adds, "but just being able to say 'former Congressman Ron Paul' will be different."

Political observers disagree, however, noting that Paul's is not a known name, and that members of Congress tend to be invisible entities outside their own districts.

The Libertarians can expect to attain something around the million votes they attracted in '80, says Austin Ranney, a political scientist at the University of California at Berkeley. "That's not an unrespectable figure for a third party in this country," he says. But he adds that Paul almost certainly will not garner enough votes in any one state to make a difference.

Even 1 million votes may be difficult for the Libertarians to attain in '88, says Arizona State University political scientist Thomas Keating, since the conservative movement has "lost a lot of momentum" in recent years. Paul himself admits that the Libertarians are "somewhat in disarray," with fewer party members than a few years ago.

Paul's running mate is former Alaska legislator Andre Marrou, a real estate agent in Tucson, Ariz.



PATTY WOOD

'The American people have to wake up, and we hope we can be the group to wake them up,' Paul says.

The ticket was nominated September 5 at a convention in Seattle.

Paul, who represented Texas's 22nd congressional district south of Houston from 1976 to 1984, was known for his libertarian sympathies while in Congress, and gained something of a national following for his support of a gold standard. He also founded the Foundation for Rational Economics and Education (thus the F.R.E.E. above his office door). In 1984 he left what he calls a "safe seat" to oppose Phil Gramm for the Republican US senatorial nomination, but was defeated.

Paul says he left the Republican Party because it offers little that is different from the Democrats.

"A lot of people think we're doing great [economically], but it's all on borrowed money," says Paul. "Ronald Reagan has given us a deficit 10 times greater than what we had

with the Democrats."

Paul, who has signed photos of Reagan and Vice-President George Bush in his office, says he was an early supporter of the President, but quickly became disillusioned. "It didn't take me more than a month after 1981," he says, "to realize there would be no changes."

The Houston obstetrician-gynecologist and father of five says the Iran-contra scandal was a major factor in his decision to switch parties, because it revealed that Reagan's "rhetoric didn't match up with his policies."

Just what changes would President Paul implement? The income tax would be outlawed, as would the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and draft registration. Welfare, which he calls a "criminal act" of government-sponsored "theft from one's neighbor," would be abolished. "Welfare never works," he says, noting there are "more street people today than ever before. It's because [Libertarians] are caring that we want [an economic] system that works."

Paul becomes most excited when he talks about the Internal Revenue Service, which he says is the only agency in the country permitted to presume citizens are guilty - of tax evasion or nonpayment - until proven innocent. "It's an outrage that the IRS can decide you're guilty and come take your property or whatever they want," says Paul.

Paul says there is much in the Libertarian platform that is "very attractive" to conservatives and liberals. The Libertarians' problem is that those points that might appeal to conservatives are often anathema to liberals, and vice versa. Still, Paul says he feels the time is ripe for Americans to consider an alternative to the two major parties.

"There's nothing static about history, nothing that says we have to continue electing officials from two parties that never change policy," he says. "The American people have to wake up, and we hope we can be the group to wake them up."

Libertarians Want To Change Fed

SEATTLE (UPI) — Newly nominated Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul, a former Texas congressman who left the Republican Party because he disagreed with its economic policies, challenged the constitutionality yesterday of the Federal Reserve System.

The four-term congressman said that during his eight years in Washington he was frustrated by his inability to subject the nation's financial regulatory agency to scrutiny.

"I had nothing to say about it," Paul said during his first news conference as the presidential candidate for the 16-year-old Libertarian Party. "I couldn't look at the records of the Federal Reserve. It's a totally secret organization."

Paul, 52, defeated American Indian activist Russell Means for the party nomination on the first ballot Saturday during the party's convention in Seattle.

An obstetrician from Houston, Paul has said he broke from the Republican Party last winter because he was discouraged by the "broken promises" of the GOP's conservative wing.

He pointed to the still unbalanced budget, the federal income tax, the Federal Reserve System, labor laws and the welfare system as areas in which government has usurped individual liberties and responsibilities.



Ron Paul

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1987

Manchester Union-Leader, Manchester, NH 9-7-87

Register-Guard ,

DON BISHOFF



Libertarians hang in there

THE LIBERTARIANS are sort of the Rodney Dangerfields of politics: They get no respect — and darned few votes.

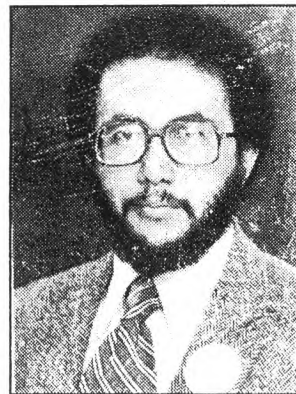
That doesn't bother Joe Dehn much.

"I don't think you can measure success by the number of people who get elected as Libertarians," he said. "Our first goal is not to be elected for ourselves."

And a good thing, too, because no Libertarian has ever been elected to Congress or to national office. The Libertarian creed of as much personal freedom — and as little government — as possible has never attracted even a million votes nationally.

Dehn (pronounced Dean) is a Eugene resident who is now Lane County Libertarian Party chairman. He once was an unsuccessful Libertarian candidate for the Connecticut Legislature.

"We want to be elected as representative of the idea to preserve people's rights," he said. "If we get elected because people like the way we smile, or through some fluke confuse our names with somebody else, that's not going to do any good."



Joe Dehn

National committee member

Occupational Safety and Health Act and U.S. membership in the United Nations.

Far out? Dehn says no.

"You see people campaigning using libertarian rhetoric because they know that the people like it," he said. "Look at Ronald Reagan — when he was elected the first time, his campaign speeches had a lot of libertarian ideas.

The message, in other words, is more important than the medium or the messenger. It is, by any measurement, a radical message.

The Libertarian Party platform calls for ending — among other things — tax-supported public education, welfare, farm supports, Social Security, the Postal Service, Civil Service, immigration laws, foreign aid, the 55 mph speed limit, the

Libertarian Party Picks Ron Paul, Former Congressman, for '88 Bid

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

SEATTLE, Sept. 5 — Former Representative Ron Paul of Texas was nominated Saturday as the Libertarian Party's candidate for President. His closest rival in the vote at the party's national convention here was Russell Means, the Indian leader from South Dakota.

Andre Marrou, 48 years old, who recently served a two-year term in the Alaska Legislature, was nominated as the Vice Presidential candidate without opposition.

Dr. Paul, a 52-year-old obstetrician from Lake Jackson, Tex., a suburb of Houston, served as a Republican member of Congress from 1979 to 1984.

He drew 196 votes on the first ballot to 120 for Mr. Means. Trailing far behind were Jim Lewis, of Old Saybrook, Conn., the 1984 Libertarian vice presidential nominee, and Harry Glenn, a retired welder from St. John, Ind. Mr. Lewis received 49 votes and Mr. Glenn had 3. Fourteen delegates rejected all four candidates.

Both leading candidates for the Presidential nomination became Libertarian Party members last February, which made some delegates uneasy about the candidates' dedication to the party's principles.

One of the delegates who had misgivings was John Vernon, who said in a

speech before the vote on the Presidential nomination: "I am concerned that the Libertarian Party can become known as the last refuge of the conservatives, and that is not true. We are a radical party. I am concerned that the front-runners joined the party to run for President."

While the Libertarian Party supports the right of women to choose an abortion, Dr. Paul believes that abortions are morally wrong. The Libertarians for Life group failed in its attempt to change the party position.

The voting for the Presidential nomination appeared to be influenced by delegate desires to broaden the party's base. Mr. Means was seen as potentially opening an avenue to ethnic minorities, while Dr. Paul was seen as offering the candidacy of a trained, articulate political campaigner skilled at fund-raising.

Dr. Paul has raised about \$250,000 for his campaign, and hopes to be able to win enough support to merit a place in the Presidential debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

The delegates also adopted a platform plank on military policy that calls for the United States to remove all its nuclear weapons from Europe and to terminate the 1972 agreement that limits antiballistic missile systems.

Libertarian Party's VP contender takes stand on issues

By Jon Ralston
Review-Journal

Las Vegas Andre Marrou believes people should be allowed to smoke marijuana or snort cocaine without criminal penalties.

He also thinks that Americans should pay only as much in taxes to the government as they deem reasonable.

And he says U.S. troops should be recalled from installations in Western Europe, Japan and Central America.

Marrou, who has many other strong convictions, also happens to be a contender for the vice presidency of the United States on the ticket of the country's third largest party.

He was nominated for the vice presidency at the Libertarian Party's national convention in Seattle 10 days ago. Ron Paul, a former four-term Texas congressman, was chosen as the party's presidential nominee.

The party, which stresses individual liberties and less government, has several hundred members in Nevada and about 25,000 nationwide.

Davenport, Iowa

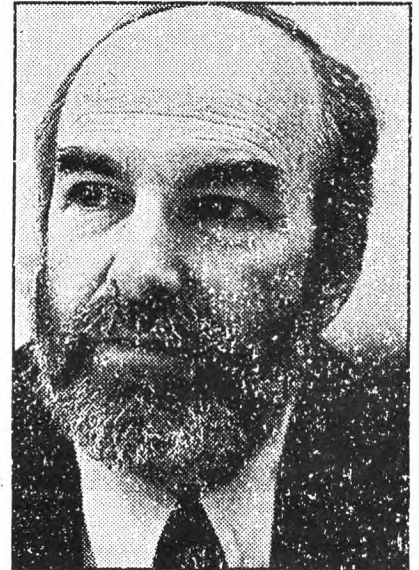
8A QUAD-CITY TIMES Sunday, Sept. 6, 1987

Libertarians choose presidential nominee

SEATTLE (AP) — Former Republican Rep. Ron Paul of Texas was nominated Saturday as the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate for 1988.

Paul, who had spent about \$230,000 campaigning for the nomination, won on the first ballot.

"We are going to see a lot of Libertarian politics this next



ANDRE MARROU
...on Libertarian ticket

"What we advocate is personal responsibility," Marrou said. "We believe in decontrolling drugs and decontrolling guns. It's your business and the government should have nothing to do with it."

see MARROU next page

"HE KEPT TALKING about making government smaller, and letting free enterprise work. Unfortunately, whether through incompetence or whether he really didn't mean it in the first place, the result during the Reagan years has been an increase in government."

Dehn, 33, a computer software developer, moved to Eugene with his wife, Nadine, in 1985 when she was hired as an assistant professor of computer science at the University of Oregon. This month he was elected one of 30 national committee members at the party nominating convention in Seattle.

That convention nominated former Texas Republican Congressman Ron Paul as party standard bearer for 1988. Paul defeated American Indian Movement co-founder Russell Means on the first ballot.

(The convention attracted little attention — a situation the Libertarians are growing used to, though not fond of.)

Also elected to the national committee was Tonie Nathan of Eugene, who in 1972 was the party's first vice presidential candidate. The ticket got on the ballot in only two states and got only 2,691 votes. But by 1980, the Libertarian ticket headed by Ed Clark was on the ballots of all 50 states and won more than 900,000 votes.

Then in 1984, the party slid off the ballot again in several states — including Oregon — and got only 227,000 votes.

The beginning of the end of a political movement? Dehn says not.

"One of our problems in 1984 was a kind of overconfidence," he said. "People saw how well we did in 1980 and automatically assumed that we'd do at least as well in 1984. That didn't happen."

THE PARTY IS DOING more nuts-and-bolts organizing now, he said, and struggling to get back on the ballot in all states. That's not easy. In Oregon, for example, Libertarians must get 51,577 signatures on a nominating petition by next August.

Meanwhile, a Libertarian lawsuit against the state is to be heard next month by the Oregon Supreme Court. With good libertarian logic, the suit contends that people who want to be on the ballot have the freedom to be there, that voters have the freedom to vote for them, and that neither freedom should be impinged by ballot-access requirements.

There's a certain basic appeal to the party's get-government-out-of-our-lives philosophy. But when you consider the implications spelled out in the platform — wholesale abolishment of basic government protections and programs — it hardly seems a formula for political success.

And given the party's failure to generate a big following for that far-out platform in 16 years, you could logically conclude that it's destined to be nothing more than an asterisk on the pages of history.

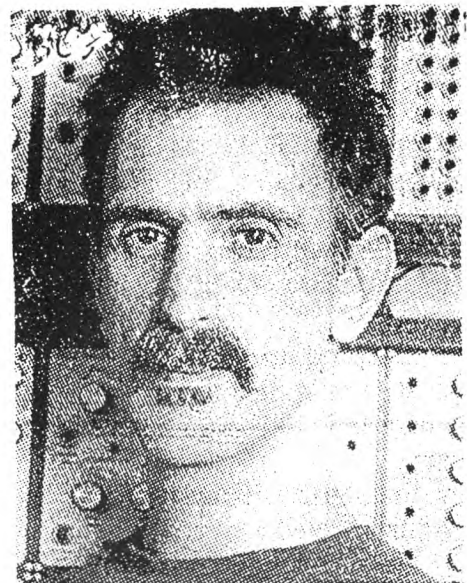
Dehn hopes not. "I'm in this for the long term, and I think most Libertarians see it that way," he said. "It's taken 200 years for the country to get the way it is, and we're not going to turn it around in four years or eight years."

With a laugh, he offered a sampling of Libertarian optimism: "As far as where we are today, I don't view it as a failure so much as just slow progress."

LOOSE ENDS: This week's Billboard points out that five teen-age solo artists have had hits in the past year and a half, the biggest chart showing for teens since the halcyon days of Tony DeFranco, Leif Garrett and the newly resurgent (maybe) Donny Osmond. The latest crop: Janet Jackson, who was 19 at the time of "What Have You Done for Me Lately," current popster Debbie Gibson, Texas guitar whiz Charlie Sexton, balladeer Glenn Medeiros and rapper L.L. Cool J. . . . Last weekend, the Libertarian Party nominated former Texas congressman Ron Paul for president. But before they chose Paul, at least some highly placed Libertarians had their eyes on somebody who's more familiar to rock fans than politicians: Frank Zappa. Robert Murphy, a Libertarian delegate from Oklahoma and a frequent candidate himself, approached Zappa before the party's Seattle convention and asked him to attend the gathering and consider the offer. Zappa has appropriate

credentials: He knows his way around Capitol Hill (he's testified in front of Congress lately), he's often sought by television shows (he's been quoted as an expert on political and music-related issues frequently in recent months) and he's had 20 years experience pointing out the foibles and follies of life in the United States. But while he may have made a visible, colorful

candidate, Zappa declined to attend the convention—and after studying the party platform and meeting with Murphy for several hours in L.A., he declined to run. The reason? "Philosophical differences," says a Zappa spokesman.



Frank Zappa . . .
Mr. President?

RON PAUL for PRESIDENT
(713) 333-1988

Andre Marrou Campaign
(702) 435-3218

Setting Zappa straight

I'VE been a Frank Zappa fan since 1967 and a Libertarian Party member since 1972 and Frank is wrong if he thinks L.P. people want no government at all (Page Six, Sept. 4). Obviously he mixed up the Philadelphia Society for Individual Liberty and the Radical Caucus with the party itself.



The beliefs of the Libertarian Party are no different than those of the anti-Federalists who ran this country from 1776-1787 and from 1801-1825.

Our heroes are Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Tom Paine and Albert Gallatin, not bomb-throwing Red anarchists.

Like most liberals, Frank obviously believes in civil liberties but not in economic freedom. A free man must have both, not one or the other.

WALT KARWICKI, York, Pa.



"NO MORE TAX INCREASES" was the message last Wednesday of local business and political leaders who gathered at the State Capitol. On hand to recommend that President Reagan veto any future federal tax hikes were, from left, Haunani Dew of the Liberty Caucus, Dr. Blaise Harris of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, Dan Dew of the National Tax Limitation Committee, Betty Tatum of the National Federation of Independent Business, Howard Chong of the Republican Party, and Samuel Slom of Small Business Hawaii. The Democratic Party declined to send a representative.

—PBN Photo by David Free