

Libertarian NEWS

May-June, 1981

A Publication of the Libertarian National Committee

Tenth Anniversary Convention Combines Business, Celebration

The Libertarian Party will be ten years old this August. And in recognition of our tenth anniversary, this year's national convention is being held in Colorado, site of the Party's first national convention.

LP/10, as the convention has been designated, will take place at the Denver Hilton the last week in August. 1200 to 1500 libertarians are expected to attend, including more than 600 voting delegates who will take part in the official business of the convention.

Convention-related events will begin with meetings of the Platform Committee and the Constitution, By-Laws & Rules Committee, on Tuesday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 26.

Wednesday evening will feature an informal gathering with Murray Rothbard, one of the philosophical fountainheads of the libertarian movement; old-timers and newcomers alike will enjoy Murray's anecdotes about the "old days" and his comments on the achievements and prospects of the Libertarian Party. Following the get-together with Rothbard, the Society for Individual Liberty will host its traditional cocktail party.



Beautiful Denver, Colorado, the site of the 10th Anniversary Libertarian Party Convention.

Thursday, August 27

The convention will officially come to order at 10:00 am Thursday, following a breakfast speech by David Friedman. Kicking things off will be LP National Chair David Bergland, who will deliver the keynote address. His topic will be "Where Do We Go From Here?" Following Bergland's speech, there will be a Keynote Panel, further exploring the same topic.

Commencing at 2:00 pm Thursday, and continuing through midday Sunday, the voting delegates will

meet to conduct the official business of the convention. Among the more important orders of business will be consideration of proposed changes in the party's governing documents; other major items include platform revisions and election of party officers. The decisions made in Denver will greatly influence the future course of the Libertarian Party; be there to make your opinions known!

Running opposite the floor sessions will be a smorgasbord of speakers, panels, and workshops on almost every imaginable aspect of

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Gun Control — Denying Your Right to Self-Defense

by Jay Hilgartner

With the recent handgun shootings of prominent individuals, most notably John Lennon and Ronald Reagan, the cries from many quarters for some form of national handgun prohibition have reached a crescendo. Following the assassination attempt on President Reagan, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and hundreds of other publications all ran editorials denouncing the "freedom to purchase handguns" in America and calling for national legislation to ban "Saturday Night Specials."

Political cartoonists have placed responsibility for handgun murders on the "gun lobby," most

notably the National Rifle Association (NRA). Indeed, the NRA, a nationwide organization devoted to excellence in marksmanship and totally opposed to any form of handgun restrictions, seems to have fallen to

wealthy and influential liberal moguls is not going to go away. In fact, unless the terms of the debate are radically redefined, the movement for gun control is likely to grow stronger with every crime (non-governmental, of course) in which a handgun is involved. Gun control proponents have successfully made themselves out to be the moral progressives, while gun control opponents have been made to look like a small band of reactionary

The racist roots of gun laws in the U.S., the results of numerous studies on the efficacy of gun control in reducing violent crime, the civil liberties implications, and the moral implications all fall on the deaf ear of the gun control reactionary.

the same villainous status once enjoyed by the oil companies.

While the Reagan administration has restated its opposition to gun control, the anguished outcry from

crackpots. In truth it is exactly the opposite.

The issue of gun control embodies far more than denying the right of

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One of the important tasks of the Denver LP convention this summer will be to consider amendments to the national platform. I have had the privilege of being on the platform committee for the last three national conventions and this summer will be my fourth.

The LP platform is the heart and soul of the Libertarian Party. It is the living embodiment of the great truth that Libertarians are not in politics to get jobs, or votes, or political patronage. For other parties, the platform is an inchoate grab bag of whatever goodies can be extracted from the hapless taxpayer and used to pay off whatever pressure group can get a political foothold. Our platform, to the extent that we all honor it, is our pronouncement to the world that we are not just another set of would-be political hacks, that we are in politics to apply a consistent set of principles to all the political issues of the day. And, in fact, that we are unique because our principles require that we be in politics in order to get rid of politics, to get rid of political intervention in our lives and properties.

Our platform is the pledge and the commitment that we mean what we say. Not only that; it is a solemn contract and covenant that we make to ourselves and to the country: that these are our stands on political

The Importance of the LP Platform

by Murray N. Rothbard

issues because these are the positions that flow from our principles, and because we are, uniquely, The Party of Principle.

In the early days of the LP, there was a tendency to keep the platform short and confined to general expressions of abstract libertarian principle. There was nothing wrong with the principles; but the problem was that it left the applications to political issues vague and cloudy. The glory of our platform is that it not only enunciates general principles, but then performs the difficult and challenging task of applying these principles to specific, concrete political issues. It is here, in the applications, that controversy occurs within libertarian ranks, but such controversy is healthy and should not be shunned. It is through discussion, disagreement and debate that we all hammer out the applications of principles to concrete issues and that we achieve and have achieved a broad consensus on these issues in the Libertarian Party. Libertarians are, or should be, individualists, both because of the nature of our creed and the hard-fought struggle against conformity that brought

most of us to the libertarian position. So the last thing we should try to avoid is debate over political issues.

The effect of this continuing discussion is evident in the LP Platform. Each successive platform has been a marked improvement over the previous one. As discussion proceeds and consensus grows, as mistakes are discovered and corrected, and as changing times bring new issues to the fore, the platform committee and the LP conventions as a whole have brought growing maturity and depth of analysis of issues to the LP platform.

1981 will be an important year for the LP platform. Two years ago, we were all so caught up in the exciting Presidential race that there was no time to bring most suggested platform changes to the floor. This year, there will be sufficient time to examine the platform in depth. Every Libertarian should send in suggested platform changes to Sheldon Richman, Chairman of this year's committee. It is too early to know what the key issues will be in this year's platform debate, but two things come immediately to mind:

the children's rights plank is still in the same brusque and unsatisfactory form that passed at the last-minute from the floor in the 1977 convention; and abortion is now probably too hot an issue to remain, as it has been, soundly treated but discreetly buried inside a larger plank.

Strategically, too, a strong and up-to-date platform will play an important role in the years ahead. On economic issues at least, the 1980 election was a massive vote in favor of rolling back Big Government on a mighty scale. That vote has already been betrayed by the Reagan Administration, which, despite the propaganda, is in no sense cutting back the federal budget, taxes, or government regulation of the economy. Instead, it is only slowing down the *rate of increase* of Big Government in all these areas. This betrayal by the Reagan Administration provides us with a danger and an opportunity. The danger is that when the public wakes up to the fact that the Reagan administration has not done anything to reduce inflation or roll back Big Government, the liberal Democrats will say: "Well, we gave Reagan his chance: we tried *laissez-faire*, drastic budget and tax cuts and hard money, and they didn't work. So we have to go back to New Deal liberalism." The danger is that the public will get

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The LP Constitution & Bylaws

by Ben Olson

Defining the "Rules of the Game."

In 1975, I attended my first Libertarian Party National Convention. During the presidential and vice-presidential balloting, I became very irritated—in fact, angry—with the many state delegations that "passed" or changed their vote during the balloting. It seemed to me a lot of wheeling and dealing was going on, with the wheeler-dealers gaining advantages over delegations that forthrightly cast their votes. This, plus the large amount of time wasted, made me want to improve the rules in this area. Other people felt the same, and in 1979 we changed the rules so all delegations cast their votes simultaneously. We saved both time and hard feelings.

This example illustrates why I believe our Party rules are so important. Using game theory, any activity can be thought of as a game. The more complex the game, the greater the need for carefully constructed and fair rules. The rules determine the structure of the game being played. If you have bad rules, you play an unproductive game, and the players are frustrated and angry with the game, and each other. If you

have good rules, the game is satisfying and productive.

In the following sections, I'll discuss our current "game rules," some proposed changes, and the process we use for changing them.

What Are Our Current Rules?

The national LP derives its authority from the affiliated state parties through the delegates they send to national conventions. In a sense, you could say the delegates "own" the Party. The delegate allocation formula in our Constitution is based on membership in the national LP, per cent of the vote for our presidential candidate, and a basic allocation to assure that every affiliated party is represented.

Under our current rules, delegates to regular business conventions (held in odd-numbered years) have the following powers:

- (1) electing the National Committee (LNC), including officers, at-large members, and (in regional caucuses) regional representatives;
- (2) writing and amending the Party's operating rules (Constitution, Bylaws and Convention Rules);
- (3) writing and amending the Party Platform; and
- (4) nominating candidates for

President and Vice-President in appropriate years.

The Libertarian National Committee is charged with managing the Party between conventions, as the elected representatives of the delegates. The LNC meets several times a year to review national LP activities and finances and set policy. These LNC meetings are always well-attended by Party activists, and provide an opportunity for interested Party members to discuss and influence important decisions.

The Chairperson appoints the National Director (with the advice and consent of the LNC) and gives day-to-day guidance to the national headquarters staff, as well as presiding over conventions and LNC meetings.

The only real power the LNC has over affiliated parties is to charter them (by majority vote) or to suspend their affiliation (by two-thirds vote). No LNC has ever suspended a party's affiliation; if it ever did, the suspension could be appealed to the Judicial Committee.

Under our current rules, the LNC appoints the nine-member Judicial Committee, which may hear various appeals (suspensions of officers, at-

large LNC members, and presidential and vice-presidential candidates; affiliate party suspensions; and challenges to Platform Planks and Resolutions).

The LNC also has the authority to appoint members of three important convention committees: (1) the Platform Committee (ten members are named by the LNC and ten by the ten largest state parties); (2) the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules (CB&R) Committee (all ten members are named by the LNC and five by the five largest state parties).

What Are Some Proposed Areas for Change?

Reorganizing and condensing the rules: The current rules of the Party are contained in three documents: the Constitution, the Bylaws and the Convention Rules. As additions and changes have been made over the years, quite a bit of disorganization and duplication have crept in. For example, details about the Platform Committee appear in all three documents. Wasted time and lots of confusion are the results of this poor organization.

Current parliamentary practice (recommended by *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*) is to incorporate an organization's rules into a single document, called Bylaws. An LNC subcommittee has already worked on condensing and reorga-

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Mathers, Erwin Campaign for Seats in the U.S. Congress

Contrary to common perception, 1981 is an election year and libertarians are running for offices ranging from county commissioner to U.S. Congress. Topping the '81 campaigns are two libertarian candidates for U.S. Congress, Thomas P. Mathers of Maryland and Dr. Bette Erwin of Michigan.

Thomas Mathers, 32, an employee of the National Association of Securities Dealers, is running a highly professional campaign for Maryland's Fifth Congressional District seat (formerly held by Gladys Spellman) against Democrat Steny Hoyer and Republican Audrey Scott. The fifth District borders Washington, D.C. and has a large population (40%) of federal government employees.

Needless to say, Tom Mathers has a fight on his hands, particularly from the local politicians. Mathers had twice applied for, and was twice denied, a place on the ballot in the upcoming May 19 special election. The Administrator of the Maryland Board of Elections ruled that Mathers must gather 5500 signatures from District five voters *plus* another 10,000 signatures statewide to have the Libertarian Party affiliation follow his name. The Board of Elections required that this process be completed by March 17, only two and a half weeks after Maryland Governor Hughes set a date for the special election. These requirements arose from a highly subjective interpretation of the Maryland ballot laws and ignored support for Libertarians in Maryland exemplified by Maryland's 14,192 votes for Clark in 1980.

The Libertarian Party of Maryland, after gathering 7,700 signatures (thanks to the hard work of campaign manager Dean Ahmad, and other volunteers), took the



Thomas Mathers

could postpone the election to a later date. Noted Lee Williams, press secretary for the Mathers campaign, "A decision to appeal, throwing the election date back, would generate even more coverage of the Mathers campaign. Either way we win."

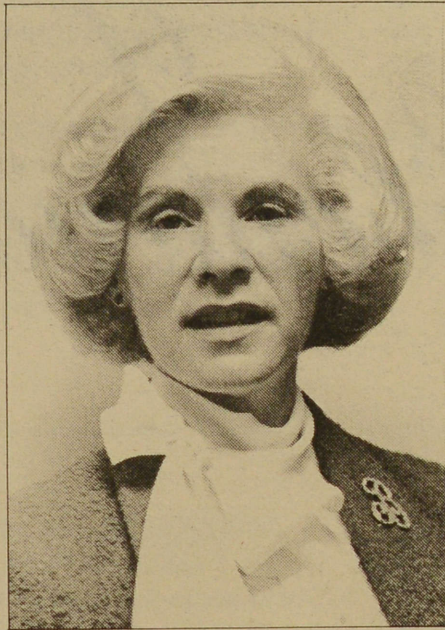
The judge's ruling lent the Mathers campaign instant visibility and precipitated immediate and widespread media attention on TV and radio, as well as next-day coverage in newspapers. Up to that point, Mathers had had difficulty in garnering the attention of the press because he had not been included on an official list of candidates prepared by the Maryland Board of Elections.

Mathers is stressing four major issues in his campaign: education and day care tax credits, tax cuts, and foreign policy. On El Salvador, Mathers, a Vietnam veteran, said "I don't think Vietnam was a noble cause. Nor would U.S. intervention in El Salvador be a noble act. It

"I don't think Vietnam was a noble cause. Nor would U.S. intervention in El Salvador be a noble act. It would be just one more immoral extension of U.S. military power abroad to drum up an excuse for more taxes and regulation at home."

Board of Elections to court and won. On April 18, Libertarian attorneys Robert J. Booze, Steve Fielder, and Paul Kunberger were handed a ruling from the U.S. District Court which virtually assured Mathers a place on the ballot. As this goes to press, the State of Maryland is appealing the ruling to a higher court. This appeal

would be just one more immoral extension of U.S. military power abroad to drum up an excuse for more taxes and regulations at home." On tax exemptions for day care centers, Mathers adds "my proposal would provide tax credits for individuals or corporations who contribute to day care centers for children, invalids, or the elderly. By



Dr. Bette Erwin

allowing the marketplace to provide day care, we will avoid the federal straightjacket of regulations which so often stifles new and innovative ideas."

Tom Mathers' fundraising team of Peggy and Bill Bobick and Janet Nelson are reaching out to Libertarians around the country for funds. As this goes to print, a strategy of telephone solicitations to District 5 voters and a radio blitz are in the works. Reflecting on his campaign, Mathers said "the viable candidacy of a Libertarian in the heartland of the government bureaucracy is a loud and clear message to the country that the people demand and will achieve final victory over the State."

Dr. Bette Erwin, Libertarian candidate for Congress from Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, is a professor of psychology at the Merrill-Palmer Institute and a practicing psycho-therapist. She is running for David Stockman's seat against "moral majority" Republican Mark Siljander and conservative Democrat Johnnie Rodebush.

The Michigan Fourth Congressional District is a long-time conservative stronghold. But the major campaign issues here could be a portent of things to come for the rest of the country. The "moral majority" coalition—with their advocacy of government "crackdowns" on homosexuality, prostitution, pornography, and other voluntary activities that they disagree with—is a tremendous factor in this election. "Questions involving the separation of church and state come up constantly during my campaigning," said Dr. Erwin.

The Erwin campaign strategy is to espouse free market principles while clearly differentiating libertarians

from conservatives on the issues of civil liberties, victimless crime laws, and foreign policy. "One issue that Republicans haven't been concerned with is civil liberties," said Erwin, "We believe that no one group has the right to impose its value system on another." Differentiating herself from her conservative opponents, Erwin said the current movement to ban abortion is "dead set" against libertarian principles.

Commenting on campaign strategy, Press Secretary Kathy Jacob said "we took everything we learned from the Clark campaign and applied it to the local level, in a largely rural district. The result, I think, given the time and money we had to work with, is a very effective campaign."

Indeed, press coverage of Dr. Erwin's campaign has extended all the way to the *Washington Post*. The South Bend (Indiana) *Tribune* reported that "also impressing the crowd at the League of Women Voters debates was Dr. Bette Erwin, who answered often difficult questions with intelligent answers. If anyone was prepared for the debate it was Dr. Erwin."

Fortunately, challenges to the LP's ballot status in Michigan is not a problem. After a grueling 1980 ballot drive, the Michigan LP won permanent ballot status for all partisan races.

Elsewhere around the country Libertarians are running for county commissioner, mayor, board of education, and many other posts. (For more details, see the Regional Reports).

(*Postscript*—Dr. Bette Erwin won nearly 2% of the vote, or twice that of any other Libertarian candidate in that district.)

FLASH!!!

Libertarian Elected to City Council

As we go to print, Libertarian Marshall Dannenberg, a computer engineer, has just won 49.6% of the vote in a four way, non-partisan, race for City Council of Elgin, South Carolina. This makes Dannenberg the first Libertarian elected to office in the Deep South.

*The Tenth Anniversary
Convention
of the
Libertarian Party*



LP/10

Here To Stay

*The Denver Hilton
August 26-30, 1981*

Libertarian Convention Committee
1041 Cherokee Street, Denver CO 80204
Phone (303) 573-5229

Convention Highlights

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by National Chairman David Bergland. Topic: "Where Do We Go From Here?"

BREAKFASTS with Ed Clark, David Friedman, David F. Nolan and Dick Randolph.

A GALA RECEPTION in honor of our past Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates.

A TRIP TO HISTORIC CENTRAL CITY, an Old West gold mining town once known as "the richest square mile on earth". Live entertainment; informal gatherings with Karl Hess and Robert Anton Wilson. Galt's Gulch was never like this!

AN EVENING WITH MURRAY ROTHBARD. A lighthearted get-together with the philosophical godfather of the Libertarian movement.

FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE: TWO PERSPECTIVES. Ron Paul and Earl Ravenal exchange views on what may well be the crucial issue of the 1980's.

SPEECH BY JOSEPH SUGARMAN, president of JS&A electronics, marketing genius, and anti-FTC crusader.

TENTH BIRTHDAY BANQUET. The event of the decade! A grand celebration featuring brief appearances by many of the people who have contributed most to the LP's growth and success. Live music, champagne, surprises!

OVER 25 SPEECHES, PANELS & WORKSHOPS, featuring such popular Libertarian speakers as Roy Childs, Bill Evers, Bob Poole, John Hospers, Tonie Nathan, Roger MacBride, Sharon Presley, Michael Emerling and Joan Kennedy Taylor.

BUSINESS SESSIONS, at which the future course of the party will be decided and new leadership chosen. In many ways, this will be the most important convention in the party's history!

Register now! Upon receiving your registration, we will send you a confirmation and information about hotel reservations.

Registration Information

Choose from four different event packages, each designed for a specific need and budget! The first price given is for registrations sent in prior to the 4th of July; the second is about 25% higher.

Admission to individual events is not available by pre-registration. Single-shot admissions to *some* events will be offered on-site at the convention, depending on availability.

FULL PACKAGE — \$180 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$225 AFTERWARD

As the name implies, this includes everything — the four Breakfasts, all evening events including the Tenth Anniversary Banquet, admission to all speeches, panels, and workshops — plus, of course, your registration material and access to the convention floor. This is definitely the first-cabin way to go; you get first crack at limited-admission events, and the freedom to change your plans at any time.

DELEGATE PACKAGE — \$150 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$185 AFTERWARD

Everything *except* access to the speakers and panels which run directly opposite floor proceedings. If you plan to spend your daytime hours on the floor, but want to do all the Fun Stuff in the evenings, this is the package for you. Includes the Breakfasts.

ECONOMY PACKAGE — \$120 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$150 AFTERWARD

Gets you onto the floor, into the daytime speeches, panels and workshops, and into all social/recreation events *except* the Banquet and the four Breakfasts. Most mileage for your money, but you miss one of the great Libertarian events of all time and four of the party's most popular speakers.

"BARE BONES" PACKAGE — \$80 PRIOR TO JULY 4th; \$100 AFTERWARD

Floor access, panels, workshops, daytime speakers, and the Thursday and Friday night movies at the Hilton. No frills, but you'll learn a lot.

TENTATIVE PRICES FOR SINGLE ITEMS.

Not available by pre-registration; neither availability nor price is guaranteed now.

REGISTRATION MATERIAL AND FLOOR ACCESS — \$25

DAYTIME PANELS, SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS — \$75 PKG, \$6 EACH

BREAKFASTS — \$40 PKG. OF FOUR, \$12 EACH

TENTH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET — \$50

EVENING IN CENTRAL CITY — \$20

EVENING WITH MURRAY ROTHBARD — \$10

PAST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RECEPTION — \$15

JOSEPH SUGARMAN — \$8

MOVIES — \$3 EACH

Enclosed is payment for _____ Convention Registrations, as indicated below. First price is for registrations sent before July 4th; use second price after July 4th.

FULL PACKAGES

@ \$180 (\$225) \$ _____

DELEGATE PACKAGES

@ \$150 (\$185) \$ _____

ECONOMY PACKAGES

@ \$120 (\$150) \$ _____

"BARE BONES" PACKAGES

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STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please charge to my MasterCard VISA

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Signature _____

If you are ordering more than one package, please list names of all registrants; attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LP/10.**

LP/10 Convention Committee
1041 Cherokee Street
Denver, Colorado 80204

Convention continued from pg. 1

libertarian theory and practice. These events will be of special interest and value to newer party members.

Among the topics to be addressed by daytime speakers and panels are the following: Foreign Policy & Defense; The Draft; The Environment; Resource Development; Libertarian Feminism; Gold, Paper & War; Lessons of 1980. Workshops will deal with the "nuts and bolts" of political organizing: petitioning, media relations, putting out a newsletter, building precinct organizations, and so forth.

Thursday evening there will be a bus trip to Central City, and Old West gold mining town in the mountains west of Denver. At one time the largest city in Colorado, Central City is now a world-famous tourist attraction boasting more bars and honky-tonks than any other town its size on earth! Special attractions will include gatherings with Karl Hess and Robert Anton Wilson; for sheer

all-out fun, this outing will be the high point of the convention. (Be sure to bring a sweater or jacket; night-time temperatures in the 40's are not uncommon in the mountains at that time of year.)

For those who choose not to go to Central City, there will be a showing of libertarian-oriented feature films at the Hilton.

Friday, August 28

Starting off a full schedule of events on Friday is a breakfast with Ed Clark, our 1980 presidential nominee. Ed will recount some of the highlights of his campaign, and offer his thoughts on the future of the party.

Ed's speech will be followed by a full day of convention business, paralleled with speeches, panels and workshops. Then, in the evening, there will be a speech by anti-FTC crusader Joseph Sugarman—who is perhaps the world's leading mail-order marketing expert. You've probably seen his ads for electronic marvels ranging from pocket calculators

to the Bone Fone; now, you can hear him in person!

Following Sugarman's address, we'll disperse to a gala reception in honor of our past presidential and vice-presidential candidates—each of whom will make some brief remarks, and be given a token of our appreciation for their great efforts in the cause of liberty. (For those not attending, there will be another special movie showing.)

Saturday, August 29

Saturday's breakfast speaker will be the dynamic Dick Randolph, Libertarian legislator from Alaska. Randolph will tell how much he's been able to accomplish as the nation's first elected Libertarian state representative, and discuss his plans for 1982 and beyond.

Convention business Saturday will relate to proposed changes in the party platform; as on previous days, there will be presentations running opposite the floor proceedings.

Saturday evening, we'll pull out all the stops at the Tenth Birthday

Banquet—a spectacular celebration of the LP's first decade. This once-in-a-lifetime event will feature live music, champagne, and appearances by many of the individuals who have been responsible for our growth and success as a party . . . plus, of course, some special surprises. People will be talking about this event for years to come; be there, or regret it ever afterwards!

Sunday, August 30

Launching the final day of the convention will be a breakfast with David F. Nolan, one of the founders of the Libertarian Party. Nolan will offer his thoughts on the progress of the party, and some ideas on what we can hope to accomplish in the future.

Following Dave's presentation, the convention will turn to its final business—selection of officers and National Committee members for the coming two-year period. The new National Committee will hold its first meeting on Sunday afternoon.

Speakers Bureau Launched

Did you ever think of creating a Libertarian Speakers Bureau in your state, but not know how to get the project off the ground? The National Libertarian Speakers Bureau Program has been created to help you put together an active and effective Speakers Bureau.

Libertarians have attempted to set up state and local Speakers Bureaus since the L.P. was founded. Some have succeeded; others have sprung up, bumped along for a few months, and then folded. One reason for their failure has been the lack of support from outside, and the lack of feeling that there is a community of Libertarians across the country directing their efforts in the same way.

The major impediments to a successful speakers bureau program are the start-up effort and the initial follow-through. The National Speakers Bureau will supply whatever information and guidance necessary to help you through that initial difficult stage.

Most Libertarians will agree that the idea of a Speakers Bureau as an outreach program is a good one, and that it is a major benefit for the party to have experienced, articulate speakers who are willing to talk about Libertarian principles and programs to a wide variety of audiences. The goals of the Speakers Bureau program are:

1. To promote broader understanding of and support for the Libertarian party and Libertarian ideas;
2. To develop competent, credible,

and articulate Libertarian spokespeople in every state;

To help develop solid Libertarian candidates for local and federal offices in 1982;

4. To blanket major high schools and college campuses in every major city;
 5. To generate favorable publicity and media coverage for Libertarian speeches; specifically, to generate coverage of a Libertarian speech at least once a year in each Speakers Bureau locality; and
 6. To contribute to the development of strong, grass roots libertarian organizations capable of having a real impact in their communities.
- As of this writing, Marion

Williams, the National Speakers Bureau Coordinator has already lined up 41 State Coordinators. These Coordinators have recruited an additional 36 local Coordinators, who have signed up over 200 speakers in their various locales. Many speakers bureau coordinators have begun contacting high schools and organizations in their areas to introduce the Speakers Bureau and set up speaking engagements.

Williams has put together a work manual for state and local coordinators complete with suggestions and information on "How To Set Up Your Own Speakers Bureau." Included are sections on recruiting key activists, finding speakers, ap-

proaching organizations, sample letters, organizational forms, approaches to the telephone call, publicity, research, speeches, etc. Reaction from the local Speakers Bureaus has been favorable.

The Speakers Bureau is planned as an ongoing program of the Libertarian Party. It is hoped that it will result in a network of active Libertarian speakers from coast to coast. If you are interested in participating in the Speakers Bureau program in your area, contact your state chair or **Marion Williams, Libertarian Party Speakers Bureau, 225 Lafayette Street, Suite 1212, New York, NY 10012, (212) 226-6483.**

STUDENTS! — Plan now to attend:

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Personal Finance's Special Report written by Peter Robbins, the distinguished British financial writer and metals dealer, analyzes all relevant supply and demand factors and for the first time outlines a method by which individual investors may participate in this undiscovered investment.

Send \$3 to *Personal Finance*, Dept. 3971, 901 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Ask for "Strategic Metals Report."

Gun Control continued from pg. 1

Joe Smith to go target practicing, though that in itself would be a gross denial of individual rights. For all Americans, particularly for women, the elderly, minorities, and those living in high crime areas, the right of self defense is literally a matter of life and death. Gun control reactionaries would take away that right—that is the ultimate immorality of the proponents of gun laws. In an America experiencing a wave of violent crime, with inept and at times dangerous police forces, with a judicial system teetering on the verge of collapse, gun control proponents would take away the ability of women to protect themselves from rapists, merchants from robbers, minorities from racists (and the police), and all of us from the muggers and killers whose activities have been on the rise.

Gun control is not a new idea. The first government restrictions on handgun ownership in the United States were implemented in the post-Civil War South as part of the Black Codes—a body of laws designed to keep blacks in legal serfdom. Don B. Kates, Jr., Professor of Law at St. Louis University and editor of *Restricting Handguns: the Liberal Skeptics Speak Out* (must reading for anyone interested in the gun control issue) writes: "Meaningful black access to self-defense weapons occurred only in the mid 1870s when the cheap, off-brand revolver began to be sold in the South in large numbers. The Klan recognized in the mere existence of these a threat to its previous virtual monopoly of violence . . . Instead of formal legislation, Mississippi, Florida, and the rest of the Deep South States simply continued to enforce the pre-emancipation statutes forbidding blacks to possess arms. Mississippi formalized the custom by enacting the first registration law for gun retailers in 1906."

Other elements undesirable to the status quo in the late 1800s were used to foment support for gun ownership restrictions. Poor whites became almost as threatening as blacks in the South during the push for agrarian reform in the late 1800s. Businessmen became staunch supporters of gun control laws in order to disarm "labor agitators." Immigrants and "anarchists," often used synonymously during the late 1800s and early 1900s, soon followed as new boogymen for the gun control movement to disarm.

In 1911 New York State passed the Sullivan Law which made ownership of a handgun illegal without a police permit. This became the "model" gun law for the rest of the nation. So-called "progressives" joined the gun control bandwagon

after 1920 when it became apparent that their pet solution to crime, alcohol prohibition, was not working.

Today most American gun owners would be surprised to hear that there are "no controls." In fact, there are more than 20,000 statutes at the federal, state, and local levels which in some way restrict or regulate the acquisition, ownership, or carrying of firearms. In 1968 the federal Gun Control Act was passed banning mail order gun sales and firearm imports, and requiring identification, supplementary information, and "penalty of perjury" forms for all retail sales. (The 1968 act was heavily lobbied for by domestic arms manufacturers as a way of impeding competition from imports. It is a classic example of special interest legislation camouflaged by a "noble cause.") The 1968 act is enforced by the notorious Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF), which, with an annual budget of \$160 million, interprets the law and regularly conducts raids to confiscate firearms from peaceful citizens.

There is no empirical evidence that supports the contention that gun control laws reduce crime or the number of firearm related deaths.

Organizations such as Handgun Control, Inc. are pushing for federal legislation outlawing the private ownership of handguns with a one year mandatory prison sentence for violators. The most vocal support for gun control laws comes not only from the gun manufacturers (Since 1968 Smith and Wesson, Remington Arms Co., Colt's Inc., Savage Arms, Sturm, Ruger & Co., and other major arms manufacturers have gone on record as endorsing some form of national handgun prohibition, mostly aimed at the "Saturday Night Special") but from an articulate, largely white, upper class establishment. Many gun control proponents, well protected in their police patrolled suburbs, hold the same blind, undying faith in the ability of a few good people (like them) to use government to successfully organize our lives for us. As Professor Kates pointed out, "the position of all too many who would ban guns is indistinguishable from Archie Bunker's views on legalizing pot and homosexuality: 'I don't like it and I don't like those who do—so it ought to be illegal'."

As in so many other debates, language has been perverted in order to set the stage for a victory by one side. Note that the very term "gun

control" puts opponents automatically on the defensive. It conjures up a scene of thousands of handguns indiscriminately attacking people. This allows the statist to set up a false dichotomy: it is not people who will be controlled but the guns that are "attacking" them. Centuries of human experience with every form of government prohibition against the possession of weapons, drugs, prostitution, gambling, etc. are tossed out the window or totally ignored by the gun control advocate. The racist roots of gun laws in the U.S., the results of numerous studies on the efficacy of gun control in reducing violent crime, the civil liberties implications, and the moral implications all fall on the deaf ear of the gun control reactionary.

What are the facts? First, there is no empirical evidence that supports the contention that gun control laws reduce crime or the number of firearm related deaths.

Professor Kates reports, "Hawaii, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Puerto Rico have laws that prohibit their residents from purchasing or possessing a handgun without a discretionary police permit. As these laws have been in effect for twenty-five to sixty-five years in each state, any violence reductive effect should be apparent in these jurisdictions' crime statistics. Six different criminological studies have compared the per capita homicide and other violent crime rates of these jurisdictions in various years to those of states that allow handguns. The conclusion of each study is that, taken together, the handgun prohibiting states have consistently as high or higher homicide and other violent crime rates as the handgun allowing states." In Washington, D.C. between 1974 and 1976 the murder rate fell 30%. Then in February 1977 Washington D.C.'s law prohibiting handgun ownership went into effect. Between 1977 and 1980 the murder rate in Washington, D.C. increased 11% from 28.0 to 31.5 per 100,000 (note: the national average murder rate for 1979 was 9.7 per 100,000). In August 1980, New York amended the Sullivan law to require a mandatory one year prison sentence for anyone found with an unlicensed handgun. The result? From the first half of 1980 to the second half of 1980 the number of murders in New York increased by 22%. Robberies were up from 82,000 in 1979 to 100,550 in 1980. Indeed, New York City—with 3% of the U.S. population—accounted for 15% of all firearm related robberies committed in the United States in 1980. The four cities with gun control laws—New York, Washington, D.C., Detroit, and Chicago—account for one sixth of all murders in

the United States.

If gun control in any way reduces violent crime, then there should be some kind of obvious contrast between states with gun laws and without gun laws. There is none. There are areas with strict gun laws and high crime rates, areas with no

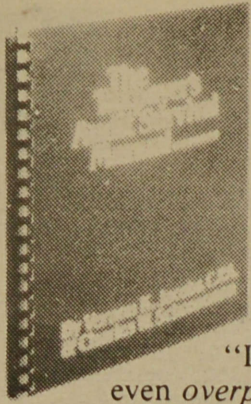
"The position of all too many who would ban guns is indistinguishable from Archie Bunker's views on legalizing pot and homosexuality: 'I don't like it and I don't like those who do—so it ought to be illegal.'"

gun laws and high crime rates, and areas with no gun laws and low crime rates. If there is any pattern at all it is that areas with gun laws tend to have crime rates higher than those that do not. Police Superintendent Colin Greenwood, in an authoritative 1971 Cambridge University Study on the effect of gun control in England, summed it up, "At first glance it may seem odd or perverse to suggest that statutory controls on the private ownership of firearms are irrelevant to the problem of armed crime, yet that is precisely what the evidence shows."

Gun control advocates dismiss all such evidence with what has been called "the adjacent state theory"—that gun control is ineffective in Washington, D.C. and New York because people can bring in guns easily from non-gun law states. England, with its very low crime rate (relative to America's), has become the "living proof" that we need a national prohibition of handguns in the United States. The penalty for carrying a firearm in Britain is an automatic six months in jail. Again, contrary to popular belief, there is no evidence that Britain's gun laws have reduced the incidence of violent crime. Police Superintendent Greenwood concluded that "half a century of strict controls on pistols had ended perversely with a far greater use of this class of weapon in crime than ever before."

If the availability of firearms is believed to be a factor in violent crime, then consider Switzerland, where not only are there no laws prohibiting gun ownership but each male is required (in violation of their rights—"gun control" in reverse) to keep at home an assault rifle, a sub-machine gun or a pistol with an ample supply of ammunition. Yet the rate of crimes involving firearms is so low in Switzerland as to be com-

continued on pg. 18



HOW TO AVOID AN I.R.S. AUDIT

"I'd do almost anything, even *overpay* my taxes, to avoid having the IRS audit my return." A surprising number of taxpayers feel this way.

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The authors give you the latest figures, broken down by income... the latest reports on tax delinquents, and how many had their property seized. They follow your tax return, step by step, through the IRS bureaucracy. This "tour" gives you precious hints on how to lessen your chances of an audit. For example:

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Washington Report: Swapping Peanuts for Jellybeans

by Jule R. Herbert, Jr.

Reagan's initial economic proposals have taken center stage in Washington. The Reagan plan is full of the free enterprise rhetoric of massive budget cuts, tax cuts, tight money, and deregulation.

Libertarians aside, this rhetoric has, more or less, been accepted at face value by both Reagan's opponents and those who support his proposals. For example, speaking about the Reagan plan to reduce marginal tax rates some 27% over four years (although actual income tax collections will go up on account of inflation-induced "bracket creep"), House Majority Leader Jim Wright of Texas said, "It's unrealistic to lead the people to expect that kind of (massive tax) cut. I think it would be inflationary, that it's not compatible with a balanced budget." What Wright has in mind is not marginal rate reductions but one-time rebates which, according to *old-fashioned Keynesian theory*, would lead to greater disposable income and consumer demand, resulting in higher price levels. Reagan himself says the proposal "will leave the taxpayers with \$500 billion more in their pockets" over the next five years. But is the Reagan program all that much different from what would most likely have been enacted had he not been elected? Probably not. Is the proposal all that radical—a fundamental change from the manner of governing wrongly said to have been issued in by FDR? Absolutely not.

Shortly before the first Presidential debate, Reagan promised to cut the 1981 Carter budget by \$13 billion, a reduction of 2%. In other words, Reagan endorsed an increase in spending over 1980 of \$70.1 billion or 12%. Now, after the election, Reagan has lowered his sights, proposing to cut only \$8 billion from Carter's initial runaway 1981 budget. This is hardly revolutionary stuff; the Carter budget which suddenly became Reagan's benchmark of discussion was the culmination of a decade of *unrestrained government growth*. The federal budget more than doubled during the Ford and Carter years. Rather than being heralded as some sort of revolutionary, Reagan should be believed when he and his advisors talk of cementing this massive growth and of their *commitment to strong government* and a "well-managed conservative welfare state."

Although Reagan's current 1982 budget projection claims to reflect budget "cuts" of \$41.4 billion from an earlier Carter projected figure, since Reagan wants an additional

\$7.2 billion for military spending, only a \$34.2 billion difference results. More importantly, Reagan's total proposed 1982 expenditures of \$695.5 billion are actually \$9.2 billion *greater* than what Carter had estimated for 1982 prior to the election.

The point is that it is business as usual here in Washington. Basing budget "cuts" on reductions from other people's estimates or projections for future budgets, as Reagan did, obscures what is really going on. Only by taking the currently enacted budget and pointing out when, what and how much is to be cut, what, if anything, should be increased, and what, if anything, should be held constant, as Ed Clark's staff did in its 1980 campaign White Paper, can an honest and clear picture be made of what direction an administration really wants to go.

It is quite likely that the major differences between the Carter and Reagan projected budgets for 1982 and thereafter are mostly the result of *different guesses about future economic conditions*. Carter projected 2.5% real growth for 1982 with 8.8% inflation, whereas the new administration made more optimistic assumptions: 4.2% real growth and 8.3% inflation. Because there is much disagreement within the administration as to the impact of its proposals, these projections were reportedly arrived at by an informal roundtable compromise and then mathematically manipulated to make the projections consistent.

Perhaps more promising is Reagan's marginal rate tax cut proposal. The important thing here would be to get the highest marginal rates down as quickly as possible and to index the brackets so that inflation induced increases in nominal income would no longer result in higher tax rates. Here again it seems the new Administration has largely missed the point by abandoning these aspects of Kemp-Roth and stretching the program out over four years.

Libertarians, of course, for reasons of justice, support any and all tax cuts. The question is whether true tax cuts can coincide with increased government expenditures as Reagan and the supply-siders propose. The level of taxation is by definition equal to the amount of private resources which are expropriated by the state. The essence of supply-side theory is that lower

marginal tax rates will lead to greater private saving and investment and, hence, more private wealth to be taxed, leaving both the state and its subjects better off. The crux of the matter for supply-siders is whether or not the market can save, invest, and produce *faster* than the government can expand expenditures, diverting private resources for its own use. Since the creation of new wealth takes time, it is highly likely that marginal rate reduction coupled with runaway government spending will lead to even higher deficits than in recent years.

This deficit, estimated at \$100 billion for 1981 and 1982 by Reagan, will be financed by a combination of government borrowing and monetary expansion. The supply-siders, recognizing that money creation causes inflation, claim to favor borrowing from the private sector, coupled with monetary restraint. According to the new Treasury Under-Secretary Norman Ture, increases in the deficit need not cause either "crowding out" of private investment or increased inflationary pressure if the deficit increase is offset by the increase in private sector saving. "If household and/or business savings increase by as much, if not more, than the government's deficit, gross private domestic investment . . . will increase." But it is clear that this hoped for increase can only be much smaller than it would be if there were no deficit—perhaps so much smaller as to wreck the original plan. Moreover, the government is not just borrowing; it is also spending: buying up the resources which could be used for the creation of private wealth. It is the "double-whammy" of the taxing (or borrowing) and spending process that dooms the supply-side experiment.

Reagan has shown no desire to actually make the cuts of government expenditures which would give his plan a chance to succeed. He has promised not to touch the "Sacred Cows" such as Social Security,

veteran's benefits, make-work summer jobs, Medicare, and federal pensions, and has proposed huge increases in military spending of an additional \$105.1 billion over four years. Since these programs together plus interest on the federal debt comprise almost the entire budget, perhaps a "seat of the pants" history of federal spending will give us a better idea of where spending will likely be in 1985.

Let's look at the facts. Between 1961 and 1968, when the Democrats were in the White House, federal spending increased almost exactly 100%, from President Eisenhower's last budget of \$92.2 billion to President Johnson's last budget of \$184.5 billion. Under the Republicans—the "fiscal conservatives"—government spending increased 118% between 1968 and 1976, from President Johnson's last budget to President Ford's last budget of \$402.7 billion. President Carter accelerated the same pattern, with a 1981 budget of \$662 billion, approximately a 65% increase over President Ford's last budget, *showing that the trend is getting worse*.

Thus we hear budget analysts in Washington saying that the only difference between the Republicans and Democrats is that when the Democrats spend they enjoy it while the Republicans feel guilty about it, but they *both spend just the same*.

Following these historical trends, assuming that Reagan is no worse than Carter, that the U.S. does not get into a *war in El Salvador* or elsewhere, and that inflation does not completely destroy the dollar, we can predict a 1985 budget of \$1,092.3 billion, or just over \$1.09 trillion. Interestingly, this is only \$248 billion more than Reagan, himself, projects with his optimistic assumptions. Write down both projections and let's see who the future proves correct.

Jule R. Herbert, Jr. is President of the National Taxpayers Legal Fund, a member of the Libertarian National Committee, and Director of the Tax Action Committee of the National Taxpayers Union.

Reagan's Budget Plan					
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Outlays	655.2	695.3	732.0	770.2	844.0
Revenues	600.3	650.3	709.1	770.7	850.9
Deficit (-) or Surplus	-54.9	-45.0	-22.9	0.5	6.9
Assumptions					
CPI (% change)	11.1	8.3	6.2	4.7	
Real GNP (% change)	1.1	4.2	5.0	4.2	4.2

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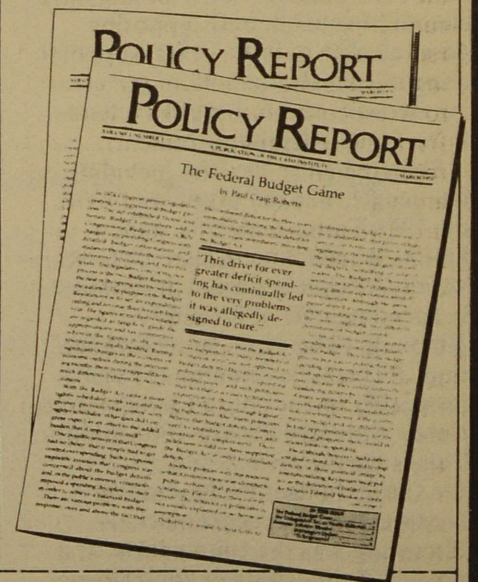


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REGIONAL REPORTS

Region 1: Alaska

by Lew Beyer

The Alaska Libertarian Party's annual convention, featuring Robert Ringer, author of "Restoring the American Dream," will be held in Fairbanks on May 2 & 3. Attendance is expected to be twice that of last year's convention.

Not to our surprise, Democrats and Republicans are working together to restrict the growing Libertarian presence in Alaska politics. Under Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) rules, the Libertarian Party is considered a political "group" rather than a party, thus placing a limit of \$1,000 on contribution to any Libertarian candidate. Such a status would present severe financial problems for any potential Libertarian gubernatorial campaign. APOC first agreed that the LP's status should be changed to a "limited political party" which would remove the contribution limitation. However, after state-wide hearings, APOC (made up of two Republicans and two Democrats) voted to retain the current Alaska LP status. Needless to say, the Alaska LP is fighting this obvious partisan effort to keep Libertarians out of the governor's race.

At the Alaska State Legislature, Rep. Dick Randolph reports, "Ken Fanning and I have an excellent working relationship. Between the two of us we are influential far beyond our numbers." Representatives Randolph and Fanning have submitted resolutions opposing registration and the draft, supporting the Tundra Rebellion (an effort to wrest control of Alaska's land from the federal government), repealing all state taxes including oil and gas company taxes, and repealing the authority of the state to go into bonded indebtedness. The Randolph/Fanning team will soon be submitting a comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform package which includes abolition of victimless crime laws and a requirement that criminals provide restitution to their victims.

Also, an historic first at the Alaska State Legislature—Rep. Dick Randolph called for a caucus and, because there are now two libertarian representatives, the legislature was forced to recess.

Region 3: Oregon, and Washington

by Vivian Baures

The main event in the Pacific Northwest this spring was the Oregon LP Annual Convention in Portland on April 11/12. The convention, held in conjunction with the LNC meeting, was a huge success by

any standard, thanks to the hard work of John Tiritilli, convention chair and newly elected state chair, and his committee.

One hundred people attended the Saturday evening banquet and heard David Nolan present a conciliatory call for future Libertarian political action. Even the dull business portion of the convention was well attended with enthusiastic participants.

The week-end was a full one starting with a cozy reception Friday night, a rousing breakfast speech by Dick Randolph, a key note address by Tonie Nathan, a luncheon presentation by the Minority Outreach Committee, and a Sunday brunch address by Eric O'Keefe on activist opportunities.

But most importantly, crucial business was conducted. A new state committee was elected as follows:

John Tiritilli, Chairman
Susan Flesher, Vice-chairman
Susan Gmirkin, Secretary
Judy Snyder, Treasurer
Fred Oerther, At-Large Member of State Committee
Tim Wirkkala, At-Large Member of State Committee
Gerry Longton, At-Large Member of State Committee

In preparation for the National Convention, 18 delegates and 15 alternates were elected and Paul Dillan was selected as Oregon's representative to the national Platform Committee, a repeat honor from the 1979 convention.

Resolutions of interest passed by the Oregon convention included: opposition to the death penalty; support of current proposed state legislation to abolish the income tax on interest income; abolition of the Metropolitan Service District (the Portland "Public" Bus); and support of a Libertarian introduced bill which would greatly improve ballot access for minor parties in Oregon and assure ballot status for the Libertarian Presidential nominee in 1984 without any petitioning.

Tiritilli reports that the biggest plus from the week-end long convention was the enthusiastic feeling with which everyone went home. Oregonians are geared for action.

Region 8: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa

by Ben Olson

IOWA—The Iowa LP held its annual convention the first weekend of April in Des Moines. The affair was well-organized by Pat Gall. New officers elected for two year terms are:

Mike Grant of Davenport, Chairman; Carol Pruitt of Cedar Rapids, Recorder; and Marcia Farrington of Ames, Treasurer. The convention also elected 12 delegates and a list of alternates to the 1981 national convention.

Approximately 50 people attended the LPI convention. Jeff Riggensbach, executive editor of *Libertarian Review*, addressed the Saturday evening banquet. About \$2600 was raised in cash and pledges for the Iowa party. Other speakers at the convention were Iowans Ralph Akermark, Bill McClain, Mal Iles and outgoing chairman Gary Roewe.

Plans have begun for the annual LPI Luau, to be held near Des Moines on John Throckmorton's farm on July 25, and for the party's state fair booth. Party activists are also making plans for two all-out campaigns this year: Marcia Farrington is making a second run for city council in Ames (she finished a strong second in a field of five last November); and Joan Stupka is running for alderman in Davenport.

MINNESOTA—The Minnesota LP has grown significantly during the past year (over 200 members currently), and is holding its annual convention on April 24-25 in Arden Hills. Convention flyers have been distributed to approximately 7000 people (including National Tax-payers' Unions' Minnesota list). Pre-registrations are going well, and a large turnout is expected. Chuck Ullery and Linda Taylor are this year's convention organizers. Chuck is the party's retiring chairman, and Linda is running for that position at this convention.

The convention features a keynote address at the Saturday evening banquet by Ed Clark and workshops by Eric O'Keefe and Leslie Graves Key.

The Minnesota Party has a new office, located by Rex Newman, who organized and helped in a general sprucing up of the place. Volunteers Jake and Paul Haagsman did spray texturing of the walls and ceiling to complement the donated carpeting.

NORTH DAKOTA—North Dakota activists held their annual convention in Fargo the last week-end in March.

Tim Garcia from Grand Forks was elected party chairman. Tim, 25, is a student at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks and plans to help organize an active SLS chapter there in addition to leading N.D. activists in creating a state-wide organization. The party has been basically dormant in the past, but now it looks like things will begin to click.

SOUTH DAKOTA—Emmett Elrod from Deadwood is taking over as party chairman. Darlene Nesson remains Secretary-Treasurer. Activists have recently helped with the joint state/national fundraising drive.

Region 9: Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas

by Lynn Crussel

OKLAHOMA—The LPO state convention is scheduled for June 13 in Oklahoma City, and nine workshops are to be held during the convention, along with regular business and election of state officers. Guest speakers include David Nolan and Milton Mueller.

Plans for a petition drive in the fall are currently on hold, awaiting a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals decision. The state LP expects a decision by the end of the summer on this case.

Tax protests are planned for the evening of April 15th both in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. These have been very successful in the past, and the party is expecting a great turnout for this annual event.

The fundraising phonathon is going pretty well in this state, and expected revenues will help fund a petition drive. The state party increased its membership by 50% in the recent membership drive.

Spaces have been rented for the two major State Fairs in the state. This has proven to be an excellent recruiting tool for the state party, and the fair in Tulsa allows the party to sell goods. This helps to defer costs of renting the booth.

KANSAS—The state party is gearing up for a court suit challenging the difficult petitioning procedures. The party is also fighting zoning in Franklin County. They are trying to obtain a temporary restraining order to stop enforcement of a zoning board decision.

The state convention is planned tentatively for June 20, and Dick Randolph has been asked to be a guest speaker.

The membership is busy with the phonathon fundraiser, like most other states.

NEBRASKA—The Nebraska party is also in the middle of the phonathon. They are planning for a summer convention, but as of this date, no date has been set for the convention.

ARKANSAS—The Arkansas party held their state convention on February 28, and Matt Richard is the new state chair. They also elected delegates to the August national convention.

The LP here is currently fighting a law which recently passed allowing

continued on page 14

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May-June, 1981

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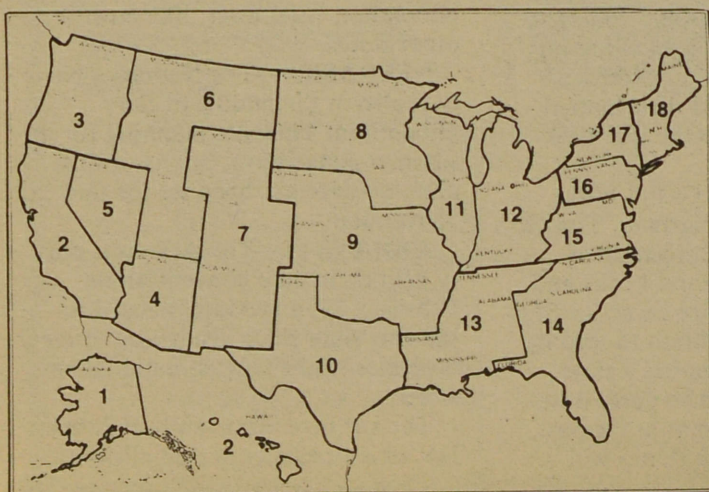
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Region 9 continued from pg. 11

the cities to levy a one-cent sales tax. They are pushing for a review provision for the law. This has generated lots of publicity for the LP here.

MISSOURI—After a brief hiatus following the November elections, things are starting to roll in Missouri, according to state chair Marshall Cobb. The membership drive resulted in a 41% increase in national memberships between the end of 1980 and February 28. Late applications are expected to increase this figure even more.

The annual convention which will be held in Columbia on April 24-25 is expected to be the biggest LP event ever in Missouri. The films "The Incredible Bread Machine" and "The Inflation File" will be shown. Speakers include Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Washington University at St. Louis.

The state newsletter, sporadically published in the past, is now a bi-monthly feature on the Missouri scene effective with the March issue. State organizations interested in exchanging newsletters with Missouri should write to Marshall Cobb at the address shown in the directory of state chairs.

Region 10: Texas

by Ann Marie Perier

The late winter and early spring elections are behind us with good showings by Libertarians throughout the state. Gary Johnson of Austin ran a strong Libertarian campaign for mayor, finishing fourth in a six way race. Four El Paso Libertarians—John McDivitt (County Chair), Brad Harrison (County Secretary-Treasurer), John Hendley (former County Chair), and Todd Darby—ran for seats on the proposed city charter commission. All four are considering active partisan campaigns in 1982.

In the April 4th elections Mike Angwin of Crosby received 30% of the vote in his bid for election to the District Water Board. Angwin was endorsed by a prominent local group, the Special Committee for Acceptable Taxation (SCAT) and campaigned on a platform of legalizing private wells and septic tanks as a first step in eliminating the legal barriers to private water and sewage treatment. When asked to join SCAT, Angwin declined, explaining that he would join only if the group changed its name to Special Committee *Against* Taxation.

February 26th saw eight University of Houston students campaigning together on a Libertarian slate. James Williams, UH Libertarian Alliance chair, and fellow UH Libertarians Bill Traweek, Randy Davidson, Steve Paul, Manuel Roca,

REGIONAL REPORTS

Trebor Kutyba, Craig Haynie, and Kevin Lacobie received 21% of the vote.

While other areas of the state were working on electing Libertarians to office, Dallas Libertarians were driving to Austin to fight the legislature. Dallasites David Kelley, chair of Texans for Freedom of Choice in Health Care, and Greg Clark spent many hours lobbying and testifying before legislative committees.

The state organization is making progress toward its goals with an 82% increase in national membership, adding three new counties to those already organized, active organizations at six universities, and a regional organization in the panhandle. The Independence Pledge drive has raised over \$22,000 in pledges in less than two months and is planning a telephone follow-up to raise more funds. These pledges will insure more and better literature from the publications director and the continued publication of the excellent state Libertarian newspaper, *Free Texas*.

The highlight of the year will be the state conference (Libertarians are prohibited by law from having an official convention) in Austin June 19-21. Titled "The Politics of Principle," it will feature such speakers as Murray Rothbard, a debate between economist David Friedman and philosopher George Smith on the foundations of libertarianism. Texas Libertarians are predicting a large turnout and an exciting conference. Invitations are extended to all Libertarians and friends to attend.

Region 11: Wisconsin, Illinois

by Leslie Graves Key

About 175 Illinois Libertarians attended a star-studded state convention in Chicago April 10-12 to hear Ed Clark, Tibor Machan, Peter Breggin, and others speak about "Rediscovering Liberty;" elect 26 delegates to the 1981 Libertarian party national convention; and elect Libertarian Party of Illinois officers for the coming year.

Ray Birks, who served previously as the Clark for President coordinator in Illinois, was elected Illinois state chair in an exciting contest with long-time activist Tom Verkuilen. Also elected were northern Illinois vice-chair, Gerry Walsh; southern Illinois vice-chair, Scott Tillman; treasurer, Mary Alice Strzalka; and secretary, Marji Kohls.

In the last several months, groups

from DeKalb, Rockford, Peoria, and the "Quad Cities" have affiliated with the Illinois LP, and new groups are forming in Champaign, Normal, Carbondale, and Kane County. In Rockford, Libertarian David Kelley won 9% of the vote in a 3-way contest for city alderman from Rockford's Fourth Ward.

In Wisconsin, Libertarians are looking forward to the June 6-7 state convention at the Concourse Hotel in Madison that is featuring Murray Rothbard as its banquet speaker, in addition to an interesting line-up of workshops and panels.

The Wisconsin state legislature is currently paying a back-handed compliment to the Wisconsin Libertarian Party by giving bi-partisan support to a bill that would double the percentage of the vote needed to maintain ballot status. 1980 was the first time in over 60 years that a not-previously-known candidate won over 1% of the vote (Ed Clark got 1.4%), thus attaining continued ballot status. The state legislature is trying to double the percentage required in future elections because otherwise there will be "too many parties on the ballot." Right now, the Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian Parties are the only parties that enjoy ballot status in Wisconsin.

Appearances by Wisconsin Libertarians on several radio shows discussing "Reaganomics" have resulted in a steady flow of inquiries into the Madison office. This office has moved temporarily to a new location at 912 Vernon Ave., Suite 9, in Madison, while larger accommodations are being sought.

Region 12: Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan

by Sandy Burns

All of the states in Region 12 have quadrupled their memberships in both state organizations and in the national party since 1976. Most of this growth occurred during the past year and a half.

In terms of overall organization during the Clark campaign and since the election, each state is actively working toward maximizing the effectiveness of furthering Libertarian influence at the grassroots level.

INDIANA—Kevin Grant, Chairman-elect, has replaced Joe Bryan, who ran a spirited campaign for Monroe County Commissioner last year.

The biggest challenge in the next two years will be striving for perma-

nent ballot status for the Libertarian Party in Indiana. LPI members will need to file about 7,000 valid signatures to be on the ballot in 1982. To achieve permanent ballot status, the Libertarian candidate for the Secretary of State office must receive .5% of the votes cast in that race.

Jenni Bergman Debaun has been appointed Newsletter Editor of "The Quill." Indiana plans a Tax Protest in four cities on April 15 and a combined "Decriminalization Day and Independence Day Celebration" in Bloomington on July 4. Contact Kevin Grant at (219) 723-5691 for details.

The Indiana State Delegate Convention is scheduled for May 9 at the Essex Hotel, 421 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis. The keynote speaker will be Eric O'Keefe, LNC National Director.

KENTUCKY—Membership in Kentucky quadrupled over the past year, reported Ernie McAfee, State Chairman. Kentucky ranks 37th nationally in state/national membership which is a tremendous growth from virtually no organization in Kentucky in 1976.

Recently, the Richmond City School Board levied a 3% tax on all utilities which would have automatically become effective on May 1. However, in coordination with a non-partisan group, "Madison County Taxpayer's Action Group," local Libertarians helped to obtain 60% more signatures than needed to put the issue on the ballot in November for local taxpayers to vote on the levy.

The Kentucky LP will be running three local candidates for the Kentucky General Assembly in 1981. Those running in various Legislative Districts are: Tom Bogel (47th), David Galey (84th), and Ernie McAfee (81st). The state newsletter, "Kentucky Libertarian" is evolving into an excellent publication thanks to the efforts of Newsletter Editor, Matt Livingood. The Kentucky State Convention is scheduled for June 27-28 at the Louisville Inn, Louisville, Kentucky. For details, contact Sharon Wayne at (502) 288-0494.

MICHIGAN—Michigan may be the "star" in organization in Region 12 (though there is much competition). According to Brian Wright, State Chairman, not only did Michigan attain permanent Libertarian party ballot status this past year, but increased its membership 400% in the past year. As a result of a funding pledge system within one of the committees, Michigan has been able to hire a full-time director for the state. Michigan is the only state in Region 12 to accomplish this goal thus far.

Bette Erwin, candidate for the 4th Congressional district, has been

continued on page 22

Phonathon Whips Up Funds, Volunteers

Over 400 Libertarians from 39 states participated in an ambitious Finance Committee "phonathon" in late March and early April to raise critically needed operating funds for national headquarters and state parties. So far, these volunteers have reported raising over \$40,000 in one-time contributions and monthly pledges.

"Considering that right now is the most difficult time in any four-year period to raise money for political purposes, we are quite happy with the results of this effort," commented Finance Committee Chair Leslie Graves Key. She added that the Finance Committee expects the total raised in this phonathon to exceed \$60,000, not including funds raised by a letter from Alaska State Representative Dick Randolph asking for pledges and one-time contributions, to which the phonathon was a follow-up.

According to Key, this phonathon was the fourth such effort conducted by the Libertarian Party since 1978. "In past phonathons, a small number of people were asked to make telephone calls to people who had previously contributed very high amounts to the Libertarian Party. Because our goal this time was not just to raise money, but also to expand our base of experienced and dedicated volunteer fundraisers, we asked far more people to help us out than ever before."

To achieve their goals, the officers of the Finance Committee agreed to find people in as many states as possible who would, as their part of the project, recruit activists in their state to make calls to fellow Libertarians to discuss the importance of keeping the Libertarian Party going and ask them for a contribution or monthly pledge.

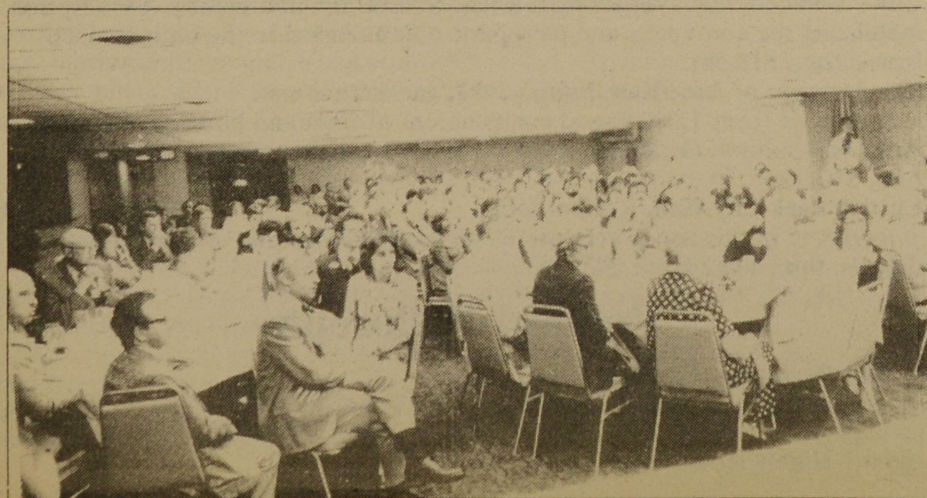
"As far as I know," Key stated, "the Libertarian Party is the only political organization that makes successful widespread use of volunteers in its finance projects. It

takes a great deal of courage to sit down at your telephone, call up strangers, and ask them for money. Other political parties usually have to pay people to do this. I think this shows that our supporters are exceptionally committed and also, in the case of this phonathon, that they were aware of how desperate our financial picture is."

The three primary organizers of the phonathon—Leslie Key, Kent Guida, and Bob Thompson—noted that Sandy Burns (Ohio), Joe Laiacona (Indiana), and Mike Louttit (Montana) served as regional coordinators in the phonathon and were crucial to its success.

The Finance Committee also wishes that recognition and appreciation be extended to all the state coordinators (a listing of their names follows) and individual volunteers who made the phonathon possible.

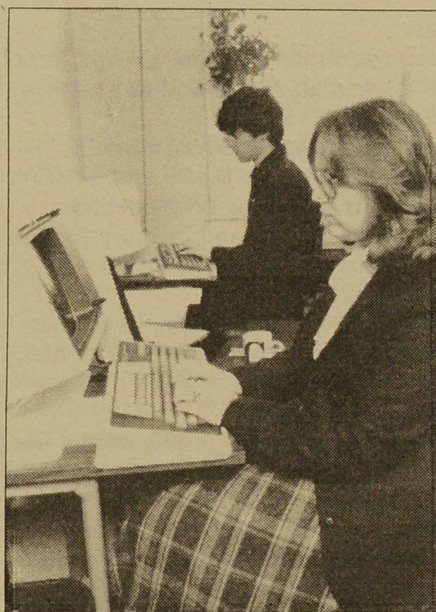
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COLORADO—Jan Jillson
CONNECTICUT—Richard Spillman
DELAWARE—Alan R. Burgess
GEORGIA—Gary Marcus
IDAHO—Jack Dalton
ILLINOIS—Raymond Birks
INDIANA—Joe Laiacona
IOWA—Gary Roewe
KENTUCKY—Mitch Wayne
LOUISIANA—Crayton Hall
MAINE—Mary A. Denzer
MARYLAND—Frances Eddy
MICHIGAN—Kathleen Jacob
MINNESOTA—Linda Ann Taylor
MISSISSIPPI—L. Renee Ethridge
MISSOURI—Marshall Cobb
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NEBRASKA—Daniel Salem
NEVADA—Ron Wittig
NEW YORK—Gary Greenberg
N. CAROLINA—Robert Thompson
N. DAKOTA—Tim Garcia
OHIO—Sandy Burns
OKLAHOMA—Agnes Wampler
PENNSYLVANIA—Joseph Sabatina
S. CAROLINA—Carol Lee Bowie
TENNESSEE—Bobby R. Chapuis



Minnesota LP Convention drew record crowd. Photo by Doug Robbins.

Headquarters Acquires New Computer

by Gillian Jewell



Gillian Jewell and Bruce Majors at the National Headquarters Computer.

An illustration of the Libertarian Party's tremendous growth during the Clark campaign and in the months following has been the installation of a brand new Data General Eclipse S-140 computer at National Headquarters. During the bustling activity of the campaign, the LP's MicroNova computer was pushed to overcapacity, running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. By election day the LP contributor base had tripled, a "prospect" list of interested people had grown to 10,000, and the Clark TV ads had generated approximately 25,000 new names. Running out of disk space on the existing computer was becoming an imminent problem. The Party needed a faster, bigger, safer and more capable computer.

Although physically located at Headquarters, the new computer does not belong to the Libertarian National Committee; rather, its services are leased to the Party through Liberty Services. Liberty Services, the creation of Libertarian National Committee member Craig Franklin, is a limited partnership formed for the specific purpose of providing computing services to the Libertarian Party and various other libertarian organizations.

Four other terminals were purchased along with the new computer and they have been tentatively set up in the office for the following purposes:

One is to be used to look up names, addresses, phone numbers and contribution information, and to keep closer track of the Party's financial situation by computerizing the accounting system. Headquarters manager Kristina Herbert said, "This new tool will help us to streamline our Headquarters procedures, freeing more valuable time

for servicing local and state party organizations."

A second terminal will be used as a fundraising station where a telephone fundraiser can call up a name and financial and other background information on the screen. Telephone fundraising can be much more successful with that type of information at one's fingertips.

A third terminal will be utilized solely by the publications and communications departments. The computer's word processing capability will help facilitate the drafting and editing of *Libertarian Party News*, issue papers, and other publications. "This is a big step up," said Communications Director Tom Palmer. "Not only will our editing and production process be made more efficient, but the Communications Department will look more like a scene from TV's *Lou Grant*."

The fourth terminal will be set up as a general inquiry station for on-the-spot retrieval of information.

In addition to the extra terminals, Liberty Services expects to have on-line phone hook-ups with other libertarian organizations. The great advantage to having other libertarian mailing lists on-line with one central computer is the ability to merge the names into one main master list, thus avoiding duplication and costs to organizations doing mailings to several lists.

The acquisition of the new computer opens the door to future growth as well. The computer can hold a maximum of one million names, thus allowing expansion at a ripe period in the Party's history. "Let's face it," said Craig, "the Libertarian Party is attracting new people every day and we have to be in a position to handle the increase in activity. The new computer will allow us to do just that."

Gillian Jewell was, until recently, the Director of Computer Operations for the Libertarian Party National Headquarters, and now works for Liberty Services.

Attention . . .

The California Libertarian Party is looking for a State Coordinator to work out of its office in the San Francisco Bay Area. Campaign and organizational skills plus good familiarity with LP stance desired. Salary to be negotiated. Send resume to: Bill Evers, P.O. Box 4030, Stanford, CA 94306.

Libertarian Party Book Service

Current Affairs

Restricting Handguns: The Liberal Skeptics Speak Out, ed. by Don G. Kates.

Powerful arguments that handgun control is contrary to the interests of women, minorities, etc. and is a violation of civil liberties. Contributors are liberal dissenters from statist gun control orthodoxy; include general counsel and former American chair of Amnesty International, liberal San Francisco Supervisor, Vice President of Southern California ACLU, and others. Very highly recommended. (hb., \$10.00)

The New Jim Crow Laws, Walter Williams.

Thorough analysis of how government intervention hurts minorities and the poor. Williams presents his argument with unassailable logic and thorough documentation. Highly recommended. (pamphlet, \$1.00)

Never Again: Learning From America's Foreign Policy Failures, Earl C. Ravenal.

Analysis of recent American foreign policy. Argues for a fundamental rethinking of foreign policy. Written by a leading analyst and primary foreign policy advisory to Ed Clark's 1980 presidential campaign. (pb., \$7.95)

The Draft: The Dynamics of Social Control, Milton Mueller.

Thorough examination of conscription, its purpose, its history, its impact. Argues that the draft is unnecessary to maintain national defense. (pamphlet, \$1.50)

Local Problems: Libertarian Solutions, William D. Burt.

In-depth treatment of local issues, focusing on municipal problems and libertarian, market solutions. Well documented and highly recommended for community activists and local candidates. (pb., \$5.00)

Rent Control: Myths and Realities, ed. by Walter Block and Edgar Olsen.

This study demolishes the case for rent control, demonstrating with sound logic and documentation that rent control leads to deteriorating neighborhoods and housing shortages. (pb., \$7.95)

Earth's Resources, Robert J. Smith.

Presents the case that conservation and environmentalism are more compatible with libertarianism than with statism. A pathbreaking work. (pb., \$5.00)

Educating the Citizen Worker, Joel Spring.

A prominent educational historian documents the domination of the American educational system by a government seeking to produce conformity and perpetuation of its own control. Important for understanding the way government has shaped social institutions. (pb., \$10.00)

The Regulation of Medical Care: Is the Price Too High?, John C. Goodman.

Reviewed in this issue. Demonstrates that the medical profession enjoys numerous legal privileges which raise the price of medical care and increase the incomes of doctors. Argues for a free market in medical care. (pb., \$5.00)

Race and Economics, Thomas Sowell.

Brilliant economist analyzes the effects of government intervention into racial relations, arguing that it leads to conflict and stagnation. (pb., \$11.00)

Strategic Disengagement and World Peace: Toward A Non-Interventionist American Foreign Policy, Earl C. Ravenal.

Two essays discussing the limitations on American world power and the need to diminish U.S. involvement around the world and the means by which the threat of nuclear war can be reduced. (pb., \$2.00)

Economics

Economics in One Lesson, Henry Hazlitt.

Readable introduction to an often difficult subject. Intended to help the reader understand the effects of government economic policy. (pb., \$4.95)

What Has Government Done to Our Money, Murray N. Rothbard.

Brilliant introduction to the economics of inflation. Explains the function, origin, and history of money, as well as the disastrous consequences of its control by the state. (pamphlet, \$2.00)

The Incredible Bread Machine, various authors.

Introductory book on the market vs. government intervention. Explodes many of the popular myths about government action. (pb., \$2.95)

Unemployment and Monetary Policy: Government as Generator of the Business Cycle, F. A. Hayek.

Exposition of the causal relationship between inflation and unemployment includes Hayek's important Nobel essay. (pb., \$2.00)

The Fallacy of the Mixed Economy, Stephen Littlechild.

Explodes the idea of a "mixed economy" and argues for a free market. Powerful application of "Austrian" economic theory to political economy. (pb., \$2.00)

Man, Economy, and State, Murray N. Rothbard.

One of the great economic treatises of our time, this work provides a tour through economic science from first principles to applied economic policy. A masterful work; often times difficult to read. (pb., \$10.00/hb., \$30.00)

Power and Market: Government and the Economy, Murray N. Rothbard.

An extension of *Man, Economy, and State* that applies economic analysis to government intervention, arguing that intervention leads to monopoly, unemployment, and poverty. Presents a convincing case for the market. (pb., \$4.95/hb., \$15.00)

History

The Political Economy of Liberal Corporatism, ed. by Walter Grinder.

Historical analyses of government intervention. Argues that intervention served to transfer wealth and power from the poor and middle classes to powerful political interests. Important for an understanding of twentieth century politics and the roots of government regulation. (pamphlet, \$1.50)

The Decline of American Liberalism, Arthur Ekirch.

Traces the decline of American libertarian ideas after the Revolution. Very important analysis. (pb., \$6.50)

Capitalism and the Historians, ed. by F. A. Hayek.

Essays by prominent economic historians exploding established myths about the Industrial Revolution and the benevolence of government intervention. Important historical work on a watershed period in western history. (pb., \$3.95)

Rise to Globalism, Stephen E. Ambrose.

The story of how the American government made itself the world's policeman in the period since the beginning of World War II. Straightforward, readable, authoritative—the best historical introduction to the subject. (pb., \$4.95)

Techniques for Change

Winning Political Campaigns With Publicity, Hank Parkinson.

Introductory "how-to" book on local media relations, geared to campaigns at state legislative level or lower. Treatment of technique is superb; treatment of strategy is unprincipled and not recommended. (pb. reprint, \$8.00)

The Political Campaign Handbook, Arnold Steinberg.

Political Campaign Management, Arnold Steinberg.

These two books provide an exhaustive guide to campaign management. Recommended reading for Libertarian candidates and campaign managers. (*The Political Campaign Handbook*: hb., \$21.95/*Political Campaign Management*: hb., \$23.95)

How to Win Votes, Edward Costikyan.

A well-written and up-to-date manual by a top political adviser to New York City's Democratic mayor Edward Koch. Stresses opinion polling, TV ads, and mobilizing the non-voter, and pays particular attention to the importance of issues. (hb., \$12.95)

The Almanac of American Politics 1980, various authors.

A massive (over 1,000 pages) compendium of facts and information about American politics. Generally objective, but with slight Democratic Party bias. (pb., \$10.95)

Cutting Back City Hall, Robert Poole.

Reviewed in this issue. Very useful for local activists and municipal candidates. (hb., \$12.50/pb., \$5.95)

Political Philosophy

A New Beginning, Ed Clark.

Systematic and readable overview of libertarianism with specific applications to important public policy areas. Written by 1980 Libertarian presidential candidate. Highly recommended. (pb., \$5.95)

continued on next page

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Introductory exposition of libertarianism with more emphasis on abstract libertarianism and less analysis of public policy than *A New Beginning*. Written by 1976 Libertarian presidential candidate. Excellent introduction. (pb., \$.95)

For A New Liberty, Murray N. Rothbard.

In-depth presentation of libertarianism by a leading libertarian scholar. Includes libertarian heritage, philosophy, economic analysis, public policy, and strategy for achieving liberty. (pb., \$6.95)

The Libertarian Alternative: Essays in Social and Political Philosophy, ed. by Tibor Machan.

Wide-ranging collection of essays on libertarian theory and analysis, covering such areas as ethics, economics, foreign affairs, etc. Includes many important essays. (pb., \$11.95)

The Law, Frederic Bastiat.

Classic polemic against statism by nineteenth century French libertarian economist. Dated but excellent. (hb., \$2.50, pb., \$1.00)

No Treason, Lysander Spooner.

Written by a great libertarian abolitionist of the nineteenth century, this work argues clearly and persuasively that one is not bound by all of the dictates of government, but that government must be judged by the standards applicable to all. Focuses on constitutional arguments. (pb., \$2.00)

In Search of Peace, F. A. Harper.

This eloquent pamphlet argues that force and coercion are inappropriate means to achieve social goals. (pamphlet, \$1.00)

Vices Are Not Crimes, Lysander Spooner.

Written by a prominent constitutional lawyer, this book systematically demolishes the pretensions of "moral reformers" to regulate voluntary conduct. Distinguishes between immoral conduct that should be illegal (aggression) and that which should not be regulated by law. (pb., \$3.95)

Fugitive Essays, Frank Chodorov.

Collection of essays by a libertarian journalist of the 1940's and 50's. Cogently and consistently makes the case for peace and freedom. (pb., \$4.50/hb., \$9.00)

Two Treatises of Government, John Locke.

Locke's *Second Treatise* is a powerful source of inspiration for the American Revolutionaries. Often difficult and subtle reading. (pb., \$3.50)

Conscience on the Battlefield, Leonard Read.

Set in the form of a dialogue between a dying soldier and his conscience, this brief pamphlet discusses the nature of freedom and responsibility. Written in 1951 during the Korean War by a veteran of World War I and reprinted with a new introduction in 1981. (pamphlet, \$1.00)

Books For Libertarians

The Regulation of Medical Care: Is The Price Too High?

by John C. Goodman
published by The Cato Institute
135 pages (p.b., \$5.00)

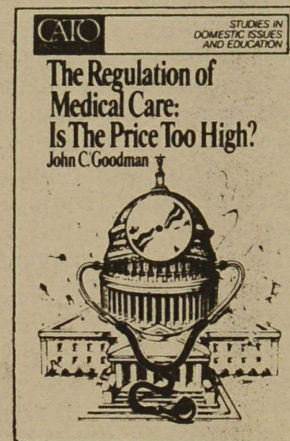
Reviewed by S. Dallas Cooley, M.D.

This excellent monograph tells a story that will not surprise anyone familiar with the health care system in this country—it is a cartel, a successful cartel. And like all cartels, it has depended on government actions in order to persist for as long as it has.

Goodman, relying heavily on excellent research done by Reuben A. Kessel in the late 1950s, traces the steps taken by the medical profession to establish this cartel. Publicly espousing noble notions like protecting "befuddled and helpless" patients from "quacks," the revelation of AMA internal statements that steps had to be taken "to improve the incomes and social status of its members" provides the true motive for its drive to institute and control the mechanism of licensure. Once in control of licensure, it was easy to extend control over the number of physicians, their activities and even their fee policies.

Beginning with the notorious "Fletcher Report"—an AMA backed "study" of unlicensed or unaccredited medical schools in America in 1910—Goodman outlines how the AMA successfully lobbied to eliminate not only proprietary medical schools (except for those run by the AMA hierarchy) but schools that admitted Jews, blacks, and women as well.

Moving to more modern times, Goodman explains how government policy affects the supply of hospitals, influences the insurance industry, the drug industry and medical research, and restricts the



activities of paramedical personnel.

The net effect of all these intrusions by government into the market for health care is predictable—increased costs for health care which is less responsive and essentially devoid of competition.

A minor criticism of the book is that some recent changes in certain areas have not been considered by the author. Although these changes are not substantive, some have allowed for minor improvements in past abuses. The most notable is the relaxation of restrictions on advertising by physicians (the restriction led to less competition and higher prices).

This is certainly a book to be read by anyone who thinks that there is a free market in health care or by anyone who needs solid facts and examples of how government does us no favors by trying to "protect" us.

As a member of the medical profession, I find the sordid history related by this book to be embarrassing and disgusting. As a libertarian, I find it strengthens my resolve to eliminate government from all sectors of the marketplace.

S. Dallas Cooley, M.D. is in practice in Northern Virginia and is the Treasurer of the Libertarian National Committee.

Update On El Salvador

On March 16, 1981, the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee voted 6-2 to approve an additional \$5 million in military aid to El Salvador requested by President Reagan. The \$5 million will be added on to the \$20 million in military aid that Reagan has already authorized.

On March 24, 1981, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations voted 8-7 to approve a similar \$5 million package for the El Salvadoran junta.

Officially, there are 56 U.S. military advisors and personnel in El Salvador including a contingent of 15 from Special Forces to instruct Salvadoran infantry units. Of course, there is no way of verifying what the "unofficial" count is.

Gun Control continued from pg. 7

pletely insignificant. Consider Jamaica, an island nation which instituted a draconian gun ban in 1973. All guns with police permits were immediately seized and police were given the power to stop anyone or search any home, without warrant, for firearms and ammunition. Arrests were made for ownership of a single .22 caliber bullet. Those arrested were imprisoned in a stockade surrounded by barb wire and guarded with submachine guns. The result? The rate of armed crime dropped for the first three months. Then it soared. Conditions culminated in the recent elections where armed gangs roamed the streets and assassinations and bloody massacres were common.

That gun control laws do not reduce the availability of handguns comes as no surprise to libertarians, liberals, and others familiar with the dismal record of alcohol and marijuana prohibition. Any good or service in demand by consumers, legal or illegal, will be met in the marketplace. All prohibition laws accomplish is to drive the production and trade of the prohibited product into the black market, transforming tens of millions of peaceful citizens into "criminals." Most gun control proponents, knowing very little about firearms, totally underestimate the ease with which handguns and ammunition can be manufactured in the underground economy. Under Britain's so called "model" gun laws Sir Robert Fabian, former Superintendent of Scotland Yard, said, "(a criminal) can easily buy a gun in London's underworld; (\$15.00) will buy you a big revolver; (\$30.00) will get a slender automatic pistol to fit the pocket."

By increasing the risk involved in handgun ownership, and consequently raising the price to consumers, prohibition leads to what economists call the "substitution effect." Gun control does not reduce the rate of violent crime, but it does lead to substitution of other weapons, such as knives or long-guns in place of handguns otherwise used in violent crime. Studies by Professor Kates and Superintendent Greenwood, among others, verify that the availability of one type of weapon over another is not a significant factor in the number of homicides or seriousness of assaults. In fact, if a handgun ban causes a temporary switch to the deadlier long-gun in assaults and armed robbery the probability of serious injury is four times greater than with a handgun. Superintendent Greenwood noted that the Harvard Law School's Center for Criminal Justice study of the effects of the Massachusetts handgun control law

found that "in unpremeditated crimes such as . . . domestic homicide . . . the use of guns did decrease, but not the numbers of seriousness of the crimes. Weapons such as knives were substituted for guns with no diminution of the severity of the effects of assault."

Enforcement problems alone should be enough to make any good "civil libertarian" a staunch opponent of gun control. Cautious estimates place the number of handguns in America at 50 million meaning that only 0.04% (or less) of the handguns currently in circulation were used in criminal acts in 1980. Incredibly, gun control reactionaries are perfectly willing to make tens of millions of peaceful American gun owners subject to fine and imprisonment by government fiat, all in a hopeless attempt to disarm the incredibly tiny minority of handgun owners involved in crime. The BATF's record of entrapment and gestapo-like tactics against gun collectors and peaceful gun owners in enforcing the relatively mild Gun Control Act of 1968 is just a taste of what would be in store for us under national handgun prohibition.

For women, the freedom to own a handgun is often the freedom to defend themselves from the physically stronger male aggressor.

Americans, particularly the millions who view handgun ownership as a constitutional right and a necessity for self defense, are not likely to comply with any handgun ban. Attorney David T. Hardy and Kenneth L. Chotiner, Vice-President of Southern California ACLU, have noted that "the only practical way to insure the initial universal compliance that an effective handgun ban requires would be something tantamount to suspending civil liberties and declaring martial law; . . . police activities would include a house to house 'clean sweep' complemented by random dragnet searches; . . . those found with firearms would receive harsh sentences designed to be more terrifying than the violence feared by inner city residents," and concluded, "such a system has all the civil liberties appeal of the swastika."

Under an attempted national handgun ban pressures for unlawful search and seizures would become unbearable for law enforcement officials. Conviction of only 1% of today's handgun owners would tax the federal system beyond its present resources. As in marijuana laws, sex laws, and gambling laws, the police, in order to save time and costs, would tend to discriminate in the enforcement of the handgun laws directing efforts against only those

unpopular with the police—namely, minorities, dissidents, and the poor. The Harvard Study of the Massachusetts gun law found that only 33.3% of those arrested for gun law violations were white, while 54.9% were black, and 9.2% were Hispanic.

Incredibly, gun control reactionaries are perfectly willing to make tens of millions of peaceful American gun owners subject to fine and imprisonment.

The usefulness of the handgun for self-defense has been totally downplayed by gun control reactionaries. A few examples cited by Professor Kates may suffice: "In May 1975, for no apparent reason, a stranger begins shouting abuse at a young mother traveling with her children on a train. After the two uniformed officers detained, he threw her to the floor and began dragging her down the aisle, while the conductor and five other passengers did nothing. Drawing a 'Saturday Night Special' she shot him in the shoulder and held him for the police." "Chicago, October 1976. Returning to her apartment, Mrs. W found a man who had entered by battering down a wall, and had raped her roommate and thrown her out the 15th story window. When Mrs. W drew a gun, the attacker fled." A final example—"Shreveport, La., a burglar who tried to force his way into the home of an 84 year old woman at 2:30 A.M. fled after she shot him with a handgun."

Murders and robberies make the news. Someone scaring off a potential rapist or murderer usually does not. The Eisenhower Commission Report, largely responsible for the misconception that handguns are not useful in self defense, based their findings on the number of attackers killed. But a 1976 survey of 2.5 million California handgun owners reported that 58% had used a handgun in personal defense but that in 99% of these incidents the attacker was not killed. The gun control proponent's charge that "handguns are only meant to kill" is simply false. Handguns are an effective deterrent to violent crime. In 1968, Orlando, Florida became the only U.S. city of over 100,000 people to experience a decrease in crime (rape down by 90%, aggravated assault down by 25%, burglary down by 24%) after 6,000 women took a highly publicized shooting course. Highland Park and Detroit, Michigan both experienced reductions in armed robberies of up to 90% following publicized firearms training courses by local merchants.

For women, the freedom to own a handgun is often the freedom to de-

fend themselves from the physically stronger male aggressor. A study by liberal San Francisco Supervisor Carol Silver found that "a firearm is far superior to any other form of resistance because it is: a) most likely to stop the attacker; b) least likely to be taken away; and c) least likely to be used to injure the woman if it is taken away," and concludes "women must have the freedom to choose with whom, and under what conditions, they shall live. That freedom is made possible by the opportunity to possess a handgun. To paraphrase a saying from the Old West: 'God didn't make men and women equal, Colonel Colt did.'"

For minorities, gun control not only threatens their ability to defend themselves from "free lance" criminals but from the organized criminality of government itself. The police beating of a black man which touched off the Liberty City, Florida riots in 1980 is just one of many examples of police violence against minorities. A black Washington, D.C. resident noted recently on gun control, "some people have only in mind disarming the Negro and not the KKK. Look right here in Washington, all this gun law. Then you have Charlie coming in from Maryland and Virginia with rifles on the racks." John R. Salter, Jr. an American Indian and a civil rights activist with the NAACP during the Jackson Movement in 1963 writes, "no one knows what kind of massive racist retaliation would have been directed against grass roots black people had the black community not had a healthy measure of firearms within it" and concludes, "A huge number of our people, particularly poor and minority people, are not going to give up the only security they and their families have, no matter how often they are told they will be safer by well-to-do white gun banners living in suburbs and high-security buildings . . . The causes of crime are complex . . . they can't be constructively touched by gimmicky legislation, but gimmicky legislation can hurt good people and seriously damage the libertarian traditions of this country."

Firearms allow for the very necessary function of an armed people as a bulwark against government tyranny. For those who doubt the usefulness of small arms against State police and armed forces, remember the U.S. experience with the guerillas of Vietnam and the Russian experience with the Afghan rebels. Adolf Hitler wrote "the most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to allow the subject races to possess arms. History shows that all conquerors who have allowed the subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so." Indeed such was the

continued on page 22

Fly the Frenzied Skies Or How to Get to the National Convention

by Glenda Bull

To get the best available fare from your city to the Denver convention in August:

1) Find yourself a good travel agent. His services are free to you. He earns his commission of 5 to 10% from airlines, hotels, car companies, and tour operators. By a good travel agent, I mean one who asks you what you want rather than tells you what you can have. If a special fare is sold out, he should be willing to place your name on a waitlist (if the airline has one for the fare you want) and should check it regularly. A good agent is a person who knows where to get the answers you need, not a person who has been everywhere you may want to go. These answers may take time, so give your agent the time to research for you. If you call in the morning, he should return your call by afternoon, or the next morning, with the information you need. You can help by knowing your destination and dates of travel. At a commission rate of 5 to 10 percent, trying to find the best fare is something that your agent must be able to do quickly and

precisely if he is going to be in business the next time you call. What will your agent look for?

- A. Which airline(s) fly to your destination? You may also want to get Amtrak rates. Bus rates may also be available and it may be wise for you to compare all three. In spite of the fact airfares have risen astronomically, the comparisons often reveal that air transportation is still your best buy.
- B. Are there nearby large cities with better bargains?
- C. What are the special fares available and do you meet the restrictions?
- D. How do the special fares compare to the regular fares for your convenience and comfort? The choice, of course, is up to you.

When your agent has the information, he calls and you make your decision.

2) Reserve and purchase your ticket as early as possible. A reservation can be made and held for you without ticketing until approximately

two weeks before your departure, however you are not guaranteed a price until you are ticketed. Even if you know you cannot purchase the ticket immediately, or even if you are not certain you will make the trip, make a reservation. The best fares are capacity-controlled and are the first to go for those who meet the restrictions. Restrictions may mean advance purchase, minimum stay, maximum stay, or merely that there are only 20 seats on a particular flight allotted for the special fare. How much can this save you? Frequently up to 40%, and sometimes over 60%!

3) Verify before your departure.

Well, you have taken my advice so far and it is now one month before your departure. To make sure that you still have the best buy, call your agent to see what the status is at that point. In most cases the fare you have already purchased will be by far the best. In a few rare instances a new carrier may have obtained the route or a previous carrier may be offering a better fare. Although this aspect of the industry causes much

distress to your agent, he should be willing to exchange your ticket at no additional cost. Quite often, his original commission will be protected at the higher fare if the same carrier is involved. Exchanges, at any rate, should not cost you unless you were so informed prior to purchasing your ticket. Refunds, should you decide not to go, may cost you a minimal service fee at some agencies for processing the paper work.

If you don't have your reservation, make it soon. You could save enough money to pay all of your convention expenses. See you there!

Glenda Bull is the manager of Bradford Travel in North Hollywood California and has been in the travel business for four years. She is currently writing a book on international travel which is scheduled to be released in December. Glenda has been a Libertarian since 1972 and has served in regional and state LP offices.

Rothbard continued from pg. 2

conned into thinking that these policies—basically policies in our direction in economics—were tried and failed, so that we will go down the tubes along with Reaganism.

The opportunity is for us to point out loud and clear, beginning now, that Reagan's policies are a gigantic hoax, and that *none* of the rhetoric has been put into effect. Policies that have never been tried are scarcely likely to work. By pointing this out, we can demonstrate to the disappointed and disaffected Reaganites that there is a *real* anti-Big Government alternative to Ronnie. There is a Party that means all that anti-statist rhetoric. How do they know we mean it? By pointing to, emphasizing, and spreading the good news of our magnificent platform.

We also have a tough but vitally important row to hoe among the public: to point out to them that true opposition to Big Government, such as embodied in the LP, is against such government everywhere, in civil liberties and foreign affairs as well as in strictly economic matters. How can an anti-Big Government policy be pursued which wants to raise military spending almost indefinitely, and to intervene and rattle sabers and missiles all over the world? There are doubtless many genuine anti-statists among the Reagan supporters who will see this when it is pointed out to them. But

only we can do so, and again we have an opportunity to convince people of across-the-board anti-statism through disseminating and stressing the importance of our ongoing, ever-improving LP platform.

Hope to see you at Denver!

Olson continued from pg. 2

nizing our existing documents, and the CB&R Committee will refine this work. I hope the convention delegates adopt these reorganized Bylaws as a first order of business. Then the real issues needing discussion and change will be much easier to deal with.

Control of presidential campaigns: Some Libertarians believe our current rules to be inadequate in outlining the relationship of a presidential campaign to the Party. Should a campaign be totally independent, or an agent of the Party? The only provision we currently have is that three-fourths of the Nat Com may suspend the nomination (subject to appeal to the Judicial Committee). The CB&R Committee will be hearing proposals for control of a presidential campaign and making its recommendations to the delegates. Some of the preliminary ideas that have surfaced are:

(1) an LNC-appointed "Watchdog Committee" with ability to impose sanctions upon officers of the campaign (Greg Clark);

(2) pre-campaign contracts and conditional use of the LP mailing list (Michael Emerling);

(3) specific debt limitations, plus a five-member Campaign Review Committee with power to review and veto campaign statements and literature, control use of the LP mailing list and LNC funds for the campaign, and fire campaign staff (Bill Evers); and

(4) a Campaign Liason Committee to play an ombudsman role, investigating complaints, analyzing campaign financial reports and other materials, and reporting its findings to the LNC and officers; Party ownership of all mailing lists and campaign-related property; and LNC assumption of campaign debts, with any debts beyond an authorized limit to become the personal liability of the candidates (Ben Olson).

Date of the next nominating convention: Should our next presidential nominating convention be held in the summer of 1983 or the spring of 1984? Advocates for '84 argue that we need to enter the "big time" and become involved in caucuses and primaries; advocates for '83 argue that we need the extra time to get on the ballot everywhere. If we choose '84, should we set another business convention in '83 to elect a new Nat Com and take care of other business?

Among the many other topics to be considered are: redistricting the regions; delegate allocation; defini-

tions of Party membership; size of the LNC; limiting LNC members and officers to two terms in any position; discontinuing cumulative voting for members-at-large.

How Do We Change the Rules?

Proposals for all these various changes are now being worked on by members of the CB&R Committee, which was elected at the April LNC meeting. These proposals will be put in final form when that committee meets in Denver on August 25-26, just prior to the opening of the convention. Then the committee's proposals—and amendments from the convention floor—will be offered to the assembled delegates for discussion and voting.

As a member of the CB&R Committee, I ask you to give us your ideas, and to take an active part in the ongoing debate about the future structure of the Party. The decisions we all make in Denver this August will shape that structure. To succeed as a party, we need rules that are forthright and fair; that will facilitate our growth, foster intelligent decision-making, and put responsibility and accountability where it belongs; and that will help maintain the Libertarian Party as the party of principle. Let's work together to make it happen!

Ben Olson is a long-time Libertarian activist. He is the regional representative from Region 8 to the Libertarian National Committee.

Special Committees for Upcoming Denver National Convention

Suggested items for committee agendas should be directed to the chairs of the appropriate committees.

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Note: The five largest state parties will select one committee member each.

What's Available From Headquarters?

Qty./Amt. Pamphlets:

1980 LP Platform. (15¢ each, 50 or more @ 10¢, 1000 or more @ 8¢)

Gay Rights: A Libertarian Approach. Booklet outlining Libertarian answers to gay rights questions, with applications to all "social justice" issues. (50¢ each, 100 or more @ 25¢)

Question and Answer Brochure. The Libertarian Party's new brochure, which explains the positions and purposes of the Libertarian Party. (5 for \$1.00, 50 for \$8.00)

Books:

Local Problems: Libertarian Solutions. The popular community issues manual. (\$5.00 each)

Earth's Resources: Private Ownership vs. Public Waste. Libertarian answers to pollution and other environmental problems. (\$5.00 each)

LP Activist's Manual. Based on the Party's successful Political Action Workshops. (\$5.00 each)

A New Dawn for America by Roger MacBride (\$5.95 each)

A New Beginning by Ed Clark (\$5.95 each)

Issue Papers:

New in-depth treatments of important subjects, (\$1.00 each, 10 @ 50¢)

_____ Poverty	_____ Election Laws
_____ Inflation	_____ Controlled Substances
_____ Government and Business	_____ Health Care
_____ Women's Rights	_____ Agriculture

Posters:

(\$2.00, 10 for \$10.00)

_____ **Libertarian Party Statement of Principles** (inscribed on parchment-style, small poster, suitable for framing)

_____ **"No Draft — No War"** (23" x 35")

_____ **"Clark for President"** (18½" x 26")

_____ **"MacBride for President"** (18½" x 26")

Position Papers:

(5¢ each, 100 or more @ 3.5¢)

_____ **Inflation: Its Cause and Its Cure (#2)**

_____ **Nuclear Power: A Question of Insurance (#4)**

_____ **Government and Business (#5)**

_____ **Pot, Helmets, Vitamins, and You (#6)**

_____ **Gun Control (#7)**

_____ **Government and "Mental Health" (#8)**

Bumper Stickers:

(\$1.00 each)

_____ **Libertarian Party: The Party of Principle**

_____ **Show Your Independence: Vote Libertarian**

_____ **Stop the Draft: Vote Libertarian**

_____ **Legalize Freedom: Vote Libertarian**

Total Amount of Order

Add \$1.25 for postage and handling

MATERIAL ORDER TOTAL

\$1.25

Make Checks payable to Libertarian Party, 2300 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20007.

Name _____
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State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____
Occupation and Employer Name† _____

†Federal Election law requires us to ask for this information.

Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to "Libertarian Party."

Bill my Master Charge Visa

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

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Name as appears on card _____

I want to join the Libertarian Party. Enclosed are my membership dues.

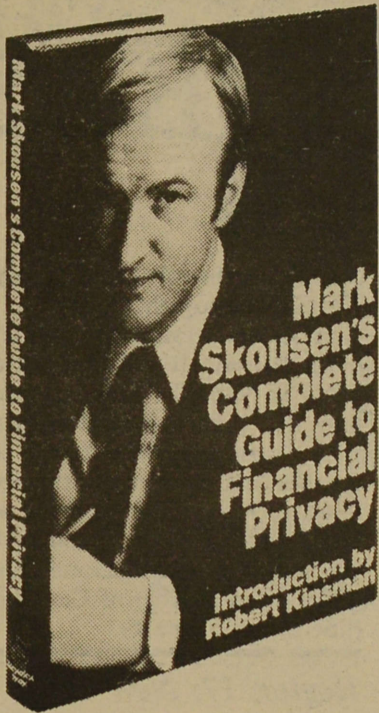
Regular (\$10) Student (\$5) Sustaining (\$20) Patron (\$100)
 Associate (\$250) Benefactor/Lifetime (\$1000)

"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

*Necessary for membership only.

JOIN THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY!



HOW TO MAKE YOURSELF INVISIBLE TO THE I.R.S.

A Message from Mark Skousen

Three years ago I met a field auditor with the Internal Revenue Service. At social gatherings, when the talk got around to the mess in Washington and everyone's gripes about the government, he would interrupt with, "Now what did you say your social security number is?"

He was joking—or so he said. But his words set me thinking. *If the government can catch me with a number, then the power to tax is indeed the power to destroy.*

I began to study the situation. I was appalled to discover how much the government and business groups could find out about my personal and financial affairs *without me even knowing it.*

But I also learned that there were steps I could take—perfectly legal steps—to keep the snoops out of my life.

Then, as I got deeper into the problem, I realized that other men and women were troubled too. They were angry, but they felt helpless to do anything about it. When I told them the simple steps they could take, for example, to protect their social security number most of them just wouldn't believe me, until I actually proved it. One friend suspected his boss was spying on him. I showed him a free, easy way to find out whether his office phone was bugged. A friend of my wife's was having trouble with her husband. He was living beyond their means, spending their savings on heaven knows whom. I was able to show her how to store her valuables safely, outside her home and her safe deposit box.

But one thing I learned after three years of research. *Nobody had ever written a book about how I could protect my privacy.* It seemed that everybody was afraid of what the government would do to him.

Well, I don't consider myself a hero, but I decided to take on this project myself. After all, I am not doing anything illegal—or recommending anything illegal. My book is not for criminals. (They already know all the illegal methods.) It is for concerned citizens who *don't* want to break the law, but want to do everything possible to keep the government, business competitors, or prying relatives out of their private lives and their financial affairs.

My publisher calls the book **Mark Skousen's Complete Guide to Financial Privacy**. If secrecy, financial and otherwise, is one of your concerns, I'm certain my book will help you, in dozens of ways. For example:

1. 5 reasons why you need financial privacy now.
2. How to make sure your larger checks are *not* available to the government.
3. Treasury rules on foreign bank accounts: 5 promising *legal* loopholes.
4. 2 little-known tricks for preserving privacy even with a listed phone number.
5. How to learn what data a credit bureau is furnishing about you.
6. 2 ways to get a sizable loan without collateral and without revealing the purpose of the loan.
7. Risks you should *not* take to maintain privacy.
8. How to mail money out of the country anonymously.
9. The 10 best ways to hide your valuables.
10. You *can* avoid probate, and the harmful publicity that goes along with it.
11. The terrible powers of the IRS.
12. Sample contract to assure bank privacy.
13. The benefits of a (perfectly legal) fictitious company checking account.
14. The 6 best tax havens. Advantages and disadvantages of each. 6 common reasons for using a tax haven.
15. How to use money orders, cashier's checks and travelers checks to enhance privacy. How to avoid the pitfalls.
16. How the post office can monitor your mail.
17. IRS devices to learn more about you.
18. The joys of a diplomatic passport. 3 ways a nondiplomat may get one.
19. Mexican banks: there's privacy, but also risks.
20. Advantages of foreign accounts even where there is no secrecy.
21. Project Haven, and the illegal behavior of IRS agents.
22. Money couriers: many work for the underworld, but some don't.
23. U.S. and Nazi tax laws: one disturbing similarity.
24. An expert's rundown on alarms and security devices.
25. Advantages—and risks—of a second passport.
26. The positive side of the so-called Bank Secrecy Act.
27. Ways *anyone* can spy on you—legally!

28. Swiss banks: still secret, in most circumstances. The 35 crimes that allow the Swiss to reveal bank secrets. Large and small Swiss banks—which are better?
29. 2 legal ways to take a large sum out of the country *without* reporting it.
30. 3 ideal investments for maintaining privacy.
31. Your investments: those that get reported to the IRS; those that are *not* reported.
32. 24 steps to financial and personal privacy—a summary.
33. 24 tips to help you avoid a tax audit.

Yes, my book *can* help, in countless ways. Proof: send for it. If you don't agree, my publisher will give you your money back.

HOW TO GET THIS BOOK FREE!

Send \$70 for a full year of *Personal Finance*, and we'll send you the *Guide to Financial Privacy* FREE. *Personal Finance* is America's most widely read publication dealing with hard money and inflation-survival strategies. *Guarantee*: If *PF* doesn't pay for itself many times over, just cancel and request a full refund for unread issues and keep the privacy guide for your trouble.

I enclose \$14.95. Please rush, post-paid, *Mark Skousen's Guide to Financial Privacy*. I understand that I may read the book for 14 days. If not pleased, I may return it for a full and prompt refund. D225

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REGIONAL REPORTS

Region 12 continued from pg. 14 receiving favorable media coverage in her campaign. According to Kathy Jacob, State Director, this is a first—"People are finally taking us seriously in the Fourth District," she said.

The Michigan State Convention will be held May 16-17 in Romulus, Michigan (near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport). Featured speakers are Eric O'Keefe, LNC National Director, and Bob Tish (the "Howard Jarvis" of Michigan). For details, contact Brian Wright at (313) 644-1816.

OHIO—The Libertarian Party of Ohio had a "media blitz" after the election when its Media Coordinator announced that "contrary to the 'going out of business sale' being conducted by the Anderson for

President headquarters next door, the Clark for President headquarters were being converted into permanent Ohio Libertarian Party headquarters."

Jim Higgins, a long-time Libertarian in Ohio, personally purchased a home computer for the purpose of compiling membership lists, media lists and print-out labels for our various mailings. Jim has done this at his own expense as a contribution to the Libertarian Party.

LP activist Jim Berns has declared his candidacy for City Council in Cincinnati and is actively participating in Council meetings and local issues in the Cincinnati area. Jim also publishes a regional newsletter at his own expense to keep regional members informed of current issues and activities.

Gun Control continued from pg. 18 reasoning of the Founding Fathers for inclusion of the 2nd amendment defining the "right of the people to keep and bear arms." Thomas Jefferson asked "what country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that this people preserve the spirit of resistance. Let them take arms." James Madison, in the Federalist, No. 46, applauded Americans on the "advantage of being armed which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation."

Gun control is not an acceptable option in that it interferes with the fundamental human right to possess or freely trade property and it would deny Americans the ability to defend themselves both from private criminal violence and from State violence. What then should be done about America's very real crime problem?

First we must abolish all laws which impede the individual's ability to defend herself or himself such as the Gun Control Act of 1968, and all state and local gun laws, and laws banning non-lethal weapons such as mace. To this end we must also abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Secondly, victimless crime laws, such as laws against drugs, prostitution, gambling, etc., should be repealed. Studies have indicated that some 50% of all revenue producing crime is drug related. Drug prohibition laws astronomically drive up the price of drugs, thereby providing more incentive for drug users to steal to support their habit. Countless valuable police hours are spent busting pot smokers and hookers when law enforcement agents should be out pursuing real criminals like murderers, rapists, and muggers. (For more information on the libertarian position on victimless crime laws, see the Libertarian Party issue

paper on "Controlled Substances").

We must abolish government programs of inflation, taxation, and regulation which have institutionalized poverty and unemployment, destroying the natural community and social bonds which discourage criminal behavior. Islands of relatively low crime in the poor sections of many American cities testify to the moral influence "the neighborhood" can have over its young people as a deterrent to crime. But government "urban renewal" programs, rent controls, highway projects, taxes, etc., have all acted to destroy inner city neighborhoods, leaving the decayed shells of once vibrant communities. Libertarians would abolish such government programs, leaving communities to develop in peace. (For more information on the libertarian approach to poverty and unemployment, see the Libertarian Party issue paper on "Poverty").

Finally we must unshackle market defense and arbitration services. Organizations such as New York City's Guardian Angels, a group of young men and women out of the New York ghetto who volunteer to patrol the crime ridden New York subway system (in the face of hostility from the New York City government), are examples of volunteer neighborhood action against crime that should be encouraged simply by getting government out of the way.

The proper function of law should be to protect people's lives and property, not, as gun control laws would do, to aggress against people who have committed no wrong. There are answers to the crime problem. But if we are to find them, the simplistic chantings of the gun control reactionaries must be refuted.

Jay Hilgartner is Research Director for the Libertarian Party National Headquarters.

Ohio Libertarians are considering whether to attempt to attain permanent Libertarian Party ballot status in 1982. Ohio Libertarians need the signatures of 1% of the total votes cast in 1980, or over 42,000 valid signatures to get party status on the ballot. In order to retain permanent party ballot status, Ohio Libertarian candidates would have to pull 5% statewide in the 1982 gubernatorial election.

The Ohio State Convention will be held between Cleveland and Akron June 20-21. Tax Protests were held in five cities across the state on April 15. Columbus Libertarians attached teabags to flyers opposing taxation and distributed them to 20,000-30,000 cars passing through the main post office mailing last-minute tax returns.

Region 13: Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana

by Phil Carden

Twenty Libertarian Party leaders from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee held the first Region 13 conference at Posey's Cafeteria in Tuscaloosa March 27. National Director Eric O'Keefe was dinner speaker, and chief source of authoritative answers for the many questions raised during the meeting.

Your correspondent, whose hopes for results were quite modest, was overwhelmed not only by the number of libertarian leaders who drove long distances to get there, but by the fresh ideas and enthusiasm they brought with them.

One of them had a proposed constitution for a permanent Mid-South Libertarian party organization written and all hands were insistent on setting up a definite date for another meeting. It will be held at the same place July 18 with hopes that candidates for national chair will find that a convenient time to prospect for mid-South delegate votes.

The Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee delegations were headed by Chairs Adam Hand, Bob Chapuis and Sparky Hall respectively, and Vice Chair Chuck Scarborough substituted for Chair Charles Clark for Mississippi.

The meeting came just a week after the Louisiana state convention in Baton Rouge, at which Hall had been elected to succeed Tristan Junis as chairman, Diane Tudor was elected vice chair, and Noah Fruge and Chris Gould were re-elected treasurer and secretary. The Statue of Liberty was officially adopted as the state party's symbol. A feature event was an informal debate between Eric Mack of Tulane University, and Michael Lipson of California on issues controversial among libertarians.

Tennessee's annual convention,

originally scheduled as a largely no-working get-together in a Cumberland Mountain retreat, has been changed. It will be a one-day affair in Nashville May 16 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Candidates for national chair have been invited to speak at the luncheon at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel. The program will include simultaneous workshops to be conducted by Bill McDonald and Mary Lou Gutscher of Canada's (libertarian) Unparty.

Region 17: New York

by Andrea Millen Rich

New York is busy with conventions: the state convention will be held May 30-31 in Albany; and the next Presidential Nominating Convention (fall of '83 or spring of '84) will be held in New York City. A PresCon committee has been established which holds regular meetings. They are receiving bids from various hotels and doing the planning and research necessary for such a major undertaking.

The New York City chapter is also gearing up for its May 3rd convention to select candidates for Mayor and other city offices. A recent orientation meeting in the city attracted almost 100 people to see "The Incredible Bread Machine" and ask questions about LP positions on the issues. New York City libertarians are beginning to receive the benefits of competition as the FLP-NYC, Laissez Faire Books and the Center for Libertarian Studies conduct monthly education and entertainment programs. Rough times ahead for organizers, but great for the libertarian consumer.

Upstate, the Genesee Valley Libertarians are among the state's most active. In March, with just one week's notice, the Genesee FLP sponsored a talk by Dick Randolph

continued on page 24

Libertarian NEWS

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Libertarian NEWS

May-June, 1981

Perspective

From The Chair

by David P. Bergland

It has been quite gratifying to me in the past few months to see the large number of articles in Libertarian literature dealing with the issue of strategy for the Libertarian Party and movement. In a previous column, I emphasized the need for such a discussion to take place with the hope that the forthcoming LP National Convention in Denver would involve decisions made on the basis of much exhaustive consideration of the strategy issue by the delegates.

Goals, strategy and tactics constitute a hierarchy. A goal is an ultimate objective. For Libertarians, including those in the LP, I believe that the *ultimate objective is to live in a free society.*

Strategy may be defined as a general plan for achieving one's goals. I believe our strategy must be *to change the thinking of substantial numbers of influential people* so that they too want to live in a free, i.e. Libertarian, society.

A sound free market concept should guide us here, i.e. the division of labor. We must ask ourselves what we can do with what we have. We must not make the mistake of spreading ourselves too thin. We must not expect the LP to be the vehicle for all Libertarian activities. What can the Libertarian Party do *because* it is a political party? Following are some obvious answers with additional commentary.

The LP can run candidates for election. But how do we decide which elections to enter and which candidates to run? It is certainly not wise to expend a great deal of time, energy and money on a candidate in a campaign which will do little to advance the cause of liberty. Goals and objectives in each campaign must be established beforehand and a realistic assessment made of how close we can come to those goals and at what cost. Avoiding the risk of disappointing and discouraging supporters with a campaign failure is also an important issue to be faced. One important goal of each campaign should be internal education. A candidate and all of the campaign workers should work to become more knowledgeable about libertarianism and the way campaigns are run.

The LP can elect candidates. It

should now be possible to look to places other than Alaska as possibilities for the election of Libertarian candidates. In the 1980 elections a general premise seemed to be fill up the ballot with Libertarians to establish a presence. It is now possible to begin aiming with a rifle rather than a shotgun, with the goal of putting some more Libertarians into office. The credibility we have worked so hard to achieve can be lost unless more libertarians are elected in places other than Alaska

The LP can be the vehicle for many in the electorate disillusioned with traditional politics. Our recruitment and growth programs must rely heavily on the perception of the Libertarian Party as the place for people to go who are fed up with traditional politics. Growing and maintaining our credibility as that vehicle is absolutely necessary to the achievement of our ultimate objective.

The LP can present programs for legislative change. This can be done by elected Libertarians, like Dick Randolph in Alaska, by Libertarian Party activists who are candidates, or by activists who may have the ear of legislators sympathetic to some Libertarian issues.

The LP can be an effective lobbying organization. The existence of the party and its credibility create an entre to public hearings and legislatures. Articulate Libertarians can be the most cogent spokespersons for pro-freedom positions in the public debate.

LP representatives can participate in the public discussion of issues in the media. In some parts of the country, Libertarians have been very successful in offering editorial responses on television and radio and in newspaper letters-to-editor columns.

The foregoing list is certainly not intended to be exhaustive. Each one of those activities does serve the important purpose of reaching people and affecting the way they think about the political situation in the United States and the LP as an alternative to traditional politics.

The list sets forth some examples of activity which are available to lovers of liberty *because* there is a Libertarian Party.

From The Director

Eric O'Keefe

The current level of Libertarian Party activity at every level—local, state, and national—is unprecedented for a “non-election” year. In fact, many (maybe even most) state Libertarian parties are even more active than they were at this date in 1980.

A state/national membership drive, which involved hundreds of volunteers in the forty-five participating state parties, was concluded in March. As new supporters from 1980 were recruited into the party, the national dues-paying membership increased by two-thirds from December 1, 1980 to March 31. Coordinators of the recently completed phonathon recruited several hundred new volunteer fundraisers, and helped finance activities of the national headquarters and many state parties. An elaborate National Convention is being planned for late August in Denver. Over one-hundred people will be involved as speakers, panelists, or moderators during this tenth anniversary convention/celebration.

Libertarians are running for office in municipal elections in many states. Marshall Dannenberg was elected to the Elgin, South Carolina City Council in April. Other Libertarians are preparing for fall municipal races. Excellent Libertarian candidates are running in the two special Congressional elections slated so far in 1981—Bette Erwin in Michigan and Tom Mathers in Maryland. One of the best things about these Congressional campaigns has been their success in raising money and in locating enthusiastic volunteers.

State Libertarian parties are showing great foresight and enthusiasm with early ballot drive work for 1982. North Carolina Libertarians are more than halfway to their 15,000 signature goal for 1982 ballot status. Montana Libertarians have already had a bill to ease ballot access (which they authored) passed into law. They have now drawn up a prospectus, and are raising money and making plans to start petitioning at the earliest possible date, July 1. Advance planning, fundraising, and legal challenges for 1982 ballot access efforts are already under way in many states, including Pennsylvania,

Maryland, Kansas, Indiana, Utah, Massachusetts, and others.

Another development which is symptomatic of a lively interest in Libertarian Party activities is the number of qualified people running for various convention committees and party offices. Approximately twenty-five people sought one of the ten positions on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and an equal number ran for the ten at-large Platform Committee seats. Three candidates are actively running for National Chair.

One of the most promising developments of the new year has been the rapid success of the Libertarian Speakers Bureau, a program to locate and assist Libertarian Speakers Bureau coordinators in the state parties. The program was started by Howie Rich and Marion Williams in February. A few state LP's already had active Speakers Bureaus at the beginning of the year; now there are forty-one state coordinators, and several hundred Libertarian volunteers have already committed to deliver speeches with the assistance of their state Speakers Bureau. (For the coordinator in your state, see the Directory of State Organizations in this issue of *Libertarian News*. The last issue listed State Chairs, Newsletter Editors, Finance Coordinators, and Media Coordinators; this issue lists the State Chairs, Newsletter Editors, and Speakers Bureau Coordinators).

As impressive as these accomplishments are, only a shortage of money is restraining us from an even greater acceleration of our work on these and other important projects. Altogether, after surveying Libertarian Party accomplishments and activities so far this year, it's easy to be optimistic about our prospects for 1981, 1982, and beyond.

Taking Liberties

by Scott Olmstead

May-June, 1981

So A Strike Is The Ultimate Patriotic Act. Right?

Poland today is suffering from a severe food shortage. Meat, sugar and butter are scheduled for rationing.

Farm production is being crushed between capitalism and communism. Private farmers who cultivate about 75% of Poland's arable land are hardworking and efficient, experts say, but they are handicapped by government regulations and ideological hostility.

For ideological reasons, the planners are expected to continue to favor the state and cooperative farms, although the return hardly justifies the investment.

One state farm, according to a source, produces meat at a cost of about \$26 a pound. Yet the retail price, under government subsidies, is only about 75 cents a pound. Milk is produced at about \$1.20 a liter, yet sells retail at only about 10 cents a liter.

In such cases, the more a state farm produces, the more it loses, leading one senior state farm official to comment:

"In this situation you could say that the more patriotic a state farm employee is, the less he produces for the national economy as a whole."

—Los Angeles Times
December 26, 1980

Keeping Abreast Of The Law

The governor of New Mexico yesterday signed into law a bill aimed at closing a loophole in an indecent dancing law that topless waitresses had circumvented by baring one breast at a time.

Because the old law said "breasts" instead of "breast," some topless waitresses at a lounge in Organ, N.M., were able to beat charges filed under the law by baring only one breast at a time.

—San Francisco Chronicle
April 1, 1981

The Reich Shall Rise Again?

Dean Wycoff, chairman of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Moral Majority said today that as a moral Christian he believes that the government should round up all homosexuals and execute them.

It is estimated that there are between 10 million and 20 million homosexuals in the United States today. Wycoff said that he realizes that killing that large a number of people would involve certain 'legal and logistical problems,' but that the job could be done.

By way of comparison, only 9 million people are estimated to have been killed in German concentration camps during World War II.

—ABC News
February 9, 1981

Cool It, Guys, It's Not Right To Abuse The System

The Internal Revenue Service ordered an employer-aided crack-down on income tax withholding in an attempt to head off what it says is a spreading scheme to borrow—if not steal—from the government.

Deputy Treasury Secretary R.T. McNamar said in a written statement that the new regulation "is designed to ensure fairness for the millions of Americans who honor the tax laws of this nation."

"It will deal with the abusive filing of requests for excessive withholding exemptions that has become a significant aspect of some tax protests," he said. "In a nation that cherishes its democratic freedoms, and among a workforce of people who support the principles of democracy, this abuse cannot be tolerated."

—Palo Alto Times-Tribune
March 19, 1981

Fight Water With Water

A property owner who blames the state for flooding his land retaliated by spraying several bureaucrats with a fire hose at the Department of Transportation in Tallahassee, Florida.

"If they can flood water on my land for four years, then why can't I

flood their office?" said William M. Burnette of nearby Monticello, who has been fighting officials because of a drainage problem that flooded 85 acres of his land.

Wednesday, Burnette unwound a fire hose at the Transportation Building and pulled it through offices on the fifth floor, spraying employees and leaving pools of water in the building.

—San Francisco Chronicle
March 20, 1981

This Aggression Libertarians Can Support

The government of Nicaragua on Thursday called the suspension of \$15 million in U.S. economic aid "Unjustifiable aggression," and said it would seek help from communist and Arab nations.

An official statement signed by the three-man ruling junta said the cutoff was "a visible showing of an aggressive will toward Nicaragua, put forth by those sectors in the present North American administration that oppose in radical manner our revolution and try to intervene in our country with their hegemonic interests."

—Palo Alto Times-Tribune
April 3, 1981

Region 17 continued from pg. 22 which 65 people attended. Randolph commented later that it was one of the most exciting groups of activists with whom he had ever spoken.

Binghamton recently became the 9th autonomous chapter of the FLP. They are celebrating by organizing a Binghamton mayoral campaign.

Organizing the state convention is the main focus of Capitol District Libertarians. However, they have also begun a local dinner club series and are making plans to break into individual county organizations for

Albany, Schenectady, Rennselaer, Saratoga and Warren Counties.

Nassau libertarians, at their monthly dinner meetings, are busy planning for local campaigns. Buffalo is targeting their mayoral race.

Suffolk FLPer continue to be covered extensively in local newspapers and on television. Virginia Walker had an article published in the *Riverhead News Review* exposing the hardships of the rapidly increasing local tax assessments (and how to fight them). The Orange & Rockland LP is

hosting a talk on "Reaganomics" by Murray Rothbard April 26th in Middletown. They are also investigating local campaigns for this year.

Region 18: Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts

by Bill Burt

CONNECTICUT—The Connecticut party is holding a state convention on the 23rd and 24th of May in New Haven. Featured speakers include New York Libertarian Party activist and chair Gary Greenberg, National Committee member Bill Burt, Association of Libertarian Feminists leader Sharon Presley, Yale University political scientist Dr. Paul Johnson, anthropologist Christina Crane, and English libertarian Jim Davies. The convention promises to be an exciting event. Convention "crash space" is available by calling Yale University economics professor Jenny Roback at (203) 776-7706.

The Connecticut party is also test-distributing Libertarian Party literature to voters in selected townships around the state.

MASSACHUSETTS—The Massachusetts party had a successful state convention on March 21 in Boston. Speakers included *Reason* magazine editor Robert Poole, Libertarian Party National Director Eric O'Keefe and Barbara Anderson, director of the Citizens for Limited Taxation, the sponsor of the successfully passed Proposition 2½. The new state officers are: Norm Mac-

Connell (Chair), Steve Trinward (Executive Director), Sue Poulin (Treasurer), and Howard Pearch (Secretary).

MAINE—Libertarian Charles Jacques, III is running for the (non-partisan) office of City Council in Portland. His platform includes tax cuts and the implementation of educational tax credits. Mary Denzer, the state chair, is working with a party committee that is drawing up a new constitution for the state party. A fair booth is being prepared to take to ten county fairs this summer.

RHODE ISLAND—Jerry Daniels recently organized (in conjunction with the Brown University SLS chapter) a successful libertarian meeting at Brown University in Providence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—London-derry Libertarian Thomas J. Reed is running for a place on the City Budget Committee. The state board of directors, under the leadership of Nancy Reed, held a meeting on March 26th and began a serious drive to organize at the county level and focus on local races this year.

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