



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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Liberty Pledgers invited to Convention luncheon

Members of the Liberty Pledge program are invited to attend a special, exclusive luncheon at the upcoming National LP convention in Washington, DC.

The event will be held in the Congressional Room of the Hyatt Capitol Hill hotel on Friday, July 5, starting at 12:00 noon. The luncheon is free for all Liberty Pledgers, and will feature a combination fajita bar and wok station.

"This is our way of thanking those people who have provided the LP with our most dependable support over the years," said Libertarian National Committee member Sharon Ayres, who is coordinating the event.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to LP Secretary John Famularo at (215) 545-6994 by Friday, June 21st.

New Gallup poll says 50 million Americans are "libertarian"

The number of libertarians in America has remained consistent over the past two years, with more than 50 million Americans falling into that political category, according to a recent Gallup poll.

In a nationwide survey taken in mid-January 1996, Gallup found that 20% of the population was libertarian.

"This is good news," said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach. "It confirms that libertarians are a significant political force in America. It also confirms that Gallup understands that the traditional liberal versus conservative view of politics is no longer adequate. You can't discuss politics in America in 1996 without acknowledging the libertarian factor," he said.

"Now the challenge for the Libertarian Party is to reach out to those libertarian Americans and explain why they should vote for our candidates and become contributing members of our party," said Dasbach.

The Gallup poll also found that 13% of Americans are liberal, 35% conservative, and 20% populist.

State Rep. Don Gorman announces bid for Speaker of N.H. House

Libertarian state legislator Don Gorman has announced that he is running for Speaker of the New Hampshire House — despite long odds as the only third-party member of the state's House of Representatives.

"There are many things that a Libertarian could do as Speaker that would be difficult — if not impossible — for candidates of other parties," said Gorman, 58, at his announcement in Concord, NH, on May 1st.

The election of the Speaker is scheduled for mid-December 1996, when the new House convenes following the November elections. Gorman said he will spend the summer campaigning, and will personally contact every legislator in the 400-member House to ask for support.

His election strategy, said Gorman, will be to assemble a coalition of Democrats, who lack the votes to elect one of their own as Speaker; disaffected Republicans; and any new Libertarian legislators elected in November.

The odds against his election are long, admitted Gorman, since no third party member has been House Speaker "maybe [since] the Colonial era — certainly not since 1900. But the conditions have never been this ripe."

Gorman said his campaign will appeal to the "strong Libertarian bent" of many members of the N.H. House. Like Libertarians, Gorman said, many Republican and Democratic legislators "came here with a message from their constituents — get the government out of our schools, our wallets, our bedrooms, and our lives."

Gorman faces re-election in November, but said he doesn't expect much opposition in his Deerfield district.

Astrologer predicts LP success

The Libertarian Party's success is in the stars, an astrologer says.

According to the April 4-12 edition of the *No Nonsense Astrology for Love & Money* column, the LP will win record vote totals and the presidency within eight years.

Specifically, the *No Nonsense* astrologer predicted:

■ "In 1996 the Libertarian Party will receive a record number of votes."

■ "In 2004 a Libertarian will be elected president of the USA, possibly Clint Eastwood."

"This is a first for us — a mention in an astrology column," said LP Chairman Steve Dasbach. "But we should remember, to paraphrase William Shakespeare, that our fate 'is not in our stars, but within ourselves . . .'"

Libertarian leader plans for great party

James M. Kubus photo

By Mike Seate
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

In Libertarian Ken Sturzenacker's world, federal agencies like the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms and the Department of Transportation would be abolished.

Instead, the country would enter into a new era of privatization, personal responsibility and, to use one of Sturzenacker's favorite phrases, "the legalization of work."

Sturzenacker, chairman of Pennsylvania's 8,000-member Libertarian Party, visited Pittsburgh Monday to help local party members organize their annual tax day demonstration.

Come April 15, volunteers from Allegheny County's Libertarian Party will gather at post offices Downtown and on the North Side to distribute "million-dollar bill" membership leaflets.

"We hand these to people who are mailing in their federal tax returns and we ask them if they'd like a million dollars to help pay their taxes. They laugh at first, but a few minutes later, some of them drive back around the block and want to talk to us," Sturzenacker said.

Sturzenacker — a U.S. Army veteran from the Vietnam era who lives in Catasauqua, Lehigh County — said the leaflets, which ridicule the federal government's current spending tally of \$1 million in tax dollars every five seconds, are among the Libertarian Party's most effective proselytizing tools.

"Some people will go home and later, there'll be one thing that the federal government does that just makes them angry and they'll call us," he said.

New Libertarian voters are increasingly under 40 years of age, many of them "Generation X" or younger voters searching for alter-



Ken Sturzenacker, chairman of Pennsylvania's Libertarian Party, makes a point in his visit to Pittsburgh

natives to the two-party system, Sturzenacker said.

Other adherents of this nationwide anti-government group, like Allegheny County member Harold Kyriazi, learned of the party's philosophy through the writings of novelist Ayn Rand.

Rand dramatized modern man overcoming life's obstacles through an almost Nietzschean application of self-reliance. The message has resonated with many Libertarians, including Sturzenacker, who also has served the party as a state chairman in Illinois and Arizona.

Though vehemently anti-federal government in doctrine,

Sturzenacker said Libertarians do not endorse the actions of separatist or militia movements such as Montana's Freemen who are currently involved in an armed confrontation with federal agents.

"Freedom is a package deal and you can't fight for your freedom when it infringes on someone else's," he said.

Part of that freedom includes greatly reducing government disability and welfare rolls by drawing public assistance from charitable donations and enticing disabled Americans to go back to work.

He also envisions a future where immigration would be open to "all

newcomers who are willing to work."

However, he is careful to stress that creating a political utopia is not an option in a Libertarian society.

Even so, Libertarians continue their struggle to have candidates entered on ballots on all levels of state and federal government.

The Libertarian national convention is to be held in Washington, D.C., July 3, which is when Sturzenacker said the party will choose a candidate for president.

"I think going to Washington — to the belly of the beast, so to speak — is the best thing."

▲ *Tribune Review*, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, April 2, 1996

▼ *Newark Star-Ledger*, Newark, New Jersey, April 19, 1996

Libertarians fight arrest of two members during tax protest

TOM HAYDON

John Paff of Franklin and James Konek of Spotswood were among hundreds of members of the Libertarian Party to stage informational protests at post offices across the country Monday.

But Paff, 38, and Konek, 24, were the only party members arrested as they tried to pass out leaflets to taxpayers rushing to file tax returns at the East Brunswick Post Office, according to party officials.

"I think I have a right to be there. This does not comport with what we understand this country is about," said Paff, who along with Konek was charged with defiant trespass for refusing a police officer's order to leave.

Each April 15, the Libertarian Party dis-

tributes information to protest federal tax levies.

Paff said members of the Somerset and Middlesex counties branch of the party sent a letter to East Brunswick Postmaster Steven Leddy last week stating plans to hand out the leaflets and requesting that he respond if he had concerns.

Five members went to the post office Monday evening to hand out information to taxpayers as they left the building on Cranbury Road. Within minutes, Leddy told the protesters to leave, claiming they were blocking the door, Paff said.

Paff denied Leddy's claim and said the group had the right to continue.

The postmaster then called police, who

also ordered the protesters to leave, stating they could continue their activities at the curb on Cranbury Road, according to a township police report. The post office is about 50 feet from the road.

Three people agreed to leave, but Paff refused and was arrested. Konek said yesterday he never heard the directive and was arrested as he continued to handout leaflets.

The two were held several hours at the Middlesex County Adult Corrections Center in North Brunswick until friends and relatives posted \$5,000 bail for each of them. No court date has been set, Konek said.

Paff and Konek said they staged a similar protest at a post office in Somerset County last year without incident.

"We're going to fight this (the arrests)," Paff said. "I'm a law-abiding citizen."

William Winters, head of communications for the Libertarian Party in Washington, D.C., said the party issues instructions each year on how to conduct the protests. The organization also has legal opinions supporting their right to protest, he said.

In three other states Monday, Winters said, party members complied with orders to stop.

"Apparently these folks felt it was worth standing up for their rights. They are in the right," Winters said of Konek and Paff.

Defiant trespass is a petty disorderly persons offense that carries a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and six months in jail, police said.

Leddy did not return calls to his office yesterday.

Libertarians hoping to grow

DON DAVIS
Bismarck Tribune

FARGO — “No Clinton” Roland Riemers said “no” to the entire Democratic Party Sunday, rejoining the less-government-is-good Libertarian Party.

Riemers, who won the state’s non-binding Democratic presidential primary in February, was one of 18 North Dakotans gathered in a small Fargo Holiday Inn meeting room to try to get more people to follow his lead and join.

“Government doesn’t solve problems, people solve them,” the Beulah man said in explaining why he is going back into the party which used to be his.

He met with others who want to build a state organization for the party supporting minimum government and maximum personal freedom. The party’s stands range from eliminating gun control to allowing individuals to decide about abortions to legalizing drugs.

The Libertarian thanked the two major parties for shutting down the federal government in December, proving Americans can do without many of its services.

Greg Enerson, one of the few at the meeting from outside the Red River Valley, drove in from Bismarck. He said he likes the less-government principle of the party.

“I’m a strong believer in individual liberty and freedoms as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone else,” Enerson said.

State Chairman Martin Riske of Fargo explained his party’s philosophy as taking the Democrats’ personal freedom ideas and combining them with the Re-



Riemers:
Rejoins party.

publicans’ economic freedom feelings.

“We’re really radically different,” he said.

The Libertarian meeting followed by a couple of hours adjournment of the Democratic State Convention in Fargo and the Republicans’ gathering in Bismarck. But the size of those two conventions compared to his convention didn’t discourage Riske.

“It gives us the dimension of the job in front of us,” he admitted, but starting small and growing can work.

Libertarians, with a 150-person North Dakota mailing list, will concentrate on local offices at first, Riske said. There is no timetable to put statewide candidates on the ballot, he said, although a national party official said it may take two to three years to build a functioning state party.

North Dakota’s party is one of the five smallest, national Libertarian Communications Director Bill Winter said.

“It’s a tremendous thing we are trying to do, taking on the Democrats and Republicans,” Winter said.

Riemers hopes to fit into the party.

He was overruled at the Democratic convention earlier in the weekend when he tried to make a motion most saw as unfaithful to President Clinton. Riemers said he “had a moral obligation” to attend the convention and speak out against Clinton’s re-election on behalf of North Dakotans who voted for him in the primary. Clinton was not on the ballot, avoiding it since the primary was not binding.

Now, Riemers said, he is considering running for the District 33 state House seat as a Libertarian.

He was elected treasurer of the party Sunday at what may have been the first-ever statewide Libertarian meeting.

▲ *The Bismarck Tribune*, Bismarck, North Dakota, April 1, 1996

▼ *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 24, 1996

The high cost of government \$1 million every five seconds

Libertarians know just where to look for a captive audience every April 15th. What better place to pass out their literature than post offices in cities like Little Rock and North Little Rock? Most folks were in just the right mood for anti-tax talk.

As drivers handed their envelopes to postal workers outside the post office in North Little Rock, members of the Libertarian Party handed back a symbolic million-dollar bill. The last-minute filers were told: “That’s how much the government spends every five seconds! That’s \$12 million every minute, over \$16 trillion every year”—a figure too high for most of us to readily comprehend.

“Who pays for this spending spree?” the Libertarians asked. And they answered: “You do—every penny of it—whether directly through the income tax, or indirectly through business taxes.”

The party’s symbolic currency doubtless provided a light moment after a long weekend of struggling with tax forms—and after inching along for half an hour in bumper-to-bumper traffic to reach the post office. Getting to War Memorial Stadium for a Razorback game would have been easier—and the destination a lot more fun.

The Libertarians make a good point about the need to lower taxes and curb government spending. Look what happened when Ronald Reagan cut taxes:

Federal revenues soon doubled as money that had been sheltered was invested in the economy. Unfortunately, spending increased, too—hence the record deficits of the ‘80s. Congress is still battling the same temptation.

Today, taxes are higher, but middle-class taxpayers are still waiting for the tax cut that this president promised them four years ago, when he said he felt their pain.

Instead of lower taxes, the taxpayers got broken promises, higher taxes, more government spending, and the usual platitudes.

Suppose, just suppose, that the federal government had downsized under this president, as so many industries have done. Suppose taxes were lower. Suppose more Americans could keep more of what we earn. Then we could spend more on our families or businesses instead of handing over 38 percent of our income to federal, state, and local governments. And the Libertarians would have to look for a new platform.

State Supreme Court rules Brewer tax is constitutional

By Cary Segall
Wisconsin State Journal

A state law passed to pay for a new Milwaukee Brewers stadium is constitutional, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided Tuesday.

The court ruled, 6-0, that the law serves a public purpose in imposing a tenth of a percent sales tax in five southeastern Wisconsin counties to pay for the project.

The controversial tax will raise money to pay off \$160 million in bonds issued by a taxing district created by the law. The Brewers are obligated to raise another \$90 million for the stadium.

The law had been challenged by the Libertarian Party and several business owners. They raised 15 state and federal constitutional challenges, with the most serious arguing that the tax and borrowing were being done for a private business in violation of the state constitution, which requires that public money be used only for public purposes.

“No one’s tax dollars were exacted to pay Hank Aaron or Joe Adcock,” the opponents’ lawyer, Doug Bartley, told the court, referring to former Milwaukee Braves stars. “For many, myself included, baseball is almost a religion . . . But just as we don’t have state sup-

ported religions, we shouldn’t have state-supported sports.”

The court, though, noted most courts in other states considering a similar issue ruled such taxes valid, and it said it agreed.

It noted the Legislature concluded the stadium would serve a public purpose by promoting economic development and tourism and reducing unemployment.

“These are clearly public purposes and will provide direct, not remote, advantages or benefits to the public at large,” the court said. “In addition, the fact that a private entity such as the Brewers will benefit from the Stadium Act does not destroy the predominant public purpose of this act.”

The Libertarian Party also has a challenge to the law pending before U.S. District Judge Thomas Curran in Milwaukee. But the state’s lawyer, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Creeron believes Curran will dismiss the case in light of the high court’s ruling.

“The Supreme Court indicated they were ruling against him on all of his claims and felt most of them were so lacking in merit they didn’t need to address them,” Creeron noted.

Justice Shirley Abrahamson didn’t participate in the case.

▲ *The Wisconsin State Journal*
Madison, Wisconsin, April 10, 1996

JOE GILLETTE

Recognition Libertarians' biggest need



Opportunity knocks. Answering, though, is something else.

Last weekend in Elk Grove Village, a couple hundred members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois came together for their annual state convention.

Among the high points of this presidential year's get-together was a two-hour, face-to-face debate among the three hopefuls seeking the national Libertarian Party's presidential nomination.

The contenders are Harry Browne, investment adviser and best-selling author from Fairfax, Va.; Rick Tompkins, Air Force retiree and talk-radio host from Phoenix, Ariz., and Irwin Schiff of Las Vegas, Nev., another author and America's best-known tax protester.

The class of the field is Browne, whose *Why Government Doesn't Work* is a New York Times best-seller.

Tall, white-haired and the picture of health at age 62, Browne is both charismatic and a fine orator who, if granted the chance, could make proverbial mincemeat out of Bubba Bill Clinton and a barely breathing Bob Dull ... er, Dole.

Indeed, Schiff says he would nominate Browne, if only Browne would quit calling for "abolition" of the income tax, a position Schiff can't support because doing so would imply that the income tax legally exists.

Still, all three hopefuls put forth that opportunity never has been greater.

Electoral results from 1980 forward, public attitude polls and rising assertion of individual rights all indicate a hunger for freedom and a viable, third-party option to the indistinguishable dogma of Democrats and Republicans.

"A vote for Bob Dole," Browne said, "guarantees an endless string of Bill Clintons and Bob Doles."

Libertarians, perhaps, stand in unique position to answer the public call and assume leadership of a government they would shrink to bare minimum, but they also are at a disadvantage.

Unlike Republicans and Democrats, who offer legislative clout on behalf of pet programs and government handouts in exchange for both campaign funding and special-interest bloc votes, Libertarians, Browne points out, "have nothing to sell."

"Come to us asking what we can do for you if you deliver your group's money and votes," Browne says, "and we'll tell you, 'Nothing, zip, nada.'"

"What we will do is give you back control over your lives and earnings by getting rid of unnecessary bureaucracies, by doing away with tax structures that rob you of 47 percent of your income and by letting you pick which privately run programs you want to finance and support of your own free will."

That will be a hard sell, Browne admits, as Americans have been gradually conditioned over the past 100 years not to know what freedom is.

"A hundred and thirty some years ago, we abolished formal slavery," he adds, "only to replace it with an informal, benevolent slavery that now entraps us all.

Hornberger to address Libertarian convention

The national Libertarian Party has selected Jacob G. Hornberger Jr., a native of Laredo, to be its keynote speaker at its 1996 Libertarian Party presidential nominating convention this summer in Washington.

Founded 25 years ago, the Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the U.S.

Hornberger, known to many Laredoans as "Bumper," is one of the Libertarian Party's most dynamic speakers.

His speech will discuss the "predictions, warnings, and solutions" proposed by past Libertarian Party Presidential candidates.

The convention will be held in Washington D.C., July 3 to 7. More than 700 delegates are expected to gather to nominate a presidential candidate.

Most of the convention will be broadcast live on C-SPAN.

Hornberger's keynote speech will be on Thursday morning, July 4, at 9 a.m. eastern standard time.

Born and raised in Laredo,

Hornberger is a 1968 graduate of J.W. Nixon High School. He received his bachelor in economics from Virginia Military Institute and his law degree from the University of Texas.

He practiced law in Laredo from 1975 to 1982 in the law firm of Hornberger and Hornberger and then moved to Dallas where he practiced law until 1987.

His father a San Antonio native, practiced law in Laredo for over thirty years.

His mother, the former Cordelia de Llano, was a member of one of Laredo's oldest families.

In 1987, Hornberger became program director at The Foundation for Economic Education in Irvington, New York, one of the country's oldest free-market organizations.

Hornberger is now president of The Future of Freedom Foundation, a national libertarian educational foundation that he founded in 1989.

For many years, Hornberger has spoken at the Libertarian Party

state conventions all over the U.S.

He has served two terms on the Libertarian Party platform committee.

He has also delivered speeches on libertarianism in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, England and the former Czechoslovakia.

The Libertarian Party is already qualified to be on the ballot for the 1996 presidential election in 29 states and expects to achieve 50-state ballot status by November.

The Libertarian Party platform calls for vigorous and uncompromising defense of individual liberty, limited government, the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, free trade, individual responsibility, and private charity.

Among its specific proposals are the ending of social security, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, the Internal Revenue Service, public schooling, trade restrictions, immigration controls, drug laws, gun control, and foreign interventions and foreign wars.

▲ *Laredo Morning Times*, Laredo, Texas, April 1, 1996

◀ *Beacon News*, Aurora, Illinois, April 25, 1996

▼ *The Post-Crescent*, Appleton, Wisconsin, April 8, 1996

Libertarians' fake money giveaway calls attention to U.S. budget deficit

OSHKOSH — Late income-tax filers at the Oshkosh Post Office on April 15 will be getting \$1 million bills handed to them.

The stunt is planned by the Libertarian Party of the Fox Valley to point out that for every five seconds the federal bureaucracy is open, the government spends \$1 million.

The bills, of course, are fake money.

"In the time it takes us to hand this fake money to a taxpayer, the federal government will spend \$1 million in real money," said James Reiff, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin.

"It's been said that Americans today don't want freedom; they want a benevolent master. We have to change that."

Browne's strategy starts with noise.

Thus far this year, he has campaigned in 38 states, making heavy use of the popularity of local talk radio.

In June, he hopes to commission Gallup, Roper or another organization of polling renown to test his level of recognition.

"Anything in excess of the margin of error will do," he said.

"From then on, the polling organizations will include us in their own polls, with the result that our support could grow to that 7 percent level at which the major parties in 1992 could not in good conscience keep Ross Perot out of the nationally televised debates."

That, practically speaking, is the ultimate

Libertarian goal for this election — to draw enough attention to be included in the debates and, then, to draw from 5 to 10 to 20 percent of the popular vote.

That, Browne says, "would change the political landscape forever."

Will it happen?

The odds are long, but the key rests with us — you, me, the guy next door, everybody at work, etc.

If we make enough noise about real change — to the point of mentioning the Libertarian Party and Harry Browne — media and political elites both will have to pay attention — to the point Libertarians no longer can be ignored as some obscure political footnote.

If that happens, anything is possible.