

# Committee to Nominate MacBride

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August 13, 1975

Dear Delegate:

We wrote you recently to ask your support in nominating Roger MacBride who is, we believe, "The Candidate They Can't Ignore." For those of you who have not yet made a decision, we think some further information about Roger's life and achievements will be helpful.

Roger was born on August 6, 1929. He was active in debating in high school and won an award for giving a speech by Leonard Read entitled "Pattern for Revolt."

About this time, Roger met the great libertarian philosopher Rose Wilder Lane. It was a profound experience for him and Rose Lane became the most important formative influence in his life. Through her Roger became familiar with the writings of Albert J. Nock, H. L. Mencken, Ayn Rand and other libertarian thinkers.

Roger attended Princeton, graduating with an AB degree in Political Science in 1951. At Princeton he created a furor in the Economics Department when an article he wrote refuting the Keynesian theory appeared in The Educational Reviewer. His senior thesis was later published with modification as his first book, THE AMERICAN ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

From Princeton, Roger went to Harvard Law School, graduating in 1954. This time his thesis concerned the controversial Bricker Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. As you know, the Bricker Amendment would have prohibited the President from signing foreign treaties without Congressional approval. Roger's thesis was published as TREATIES VERSUS THE CONSTITUTION, ultimately selling over 100,000 copies, a remarkable achievement for such a scholarly work. Upon graduation, Roger was awarded a Fullbright scholarship to study comparative constitutional law.

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After completing his studies Roger went to work for White & Case, a large New York City law firm and specialized in banking law. He was to become one of the recognized experts on bank holding companies in the U. S. During this period he developed a course in political technique for the Society for the Advancement of Management under a grant from the Richardson Foundation. He also created the structure for United Student Aid Funds, a private organization intended to be a free-market answer to government proposals to subsidize tuition costs.

Around 1957 Roger was asked to become a member of the Board of Directors of National Review. Roger accepted but resigned shortly thereafter. He made the decision almost twenty years ago that his libertarian outlook was not compatible with orthodox conservatism.

Around 1960 Roger moved to Vermont to practice law. He lived in Halifax and was elected to various town offices and then to the state legislature. While there, he introduced numerous bills to remove fat and muscle from state government. His vigorous efforts gained him the unforgiving enmity of the self-serving bureaucracy in Vermont. He later entered the Republican gubernatorial primary in 1964 and received 25% of the vote in a three-man race.

In 1968, Roger moved to Virginia where he presently operates Esmont Farm, about 15 miles south of Charlottesville. In the last few years he has edited three books: "The First Four Years" (an unpublished manuscript by Laura Ingalls Wilder), "The Lady and the Tycoon" (the best of correspondence between Rose Wilder Lane and Jasper Crane), and "West from Home" (letters of Laura Ingalls Wilder to her husband while on a visit to her daughter Rose in San Francisco in 1915). The latter has just been published by Harper & Row and already has sold over 50,000 copies. He is currently in partnership with Ed Friendly (creator of the TV show "Laugh-In") and is responsible for the production of the "Little House on the Prairie" T.V. series. He is also working on another show based on the early life of Rose Wilder Lane.

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In 1972, Roger was chosen as a presidential elector from Virginia. Instead of casting his ballot for Nixon and Agnew, Roger made a decision of conscience and cast it for John Hospers and Tonie Nathan, the candidates of the Libertarian Party. This act of principle insured the Libertarian Party a place in the history books. Since then, Roger MacBride has been extremely active in LP affairs, attending state party events, exposing many prominent Americans to libertarianism and actively supporting numerous Libertarian Party candidates.

If we are to make the 1976 Campaign the building block in construction of a libertarian society that it can be, we need, as a basic qualification, a "pure" libertarian candidate, one who stands for liberty in areas from life-style to economics, from a non-interventionist foreign policy to the abolition of laws against victimless crimes.

We believe that Roger and the other announced candidates meet this basic requirement. But, in our opinion, only Roger has the stature to attract the attention of the media and the public. Only Roger can keep this attention and maintain the respect of the media and the public by communicating our ideas in a rational, imaginative manner and relating them to the life of the individual. Only Roger can mount and sustain the fourteen month campaign we need to make a lasting impression on the public. And only Roger has a record of achievement which demonstrates the stamina, the intellectual agility and the practical experience to do all this. This record shows Roger to be a long-time activist, a person who has never dropped out, a person who has continually risen to higher and broader achievements in the field of communications and ideas.

For these reasons we urge you to join us in nominating "The Candidate They Can't Ignore."

Cordially,

  
Fran Youngstein  
Co-Chairperson

  
Edward E. Clark  
Co-Chairperson

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