



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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Libertarian Party National Headquarters ♦ 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue SE ♦ Washington DC 20003 ♦ (202) 543-1988

Oregon legislator becomes LP member

But no decision yet about switching party registration, or re-election plans

A Republican State Representative in Oregon has taken the first step towards a possible political defection by becoming a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party.

State Rep. Chuck Carpenter "submitted his completed [Libertarian state party] membership form along with party dues" on April 30th, according to Richard Burke, Chair of the LP of Greater Portland.

However, "Though Carpenter agrees with the Libertarian philosophy of limited government, he is retaining his Republican voter registration for now," said Burke.

"The people of my district elected me on the Republican ticket, so I think it would be wrong to change my registration during the legislative session," explained Carpenter. "But I'm willing to be part of any organization responsibly working toward limited government."

"Carpenter has not yet decided on which ticket he will seek re-election, but currently plans to defend his seat in 1996," said Burke. "At some point, I think he will agree that for all of its political viability, the Republican Party is too replete with social conservatives and so-called 'fiscal moderates' to be a true and reasonably consistent friend of liberty. Until that point arrives, I welcome him into our membership, and thank him for his willingness to work for liberty. I congratulate him for a courageous move."

Burke, discussing the political climate in the state which led to Carpenter's decision, said, "There are few libertarians in Oregon's Republican Party. Oregon Republicans are typically either Christian-style social conservatives or so-called moderates (liberals)."

Carpenter, in his early thirties, works as an International Operations Analyst for a major sports shoe company. He is a first-term legislator, and will serve until November, 1996. As a dues-paying LP member, Carpenter will be able to vote at LP of Oregon business conventions.

"We welcome Representative Carpenter's first step towards becoming a full-fledged Libertarian Party member, and we invite him to take the next step when he's ready," said Steve Dasbach, Chair of the National LP. "If he decides to run for re-election as a Libertarian, we'll do everything in our power to support his campaign."

LP helps Texas Rep. fight Terrorism Bill

The Libertarian Party was asked to pitch in and help a Republican Congressman write an op-ed piece against the proposed Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act (S. 390 and HR 896) — just hours before the party publicly condemned the bill.

The HQ got an urgent call from Jeff Van Fleet, an aide to Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX), on April 26th.

"He said the Congressman was writing an op-ed piece against the bill, and they needed all the facts they could gather about it," recounted Bill Winter, LP Director of Communications. "He said they were calling several organizations in DC, and they called us because 'Your views [on this issue] are pretty close to ours.'"

Winter said he asked in return: "By that, I assume you mean you're opposed to a police state, too?"

"Yes!" laughed Van Fleet.

Winter immediately faxed Stockman's office information from the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL), a coalition formed to fight the bill which the LP had joined. When it was available, Winter also faxed them the LP's April 27th press release denouncing President Clinton's demand for increased "anti-terrorism" powers in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing.

The Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act would grant the President arbitrary power to declare individuals "terrorists," authorize secret trials, reverse the presumption of innocence for suspects, and allow the military to participate in law enforcement.

Gorman's 10th Amendment Bill passes State Senate in NH

NH State Representative Don Gorman (L-Deerfield) has won his first legislative victory: His 10th Amendment Resolution has been passed by the State Senate.

The resolution — which asserts New Hampshire's rights under the 10th Amendment — is part of a "burgeoning national rebellion of state legislatures against Washington," said LPNH spokesman Jim McClarin. The bill is expected to be signed by Governor Steve Merrill soon.

"It's the first-ever Libertarian sponsored bill to succeed in New Hampshire, [even though] he's outnumbered 423 to one by Demopublicans in the NH legislature [House and Senate]," said McClarin.

Libertarian leader: No smoke screens

By JULIUS MORREAL
EAGLE Staff Writer

The Libertarians, who are they? What do they stand for?

Ask Bob Lehman of Bokeelia, who or what are the Libertarians, and he is sure to say they are not Democrats, Republicans, liberals or conservatives. Neither are they libertines or a sign of the zodiac as some people believe.

As chairman of the Lee County affiliate of the Florida State Libertarian Party, Lehman has seen his party grow from a handful of followers to 330 members in Lee County.

Many members are disillusioned taxpayers from all parties who are in search of an alternative political agenda.

They are staunch believers in individual freedom with a minimum of government interference. It is the Libertarian view that Americans are tired of government standing behind their backs heavily breathing down their necks with both hands in their pockets. Mention any controversial issue and their position is sure to raise he



Photo by JULIUS MORREAL

Bob Lehman of Bokeelia

ackles of many, with an equal number waving their caps in wild approval.

"Our positions on all political issues are crystal clear without any smoke screens," Lehman says. "Some of our positions on

major issues are eagerly accepted by all spectrums of the political arena. And other issues are vehemently rejected by the very same people."

Ask Lehman any question on a heated political issue and he'll give you a straight answer. Without any hedging or beating around the bush he'll tell you they are against all forms of gun control. "The Brady Law should be repealed," he says, "as well as any other restriction on the right to bear arms as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution."

Affirmative Action, another hot potato, is firmly rejected by Libertarians. "The Libertarians do not embrace Affirmative Action," says Lehman. "It is just as wrong to discriminate against the majority as it is against the minority. The hiring and firing of employees should be a managerial prerogative and should not be based on race. It exacerbates what it is intended to eliminate."

The Libertarian platform takes the position that Affirmative Action is the reverse side of the coin, fomenting gross injustices, setting neighbor against neighbor and

diminishing human potential.

The opening paragraph to the preamble of the Libertarian party platform states its political philosophy clearly: "As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty, in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others."

Pulling yet another hot potato from his sack, Lehman talked about Social Security. Lehman, who is a Social Security and Medicare recipient, is in strong disagreement with the concepts. He says, "It is nothing more than a Ponzi scheme, and eventually the bubble is going to burst. It should be phased out." As an alternative he advocates systematic savings by young people to prepare for their retirement. He continues in saying, "It was a terrible mistake. When Social Security was established no one foresaw the burgeoning number of our older citizens and now our younger people must support this ill-conceived plan."

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In discussing current problems with immigration, Lehman explained the Libertarian position. The party advocates the dismantling of the Immigration and Naturalization Service as well as all border patrols. They favor free access to our borders without any government restrictions. They are against any punishment for employers who hire undocumented workers, but they oppose government welfare and resettlement funds for non-citizens.

Balancing the budget is another high priority item for the Libertarians, with stipulations that neither the president nor the Congress can override the amendment. The budget is to be balanced by cutting expenditures and not increasing taxes. Neither would a national emergency excuse the need to keep the budget balanced.

When questioned as to the necessity for limitations of individual freedoms to keep a civilized society, Lehman answered, quoting an

'The war on drugs is a total failure. It is another example of government placing restriction on individual behavior and freedom. The use of drugs should be legalized. It should be treated like addiction to alcohol and tobacco.'

— Bob Lehman

uncertain source, "If people are willing to give up freedom in

return for security they will lose both and deserve neither." He then continues, "That's what communism was all about, and you know what happened to them."

Conscription, registration for the draft and a subsequent call for military service is nothing more than involuntary servitude and it is the Libertarian position that it should be abolished. They call for the reform of the Presidential War Powers Act which gives the president power to initiate military action without consulting Congress. They argue that it would prevent the executive branch from instilling its personal view in international confrontations. And no longer will our youth be sent to fight another nation's war.

Reaching into his sack of volatile issues, Lehman pulled another smoking potato from

the numerous nuggets. "The war on drugs is a total failure. It is another example of government placing restriction on individual behavior and freedom," Lehman says with conviction. "The use of drugs should be legalized. It should be treated like addiction to alcohol and tobacco." He is of the opinion that it will save millions in so-called rehabilitation programs and law enforcement. "Let addicts be responsible for their behavior and pay the penalty of the consequences of their actions," Lehman says.

Resigning from the United Nations and abolishing U.S. financial support to it are also on the Libertarian platform. American membership in any world or international government is also rejected as is the law regarding Selective Service and the drafting of our youth into the military. Libertarians call for the immediate exoneration of those who have been convicted of draft evasion and desertion.

You may or may not agree with the Libertarian philosophy, but it must be said it is certain that they are not middle of the roaders. Democrats, Republicans, liberals and conservatives are sure to find something in Libertarian philosophy that they can agree upon. And it is equally certain that the Libertarian position is loaded with hand grenades, bazookas and certainly a couple of blockbusters that will cause you to clench your fist and bare your fangs. It is also crammed with issues that will enlighten you and provoke a greater interest in a particular issue. But if you happen to read the party's complete platform you may find a number of surprises both gratifying and exasperating, and never will you find them dull or uninteresting.

Do you want to know about victim and property rights, abortion and women's rights or why Libertarians are in opposition to the U.N. Moon Treaty. Their answers to pornography, poverty and unemployment may surprise you as would their position on the environment and taxation. The Libertarian position on prostitution, zoning laws, welfare and licensing of doctors and craftsmen are clearly defined in their philosophy.

If you would like to dig deeper into the Libertarian hot potato sack, give Bob Lehman a ring at 283-2217.

▲ The Pibe Island Eagle

Pine Island, Florida, April 26, 1995

▼ The Manchester Union Leader

Manchester, New Hampshire
March 30, 1995

Libertarians Fight Third-Party Legislation

NEWBURY — Libertarians are mobilizing resources against a bill party leaders say is designed to drive their party and all other third parties off the ballot in the state.

The law proposed by New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner would "make third parties jump through an additional hoop after gaining official ballot status," said former Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Steve Winter.

After getting 3 percent of the vote in the run for governor, each third party would have to have 1 percent of total statewide registered voters to remain on the ballot.

Gardner told the Constitutional and Statutory Revision Committee this new requirement of 1

percent of all registered voters was "reasonable."

Winter said Gardner's comment "is especially dishonest given that he knows that the state ignored voter registration problems in the 1992 elections that caused a loss of over 800 Libertarians from voter registration lists."

Those losses were cited in a federal lawsuit as evidence that the Libertarian Party should be permitted to have election inspectors at the polls election day.

Winter said, "Third parties are growing at a much faster rate than the two existing major parties in the state. We must be considered a potent threat if they have to pass new laws to keep us off the ballot."

Privatization touted as tax-saving plan

■ Non-political promoter of privatization of government services discusses idea at Libertarian Party convention

BY SANDY MICKELSON OF THE NORTHWESTERN

A push to put government services in private hands was discussed Saturday at the annual state convention of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin.

The party, which promotes less government and fewer laws to regulate the economy and citizens' personal habits, asked the president of the Reason Foundation in Los Angeles to talk about privatization of government services, especially airports such as Wittman Regional.

"This idea of contracting out the management and operation of services can be applied to facilities like airports," said Robert Poole, publisher of Reason magazine. "It's a difference in incentives. A monopoly provider doesn't have a very strong incentive to look for new revenue sources or to cut their costs."

If city and county governments were to contract for such services as garbage collection, street sweeping and park maintenance, savings of 10 percent to 40 percent would be realized,



Robert Poole

“A city or county department that has always collected garbage. They don't have much incentive to think of cheaper and more beneficial ways to do it.”

Poole said.

In an interview Saturday night, Poole said he wanted people to understand that "moving things into the private sector which have traditionally been done by

Party officers

The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin elected officers during its annual state convention Saturday at the Pioneer Inn.

- **CHAIRMAN:** Ron Emery, Grafton, was re-elected.
- **VICE CHAIRMAN:** Jeff Engelmann, Oshkosh.
- **SECRETARY:** Dave Harmon, Greendale.
- **TREASURER:** Jim Maas, Stevens Point

government" wasn't the beginning of the end of modern society.

He said there are a vast array of services which would be economically better provided by private business because of the difference in operation between a monopoly and competitive business. If bids were put into the private sector, resultant cost savings would come when new ways were found to complete the work.

"There's typically a savings," he said. "For example, a city or county department that has always collected garbage. They don't have much incentive to think of cheaper and more beneficial ways to do it."

"But those things come naturally to the private sector. That's what being in business means."



BILL STEIGERWALD MAGAZINES

An idea whose time has come?

For those of you who have not been converted to libertarianism yet, the number for Laissez Faire Books is (800) 326-0996.

If you missed that number, Hillary, give Sen. Arlen Specter's office a call. He's bound to have it.

Apparently, Specter, half the Republicans in the House of Newt and, according to a recent Gallup Poll, 22 percent of the American public are now libertarians — or say they are.

This bit of interesting but ultimately misleading news comes courtesy of the current *Rolling Stone*, the one with the newly short, newly sober but better-than-ever Eddie Van Halen on the cover.

According to senior editor Francis Wilkinson, libertarianism is almost as hot as Tony Bennett. Its political ideals — maximum individual freedom, free markets and minimum government at home and lots of peace-making and free trade abroad — are everywhere.

Congress and college campuses have been newly infected. The computer profession is crawling with them. And the hottest think tank inside the Beltway is the libertarian Cato Institute, which has been happily pushing what it calls "market-liberalism" since 1977.

In "Selling the Sidewalks," Wilkinson makes it clear he doesn't endorse libertarian principles himself, and he engages in a few tiny bursts of stupidity to prove he doesn't understand them fully.

Otherwise, though, he does an excellent and fair job of surveying the libertarian intellectual landscape for a general audience. He interviews its responsible exponents and very nicely explains where they get their crazy ideas about political philosophy (Locke, Jefferson, Madison) and free-market economics (Adam Smith and the seminal Austrians Ludwig Von Mises and Friedrich Hayek).

After giving libertarianism a buildup as the next Big Political Thing, Wilkinson quickly backs off. He reassures his readers that as a philosophy, in its entirety, it "remains more theoretical than practical."

He also correctly points out that the Republicans' blazing love affair with libertarianism is highly selective. They may embrace the part about shrinking Big Government, but he says they want nothing to do with the rest of the libertarian agenda — especially things like an open immigration policy or legalizing drugs and prostitution.

None of this half-baked libertarianism is news to Virginia Postrel, the sharp-thinking editor of Reason magazine (800 998-8989).

With a circulation of about 40,000, Reason is by far the largest and most influential of the libertarian think magazines, including its smaller cousins, the feistier Liberty and more scholarly Freeman (914 591-7230).

As proof of Reason's influence in the real world, Robert Poole, Reason's founding editor and pioneering privatization guru, recently was invited to the White House to consult with President Clinton.

Meanwhile, as we await the president's conversion, Postrel is keeping her eye on the newly empowered Republicans. In last month's Reason and in the current issue of Forbes' techno-mag ASAP, she disses Newt Gingrich's vaunted futurism for being out of date, mainly because Newt the closet technocrat still believes good societies can be built by planners from the top down.

Postrel wants non-libertarian Newt to realize that "The world is messy, organic, out of control. It evolves by trial and error. If we want progress, nobody can be in charge. Progress is the unintended result of dynamic processes, not a predetermined outcome of someone's official static plan, however visionary."

In the April Reason, Postrel accuses Republicans of a variation of the same socialist sin — of being unable to shake their love of "planning other people's lives."

In not trusting us to run our own lives and wallets, she says, Republicans are no better than regulation-happy Democrats. Republicans just use a different tool to modify our behavior — the IRS.

Since the 1980s, she says, the accepted GOP "alternative to every alleged social problem, from health care to child care, has been some kind of tax credit or super-IRA."

As Postrel says, speaking for real libertarians everywhere, this is better than the Democrat alternatives, but it does little to roll back the power of the federal government.

▲ *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, April 9, 1995

► *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1995

Libertarian: Party got GOP to seek limit on federal role

■ State leader says Republicans are "watering down" proposals.

By Jim Boren The Fresno Bee

Gail Katherine Lightfoot, who chairs the Libertarian Party of California, said Friday that Libertarians can be credited for pressuring Republicans into trying to reduce the role of the federal government.

But Lightfoot, a registered nurse from Pomona, said she doubts the Republicans will be successful because they have already begun "watering down" many of their proposals.

Libertarians have long pushed for a limited government that doesn't grow, she said.

Its "core beliefs" include taking responsibility for one's own well-being, no taxes on productivity and a sound money system.

Lightfoot is in Fresno this weekend to preside over a two-day meeting of the Libertarian Party's executive committee.

The main topics will be the party's budget and its goals and priorities for the coming year.

The Libertarian Party is the third-largest in the state.

Lightfoot said the Libertarians want to become a majority party

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▼ *The Fresno Bee*

Fresno, California, April 1, 1995

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and are moving slowly but steadily in that direction.

There are a sprinkling of Libertarian Party members holding elective office in California, including four city council members and a county supervisor.

Lightfoot said the party will continue to field candidates at all levels of government.

The Libertarian Party is backing the California Civil Rights

Initiative, which would bar race preferences in California public employment, contracting and college admissions.

Lightfoot said her party is supporting the initiative because it believes in a "color-blind, gender-blind" society that does not discriminate against anyone.

This is the second time that Lightfoot has served as state chair of the Libertarian Party.

Her first term was in 1990.

Libertarians hand out big bucks in protest

By EDMUND MANDER
Journal Inquirer Staff Writer

The million-dollar bills Libertarian Party members are handing out to tax filers at post offices across the country this week are fake, but their grievances about big government are genuine enough, they say.

Each \$1 million bill represents what the federal government spends every five seconds, says Richard Loomis of Enfield, a Libertarian Party of Connecticut member, as he prepared to greet some taxpayers mailing their returns Monday in time for today's midnight deadline.

While he does not expect people to take the bills seriously — they depict a president with a bag over his head — the government does not take taxpayers' genuine money any more seriously, he complained.

"It's a way to get people to think about how fast government spends money," Loomis said, calling the federal levy "a horrendous tax."

The Libertarian Party considers many aspects of government to be unnecessary at best, and unconstitutional at worst. Many of its functions should either be abolished or left to private enterprise, the party argues.

For instance, Libertarians oppose public education and social service programs, arguing that both can be better performed by the private sector. The party also is a staunch defender of the Second Amendment right of citizens to bear arms.

Libertarians also are opposed to drug prohibitions, arguing that the war on drugs is an expensive failed attempt to control people's behavior. Far from curing the problem, the drug prohibition has profited drug dealers by driving up the price of drugs, they say.

Connecticut Libertarians plan to be outside post offices in Enfield, Haddam, Stamford, Easton, Oxford, and Seymour, while their counterparts hold similar demonstrations in other states, according to Carl Vassar, the party's state chairman.



Outside the Windsor Post Office, Richard Loomis hands out one of his bogus bills to Laurel Stewart of Longmeadow, Mass., who works nearby, while his wife, Janice, looks on.

Jim Michaud / Journal Inquirer

"It's mainly to increase the awareness of the Libertarian Party," Vassar said. But while the party finds taxes abhorrent, it is not suggesting that people withhold them, he added.

"We don't advocate breaking laws, we

want to change the system through the process."

This marks the second year the party has handed out the bills.

"It's fun, not too many people refuse million-dollar bills," Loomis said.

In another stunt, the party during the early 1980s handed out fake tax forms that, tongue-in-cheek, requested citizens to report their income and send a check for the entire amount to the government.

▲ *The Journal Inquirer*, Manchester, Connecticut, April 18, 1995

▼ *The Stamford Advocate*, Stamford, Connecticut, April 18 1995

Libertarian politics Third political party building a home and following in Stamford

By Dan Mangan
Staff Writer

Less government, lower taxes, and more personal freedom are the rallying cries of a new political organization that has opened up shop in Stamford.

The Stamford Libertarian Town Committee, which began meeting in January, is not fielding any candidates in this year's city elections. But come 1997 the group hopes to have several members run as it seeks to provide an alternative to the local Republican and Democratic parties.

"We feel it's important that we begin to develop some political clout," said Courtenay Hough, chairman of the Libertarian Town Committee, which now has about 20 to 25 members who meet once a month.

And, Hough says, it's important to translate that clout into the libertarian goals of paring government to the most basic services, and eliminating laws — such as drug prohibition and affirmative action — that limit individuals' personal choices.

News of a new party on the

Party's philosophy

- What the party favors:
 - A reduced government spending and taxation
 - Believes free-market capitalism is the best economic system.
 - Opposes drug laws, school prayer, and just about any law that forces a person to do — or not to do — something that affects only that person.

local scene came as a surprise to the heads of the two major parties.

"Libertarian? What does that mean?," asked Ellen Camhi, chairwoman of the Stamford Democratic City Committee.

When she was given a rough idea of libertarian philosophy, Camhi called it "anarchy," and then said "I'm against any third party." She argued that the two-

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party system is an important democratic tradition, and that anyone who wants to affect government should work within that system.

Her counterpart in the Republican Town Committee, Kurt Zimber, said "Essentially, we're living in a two-party world... people are so conditioned.

But Zimber acknowledged that the Libertarians could have an effect locally, either by promoting a candidate or issue that was especially popular, or by cross-endorsing another party's candidate, thus offering them an added ballot line.

The establishment of the Stamford town committee is part of a statewide effort to increase visibility and membership by the Connecticut chapter of the national Libertarian Party.

Currently, the 300-member chapter has no elected or appointed officials in the state. And a petition effort to get a Libertarian ballot line for last year's gubernatorial election failed.

But state Chairman Carl Vassar said the party recently has made some progress. Membership is up

somewhat, he expects to have a ballot line in Connecticut in the 1996 presidential election, and a Libertarian candidate is vying for the office of first selectman in the town of Oxford.

"Connecticut is a very liberal state, there's no question about it," Vassar said when asked if the party is in for an uphill struggle. But, "I think a lot of people have recognized that the two-party system is not solving the problems. We're the only party really committed to the reversal of the growth of government."

Such comments often make people mistakenly think Libertarians — or libertarians, if you're talking about non-party members who nonetheless believe in the philosophy — are just conservatives by another name.

It's true that libertarians share the right's commitment to reduced government spending and taxation, and the idea that free-market capitalism is the best economic system.

"The notion is that government can't do things as well as groups in the private sector," said Charley Cooper of the Cato Institute, a Washington, D.C., libertarian think tank.

But libertarians also espouse many ideas that people consider liberal. They oppose drug laws, school prayer, and just about any law that forces a person to do — or not to do — something that affects only that person.

Lance Lombardia, a member of the Stamford Libertarian Town Committee, said that what attracted him to the party was the realization that while the Republicans valued property rights, they were less concerned about individual liberty. And vice versa with the Democrats.

"It was not acceptable to sell off half my rights to protect the other half," Lombardia said.

"We feel that cooperation rather than coercion is the proper" way to run a society, said Hough, the Stamford committee chairman.

A 41-year-old supervisor of a leisure spa, Hough was campaign manager for Irving Sussman's bid as a Libertarian for the Fourth Congressional District seat. Sussman polled more than 1 percent of the vote, which ensures a party ballot line for the 1996 congressional elections.

Hough's association with the philosophy dates to 1976 when he

read a Saturday Evening Post article about the Libertarian presidential nominee Roger MacBride. Other reading also influenced his thinking, including Friedrich Hayek's economic work "The Road to Serfdom," and Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged," a novel that has introduced many to the libertarian ideal.

Ask him how he would apply libertarianism to Stamford, and Hough replies that he'd like to see research how various city departments could be eliminated. Eventually he'd like to see just the police and courts remaining to protect people from each other, and some administrative functions — such as the town clerk — to keep track of property transactions.

And, "I would abolish the Urban Redevelopment Commission," he said. Hough takes issue with the commission's threat to use eminent domain to condemn private property so that Swiss Bank Corp. can build its North American headquarters at a site just north of the Stamford Transportation Center.

"We don't believe in eminent domain," he said.