



# Alabama Liberty

The Newsletter Of The Alabama Libertarian Party  
Volume 10, #3 - October 1991 - "Life, Liberty and Property"

## Libertarian Wants To Be Birmingham Mayor

Dr. James Blake, Chairman of the Alabama Libertarian Party for the past two years, is a candidate for the office of Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama. The election is to be held October 8, 1991. Dr. Blake is a family practitioner at his Hoover Family Medicine clinic. He is focusing his campaign on the following issues:

Elimination of the city sales tax on groceries. Dr. Blake said that the two percent sales tax hurts low income families and should be discontinued immediately. He would propose a ten percent cut in each city department to make up for the loss of income.

Privatization of public housing, the city zoo, the dog racing track, city museums and the airport.

For school choice, Dr. Blake proposes a plan which would allow a student to attend the school of his or her preference. His proposal calls for 75 percent of the money the school system spends per pupil to be "attached" to that student. Parents would decide where their child, and therefore school funds, would be sent, forcing schools to compete for students on the basis of excellence.

Decreasing property taxes and the city occupational payroll tax.

Dr. Blake has been on several radio talk shows in the Birmingham area since announcing his candidacy September 16th. At a cost of \$6000, he placed an insert in the Friday, September 20th, edition of the "Birmingham News" to promote his candidacy. Dr. Blake has said that he is the "number 3 candidate in a field of 6", and that he "actually has a good chance of winning this election." He says that the newspaper and radio coverage of his candidacy have forced the other candidates on the defensive, and now they are compelled to respond to the issues that he has raised in his campaign.

Campaign contributors and volunteers are urged to contact his staff at:

Blake for Mayor  
2845 Stratford Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213  
(205) 933-0033

## Huntsville Supper Club

The North Alabama Libertarian Supper Club holds its monthly dinner meeting on the last Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Shoney's restaurant, 3301 Memorial Parkway SW (across from Joe Davis stadium, near Parkway City Mall) in Huntsville. Please join us! For more information, contact Alan Barksdale at (205) 830-6601.

## Montgomery Libertarians And Advocates For Better Government

The September 10th Montgomery Libertarian Party meeting evolved into a great kickoff meeting for the Advocates For Better Government, a political action committee (PAC) which registered with the state on August 13, 1991. Sixty people packed into the meeting room to hear from a variety of speakers and local city council and mayoral candidates.

Jimmy Blake, Alabama Libertarian Party state chairman, was the lead speaker and gave an enthusiastic presentation on libertarian values and goals. Faye Baggiano, the 1990 Democratic 2nd Congressional District candidate, also spoke to the group. She addressed problems with our current congressman, Bill Dickinson, and her possible plans to run again for Congress. Another featured speaker was Lee Rolf from Jack Gargan's organization, THRO, or Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out, who spoke on the need to vote out incumbent professional politicians.

The candidates for upcoming local elections were introduced to the meeting. Among them were Montgomery City Council candidates John Martin (District 1) and Mary Thompson (District 2) and mayoral candidates Mike Mayer and John Wilson. Jerry Knutson of the Taxpayer's Defense Force was another of those who addressed the group.

There will be a clear separation of the Advocates for Better Government and the Montgomery Libertarian Party. Advocates will meet monthly on the first Monday. The Libertarians will meet monthly on the second Monday at the Sundown East Oyster Restaurant on the Atlanta Highway. Check the Bulletin Board for additional information or call 240-8210. The next Libertarian Party meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 6:00pm.

## ...Do You Remember?

"The Congress will push me to raise taxes, and I'll say no. And they'll push, and I'll say no, and they'll push me again. And I'll say to them:

*'Read my lips... No new taxes.'*" George Bush, nomination acceptance speech, August 18, 1988



# Bank O' The House

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- What a great little bank the House of Representatives runs for its members. Situated on the ground floor of the Capitol, it looks like a bank, feels like a bank and has the antiseptic ambience of a bank. But this little bank bears no resemblance to any other such institution in the way it treats its customers and their money -- or lack of it.

Last week, a General Accounting Office report disclosed that the honorables bounced checks like crazy at the bank last year. No, not just a handful of members who can't balance their own checkbooks any better than they do the federal budget. Not even just a bunch of congressmen who might feel that if the country can live with a deficit, why can't they.

In fact, a total of 4,325 checks bounced in the first half of 1990 because the members did not have enough money in their accounts. Twenty-four wrote bad checks at least once a month. And this wasn't all penny-ante stuff. GAO said that 134 House members wrote 581 checks for at least \$1,000 that were no good.

Now this little bank, unlike the ones used by common folks, is very, very understanding of these little mistakes. After all, everyone who works there is employed by the House of Representatives. What the bank does for the bosses is make the checks good and then send a note to the miscreants to put some money in their accounts. GAO found that the response is not always swift. The GAO said the average elapsed time for members who wrote bad checks for \$1,000 or more and the time they were made good was seven days. But some took a more leisurely four weeks.

Does this nice little bank in the Capitol ever get angry and crack down on these loose check writers? Apparently not. Unlike every commercial bank, this one does not impose a fine for writing bad checks. Nor has it ever suspended an account. These loose banking practices were first exposed in an earlier GAO report and new cash-checking procedures went into effect in 1989. But they proved to be ineffective. In the six months before the new procedures, 4,006 checks were rubber quality and in the six months after the new procedures, 4,325 proved worthless.

Before anyone who deals with a bank in the real world gets angry at this one more perk granted members of Congress, there is, according to the House Sergeant of Arms, Jack Russ, a solid reason why the new procedures failed to work. Russ, whose duties include being head of the bank, told Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, that the reason so many checks bounced is that the salaries of the members has failed to keep up with inflation.

That would be a little hard to explain to most people since congressmen were making \$96,000 a year in early 1990. Russ insisted that the problem has now been "pretty much eliminated" since members have raised their pay to \$125,000. How can members of Congress be expected to deal with the problems in the real world when they live in fantasyland?

# Presidential Campaign Update

The following article is from the October issue of APC NEWS, published monthly by the Libertarian Party's Affiliate Parties Committee:

LP presidential candidate Andre Marrou and vice presidential candidate Dr. Nancy Lord have announced plans to run a unified campaign. "We expect the unified campaign to save \$50,000 to \$100,000, verses the cost of running them separately," remarked Marrou Chief of Staff Michael Emerling. "That will pay for a lot of petition signatures or TV commercials." Marrou's Las Vegas office will handle scheduling and fundraising for both candidates.

Marrou made his first swing through New Hampshire September 19-20 and has committed to campaign at least 28 days in New Hampshire prior to the February primary. Marrou plans to campaign full-time from mid-November and Lord plans to campaign full-time from January through the November election.

For information on the Marrou/Lord campaign, contact:

**Marrou/Lord**  
5143 Blanton Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89122  
(702) 435-3218

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## Your Representatives

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1) H.L. (Sonny) Callahan       | Phone 202/225-4931<br>Fax 202/225-0562 |
| 2) William L. (Bill) Dickinson | Phone 202/225-2901                     |
| 3) Glen Browder                | Phone 202/225-3261<br>Fax 202/225-9020 |
| 4) Thomas (Tom) Beville        | Phone 202/225-4876                     |
| 5) Robert E. (Bud) Cramer      | Phone 202/225-4801                     |
| 6) Benjamin (Ben) Erdreich     | Phone 202/225-4921<br>Fax 202/225-1751 |
| 7) Claude Harris               | Phone 202/225-2665<br>Fax 202/225-0175 |

## Your Senators

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Jr) Richard C. Shelby | Phone 202/224-5744<br>Fax 202/224-3416 |
| Sr) Howell T. Heflin  | Phone 202/224-4124<br>Fax 202/224-3149 |



# PRIVATIZATION

(...all that glitters is not gold)

## Part Two

By Rod Templeton  
District Three Representative

The last time I pointed out that privatizing a government function not only saves the tax payer money, but increases the quality of service. This occurs because the approach of government is opposite the aim of private enterprise:

A. The government attempts to  
"grow" the size of its departments.

...while...

B. The private sector strives to  
reduce overhead, increase buyer  
satisfaction and generate profits.

The people who run a government bureau want their department to grow in every way possible. They want to hire as many employees as they can get away with. They want to increase the amount of departmental equipment well beyond their needs. They want to expand their authority within and outside their department. Each year they want to increase their annual budget. In short, a government service insures its survival by its massive size and unending growth. All we get is a higher tax and more indifference to its patrons.

On the other hand, private enterprise knows that satisfied customers and cost control insures its success. This is their motivation. They are always looking for a better way to do the job, a better way to please the customer, a better way to cut operational costs. We get less tax and better service. This is why we say that government and private enterprise approach the same service from opposite directions.

It is also important to tell you that privatization crosses over the usual political distinctions. Liberals and conservatives, democrats and republicans or the left wing and the right wing all like privatization. Even liberals like this idea. When Mayor Arrington is willing to

privatize the Birmingham zoo, that is proof positive. Although, watch out for the reasons.

At first glance it appears that privatization of government services is a "win-win" condition. Better quality with less cost is good. A problem occurs when the government adjusts its budget after privatizing a service. There is an old saying; "government spending will rise to the level of its income (taxation)". Give them more money and they will give you more programs (more spending).

The trouble lies with a dull voting public. If the voters are not watching the budget figures closely, our governments will try to "pull the wool" over us. They will rid themselves of a service and keep the tax for that service coming in. Like the breakfast cereal ad that says: "Keep the muscle (the tax revenue) lose the fat (the service)."

Here is the tip off. Listen for one main "buzz word", **PARTNERSHIP**. Our governments love to talk about a partnership with private enterprise which will help the short fall in their budgets. If you listen closely, the government never suggests that privatizing will reduce your taxes. Only that this new "partnership" with private enterprise will provide the voter with better and less costly service.

If government doesn't "holler and put up a fuss" about losing one of its departments, then they see the privatizing as a plus. This means a way to pawn off the service while keeping their income at the old level of spending.

We should always insist any service that is privatized be followed by an equal reduction in taxes. If we get the proper reductions in taxes, then privatization **WILL** be a "win-win" position. This is the direction that the Libertarians in Alabama can approach their local government. It is a practical and proven solution to the cost of government. However, *let's make sure the tax savings end up in our pockets.*

Please contribute to *Alabama Liberty*. Send your articles, party news, political news or the latest scandals to: *Alabama Liberty*  
PO Box 231072  
Montgomery, Al 36123-1072  
Alabama Libertarian Party - 205/933-1776  
Also CompuServe 76525,3011 or MCI:MundaySoftware



## Membership/Pledge Form

### Make Your Selection:

- Join The Libertarian Party:** Annual Dues \$25.00. This includes the Alabama Liberty and the National Libertarian Party Newsletter.
- Pledge:** I will make a monthly pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. My payment method is selected below.
- Subscription Only:** I cannot join right now, but please keep me informed by sending Alabama Liberty, the state newsletter for the annual subscription rate of \$10. My payment method is selected below.

Also:  As a full-time student, my state membership is \$5, national membership is \$15.  
 Please send me more information on libertarianism!  
 I will help organize my local area or do whatever else is needed.

**Payment Method:**  My Check or Money Order is Enclosed Bill my  Visa  MasterCard

Please Print:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cong District \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

The Federal Election Commission Requires Us To Ask. You Do Not Have To Answer.

**Membership Agreement (Members Only)** Through my membership in the Libertarian Party, I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this to the Alabama Libertarian Party PO Box 11514 Birmingham, AL 35202

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