

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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LIBERTARIAN OUTREACH . . .

LP sends out million-piece Project Archimedes mailing

The Libertarian Party shifted its Project Archimedes into high gear this month, dropping a million membership recruitment letters in the mail on April 30.

The mailing is expected to generate "over 7,000 new members/contributors, and over 10,000 additional inquiries," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach. "We expect it to return most of the cost, so that we will be able to send out another mailing in a few months."

Targeting 900,000 names on previously tested lists and 100,000 names from new lists, the mailing is the largest ever in LP history, said Dasbach. It will cost about \$330,000 for list rentals, printing, and postage.

Lists being mailed to include subscribers to *Reason*, *National Review*, and *The American Spectator* magazines, members of the National Taxpayers Union, and supporters of U.S. Term Limits, Citizens for a Sound Economy, and Citizens Against Government Waste.

Longer than expected

The massive mailing went out later than the party had hoped, said Dasbach, because it took longer than expected to test various versions of the recruitment letter, learn which lists responded best, and raise the money needed.

"We had to build a large enough capital fund to finance the

mailing, and complete enough testing of lists and letters to be confident of success," he said.

If this mailing and others generate the expected response, the party could triple in size by the 2000 convention, said Dasbach.

"I still expect to have 100,000 contributors (members and subscribers combined) by the July 2000 convention," he said. "I expect to have about 50,000 by the end of 1999, assuming that we are able to complete our mailing schedule."

MEDIA NEWS . . .

STUDY: LIBERTARIANS STRONG ON TALK RADIO

Libertarians continue to play a major role in talk radio, with 22% of listeners describing themselves as "fiscal conservatives/social liberals," says a new study by *Talkers Magazine*.

According to a report published in the March 1999 issue, 51% of talk radio fans are politically independent — but "an amazing 10% are fans of the Libertarian Party."

The study, part of an ongoing nine-year "Talk Radio Research Project," is based on interviews with listeners, programmers, and hosts.

Talkers also noted: "The Libertarian Party is one of the most successful third parties in American history, and one of talk radio's favorites."

2000 CAMPAIGN . . .

Hornberger forms 2000 presidential exploratory group

Jacob ("Bumper") Hornberger has formed a presidential exploratory committee as a first step in possibly seeking the LP's 2000 presidential nomination.

Hornberger made the announcement at the Massachusetts LP state convention over the weekend of April 17-18, and said he would reach out to the poor and to immigrants with a "guerrilla-style" campaign.

"Since I love to argue and debate, a guerrilla campaign would suit my style perfectly," he said. "A Hornberger campaign would constantly be on the attack."

During the primary season, Hornberger said he would concentrate on LP presidential primaries, with his goal "to garner more votes than the lower-echelon Republican candidates."

Hornberger said his campaign would stress economic liberty, free markets, and voluntary charity and would reach out to the poor and immigrants — two constituencies that are "often overlooked" by the LP.

"The poor have paid the biggest price for the war on drugs, occupational licensure, economic regulations, the IRS and federal income taxation, trade restrictions, and immigration controls," he said. "My campaign would call for the repeal, not the reform, of those government programs."

Hornberger, 49, is president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, a Fairfax (VA) libertarian think tank.

Libertarians urged to run for election

Petition enables establishment of party committee in Butler County

By David R. Eitz
STAFF WRITER

Speakers at the Libertarian Party's state convention on Saturday urged fellow party members to run for office — any office.

"It doesn't matter if it's dog catcher. It doesn't matter if it's governor. You've got Libertarians in office," said Ken Krawchuk of Montgomery County, who was wearing a T-shirt that said simply "Liberty."

The second day of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania convention at the Holiday Inn in Moon Township was filled with powerful words from political activists who are trying to get more party members elected.

"We are filling the power vacuum. We are the next party. We are coming up the way it's supposed to be done — from the bottom up," Krawchuk said.

Libertarians believe that government shouldn't interfere with individual liberties and property rights.

Krawchuk, who ran unsuccessfully for governor last year, said 43 party members hold office statewide, 34 of them elected last year.

Twelve won offices in Montgomery County, more than any county in the United States, he said. Four made it with one write-in vote each — "their own," Krawchuk said.

State party Chairman Tim Moir said Libertarians have until the end of July to file candidacy petitions for the November general election. Libertarians cannot run in the May primary, which will decide Republican and Democratic candidates for the fall election, Moir said.

With Moir presiding over the

Information

The state convention for the Libertarian Party continues at 9 a.m. today. For more information, in Allegheny County, call (412) 553-6464, or visit the party's Web site at www.lppa.org.

convention, about 100 people accepted a petition to form a party committee in Butler County, making it the 16th Libertarian county committee in the state.

Moir said there were just three such chapters when he attended his first conference six years ago.

Bill Shadle, a Lebanon County chapter member who spoke about forming county committees, introduced himself with Libertarian humor.

"Hi, my name is Bill, and I'm a Libertarian. ... Just like drugs and alcohol, freedom and liberty is addictive," he said.

People who want to form a county committee must develop thick skin and patience, while using state and national contacts in the party to get information, support and guidance, Shadle said.

But most of all, such people must become fast friends with the elections department in their county, he said.

Krawchuk agreed, saying elections departments love Libertarians because they can't get enough people to run for many offices.

"We're not there yet. We have a long way to go," said Shawn Patrick House, chairman of the Lancaster County committee.

The convention concludes today.



TOM HENNESSY

The Feds vs. sick people

If you have not heard of him, let me introduce you to Peter McWilliams.

The author of 35 books on subjects ranging from poetry to computers, McWilliams, 50, of Los Angeles, suffers from AIDS and cancer (non-Hodgkins lymphoma).

His AIDS medication causes severe nausea. But McWilliams has found something other than a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down.

He has found marijuana.

"If I do not keep the medications down, I will not live," he says. His life has become as simple and as fragile as that.

After passage of California's Proposition 215 in 1996, McWilliams figured, not unreasonably, that the way was clear for him (actually, for a partner) to grow pot for his use and for use by others who are ill.

Enter the U. S. of A.

Last July, federal agents arrested McWilliams on charges of conspiracy to grow marijuana. Seven months earlier, the Drug Enforcement Agency had raided his home and office, seizing two external hard-drives from his computer. (McWilliams publishes an online magazine about medical use of marijuana.)

Now our federal government, which acts as if Proposition 215 is the creed of a handful of lawless nincompoops instead of an initiative approved by 56 percent of voters, wants to put McWilliams in prison.

Drugs and politics

There is more to the story. McWilliams is a prominent, outspoken member of the Libertarian Party and a harsh critic of federal drug policy. "I am a vocal and occasionally effective proponent of medical marijuana, and that is why I am in jail," he said at the time of his arrest. He was apprehended 19 days after shredding U.S. drug policy in a speech at the Libertarian National Convention, broadcast over C-SPAN.

In January, federal agents also arrested Steve Kubby, the 1998 Libertarian candidate for governor, and his wife, Michele, on drug charges. The party says it is investigating the possibility of "political persecution" by the feds.

Meanwhile, McWilliams is getting prominent support. Conservative columnist William Buckley has raised questions about the case. Along with others, Buckley questions the fact that McWilliams was given a high bail of \$250,000, forcing his 72-year-old mother to post her Michigan house as security.

State Sen. John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara, has called upon federal officials to respect the will of California voters. And with even the United Nations now studying the medical potential of marijuana, others are saying it is time for Washington to stop harassing sick people.

A letter-writer to another newspaper this week suggested a novel, if only temporary approach to the case by proposing that the state of California take McWilliams into protective custody.

Where he will be safe from the reach of the federal government.

▲ *The Long Beach Press-Telegram*
Long Beach, California, March 4, 1999

◀ *The Greensburg Tribune-Review*
Greensburg, Pennsylvania, March 21, 1999

Why I crossed the aisle to the Libertarian Party

◀ *The Fayetteville Observer-Times*
Fayetteville, North Carolina
March 20, 1999

The Cumberland County GOP is steadily losing the battle for the hearts and minds of new voters.

By Richard M. Miller
Fayetteville

In May 1904, a young Winston Churchill entered the House of Commons and strode resolutely down the center aisle that divided the ruling conservatives from the opposition benches. Churchill had practically grown up in the Conservative Party before succeeding his father in parliament. On this day, however, Churchill bowed solemnly to the speaker, turned smartly to the right, and joined the Liberal Party in opposition to the party of his birth.

Recently, after spending my formative years as a GOP activist, I too "crossed the aisle," departing the Republican fold and joining Ameri-

ca's third largest and fastest growing political party — the Libertarian Party. I took this difficult step after considerable personal introspection, and after watching the Republican Party unravel at every level.

Nationally, the GOP no longer has any coherent agenda. In 1997, House Republicans passed massive tax cuts, and the Republican Senate promptly killed them. Last year, Congressional Republicans in both chambers fell all over one another to fund the Clinton Administration's latest expansion of abusive federal power. This year, Congressional Republicans have agreed with our President to spend at least 62 percent of our so-called budget "surplus" to prop up a bankrupt, fundamentally dishonest Social Security scheme. After 12 years of Republican presidents and four years of GOP congresses, the federal government has more than tripled in size, and not a single cabinet department has been eliminated or downsized.

At the state level, the North Carolina GOP has become the party of ineptitude and intolerance. Last year the party wasted thousands of dol-

lars on a legally defective absentee voter initiative, then tried to stick cameras inside polling places to bully minority voters. Meanwhile, state GOP leaders viciously attacked an elected Republican for his sexual orientation, while ostracizing party members who did not meet their rigid ideological litmus tests.

Locally, the Cumberland County GOP is steadily losing the battle for the hearts and minds of new voters. In seven of the county's 63 precincts, unaffiliated voters now outnumber Republicans, in one precinct by more than three-to-one.

As the county GOP shrivels, its leadership has refused to conduct serious party-building activities. Instead it is content to send e-mail blizzards back and forth within a dwindling circle of party ideologues. There is no outreach to new voters, disgruntled Democrats or disaffected Unaffiliateds.

Although a few Republicans have achieved electoral success at the local level, their victories were either in nonpartisan contests, or were largely the product of individual efforts, implemented outside the party

structure and despite the party's lethargy.

As the Republican Party deteriorates, I have resolved to return to those "first principles" which originally inspired me to become involved in politics.

For me, politics has always been built on consistent moral principles, not cronyism, patronage or condescending paternalism. These principles include a healthy respect for individual liberty, property rights and personal responsibility, and a deep regard for the individual differences that make each American unique. These principles are the only sound foundation for a just, human and abundant society, and they are the heart and soul of today's Libertarian Party.

The Republican Party has insisted on defining itself in terms of what it is against. Since its creation in the 1850s from the remnants of the Whig, Know-Nothing and National Republican parties, the GOP has been against slavery, against secession, against organized labor and against Communism. The contemporary GOP continues to define itself

negatively. It is against abortion, against individual liberty, and against personal conduct it deems "objectionable."

The Libertarian Party brings a blast of fresh air into this stagnant pool of negativism. The Libertarian Party supports a substantial reduction in the size and intrusiveness of government at all levels, and the dramatic reduction of all taxes. Libertarians are willing to let peaceful, honest people offer their goods and services to willing consumers without hassle from government bureaucrats. More importantly, Libertarians trust people to decide for themselves what they will eat, drink, read, or smoke and how to dress, medicate themselves or make love, without fear of criminal penalties. The Libertarian Party is the only national party to call for the U.S. government to stop footing the defense bill for wealthy countries like Germany and Japan.

The Libertarian Party was formed in 1971 and has been a continuous fixture on the North Carolina ballot for almost 30 years. In the past year statewide party registra-

tion has tripled, and last November the Libertarians were the only political party to field a complete slate of candidates for federal office in every Congressional District.

In 1904, British Conservatives hooted derisively when Winston Churchill "crossed the aisle" and joined the Liberals. "Good riddance," many Tories cried. I am confident many area Republicans will say the same thing about my departure from the ranks of the GOP faithful. I expect nothing less from a divisive party devoted to employing the "circular firing squad" model of party-building. I will always have fond memories of my years spent toiling in the rank-and-file of the Republican Party. Unfortunately, as Ronald Reagan said when he finally left the Democratic Party: "I never went anywhere. They (his fellow Democrats) left me long ago."

Miller is a former GOP legislative candidate and precinct chairman who now serves as Issues Director for the Libertarian Party of Cumberland County,

Libertarian calls run for VP slot unlikely

By Sylvia A. Smith
Washington editor

Chances that Ken Bisson, an Angola physician, will run for the Libertarian Party's nomination for vice president in 2000 are slim — but not completely non-existent.



"If I win the lottery," Bisson said he would run. Otherwise, "I really don't want to raise the idea that it's anything but a very, very remote possibility."

A speculative front-page story in an Angola newspaper, however, said Bisson won't rule the idea out until April. But later Wednesday he said the likelihood "is so low, I probably won't."

Bisson's four children all will be in college next year, and running a campaign would require him to take four months off work.

Bisson has run for office unsuccessfully twice in the past decade. In 1988 he ran for state representative; in 1996 he ran for Congress, getting 3 percent of the vote in northeast Indiana.

▲ *The Journal Gazette*
Fort Wayne, Indiana,
February 18, 1999

Editorials

Big Brother comes calling

Better think twice before you deposit that big Christmas bonus or the nest egg you inherit from Aunt Gertrude.

If the FDIC has its way, Big Brother will soon be watching your bank accounts.

Under the FDIC's proposed "Know Your Customer" regulation, banks would be required to develop profiles of every customer by April 1, 2000. They would then have to monitor all transactions for anything out of the ordinary — and report anything suspicious to the government.

Before you know it, the FBI or the IRS could be interrogating you about Aunt Gertrude.

The idea is to catch more money launderers and drug dealers. But the result is an outrageous invasion of the privacy rights of millions of innocent people.

The Libertarian Party aptly describes Know Your Customer as "a law that only the KGB could love." It has the potential to turn your friendly bank teller in a secret government informer and make every bank customer a suspected criminal — guilty until proven innocent.

Such frightening scenarios have sparked widespread public outrage against Know Your Customer. Groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Small Business Survival Committee and the Libertarian Party started massive letter-writing campaigns. More than 135,000 people swamped the FDIC in protest.

Among the outraged is Cincinnati Congressman Steve Chabot. Chabot is a member of the House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, which held a hearing on

the proposal last week.

The conservative Republican dubbed Know Your Customer a scheme worthy of George Orwell's classic 1949 novel, "Nineteen Eighty-Four," and argued it should never see the light of day. He's right on both counts.

Chabot argues that technical advances have made invading personal privacy for the sake of crime-busting a government hobby. As examples he lists an FBI plan to catch mobsters and drug dealers by simultaneously tapping 1 in every 100 phone calls and a proposal to curb illegal immigration by requiring employers to report all new hires to the federal government.

Of course, spying on people who have done nothing wrong isn't a new concept in Washington. The Bank Secrecy Act of 1974 requires financial institutions to notify the treasury department of suspicious cash transactions of more than \$10,000.

Some monitoring may be necessary to stop drug crimes. But the Know Your Government proposal is a ludicrously overbroad license to snoop. And the FDIC wants to make customers pay for the privilege, by forcing their bank to bear the cost of the federally-mandated snooping! (The banks, of course, would pass those expenses on to their customers.)

Given the public opposition, the FDIC has acknowledged that Know Your Customer can't go through in its current form. The agency is expected to announce later this month whether it will try to revise the proposal — or withdraw it altogether.

The FDIC should not only withdraw the plan. It should bury it in a deep grave.

Briefs

Libertarians rally to ensure surplus is returned

Amid the fiscal abundance that Minnesota is enjoying this year, tax cuts seem as certain as March following February. But the state's Libertarian Party isn't taking any chances, in case Gov. Jesse Ventura and other politicians forget their campaign pledges to slash taxes and return the surplus to taxpayers.

Party leaders donned tri-cornered hats Saturday and assembled about 100 like-minded people outside the State Capitol to rally for the cause.

Ventura, in particular, wooed Libertarians with promises to return the surplus, said state party chairman Charles Test.

"He was all for giving back all of the surplus back then," Test said. "Now he's saying, 'We've got to wait. Maybe the economy will go down.' He's giving excuses. He didn't see any excuses to give on the campaign trail."

But the party's message also is intended for the Legislature.

Above all, Libertarians want permanent tax cuts, Test said.

"We feel that tax rebates and surpluses are just excuses for the government and politicians to play Santa Claus with our money," he said. "We think that's wrong. With tax cuts, they wouldn't be overtaxing us in the

first place."

With the state's projected surplus approaching \$4 billion, Ventura has proposed a \$1.1 billion sales-tax rebate, as well as an income-tax cut and reductions in vehicle license tab fees and other state fees. House Republicans have proposed a \$1.5 billion tax rebate and tax cuts. Three GOP legislators spoke at the rally, Sen. Linda Runbeck of Circle Pines and Reps. Phil Krinkie of Shoreview and Tom Workman of Chanhassen.

— Sharon Schmickle

▲ *The Minneapolis*

Star-Tribune

Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 26, 1999

Of mice and pen

The Libertarian Party is taking much of the credit for squashing — for the time being, anyway — a regulation that would have required banks to "spy" on their customers on behalf of Uncle Sam.

"We have won the first round of the battle against the 'Know Your Customer' regulation," says Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "But the fight against this dangerous proposal may not be over yet."

Last week, the head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. announced that "the public has spoken very loudly and clearly." Chairman Donna Tanoue said she will urge the FDIC's four-member board to drop the controversial rule at their next meeting later this month.

The "Know Your Customer" regulation would have required banks to determine where customers get their money, monitor bank transactions, and report any "unusual activity" to federal law enforcement agencies.

The FDIC apparently backed away from the proposal after being hammered by up to 253,000 e-mail messages, letters and faxes during a public-comment period that ended March 8. The Libertarians say 171,268 of those comments were generated by its DefendYourPrivacy.com Web site, which has been up and running for less than a month.

Which proves, says Mr. Dasbach, that "the computer mouse is mightier than the musket."

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▲ *The Cincinnati Post*, Cincinnati Post, March 13, 1999

▶ *The Washington Times*, Washington DC, March 15, 1999