



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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JULY 1991

Convention Organizers Release Preview Of Speakers, Workshops, Scheduled Events

Columnist Joseph Sobran and philanthropist Richard Dennis will discuss their journeys from conservative to libertarian and from liberal to libertarian, respectively, in what is sure to be among the highlights of the LP's 1991 national convention, to be held August 29-September 1 in Chicago.

Sobran writes a nationally-syndicated weekly column, which has exhibited increasingly-libertarian views in recent months. His strong stand against U.S. involvement in the Gulf War pointed out the growing distance between himself and the conservative movement and won him new respect from libertarians.

Dennis, philanthropist and former commodities broker, has been a major contributor to several libertarian causes, including drug legalization.

These speakers should be of particular interest to C-SPAN viewers.

A number of other prominent speakers are lined up for the convention, including Karl Hess, Nadine Strossen, Mark Skousen, Jim Tobin, Michael Grossberg, David Nolan, Joe Bast, Nick Youngers, Carol Ann Rand, Dan Polsby, Red Beckman, Lou Schimmel, and Jarret Wollstein.

Panels or workshops are planned on the

issues of education, initiatives, party building, Fully Informed Jury Amendment, privatization, drug legalization, campus activism, ballot access, fundraising, and cable television.

Convention business highlights include presidential nominations at 1pm Saturday, National Committee meetings on Wednesday

(prior to official opening of convention) and Sunday (with the newly-elected NatCom), and meetings of the Platform Committee Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the convention. A debate of the presidential candidates will be held

**IF YOU CAN'T BE
WITH US IN CHICAGO,
DON'T FORGET TO
WATCH THE COMPLETE
COVERAGE ON
C-SPAN—AND
BRING A FRIEND!**

Friday at 4:30pm.

Many special events are also planned. Thursday night offers a "Taste of Chicago," featuring Chicago-style pizza, hot dogs, and the Second City Touring Company. Two Chicago tours will be offered Friday night, each stopping at the Lakefront Jazz Festival. The Presidential Banquet will highlight Saturday night, and those still around on Sunday night are invited to the Diehard Libertarian Dinner.

For more information on the convention, call (708) 475-0391.

Note: All speakers and events are subject to change.

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POINT OF VIEW/RICHARD SINCERE

Submitted by

Lift the sanctions

And help South Africa lay the groundwork for rational reform

WASHINGTON
Just over four years ago, Congress passed the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act over President Reagan's veto. This legislation imposed severe economic sanctions against South Africa, mandating that until four of five specified criteria were met, these restrictions must remain in place.

Just over one year ago, South African President F.W. De Klerk surprised the world by releasing long-imprisoned anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela and legalizing Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and other organizations that had been banned for 30 years or more. This act of statesmanship resulted in one of the most tumultuous years in South African history.

De Klerk is committed to a process of desegregation leading to a new South Africa characterized by representation of all races in the government. For the past year he has engaged in negotiations with Mandela and other black leaders — "talks about talks," preparing for the nuts-and-bolts bargaining on fundamental constitutional issues.

De Klerk's predecessor, P.W. Botha, removed the shell from apartheid: Under his leadership, Parliament repealed laws against mixed marriages and interracial sex, laws prohibiting blacks from owning property and operating businesses, laws forbidding black labor unions, laws requiring blacks to carry identity documents wherever they went.

De Klerk has gone much further, working to remove the underlying structures of apartheid. He has just proposed legislation, almost certain to be passed, that would repeal the remaining pillars of apartheid: the Group Areas Act, which segregates neighborhoods according to race; the Population Registration Act, which defines South Africans at birth by their racial characteristics; and the Land Act, which since 1913 has prohibited blacks from owning real estate in most of South Africa's territory.

De Klerk's unbanning of opposition movements and freeing of imprisoned black leaders has unleashed a political ferment unequalled in South African history. In living rooms, classrooms, shop floors and taverns, conversation revolves around new constitutional structures and the merits of federal vs. unitary systems.

Unfortunately, the intellectually stimulating political and philosophical debates are accompanied by unprecedented violence. In Natal and the townships around Johannesburg, rival black political factions are killing each other at sorry rates that promise to turn South Africa into a new Lebanon; the violent deaths in 1990 alone exceeded those of Northern Ireland since 1969.

President Bush speaks regularly to De Klerk by telephone, and urges him to do his best to end this agonizing violence. Exhortations, however, are not enough. Bush must offer some concrete assistance.

One way the United States can contribute to peace in South Africa is to end the economic sanctions imposed in 1986. Be-



SOOBHEN/Daily News, Durban, South Africa

cause these sanctions have contributed to black unemployment, hunger and homelessness, they have exacerbated political tensions. Sanctions have stimulated pointless violence and fomented revolutionary activities that tend to stymie authentic political reforms.

The 1986 U.S. law says that the president can lift the sanctions when four of these five criteria are met: repeal the ban the ANC and other opposition groups (done); end the state of emergency (done); repeal the Group Areas Act (done by May); repeal the Population Registration Act (done in part); and release all political prisoners. Only this last issue, the subject of prickly

negotiations between De Klerk and Mandela, remains unresolved.

The time has come to end the sanctions. An end to American economic isolation of South Africa could have a calming effect that will help South Africans lay the groundwork for their common future rationally and deliberately. Cool heads should be allowed to prevail.

Richard Sincere is author of "Sowing the Seeds of Free Enterprise: The Politics of U.S. Economic Aid in Africa," published in 1990 by the International Freedom Foundation.

The Union Leader

NH Libertarians Draw Up Battle Plans

WINDHAM — The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire has drawn up some battle plans and has drawn up a "hit list" of legislative bills it will target for defeat or passage.

According to this month's edition of Libertarian Lines newsletter, the party plans to work to defeat bills seeking a 6 percent income tax and a 3 percent sales tax, as well as a bill that would require mandatory automobile insurance.

The group said it plans to support a bill that would repeal last year's tax increases for tobacco, beer, rooms and meals, communications and real estate transfers.

It also plans to support a bill to establish "Enterprise Zones" in areas of high unemployment by lowering the business profits tax in those areas, and another that would privatize state liquor stores, the newsletter said.

Submitted by Jim McClarin

Submitted by Dick Rider

Friday, March 29, 1991

The San Diego Union B-11

Another View

Rice paddies in the desert, folks; just blame it on the politicians

By John Dentinger

California is at last experiencing that great natural phenomenon — water from the sky — known to the rest of the country as rain. But politicians and journalists are experiencing water from the eye. The chance to sell more papers and more government is washing away. It is as if we just averted a collision in traffic and had to listen to the lawyer and the undertaker on the curb, cursing out loud.

A New York Times reporter managed to find a dark cloud in these dark clouds, and scared up someone (a politician — who else?) to complain about the torrential rains. "From the point of view of water policy and planning, it's a disaster. It allows people to avoid the difficult questions."

There is something to this: The drought was created not by nature, but by politicians. They continued during the dry years to dole out subsidized water — at 3 percent of urban prices — to be wasted growing overly water-intensive crops which the federal government itself considers surplus, like alfalfa, cotton and rice.

Rice paddies in the desert, folks — nature didn't do that. The market didn't. Politicians did. What they wasted was enough for decades of unsubsidized use for the whole state. The drought at least dried up the muddy waters concealing this monumental waste and ripoff.

Then the rains came. Now politicians are steamed. A whole artery of life — water use — that was under their thumb, threatens to escape into control by market forces. In a free market, when an item — almonds, say — becomes scarce, the price goes up and most people consume less. Those who don't consume fewer almonds must cut back consumption of something: clothes, gas, maybe even newspapers.

But in the case of water, many California cities have tried to make these decisions by politics instead of economics. Achtung! Turn in car washers anonymously! No lawn watering during the day! (Now they want to arrest the sky.)

Dentinger is a Los Angeles-based writer.



Marin County pretends to be more flexible. Water department spokesman Jules Tham deadpans, "If someone doesn't care about showering and wants to save his roses instead, that's fine with us. You have to let people make choices." Well, "Your money or your life" is a choice, too. It never occurs to Mr. Free Choice to allow us the choice to spend more money on water and less on other items. Like taxes.

After all, "War is the health of the state," and the War on Drought is a juicy example. The people are stirred into war hysteria, which is the state in which everyone is too intimidated to admit that what everyone is doing is stupid.

The Drought Czar gets to build empires out of scarcity, to muscle in, as the personification of Big Brother, on the laws of us who pay his salary, to shove his way into our kitchens, our laundry rooms. Even our bathrooms are not safe from his smug coercions.

Shoot casual shower users! Dare to keep kids off toilets!

To the economic irrationality of government's War on Drought has been added — as in all wars — outrages on civil liberties. San Diego — after the fashion of the daily "Five Minute Hate" of 1984 — has released the names of the city's top 100 water users. After the government had monopolized this commodity, it used a perverted reading of the state's open records law to publicize people's private business.

Heck, why not release for publication people's county hospital medical records, or kiddies' public school grades and conduct reports? For that matter, why not release the names and addresses of water bureaucrats, with photographs of their children and the routes they take to school? That's what their "Top 100" list was intended to do — intimidate their victims.

And that's what water politics is all about: intimidating us into giving up our free choices, even our privacy, by holding over us a crisis created not in cloud-ry skies but in smoke-filled rooms. Power is a commodity too, and politicians are swimming in it while we can't even shower. Maybe it's time we cut their water off!

IRS insists new parents take a number to stop tax cheats

By Dwight E.M. Angell
THE DETROIT NEWS

The long arm of Uncle Sam is reaching into America's nurseries to make sure newborns are properly registered in government data banks.

Since January, federal law says babies must have an eight-digit Social Security number before their first birthday. Metro Detroit hospitals are helping parents comply.

Furious civil libertarians long for the days when a Social Security number was a bureaucratic rite of passage left to first-time job-seekers.

"I felt it was strange getting a number for a 2-day-old who hard-

ly had opened her eyes," said Cheryl Schmitt of Livonia. Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn let she and her husband, Mark, apply for a Social Security card for their daughter, Brittany, 18 months ago.

"We joked about having to put out the kid early to get a job. I had no problem with it, but it was kind of weird."

In an effort to keep taxpayers from claiming nonexistent children as deductions, the Internal Revenue Service has steadily moved back the age requirement for Social Security registration. It was age 5 when the law first took effect in 1987.

"The first year we had this requirement, 7 million dependents

disappeared from the tax rolls," said Sarah Wreford, an IRS spokeswoman in Detroit.

Will the law change again, forcing obstetricians to make footprints on new Social Security cards for screaming newborns?

"It's not a requirement yet, but it wouldn't surprise me," Wreford said.

Penalties vary for not listing a child's Social Security number on tax returns, she said. In the first year of filing, taxpayers must say they have applied for one. The next year, the IRS sends out a warning letter and may fine a parent \$50. In the third year, there is a \$50 fine or the deduction may be disallowed.

Please see Number, 2B

Number: IRS IDs newborns

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The state gets involved by providing hospitals with birth certificates that include a box for parents to check off and automatically apply for a number. The state sends the information to the Social Security Administration.

Kathy and Ray Humphrys checked the box last October when their daughter, Blair, was born at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

"We checked the box because we knew we wanted to open a savings account for her and because it was more convenient for us than to apply for one," Kathy Humphrys said. "I felt comfortable with it and felt it

was convenient." Others believe there is more at stake than convenience. "Tagging a baby is a natural outcome of the invasive nature of the income tax," said Nick Dunbar, national director of the 10,000-member Libertarian Party.

David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a public policy organization in Washington, D.C., said, "It's a very Old World or science-fiction concept that everybody would have a number given to them by the government."

Social Security cards for tykes, he said, are just another example of "government getting bigger and trying to get into our lives every year."

THE DETROIT NEWS MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1991

Submitted by Virginia Cropsey

WYOMING EAGLE

CHEYENNE, WYOMING, TUESDAY May 28, 1991

The Libertarians Seek Ballot Spot

By KATHERINE WALSH
Staff Writer

The Wyoming Libertarian Party has begun the herculean task of getting on the 1992 election ballot — termed "the most restricted ballot access in the United States of America and quickly the world," by a Cheyenne Libertarian.

Craig McCune went up against Craig Thomas and John Vinich two years ago to fill the congressional vacancy left when Dick Cheney resigned to become secretary of defense. McCune came in third in the April 26, 1989, race.

These days, McCune is attempting to get the Libertarian Party back on the ballot in Wyoming with a signature drive that began in Cheyenne and Laramie and is spreading statewide.

McCune turned in 2,277 signatures to the secretary of state a week ago — about a fourth of the 8,000 "qualified signatures" — which with the regulations, means we'll have to turn in about 12,000-13,000 signatures," McCune said.

The former candidate was harsh in his assessment of gaining ballot access in the state. "This is the most restrictive ballot access in the United States of America and quickly the world," McCune said. "It's nine times easier to get on the ballot in Moscow than it is to get on here. Our Legislature knows it and they think that's desirable."

McCune noted the national average for being placed on a ballot is four-tenths of a percent of the electorate. However, Wyoming's 8,000-signature requirement translates into approximately 3.5 percent of the electorate.

Libertarians have been on the ballot off and on in the state since 1980, and have not missed a presidential election ballot yet. However, the party must continue to struggle to stay on the ballot through petition drives.

McCune had supported a change in the election code that would have reduced the number of petitioners to 800-1,000, which was turned down by the Legislature. "They don't want to lose the current balance of power," he noted.

However, changes in the election code have allowed the Libertarians to act as a "minor party," which gives the party a little more freedom because it does not have to participate in the primary, McCune noted.

The drive began a few weeks ago in Cheyenne, and will be focusing its attention this week and in those following to the state's more urban areas. "We pretty well have to concentrate on the major cities and work later to pick up the outlying areas for the remainder" of signatures, McCune said.

McCune emphasized the ballot petition is not a declaration of support for the Libertarian party nor is it considered an open door for the Libertarians to attempt conversion.

"This not a party registration, and signers are under no obligation to vote for a candidate, support a candidate, and they will receive no literature in the mail," McCune said. "This is purely for the secretary of state and to promote free elections."

McCune said the Libertarians are seeking the ballot to put presidential and vice presidential candidates on the ticket.

McCune's own plans are not formed, although he has been urged to run for the state House.

"It really is a very expensive time-consuming process, but I haven't made a decision," McCune explained. "Of course, ballot access is the primary determining factor."

Registered Wyoming voters wishing the sign the petition may contact McCune at 638-9265 or by writing the state party at P.O. Box 1972, Casper, 82602.

Submitted by Ken Zollner

Cops hold onto package of 'sterilized' marijuana seeds

By Hunter Bishop
Tribune-Herald

A pair of Big Island hemp advocates are currently under police investigation for importing what they claim are sterilized marijuana seeds.

Police seized a package containing 25 pounds of the seeds at the Hilo Federal Express Office last week after drug-sniffing dogs told investigators that an illegal substance was inside a parcel addressed to the two suspects.

Aaron Anderson, 53, the Libertarian party candidate for Hawaii County mayor in November, and Roger Christie, 41, for several years a local public advocate of easing marijuana laws in Hilo, had ordered the seeds from a North Dakota firm.

Both men were questioned and released by police without being arrested or charged.

Hawaii County police acknowledged that an investigation was under way but provided few details.

Vice unit Lt. Charles Chai said importing sterilized, non-fertile marijuana seeds is not a crime. However the trained drug-sniffing dogs would not "alert" to a parcel that contained only the sterilized seeds, he said.

Police believe that at least some of the seeds can be germinated to marijuana plant seedlings or that perhaps another illegal substance was inside the container, Chai said. Police are now trying to germinate the seeds to evaluate whether charges should be filed.

Anderson said police officials

told him on Tuesday that they have a three-inch sprout already but he's skeptical, wondering how it could have grown that large so fast. "If they're going to do a science project they ought to do it scientifically," he said.

Anderson and Christie said they were planning to use the \$75 package of seeds for a demonstration of hemp's potential at the Mayor's conference on agriculture this week. They were also planning to use them to make hemp tofu, tahini and other dishes to feed the homeless, Christie said. The products made from seeds would not get anyone high, he added.

The pair of budding entrepreneurs say hemp, the fibrous product of the stalks of the marijuana plant, and the plant's seeds, are valuable for a variety

of uses, including food, fuel, medicine and for manufacturing clothing and paper. They'd like to see hemp developed as a diversified crop on the Big Island.

Christie said orders for hundreds of pounds of seeds should be on the way to the Big Island. "There's a lot more of this stuff on the way," he said. "We're pioneer commercial promoters of hemp. It's the future of the Big Island."

Historically, hemp has been used for everything from the canvas sails that brought Columbus to the New World to the paper on which the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, but marijuana advocates claim it was outlawed in the U.S. in 1937 when powerful commercial wood pulp producers felt threatened by new technology that made hemp harvesting cheap and efficient.

A 1942 film entitled "Hemp For Victory," produced by the U.S. Agriculture Department, urged farmers to grow hemp to replace

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the fibers used to make much-needed rope and other products that were no longer available from Asia. The U.S.-based firm Kimberly-Clark Corp. has acknowledged that it currently harvests hemp in France to make paper for bibles and cigarettes, according to a feature story on hemp recently published in the Wall Street Journal.

Christie and Anderson make no

bones about also wanting to make the psycho-active parts of the marijuana plant — its flowers and leaves — legal for personal consumption.

But that won't be easy when efforts to stem drug use and production are increasing in Hawaii and most states. In Alaska last year voters decided to recriminalize the possession of marijuana in small amounts for

personal use. In Hawaii, a concentrated effort by federal, state and county law enforcement agencies have substantially cut the number of marijuana plants that are found and destroyed on eradication missions.

Mayor Lorraine Inouye said she wasn't aware of plans to exhibit hemp seeds at the agriculture conference and said that hemp has no place in her plan to develop diversified agriculture

on the Big Island.

Christie wears clothing made of 55 percent hemp fiber and presented a denim shirt made from hemp to Gov. John Waihee on Tuesday in Hilo. "You can smoke it?" asked a surprised Waihee. Told the shirt contains little or none of the marijuana's active ingredient, he added, "I don't think it will change my mind" about marijuana.

↑ submitted by Roger Christie

Let's hear more about third-party candidates

ONCE AGAIN it is election season and time for candidates to sharpen their political and economic skills to compete to become the next president of the United States. Yet again we are confronted with the same boring and traditional solutions to traditional problems by our two dictatorial political parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

We practically never hear from other political parties who always run members for president. These other political parties, like the Libertarians, Independents, New Alliance, etc., may run candidates for president, but the media tend not to cover their platforms, strategies and criticisms of the two-party government.

Maybe the media never cover these parties because they are preoccupied and/or saturated with Democratic and Republican propaganda and membership and therefore biased in their reporting. The media simply service the major parties and no others. The media are slaves to these two powers that be, leaving the general public uninformed, ignorant and hopeless.

It seems that the nontraditional political parties are purposely kept out of the headlines and interviews, allowing the Democrats and Republicans to continue to control the state and its institutions, thereby creating a dictatorship of the two-party political system.

Other political candidates should be sought out by the media to allow them to express their ideas and solutions to our current problems. If and when this happens, the public will become truly informed. It should be the cornerstone of any democracy to allow every voice, no matter of what political persuasion, to be heard.

KENNETH L. VENZANT
ROANOKE

Roanoke Times & World-News

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1991

submitted
by
John Kell

Letters

Competition needed

Editor:

It seems some folks in Farmington are upset with the prospect of higher rates for garbage collection.

Since I live outside the city limits and am not yet forced to buy Waste Management's service, I have no opinion on the price or quality of their product.

However, I do have an opinion on free enterprise.

When the City Council "privatized" sanitation service in Farmington, they merely replaced a government owned monopoly with a government franchised and protected monopoly. The profit motive alone is not enough to maximize the benefits of the free market system. Competition is also needed.

Look at the current system. Don't like the service? Tough. Don't like the cost? Too bad. Want to make your own arrangements for your garbage? Sure, as long as you pay the monopoly, too.

Why not let all residents make their own decisions regarding who hauls their garbage? There are plenty of unemployed people with pickups and trucks who would welcome the opportunity of a free market. The competition would exert an upward pressure on quality and a downward pressure on prices.

Those who profit from the government protected monopoly will surely oppose a free market approach, but everyone else would benefit.

Are we Libertarians the only ones who still understand what free enterprise is really about and how it works?

Joseph Knight
Flora Vista

Submitted by ↑