



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1996

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Libertarians gaining appeal, say journalists across USA

The number of journalists who are acknowledging libertarianism as a growing force in America politics has jumped in recent months. A few examples:

■ The trendy, left-wing *Village Voice* reported in early February: "Political libertarianism is the cutting edge politics of the time . . . [Most pundits] don't realize how popular and prevalent these ideas are now in the U.S."

■ *Florida Today* columnist Dan Warrensford wrote on December 29, 1995: "The Libertarian Party is alive, kicking, feistier than ever, and slowing making progress across the nation."

■ Syndicated columnist James Glassman wrote on February 13th: "Libertarianism is not right-wing looniness. In their guts, most Americans subscribe to it, even if they can't articulate it. It's an especially powerful force among young people."

■ Columnist Tom Kelley wrote in the *Nation's Restaurant News* in November 1995: "It seems that restaurateurs gravitate toward the ideas of the Libertarian Party. If you agree that government is too large, too expensive, and meddles too much, the Libertarian Party is for you."

■ And *North County Times* (Escondido, CA) columnist Logan Jenkins wrote on January 24th: "Libertarians are suddenly hip."

Libertarian Party sets three growth records

The Libertarian Party achieved a triple breakthrough this month — setting new records for contributing members, registered voters, and Libertarians in office.

"The Libertarian Party is definitely on a roll!" said LP National Director Perry Willis, who noted there are now:

■ 14,031 contributing LP members — an all-time record. That represents an increase of almost 5% in the last month, and a 33% increase since early 1995.

■ 164 Libertarians serving in public office — an all-time record. That's a 26% increase from early 1995.

Also, according to figures released by Richard Winger, editor of *Ballot Access News*, the number of registered Libertarians has reached an all-time high: 123,000. That represents a 13% increase since 1994.

Willis said the three records confirm the political strategy the party has been following for the past two years. "Our strategy has been to build membership, and everything else will follow," he said. "Well, it's happening!"

Top-rated Atlanta talk show host joined LP

Neal Boortz — the so-called "Big Kahuna" of Atlanta talk radio and the #1 rated talk show host on WSB-AM — has joined the Libertarian Party.

Boortz, a 25-year fixture on the Atlanta, Georgia airwaves, often described himself as philosophically "libertarian," but had resisted any partisan affiliation.

The decision to end his "non-joiner" status came on February 2nd after Boortz spent several hours on his program ruminating over whether he should become an official member of America's third largest political party.

"Mr. Boortz made the right decision," said National LP Chair Steve Dasbach afterwards. "He has joined a growing chorus of voices — both on talk radio and in the voting booth — speaking out in favor of more liberty and less government. We're proud to welcome him."

Boortz was named one of the "25 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts in America" in the February 1995 issue of *Talkers Magazine*.

California LPer named to powerful committee

An LP activist has been named to one of the most powerful committees in California — where he can recommend changes to the state's constitution.

Richard Rider, the 1994 LP gubernatorial candidate, was appointed to the California Constitution Revision Commission (CCRC) in late January. The CCRC reviews the state constitution and suggests revisions.

"Richard Rider is a well-known local taxpayer activist who has successfully fought tax increases for years. Now he can represent us at the state level, speaking up for the constitutional checks and balances needed to control politicians and special interest groups," said Steve Green, San Diego County LP Chair.

Vermont and Nebraska = States #29 and #30

Nebraska and Vermont voters will find at least three choices for president on their ballot in November, now that the LP has earned ballot status in those two states.

Nebraska and Vermont become states #29 and #30 in the party's ongoing drive for 50-state ballot status in 1996.

The LP received a letter from the Vermont Secretary of State in January, recognizing it as an official "minor party," after the LP held organizing meetings in 10 towns.

In Nebraska, state LP officials turned in more than 8,000 signatures — far more than the 5,773 petitions required — and were notified in mid-February by the Secretary of State that they had qualified under state law.

By Gene Trosper

"Death and taxes may be inevitable, but being taxed to death is not."
 Those are the words of Howard Jarvis, father of California's pathbreaking tax-limitation initiative Proposition 13. Unfortunately, death by taxes is an all too distinct possibility for many. Like the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back, gradual "pennies a day" tax increases have reached a breaking point for countless persons and businesses. All are victims of a coercive tax system that feeds wasteful spending practices, nurtures big government, and infringes on individual liberties.

The root cause for these tax increases can be directly attributed to an expanding role of government at the federal, state and local levels.

Author Richard J. Maybury writes: "Until the income tax and Federal Reserve system were created in 1913, the government was so small and weak it was financed almost entirely through customs duties and taxes on alcohol and tobacco." Furthermore, he notes that "Since 1821, the population of the U.S. has increased 25 fold while the federal government has increased 430 fold."

Consider also that in 1951, the California state budget was only \$1 billion. In 1995, that budget has skyrocketed to \$56 billion! And, according to the Institute for Policy Innovation, government workers (19.2 million) now outnumber those in the entire U.S. manufacturing industry (18.1 million). Contrary to these facts, govern-

The tyranny of taxation

'Instead of a mystical institution that can solve every problem and assure a trouble-free cradle to grave existence, government is the epitome of inefficiency and brute force.'

ment that government can legitimately engage in any activity it deems worthy.

Advocates of state power will most certainly scoff at this idea since it confronts their cherished belief in government as a wellspring of virtue and compassion. However, reason proves this to be a false concept. Instead of a mystical institution that can solve every problem and assure a trouble-free cradle to grave existence, government is the epitome of inefficiency and brute force. One need look no further than campus speech codes, overzealous environmental regulation, or the tragic consequences of drug prohibition for proof.

Only through strict limitation of government will all Americans regain the economic stability and personal freedom they deserve. Dramatic proposals put forth by organizations like the Cato Institute and the Libertarian Party are being met with increasing enthusiasm. They call for a rigorous program of tax and spending cuts coupled with the privatization of many government "services." If implemented, the benefits to citizens will be enormous,

leading to the greatest surge in prosperity and opportunity in generations.

Founding Father Alexander Hamilton articulated a basic truism when he said: "Power over a man's subsistence amounts to a power over his will." **Indeed, high levels of taxation tend to diminish the free choice of individuals to do as they see fit with what they have justly acquired.** Only when tax levels are low and relatively unobtrusive can people be truly free to provide not only life's basic necessities, but satisfy their own interests and desires.

It is the very essence of freedom that is at stake. Freedom to peacefully engage in trade, freedom to plan for the future, and freedom from coercive laws that compel citizens to dedicate over half a year's income for questionable purposes. Freedom to decide what is best for one's life.

As Mr. Jarvis said, we needn't be taxed to death. It will require tough choices and dedication, but when compared to the alternative, there is no argument. Justice for taxpayers demands no less.



LOCAL VIEW

■ Gene Trosper is southern vice chairman of the Riverside County Libertarian Party. He was also a principal opponent of two school bond measures in Lake Elsinore last year.

ment is not a growth industry precisely because "industry" produces useful items. Government merely lives off the substance of others while producing nothing of any value.

Behind this massive growth is a belief that government, not voluntary associations of individuals, is best suited to provide a whole range of needs and wants. (Such thinking exposes a fundamental doubt that people can think or act for themselves.)

These "nanny state" excursions range from various "social welfare" programs to outrageous giveaways that, in reality, only benefit a small minority. For instance, the United States Department of Agriculture's Market Promotion Program "assists" wealthy corporations by subsidizing overseas marketing of their products. Wrangler was the recipient of \$1.1 million and Gallo Wineries joyfully accepted \$5.1 million in corporate welfare handouts for the alleged purpose of introducing American commodities like cotton and grapes into foreign markets.

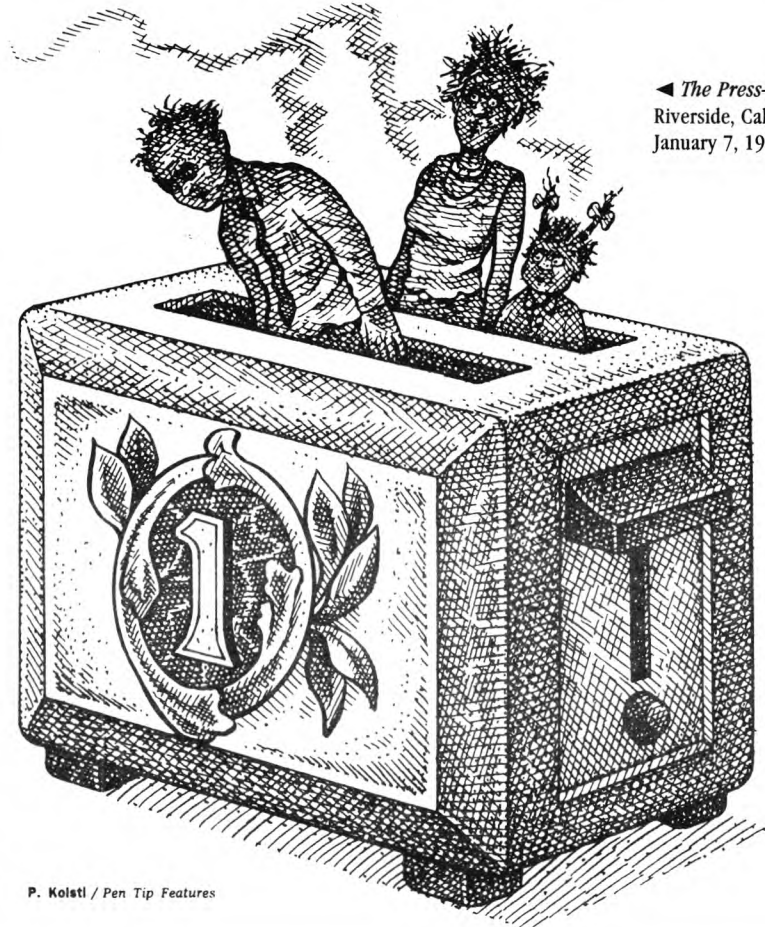
This, of course, is not without a price. Remember that the function of taxes is to bankroll government operations. The more that is undertaken, the more funding is required to administer these bureaucratic mechanisms. Inevitably, it is taxpayers who must work longer and harder to absorb these costs.

For a number of years, the Tax Foundation has calculated "Tax Freedom Day" as the point which taxpayers stop working to pay direct taxes and start working for themselves. This year, Tax Freedom Day fell on May 6. Make no mistake about it. From January to May, citizens work exclusively for government taxation.

In 1993, the American Tax Reform Foundation included the "invisible taxes" of government agency regulations that drive up the price of consumer goods, services, and manufacturing. The result was "Cost of Government Day." This year, Cost of Government Day was July 9. Out of 365 days in a calendar year, 189.9 are spent working for all aspects of government. A total of 175.1 days remain to eke out a living.

Even the broad economic consequences of simply complying with the tax code can be staggering. George Mason University economist Walter Williams estimates that Americans spend over six billion hours annually in lost productivity computing their taxes. This is equal to the time spent manufacturing all automobiles, trucks and aircraft in the United States each year.

To substantially reduce the tax burden on Americans, more must be done than politicians tinkering around to produce tax cuts of only 2 or 5 percent (thereby pretending to be "the taxpayers' friend" every election year). Even effective reforms like term limits, recall movements, and citizen initiatives are not adequate enough for taxpayer protection. What needs to be challenged is the very



◀ The Press-Enterprise
 Riverside, California
 January 7, 1996

P. Kolsti / Pen Tip Features

Third-party candidate airs campaign issues locally

By JOHN FROEHLING
of the Daily Ledger

Tired of the same old bickering between Democrats and Republicans? Weary of hearing statements that have more to do with political spin than factual reporting? Feel a little weak in the knees at the size of the continually rising national debt, now approaching \$5 trillion?

If so, an alternative to politics-as-usual is offered by the Libertarian Party, which will hold primary elections in Illinois for certain offices this year. It is the first third party to do so in the state since the 1870's, according to Mike Ginsberg, chairman of the Liberation Party of Illinois.

If a third-party candidate receives at least 5 percent of the votes cast in Illinois for a general elec-



Robin Miller

tion, that party can hold primaries for president and U.S. senators in the following election. Robin Miller in 1994 received 6 percent of the vote when he was running for University of Illinois trustee. He now is running for a national office.

Miller last month filed nominating petitions to run for the Senate seat to be vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Paul Simon (D-Illinois). Two other Libertarians, authors Irwin Schiff and Harry Browne, filed petitions Wednesday to run for the party's nomination for president.

Ginsberg said third-party candidates must obtain 15 times more signatures on petitions to get on the general election ballot in Illinois for U.S. House of Representatives races and five times as many names for state-wide offices. Libertarians be-

lieve such disproportionate petition requirements deprive them of First Amendment rights to free speech and 14th Amendment rights on political association.

As a result, a lawsuit was filed in November in a federal court in Chicago. If a ruling, expected Feb. 7, is favorable to Libertarians, they will have 12 congressional candidates in the primary and not need so many signatures in the future, Ginsberg said.

"I believe that will improve competition for candidates and provide better choices for the voters," he added. Both Democrats and Republicans have represented big government and big spending; the only difference is the rhetoric, Ginsberg said. He noted the national debt soared in the 1980's under Republi-

can administrations, and Democrats continue to support many regulatory, bureaucratic agencies.

Nationally, the party is seeking 220 congressional seats, or 230 U.S. House seats if it prevails in the lawsuit. More than 1,000 other party candidates in all are running for local, state and national offices, he said.

David Fry, campaign manager for Miller, said Thursday third-party leaders in Washington D.C. would not lead to greater gridlock or be a divisive faction but would provide "healthy discussion" instead of just arguing over how much larger the government is going to get.

Ginsberg said while Democrats and Republicans jockey for position, the "will of the people would be behind us." Libertarian voices

would speak louder than bickering Democrats and Republicans more interested in their own positions and getting re-elected than representing the public, he added.

"We have solutions to problems," Fry said. He added Libertarians believe in letting people solve their own problems and getting government out of their lives.

Fry said the three most critical issues the candidate for Simon's seat will focus on are Social Security, taxes and foreign policy. "Social Security should be privatized by buying out those over 50 and changing their benefits to annuities," Fry said. Those benefits are better guaranteed by insurance companies than government, he claimed.

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Information is available on what individuals have paid into Social Security. Such lump sums could be turned over to private firms and distributed annually through annuities until death. Distributions are calculated through actuarial tables.

Persons now earning under \$50,000 a year pay around 7 1/2 percent to Social Security. At the current pace, 40 percent of income will be paid to that agency in 20 to 25 years due to the pending retirement of "baby boomers," Fry said.

On taxes, Miller offers to balance the budget in seven years, but not with 3 to 5 percent annual increases in spending which would add \$646 billion to the \$4.9 trillion debt. Libertarians believe the budget not only can be balanced but the entire debt eliminated in six years, and taxes lowered and Social Security privatized along the way, Fry said.

By selling its \$13 trillion in assets, which includes one-third of the land in the U.S., and cutting agencies not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, like the Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, the Education Department and so forth, those goals could be realized. The plan also calls for substituting a 5 percent national sales tax for the current income tax system.

Regulatory agencies cost the country \$600 billion a year, 1/10th of the gross domestic product,

causing higher inflation, unemployment and impediments to growth. This is what causes U.S. firms to build factories in foreign countries, not cheaper labor, Ginsberg said.

Without regulating agencies, Fry said, individuals should have more power to press civil laws against polluters and makers of unsafe products. By contrast, recent legislation has made it more difficult for private citizens to sue corporations.

Ginsberg said social issues such as teaching the illiterate, aiding the poor and sheltering the homeless are not the jobs of government but the concerns of citizens. "It's what draws us together," Fry said, adding that such programs should be privatized so services are provided more cost-effectively.

On foreign policy, the U.S. should not get involved in the internal conflicts of other countries. Invasions in Bosnia, Somalia, Panama and other countries have solved no problems, but only earned contempt there for Americans, said Ginsberg. Forced settlements, the same "Band-Aid solutions" tried in Bosnia after World War I, World War II and again in recent years, are doomed to failure. Another Bosnian civil war can be expected in 10 years, said Ginsberg.

"We're not in favor of isolation either. We'd rather trade with them than shoot at them," Fry said.

Miller is opposed for the party nomination by Dave Hosheidt of

Bloomington. But Miller has been endorsed by the Libertarian Party of Illinois.

Miller, a 37-year-old East Peoria businessman, is a graduate of a Peoria high school and Illinois Central College. He is has been a computer systems analyst for more than 15 years, and owns Liberty Home Automation. He and his wife Kati have two children: Sean, 8; and Irene, 5.

He is strong supporter of the principles of the Libertarian Party, said Fry, which believes government has only two legitimate purposes: to protect citizens from force or fraud and to provide a military defense.

The party platform also says law-abiding citizens should be allowed to possess guns; drugs should be legalized and profits placed in the hands of businessmen like liquor store owners instead of organized crime and teen-aged drug lords. The national platform says government should stay out of abortion and not infringe upon doctor-patient relationships, although Libertarians are split on whether life begins at birth or with a heartbeat.

For more information available on the Internet, the address is: <http://miller96.org/>

▲ *The Daily Ledger*
Canton, Illinois
January 19, 1996

▼ *The Courier*
Prescott, Arizona
January 15, 1996

Libertarian says individual rights paramount

Phoenix man is using political process to promote principles of the party

By JEFF KELLUM
The Daily Courier

Rick Tompkins, Libertarian presidential hopeful, was being realistic when he said he didn't expect to be seated in the Oval Office in 1997. But that has not stopped him from sharing his principles with those who chose to listen.

Tompkins, a Phoenix-area resident, was in Prescott Saturday promoting the party's stand of individual freedom over government control.

"Is there anybody in this room who believes the Libertarian nominee, whoever it may be, will be elected the president of the United States?" he asked the 12 persons who attended the speech at the Prescott Activity Center.

Tompkins said despite his chances, the political forum is a way

for him to promote the party, adding that sometimes it is a slow process. "We have to take what we can," he said.

Tompkins feels that the government has acquired too much power and it's time for the American public to take it back.

"Is he saying that the government and the country are one in the same?" Tompkins said, referring to President Clinton's denouement of those who are critical of the federal government.

Tompkins said he feels the government is out of control, using such incidents as the Ruby Ridge and Waco standoffs as examples. He said it was a running joke in Washington that politicians are there to serve the people.

"These are not acts of a govern-



Courier / B.C. Helm

Rick Tompkins of Phoenix is running for the Libertarian nomination for president of the United States.

ment that respect your rights," he said. "These are acts of tyranny." Tompkins, who will not be parti-

cipating in next month's state presidential primary, said originally he had no intention of running for the

party's nomination. He said he chose to run because he felt the other two candidates, Harry Browne and Irwin Schiff, were not promoting the true principles of the party.

Both Browne and Schiff have filed for February's primary despite plans by party officials to file suit with the election office to keep the names of Libertarian candidates off the Feb. 27 ballot.

The Libertarian Party state convention will be held in Prescott Feb. 3 and 4.

Tompkins said the Libertarian message is simple: individual rights rule supreme.

He said one example of a system that has gone awry is the jury system. He said under the current system, it is difficult for the average citizen to understand.

"If the laws are too complicated for the average person to understand, how can you expect the average person to abide by it?" he asked.

Toss off yokes by voting for Libertarians

Now that the festivities are over (except for a couple of minor events, like New Year's Eve and a Jan. 2 rout of the 'Huskies by the 'Gators) let's get serious.

Simmer down, now. Take it easy. Don't get that indigestion fired up again. There'll be no '96 "wish list" or list of resolutions to ignore. Not in this space.

It's time to soothe that political apoplexy.

Let's cogitate, yogilike, about your incessant complaints — whether you're a Democrat or Republican, whether you love or loathe the Billy Jeff or the Newtmeister, whether you're a liberal or a conservative.

If you'll consider the trillions spent for largely ineffectual welfare-state "solutions" — since JFK began the process of saving us from ourselves — you'll conclude that, generally, it didn't work.

And (now, don't go into a tizzy) it hasn't been the fault of politicians and bureaucrats. Not really.

After all, you put them in office, directly or indirectly.

They've just been doing what government overseers naturally do: Taxing, spending, building empires and circling the wagons.

So, realizing that your reactions can be visceral, but that you're also gentle, perspicacious folks: Isn't it about time for you to begin acting like free-thinking, risk-taking,



DAN WARRENSFORD

FLORIDA TODAY COLUMNIST

rugged individualists (which is how you like to believe other nations perceive you)?

Isn't it about time for you to consider giving the heave-ho to the major political parties?

Isn't it about time for you to seriously consider an alternative?

This isn't to promise a "silver bullet."

Jefferson, Madison and their colleagues are still quite dead. They're simply not available to pull your fat from the fire.

However, the Libertarian Party is alive, kicking, feistier than ever and slowly making progress across the nation.

But slow progress isn't good enough. Warp-speed is required if we're to recover before capsizing in our sea of red ink (and you can bet the farm that if the me-too parties continue ruling you, recovery isn't

in the cards).

Let's see how many of you are philosophically able to reconsider your affiliations. Here's part of a quiz from the recent *Special Report: An Inside Look at the Libertarian Party*.

Do you agree or disagree that:

■ People own their own lives, and should be free to make their own choices, provided they don't infringe on the equal right of others to do the same.

■ Basic ideas of right and wrong apply to politicians and bureaucrats the same as they do to other individuals.

■ The government shouldn't be able to take from person "A" and give to person "B," except as compensation for a previous harmful act by person "A." The so-called redistribution of wealth is just a polite term for theft.

■ Just because government has the power to do something doesn't mean it has the right to do it. Might doesn't make right.

Call (800) 682-1776 for the remainder of the quiz. Ask for a copy of *Special Report: Review Why Government Doesn't Work* (by Harry Browne, LP U.S. presidential candidate, 1995). What can you lose, but your rapidly growing leis of chains, courtesy of the IRS, EPA, FDA, HRS, ad nauseaum?

Warrensford, a retired electrical engineer, lives on Merritt Island.

► *Florida Today*
Melbourne, Florida
December 29, 1995

▼ *The Daily Herald*
Roanoke Rapids,
North Carolina
December 31, 1995

Libertarian forced to halt post office drive

SCOTT SCHWEBKE
Herald Staff Writer

A Libertarian Party volunteer says his constitutional rights were violated Saturday afternoon when two Roanoke Rapids police officers forced him to abandon a petition drive at the city post office.

Robert Lynch, 41, of Cary, speculated he was ousted from the post office for political reasons.

"Some people don't want a third party on the ballot," he said. "They only want a two-party system."

Lynch, who is a building contractor, was in Roanoke

Rapids Friday and Saturday as part of the Libertarian Party's nationwide effort to get 60,000 signatures on petitions so party candidates can run for elected office in 1996.

He said Libertarians are "constitutionalists" and support economic and personal freedoms more consistently than Democrats or Republicans.

Lynch, who campaigned in 1992 for Libertarian presidential candidate Andre Marrou, said he picked Roanoke Rapids for the party's current petition

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DRIVE

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drive because small towns are often more supportive of the party's philosophies.

"There is more grassroots support in smaller towns," he said. "Some (residents of small towns) may be Libertarian and not know they are Libertarian."

Lynch said he spent nearly four hours outside of the Roanoke Rapids Post Office on Friday without interference from postal officials and managed to get about 150 signatures.

He returned to the post office Saturday at around 11:30 a.m. and obtained about 25 more signatures before Postal Supervisor Ann Harris asked him to leave because he was reportedly bothering customers.

Lynch did not obtain permission from Roanoke Rapids postal officials to solicit signatures outside of the post office.

"He didn't have anything in writing," Harris said. "I understand his position but my first

concern is for the customers." Lynch said Sgt. Jimmy Wright and Officer Ozzie Morgan, who were summoned to the post office Saturday at around 12:30 p.m., threatened to arrest him for trespassing if he didn't leave.

In addition, Lynch said he did not approach people aggressively and left the post office peacefully so the incident would not have an adverse impact on the Libertarian Party's efforts.

He said the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech, permits political activists to petition people outside of federal buildings.

The Libertarian Party has also reportedly received permission for the petition drive from the state Board of Elections, he said.

Lynch said he will contact state Libertarian Party officials about the Saturday incident and plans to resume his petition drive at the Roanoke Rapids Post Office on Tuesday.