



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the contributors in the National Libertarian Party's Liberty Pledge Program, Independence '88 and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to National Committee Members and State Party Chairs, in appreciation of their involvement as well as to network information on activities at Headquarters and libertarians in the news.

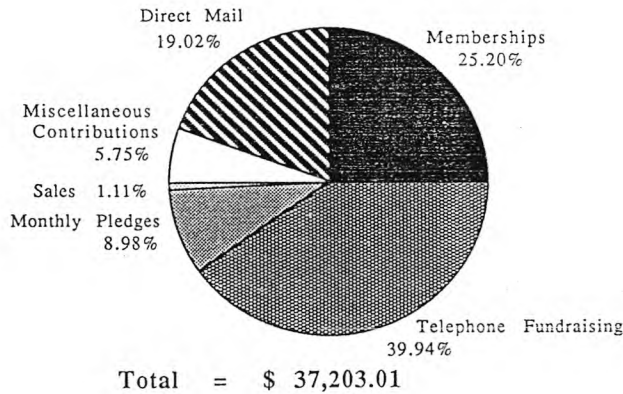
Clippings and other stories of interest are appreciated.

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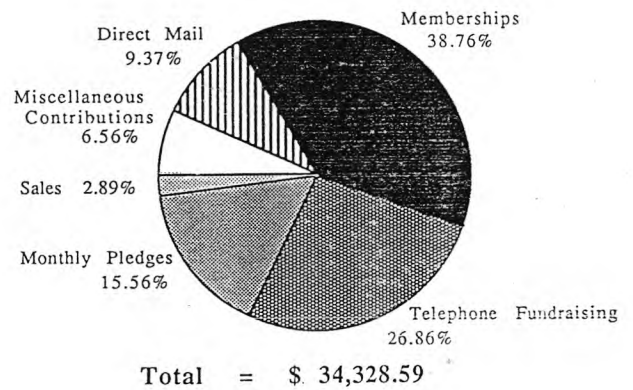
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March 1987

LP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JANUARY



LP Contributions For February



Lots of news this month and not much room, so I'll be brief:

The DG is up and running and so are we -- better organized than ever.

Our database has been cleaned and now more than ever is synchronized with our telephone solicitor's database -- we have flagged *thousands* of records pertaining to our telephone fundraising effort.

With our database stored in both the DG and the Mac, we're much safer against computer failure than we were.

We've installed a **media list** on the Mac, and so far have over 700 key media outlets targeted for press releases; the top 100 (TV, radio and newspaper networks) have already received the latest issue of LP NEWS -- and congratulations to Karl Hess and his staff at Lysander Inc. for a great issue!

We've received alot of good clippings this month on libertarians here and abroad -- even Time magazine used the **L** word.

You'll find enclosed in this packet a **tenative schedule** of the announced candidates for LP nomination, provided by Mr. Mike Holmes of American Libertarian. Thank you Mr. Holmes.

Libertarian to Address Convention

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Dr. Ron Paul, a four-term Republican U.S. representative from Texas, will be featured speaker at the 1987 Vermont Libertarian Party Convention May 2.

In his eight years in Washington, Paul was an outspoken advocate of "sound" money, the free market and personal liberties.

In 1982, the "Almanac of American Politics" described him as "perhaps the member of the House most inclined to the Libertarian philosophy."

He served on the House Banking Committee and was the ranking minority member of its Coinage Subcommittee.

In his years in Congress, Paul consistently advocated a non-interventionist foreign policy. He has opposed draft registration and voted to ban funding to the Contras, while at the same time supporting a rational defensive capability.

Paul will address a luncheon meeting at the Libertarian state convention at the Windjammer Conference Center in South Burlington.

Herald/Rutland, VT

American-Statesman/Austin, TX

Ex-GOP legislator to seek Libertarian nod for presidency

Ron Paul, the former Republican congressman from Lake Jackson, plans to seek the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party.

Paul, 51, an outspoken obstetrician who says he enjoys being called right-wing, quit the House of Representatives in 1984 to run for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. He ran a distant second, getting 16.4 percent. Phil Gramm won the primary without a runoff and also won the general election.

"About a month or so ago, I resigned from the Republican Party — mainly out of total disillusionment with the Reagan attempt to cut anything," Paul said in an interview. Despite President Reagan's promise to balance the budget, "In the first six years, the deficit turned out to be greater than all the others put together."

Paul said that Reagan had been the great hope of those seeking sound fiscal policy.

"From now on it's downhill all the way," Paul said. "Two years from now, we're going to have someone like (Vice President George) Bush running against (former Democratic U.S. Sen.) Gary Hart" of Colorado.

After he dropped out of the Republican Party, Paul said, Libertarians approached him to pick up their banner. With the exception of his adamant opposition to abortion, Paul fits the Libertarian mold on most issues.

He's definitely sour on Republicans.

"I want to totally dissociate myself from the policies that have given us unprecedented deficits, massive monetary inflation, indiscriminate military spending, an irrational and unconstitutional foreign policy, zooming foreign aid, the exaltation of international banking, and the attack on our personal liberties and privacy," Paul said at a press conference Wednesday in Houston.

During his three terms and part of a fourth as a congressman for the 22nd District, Southwest Houston and Fort Bend and Brazoria counties, Paul became known for his opposition to many things other Republicans embraced.

He said the country should return to the gold standard for its money, for instance, and that federal policies toward banks and other big business interests are "welfare for the rich."

He opposed some favorite Republican military hardware items, like the B-1 bomber and the MX missile, and indicated that Americans should cut out all foreign aid, military and otherwise.

He also opposed government's enforcing personal morality.

"I think the principle of nonaggression and not initiating violence against somebody is a good one," Paul said. "You shouldn't be put in jail for doing something silly to yourself that doesn't hurt somebody else."

Paul said he has financial commitments approaching \$50,000. He financed much of his races for Congress with contributions from right-wing political newsletter subscribers. That fact also gives him a ready base and some notoriety around the nation.

Though the Libertarians have yet to scratch deeply in races outside California, their effort in 1988 will be helped somewhat by the fact that they have already qualified for ballots in some states, including Texas. By virtue of having some candidates who got more than 5 percent of the vote in 1986 against otherwise uncontested Democratic incumbents, the Libertarians gained automatic ballot status for 1988.

Paul said the only other person who has indicated an interest in the Libertarian nomination is Russell Means, the American Indian Movement activist. The party's presidential ticket will be decided at its convention in Seattle in September.

Libertarian Marrou to try national fling

ANCHORAGE (AP)—A Libertarian who failed in his bid for a second term in the Legislature has left Alaska to take a fling at national politics, a party spokesman says.

Andre Marrou of Homer was defeated in November by Democrat C.E. Swackhammer after serving two years as the only Libertarian legislator in the country. Marrou was elected in 1984, narrowly defeating Republican Milo Fritz of Anchor Point.

Party spokesman Bill Sigler said Marrou told a Libertarian gathering in December that he had been approached about running as vice president on the 1988 national ticket.

According to Sigler, Marrou said in his farewell speech that the Libertarian Party in Alaska is zipping but not dying.

News Minor/Fairbanks, AK

Houston Post
Houston, TX

Politics

Although former Republican U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Lake Jackson thinks he's going to be the presidential nominee of the Libertarian Party, we're doubtful after talking Thursday with Russell Means, the founder and leader of the American Indian Movement.

You see, Russell, who led the 71-day takeover of Wounded Knee, S.D., in 1973, also is running for the Libertarian Party nomination. And, quite frankly, he seems tougher.

"In my pursuit of personal freedom, I have been shot, stabbed, bombed, strafed and jailed by various government agents," Russell said over the long-distance wire, repeating what he said in a recent Libertarian bulletin.

And then Russell added something which should entice many Libertarians to hand him their nomination.

"I would be the first candidate for president who ever got into a shootout with federal agents."

How can Ron — who just wants to legalize drugs like cocaine — top that?

Indian activist to run as Libertarian for presidency

MILLBRAE (AP) — Long-time American Indian Movement activist Russell Means has announced he is seeking the Libertarian Party nomination for president.

Appearing at the California Libertarian Party convention in Millbrae on Saturday, Means said his political platform will be based on civil liberties.

"I now realize that all Americans, not just Indians, desperately need to regain control of their own lives," said the Sioux Indian who has acted as the spokesman for the American Indian Movement since shortly after its inception in 1968. The organization is now known as the Dakota American Indian Movement.

Means gained national attention through the group and its campaign to end racism against Indians.

The movement's most visible effort was a takeover in 1973 of a site in the small town of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to protest government policies toward the In-

dian. Means and Dennis Banks led the violent siege in which two Indians were killed and one federal marshal was seriously injured.

Means was born on the Pine Ridge reservation but grew up in a suburb of Oakland.

"By running for president, I hope to show all Americans that the 'failure of socialism' which former Secretary of Interior James Watt once pointed to on Indian reservations is a universal problem and that voting Libertarian is a very important way for people of all races to say 'We've had enough. Give us back our freedom,'" Means said.

He leaves California on Monday to travel to Michigan and Arizona, where he will work to ease state requirements for Libertarian party candidates to appear on election ballots. Means said he will set up his national campaign headquarters in Denver.

Means became involved with the Libertarian Party in 1983. He officially joined a week ago in Austin, Texas.

Evening Outlook/Los Angeles Co.

We're a third party!

The League of Women Voters claims it should be in charge of the presidential debates for, among other reasons, its ability to "deal with third-party candidates" ["Sponsorship of '88 presidential debates debated," Feb. 20].

In 1980, the Libertarian Party (LP) candidate, Ed Clark, finished fourth, with 1 million votes, but was denied participation in the LWV debate. Then, in 1984, when the LP's David Bergland finished third nationwide, he was similarly rejected.

In an age when the differences between the major-party candidates are minuscule, it would be a real benefit to the voters to hear from third-party candidates. Unfortunately, the LWV is not prepared to demand their inclusion in the presidential debates.

David K. Walter Nat'l Comm.
The Libertarian Party Houston

Christian Science Monitor/Boston, MA

Libertarian candidates propose housing policy

American-Statesman/Austin, TX
By Robert Cullick
American-Statesman Staff

Two candidates for the Austin City Council on Wednesday announced a plan to provide affordable housing through voluntary contributions to a housing subsidy fund and by relaxing or repealing zoning laws.

Gary Johnson, who is running against Sally Shipman, and Fred Ebner, one of several people running against George Humphrey, held a press conference to explain their opposition to last Saturday's affordable housing bond election, which failed.

Johnson and Ebner are exponents of libertarianism, a political philosophy that stresses individual freedom and opposes government intervention.

"Some supporters of the bonds wanted you to believe that the opponents were only against housing for the poor and had no plan of their own," Ebner said. "Do not be deceived. We have had a plan all along. They just were not listening."

Johnson and Ebner said the city on utility bills should invite Austinites to add a dollar to their utility payment to subsidize housing for the poor. They were not specific on how the money would be spent, but said it could be used to subsidize rents for existing housing.

The city now collects about \$60,000 a year in its "Plus One" program. Utility customers dedicate an extra dollar in their payments to help pay electric bills for the needy.

If the city collected a like amount for housing, it could serve fewer than 35 families a year, assuming the average needy family required a

Means considers presidential candidacy

Argus Leader/Souix Falls, SD
From staff and wire reports

Russell Means of Porcupine, longtime American Indian Movement activist, says he may seek the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party.

Means, who officially joined the Libertarian Party Saturday in Austin, Texas, says he will tour Texas for three days before making up his mind.

Monday, he was in Houston and planned today to be in Dallas and Wednesday Austin before going to the Libertarian state convention in California, where he likely will make up his mind.

"I am testing the waters here in Texas to determine whether I will seek the Libertarian nomination for presidency of the United States in 1988," Means told the *San Antonio*

Light in an interview Sunday before attending a local reception with about 30 local Libertarians.

Means says he has not changed his political thinking since he became involved with the Libertarian Party in 1983.

During the 1984 presidential campaign, however, Means ran briefly for the Republican nomination for vice president. His running mate was Larry Flynt, *Hustler* magazine publisher.

Means said Sunday: "Since I joined AIM, I haven't changed my mind on anything. I'm an American Indian patriot; I always have been. It just so happens that (the Libertarian Party) follows the American Indian world view."

If he runs, Means said his platform will be based on civil liberties.

"The government is now taking away from the non-Indian what it has taken away from the Indian on the reservation, individual freedoms and choice," Means said. "The non-Indian American is the new Indian."

Means, a Sioux Indian, has been the spokesman for the American Indian Movement since shortly after its inception in 1968.

The American Indian civil rights organization made headlines in the early 1970s for its many protests, including the 1973 takeover of a site at Wounded Knee to protest the government's policy on Indians.

Means and Dennis Banks led the violent, 97-day takeover of the reservation hamlet and creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in which two Indians were killed and one federal marshal was seriously injured.

Political aspirants fault ballot rules

State urged to ease qualifications

By Eric Frøedman
News Lansing Bureau
Detroit News/Detroit, MI

LANSING — Representatives of minor political parties, including Russell Means, the Libertarian Party 1988 presidential hopeful, urged a House committee to make it easier for independent candidates and new parties to get on the ballot.



Russell Means

"Anyone who wants to be on the ballot ought to be on the ballot," said Libertarian Charles Congdon of Midland, who ran as an independent for the Legislature last November.

"In the interest of democracy and democratic rights, you should reject additional requirements" to attain ballot status, Joanne Murphy of the Socialist Workers Party told the House Elections Committee.

THE COMMENTS came at a Tuesday hearing on a bill to change ballot access requirements for new parties and independent candidates. Rep. Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, who chairs the committee and is sponsoring the measure, said a vote is expected after more testimony next week.

Michigan's current ballot access rules have been under federal court fire since 1976. The same bill failed to come out of a Senate-House conference committee last year.

Witnesses praised sections of the bill that would allow more time to gather signatures and to hold new party nominating conventions and permit petitioning on a countywide rather than municipal basis.

But they sharply criticized a plan to increase the minimum number of signatures needed by new parties.

UNDER CURRENT law, a new party needs signatures equal to 1 percent of the vote won by the successful candidate for secretary of state in the prior campaign. The change would peg the signature requirement to 1 percent of the total vote cast for governor in the prior election. Based on 1986 balloting, the number of signatures needed would increase from 16,312 to 23,966, said state Elections Division Director Christopher Thomas.

Means, a nationally known activist for Native American rights, said, "It's clear that the people of this country and this state don't have a clear right of democracy and to vote."

Means said existing laws require him to collect about 750,000 signatures to get on the 1988 ballot in every state. In contrast, GOP Vice-President George Bush and Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson would each need about 25,000 signatures to appear on all those ballots, he said.

Several legislators questioned the plea for relaxed standards.

"YOU'D HAVE thousands of names on the ballot and hundreds of parties," said Rep. Burton Leland, D-Detroit.

And Rep. Thomas E. Scott, D-Flint, said the November 1986 Michigan Supreme Court ballot, on which 19 of the 24 candidates for two judgeships were independents, created confusion among voters.

"There were no exchanges of ideas when you had 24 candidates," Scott said. "That's a miscarriage of justice. Those who had the best name recognition won."

Replied Congdon, "How can more choices be bad for the voters?"

SOUTH AFRICA

306 Solutions to a Baffling Problem

A new book presents an intriguing scenario for the future

Since a solution to South Africa's grinding racial conflict seems to be beyond grasp, how about 306 solutions? That is exactly the suggestion made in a best-selling book that has raised a new controversy—and won some surprising backers—throughout the country. The book, *South Africa: The Solution*, proposes a Swiss-style confederation that would include a weak central government and 306 local bodies that could choose their own economic and social systems. Black radicals could set up Marxist cantons if they wished, and Afrikaner right-wingers could have their all-white enclaves. Ev-

least possible government and the freest possible enterprise. They point out, however, that their own preferences need not be accepted, since the cantonal system would allow residents of each local unit to select by vote the system they prefer. "All the existing political parties and movements would be likely to come to power somewhere," Louw says. "Then we'll be able to see what works."

At the top level of government, the authors propose a two-house parliament based on proportional representation of the political parties in the cantons. The central government's power would be

discriminate. For economic reasons, however, the authors believe very few firms would refuse to deal with or serve blacks.

Anticipating worries that the plan would result in a few rich white cantons and many poor black ones, the book observes that there would be free movement of people, goods and capital among the cantons. "What people probably think is that the whites would take over Johannesburg and the gold mines around it," says Kendall. "No, that could not happen. There are so many black workers here that Johannesburg would have a black majority." Louw adds, "It would be an unambiguous handover of the rich areas to blacks. The only places there could be all-white cantons would be in sparsely populated rural areas."

The book's proposals have received wide support among South African blacks. Winnie Mandela, wife of the imprisoned black nationalist leader, in a foreword to the Swedish edition of the book, says it offers a "broad alternative we have all been looking for." Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of Kwa-Zulu, rarely agrees with Mandela, but he also likes the idea. Says he: "Amid a sea of anger and tension, *The Solution* may prove to be a rational, workable answer to South Africa's unique problems."

Most South African whites are less enthusiastic but are nonetheless intrigued by the proposal. Eli Louw (no kin), the Minister of Transport, has called the book "worthwhile reading for those dealing with the future of our country." Hendrik Verwoerd, son of the late Prime Minister who institutionalized the apartheid system and himself a leading right-winger, said that while he did not accept the canton system as proposed, the book "provides an important contribution in breaking away from the dangerous unitary state philosophy into a direction which will open eyes to other possibilities."

The Solution has become something of a cause célèbre. With funding from several major companies, including the giant Anglo American Corp., the authors have set up Groundswell, a political-action movement. Groundswell hopes to raise \$15 million for a two-year program of lectures, seminars, television and newspaper advertising. The book will be translated into eight African languages, and a U.S. edition will be published in May. Louw and Kendall candidly admit they do not expect the white-dominated government to embrace their proposals. Instead they put their faith in creating a grass-roots demand for change. "If we can get the crowd moving in the right direction," Louw says, "the politicians will have no choice but to get out in front of it." Even if it does not turn out precisely that way, the authors' solution and their readers' eager response to it demonstrate that not all South Africans are waiting numbly for chaos to sweep away the past and dictate the future. —By Bruce W. Nelan/Johannesburg



Husband-and-Wife Authors Leon Louw and Frances Kendall

"It would be an unambiguous handover of the rich areas to blacks."

eryone else could choose various systems somewhere between the extremes.

Sales of the book, in English and Afrikaans, have topped 25,000 and kept it on the nonfiction best-seller list for a year, a huge success in a country where nonfiction books usually sell no more than 5,000 copies. Husband-and-Wife Authors Leon Louw and Frances Kendall say they decided to write the book because those who oppose the apartheid system "know what they are against but need something to be for." Says Louw: "The struggle in this country is over who should dominate whom—that is, who controls the very powerful central government. Our solution entails not having such a central government. We want to make it possible to let the tiger—the black majority—out of the cage without whites being eaten."

Louw, a lawyer who heads South Africa's Free Market Foundation, and Kendall, editor of a conservative newsletter, offer a libertarian plan that favors the

limited strictly to essential national interests, such as the conduct of defense, national finance and foreign relations. Both houses, Louw and Kendall assume, would have a black majority. So too would almost all the cantons.

The cantons, the book suggests, should be the 306 magisterial districts that already exist in South Africa. Each canton would have its own parliament and possibly its own constitution. Every level of government would be barred from passing laws that discriminate on racial grounds and would be required to apply all laws equally to all races. "In other words," write the authors, "government would be color-blind."

In a more controversial passage, *The Solution* suggests that "all citizens would have the right to integrate or segregate voluntarily at their own expense." While no laws imposing segregation would be constitutional, neither would any that forced integration. Thus private firms would be free to

