

August 1987

# The Liberty Pledge News

The Liberty Pledge News is produced monthly for members of the National Libertarian Party's Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to National Committee Members and State Party Chairs, in appreciation of their contributions and to make available information on activities at Headquarters and on libertarians in the news.

*Clippings and other items of interest are appreciated.*

Libertarian Party Headquarters

301 W. 21st St. Houston, TX 77008

713-880-1776

HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR PLEDGE? WANT TO RAISE IT? CALL 1-800-682-1776

## COMPUTER TRANSITION UNDERWAY

Steven Alexander, computer professional and long time LP activist, flew into Houston last week to assist in the transition from the Data General mainframe computer to faster IBM computers.

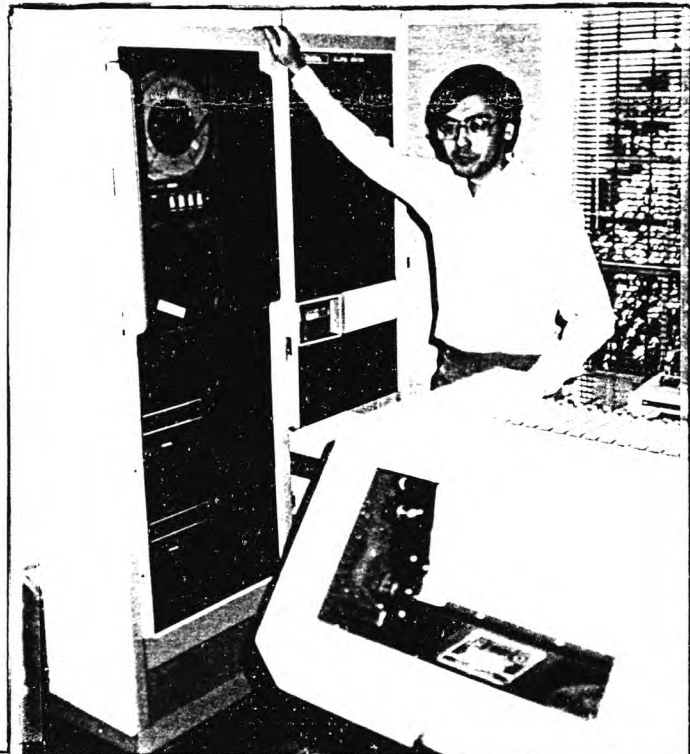
Steven, pictured below with an AT, worked with staff members and a contract technician for five days on the project.

Ken Kirchheiner, staff computer operator, shown with the mainframe, says he is much impressed with the speed of the new hardware.

With luck we'll have this job finished before the Convention.

## YOU ARE INVITED

Your invitation to the Torch Club Luncheon is enclosed, and all are encouraged to attend this interesting (and nourishing) event.



# Means pushing for smaller government role in economics

## Indian activist on the stump for Libertarian nomination

By JEFF THOMAS  
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — Calling for diminished government presence in economic and foreign affairs, Russell Means brought his message to Casper Thursday as one stop in his campaign to gain the Libertarian Party nomination for president.

Means, known for his leadership of the 1973 American Indian Movement's seizure of the Wounded Knee settlement in South Dakota, said the United States' military and economic policies actually have isolated the country from the rest of the world, which views America as hostile.

He said the United States must "recognize the right to self-determination" in all nations — particularly Nicaragua. When that right is acknowledged and global trade barriers are dismantled, political barriers will come down with them, Means said.

"I'm talking about this government following an economic policy that will open up Nicaragua, that will prevent massive military assaults — because development of free trade would make Nicaragua a free society," he said.

Instead, Means said, the United States supports the Nicaraguan Contra rebels that oppose the Sandinista government. He called the Contras "bandits" that "make raids on a sovereign country."

But Means said he is no supporter of the Sandinistas, whom he said carry out a "genocidal policy" against native Nicaraguan Indian nations. And in their struggle against the government, U.S.-backed forces have become "more anti-Indian than anti-communist," he said.

"The Indians are in the way — again," he said. "And rather than deal with them as human beings, the American government has followed the policy of medicinal decimation of the Indian nations, (so that) whomever ends up with absolute control of Nicaragua no

longer has to deal with the Indian question."

Means said the United States has abandoned its formula for success — free trade and isolationist policies. With the advent of the Federal Reserve and World War I in the early part of the century, America's growth was "stunted," he said.

"If our economic past was so successful, then why not follow success, rather than continued failure?" he said.

The U.S. government has grown too big and too concerned with protecting the rest of the world — and in the process, has disregarded individual rights, he said.

"That has to change, and the only way that can be changed is to become friends of the world," Means said.

"By making everyone responsible for their own defense of their country, that creates a climate of fair trade. That will increase trade among all nations. Trade will ensure that we'll no longer have the need for offensive weapons."

Means' Libertarian platform calls for smaller and more "open" government.

"America is becoming one big, big Indian reservation," he said, recalling his disdain for U.S. policy toward American Indians. "We have to have an open government. Every agency has to adhere to the Bill of Rights," he said.

As president, Means said he would "begin dismantling agencies that are not needed," such as the Department of Energy. He would seek to decrease foreign and military aid, deregulate banking and abolish the Federal Reserve, he said. Monetary policy would be set by Congress, which he said would respond to a "responsible constituency."

"The re-recognition of individual rights can be born again in 1988," Means said. "Because of that re-recognition, secrecy in government will no longer be a fact of life."

# Ex-Texas congressman seeks presidency as Libertarian

WASHINGTON (AP) Former Rep. Ron Paul of Texas wants to be president so he can abolish every governmental function that could be performed by the private sector.

Paul, a conservative who quit the Republican Party earlier this year and is now a Libertarian, would uproot the nation's economic establishment, shaking out the income tax, monetary system and subsidy programs and creating a wholly free market system.

Tariffs would fall. Entitlement programs would end. Gunboats would be called home. The gold standard would be reinstated.

"I would abolish the Federal Reserve, create a sound money system, define the dollar," Paul said in an interview. "You deregulate everything and you get rid of all the bums, all the bureaucrats who are running the bureaus. You just close them down."

The Libertarian Party believes government should have nothing to do with how people behave, as long as they don't hurt one another.

If he does capture the party's 1988 presidential nomination, Paul, a physician from Lake Jackson, Texas, will try to rally Americans he thinks are fed up with the way Democrats and Republicans have been running the country.

"There will be the tax people who feel they are being ripped off by the IRS, the hard-money movement because they understand gold, private school people, pro-gun people. There are the people who are very scared of a nuclear holocaust, a whole host of people," Paul said.

As for campaign contributions, the 51-year-old Paul says he has more than \$100,000 in the bank and expects to "be raising millions."

He is unconcerned about his only opponent for the nomination, Indian activist Russell Means, who first received national attention in 1973 as a leader in the 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D.

Means, 47, went to prison for inciting a riot but was acquitted of charges that he aided and abetted a murder. The Oglala Sioux Indian leader said recently it is natural for an Indian to embrace the Libertarian philosophy because it fits the Indian

belief in personal freedom.

Paul served in Congress for four sessions, from 1976 through 1984, during which he became known for his advocacy of the gold-backed dollar.

"The whole idea that a Texan is taxed to go over there and protect these routes while oil production is destroyed in Texas is something that would blow their minds if they ever realized what was happening," he said.

"Instead of those sitting ducks in the Persian Gulf, I'd be happy to have a navy and put it in the Gulf of Mexico to protect us against Castro," Paul said.

## Writer lists lessons taught by NSC staff

Editor:

The lessons Oliver North's group learned apparently included these:

1. It is correct to lie if it furthers your cause;
2. The U.S. Constitution is applicable only if it furthers your cause;
3. Even though your superior is not consulted about the acceptability of an action because the answer might be no, go ahead and do it because the superior didn't think of the situation and tell you not to do it, if it furthers your cause.

The lessons Oliver North's group taught our enemies apparently included these:

1. Capture an American citizen as a hostage and its executive leadership will make a deal to supply arms

to kill thousands so one of its own will be spared;

2. The American executive leadership trusts the Maucher Ghorbanifars of the world with some of its classified details more than it does its elected leaders such as the Dick Cheneys and Alan Simpsons.

The LIBERTARIAN PARTY platform supports the ideals of individual freedoms through the U.S. Constitution. Nowhere in that 200-year-old document do words such as "Plausible Deniability" occur. Even though Oliver North's group loved America, it must learn that the Constitution works through laws, openness, trust and freedoms, not through the closeness, distrust and hypocrisy of other more restrictive societies.

Elmer Kuball



## Datelines

### N.D. Libertarians aim for '88 election

BISMARCK — Supporters of the Libertarian Party are working to collect the 7,000 petition signatures needed to put the organization on North Dakota ballots in 1988, a spokesman said.

Chris Brekke, a party spokesman in Grand Forks, said organizers already had collected some 3,000 signatures.

Brekke said he hoped the remainder would be obtained by the end of the month, well before the deadline early next year.

American Indian activist Russell

Means is among those vying for the Libertarian nomination to run for president in 1988. The party platform includes advocacy of deregulation, scaling back U.S. defense commitments overseas and drastic budget and tax cuts, Brekke said.

Currently, only the Republicans and the Democratic-NPL Party have guaranteed ballot spots for the primary and general elections in 1988, said Robert Schaible, deputy North Dakota secretary of state.

# Libertarians Upset With Frontier Days Committee

Tribune-Eagle Staff Report  
Officials of the Wyoming Libertarian Party Saturday said representatives of the Frontier Days Committee refused to let them conduct a ballot access drive at the rodeo grounds, despite an opinion by the secretary of state that such a solicitation was within their rights.

Craig McCune, a former Libertarian candidate for congressman from Wyoming, said security officials for Frontier Days refused to allow party representatives access to even the

parking lot at Frontier Park for the drive. The party is attempting to collect 8,000 signatures of registered Wyoming voters to qualify third-party candidates for the 1988 primary and general election ballots.

After being denied access, McCune and other Libertarian officials said they checked with the office of Secretary of State Kathy Karpan. In a letter addressed to the Frontier Days Committee that was delivered Saturday, Karpan said she contacted Deputy Attorney General

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

Mary Guthrie and Senior Assistant Attorney General Rowena Heckert in the matter since "it could very well arise in connection with solicitations at county fairgrounds and other public areas."

"They provided an informal opinion that a political party's solicitations for signatures on a petition for ballot access cannot be subject to an across-the-board, continuing ban when the solicitations take place in a public area on public property," Karpan wrote. "I was also advised, both by the City of Cheyenne Mayor's Assistant and by the City Clerk, that Frontier Park is owned by the City."

Karpan added that she has requested a written opinion from the attorney general.

McCune said when they showed a Frontier Days Committee representative Karpan's letter, the Libertarians were still told they could not conduct their drive at Frontier Park.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the Frontier Days Committee," McCune said. "All we're attempting to do is work within the system and exercise our po-

litical rights."

Mark Shepard of Houston, national ballot drive coordinator for the Libertarian Party, said he is "flabbergasted" at the action taken by the committee. He said the drive at Frontier Days was meant to be the initial one for the entire state.

"When your No. 1 kickoff ends up with you being kicked off, it doesn't get things off to a good start," he said.

McCune said he thinks the party's inability to conduct its drive at Frontier Days "potentially could cost us between 600 and 800 signatures."

The party is required to have 8,000 signatures of registered Wyoming voters filed with the secretary of state's office by May, 1988. Officials said so far 300 have been filed, but more are ready to be submitted.

McCune said he appreciated the cooperation of Karpan and her office. "They've been fantastic, and even worked overtime in an effort to get this thing resolved," he said.

McCune said anyone wishing more information about the Libertarian Party may call him at 638-9265.

## State Libertarian Party Begins Signature Drive

Dave Dawson, state chairman of the Wyoming Libertarian Party, announced that a ballot access drive to collect the 8,000 signatures of registered voters necessary to qualify third-party candidates for the 1988 primary and general election ballots is under way.

Targeting completion before the party's National Nomination Convention Sept. 2, the Wyoming Libertarian Party will be the first minor party to have its candidates qualified for the 1988 presidential election ballot.

In an effort to repeat success-

ful ballot drives of past elections, volunteers have already begun to collect the 8,000 signatures required by Wyoming Statute 24-4-201. When successful, the Libertarian Party will once again give Wyoming voters a distinct third choice on the ballot.

National Libertarian Party Ballot Drive Coordinator Mark Shepard, leading the efforts in Cheyenne and Laramie, reports that volunteers have made successful efforts circulating petitions at a number of locations and events, including the University of Wyoming campus and the Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration.

Persons interested in assisting the petitioning effort, or who would like more information about the Libertarian Party or candidates, should contact Craig McCune at 638-9265.

## Libertarians present 'Crackpots'

House Speaker Robert Sheheen, University of South Carolina President James Holderman and Education Superintendent Charlie G. Williams are among the winners of this year's South Carolina Libertarian Party Crackpot Awards.

Sheheen was cited for worst legislation for "his bill to increase local taxes" — apparently his Local Government Finance Act, which would allow counties to impose a limited sales tax. Holderman was given the "Jim and Tammy Bakker Gift Award, for taking funds given to his discretionary fund and making secret gifts to politicians."

Williams was given the "Blind Swearingin Superintendent Award," named for a sightless education chief at the turn of the century, "for claiming that education has improved when schooling has gotten worse, with teachers having to spend more time filling out paperwork."

# Election by mail due to double the votes

HILLSBORO — Washington County's first countywide vote-by-mail election is expected to result in more than twice as many votes cast as usual, an elections official said.

"We're anticipating about a 50 percent return on the ballots that we mailed out," said Ginny Kingsley, office supervisor with the Washington County Elections Division. "For a special election (using polling places) 15 to 20 percent would be fairly typical."

The elections division Thursday mailed 160,767 ballots to about 72,000 Republicans, 65,000 Democrats, 22,000 Independents and 182 Libertarians living in Washington County, Kingsley said.

The ballots "need to be returned to our office by 8 p.m. Aug. 11," she said. "And that means not postmarked, it means in the office" at 345 E. Main St. in Hillsboro, three blocks east of the Washington County Courthouse.

"A person who's not received their ballot by July 29 or 30 should call this office and inquire," she said.

Heightened voter response in a mail election, Kingsley said, is

"because it's easier. People don't have to go to the polls, all they have to do is punch out the ballot and mail it to us."

Kingsley said the cost of a polling-place election "vs. a mail election is pretty much of a wash — very similar."

"In a poll election, a great deal of the cost is personnel." More than 300 precinct workers staffed 103 Washington County polling places during the June 30 election. "In a vote-by-mail some of the biggest costs you have are postage — pretty close to \$35,000 for this election."

She said primary and general elections traditionally attract more voters than do special elections, where "The issues are not considered to be high-voter-turnout percentage-type issues."

The primary issue on the Washington County ballot is financing for a new county building. Local issues are a Hillsboro Union High School operating levy, a recall vote in Newberg and an annexation proposal in west Beaverton.

"It's the first countywide vote by mail," Kingsley said. "We are tremendously excited."

## Libertarians begin drive

EUGENE (AP) — The Libertarian Party of Oregon began a statewide petition drive Saturday to gain official recognition as a party, enabling its candidates to appear on the November 1988 general election ballot.

"In 1988 we expect things to be different," Bob Fauvre, the party's state chairman, said. "That is why today we are formally launching a petition campaign almost a year ahead of the deadline to ensure that we will have our presidential candidate's name on the ballot during the next general election."

The Libertarian Party was successful in a similar petition drive in 1980, receiving the required 5 percent of the vote count to qualify as a recognized party in the 1982 election.

Organizers have until August to gather 51,577 signatures for statewide positions.

# Libertarian Party seeks recognition

The Libertarian Party of Oregon launched a statewide petition drive here Saturday to get the party officially recognized so its candidates can appear on the November 1988 general election ballot.

Organizers have until August to gather 51,577 signatures for statewide positions.

Separate petitions are being circulated in Lane County to qualify the Libertarian Party's candidates for election to the 4th Congressional District seat and for election to the eight seats representing Lane County in the Oregon House of Representatives. State law requires a separate petition for each political subdivision.

The Libertarian Party was successful in a similar petition drive in 1980, and received the required 5 percent of the vote count to qualify as a recognized party in the 1982 election. In 1982, the Libertarian Party's candidates failed to poll 5 percent of the vote and the party was not recognized as a statewide party in the 1984 and 1988 elections.

"In 1988 we expect things to be different," Bob Fauvre, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Oregon, said in a prepared statement. "That is why today we are formally launching a petition campaign almost a year ahead of the deadline to ensure that we will have our presidential candidate's name on the ballot during the next general election."

The Libertarian Party presidential candidate is to be selected at the party's Sept. 2-5 national convention in Seattle. The front-runners among a field of seven candidates are Ron Paul, a four-term former congressman from Texas, and Russell Means, an Ogala Lakota Sioux who is a leader of the American Indian Movement.

Organizers announced the beginning of the petition drive at a news conference Saturday morning at George's Restaurant in Eugene.

## Libertarians Call for Tax Repeal

By Mike Hammer

Calling the measure a "pork barrel for privileged businesses," the Oklahoma Libertarian Party on Saturday denounced a proposed state constitutional amendment that would allow state government to make direct grants or loans to private business.

Also, the party in its state convention in Oklahoma City called on the Legislature to repeal all of the recent tax increases passed as the central part of Gov. Henry Bellmon's legislative program.

The Libertarians also elected new state officers and six delegates to the national party convention planned in Seattle in September.

Specifically, the Libertarians opposed the Oklahoma Economic Recovery Act, which would modify the present constitutional prohibition against use of state money to fund private business.

"They may have good intentions, but things like this always turn into a political football," said Robert Murphy, Libertarian spokesman.

"People in the know get the money and everyone else pays for it."

The Libertarians said in its second resolution that tax increases — no matter how small — stifle incentives for manufacturers to produce and consumers to buy.

The six delegates elected to the national convention all are uncommitted. So far, there are two candidates for the Libertarian presidential nomination — Indian activist Russell Means and former Texas Republican congressman Ron Paul.

Delegates elected were Sevier White of Norman, Dan Price and Dennis Garland of Oklahoma City, Brenda Bromiley of Tulsa, Mike Wair of Owasso and Murphy of Norman.

New state officers are Fred Litzaw of Tulsa, chairman; Loren Baker of Moore, vice chairman; Mary Laurent of Oklahoma City, secretary; Brenda Bromiley of Tulsa, treasurer; and Anne Fruits of Tulsa, Wair and Price as at-large board members.

## Libertarian group pickets Reiner house

WEST HOLLYWOOD — District Attorney Ira Reiner's house was picketed Saturday by supporters of a former call girl and Libertarian candidate for lieutenant governor who faces jail time for pandering.

About two dozen demonstrators, mostly members of the Libertarian Party, accused Reiner of intervening to have probation revoked for Norma Jean Almodovar because she authored a book critical of her former employer, the Los Angeles Police Department.

Reiner, the protesters claimed, is seeking to have Almodovar sent to prison for four years on the pandering charge.

Almodovar did not take part in the protest outside Reiner's home, which is at the foot of the Hollywood Hills. Reiner was not available for comment.

Before becoming an admitted \$200-an-hour call girl in 1982, Almodovar spent 10 years working as a civilian meter maid for the Police Department.