



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the contributors in the National Libertarian Party's Liberty Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to National Committee Members and State Party Chairs, in appreciation of their involvement as well as to network information on activities at Headquarters and libertarians in the news.

Clippings and other stories of interest are appreciated.

Libertarian Party National Headquarters 301 W. 21st St. Houston, Texas 77008 713/880-1776

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

April '87

James Libertarian Burns has officially announced his candidacy for the LP's presidential nomination. Burns is well known in the LP for having had his middle name changed to "Libertarian," insuring that, with or without ballot status, his philosophy and Party affiliation would be clearly noted on the ballot.

Harry Glenn, who ran as a Libertarian for Sherriff in Illinois, declared his intent to seek the LP's highest nomination at the Illinois Convention last week, stating he would also accept the vice-presidential slot if Russell Means presidential nomination campaign were to prove successful.

In other News:

The Libertarian National Committee met in Atlanta the first weekend of April in conjunction with the Georgia convention;

Tax Day protests were well attended, according to reports from around the country.

At Headquarters:

Natcom member, Hugh Butler, and his wife Marsha, were on-site April 24th to survey the staff's needs regarding the purchase of the computer network that will replace the present Data General computer. Their inquiries were very detailed as to each staff member's computer input tasks and output/reporting requirements. Mr. Butler also did some examinations of the database on the Data General and offered suggestions regarding some annoying problems we've had.

Assistance Request:

With the transition to the MS DOS system coming up soon, the National Headquarters requests the following help from you:

1. Examine your pledge statement closely for errors of any sort. If there are any, please make corrections on the statement and return it to us in the enclosed envelope.
2. If you or any LP'er you know has not been receiving LP News or other LP mailings, pass such information to us.

We want to make sure that the information we transfer into the new Dbase is as accurate as possible. Your help is appreciated.

Third parties must be given equal chance

I would like to support a letter last week which was critical of a proposal to allow political parties to sponsor presidential debates in the future. I'll cast my vote in support of League of Women Voters debates.

How would political parties run debates better? I would think that debates would be held less often, have less meaning and would be closed to all except Democrats and Republicans.

The LWV is dedicated to open, free and honest elections, and in doing so its members provide a valuable service. As a supporter of the League of Women Voters' activities, I would like to ask them to further dedicate themselves to that purpose.

Alabama has many problems in this regard. We have the most restrictive ballot access laws in the country, and not surprisingly one of the worst voter participation records in the country.

If alternative candidates cannot get on the ballot, then the citizens' right to vote has been circumvented. The Alabama voter doesn't participate because he or she is not given much of a

choice. As George Wallace said "There ain't a dime's worth of difference between the Democrats and the Republicans."

Worse yet, some candidates unable to get on the ballot with their own party (LaRouche supporters, or even the Ku Klux Klan) have run as Democrats and Republicans.

Finally, I would like to suggest to the league that it put in place (prior to the 1988 election) measures to prevent blackmail by the old parties. Very often in the past, third-party candidates have been deemed "respectable" by the debate sponsor and invited to participate in debates only to find that major candidates are unwilling to participate if third parties are included.

I, for one, feel that Alabamians deserve some alternatives on the ballot and that these alternatives deserve a fair hearing.

Mark Thornton,
Alabama Libertarian Party,
P.O. Box 11514.

Birmingham News/Birmingham AL

DEBT OR LIABILITY ITEM	FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS	YOUR SHARE*
Public Debt	\$2,078,700,000,000	\$ 24,455
Accounts Payable	235,652,000,000	2,772
Undelivered Orders	560,043,000,000	6,589
Long Term Contracts	13,563,000,000	160
Loan and Credit Guarantees	662,244,000,000	7,791
Insurance Commitments	2,659,067,000,000	31,283
Annuity Programs	6,892,000,000,000	81,082
Unadjudicated Claims: International Commitments & Other Contingencies	73,386,000,000	863
TOTAL	* \$13,174,655,000,000	\$154,995

* Based on 85 million real taxpayers.

Libertarian town sets sights on attracting new industries

Deseret News/Salt Lake City, UT

BIG WATER, Kane County (UPI) — Residents of this small southern Utah town governed by a polygamist mayor are hoping their experiment in libertarian government will help usher in a new era of economic development.

Big Water's population has nearly doubled since 1980, and development boosters' mouths are watering over the possibility of luring an Arizona houseboat manufacturing company frustrated with bureaucratic red tape.

Boat Houseboat Industries Inc., which makes fiberglass houseboats, is considering relocating to Big Water to take advantage of "more freedom" from state and local regulations, an official said.

"In Page and Arizona, the codes are pretty stringent," Robert Ripka, Boatel general manager, said Tuesday. Local bureaucrats are "driving us out of business with regulations. We just can't afford it anymore and keep our prices competitive."

Ripka said company officials are seriously considering moving their operation 25 miles up the road and across the state line to Big Water, which Utah Libertarians say is the only U.S. city with an all-Libertarian city council.

Big Water officials said they are ready, willing and able to accommodate Boatel's needs.

The company's 44 jobs would be a boon to the community of 330 people, said city attorney Elizabeth Joseph, seventh wife of Mayor Alex Joseph.

"We'd love it. It would really improve our employment base," she said.

Big Water, formerly known as Glen Canyon City, boomed and busted 20 years ago as a watering hole for Glen Canyon Dam construction workers. But Joseph

claims the desert lakeside community is now one of the "fastest growing" cities in Utah.

"It (growth) is just phenomenal," said Boudicca Joseph, another one of the mayor's 10 wives and Big Water's only real estate broker. "Big Water is attracting a lot of people because of our government policies. We're leaving decisions up to business and management of property up to property owners."

She claims she recently became a member of the \$1 million club, the honor badge for Realtors selling that much property.

"(It (government) is experimental, and it'll be interesting to see what will happen. It's a real different attitude and it's working well," said the Realtor.

The libertarian philosophy of minimal government is helping Big Water, said Elizabeth Joseph, because businesses are starting to realize "we're just not as interventionist."

"Big Water has the policy of really looking for development and realizing we're at the mercy, or the service, of business," she said, adding that is a "drastic contrast of attitude" with Page officials.

She said city officials in the Arizona town regulate business in "real cumbersome and restrictive ways. My understanding is Boatel just had too much pushing around and regulation."

And, said the city attorney, "Most of our growth can be attributed to the problems with Page."

"Page is just choking itself off with a ridiculous town council that won't let anybody do anything," said Boudicca Joseph.

14 vying for Burton's House seat

SAM GROVE
Libertarian

All other candidates promise what they intend to get the government to do for us. To procure federal funds, they'd have to make deals with over 400 other representatives contending for our tax dollars. These deals cost us more than the benefits they provide. Government can't give us anything it hasn't first taken from us!

As a Libertarian, I offer District 5 voters a fundamentally different choice:

Like all Libertarians, I consistently defend both our civil liberties and our economic freedoms against the government's grasp. You needn't choose between the Democrat promise of civil liberties, or the Republican promise of economic freedom.

I oppose the government's interventionist foreign policy, and call for reform of the Presidential War Powers Act, to end presidential power for initiating military actions such as occurred in Vietnam.

I propose a 100% tax credit for contributions to disease research and health

care. This credit would let you subtract the full amount of your contributions from your tax bill. Multiply the tens of millions of us who are concerned about AIDS and other diseases by the several hundred dollars we could then afford to contribute; we can easily raise the billions needed each year!

Free trade with other countries promotes harmonious relations and higher standards of living everywhere. In contrast, trade restrictions punish consumers with higher prices; purchasing power is decreased, eliminating other jobs. Instead, we must end 'foreign aid' subsidies to overseas competitors. International trade, not foreign aid!

I support open immigration. Immigrants not only work hard, they consume as well, creating more jobs. The Simpson-Rodino bill encourages racial discrimination. Anyone who looks or sounds like an immigrant is having a harder time finding a job. We all interact with immigrants. We should welcome them as friends and neighbors.

Who could be so selfish as to not share the benefits of greater liberty with other people who seek it?

Taxes are a drag on the economy. The price of goods and services includes taxes on the incomes of people who produce these things. Taxes make everything cost more. This hurts the poor most, because they're least able to afford higher prices! Taxes must be cut; never increased!

The political system is a mess. The old parties are locked in conflict with each other. They're deeply invested in special interests, to the detriment of us all. They promote dependence on government programs, rarely mentioning the costs. The ugly truth is, the costs far outweigh the benefits. So the costs are hidden, or borrowed from our future. That's why there's a national debt, and unfunded federal liabilities of trillions of dollars.

Reliance on government programs is also morally bankrupt: Peace and abundance cannot be forced; they will be chosen by free people.

Break the cycle of contending for "the pie"! Vote Libertarian, the only party (so far) which offers a way to improve everyone's living standards, at no one's expense! Any other choice can only prolong our conflict. □

San Francisco Sentinel/San Francisco CA

News-Register
McMinnville, OR

Chopping at the government jungle

The country needs more elected officials who believe strongly that bigger is not always better. We were reminded of that in a discussion this week with Andre Marrou, Libertarian candidate for vice president of the United States, who was in McMinnville for his political party's Oregon convention.

Knowing that Libertarians believe in dramatic reductions in government, we asked Marrou where he would begin cutting if he had the power. "It would be like being placed with a machete in the middle of a jungle," he said. "You could just about start chopping anywhere."

The Libertarian philosophy goes too far in the direction of individual liberty at the expense of proper societal rules and regulations. But it is a fact that government -- especially the federal government -- is too big, too wasteful and too expensive.

A few well-placed swings of the machete would not be all bad. It would be preferable to the rhetoric about improving government when, in fact, much of government needs to be eliminated.

All of this "improving government" over the past few decades has put our generation into debt beyond comprehension, and we need more people in office who will fight harder to reverse that trend.

Avery Johnson is an incumbent on the Milford Board of Selectmen.

Johnson challenges Milford with Libertarian viewpoint

Telegraph
Nashua, NH
By ANDREA PARKER
Telegraph Staff

MILFORD — "As you well know I don't like prescribed rules," said Selectman Avery Johnson to voters this week.

Anyone who has watched Johnson, 54, sit on the Board of Selectman for the past three years doesn't need to be reminded of this.

Johnson, board vice chairman, is seeking another three years at making people aware that there are alternatives that perhaps haven't been made "thinkable" before.

Although often perceived as inconsistent — believing in the least possible amount of government while being in town government and being adamantly opposed to compulsory education and serving as town truant officer — Johnson likes to explain the finer points of his thoughts.

He is responsible for putting the municipal computer system on line; he spent about 30 hours a week programming the information since the system was approved last March, he said. He has worked extensively on planned Town Hall renovations.

A Libertarian, Johnson said the first couple of years on the board were "discouraging" in terms of getting across his philosophy.

Now, he says, "I have this vague feeling there's a job about half done,"

Johnson

From Page A4

rigid rules that don't accommodate for realities," he said. "Life goes on in the broad context of many relationships."

He also was criticized for allowing a foundation to be poured on his property without going through proper channels first. What made the situation worse was that it was Building Inspector Robert Milliard who, intending to buy the property, built the foundation.

"I've made some people angry," said Johnson. "But later I go back and talk to them, to straighten it out."

For example, he apologized to veterans last year for an alleged slight he made in a comment about prison-

'... I was impressed with the thought (in Libertarianism) given to the relationship of the government to those governed — the individual.'

and he is beginning to find ways to make progress.

An inventor with a Ph.D. in engineering, Johnson is one of the heirs to a family fortune — his grandfather invented Palmolive dishwashing liquid.

Johnson developed a telephone conferencing system, attended a national conference to show off his haptic ("touchy feely") devices, has continuously studied neuro-linguistic programming and is in the process of writing a book on the human brain and the development of language.

Johnson became a Libertarian in

the late 1970s when he got to know some local people. "I was an Ayn Rand fan years ago. The lack of a sense of humor was a turn-off."

He said that when he began reading Libertarian literature, he found it to be more "responsible" than a lot of other journalistic sources.

"And I was impressed with the thought given to the relationship of the government to those governed — the individual," he said. "Why does government have to step in?"

At weekly selectmen meetings, Johnson is easily irritated with the "rigid" rules of the town — especially when it comes to zoning regulations.

He was taken to court by the town before he became a selectman because he built a house on his property without getting a building permit.

"I would like there to be a flexibility — a performance criteria — so that whenever anybody wants to take all the risks, he can. Why does anyone have the right to tell you you can't take that risk? ... Does a site plan on paper make it more real?"

Johnson took some heat at a forum Wednesday night for his lax views on enforcing zoning laws.

"Every time it's thrown at me that we are a society of laws and not a society of men, I want to get sick," Johnson said at a recent forum.

"The main problem is that we have
JOHNSON Page A5

ers of war being no more special than other veterans and that "once this was cause for shame."

His pet project is the Town Hall renovations, which this year officials expect will have to be put off until a year when so many other expensive things aren't needed.

"I've worked in the Town Hall for three years, and really fell in love with the building," he said.

At times Johnson has displayed his characteristic quirks to Town Hall for all to see, like the time he donned a wizard's hat to demonstrate his magical relationship with computers.

Johnson often brings his avant garde perspective to selectmen

meetings by offering unusual solutions to down-to-earth problems.

Several years ago when a group of citizens was complaining about losing sleep because of early morning noise from a milk truck, Johnson suggested that the soothing sounds of ocean waves be used to overpower the sounds of the truck's diesel engine revving.

More recently, Johnson added to his reputation by getting board approval to pump water from the contaminated Savage Well controlled by the Environmental Protection Agency. He surprised other board members by taking a drink. The whole incident led another town official to say, "He was almost arrested."

Door-To-Door

The Advertiser/Montgomery, AL

The chairman of Alabama's Libertarian Party wants to make it easier for minor political parties to get on the ballot in Alabama, so much so that he says he's willing to go "door to door" to find a state lawmaker who will sponsor a bill for him.

Frank Monachelli said that a requirement for a political party to receive at least 20 percent of the vote in the most recent general election to be included automatically on the next state ballot is unfair. He's got a point.

According to the Washington-based Academy for State and Local Government, Alabama's requirement of 20 percent is the highest in the nation. Most states require that parties receive between 1 percent and 10 percent of the vote to make it on a state ballot.

Monachelli said his party wants to see the requirement lowered to 2 percent.

The Libertarian chairman says the 20 percent rule forces minority parties to spend all their manpower and resources gathering signatures instead of campaigning for candidates. Currently, if a party does not meet the 20 percent rule in the most recent election, it must gather signatures of thousands of registered voters to make it onto the ballot.

Alabama raised its party vote requirement from 10 percent to 20 percent in 1982 after a growth in the number of minor parties seeking

space on the ballot.

It does seem that 20 percent is too high for fairness; conversely, the 2 percent cut-off proposed by Monachelli seems low. Perhaps the 10 percent level in effect prior to 1982 wasn't so unfair, after all.

We suspect that the real reason lawmakers raised the limit had more to do with their not wanting to be bothered with having to run against any of these "minor" candidates than with worries about cluttering the ballot.

While putting the smaller parties on the ballot may cost a little more for printing, that cost should be at least partially offset by officials not having to deal with checking petitions.

But even if it costs a little more, it's worth it. No matter if they never elect anyone, third parties can serve a useful purpose by bringing fresh ideas into a campaign when thinking in the two major parties stagnates.

As historian Richard Hofstadter noted, "Third parties are like bees; once they've stung, they die."

In a state where too many incumbents routinely go unchallenged, a few minor-party candidates could also serve to force those incumbents to face the electorate every now and then. That alone justifies making it easier for third-party candidates to get on the ballot.

Sacramento Magazine
Sacramento, CA →

Ventura Star Free Press
Ventura, CA

Officer who became call girl gets 3-year term

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former civilian traffic officer who became a call girl must serve a three-year prison sentence, not probation, for a pandering conviction, a state appeals court ordered.

Norma Jean Almodovar, 36, who ran for lieutenant governor last year on the Libertarian ticket, said Wednesday she was disappointed and considered the panel's 2-1 decision "outrageous."

Almodovar was a civilian traffic control officer for the city

police department for 10 years before she became a \$200-a-night prostitute.

The 29-page opinion, written by Court of Appeal Justice L. Thaxton Hanson, overturned Almodovar's probation and ordered her resentenced according to state law requiring a minimum of three years in state prison.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Vaino Spencer wrote that the mandatory term was "out of all proportion" to Almodovar's offense.

Libertarian Officeholder

Abolishes Office

The American Libertarian Katy, TX Santa Barbara, CA - After a three-year effort, the Mission Canyon Fire District (Santa Barbara, CA) is being abolished, saving each district household over \$200 per year in special assessments. The District Board of Directors was chaired by libertarian Lou Villadsen, who reports that 75% of the voters in the district agreed that the district was an expensive and unnecessary waste of their money. "The LP can't count me as an officeholder now," she said, "but we can point to a small victory. There are probably hundreds of these little districts all over the country, sucking up tax money because nobody ever looked at whether or not they're really needed. Our Board went to a lot of work to gather the data and prove the case objectively, and it worked!" ■

Leary the libertarian

AUSTIN, Texas — Former Harvard Professor Timothy Leary says adults ought to be able to decide for themselves whether to use drugs, but a former federal drug official says people can't choose which laws they will follow.

"Any adult American should have the right to put into her or his body ... anything he ... pleases," Leary said during a debate Thursday at the University of Texas.

But Peter Bensinger, former head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, disagreed: "It is not up to the individual citizens to pick and choose the laws they want to obey."

Leary, who became famous as the guru of users of the drug LSD during the 1960s, said he opposes drug abuse and the use of drugs by minors. But he said he was appalled by what the government wanted to do on the pretext of caring for his body.

"Defend your brain and your bodies against Big Brother," he urged.

Republic
Fairfield, CA

Not So Lame

In your listing of blunders during 1986 ["Lame Duck Awards," Jan/Feb], there is an item saying that Norma Jean Almodovar may have lost some votes by attending the World Whores Convention during the campaign.

On the other hand, there are about 57,000 registered Libertarians in California. The candidate for governor received 47,618, the candidate for the United States Senate received 64,724. Norma Jean Almodovar [candidate for lieutenant governor] received 87,943.

That is certainly not a shabby final result, the more so since Libertarians are traditionally underfinanced and ignored by the media.

Almodovar suggests that a hooker debases herself when she goes to political conventions. She may well have a point.

BRUCE TYLER
Sacramento

Observer-American
Clearlake Highlands, CA

Indian activist runs for office

LAKE COUNTY — American Indian activist Russell Means announced his intention to seek the Libertarian Party nomination for United States president at the California Libertarian Party convention in San Francisco.

Recently in the public eye for his attempts to garner manpower and money for the Indian populations of Nicaragua, in support of their defense efforts against the Sandinista government, Means says that his goal of self-determination for Indian people has not been sidetracked by his decision to run for president.

"I now realize that all Americans, not just Indians, desperately need to regain control of their own lives. By running for president as a Libertarian, I hope to show all Americans that the 'failure of socialism' which former Secretary of Interior James Watt once pointed to on American Indian reservations is a universal problem, and that voting Libertarian is a very important way for people of all races to say 'We've had enough — give us back our freedom.'"

Four term Republican Congressman Ron Paul publicly quit the Republican Party and joined the Libertarian Party on Sunday, announcing his intention to run for president on the LP ticket. An ardent supporter of the hard money movement, Paul symbolically paid for his Libertarian Party membership with an ounce of gold. Paul was elected four times to the Congress from Houston, Texas, and served as a member of the House Banking committee and as a sponsor of the U.S. Gold Commission.

Paul is a staunch non-interventionist and pledged recently to run on a platform of bringing all American troops home from overseas and cutting the military budget by one-third. "Some opponents of mine once charged that I wanted to 'take a chainsaw to the federal budget'. How right they are! Big government is running away with our freedom and our money, and the Republicans are as bad as the Democrats. There really isn't a dime's worth of difference between the major parties."