



ALABAMA LIBERTY

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CONVENTION REPORT

by Steve Smith

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Resolutions on these items, plus one urging support for a bill pending in Congress to make ballot-access easier for third parties, passed unanimously.

The June convention was judged by several attendees to be the best in many years. It was held at the Birmingham Press Club and featured guest speakers Paul Jacob of Arkansas and Jimmy Harris of Georgia.

Jacob is a young man who was indicted for refusing to register for the draft. His case went to trial three weeks after the ALP convention (he was found guilty).

Harris kept the group laughing with his description of the Georgia General Assembly, the stupid laws they are always thinking up, and the Crakpot Awards with which the Georgia LP recognizes the legislators' often astounding efforts to promote the general welfare on that side of the Chattahoochee.

In convention business, Bobby Chapuis was elected party chairman. Chapuis was active in the Tennessee LP before moving to Alabama a few years ago. He previously served the Alabama party as vice chairman. (continued page two)

PAUL JACOB GOES TO JAIL

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Paul was sentenced to 5 years with four and a half years suspended to be served on probation. He was also sentenced to 2 years of community service upon release from federal prison.

The judge denied bond for Paul at the conclusion of the trial. An emergency appeal for bond was also denied by an appeals judge.

Prior to the trial Paul traveled the country in opposition to the draft and the support of freedom. He made two stops in Alabama. He addressed a group of students at Auburn University in the spring and recently spoke at Alabama Libertarian Party' state convention. (continued page two)

CONVENTION CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Other officers are Frank Monachelli, vice chairman; Steve Smith, secretary; Tim Gatewood, treasurer; Richard Kirby, membership chairman; Mark Thornton, outreach chairman; Robin Kirby, internal education chair; and Lloyd Malone, finance chairman.

District representatives are: Scott Placek, 3rd; Tom Godell, 5th; and Ross Lowe, 6th. (District reps are needed for the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 7th districts. These correspond to Alabama's Congressional districts. LP members interested in taking the job, or finding out more about it, should contact a party officer.)

Convention goers agreed to give top priority to these projects for the remainder of 1985:

1. Writing letters and doing other lobbying to gain passage of H.R. 2320 in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill would make ballot access for third parties much easier across the country.

2. Collecting petition signatures to put the LP on the Alabama ballot for the 1986 general election.

3. Running and promoting a "Taxpayer's Slate" of candidates in the non-partisan Birmingham city council election this fall.

4. Turning in petitions to Gov. George Wallace calling for freeing the Pangelinans (the couple who got in trouble for home-schooling their youngsters).

5. Strengthening outreach, internal education, membership and finance efforts.

On a suggestion by Bobby Chapuis, the convention voted to name the entire state executive committee as delegates to the national convention in Phoenix, with all other party members as alternates.

CONVENTION NOTES

Any member who would like to serve as a delegate to the national convention or would like to receive official minutes of the state convention please contact Steve Smith. Send your requests to Steve care of the Alabama Libertarian Party, P.O. Box 11514, Birmingham, AL 35202.

The 1985 Convention received a good deal of media attention. The Convention was carried in a story in the Birmingham News that emphasized the "Taxpayer's Slate" of candidates that will run for the Birmingham City Council elections. The Birmingham News also did a story on Paul Jacob that included his picture at the convention. The convention was also carried by the ABC affiliate in Birmingham, WBRC. This coverage featured an interview with Richard Kirby, chairman of the Jefferson County Libertarian Party. The NBC affiliate in Birmingham WVTM (channel 13) interviewed Paul Jacob and talked about the convention.

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PAUL JACOB CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

His courage and conviction go far beyond anything we have been called on to do in support of liberty. Paul could have escaped this burden at any time by simply registering for the draft, but he choose to stick to his (our) principles. You can send letters of encouragement to Paul, c/o Paul Jacob Defense Fund, P.O. Box 15724, Little Rock, AR 72231.

A Draft Hotline will be opened on August 2nd. You will hear a recorded message about Paul or the draft and then be given the opportunity to leave a message. Men of draft registration age will be able to get information and support at this number. The number is 1-800-SLAVERY

***** ALP NEWS FLASH!*****

Congressman John Conyers of Michigan has introduced a ballot access bill (H.R. 2320) which will permit much easier ballot access for third party and independent candidates for federal office. Only one-tenth of one percent of registered voters would have to sign a petition. This would cut our requirement by half in Alabama and save the LP millions of dollars nationwide!

All Libertarian supporters must take advantage of this golden opportunity! At least two letters should be written.

1. To your own congressperson asking him to co-sponsor the bill.
2. To congressman AL Swift, Chair of the Subcommittee on Elections, Asking him to hold hearings on the bill this fall.

Just address your letter to :

Congressman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

If you want to do more, make out some post cards for your friends to sign! Let's make sure our congressmen see an avalanche of support for this bill. Let them know how strongly we feel that elections should be fair and open for the democratic process to work.

Congressman Sonny Callahan of the 1st District of Alabama has already responded on this bill saying "I do not condone states which restrict ballot access to any candidate, and I will look carefully at H.R. 2320". However he goes on to say "States have traditionally exercised their rights with respect to balloting procedures, so we must be careful that we do not infringe upon those rights". More letters and postcards may help educate him that the individual's right to vote is more important than states rights to prohibit ballot access and that he should use his support of states rights in cases like the 21 year old drinking age and the 55 m.p.h. speed limit.

For more information and a copy of the bill (H.R. 2320) please contact the Lee County Libertarian Party at P.O. Box 1124, Auburn, AL 36831.

WILL BAD GUYS BEAT THE CHAIR?

ALP Chair Bob Chapuis today issued a challenge to Ballot Access Drive Volunteers (the BAD guys). Chairman Bob, claiming to be the BADDEST guy in the whole d...d town (Leroy who?) challenged any volunteer to gather more signatures than the Chair during the '85-'86 Ballot Access Drive.

BAD Bob said "When the Ballot Drive is over I'll drink a toast to the success of the ALP. If I'm the BADDEST guy with the most signatures collected I'll toast with champagne.

If I'm beaten out for the top spot, I'll toast with prune juice in a paper cup and furnish champagne to all who come in ahead of me!"

"Just to rub it in" BAD Bob added "any BAD guy who gets over 700

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"Just to rub it in" BAD Bob added "any BAD guy who gets over 700 signatures during the 12-month drive can snip off my necktie and I'll furnish the scissors."

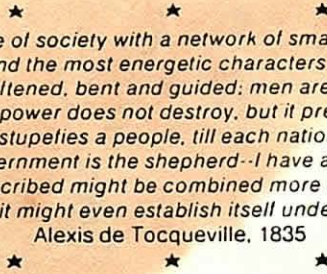
Is BAD Bob really the BADDEST? Is his necktie safe? We'll find out in July 1986!

****DOWNTOWN LIBERTARIAN CLUB****

The Birmingham Downtown Libertarian Dinner Club will meet on July 24th at Shoney's. The topic of "Gun Control" is being arranged by Robin Kirby. For more information contact Robin or Steve Smith.

IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, ISN'T IT?

By Alan Burris



The supreme power...covers the surface of society with a network of small complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate to rise above the crowd. The will of man is not shattered but softened, bent and guided; men are seldom forced by it to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrial animals, of which government is the shepherd--I have always thought that servitude of the regular, quiet and gentle kind which I have just described might be combined more easily than is commonly believed with some of the outward forms of freedom and that it might even establish itself under the wing of the sovereignty of the people.

Alexis de Tocqueville, 1835



It Isn't

We are not as free as many would have us believe. Because we are accustomed to the restraints on our liberty (and the restraints are often invisible) we may not sense the violations of our natural rights. But while we do not see our cage, or feel the weight and hear the clanking of our heavy chains, our bondage is no less real.

A good way to evaluate the loss of our liberty is to prepare two lists, one of the liberty we still enjoy, and the other of rights we are denied by threat of force. The liberty list should include only those things we are free to do without government permission or regulation, and without our right being limited by taxation.

Remember that even as we sleep, we probably rest on a mattress manufactured according to government specifications by a licensed manufacturer, sold to us by a licensed bedding dealer, and its cost more than doubled by direct and indirect taxation. And that's just the mattress!

The wood for the bed frame may have come from a government-owned forest. The bed linen and blanket also had to meet government-imposed standards and were not only taxed, but the price we paid was substantially increased by government tariffs and quotas on low cost foreign textiles. If thinking of all of this keeps you from sleeping, a government-licensed sleeping pill may help.

If carefully thought out, it will be found

that the liberty list is incredibly short and the liberty lost list is infinitely long. The hard fact is that we have the "liberty" to do as our masters wish and approve, and very little else.

With Friends Like This...

This is only a tiny sample to illustrate how people are hurt by government regulation and taxation. Not just a few bad people, or rich people, or someone else, but *you* and your neighbors suffer, every day, hidden harm in hundreds of ways of which you are not aware. And those who can least afford it suffer the most.

It is impossible to tell the whole story of regulation to prove that each and every type of regulation is bad. Thousands of books and articles have been published detailing the harmful effects, but still only the surface of the problem has been scratched.

Analyzing a particular regulation is often difficult, because the harm may only slightly affect each of millions of people. And regulations can affect each other and compound the harm. Sometimes a regulation is believed to actually help people, until it is realized that it helps by protecting them against other regulations. The overall effect is still bad, because if *all* the regulations were eliminated, people would be even better off.

Government regulation protects no one, except politicians, bureaucrats and monopolists. What we need is protection *from* government.

An edited excerpt from *A Liberty Primer*, 2nd edition, © 1983 Alan Burris. Published by David Hoesly, Genesee Valley Society for Individual Liberty, Box 10224, Rochester, NY 14610. \$7.95



IT'S THE PERFECT

SHAME! DOESN'T

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