



The Liberty Pledge

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NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the participants in the National Libertarian Party Pledge program. Because of your contribution, we are able to carry on the daily activities of the Party, and we want you to know what we are doing. We also want the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and let you know about others who are helping the Party as volunteers and contributors. So, first, thank you!

1983 BERGLAND SCHEDULE

DATES	LOCATION
9/6-26	Washington DC San Diego Las Vegas
10/11	Orange County
10/14,15	Tennessee
10/18,19,20	Ohio
10/21,22	Michigan
10/27,28,29	Oregon
11/2,3	Alabama
11/4,5	Oklahoma
11/8,9	Missouri
11/10,11,12	Illinois
11/15	Denver, Colorado
11/16	Nebraska
11/17,18	Iowa
11/19,20,21,22	Atlanta, Georgia
11/29,30,12/1	Florida
12/2,3,4,5	Louisiana

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS MOVES TO HOUSTON! The new National Committee ratified the the decision of the past National Committee to move the LP HQ to Texas. Several cities were under consideration but the Houston LP prepared a convincing proposal which promised a minimum of 240 volunteer hours per month to the National party. The HQ will leave DC on 8 October and will be in place by the 15th. The new address is 7887 Katy Freeway #385, Houston, TX 77024 although mail will be forwarded from the DC address. The new office is centrally located for volunteers and has 50% more space for only \$45 more per month!

THREE MORE LIBERTARIANS ELECTED TO OFFICE IN CALIFORNIA! In the Santa Barbara area, Lou Villadsen was elected to the board of the Mission Canyon Fire District and Mary Earle was elected to the board of the Carpinteria School District. Marc Wruble was elected to a school board in the Palm Springs area.

DAVID BERGLAND TO CAMPAIGN IN 27 CITIES IN THE NEXT 2 MONTHS! Bergland Campaign Scheduler Alicia Clark will be coordinating our candidate's appearances with state conventions in 1984 when he will be campaigning full-time. Vice-Presidential candidate Jim Lewis has announced that he will be an almost full-time candidate.

SEP 6 1983

Libertarians exit D.C.; not their 'kind of town'

By Tom Breen
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

The anti-government Libertarian Party, tired of Washington and what it represents, will shut down its national headquarters at 2139 Wisconsin Ave. and move to Houston later this month.

"We're the party against bureaucracy, and this isn't our kind of town," Honey Lanham, national director, said yesterday.

The West and Southwest are more receptive to Libertarian ideals than are other parts of the country, she said. Houston was chosen because it is a large, growing city, and Libertarians have been fairly successful in municipal elections there.

The decision to abandon Washington is symbolically important in that the party over the weekend chose a presidential candidate with an unbending Libertarian philosophy. Snubbing Washington reinforces that philosophy.

David Bergland, a California lawyer, advocated principle over practical politics and won a fourth-ballot victory. He defeated Earl Ravenal, a Georgetown University professor who called on the party to become more relevant and appeal to a broader group of people.

Bergland and his vice presidential candidate, Connecticut salesman Jim Lewis, were chosen at the 11-year-old party's convention in New York City. There were 540 delegates from 48 states.

Libertarians are ultraconservative on government and ultraliberal on

The party listened to Bergland. "I think most of us are comfortable with Bergland's hard line," Lanham said yesterday. "We feel it's a good strategy to be distinctive. People are giving up on the two-party system because neither has anything to offer."

"If we compromise, we'll lose our identity. We're not ashamed of our positions, and I think most people will understand that."

Bergland will meet with Lanham today to discuss 1984 campaign strategy, which is already taking shape.

Unlike the 1980 presidential election, the party will work harder on municipal

"We feel it's a good strategy to be distinctive. People are giving up on the two-party system because neither has anything to offer."

social issues, but some are more ultra than others.

For example, Bergland would dismantle the Social Security system immediately, while more-moderate Libertarians have suggested a phaseout over 40 years.

Bergland's hard-line followers and Ravenal's moderate backers battled over approach, not philosophy. The hard-liners refused to waffle on the consistency of their anti-government principles; the moderates said principle is meaningless if mainstream voters aren't listening to you.

and state elections, will cultivate media in smaller cities and towns ("the national media was terrible with us the last time," Lanham said) and will treat a presidential candidacy as a way to build the party's image, without worrying about how many votes the candidate will get.

The last time, Lanham said, the party got swept away by the excitement of the campaign and didn't spend enough time on grass-roots elections.

Libertarians, she added, run for president not to win but to build the party, which is the nation's third largest.

For Liberty,



Honey Lanham, National Director

P.S. You may find it easier to have your pledge automatically credited to the LP without writing a check each month. If you would like to convert to MasterCard or VISA, please fill out and return this form before the beginning of next month. Thanks!

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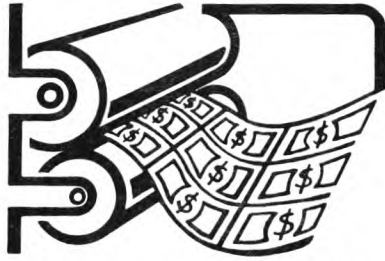
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Libertarian Party

As its name suggests, the goal of the Libertarian Party is liberty. The principles which guide the Party are the same principles which sparked the American Revolution: That people have rights to life, liberty, and property, and that government must never violate these rights.

Under Republican and Democratic leadership, government has mushroomed in size, and its policies have been disastrous. Our personal freedoms have been constantly eroded. At no other time in American history has the average citizen been so taxed, regulated, registered, licensed, numbered, told what to do, and told what not to do.

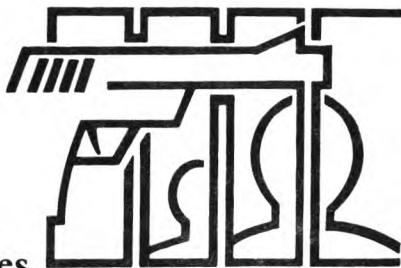
Below are summaries of what Libertarians would do about some of today's crucial issues.



Inflation

Inflation is simply legalized counterfeiting, caused by government's printing of paper money and the Federal Reserve Board's manipulation of money and credit through the banking system. Inflation means a decrease in the value of our dollars, eroding our earning power and savings.

But some individuals and groups actually benefit from inflation. Creating new money allows politicians to pay for programs without raising taxes, and it allows government and favored interests to spend this new money before it has spread through the national economy and diluted the value of the currency. Inflation can be stopped — but not by blaming and scapegoating workers, businesspeople, or the OPEC nations, and not by taking the blame ourselves. Inflation can be stopped only by stopping its cause: government's expansion of the money supply.



Crime and Civil Liberties

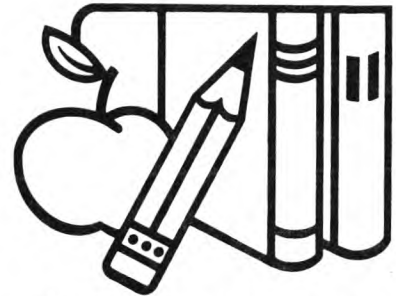
The purpose of law enforcement should be to stop violent crimes against persons and property — not to abuse people with peaceful but unpopular personal lifestyles. The American Bar Association has estimated that nearly 50 per cent of the cop-on-the-beat's time is spent on victimless crime. This misuse of resources on nonaggressive behavior must stop.

We oppose all laws that tell individuals what they can read, what they can smoke, who they can love, or how they must lead their private lives.

Libertarians would give peaceful citizens the ability to defend themselves by abolishing restrictions on gun

ownership. Gun control laws not only violate civil liberties but are ineffective in reducing crime.

Libertarians favor programs which require criminals to compensate their victims and make full restitution for their crimes.



Education

Government-operated schools compel attendance, remove parental authority to decide what is taught, exact more and more tax money to fund their operations — and are declining to a level of a national disgrace. Test scores go down as costs go up, and in many cities, public schools breed crime and vandalism. As a result, many low and middle income parents are scraping together what money they can to send their children to alternative schools.

The solution is to respect the rights of parents and children to choose the kind of education they want. Libertarians would eliminate compulsory attendance laws and allow educational tax credits for anyone who pays for the education of a child. Tax credits make quality education available to everyone, and would be particularly beneficial to low and middle income people who could have a true choice among educational alternatives. They are a big step toward our goal of eliminating government involvement from the sensitive area of educating children.



The Draft

Conscription is nothing less than slavery, and slaves can hardly be expected to be effective or enthusiastic

defenders of freedom. Conscription violates basic individual liberties embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. The Selective Service System should be promptly abolished.



Foreign Policy

Thomas Jefferson best stated the guiding principles of a Libertarian foreign policy in his first inaugural address when he said, "Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none."

America's military forces should be limited to defending the United States. Yet more than \$100 billion per year of the Pentagon budget is spent to defend or interfere with other countries. U. S. forces in Europe, Asia, and Central America should be brought home. The U. S. government should end all subsidies to foreign rulers and stop its involvement in the internal affairs of other countries. Our forty year policy of intervention, sponsored equally by Republicans and Democrats, endangers our own security by increasing the chances for war.

The United States can only serve the cause of freedom by setting a good example, not through military force or covert intrigue. Barriers to trade, travel, and cultural exchange should be lifted. A fully adequate defense combined with free trade with all and political entanglements with none is the only course consistent with individual freedom, and can best serve American interests in an ever changing world.



Taxes and Spending

Taxation violates individual rights and is an economic burden most people cannot afford. Today's oppressive levels of taxation are enforced by the IRS, which systematically harasses peaceful citizens, ignoring due process and the Bill of Rights.

Libertarians are working at all levels of government, and at the grassroots, to remove the tax burden from Americans. Taxes and federal spending can be cut significantly and rapidly, with tremendous benefits. Other political parties debate how much taxes and spending should increase, and their tax "cuts," when they occur, are really only cuts *in the rate at which taxes increase*. Libertarians are not satisfied with phony "cuts" in taxing and spending, but rather believe that taxes are a kind of

legalized theft which can and should be slashed immediately, and abolished as soon as possible.



Social Security

Our Social Security system, based on the belief that people are incapable of taking care of themselves, has become a tragic fraud. Supposedly designed to help the poor, the steadily-increasing Social Security tax falls heaviest on them; and despite the increase in taxes, the government has admitted that the system will run out of money unless taxes are increased even further. Yet there is no doubt that if people could save and invest the amounts they now pay in Social Security taxes, their retirement security would be far greater while at the same time more money would be left in the private economy to create more jobs.

The injustices of the present system are many, and the problems of moving to the private sector are numerous. But Social Security is now a prescription for economic disaster and divisiveness between generations of Americans, and should be acknowledged as such. We must act now to make participation in Social Security voluntary, and to move care for the elderly to the voluntary sector.

I want to join the Libertarian Party!

I want to support the efforts of the Libertarian Party by becoming a national member in the category below: (membership includes a one-year subscription to Libertarian Party News)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic, \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate-Life, \$250 |
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