

Browne/Jorgensen in '96

As world watches, ticket wins first-ballot victories



NEWS photo by Randy Langhenry

Libertarian Party NEWS



August 1996

The Party of Principle

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Declaring that "it's a great day to be a Libertarian," Harry Browne accepted the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination "with a great sense of excitement, energy, and anticipation" at the Libertarian Party National Presidential Nominating Convention in Washington, DC, on July 6.

The convention delegates selected Jo Jorgensen, 39, of Greenville, SC, to be the vice presidential candidate.

Speaking before a packed convention hall and an international C-SPAN television network audience, Browne stated, "We [Libertarians] are not alone. The American people are on our side. We are the mainstream now."

Browne said Libertarians "are going to get the federal government out of everything not specified in the Constitution. We want huge spending cuts now. We want huge tax cuts now. We want a balanced budget now."

Browne also challenged Americans to give up their favorite federal program in return for never again having to pay income tax. And, Browne stated, once the income tax is scrapped, "We are going to give you something in return. We know how to spread goodies, too. But our goodies are that we are going to give you your own money back, we are going to give you your freedom back, we are going to give you your life back."

Browne made it clear that when the income tax is completely eliminated, "we will replace it with nothing," he said.

Browne, 63, easily won the nomination on the first ballot, receiving 416, or 68.8 percent, of the 605 votes cast. The five-way contest featured Browne, Rick Tompkins, Irwin Schiff, Douglas Ohman, and None of the Above (NOTA).

Longtime Arizona Libertarian Party activist Rick Tompkins finished second in the balloting with 74 votes, with NOTA picking up 60 votes after an impassioned speech by Maryland Libertarian and former national committee member Dean Ahmad urging delegates to cast a ballot for NOTA to send a reminder to whomever was selected to stay true to Libertarian principles. Schiff finished fourth in the race with 32 votes, and Ohman received 20 votes. One delegate each cast a presidential ballot for Jo Jorgensen, Jeffery Dicket of Louisiana, and "not voting."

Jorgensen ran for the vice presidential nomination with opposition only from NOTA.

In his acceptance speech, Browne touched on a number of major issues confronting Americans today, and he made it clear that "government doesn't work."

He said the only solution to the coming Social Security crisis is "to sell off the trillions of dollars of federal assets that the federal government has no business owning in the first place, and then use the proceeds to liquidate the Social Security system." The only way to head off the coming crisis is "to get Social Security completely out of the hands of the federal government," he said.

see **Browne/Jorgensen** on page 2

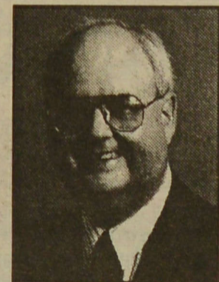
Steve Dasbach re-elected LP national chair

Promising to continue to build on the success the Libertarian Party has seen in the past three years, Steve Dasbach was re-elected national chair by a convincing margin.

Dasbach's campaign focused on record party membership, record fund raising, and record media coverage. "Building membership is the foundation of our future," he said.

"We need to remember we are a political party," Dasbach said. "Our goal is to become the majority party in the United States."

Dasbach also stressed the importance of 50-state ballot status and the need for more elected Libertarians. And, he said, "On the road to see **Dasbach** on page 11



Conventioneers enthusiastic, satisfied

Nearly 1,000 Libertarians gathered at the Hyatt Regency-Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, DC, from July 4-7, to nominate their 1996 presidential ticket of Harry Browne and Jo Jorgensen, to determine the future and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Libertarian Party, and to declare their independence on the 220th birthday of the United States.

The 1996 Libertarian Party National Presidential Nominating Convention was roundly hailed as

the most professional, successful, and enjoyable convention ever held by the Libertarian Party.

One of the most noticeable improvements over past conventions was the professionally designed and produced decorations for the convention hall. In bright red, white, and blue, the stage was decorated with a huge Statue of Liberty and the convention theme of "Declare Your Independence," with the party's toll-free telephone number and website address prominently displayed.

Although the delegates certainly didn't agree on all issues at the convention, there was no sense of factionalism nor need for calls for unity as have often marked past conventions.

The activities kicked off a day early with a celebration of "Liberty in Words and Music" at the Jefferson Memorial on July 3.

Hundreds of Libertarians gathered on the steps of the memorial with the White House and Washington Monument in the background to hear Thomas Jefferson, as portrayed by Bruce Evoy, read The Declaration of Independence. The gathering listened and sang along with music provided by a live fife and drum corps and with what has now become a Libertarian standard—Dean Ahmad's folk song, "Thomas Jefferson." Addi-

see **Convention wrap** on page 10

Browne/Jorgensen

continued from page 1

"Once we get the government out, the people can see what it is like to put 5 percent, maybe, of their paycheck in a mutual fund or something else and become millionaires by the time they are 65," he said. Then, he predicted, such a system would never return. "I don't think they would ever fall for that Ponzi scheme again."

On the crime issue, Browne said, "The federal government should get completely out of crime control, completely out of gun control, completely out of asset forfeiture."

"If we care about our cities, if we care about our children, we have to, we must, we shall end this insane War on Drugs," he stated.

Browne then addressed concerns about intrusions into Americans' personal lives and the whittling away of individual liberties.

"When Libertarians have an administration, every government employee—all 16 of them—will respect the Bill of Rights, or they will pay the consequences. Any government employee found guilty of violating the Bill of Rights in any way whatsoever will be censured, dismissed, or prosecuted," he said. "This is supposed to be America, after all, where the government bows down to the people, and not vice versa. Or at least it once was."

Browne went on to explain what he would do on his first day in office—all by executive order—even without the approval of Congress.

"I will personally pardon everyone who has been convicted of a non-violent federal drug offense. . . of a federal non-violent gun control offense. . . on a federal tax evasion charge. . . of any kind of victimless crime," he said.

"I will end federal affirmative action immediately," he continued. "I will end all federal quotas, set-asides, preferential treat-

ments, and any other form of discrimination the federal government is engaged in. I will end all federal asset forfeiture cases, and I will take immediate steps to try to apply restitution to anyone who has been victimized by the federal government.

"As commander in chief of the armed forces I will immediately bring all American troops back home to America where they belong. . . and I will remove all American troops from under the command of the United Nations or any other foreign power."

Still addressing that first day in office, Browne focused on federal rules and regulations.

"Everything put into the federal register by any previous president. . . can be ripped out of the federal register by the next president of the United States. I will personally go through and get rid of all the regulations that run up the price of all the things we buy and hold down the wages we earn.

"And then," he said, "I will break for lunch."

Cheers of "Give 'em Hell, Harry" rang throughout the convention hall.

Browne said that the American people can trust him, unlike other politicians, to do what he has said he will do. Browne went on to explain that while he has qualified for matching funds—just as Dole, Clinton, and others—he does "not believe in welfare—not for politicians, not for individuals, not for corporations."

Browne said, "I am the first presidential candidate in American history to qualify for matching federal campaign funds and refuse to take them."

Browne concluded his acceptance speech by urging voters not to waste their vote in November. "People have been wasting their votes for years in this country, believing in smaller government and voting for big government candidates. This



NEWS photo by Jim Amos

year, for heaven's sake, vote for what you want," he said. "And the only way you are going to get it is by voting Libertarian this year."

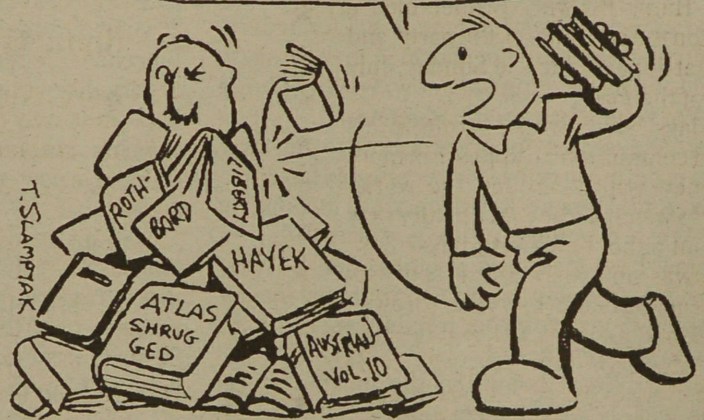
The payoff for voting Libertarian this year, according to Browne, will be "safer cities, huge spending cuts now, huge tax cuts now, and a balanced budget now. It will be the opportunity for your children to live their entire lives without an income tax. It is the possibility of a free and prosperous America."

In her vice presidential nomination acceptance speech, Jo Jorgensen urged voters not to be taken in by Republican rheto-

ric. She said, "Republican politicians give us the political equivalent of 1-900 phone sex. They tell us that we are special. They ask us what we really want, and tell us that they want it, too. Then they start breathing heavy, and get excited about what we want. They tell us their fantasy for us. They tease us and tempt us. They arouse our passion. They tell us how much they want it, and how good it's going to be. When we hang up from the 1-900 Republican tax cut fantasy line, we realize three things—they cost us a lot of money, the real thing is a lot more satisfying, and they are never going to come over."

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Media take notice of LP convention

Media representatives from television, radio, newspapers, and magazines came to the Libertarian Party national convention—and listened and reported.

The C-SPAN television network provided virtually gavel-to-gavel coverage of the convention, with all of the action surrounding the nominations and platform debates aired. The party's toll-free telephone number—1-800-682-1776—was prominently displayed throughout the convention, and just to make sure viewers didn't miss it, speakers and delegates frequently repeated the number aloud on the air.

CNN television network sent two crews to cover the convention, one from the news division and one from their "Inside Politics" program. Reports from the convention were aired by CNN numerous times during the convention week.

Talk radio, which has shown increasing interest in the party, was also in attendance. Popular talk show host Zoh Hieronimus of WCBM in Baltimore, MD, not only broadcast her show live from the convention, but announced on the air that she had finally found a political home and was joining the Libertarian Party.

Talk Radio News Network and the Talk America Network—two syndicated radio networks—also broadcast shows live, direct from the convention floor. Four different radio programs on the two networks broadcast to nearly 300 stations across the country. Talk show hosts Mike Foudy, Ellen Radnor, and others interviewed Libertarian Party candidates, delegates, and convention guest speakers.

Washington Post political writer and syndicated columnist David Broder was in attendance as well. Broder, a Pulitzer Prize winning commentator, mingled with delegates on the convention floor and spent a good deal of time talking with presidential candidate Harry Browne. Broder filed a long story on the convention, the party, and Browne that appeared in the Sunday, July 7, edition of the Post.

Three days later, Broder wrote in his syndicated column, which appears in more than 300 newspapers around the world, "the party to watch in the 21st century may well turn out to be the Libertarians."

Broder was obviously impressed with Browne, as in his column he wrote, "Browne is articulate and quick-witted, and he'd undoubtedly draw votes if he could raise enough money to get on TV—or muster enough support to be included in the presidential debates."

Broder is said to be the most respected and influential political columnist in the nation.

According to Bill Winter, party commu-

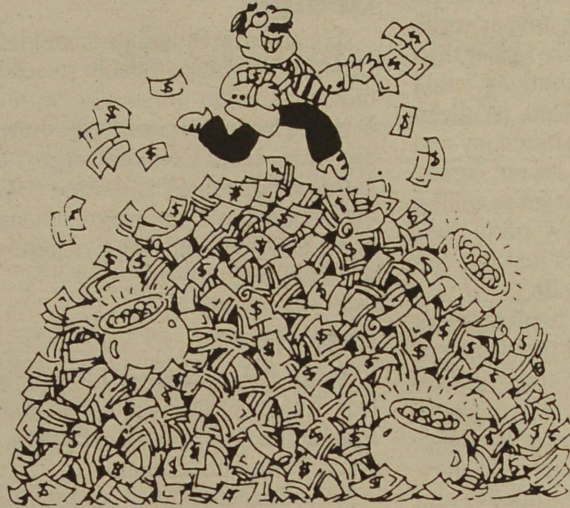
nications director, more than 50 separate media organizations received press credentials for the convention, including representatives of the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Washington Times*, and many others.

The continuing increase in interest in the Libertarian Party by those in the on-line computer world was demonstrated by the fact that a reporter from World Wide Web site also covered the convention.

The major television networks, however, sent no representatives.



ON THE AIR - Zoh Hieronimus, left, seen here interviewing Libertarian Mayor Bonnie Flickinger, broadcast her radio talk show live from the convention. Hieronimus joined the LP on the air.



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Affiliates

LP candidates gearing up campaigns across U.S.

Delaware

In a move unprecedented in Delaware Libertarian history, **Dr. Mark Jones** has resigned his assistant professorship from Goldey-Beacom College in order to campaign full time in his bid for the U.S. Senate.

Jones' decision marks the first time in the state party's history that a Delaware LP candidate has chosen to campaign on a full-time basis. Jones says the Senate race is "too important" for him to do any less.

Jones accepts his underdog status but says, "It's a matter of principle and priority. Restoring governmental adherence to the Bill of Rights is more important to me than my temporary security of a paycheck, and it would be best for me and the students for me to resign while campaigning for the Senate seat.

"In the long run," Jones added, "we will all be safer and more secure when government is limited to only its proper functions."

The 31-year-old Jones holds a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Delaware. He began his teaching career at Delaware State and has been at Goldey-Beacom in Wilmington for two years.

For more information, e-mail campaign@jones96.com or call 302-475-9900.

Source: candidate

Florida

Florida LP county leaders have announced a "Pennies For Perot" charitable campaign to keep H. Ross Perot and his Reform Party off political welfare.

The charitable impulses were inspired by the tragic circumstance of the Reform Party's recent request for an advisory opinion from the Federal Elections Commission that the Reform Party be deemed to have been established in 1992, making them able to get taxpayer subsidies for the first



National pulse

News from the states

Reform Party presidential nominating convention later this summer. (The Democrat and Republican parties have each received over \$12 million in taxpayer money for their 1996 conventions.) The Libertarian Party, once again, self-financed its presidential nominating convention.

"It's so sad that Ross Perot has apparently fallen on such hard times that he feels the urge to force American taxpayers to fund his latest political venture rather than relying on voluntary contributions," said Leon County Libertarian **Dan Walker**. "Ross Perot has brought so much joy and laughter to Americans in recent years, sometimes intentionally, that we're willing to help him before his new party gets hooked on looting taxpayers just like the Democrats and Republicans do."

Walker said, "The easiest habit to break is one that never starts, and the people of this country can't afford another institutional political welfare-junkie; two are plenty enough. In the spirit of multi-partisanship, Libertarians encourage all citizens to show 'Boss Ross' that with private initiative and voluntary efforts, he and his new party don't need to turn to Uncle Sam to pay their way."

Libertarians will collect "Pennies For Perot" and turn them all over to the Perot Reform Committee in Tallahassee—*if* "The Boss" is willing to forever forsake the political dole for his new party. If he is not willing to forsake welfare and/or take our pennies, they will all be immediately donated to The American Red Cross, Walker said.

For more information, call **Jim Ray** at 305-666-1029, or e-mail liberty@gate.net

Source: affiliate news release

In late June, Sarasota attorney **Andrew B. Spark** was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County to the Sarasota County Public Facilities Financing Advisory Board.

Source: news release

The following state party officers were elected at the recent state party convention: **Nick Dunbar**, chair; **Dianne Pilcher**, vice chair; **Tom Regnier**, secretary; and **Wayne Harley**, treasurer.

Source: state party officer

Georgia

The LP's U.S. Senate candidate, **Jack Cashin**, has his campaign geared up and moving. Cashin is meeting with newspapers and hitting the radio talk shows across the state. **Ron Crickenberger**, the LP's national campaign committee chair, is acting as Cashin's campaign manager. For more information, call Crickenberger at 404-717-9287.

Indiana

Paul Zimmerman, LP candidate for U.S. House in District 2, has spoken out against the Supreme Court's recent ruling on civil asset forfeitures.

"The Supreme Court recently ruled that civil forfeitures do not constitute double jeopardy and that the government can act with impunity and without regard to constitutional restraints," he said.

"If the Supreme Court insists on violating its duty, then it is up to Congress to exercise its sworn duty and legislate this unconstitutional practice out of existence. If elected I will do everything in my power to abolish this abomination," he said.

For more information, write to Paul Zimmerman, 419 Ellenhurst Drive, Anderson, IN 46012, or call 317-640-0523.

Source: candidate

Michigan

The Northwest Michigan LP became the 14th state affiliate party recently. The new organization was formed by a core group of activists including **Richard Ask**, **Brian Kluesner**, **Michael Oleniczak**, **Nick Hamilton**, **Jerry Coon**, **Cyndi Ask**, and **Dan Repzler**.

For more information, call Richard Ask at 616-941-1306.

Source: affiliate newsletter

Minnesota

Minnesotans will have more opportunities than ever before to vote for Libertarian Party candidates in 1996.

"The Libertarian Party of Minnesota plans on fielding 500 percent more candidates than we did in 1994," said State Chair **Charles Test**.

The LP had only two weeks, July 2-16, during which to petition and file to be on the ballot, because of Minnesota's restrictions on the electoral process.

The major parties have exempted themselves from this requirement.

"I believe 1996 will be the year the Libertarian Party earns major party status in Minnesota and nationwide," predicted Test.

Source: affiliate officer

Mississippi

For the first time ever, the Libertarian Party will field candidates for U.S. House in all five of the state's congressional districts. The LP candidates are **Andy Rouse**, **Will Chipman**, **C.T. Scarborough**, **William Fausek**, and **Dan Rogers**.

For more information, write the state party at 3520 Terry Road, Suite 160, Jackson, MS 39212.

Source: affiliate newsletter

see **Affiliates** on page 6

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LP college organization seeks members

After months of groundwork, a new Libertarian Party college organization has been born—the College Libertarians of America (CLA).

Thirty-seven student organizations from universities across the country have joined to form the CLA, which has been described as the LP's "most ambitious effort at college organizing in years." The effort is being coordinated from the national LP office in Washington, DC.

"From California to Illinois to Florida, students are gathering together in the name of liberty," said Stephen Wilcox, the national organizer of the CLA. "We plan to do whatever we can to further the cause of freedom."

The CLA will serve as a central clearing-house for college groups, will maintain e-mail lists of college Libertarians, and will provide support, suggestions, and materials for new and existing college groups.

The fledgling organization got a boost from the LP's national convention, recently held in Washington, DC, which served as a gathering place for collegiate Libertarians.

"Nineteen students came under the special student fare offered by FEE [the convention organizers]," Wilcox said. Students participated in workshops on club organizing and event planning, led by Jim Lark, a professor from the University of Virginia.

"Virginia has been the most successful at forming college groups, with eight existing libertarian organizations," Wilcox said. "These groups have also stood the test of time, a problem with past organizing ef-

forts.

"In fact, our biggest problem in the past has been keeping groups active after the founder graduates. We think that with a cohesive national organization, we can provide the advice and aid necessary to keep these groups going," Wilcox said. "Also, the widespread use of the Internet will let us keep in touch with Libertarians all over the country, which wasn't possible a few years ago."

Wilcox said the next step is to sign up more Libertarian college groups. "If you belong to a college group that hasn't been

in contact with me, please call or write the national LP headquarters, or e-mail me at sw3137a@american.edu," he urged. "Also, LP state organizations should encourage students to form clubs at colleges in their area."

Wilcox said his goals for the next two years are fairly optimistic. "I would like 50 clubs active by the election, and 100 active by the 1998 congressional elections. We have the potential to do great things for the Libertarian Party. It is an exciting time to be a Libertarian," he said.

Wilcox, 21, is a student at the American

University in Washington, DC, and a part-time telemarketer for the Libertarian Party.

LP National Chair Steve Dasbach said the college effort has been in the planning stage for several years, but the party was waiting until they had the membership infrastructure and the support staff to make the project work.

"We've grown to the point where we think we can not only launch a college organization, but help it grow and prosper," he said. "The CLA marks our most ambitious effort at college organizing in years."

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LP96-02	Economic Liberty in 1996: James Bovard
LP96-03	Personal Liberty in 1996: Richard Boddie
LP96-04	Healing Our World: Mary Ruwart
LP96-05	Building the Libertarian Party: Perry Willis
LP96-06	Has the Republican Revolt Failed? Doug Bandow
LP96-07	Toward a Sensible Libertarian Environmental Policy: Dr. Karl Hess
LP96-08	Reforming Welfare: Dr. Richard Vedder, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo
LP96-09	The War Against Drugs is War Against The American People: Nancy Lord, Jim Ostrowski
LP96-10	Has Privatization Been Successful? Robert Poole
LP96-11	Civil Liberties 1996 Report: Nadine Strossen
LP96-12	The Best Ways to Lower Taxes in America! Grover Norquist, Steven Moore
LP96-13	Elected Libertarian Panel: Don Gorman, Bonnie Flickenger
LP96-14	How Government Meddling Caused the Medical Crisis! Michael Tanner, Dr. Grayson, Dr. Murphy
LP96-15	Public Education in Crisis! Sheldon Richman
LP96-16	Presidential Debate - part 1 of 2
LP96-16a	Presidential Debate - part 2 of 2
LP96-17	Monetary and Banking Reform: Dr. Richard Timberlake
LP96-18	Raising the Banner of Liberty: John Coon
LP96-20	Libertarianism and the Rule of Law: John Buttrick
LP96-21	The Worldwide Libertarian Movement: Vince Miller
LP96-22	Ending the Social Security Crisis: Michael Tanner
LP96-23	Pax Americana: The Founding Fathers Did Not Intend It That Way: Joseph Sobran
LP96-24	Listen Up Generation X: Alan Perlman
LP96-25	Natural Rights and the Non-Aggression Principle: Dick Fuerle
LP96-26	Acceptance Speech: Nominees
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Keynote

Hornberger wows crowd with speech

One of the most talked about—and praised—portions of the convention was the keynote speech delivered by Jacob “Bumper” Hornberger, founder and president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, a libertarian think tank. He addressed the convention as a member of the Libertarian Party, however, not as president of the FFF.

The following are just a few excerpts from his keynote speech entitled, “Why you need to listen to the Libertarian Party.”

What an exciting time. What an exciting time to be a Libertarian. Just since our last convention, a front-page story in the *Wall Street Journal* talking about how the libertarians and the Libertarian Party are at the cutting edge of the political debate in America.

A front-page story in *Investor's Business Daily* talking about how the libertarians and the Libertarian Party are wielding ever increasing political clout in communities all across America.

A front-page story in *USA Today* talking about how the young people of the country—the Generation X'ers—are calling themselves libertarians. . .

But of course there is the horror story. A Democratic president, Bill Clinton, actually having the audacity to describe himself as libertarian. In his dreams.

Yes, my friends, it is terribly exciting to be a libertarian, and especially because of the times in which we live. Because everywhere you look, the beloved welfare state of the Democrats and the Republicans is in crisis. And that's exciting.

Social Security—busted. . . Medicare and Medicaid—busted. . . Public schooling, welfare for the middle class—busted. . .

There's the beloved war on bigotry, that's been a big winner. . . Let's look at the bright side of the war on bigotry. . . at least they have wiped out bigotry in Washington, DC. . . unless you are attending a Fourth of July barbecue this afternoon at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

And isn't it great to see Dole and Clinton up there anguishing and despairing on how they are going to fix their beloved welfare state and their beloved wars. You know, 'We're gonna have tax reform, we promise. Welfare reform, educational reform, regulatory reform.' It's the same old reform claptrap we get from these parties every single election.

This is what is so great about being a libertarian. Do we anguish, do we despair over the moral and economic bankruptcy of these beloved wars and this welfare state? Not on your life. On the contrary, this is a time of great joy, of great celebration for us libertarians. We'd be depressed if the whole damn thing had worked. . .

A bad tree will always bear rotten fruit, and you can tell the tree by the fruit it bears, and this is the fruit of the welfare state of the Democratic and Republican tree.

And they cannot say that we didn't tell them that this would happen. Because we did tell them so, and they know we told them.

Fifty years ago, Friedrich Hayek wrote his monumental book, “The Road to Serfdom” . . . Hayek, of course, was a libertarian.

. . . and he dedicated “The Road to Serfdom” to the socialists in all political parties, including the socialists in the Republican Party and the socialists in the Democratic Party.

And Hayek said to them, if you continue traveling this road that you have now embarked upon—the road to the socialistic welfare state, the road to serfdom—you're going to end up with the same mind set, the same policies as the totalitarians that you profess to oppose.

And what did the Democrats and Republicans say in response? . . . Don't listen to the libertarians.

1971. Twenty-five years ago. That year marked the founding of our party—the Libertarian Party, the Party of Principle, the third-largest political party in America.

Recall the first presidential campaign, 1972, when John Hospers ran for president on the Libertarian Party ticket. When John was reminding us that the socialistic welfare state constituted an abandonment of the moral and economic principles on which our nation had been founded. . .

And still they said, don't listen to the Libertarians. . .

[Recalls all LP presidential campaigns.] And still they said, don't listen to the Libertarians. . .

But what is really pathetic about it all is how they look for scapegoats on which to blame the problems that they caused. And, of course, their most popular scapegoat—for both parties, the Democrats and the Republicans—is the immigrant. The person who is unable to defend himself.

“Oh, if we could only keep illegal aliens out of our society, our public schools, our public welfare, our public works, our public

hospitals, our public roads, why we could save the beloved welfare state. Oh, build the walls around America, save us.”

Have you ever noticed how it's only the public sector that complains about too many customers?

Did you ever think you'd see the day when Cuban refugees fleeing communist tyranny would spend a year and a half of their lives in an American penitentiary? Many of these immigrants, in that year and a half, trying to climb over the American wall on Clinton's side of Cuba in order to find what they felt would be greater freedom back on Castro's side of Cuba. . .

My friends, we've come a long way and we have a right to pat ourselves on the back for our successes. But what has distinguished us so much is the commitment to the purity of our principles. For 25 years, even among our enemies, we have been known as The Party of Principle. And it is so vitally important that regardless of what the American people choose to do in this election—whether it is to exercise their free will in embracing the failed socialistic policies of the past, the policies of the Democrats and Republicans, or whether it is to join up with us—our message to the American people must be the same as it has been for 25 years.

If you want to see the end, not the reform, of the socialistic welfare state way of life, harken to us.

If you want to see then end, not the reform, of the Internal Revenue Service and the 16th Amendment, harken to us.

If you want to see the end, not the reform, of the Departments of Education, Agriculture, HUD. . . , harken to us.

And if you want to see the end, IF YOU



GUEST SPEAKERS - Longtime LP activist Richard Boddie, above, was just one of many guest speakers at the Libertarian Party national convention. Other speakers included Doug Bandow, James Bovard, Nancy Lord, Robert Poole, Joseph Sobran, and more who motivated, entertained, and informed the convention crowd.

WANT TO SEE THE END, not the reform, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. . . harken to us. . .

If you are sick and tired of the direction which this nation has taken under these Democrats and Republicans. . . if you believe in free minds and free markets, harken to us. Join us, we need your help. . .

This has indeed been a century of darkness. But when the history of the 20th century is ultimately written, the historians will undoubtedly record that there was one small beacon of light—a light of hope. And that that hope shone through you.

They will undoubtedly write that it was the libertarians and the Libertarian Party of the United States who led not just America, who led mankind, through the darkness, out of the socialistic morass, off of the road to serfdom, and up onward to the highest reaches of freedom ever seen by man.

Rep. Gorman's NH legislation blocks sobriety checkpoints

Random drunken-driving roadblocks vanished from New Hampshire in mid-June thanks to the first Libertarian-sponsored legislation to become law at the state level in more than a decade.

House Bill 1285, introduced by Libertarian State Rep. Don Gorman of Deerfield, requires police to get permission from a judge before setting up drunken-driving roadblocks, and requires the judge to affirm that “all constitutional guarantees are met.”

“This effectively means that there won't be another sobriety roadblock in New Hampshire,” Gorman said.

The bill passed the State House by a voice vote in March, and the State Senate in April. It became law when Republican Gov. Steve Merrill did not sign or veto the bill within five days.

Random drunken-driving roadblocks are “no question, unconstitutional,” Gorman said, explaining why he filed the measure.

“Roadblocks of this type infringe on the right of law-abiding citizens to be

free from unreasonable searches and seizures. The New Hampshire State Constitution, as interpreted by the State Supreme Court (*State vs. Koppel*, 1985) clearly indicates that NH residents are entitled to greater protection against these types of ‘no-reason’ stops than is provided for in the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,” he said.

“It's about time that law enforcement learned that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are supreme in the land,” said Gorman, the lone Libertarian legislator in New Hampshire's 400-member House.

In addition, sobriety checkpoints are not effective, Gorman argued. Citing New Hampshire's capital city Concord as an example, Gorman noted, “During a six-month period, the Concord police department conducted 47 checkpoints, making 1,680 stops and 18 arrests for DWI [Driving While Intoxicated]. During the same period, routine patrols using traditional methods arrested 175 for DWI.

“Some of our bigger cities such as Nashua don't use these roadblocks at all,”

he said, “which really calls into question their perceived usefulness by the law enforcement community. And though some have cited their use as a deterrent, the bill's intent is to clearly reject that approach and instead side in favor of the privacy rights of law-abiding citizens. The bottom line is that checkpoints are both ineffective and unconstitutional. And they're expensive as hell to boot.”

National Libertarian Party Chair Steve Dasbach applauded Gorman's achievement, calling it a victory for civil liberties in America and for Libertarian political action.

“Passage of the bill helps take the Libertarian Party to the next level, from electoral victory to successful Libertarian legislation. That's how we will change this country—town by town, state by state, issue by issue,” Dasbach said.

The last Libertarian-sponsored state-level legislation was voted into law in Alaska in the early 1980s.

Harry Browne's campaign platform

This year for the first time, those seeking the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination were required to present a campaign platform to the convention delegates prior to the nomination process.

The following is Harry Browne's campaign platform. Activists may want to make use of the platform in letter writing and radio call-ins. LP candidates may wish to use portions in their own campaigns.

A First Step Toward Freedom Harry Browne For President

Preamble

Government doesn't work. It can't deliver the mail on time, it doesn't keep our cities safe, it doesn't educate our children.

Government programs have failed. Government reforms have failed. Democratic and Republican politicians have failed. Government doesn't work.

Still, whatever the issue, Republican and Democratic politicians propose more government as the answer—even when, as is usually the case, it is government that has caused the problem.

Libertarians stand for individual liberty, self-responsibility, and freedom from government—on all issues at all times. If there's a problem, our first question is not, "How can government solve this problem," but "What government program must be eliminated to improve this situation?"

We are the only party dedicated to dramatically reducing government—and doing it now, not in some pie-in-the-sky future year.

We are the only party that recognizes that the federal government has expanded far beyond the small, limited government envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

We are the only party that believes the Bill of Rights is an absolute document, to be taken literally. Government has no right to violate the Bill of Rights in any circumstance.

This means:

- You, and every other person, have the right to speak and write freely—on paper, on the airwaves, on the Internet—even if the government and the politicians don't like what you say.

- You have the right to keep and bear arms—even if some lunatic shoots up a restaurant in Texas.

- You have a right to be safe from unreasonable search and seizure—even if a DEA agent thinks you fit his profile of a drug dealer.

- You have a right to financial privacy—even if an IRS agent demands to know everything about you.

- You have a right to the full use of your own property—even if some bureaucrat wants to declare your backyard a wetlands.

Because politicians have long disregarded the limitations of the Constitution, the federal government has exploded in size. It is intrusive, oppressive, and obscenely expensive. And we the people suffer from all its failed programs.

Government doesn't work. Its War on Poverty has expanded poverty. Its War on Drugs has created a huge, illicit drug industry, escalated drug use, and generated a crime wave in every American city.

Still, politicians of both old political parties insist that the next government program will work, will pay for itself, will improve America, will solve some social problem.

But government doesn't work.

The Libertarian Difference

The overriding question in this Presidential election is: How can we make the federal government much smaller?

Democratic and Republican politicians try to pose as supporters of smaller government. But on issue after issue, they still call on government to solve problems.

The differences among them are trivial. But the differences between their positions and those of Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, are

as night and day.

1. Reducing Government

Democratic and Republican politicians are both responsible for the overbloated \$1.6 trillion federal government. Republican Presidents and Republican Congresses, Democratic Presidents and Democratic Congresses have all served to make government bigger and bigger and bigger.

With the exception of the retrenchment period after World War II, every President—Republican or Democrat—since Calvin Coolidge has left a government that's bigger than the one he inherited. We have to stop this trend.

Today, with the American public overwhelmingly anti-politician and anti-government, politicians of both parties try to convince us that they, too, are for "smaller government," "lower taxes," "less regulation." But the specific proposals they make will all lead to bigger government.

- Democratic politicians play games by "re-inventing government," even though every reform they propose makes government bigger and more expensive.

- Republican politicians play games by proposing to close down Departments of the federal government, even though they intend to transfer the functions and expenses of those Departments to other agencies—leaving government just as big as ever.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, says government doesn't work—and he wants to remove the federal government immediately and completely from every activity not specified in the Constitution—education, energy, regulation, crime control, welfare, housing, transportation, health care, agriculture, and all the other areas the federal government has stuck its nose into unconstitutionally over the past 60 years.

2. The Income Tax

The enormous tax increases of 1982, 1983, 1990, and 1993 show that neither of the old parties stands for lower taxes. Republican and Democratic politicians alike are quite willing to raise your taxes anytime, on any pretext.

Today they try to convince us that they have changed, that "We are all low-taxers now." But their proposals would only rearrange the existing tax burden. Because they have no concrete plans to reduce government significantly, there is no way they can lower your taxes significantly.

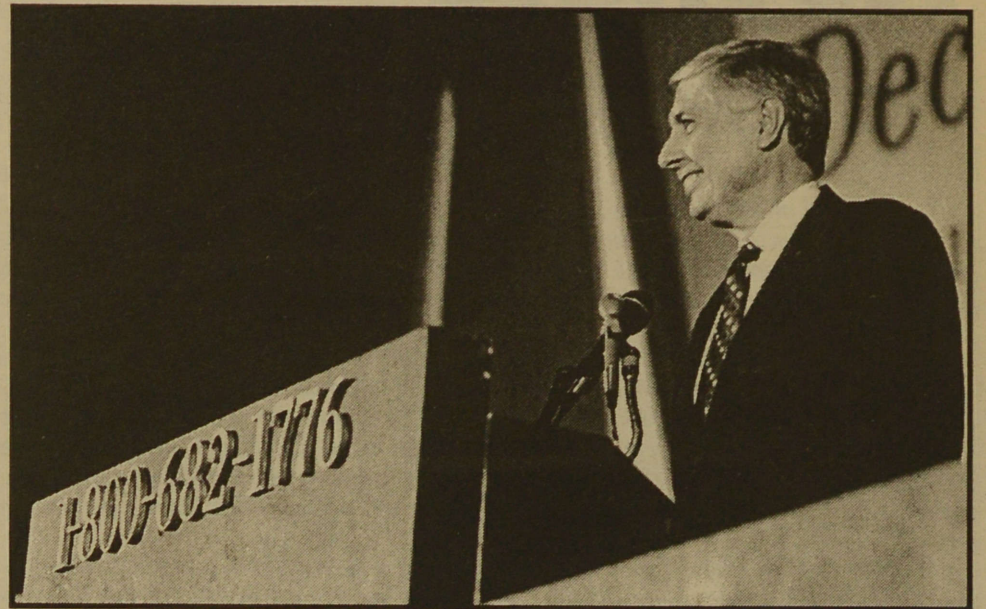
The income tax is the biggest government intrusion into the lives of the American people. It forces every worker to be a bookkeeper, to open his records to the government, to explain his expenses, to fear conviction for a harmless accounting error. Compliance wastes hundreds of billions of dollars. The income tax penalizes savings and creates an enormous drag on the U.S. economy. It is incompatible with a free society.

We must get rid of hundreds of federal programs, but we can't remove them one at a time, because each program has beneficiaries and supporters who will fight us. We can overcome their resistance only by combining all the spending cuts into a single package that includes the largest tax cut in American history—the total repeal of the federal income tax. That way most people can see that they'll save far more in taxes than they lose in subsidies.

By combining the reduction of government with the repeal of the income tax, every voter will know that the price of keeping today's federal programs is to continue paying the income tax. Every voter will know exactly how much he can gain by eliminating the complete package of unconstitutional programs.

But this isn't what politicians of the two old parties want. They like the power that comes from controlling your income.

- Democratic politicians like a progressive income tax that's based on the "ability to pay"—meaning that those who have earned the most by doing the most for others should be penalized the most. But their "progressive" tax rates



NEWS photo by Jim Amos

ACCEPTING - Harry Browne accepts the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party in Washington, DC, in July.

somehow always hit middle-class Americans the hardest.

- Republican politicians pretend to be helping us by proposing to end the current version of the income tax, and replace it with a giant sales tax—or with a "flat tax" that contains so many wrinkles, it's actually just another progressive tax. But because they aren't reducing government, they are merely rearranging the same oppressive tax burden.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, wants to end the income tax and abolish the IRS his first year in office and replace them with nothing. By reducing the federal government to its Constitutional functions, we can do away with all direct taxes—the income, estate, gift, capital gains, and Social Security taxes—financing national defense and the federal judiciary with the level of tariffs and excise taxes being collected already. Harry Browne makes this offer to every American: Would you give up all your favorite federal programs—such things as farm subsidies, student loans, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and any other programs—in order to be free of the income tax forever?!

3. Social Security

Social Security is a fraudulent insurance scheme in which the government collects money from you for your retirement and immediately spends the money on something else. All polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans have little hope of getting back a single dollar for the 15 percent of their wages they're pouring into it.

- Democratic politicians deny what every working American knows: The Social Security system is bankrupt and close to collapse.

- Republican politicians want to keep Social Security afloat through tax increases and benefit reductions—including raising the retirement age, invoking a means test, and changing the cost of living index on which yearly changes are calculated.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, knows the only way to avoid the coming Social Security collapse is to get the government completely out of Social Security. He wants to sell trillions of dollars worth of unneeded federal assets to finance the liquidation of Social Security through the purchase of private retirement annuities for the senior citizens who are dependent on Social Security. These people will have guaranteed contracts with private companies who have never broken their promises—unlike the U.S. Congress. And you will never again have to pay the 15 percent Social Security tax—which is really just throwing part of your wages down a rathole.

4. Government Spending

In their Alice-in-Wonderland world, when

politicians talk about smaller government, they don't mean a government that is actually smaller. They mean a government that is smaller than some hypothetical government that is much larger than today's government. In other words, to a politician, "smaller government" means government that doesn't grow as fast as he wants.

- Democratic politicians want a "smaller government" that continues to grow by 4 percent a year.

- Republican politicians want a "smaller government" that continues to grow by 3 percent a year.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, knows that government doesn't work. He doesn't just want to stop government growth—he proposes slashing the federal budget 50 percent the first year as a first step.

5. Balanced Budget

An unbalanced budget isn't just a bookkeeping curiosity. Every debt incurred on your behalf by the politicians means you have to pay a larger interest cost every year. Today we are paying \$275 billion a year in interest expense, which means we are continuing to pay for long-since abandoned, long-forgotten schemes by the politicians of yesteryear—schemes that were going to make health care more affordable, that were going to improve education, that were going to clean up the environment. The schemes failed, the politicians retired with generous pensions, and we are left paying the interest expense year after year after year.

We must get rid of that interest expense by retiring the entire federal debt. But first, we must put a stop to the growing debt by balancing the budget immediately.

- Republican politicians want to increase federal spending for seven more years, pretending that a future Congress will balance the budget by making spending cuts the current Congress is unwilling to make.

- Democratic politicians want to increase federal spending for seven more years, pretending that a future Congress will balance the budget by making spending cuts the current Congress is unwilling to make.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, plans to balance the budget his first year in office by reducing government spending. He also plans to sell off federal assets—and use the proceeds to pay off the federal debt entirely.

6. Welfare

Prior to the 1960s, the word "welfare" was rarely used in conversation. Instead, people spoke of "charity"—administered by churches, service clubs, foundations, the United Way, and other agencies. "Welfare" was a small department in the back of City Hall somewhere. The

see **Platform** on page 14

7 things you can do this week to help Harry Browne get into the presidential debates

The first presidential debate will take place in St. Louis on Sept. 25. Bob Dole and Bill Clinton will be there.

Will Harry Browne be included in the presidential debates?

He just might—if you help now.

If we can get Harry Browne up to at least 10 percent in the polls, we stand a good chance of getting him included in the 1996 presidential debates.

To accomplish this, we must dramatically boost name recognition for Harry Browne now. We must publicize "Why Government Doesn't Work." We must explain what Harry Browne is proposing and why. And start the drumbeat now for including Harry Browne in the presidential debates.

Would you like to help increase Harry Browne's chances of reaching 10 percent in the presidential polls?

Would you like to help increase Harry Browne's chances of being included in the presidential debates?

There are seven things you can do this week that will move Harry Browne closer to both.

Monday

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, college newspaper, weekly magazines, or other frequent publications about Harry Browne's Libertarian presidential campaign.

1. Use Harry Browne's name several times in your letter. Repetition is the mother of memory. When the national polls call, people need to remember "Harry Browne."

2. Refer to "Why Government Doesn't Work" in the letter. Some readers will go to the bookstore and buy it. They may read themselves free.

3. Your letter must focus on one of Harry Browne's core campaign themes:

- "Harry Browne says, 'Government Doesn't Work.'"

- "Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne wants to immediately end the insane War on Drugs—so our streets will be safe again."

- "Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne says, 'Get government entirely out of Social Security. Sell off trillions of dollars of unneeded federal assets and buy private retirement annuities for senior citizens dependent on Social Security.'"

- "Harry Browne wants to end the income tax and abolish the IRS his first year in office and replace them with nothing."

Tuesday

Call in to talk radio shows to talk up the Harry Browne Libertarian presidential campaign.

1. Pick the Harry Browne core campaign theme that best fits the talk radio discus-

sion:

- "Harry Browne says, 'Government Doesn't Work. Government doesn't deliver the mail on time, its schools don't educate our children, it can't keep our streets safe. Government Doesn't Work.'" Tie this in to the current discussion by stating, for example, "So we shouldn't expect any new federal programs to work any better."

- "Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne wants to immediately end the War on Drugs—which will take the windfall profits out of pushing drugs, remove the incentives for joining gangs, and make our streets safe again."

- "Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne says, 'Get government entirely out of Social Security. Sell off trillions of dollars of unneeded federal assets and buy private retirement annuities for senior citizens dependent on Social Security. End the obscene 15 percent Social Security tax that Gen X'ers and Baby Boomers pay for Social Security they'll never get.'"

- "Harry Browne, the Libertarian presidential candidate, wants to end the income tax and abolish the IRS his first year in office and replace them with nothing. Every dollar you earn will be yours to spend, to save, to give to your favorite charity or church or cause."

2. Repeat Harry Browne's name several times during your call. Repetition is the mother of memory. When the national polls call, people need to remember "Harry Browne, Libertarian for President."

3. Mention "Why Government Doesn't Work" during the call. Quote from it. Some readers will go to their local bookstore and buy it. Harry Browne's book might well win their hearts and minds to individual liberty and self-responsibility.

Wednesday

Post messages about the Harry Browne for President campaign on computer networks.

If you subscribe to CompuServe, America Online, Internet newsgroups, or have access to other computer forums, you can post lengthier messages. Concentrate your efforts in non-libertarian forums where you will reach uncommitted voters.

Please follow the same guidelines as for letters and talk radio shows. Talk up Harry Browne's name, "Why Government Doesn't Work," his core Libertarian presidential campaign issues.

On computer networks, please also post:

- a. The Harry Browne 800 Number: 1-800-682-1776

- b. The Harry Browne for President website address: <http://www.HarryBrowne96.org>

- c. How to get on our e-mail list. Tell them they can subscribe by sending a message to:

announce-request@HarryBrowne96.org

Write "subscribe" on the subject line.

Thursday

(And as many times as allowable)

Vote for Harry Browne in every Internet presidential poll you can find. Ask your friends with computers to vote Harry Browne on these polls, too.

Journalists pay attention to these polls. Some polls are re-started daily, others monthly, so vote as often as the rules allow.

A list of polls is available on the Harry Browne web page. Here are a few polls that were listed at presstime:

- AllPolitics Virtual Election: <http://pathfinder.com/cgi-bin/GDML/gdmlddb?VirtualElection>
- Vox Pop Strawpoll: <http://www.voxpop.org/strawpoll/>
- Survey-Net poll: <http://www.survey.net/sv-pol3.htm>
- RTIS Cyberpoll: <http://www.rtis.com/nat/pol/cyberpoll/>

Friday

Write a letter to one or two of the key television interview and talk shows—a few are listed below—and tell them why you think Harry Browne would be interesting to their audiences.

- Larry King Live, 820 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20002
- The Tom Snyder Show, CNBC, 3000 West Alameda Blvd., Burbank, CA 91523
- The Charlie Rose Show, WNET-TV, 499 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022
- John MacLaughlin's One on One, Oliver Productions, 1211 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20036
- Tony Brown's Journal, 1501 Broadway, Suite 412, New York, NY 10036

Saturday

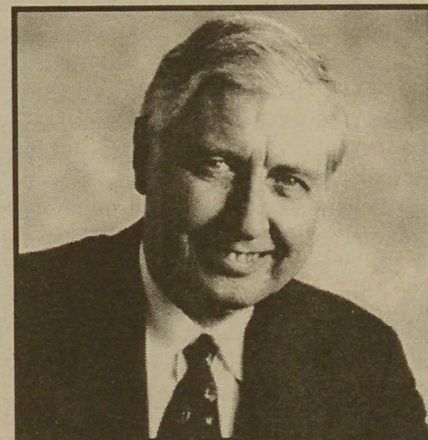
Write to the major network news organizations listed below and tell them why you think Harry Browne is newsworthy, why you think his presence in the presidential debates would be good for America, why you think Harry Browne and the Harry Browne Libertarian presidential campaign would intrigue and interest their viewers, why you think Harry Browne's Libertarian presidential campaign could dramatically affect the presidential debates and the election.

- Put a P.S. at the end of your letter—and ask these news organizations for regular and frequent coverage of the Harry Browne Libertarian presidential campaign, not just a one-time, "see how fair we are" obligatory piece.

If you want to play a little guilt hardball, say, "Harry Browne may get between 5 percent and 15 percent of the presidential vote this year. Will you give Harry Browne 5 percent to 15 percent of your total presidential campaign coverage?"

- NBC Nightly News, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112; e-mail: nightly@news.nbc.com

- CBS News, 524 West 57th St., New



York, NY 10019; fax: 212-975-1893

- CNN, One CNN Center, 100 International Blvd., P.O. Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348; fax: 404-827-1593

- ABC News, 47 West 66th St., New York, NY 10023; fax: 212-456-2213

Sunday

Tell seven people you do business with about the Harry Browne Libertarian presidential campaign. Or tell seven people you socialize with.

Tell each one of them, "Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate for president, says, 'Government Doesn't Work.' Do you agree?"

Ask, "Do you believe your taxes are way too low, just right, or way too high?"

Ask, "Do you believe we have too little government, just the right amount of government, or too much government?"

Then ask them what Harry Browne calls The Most Important Question In Politics: "Would you be willing to give up your favorite federal programs if it meant you'd never have to pay income tax again?"

- Tell them What's In It For Them if Harry Browne's in the presidential debates.

- Tell them What's In It For Them if they vote for Harry Browne.

- Tell them What's In It For Them if Harry Browne is elected president of the United States.

If you'd like to be an outstanding spokesperson for the Harry Browne Libertarian presidential campaign, frequently refer to "Why Government Doesn't Work"—especially Chapters 20, 23, and 24.

You also can use Harry Browne's presidential campaign platform (see page 8) as political talking points for your calls, letters, and e-mail postings.

AND:

If you want your seven steps to really make a difference, make seven copies of this article for friends, and ask them to do seven things to get Harry Browne into the presidential debates.

These seven small steps could help get Harry Browne into the 1996 presidential debates.

These seven small steps could change the political debate for 1996.

These seven small steps could make a difference in America's future.

Convention wrap

continued from page 1

tional taped music included selections from the 1960s and '70s by Creedence Clearwater Revival, Richie Havens, and others.

Opening day

The convention officially opened the following morning with National Chair Steve Dasbach asking delegates, "Are you ready to nominate a president?"

Don Ernsberger, a representative for FEE, the hosts of the convention, then welcomed the delegates to Washington, DC—"The Belly of the Beast," as he put it.

Delegates were then entranced by the keynote speech by LP member Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger entitled "Why You Need to Listen to the LP." And it appears people started to listen as the speech, broadcast live over the C-SPAN television network, drew rave reviews from every quarter and started the rush of three days of phone calls coming in to the party's toll-free telephone line.

Delegates jumped right in to the business of the convention with voting on the national platform and consideration of the platform committee's report. The committee had met for two days prior to the convention. [See story on page 12.]

Thursday evening, most delegates walked the several blocks to the Capitol and Mall to watch the annual Fourth of July fireworks display. It was a spectacular show, with music and fireworks exploding high above the Washington Monument.

Day two - the debate

The platform was again the topic of discussion in the business meeting on Friday. The full convention took time out from the business session to hear Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), tell how both Republicans and Democrats have stepped up their attacks on American civil liberties. Strossen was warmly received by the attendees as she highlighted such new intrusions on liberty as the Anti-Terrorism Bill and the Communications Decency Act (CDA).

In the afternoon, the delegates listened and participated in a debate among five candidates seeking the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination.

The debate was sponsored by FEE, the



PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - President George Washington, actually Libertarian Bruce Evoy, visited the national convention and addressed the delegates.

hosts of the convention, and they set the rules and procedures.

At the beginning of the convention, eight people had come forward announcing their intention to seek the nomination. The eight included Harry Browne, Rick Tompkins, Irwin Schiff, Douglas Ohman, Calvin Ruskup, Carl Kramer, Jeffery Dicket, and Charles Collins. Although the NEWS had identified—either through stories or ads—six of the eight as potential candidates prior to the convention, Louisiana LP member Dicket and former Republican presidential candidate Collins were surprise entrants. All eight are members of the Libertarian Party, with Collins explaining he had only very recently joined the party.

FEE decided that each of the candidates would have to get signatures from 25 delegates stating that they, the 25 delegates, wanted to have each candidate participate in the debate. Of the eight possible candidates, six—Browne, Tompkins, Schiff, Ohman, Collins, and Ruskup—met this requirement. However, as the candidates were called to the stage, Ruskup did not appear.

This left five candidates to participate in the debate. FEE had selected Jay Manifold, Texas LP state chair, to moderate the debate.

With the international C-SPAN audience watching, each candidate was given five minutes to present an opening statement, followed by an additional three minutes to respond to the other candidates' opening statements.

Three prepared questions were then asked of each candidate, with a two minute time limit for the answers.

One of the biggest responses from the packed ballroom came for Tompkins' answer to the question, "Why should you be President of the United States?"

Tompkins replied, "I could take the oath of office without lying."

Following the prepared questions, Manifold read five questions that had been submitted by audience members.

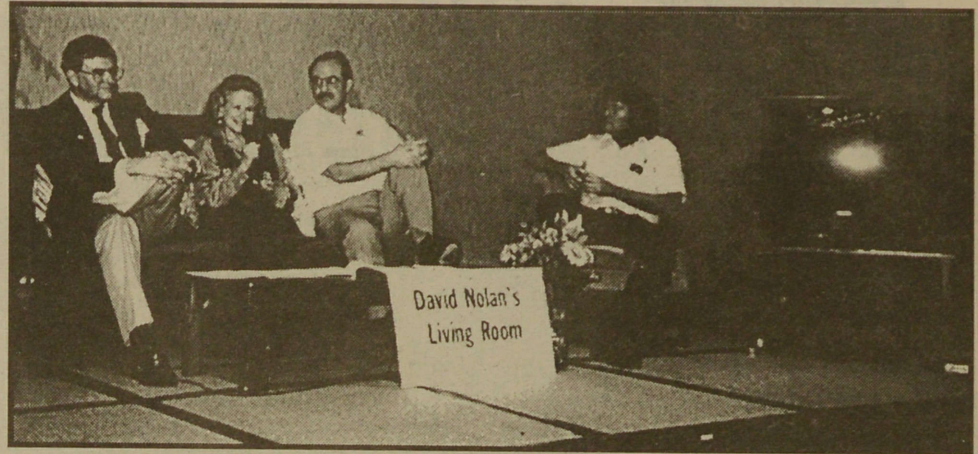
One question that the audience eagerly awaited an answer to was, "If you don't receive the Libertarian Party nomination, will you endorse and campaign for the nominee?"

Prior to the convention there was some concern over the coming together of the Browne and Tompkins camps, because of the hard-fought nomination campaign and some concerns over Browne's early positions on a number of issues.

But concern over this rift was put to rest when Tompkins responded to the question by stating, "I have read at least one other platform, Mr. Browne's. I have also read his book. On the strength of those alone, I might have had to qualify my answer, because I have some problems, I have some difficulties with some issues brought forth there. However, on the strength of what Harry just said to you, and assuming that he is telling the truth—I have no reason to doubt him—the answer is yes."

The convention hall erupted with applause and cheers.

When the debate ended, the consensus of the delegates seemed to be that all five candidates had handled themselves well and been a credit to the Libertarian Party. Many delegates agreed that if there was a winner—besides the Libertarian Party—it may well have been Manifold for his smooth-



LIVING ROOM CHAT - Longtime Libertarian Party members, from left, Dave Walter, Tonie Nathan, David Nolan, and Don Ernsberger, gathered in David Nolan's "living room" to talk about the early years of the Libertarian Party and celebrate its 25th anniversary. The party was founded in Nolan's real living room in Denver, CO, in 1971.

ness and wit in handling the difficult task of moderating the event.

Anniversary party

Friday evening the delegates were invited into "David Nolan's Living Room" to celebrate the Libertarian Party's 25th anniversary. The party was founded in 1971 by David Nolan and a few others at his home in Denver, CO.

While conventioners enjoyed snacks and cocktails, Nolan, Don Ernsberger, and Dave Walter—all longtime members of the party—invited special guests into the mock living room to recall the early days of the Libertarian Party. Guests included Ed Clark, Tonie Nathan, Bob Poole, and Jim Turney.

The event was both entertaining and informative, and guests not only had a good time but learned a lot of little-known facts about the how and why of the early years.

Nomination process

On Saturday, most of the business session was given over to the nominations and voting for the presidential candidate.

On Friday, in what marked one of the few contentious items of the convention, a new presidential nomination qualification procedure had been passed by two-thirds of the delegates.

The new procedure stated that "no person's name shall be placed in nomination... unless 35 delegates sign a pledge to vote for that person on the first ballot."

The party's bylaws committee, headed by former Libertarian Party presidential candidate David Bergland, had voted 8-0 in favor of this procedure. Bergland explained to the delegates the reasoning behind this new procedure.

Bergland said the bylaws now allow each nominee 16 minutes for nomination speeches. With eight nominees, he said, the time factor would be prohibitive. In addition, there was concern over the reputation and credibility of the party, since C-SPAN was televising the procedure to the world.

"Every person nominated will be perceived as representative of the best we have to offer," said a handout to the delegates about the new procedure. "You can be assured that the establishment media will pick the looniest of the bunch to feature as representative of the Libertarian Party... It would be insane for us to give them any ammunition to use against us."

This procedure was challenged by some

delegates who felt it was an attempt to institute ballot access controls.

Maryland delegate Dean Ahmad, a former national committee member and national officer, said in an open letter to David Bergland that was circulated at the convention, "This rule is unworthy of a libertarian convention. Even if petitioning requirements were a good idea—and I have spent much time arguing before civic groups and legislatures that they are not—it would only be fair to apply it during the next campaign—not to one that has nearly ended. The Republicans and Democrats, for all their faults, have never been so brazen as to impose petitioning requirements upon us two days before the deadline. Further, even in Maryland, a state with the second harshest petitioning requirements in the nation, the requirements are only three percent of the electorate, not five, and there is no requirement that one pledge to vote for the candidate for which he signs. If this rule governs our procedure here, do not be surprised if the Republicans and Democrats impose it upon us in future elections. And feign no surprise if it is referred to as 'the Libertarian rule.'"

By Saturday, only four candidates—Browne, Tompkins, Schiff, and Ohman—had met the requirements of the new procedure. Only Jo Jorgensen met the requirement for the vice presidential nomination.

Browne was nominated by Nevada delegate Michael Cloud, with seconding speeches by former Libertarian presidential candidates Ed Clark and David Bergland. Schiff was nominated by Illinois delegate Mike Ginsberg, Tompkins by California delegate George O'Brien, and Ohman by California delegate Terry Savage.

As is always the case, None of the Above (NOTA) was also nominated, this time by Maryland delegate Ahmad. His speech drew tremendous applause, as he urged all delegates to vote for NOTA.

The delegates then proceeded to the vote, with delegations voting in alphabetical order of the states beginning randomly with Ohio.

From the beginning of the balloting, it appeared clear that Browne had the nomination in hand. Of the 605 votes cast, Browne received 416.

Later in the day, Pennsylvania delegate Don Ernsberger nominated Jo Jorgensen for vice president. With opposition only from NOTA, Jorgensen won the nomination with 459 votes on the first ballot, while

see **Convention wrap** on page 11

Convention wrap

continued from page 10
NOTA received 36.

Awards banquet

On Saturday evening, the Gala Honors and Awards Banquet was held with by far the largest attendance of any similar past convention event.

After a moment of silence for those Libertarians who had died in the past several years, an award was presented in honor of the late Karl Hess for his years of work as editor of the NEWS. The award was accepted by his wife, Therese Hess.

Guest speaker Lee Edwards, author of a recently completed biography of Barry Goldwater, spoke on "The Libertarian Contribution of Barry Goldwater." Edwards said that while the Libertarian Party was not founded until 1971, he felt "Barry Goldwater could be called the first libertarian presidential candidate."

Following brief remarks from Browne and Jorgensen, Michael Cloud of the Harry Browne for President campaign conducted a fund-raising effort. Nearly \$150,000 was raised, many times the amount raised at similar events in the past.

Cloud also played some of the radio spots that would hit the airwaves in Washington, DC, just days later. The radio ads focus on Browne's campaign theme that "Government Doesn't Work."

Following the fund raising, party founder David Nolan addressed the crowd. Nolan said that we have all reached a unique time in history, and that the Libertarian Party has a unique role. He said the Libertarian Party "is the only vehicle capable of turning the tide in the right direction. There is no time to start over, to invent another alternative."

Nolan concluded his remarks by stating, "The fate of freedom in America—and ultimately, the world—depends on us. America must choose, and choose soon, between the rapidly emerging police state that is being jointly crafted by the two branches of the Incumbent Party, and the free society proposed by the Libertarian Party."

"The 20th century has shown us, only too vividly, the horrors that can be wrought by an all-powerful state, from the gas chambers of Auschwitz to the killing fields of Cambodia. The world knows, only too well,

Dasbach

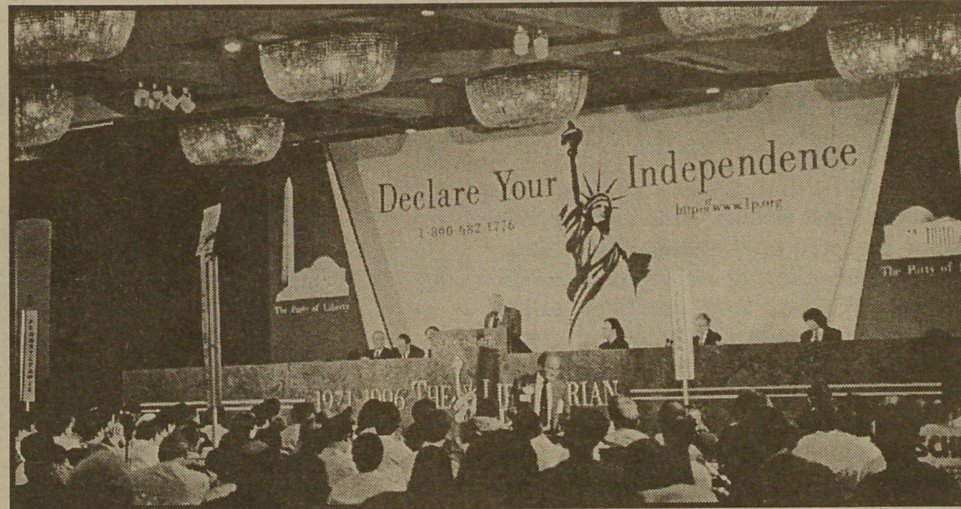
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victory, we are not leaving any state behind."

Dasbach faced stiff competition from Gene Cisewski, chair of the Washington, DC, party. Cisewski had offered a different vision for the future of the LP, but he made it clear that the election was not "about throwing rascals out."

Following the election, where Dasbach received about 60 percent of the vote, Cisewski asked all delegates to join him in supporting Dasbach as national chair.

Karen Allard was re-elected national vice chair and Hugh Butler was re-elected national treasurer, both without opposition.

Gary Johnson of Texas had no opposition in his race for national secretary. Johnson replaces John Famularo, who did not seek re-election.



NEWS photo by Jim Amos

where that road leads. The Libertarian Party will take humanity on a far different journey... to the yet-unimagined wonders of a world set truly free," he said.

During the remainder of the evening, awards—beautiful replicas of the Statue of Liberty and a certificate—were presented to individuals for service to the party, as well as recognizing the best 1994 candidates and the two Robert E. Lehman Memorial Membership Awards to the states with the best membership growth. [See box on this page.]

A special Champion of Liberty Award was presented to Phil Zimmermann, creator of the powerful computer encryption program called Pretty Good Privacy (PGP). Zimmermann, who said he was not a Libertarian, was also handed—by Harry Browne personally—a copy of Browne's new book, "Why Government Doesn't Work."

The three final awards of the evening were those nominated through the NEWS by readers and voted on by convention attendees.

The Samuel Adams Award went to Don Ernsberger as the party member "who has been the most effective activist in building the national, state, and/or local parties, organizing outreach projects, running as a candidate, or serving as a campaign manager."

The Thomas Paine Award went to Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger as "the Libertarian Party member who has been the most effective communicator of Libertarian ideas and values, through writing, publishing, or spoken communications."

The Thomas Jefferson Award went to David Nolan as "the Libertarian Party's highest honor, to the Libertarian Party member whose lifetime achievements merit the highest honors and that best exemplify outstanding leadership, character, and dedication to the goals of the Libertarian Party."

Final day

The convention wrapped up on Sunday with the election of party officers, national committee members, and judicial committee members.

The new national officers include Steve Dasbach, chair; Karen Allard, vice chair; Hugh Butler, treasurer; and Gary Johnson, secretary.

The new national committee members at-large include Bill Hall, Ron Crickenberger, Steve Givot, Sharon Ayres, and Steve Winter.

There was a realignment of some regions—with states shifting from one region to another—but the following are the new regional representatives to the national

committee: Region 1, Joseph W. Dehn III; Region 2, Chris Gardiniere; Region 3, Ken Bisson; Region 4, Candi Copas; Region 5, Tim Moir; Region 6, Mark A. Tuniewicz; Region 7, Robert H. Franke; and Region 8, Geoffrey J. Neale.

The new members of the judicial committee include Ed Clark, David Nolan, Steve Dillon, Jackie Bradbury, Bruce Baechler, Bill McMillan, and Bruce Lagasse.

After the convention was officially adjourned, the new national committee met.

In addition to other business, NatCom passed a resolution concerning curfew laws, an issue that members believed needed to be addressed since the "Children's Rights" plank had been deleted from the platform.

The resolution states: "Whereas, Bill Clinton and Bob Dole and Republican and Democratic politicians at all levels are trying to outbid each other with demagogic demands that ever more draconian curfew laws be imposed on our young people; and,

"Whereas, curfew laws restrict the freedoms and Constitutional rights of the vast majority of honest law-abiding young people, while having very little effect on teenage crime or gang activities; and,

"Whereas, curfew laws effectively place all teenagers under house arrest even though they have done nothing wrong, thereby intruding government controls into family responsibilities and decisions; therefore,

"Be it resolved, that the Libertarian Party calls for the elimination of all curfew laws which limit the times and places at which persons may be present, based merely upon their ages rather than harmful behavior."

Most delegates left the convention feeling energetic and upbeat about the future of the Libertarian Party. Members of FEE, the group that hosted the convention, were praised by nearly all convention attendees.

The next Libertarian Party national convention will be held in Atlanta, GA, in 1998.



AWARD WINNER - Computer encryption software developer Phil Zimmermann, right, was presented a special Champion of Liberty Award at the convention by former national Secretary John Famularo.

Convention award winners

Samuel Adams Award (LP activist)

Don Ernsberger

Thomas Paine Award (LP communicator)

Jacob Hornberger

Thomas Jefferson Award (Lifetime achievement)

David Nolan

Best 1994 U.S. Senate candidate

Jon Coon, Michigan

Best 1994 U.S. Congressional candidate

Gene Berkman, California

Best 1994 Gubernatorial candidate

Steve Winter, New Hampshire

Best 1994 local non-partisan candidate

Sandi Webb, California

Best 1994 local partisan candidate

Larry Bolin, Georgia

Most effective elected Libertarian

Rep. Don Gorman, New Hampshire

Robert E. Lehman Endowment Membership Awards

Small state - West Virginia

Large state - Pennsylvania

Platform debate

Convention delegates make major/minor changes

While most of the attention was focused on nominating a presidential ticket for the November elections, the delegates to the 1996 Libertarian Party National Presidential Nominating Convention took care of other important business as well.

A number of changes—some major and some minor—were made to the Libertarian Party Platform.

Delegates voted by computer-scanned ballot to express their approval or disapproval of each plank of the platform.

All planks were approved by the delegates by about 85-90 percent, except "Children's Rights," which was approved by 53 percent, and "Women's Rights and Abortion," which was approved by about 73 percent.

Since all planks were approved by a majority of the delegates, no planks automatically required amendment or deletion, as the new procedure called for.

Still, delegates did make a number of changes to the platform, either through recommendations from the platform committee or from proposals from the floor.

As foretold by the close vote in the computer balloting, one of the most significant changes was to come with the deletion of the "Children's Rights" plank. Those in favor of dropping the plank argued that it led to confusion over just what rights the LP believed children should have. The plank stated, in part, "Children are human beings and, as such, have all the rights of human beings." Some argued that this meant a three-year-old had the right to own a gun, drive a car, etc.

Opposition to the deletion of the plank came from some delegates who felt that the plank had important language in it—such as opposition to curfew laws—and that while the LP is trying to appeal to young people it would be a mistake to ignore them completely by deleting the plank in its entirety.

Proponents of the deletion of the plank, however, won with the argument that if something in the platform is unclear and ambiguous, it should be deleted.

While the Children's Rights plank was dropped, a new plank entitled "Sexual Rights" was added.

The new plank states: "We affirm the right of adults to private choice in consensual sexual activity.

"Government must neither dictate, prohibit, control, nor encourage any private lifestyle, living arrangement or contractual relationship.

"We call for repeal of all legislation and government policies intended to condemn, affirm, encourage or discourage sexual lifestyles or any set of attitudes about such lifestyles."

The "Women's Rights and Abortion" plank also was debated at some length. In an attempt to recognize that Libertarians can have honest views on both sides of the abortion issue, the following new wording for the plank was approved:

"We hold that individual rights should not be denied or abridged on the basis of sex. We call for repeal of all laws discrimi-

nating against women, such as protective labor laws and marriage or divorce laws which deny the full rights of men and women. We oppose all laws likely to impose restrictions on free choice and private property or to widen tyranny through reverse discrimination.

"Recognizing that abortion is a very sensitive issue and that libertarians can hold good-faith views on both sides, we believe the government should be kept entirely out of the question, allowing all individuals to be guided by their own consciences. We oppose all restrictions on the sale of RU 486, and on the sale of menstruation-inducing contragestive pills, which block fertilized eggs from attaching themselves to the womb. We oppose legislation restricting or subsidizing women's access to abortion or other reproductive health services; this includes requiring consent of the prospective father, waiting periods, and mandatory indoctrination on fetal development, as well as Medicaid or any other taxpayer funding. It is particularly harsh to force someone who believes that abortion is murder to pay for another's abortion.

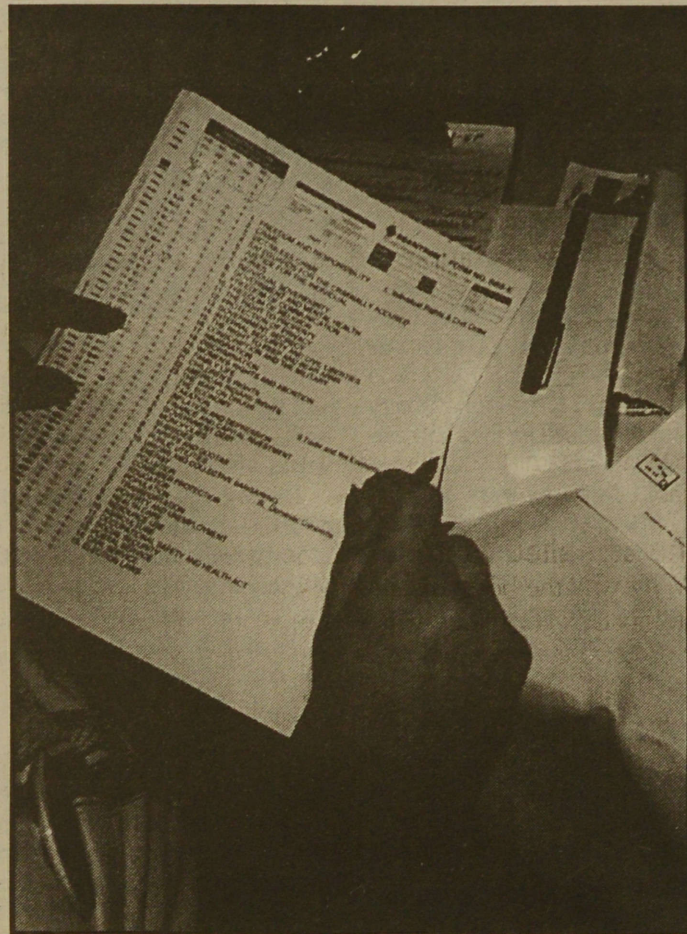
"We also condemn state-mandated abortions.

"It is the right and obligation of the pregnant woman, not the state, to decide the desirability or appropriateness of prenatal testing, Caesarean births, fetal surgery, voluntary surrogacy arrangements, and/or home births."

One additional sentence was inserted in the "Right to Property" plank. The new sentence reads: "We specifically condemn all government interference in the operation of private businesses, such as restaurants and airlines, by either requiring or prohibiting designated smoking or non-smoking areas for their employees or their customers."

Showing concern for privacy issues relating to computer encryption technology, the delegates approved a replacement paragraph in the "Protection of Privacy" plank addressing that issue. The new paragraph reads: "We oppose all restrictions and regulations on the private development, sale, and use of encryption technology. We specifically oppose any requirement for disclosure of encryption methods or keys, including the government's proposals for so-called "key escrow" which is truly government access to keys, and any requirement for use of government-specified devices or protocols. We also oppose government classification of civilian research on encryption methods."

The old "Discrimination" plank was renamed "Freedom of Association and Government Discrimination." In addition, one word was changed—"society" to "government"—in the first paragraph of the plank, and the second paragraph was rewritten. The new wording is as follows: "Discrimination imposed by the government has brought disruption in normal relationships of people, set neighbor against neighbor, created gross injustices, destroyed voluntary communities, and diminished human potential. Anti-discrimination laws enforced by the government are the reverse side of the coin, and will for the same reasons



SCANTRON® BALLOTING - Prior to debate on the platform, delegates voted by computer-readable ballots to indicate their approval or disapproval of each plank.

create the same problems. Consequently, we oppose any government attempts to regulate private discrimination, including choices and preferences, in employment, housing, and privately owned businesses. The right to trade includes the right not to trade—for any reasons whatsoever; the right of association includes the right not to associate, for exercise of the right depends upon mutual consent."

Going into the convention, it was clear that the "Tariffs and Quotas" plank was going to come under scrutiny. Because party members hold differing opinions on the wisdom of NAFTA and GATT, new wording was sought that would be more acceptable to all members. The delegates included new language in the plank specifically addressing NAFTA and GATT, and changed the title—it is now titled "Trade Barriers."

The new plank reads: "Like subsidies, tariffs and quotas serve only to give special treatment to favored special interests and to diminish the welfare of consumers and other individuals, as do point-of-origin or content regulation. These measures also reduce the scope of contracts and understanding among different peoples. We therefore support abolition of all trade barriers and all government-sponsored export-promotion programs, as well as the U.S. International Trade Commission and the U.S. Court of International Trade. We affirm this as a unilateral policy, independent of the trade policies of other nations. Concurrent with the adoption of this policy shall be the complete and unilateral withdrawal from all international trade agreements including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)."

The "Health Care" plank in the platform was amended slightly to include wording relating to the medical use of marijuana and other drugs. A revised paragraph now reads: "We condemn efforts by government to impose a medical orthodoxy on society. We specifically condemn attempts by the FDA to restrict the use of vitamins, herbs, and other supplements. Until such time as the tyrannical and futile drug prohibition is repealed, we advocate immediate reclassification of all drugs, particularly marijuana and heroin, to make them available for medicinal use." Additional wording from the same paragraph was retained in a new paragraph.

In addition, a minor change was made to the "Freedom and Responsibility" plank, and "The War on Drugs" was moved in the platform, but the wording was not changed.

There also was an attempt to change the wording of the "Statement of Principles." The first sentence of the statement declares: "We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual." The words "cult of the omnipotent state" have bothered many members over the years, concerned that the language can "frighten" new or potential Libertarians.

According to the party bylaws, however, it takes seven-eighths of the delegates to agree on a change in the Statement of Principles. A quick poll of the delegates showed that although a majority of the delegates would approve a change, the seven-eighths super majority would not be in favor. Therefore, the statement stands as it has for years.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

The Most Horrifying Crime in American Political History?

“The MURDER of Vince Foster”

BY MICHAEL KELLETT

VINCE FOSTER, the White House deputy counsel and former partner in Hillary Clinton’s Rose Law Firm, was found dead with a gun in his hand in what Administration officials and the media quickly accepted as suicide.

This book dissects Robert Fiske’s “Independent” counsel’s report, showing that if one reads only the forensic evidence, omitting all of the comments and opinions, the evidence overwhelmingly supports murder. Amazingly, however, it was only the comments that were relayed to Americans by the national media.

All the so-called “unresolved” questions—are resolved.

Why was the body discovered in an ugly, desolate, mosquito-infested park? If privacy was so important to Foster, why was his body discovered so quickly? Why was the body found so perfectly straight? Why so little blood? Was Hillary involved?

The Senate Hearings raised questions about Foster’s ripped up suicide note, which mysteriously appeared in his briefcase in his office several days after his death. How could several presumably normal individuals searching his office, fail to find it?

And, why would anyone, especially the neat, meticulous Foster, throw it in any place other than a trash can? Once we recognize who orchestrated the murder and why, these questions, and many more, are not mysterious.

Some Major Topics

- ◆ It is shown that the Clintons not only had the motive to have Foster murdered, but also the motive to do it in the *way* it was done.
- ◆ Commentary on “Blood Sport”, the book promoted by liberals trying to trivialize the Whitewater affair, and how the author—UNINTENTIONALLY—provides further evidence that Foster’s “suicide” note was forged.
- ◆ Motive, opportunity, and hard evidence are produced supporting the contention that Clinton’s goons got into Foster’s home the afternoon of the murder (obtaining the gun that was later found in his hand). Says cable TV talk show host Adam McManus, “...gripping...amazing proof...amazing evidence.”

Another Key Question Explored In Depth

How many others associated with Clinton have also met untimely deaths?

Starting with the 1977 “suicide” of a pretty, 7 1/2 month-pregnant law school student—her instructor had been Bill Clinton, and an anonymous letter has identified him as the father—the sheer number defies statistical possibilities. Even more significant is *how* the overwhelming majority of these people died. Consider:

- ◆ If a murder is planned to look like suicide, death by poison is unlikely because it is unreliable. Pushing someone in front of a moving vehicle would also entail problems. Strangulation and stabbing would be difficult to fake. A

gunshot, however, followed by the placement of the gun in the victim’s hand, is quickest, most reliable, and easiest to stage. You will note how Clinton-associated “suicides” die. Similarly, if a murder is planned to look like an accident, rigging a plane crash would be the most preferred method due to the certainty of death and that the evidence is usually destroyed. Though the National Safety Council statistics state that only 1.2% of accidental deaths are caused by plane crashes, note the circumstances of Clinton-associated “accidents”. Then you decide if they can all be explained as coincidence.

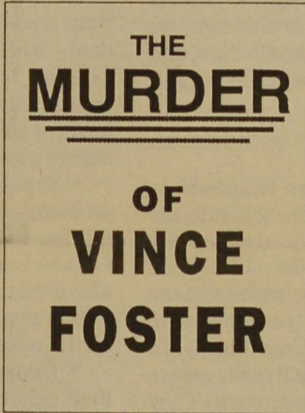
The Most Comprehensive Work On The Subject—By Far!

This book is about more than murder. It is about government control and power, and shocking testimony shows how that power was abused to cover up the crime. This book urges all honest, freedom-loving, and patriotic Americans to help penetrate the barriers and obstructions to justice. Knowledge is the key. Everyone must know the facts, then decide, and help others to do the same.

All The Evidence Is Here: You Decide!

287 pages, perfect-bound, with full-color photos of the crime scene, and Foster’s alleged “suicide” note along with a comparison of his known handwriting. Says conservative activist Cathy Leahy, “We’ve had all these bits and pieces of information and reports. This book organizes it all.”

Yes, and in order to help you convey this information to others, the final chapter lists summary statements for all 130-points (that’s no misprint) that either refute suicide or implicate the White House or the Clintons.



Option: We have reprinted the entire Fiske Report, which remains as THE source for liberals and Clinton supporters. For your reference, so you can be certain we have not taken anything out of context, we will include this “thing” for the fair value of TWO CENTS.

You can listen to Michael’s 5-minute recording about his book on the Talking Book Directory. 1(800) 796-BOOK. Press “6”, then #3636. Accessible 24-hours.

“The Murder of Vince Foster”
by Michael Kellett
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Harry Browne's platform

continued from page 8

notion that someone could be permanently on the dole was virtually unheard of.

Today millions of Americans have been consigned to a lifetime of poverty, dependency, disrespect, and hopelessness as permanent wards of the state. The welfare laws, tax laws, minimum wage laws, and other regulations discourage them from leaving welfare to become self-supporting citizens. This is what the American people have received for the trillions of their dollars the politicians have wasted on a bizarre plan to have government do away with poverty.

- Democratic politicians have various plans to "reform" welfare, even though every previous welfare reform bill has increased the cost and the number of people on welfare.

- Republican politicians want to send federal welfare money to the state governments, tied up in a multitude of strings.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, knows that federal welfare doesn't work. It has consigned millions of Americans to a life of dependency and despair, and it has cost us trillions of dollars. He wants to end it completely and immediately.

7. Education

There is no Constitutional authority for the federal government to be involved in education in any way whatsoever. The growing amounts of money and control coming from Washington have been matched by lower SAT scores, declining standards, more dangerous schools, and generations of Americans who have no basic education in history, geography, the Constitution, mathematics, science, or literature.

This doesn't bother the politicians, however, because they don't see federal aid to education as a means of raising literacy and knowledge.

- Democratic politicians want to use federal aid to education as a way to implement their social agenda.

- Republican politicians want to use federal aid to education as a way to implement their social agenda.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, knows that no federal educational program will work, and he wants to get the federal government out of education completely and immediately. The most effective way we can improve education in America is to repeal the income tax, so that you can afford to educate your child your way—in a private school that offers the curriculum you want, in a religious school that teaches the values in which you believe, or through home-schooling conducted your way.

8. Crime and the War on Drugs

Before there were drug laws in America, there were no drug problems. And prior to the federal government's declaration of War on Drugs in the 1960s, there were no muggers on the street trying to support a \$100-a-day habit, no pushers on high school campuses trying to hook children on drugs, no gangs fighting over monopoly drug territories, no drive-by shootings, no crack babies, no overdose problems. Outside of the 14 years during alcohol Prohibition, nothing like this had ever been seen in America. It took the War on Drugs to make it happen.

- Democratic politicians like the War on Drugs just as it is—because they love the power it gives the federal government.

- Republican politicians want to accelerate the War on Drugs—by taking away more of your Constitutional liberties, by taking away more of your privacy, by turning America into more of a police state.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, says the War on Drugs is a total failure. Government can't keep drugs out of the country; it can't even keep drugs out of its own prisons. He wants to end the insane War on Drugs—which will take the criminal profit out of the illicit drug trade and bring peace to our cities once again. On his first day in office, he will pardon everyone who has been convicted of a non-violent

federal drug offense—to empty the federal prisons of the marijuana smokers and others who are no threat to society, and make room for the truly violent criminals and other thugs who escape prison through early releases and plea bargains to return to the streets and terrorize our citizens.

9. Health Care

Today 51 percent of all health care dollars in America are spent by government. This has run up the prices of doctor visits, hospital stays, and health insurance—far outpacing the rate of general inflation. Government has failed utterly to make health care more accessible or affordable. But the politicians see this failure as an excuse to impose even more government upon us.

- Democratic politicians want to remake the American health-care system in the image of the disastrous European systems, attempting to blame government's failures on the free market.

- Republican politicians pass legislation that will regulate the private health insurance companies out of business, and will lead to the imposition of a "single-payer," Canadian-style health system in America.²

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, says government health care doesn't work and he wants to get government out from between you and your doctor. By getting the federal government completely out of health care, we will have more choices, better health care, and lower prices for doctor visits, hospital stays, and health insurance.

10. The Federal Judiciary

The American judiciary was supposed to protect the American people from politicians and bureaucrats who wanted to overstep the bounds of the Constitution. Instead, the judiciary has been a main part of the trashing of the Constitution. Judges talk about "penumbras" in the Constitution. They say the Constitution is a living, changing document (which really means that it's a dead, meaningless document). They throw out the Bill of Rights on the grounds that the government has a "compelling interest" in overruling it.

Either the Constitution limits the government or it doesn't.

- Democratic politicians want the President to appoint judges who will use the law to implement their social agenda.

- Republican politicians want the President to appoint judges who will use the law to implement their social agenda.

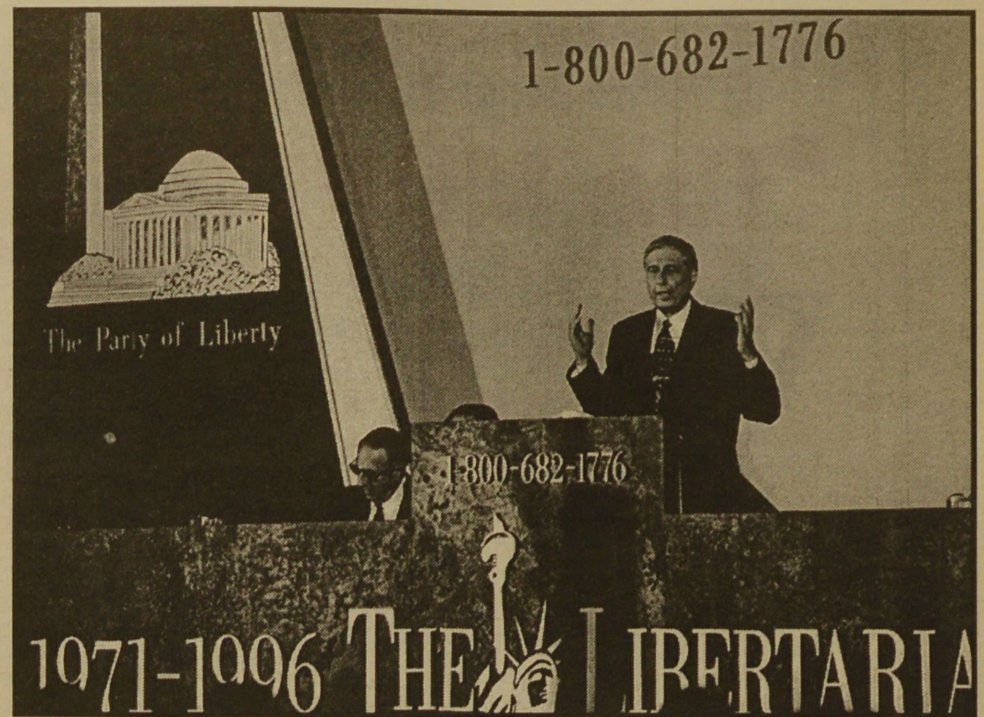
- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, will appoint only judges who consider the Bill of Rights to be a literal, absolute document that allows no exceptions to your right to free speech, freedom of religion, freedom to keep and bear arms, freedom to be secure in your property, safe from search and seizure. He will appoint only judges who take the Ninth and 10th amendments seriously, and thus will not tolerate the federal government involving itself in activities not authorized by the Constitution.

11. Personal Values

The Constitution gives the federal government no authority to tell us how to live our lives. However, the politicians will not be restrained. They want to govern every aspect of our existence.

- Both Democratic and Republican politicians believe that Americans are dysfunctional children who need government to act as their parents. They both seek to impose their values in the most intimate personal and family relationships and admit to no limits on their authority to do so.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, respects the right of all Americans to choose and act on their own personal values, to work together in their families and communities to achieve the goals they set for themselves. Americans throughout their history have proven their



NEWS photo by Jim Amos

ability to solve problems their own way, without government interference.

12. Immigration

At one time, America attracted only those from around the world who were seeking freedom—freedom from oppressive governments, freedom to build a future for their families through hard work. Today, America attracts too many people who come here only to take advantage of government welfare benefits.

- Republican politicians want to solve this problem—created by government—by putting another layer of government on top of it. They want to keep out the productive people along with the free-loaders, they want to build a wall or a ditch along our borders, and they want to beef up the military to patrol the borders.

- Democratic politicians don't know what they believe on this issue, because the polls aren't conclusive yet.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, wants to dismantle the welfare state—which will automatically solve our immigration problems. Once there is no more gravy train, the only people who will want to come here will be those who want the freedom to work and to build a better life for their families.

13. National Defense and Foreign Policy

Our government has spent trillions of dollars on the military since World War II, and yet we are completely vulnerable to the whims of any two-bit dictator who can get his hands on a nuclear missile. And by involving ourselves in a multitude of treaties around the world, we are liable to be drawn into World War III by a petty dispute between third-rate powers.

- Republican politicians believe we must defend our "national interests" by roaming the world in search of trouble. And, somehow, almost anything that happens anywhere is cited as a threat to those national interests. Consequently, the Republicans keep us on the brink of trouble at all times.

- Democratic politicians don't have a clear-cut attitude toward foreign policy. But to prove they're as tough as the Republicans, they put our money and lives on the line in the affairs of other countries all over the world.

- Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, will bring American troops home to America at once. He will remove us from the entangling alliances that Thomas Jefferson warned us against. He will see to it that America has a proper defense against any missile attack, so that we will no longer need retaliatory weapons and intimidating military power. We will be far safer than we are now, while spending far less money on the military.

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1. A proposed six-year federal budget, showing revenues and expenditures, is laid out in chapter 24 of "Why Government Doesn't Work" by Harry Browne (245 pages, St. Martin's Press, available at any bookstore, \$19.95).

2. The Kennedy-Kassebaum bill was passed 100-0 in the Senate in May 1996; a similar bill was passed in the House. It compels private insurance companies to issue unprofitable policies—guaranteeing that insurance premiums will rise, leading the politicians to impose price controls, and driving the insurance companies out of business.

In Defense of Reason

By **ROBERT W. POOLE JR.**

Commentary response

In reacting to Nick Gillespie's critical article on the Harry Browne campaign in the July issue of Reason, Dave Nolan and Harry Browne have responded in LP News, not merely with a reply to Gillespie's points but with an attack on the magazine itself and its owner, the Reason Foundation. Both Dave and Harry, personal friends of long standing, appear to have concluded that Reason people are somehow no longer their allies in the battle for liberty. That view is sorely mistaken. It reflects a misconception of the different roles played by different players all working toward the same end: the creation of a free society.

Reason magazine's role in the pro-freedom movement

Reason magazine is an outreach communications tool, addressing current issues from a point of view grounded in rationality and liberty—"free minds and free markets." When the Reason Foundation was created in 1978 to take over the publication of this 10-year-old magazine, we made a conscious decision to change the magazine's focus. Up till then, it had been a magazine of the libertarian movement. In the early years of the Libertarian Party, Reason had been an unabashed cheerleader for this fledgling effort, even carrying a regular monthly column on the subject for several years.

In 1978 we decided to refocus the magazine on reaching out to thinking Americans who might be sympathetic to our principles but not necessarily conversant with them—and we have followed that approach ever since, building the magazine from 12,000 to nearly 60,000 in circulation and making it into one of America's leading think magazines.

Besides building the largest (paid) list of freedom sympathizers in the movement, we have helped to foster the libertarian understanding of such influential major-media communicators as humorist Dave Barry and ABC's John Stossel. Each month Reason places dozens of guests on radio and TV talk shows; our writers and editors have appeared repeatedly on CNN talk programs and on such major programs as "Crossfire" and "Good Morning America." Week in and week out, 52 weeks a year, Reason people are communicating the message of free minds and free markets to millions of people through radio and TV appearances, as well as via more than 1,500 newspaper op-eds, editorials, and news stories each year.

Reason has not watered down its ideological content, contrary to Dave and Harry's allegations. We have pushed hard on distinctively libertarian issues like the insanity of the war on drugs, the value of immigration and the dangers of new government immigration controls, and new threats to free speech by the FCC and Internet censors. Such efforts hardly curry favor with most Republicans—but they have won Reason growing respect in the larger world (including a finalist nomination in the National Magazine Awards for our Glenn Garvin's hard-hitting cover stories on immigration).

In becoming a successful outreach publication for libertarian ideas, Reason had to abandon its pre-1978 role as a sometime LP

cheerleader—for several reasons. First, by creating a tax-exempt foundation as the magazine's owner, we agreed to be bound by the restrictions of the IRS code—namely, that we be strictly non-partisan and non-political. Second, the role of an outreach publication for libertarian ideas is different from that of a political party formed to promote one approach to implementing those ideas. Third, to have credibility as a think magazine, Reason needs to be as free to criticize Libertarians as National Review or the Weekly Standard are to criticize Republicans and The New Republic is to criticize Democrats. While obviously Reason has a strong bias toward liberty, its integrity as a think magazine requires it to remain loyal to those principles—but not to reflexively, uncritically support anyone or any approach that is working toward the same ultimate ends.

Gillespie's article

This brings us to Nick Gillespie's recent article critiquing some of Harry Browne's statements and the Libertarian Party's strategy toward presidential campaigns. Yes, this was the first time that Reason has published a (somewhat) critical article about our friends in the Libertarian Party. And yes, Nick's style included the use of some colorful but (unintentionally) hurtful turns of phrase, intended to dramatize his points.

But the effort, overall, was a completely legitimate attempt to raise serious issues of strategy and tactics in the battle for a free society—issues that Reason in the past had avoided ever bringing up. Ironically, Harry Browne is right that it was time for Reason to raise these uncomfortable issues, both because of the LP's recent growth and because the country has now moved in a somewhat anti-government direction—where a significant fraction of the population is disaffected from government and receptive to a third-party alternative. Instead of being merely a sideshow, libertarian political efforts now have a chance of playing a meaningful role. In that context, honest discussions of the LP's relative lack of success at presidential campaigns is essential.

If the Libertarian Party expects to play a serious role in this country's future, it must be prepared to engage in debate and discussion of strategy and tactics with its friends and allies. Just as National Review can and should criticize the Dole campaign, in hopes of causing better ideas and approaches to prevail, so can and should Reason criticize the Browne campaign, in hopes of making libertarian political activity more effective.

Incrementalism vs. radicalism

Dave Nolan longs for the old "movement" Reason magazine of 12,000 subscribers (akin to today's worthwhile Freedom Daily and Liberty), which wrote about how things might work in an idealized libertar-

ian society. Harry Browne mistakenly believes that the Reason Foundation favors retaining the income tax and a government role in Social Security. Both have apparently mistaken differences in tactics for differences in underlying values and principles.

The Reason Foundation is a public policy think tank. Both our magazine and our extensive policy research program (which both Dave and Harry ignore) seek to find ways to move America in the direction of greater freedom. Especially in our policy research papers, we seek to do this by carefully analyzing how and why current laws, regulations, and programs exist (e.g., which interest groups benefit and expend resources to support the status quo) and then developing policy proposals that "push the envelope" as far as possible—without being considered so far out in the stratosphere as to be irrelevant to actually making change. Needless to say, this is an art, not a science. We can and do sometimes miscalculate, going too far (or occasionally not far enough). But increasingly, policy ideas from the Reason Foundation (and other libertarian-run think tanks) are being taken seriously, influencing the direction of change, and sometimes being implemented.

Here are just a few examples from the past several years.

- A dozen states now have laws permitting private tollroads, all but one inspired by California's landmark 1989 measure—which was directly inspired by a Reason Foundation policy study.

- Governors and mayors (as well as elected Libertarian city council members) across the country regularly make use of our how-to guides on privatization and attend our annual privatization conferences. With our hands-on advice, they are making dramatic reductions in the cost of numerous services—and are even beginning to sell off government assets and enterprises.

- Our education reform program has researched public opinion on vouchers, helped foster alternative private-sector career paths for thousands of teachers, helped legislators detect bogus charter-school proposals, helped expand the market for privatized school services—all driving wedges into the monolithic public school monopoly.

- The unjust and hugely costly federal Superfund program is under assault and faces the prospect of major downsizing and legal reform, thanks in part to a series of well-regarded Reason Foundation policy studies, backed up by congressional testimony from their authors.

These are just a few of literally hundreds of examples. Fifty-two weeks a year the Reason Foundation is hard at work in the trenches, analyzing real issues like this. We write policy studies and disseminate them to (a) the people in power who have the ability to change the policies, (b) those interest groups we hope will decide to put time and money into working for change, and (c) a variety of media outlets, both

specialized and general-interest. A lot of this appears to be boring detail work—but we have found it to be very effective in *actually bringing about change*.

To be sure, this kind of work is not as soul-stirring and self-satisfying as denouncing the state as evil and bashing politicians and bureaucrats at every turn. But it is—bit by bit and step by step—reducing the scope and power of government and expanding the scope for individuals and private enterprise. Those libertarians who have actually been elected to local office can attest to how difficult it is to actually make changes in government—and how valuable the policy work of think tanks like the Reason Foundation can be.

Division of labor

The point of all this is not to say that the Reason Foundation's incrementalist approach is right and the more radical approach of the Libertarian Party or Freedom Daily is wrong. For more than 20 years I have been writing and saying that we in the libertarian community do not know the one true path to creating a free society. There is no model from history that we can copy, because there has never been a truly free society. And if we take seriously F. A. Hayek's thoughts on the evolution of human institutions, we need to be cautious about thinking we can design a free society from scratch, via pure reason, rather than attempting to nudge complex human institutions in a more sensible direction.

Hence, my general admonition to advocates of liberty remains: "Let a thousand flowers bloom." We do not know which tactics will ultimately be how effective in bringing about much greater liberty, so we should encourage multiple, parallel efforts. They can and should include a hard-core libertarian political effort, other political efforts to change the direction of the major parties, think tank policy research, single-issue organizations (e.g., on the drug laws and on federal taxes), academic books, popular books, outreach publications, and hard-core movement publications.

This is, after all, what an intellectual movement is all about. It is what the socialist movement in the first half of this century included, and it is what the post-World War II conservative movement has included. The libertarian movement needs no less than all of these components. The Reason Foundation is providing two essential components: an outreach magazine and public policy research. The Libertarian Party provides another. All are needed as we seek, by trial and error, to build a free society.

Robert Poole is president of the Reason Foundation and publisher of Reason magazine. He has been a member of the Libertarian Party since its founding in 1971.

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Letters

Readers on convention, gay marriage, and Reason

Convention

The Washington, DC/C-SPAN convention strategy was very much a success. As someone who has watched C-SPAN in Asia, I can affirm that C-SPAN's satellite signal is literally relayed around the earth. The world now knows we exist. And here at home Americans watched as Harry Browne, Jo Jorgensen, Jacob Hornberger, and Richard Boddie delivered us onto the national political playing field for the first time ever, in my opinion—and all happening on the 4th of July weekend. Well done, my friends.

Most convention goers were unable to hear the phone-in comments to C-SPAN aired during convention recesses. Let me share with all the comments of one unknown caller [from memory]. . .

"I have been watching these Libertarians and I can't figure out how they ever hope to win. They don't take tax money to fund their political activities. They don't lay out guilt trips about the threat of starving babies dying in the streets, and they don't promise handouts to special interests. I ask myself, how do they ever hope beat the Democrats and the Republicans?"

Jeff Chase
Cambridge, MA

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Great convention! Now we've got to get Harry Browne a seat at the fall debates. If every Libertarian Party member would write 10 letters to print and broadcast



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

outlets, pointing out that there's no difference and hence no choice between Dole and Clinton (a fact that even the media is beginning to see), that would be a start. Then we need to beat up on the organizers of the debates to get him in.

Marc Beauchamp
Washington, DC

Reasonable comments

I was as outraged and disappointed by the Reason magazine article about Harry Browne as Harry Browne and David Nolan were. Reason bit the hand that feeds them and I encourage Libertarians to let them go hungry for it. If they want to insult our candidates the least they should do is allow a rebuttal. But Reason is free to print what they like and we are free to boycott the magazine. Please join me in doing so.

Scott Frost
Seattle, WA

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David Nolan's "Critique of impure Reason" (July 1996 NEWS) was pure foolishness. Nick Gillespie, the author of the Reason piece in question, earned Mr. Nolan's scorn, and the magazine and foundation Mr. Nolan's unveiled threats

by publishing an article that took a serious look at the promises and predictions made by the Harry Browne campaign and matched them up against the observable results thus far.

Mr. Gillespie was constrained by the facts to report that to date these predictions and outcomes have not matched well. As those of us know who've been around the LP for a few presidential cycles, this mismatch is hardly unique to Harry Browne's campaign. As uncomfortable and unhappy as this fact might make Mr. Nolan (and me), I certainly don't expect independent journalists to place my comfort and happiness above the truth as they see it, and neither, I venture, should Mr. Nolan.

And neither should Mr. Nolan display his apparently total innocence of admirable editorial standards when writing in the official publication of the Libertarian Party. I personally don't find born yesterday naive at all charming (save in those actually born yesterday) and would rather not be associated with it, even tangentially.

So when Mr. Nolan tells us that Reason magazine "refused" to run a "rebuttal piece" and that Reason's publisher politely but firmly declined to override his editor-in-chief's decision in this matter, and when Mr. Nolan caps off his description of the foregoing utterly predictable chain of events with the exclamation, "Odd, to say the least," I can only blush and add, "Inane, to put it mildly."

Tom Brennan
Philadelphia, PA

Marriage comments

Ayn Rand taught us to remember that words have an exact meaning. The word marriage means a union of a man and a woman. It has always meant that. It means nothing else. We can only say that it's their problem if two gays want to fantasize that one of them is the opposite sex.

It is intellectually dishonest to use the word marriage when referring to two people of the same sex. Gays and their supporters are begging the issue when they use the word marriage to justify their lifestyle or to try and get special rights which others don't have. Let them use some other word.

They should take something from their history. They could call it a closet union. Then they could have closet union showers, closet union ceremonies, closet union honeymoons, etc. The possibilities are endless.

Richard J. Savadel
Massapequa, NY

◆ ◆ + ◆ ◆

I am writing you to express my support for the positions taken by Rick Tompkins (July 1996 NEWS) supporting the right to gay marriage. I would also like to add to his positions.

First, look at all the types of people who are allowed to marry. Convicted felons can marry, even while they're in prison. People who have defaulted on their child support can marry. Pedophiles can marry. You can even marry if you were convicted of spousal abuse! All of these people have committed acts which harmed the person or property of someone else, and they are all allowed to marry. Why should we deny this right to gay people who have never

caused such harm to others?

Second, the states have always allowed people to marry despite the fact that they don't want to have children or can't have children. This flies in the face of those who say that the sole purpose of marriage is procreation. Of course, there is nothing to stop a gay or lesbian couple from having children either. . .

Third, lifting the ban on gay marriages would help stem the spread of AIDS. One major problem with AIDS in the gay community is that gays often have a larger number of sexual partners than straight people. They tend to switch sexual partners more frequently because there is almost nothing in our society to encourage them to stay together. Gay marriage would provide this encouragement.

We are the only party which allows people to work toward reducing the size and influence of government without having to join forces with the bigoted Religious Wrong. That's why I applaud Mr. Tompkins' support for gay marriage. . .

I have already written my state legislators as part of my effort to prevent New Jersey from banning gay marriages. If your state is attempting to do the same, please stand up and fight it. The Libertarian movement is based on giving people the freedom to live their lives their way. Let's help our nation's gays and lesbians achieve this goal.

Kenneth J. Powers
Aberdeen, NJ

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Statists hate the family because, together with churches and eleemosynary organizations, it is an important element of the voluntaristic "Social Power," which stands ever in contraposition to coercive "State Power."

In fact, the "little platoon" known as the family traditionally has engendered precisely those values which are characteristic of all truly free and independent people. We debase this venerable institution at our own risk.

Which is why the Libertarian Party's position on homosexual marriage, as stated in the July NEWS, is so dead wrong. The facts are these: Until forced to cave in due to political pressure, the psychiatric profession in America long recognized homosexuality as a psychological abnormality.

Lending any veneer of legitimacy to a "marital" union between those so afflicted can only serve to sully and trivialize the sacred institution of marriage—and of the family as well, since from ancient times marriage has been the West's usual rite of passage into formal family status.

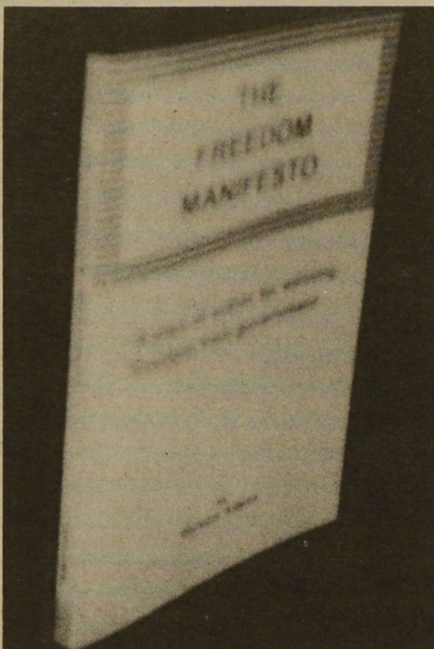
Has the homosexual lobby in this country weighed in on the side of limited constitutional government and private competitive enterprise? I think not. Do we, as advocates of "manly, ordered liberty" really wish to see debased an institution which has for so long stood as a bulwark of conforming to some two-dimensional, cartoon "libertarianism"? I dearly hope not.

Whatever one's opinion on this subject, the matter properly rests solely within the purview of the several states; the party's platform should state such, and nothing more.

Fred Godinez
San Diego, CA

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LP hails court decision overturning CDA

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals decision to strike down the Communications Decency Act (CDA) is "good news for freedom of speech in America, and good news for the future," the LP said recently.

"This decision will help keep meddling politicians away from a technology that most of them don't even understand," said Steve Dasbach, LP national chair.

A three-judge federal panel in Philadelphia ruled in mid-June that the Internet is the "most participatory form of mass com-

munication yet developed [and] deserves the highest protection against government intrusion." The judges also ruled that the CDA's prohibition of "indecent" material—punishable by a \$250,000 fine and two years in prison—was unconstitutionally broad and vague.

"This court decision striking down the CDA will, hopefully, create a zone of privacy around electronic communications that the government cannot breach," Dasbach said. "Since the Internet is one of

the most important technologies of today—and one of the most exciting mass communications media of tomorrow—this decision is good news for freedom of speech in America, and good news for the future."

The Libertarian Party opposed the CDA right from the start, calling it "censorship—an effort by politicians and bureaucrats to restrict the freedom of the electronic press and a clear violation of the First Amendment. Free speech is free speech, whether it is distributed via an 18th-century printing

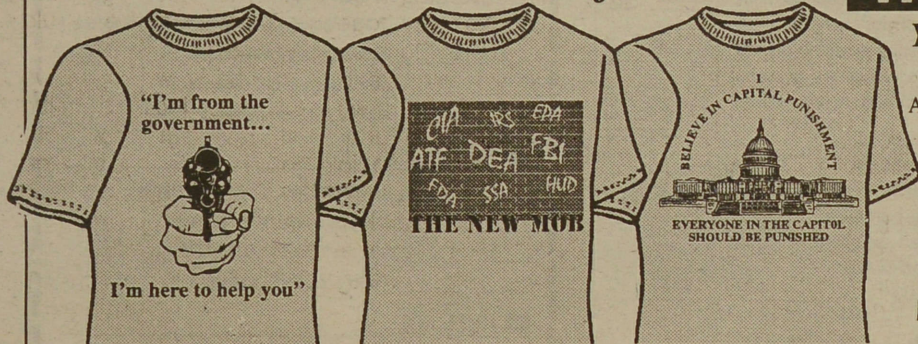
press or a 20th-century modem," Dasbach said.

The party also argued that the free market could deal with objectionable material more effectively than politicians could.

"The marketplace can remedy any concerns parents might have about indecent material being available to children. Large commercial services like America Online already offer parents a 'lock-out' service to keep such material away from children," Dasbach noted.

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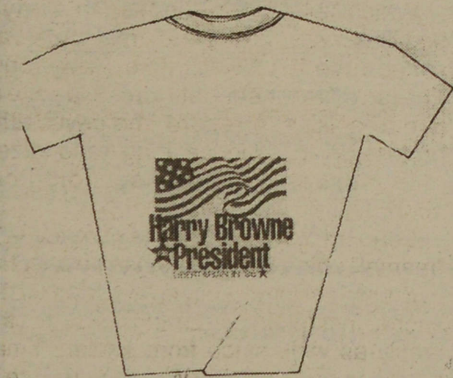
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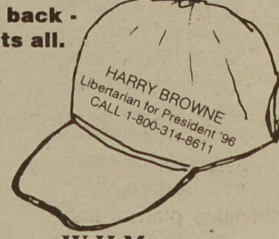


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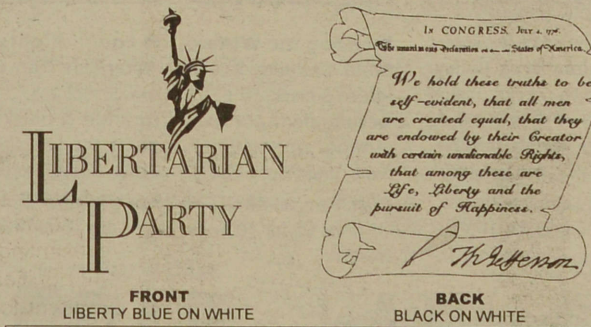


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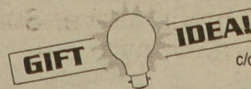
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Randy Langhenry, editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 19-24, 1996:

ISIL World Conference, Whistler Conference Centre, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada; for information call 604-224-4628. Speakers include Leon Louw, Frances Kendall, Ken Schoolland, and Jarret Wollstein.

Aug. 24, 1996:

Third Annual Liberty Fair, sponsored by Miami Valley (OH) LP, Enon Beach Campground, Dayton. For information call Mary Pacinda at 513-845-9980 and leave a short message.

Sept. 8, 1996:

Brass Roots Rally, Capitol Building,

Lansing, MI; for information call 810-399-8333 or 800-555-GUNS. Speakers include Harry Browne, Jon Coon, and Samuel Francis.

Oct. 13-19, 1996:

Liberty Week, sponsored by Libertarians of Macomb County, MI. Purpose is to encourage and promote Libertarian activities throughout the state; for information call Diane Barnes at 810-774-7611 or e-mail: freya13@aol.com

Oct. 19, 1996:

Maryland LP Convention, Columbia Hilton, Columbia; for information call 410-730-7117 or e-mail: AmyRule@aol.com

Oct. 19, 1996:

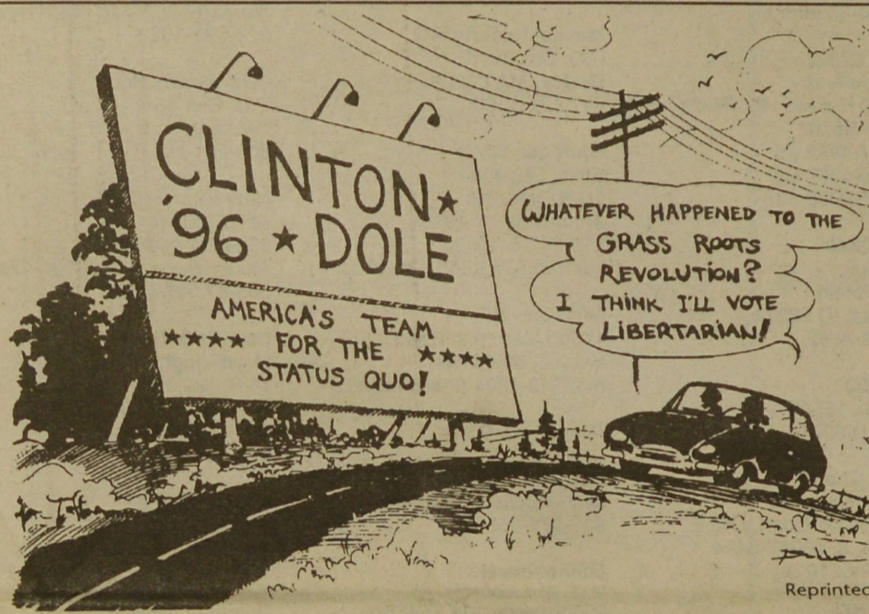
Liberty Fest Banquet, sponsored by Libertarians of Macomb County, MI; Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights, MI; for information call Diane Barnes at 810-774-7611 or e-mail: freya13@aol.com

Keynote speaker will be Harry Browne.

Nov. 24-26, 1996:

Separation of School & State Alliance conference, Washington, DC; for information call 209-292-1776. Speakers include Peter Breggin, John Taylor Gatto, Sheldon Richman, and Joseph Sobran.

Send upcoming event notices early to: Libertarian Party NEWS, P.O. Box 3391 Gainesville, GA 30503



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Harry and Jo

**Browne and Jorgensen
head up LP ticket for 1996**

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Dasbach re-elected

**Steve Dasbach gets second
term as LP national chair**

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Revisions

**Delegates at national convention
approve changes to LP platform**

Enlightened

COLMAN McCARTHY — columnist in the July 13, 1996, edition of *The Washington Post*:

“As they have a habit of doing every four years since 1972, Libertarians again have found a candidate of honed intelligence and decent moral purpose...”

Harry Browne, well spoken and not sponging on taxpayers, deserves a place at whichever forum hosts Clinton-Dole debates.

To keep out the Libertarian would be yielding to the might of the two main parties, twins in their zeal to pass state laws in limiting ballot access to third-party candidates. At the least, Browne's quickness of mind would raise TV ratings and keep the public from flicking to “Geraldo” reruns or more pundit analysis of low voter turnout.”