



---

# LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

---

Published exclusively for members of the Libertarian Party's Monthly Pledge Program

---

MARCH 1990

---

## Tax Protests to 'Illustrate Outrage'

Tax Protest Day (as if we could forget) is coming up on April 16. A wide variety of local activities are expected around the country.

Some groups plan to collect signatures in favor of repealing the income tax. Other local party affiliates are expected to make use of the LP's recently available television advertisement on taxation to run on their local television stations. Interested persons should contact the National HQ for more information on obtaining a copy of the commercial.

Toni Black, LP Outreach Chair, said she hopes for "a lot of innovative, new ways to

illustrate outrage at taxation—whatever they [local LP activists] can discover to grab the local media."

---

### -- CAMPUS UPDATE --

University of Virginia LP activist Jim Lark has just completed a successful organizing swing through North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Alabama, visiting nine colleges. He plans another tour in late April through six campuses in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. In recent weeks, new college contact names have been coming in at a rate of about one every other day.

The LP has recently purchased 30 "Politically Homeless Quiz" Booths from the Advocates for Self-Government for use by our most active college chapters. The LP College Program will also be helping college chapters fund advertisements in college newspapers a few days ahead of their hosting the booth.

---

## Paul to Chair New Coalition To Lobby for Drug Legalization

Ron Paul has agreed to chair the new "Coalition to End Drug Violence." The group will focus on drawing up legislation to legalize drugs on the federal level, educating congressmen and their aides on the issue, and soliciting endorsements and sponsors for the bill. A congressional luncheon is being planned for this summer to further education and lobbying efforts. Also in the works is a "National Drug Peace Summit" scheduled for August to focus on congressional supporters of the legislation.

The bill will be a "hard core, pure Libertarian" bill, according to activist Don Ernsberger, detailing our position favoring complete drug re-legalization. These efforts should let Libertarians know which congressmen are willing to give the idea of drug legalization a fair hearing.

### April 1st: Census Fools Day?

Don't forget: April Fool's Day is also "Census Day." Responses to our 20,000 piece mailing on the issue are coming in. We've also started receiving invitations from media interested in interviewing LP spokespersons about the Census. Whenever possible, we hope to place LP representatives alongside Census officials on talk shows and other publicity vehicles. Several state party organizations have planned protests for the day.

---

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1528 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20003 • (202) 543-1988

Lord Help Us

Libertarian Nancy Lord Says, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me the District Building"

Nancy Lord rustles through six chubby volumes of the District's 1990 budget in her Dupont Circle apartment. For the 38-year-old Libertarian Party activist, the tomes embody the folly of the D.C. government—a lumbering monster that treats on individual liberties and squanders taxpayer dollars on ineffectual welfare programs. Lord plans to plumb every appendix and bar graph and make note of city agencies to be pruned or axed. She knows that cutting social programs is taboo in D.C.'s progressive circles. That's why she's running for mayor.

"We have the highest infant mortality rate, the highest murder rate, a school dropout rate of 55 percent, and taxes that are higher than 48 states," Lord proclaims, peering through big red glasses. "This city is the quintessential example of why socialism can't work. This is the most socialized city in America and it works the least. I am perfectly capable of going into that government and deciding what agencies ought to be eliminated. I think I'm more qualified than someone who's been in there and is entrenched in the system."

She points to the budget. "I think there's a lot of that stuff that could go."

Lord is seeking the mayoral nomination of the D.C. Libertarian Party. Rooted in the classical liberalism of the 17th-century English Revolution, libertarianism preaches the virtues of limited government and holds individual freedoms above all else. Today's libertarians outdo liberals in their laissez-faire approach to social mores, advocating the legalization of drugs, prostitution, and blackmail, among other moral improprieties. But the party's strident free marketeering makes Ronald Reagan look like Ralph Nader.

A licensed physician who is now in her final year of law school at Georgetown, Lord has never run for public office or worked in government. Even if she captures the party's nomination—and it's likely that she will—she doesn't have a chance of winning the general election. The D.C. Libertarian Party boasts only 32 members, and according to the D.C. Registrar of Voters, even fewer have registered as Libertarians. But that misses the point.

Like William F. Buckley Jr.'s 1965 campaign for mayor of New York, Lord's bid is mostly a forum for the candidate's views. "I decided to run for mayor because I'm very frustrated with the ever-growing encroachment of government into our lives—from the misguided war on drugs to the outrageous taxes to the ridiculous regulations that prevent people from getting ahead," she says. "I want to bring these issues out, and I want to force the other candidates to confront them."

Apart from proselytizing Washingtonians, Lord's goal in the campaign is to earn local ballot status for the party. To win a place on the November ballot, the Libertarian Party must collect 3,000 valid signatures from registered D.C. voters between July 6 and August 29. To win ballot status for the party through the 1992 elections, Lord must snare 7,500 votes in November.

Me-Me King, a national Libertarian Party staffer and member of the local party, says winning ballot status would save the party about \$3,000 and "a bunch of time and headaches. This is more money that can go into party development and making the campaign visible. Ballot access also lends a certain amount of credibility to the party and makes it easier to attract candidates who might otherwise think it's not worth their time."

Topping Lord's platform is the war on drugs. Like other advocates of drug legalization—*misplacation*, she calls it—Lord blames drug prohibition for the nation's crack epidemic. Prohibition boosts the drug's price, making dealing profitable, goes Lord's logic;



Lord's Decree: If you want to beat big government, join it.

legalizing drugs would drive dealers out of business. All the non-libertarian mayoral candidates have denounced drug legalization.

years working at Abbott Laboratories, a major drug company in the Midwest. Her job included running psychomotor tests and urine screens for a new psychotherapeutic drug that Abbott was developing. Before enrolling in law school, Lord ran a private consulting business, doing research for plaintiffs who sued drug

companies and doctors for misadministering drugs. Lord has been working with pro-legalization advocacy groups like the National Drug Policy Network since the mid-'80s. To better understand her enemies, she says she has met with some of the nation's leading prohibitionists, including former prosecutor Rudolph Giuliani and Reggie Walton, who now works under drug czar William Bennett.

Detroit Free Press, Jan. 10, 1990.

Addicted to government

Regarding the Jan. 2 story "Drug enforcement actions strip away rights, critics say": America is being destroyed by the deadliest and most addictive drug ever developed: No, I don't mean heroin or crack; the drug I refer to is government.

This past year produced a bumper crop of civil liberties violations, including the vehicle checkpoint in Inkster, entrapment tactics in Mt. Clemens, and DEA harassment of "suspicious-looking" travelers—particularly young and black—at Metro Airport.

As the drug war escalates, government gets bigger, erodes more freedom, and costs more. Yet, people blindly cry out for still more. If 52 percent of Americans are actually willing to have their houses searched without a warrant, as an ABC/Washington Post poll indicates, then I dare say we are quickly building our own Iron Curtain around ourselves.

It's long past time that we overcome our psychological addiction to government, legalize the far less dangerous substances of heroin and cocaine, and restore Constitutional freedom.

Kenneth G. Morris  
Libertarian Party of Michigan  
Carleton

"I really went in with an open mind. I wanted to understand why they thought these drug laws were necessary," Lord says. "But the only argument they had to make was this moral message, and I don't consider that a good argument. What they were telling me was that the drug laws aren't for the addict—cause they're not helping the addict, they'll admit that. They're afraid that people like me and you, if we don't have the government telling us not to use drugs, are going to run out and use them. I find that an insult. I know using drugs is crazy. I don't need the government to tell me that. It's so paternalistic....That's worth shooting people on the streets?"

Mayor Lord wouldn't have the power to repeal drug laws. But she says she would tell the Metropolitan Police Department to stop enforcing those laws, making D.C. a sort of Amsterdam on the Potomac. "No undercover stings," she says. "No buy-and-busts. Just leave these people alone and focus on the murders."

Lord would also strip authority from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, which licenses and regulates local businesses, and hence restricts the free exchange of goods. "My harddresser needs three different types of licenses, plus her operating license," she protests. "She needs a license as a harddresser, as a manager, and as an owner. Her shampoo girl needs a license, and they all need syphilis tests. Now how you're expected to get

reason," Lord says, parroting the NRA advertisement of last summer. "This is the ultimate right, this is the right to protect all other rights, if the government ever gets really oppressive, I don't think they're there yet, but if they really get weird, if we had guns, if the populace was armed we could protect ourselves. Look at what happened in Tiananmen Square. Those poor kids. If they'd only had rifles. All they would have had to do was shoot a couple of those soldiers. If they could have just shot two or three of them, they would have turned around."

Nancy Lord didn't travel the conventional road to libertarianism. She's not a lapsed conservative or a repentant liberal. Her epiphany didn't follow the ingestion of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. She hasn't pored over Ludwig von Mises' *Human Action* or memorized passages from Murray Rothbard's *For a New Liberty*. Rothbard is widely considered the founding father of the modern libertarian movement, but Lord draws a blank at the mention of his name and others from the libertarian pantheon.

The daughter of an optometrist and a real estate agent, Lord grew up in Silver Spring. Her first flirtation with political activism came in her senior year of high school, when she swallowed a few lungfuls of tear-gas in an anti-war demonstration at the Justice Department. Allison Krause, a friend of Lord's from Northwood High, was one of the four protesters shot and killed by the National Guard at Kent State. But Lord herself was politically dormant throughout the '70s, as she earned an undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Maryland's College Park campus and went to med school in Baltimore. It wasn't until she moved back to D.C. in the mid-'80s that she began working with an assortment of political groups that reflected her commitment to keep-

ing the government out of individuals' lives: the National Abortion Rights Action League, the National Rifle Association, and the National Taxpayers Union, to name a few.

While working with those groups, she met a number of libertarians and found they shared a common philosophy. "I've always had a libertarian mentality. I didn't know what to call it," she says. "I've always resented paying taxes for things I didn't think were worth it. I used to think I was a liberal because I'm very much tolerant of other people, and I think other people should be left alone, should be free to make their own decisions, should be responsible for their actions, but I didn't really know what it was until a few years ago. I didn't realize that what we call liberals have created a lot of the social problems."

Decidedly new to campaigning, Lord speaks in ideological spurts—not forced but rehearsed. After each spurt, she smiles, as though surprised that all the words came out right. She is also not well-versed in the District government: She proposes revamping the public housing system with a voucher program as though it were a revolutionary idea. When told that D.C.'s Tenant Assistance Program (TAP) is essentially a voucher program, she admits she's never heard of it.

Opposing Lord for the Libertarian Party nomination is Prissy Williams-Godfrey, a former prostitute and madam who is now president of the D.C. chapter of the prostitution advocacy group COYOTE (Cast Off Your Old Tired Ethics). Williams claims the support of the downtown streetwalkers and their clientele as well as the family and friends of people she has met in jail. Sexpreneur Dennis Sobin, who is bidding for the party's at-large city councilmember nomination, is backing her, too. Lord and Williams-Godfrey will vie for the nomination on Feb. 16, at a rare convention of the D.C. Libertarians.

Lord could breathe life into the almost issueless campaign for mayor—if only she could gain the podium. There's not much ideological difference between the Republican candidate, Maurice Turner, and the four dyed-in-the-wool liberal Democrats now running: John Ray, Sharon Pratt Dixon, Charlene Drew Jarvis, and Dave Clarke. All five are running on their political experience and character. Whether you

agree with Nancy Lord or not, she has something the other candidates lack: issues.

The idea of a libertarian running for public office may seem about as self-contradictory as a "right-to-life" activist applying for a job at an abortion clinic. But Lord says she wants a chance to struggle against government from within. "We have to make things better. You can't get away from it," she says. "I would personally like to go to Alaska, but you can never get away from it completely. There's no place you can go and completely get away. If there was, I probably would have gone there."

—Michael Willich

Detroit Free Press, Jan. 10, 1990.

Immoral precedent

I wish to commend Joseph Sobran on his Jan. 4 column, "Panama invasion elicits gringo jingo lingo." The questions he raises concerning the correctness of U.S. action in Panama point clearly to the U.S. government's increasing disregard of the limitations imposed on it by the Constitution.

Every day we see further evidence of the erosion of our inalienable rights by government in this country. Now, as Sobran says, "they want to treat our neighbors' property as their own backyard," taking over the countries of those who disagree and forcing them to accept our positions. The immoral precedent set by this interventionist action will harm world freedom for years to come.

Lynn Bellair  
Libertarian Party  
East Detroit

Augusta, GA Chronicle, Jan. 19, 1990.

Aiken Libertarians gathering forces against zoning proposal

By Diane Spitzer  
South Carolina Bureau

AIKEN — The Aiken County Libertarian Party began rallying support Thursday night to fight a proposed county zoning ordinance.

"What we're going to do is monitor it (the ordinance), and when it does come up for one of these public hearings, we need to do our best to stop it," Mary Lou Seymour, a party member, told a group of about 25 people at Aiken Technical College's Auditorium.

"That means we have to get everyone you know to attend the meeting. They (Aiken County Council) do not understand reason. They do not understand laws. All they understand is public pressure."

Tom King, chairman of the local party, told the group that the state Libertarian Party is kicking off a "Right to Recall" campaign.

He said the party will try to get at least 10,000 people across the state to sign petitions asking state legislators to pass a recall bill. The bill would allow voters to recall state and local officials from office if enough think the person should no longer be in office.

"We have the right to hire them with

votes supposedly, so we ought to have the right to fire them," King said. "I believe four years is a little too long for some of these people. It's a little too long for them to remember this is America, and there is a constitution. It's gotten absurd."

Ms. Seymour said she hoped the party could get 5,000 people in Aiken County to sign the petition. She said it would be a good tool to use against the County Council when the proposed zoning ordinance comes up for a vote.

"Y'all came here tonight, and that's a great start. It's up to us in this room, if this thing is going to pass in this county," Ms. Seymour said. "If we can get recall in South Carolina, then we'll have a real good weapon."

The party hopes to have enough signatures on the petition to present it before state legislators before this year's session is over, King said.

"It's not the complete answer, but it's a start that's going to upset them tremendously," King said. "We're (the party) out to build any master party to go head to toe with the Democrats and Republicans. All we want is



# MILWAUKEE Weekly

CITY NEWS AND ARTS

FREE EVERY THURSDAY

JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 17, 1990

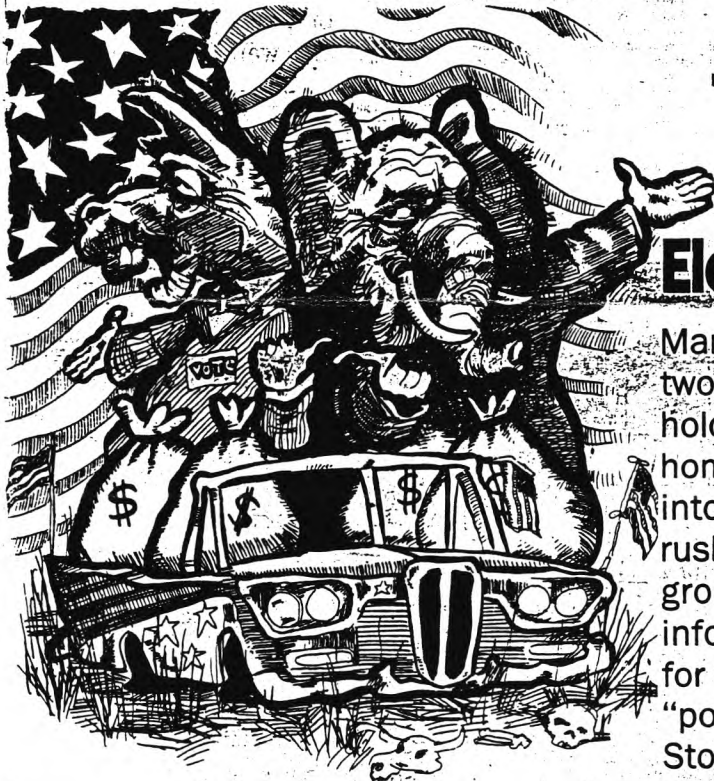


Illustration for Milwaukee Weekly by David Fles

## Jackasses And Elephant Dung

Many think that our two-party system holds no political home for them. Now into the breach has rushed a non-profit group that sets up informational booths for what it calls the "politically homeless." Story, page 4.

BY JACKIE KASHIAN

There are many people who feel that our entrenched two-party system holds no political home for them. To these people, the terms "Left" and "Right" have little clear meaning. For many of these citizens, the excitement of choosing between being a Democrat or a Republican is about as much a battle of conscience as choosing between a Ford or a Buick.

This is where Advocates for Self-Government comes in.

A non-profit group, Advocates for Self-Government has set up booths for what it calls the "politically homeless" on campuses and at fairs around the country. They administer what is touted to be the "World's Smallest Political Quiz." The ten question test determines a "Personal Issues Index" and an "Economic Issues Index."

The Personal Issues Index and Economic Issues Index are then plotted on the Nolan Chart, which offers a more concise breakdown of political labels. Instead of discovering your position on your innermost moral ideas and beliefs on a line graph somewhere between Left and Right, the numbers reveal your position on a box chart that offers five different groups: Liberal, Conservative, Libertarian, Authoritarian, and Centrist.

The Nolan Chart was invented in 1970 by David Nolan, a political science graduate of M.I.T. and founder of the Libertarian Party. In 1987, Marshall Fritz, National President

of the Advocates for Self-Government, put the chart on a business card with a quiz. Since that time, he states, the Advocates have distributed over three-quarters of a million of the tests:

Advocates for Self-Government is a nationwide non-profit educational organization. They "share the same basic political philosophy as the Libertarians and work together with them on non-electioneering activities," according to a group spokesperson. They state their purpose as "a self-help support group for Libertarians who are tired of being unproductive, strident lapel-grabbing ideologues."

Mary Roffers, State Chair of the Libertarian Party as well as the Advocate's Wisconsin Chapter President, contends that all Advocates are not Libertarians, nor the reverse. The quizzes are given, she says, to "remind people to think about freedom."

"If the person polled finds that their responses plot them in the Libertarian box, we ask them if they want to go further," Roffers says. They are asked to a meeting if they wish to become active in the Libertarian Party, "or just meet with people who think the same as they do."

Roffers smiles when she says "the quizzes are partly educational and partly a test to join. We aren't looking for joiners, though it's nice."

The next step is a breakfast or dessert seminar. One of the Advocates meets with five or more people to talk about their new place, now that they are no longer "homeless." The leader uses Socratic

The most recent booth that the Advocates for Self-Government sponsored was at the Rummage-o-Rama at the State Fair Park, where they gave out several hundred quizzes, and had people take the tests for themselves and for both Senators Herb Kohl and Bob Kasten.

Method to draw out ideas on how to be more active politically, as well as discussing and sharing their political ideas with one another. The leader is there only as a prod to create an environment, as the Advocate's Purpose reads, "to help local libertarian volunteers to become self-replicating." They are educated about the "alternative philosophies other than the traditional left," according to Roffers.

Roffers states their philosophy as one of "non-coercive, non-violence," working ideally, in her own view, toward "freedom coupled with responsibility." When asked for the point when government should interfere in the private lives of citizens she says "when someone is hurting something." She cites murder, theft, and fraud as examples of a point where society should punish a private citizen. "Crimes against property and person," she says.

"Freedom and responsibility are the principles on which this country was founded. The government set up by the constitution was perfectly fine," she says. Pressed for an example of what part of the government could go, Roffers shrugs. "Well, Congressmen and Representatives were not supposed to be full-time. They were to be called in when they were needed," she says.

At what level would these changes be made, would more fall to the state and local level? Roffers says that they could go at all levels. How about maintaining the schools and roads?

"That's a question about who's going to paint the line down the middle of the road. Right now we should worry about rolling government back," Roffers says.

The Advocates do not do policy analysis, lobbying, or political campaigning for the Libertarians.

Roffers says that the Libertarians themselves do very little direct lobbying.

"You'd be hard pressed to find a Libertarian lobby group," she says. The Advocates and the Libertarians both work on a grass-roots level. "If a representative leans toward less government in something you write to them but that is usually as far as it goes," Roffers says.

Roffers says that it's more fun to do the Advocate work because the seminars where new members first meet are political discussions using Socratic Dialogue, drawing people out, "talking to people and not pressuring them with petitions." When she first started giving these quizzes she was, "just tickled to find how Libertarian most people are."

The most recent booth that the Advocates for Self-Government sponsored was at the Rummage-o-Rama at the State Fair Park in November. Roffers says they gave out several hundred quizzes, having people take the tests for themselves and for both Senators Herb Kohl and Bob Kasten.

"If you have any doubts about the accuracy of the quiz, give it to a politician, or take it for them," Roffers says. "You can probably understand why most of them plot somewhere in the Centrist Zone."