



The Liberty Pledge

MAY * JUNE 1985

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!

HQ CHANGES -- Randy T. Ver Hagen, the recently appointed National Party Chair, has announced "sweeping cuts and changes at the National Headquarters" in a June 14 letter to all National Committee members and all State Chairs.

National Director Honey S. Lanham will be replaced by Perry Willis of California effective July 1, 1985. Publication of *LP News* will be suspended effective after the National Convention in August. Headquarters employees Paula Bosse and David K. Kelley will be terminated effective July 1 and August 1 respectively. (The other two headquarters employees resigned in May: Lucia Toro to take a new position in New York with the Manhattan Institute, and Tom Radloff to pursue a computer programming career.)

As reasons for his action Ver Hagen cited "a crippling deficit" and "computer problems." "At the risk of being labeled reactionary," Ver Hagen wrote, "I must tell you that we have attained a level of crisis, and unless we take steps beyond those I have already ordered, the situation will continue to deteriorate." Ver Hagen said he had "measured responses from all quarters, and determined that no other course was more appropriate."

"My business sense tells me," Ver Hagen stated in his letter, "that black ink is an absolutely necessary operating condition. On this particular point, the current National Director and myself have a considerable difference of opinion."

The two issues of *LP News* previously planned for publication prior to the August convention will now be combined into a single issue, according to Editor Mike Holmes. Ver Hagen stated in his letter that publication would be suspended "until such time as a black ink condition is restored and/or that particular vendor debt is retired."

Ver Hagen, who will be running for a full term as Chair in August, said that "in the future, one of my goals is to publish approximately a twelve page paper on a monthly basis."

"Fund raising has not met expectations," Ver Hagen wrote, and "every effort will be made to correct this situation. However, should fund raising remain unsatisfactory, the cuts as stated earlier can still eradicate the deficit by year end."

Lanham, who has been National Director since 1982, responded to Ver Hagen's action with the following statement:

"Our goal has been to eliminate the Party debt by the time of the National Convention as we did in 1983. In one year, we paid off an unauthorized debt of \$180,000 while continuing the operations of the headquarters. It was not an easy task nor a comfortable one.

"With a healthy bank account through June 1984 the National Committee authorized our financial support of campaign ballot drives. Our resultant debt was down to \$80,000 as of the end of May. My experience tells me it can be eliminated in the next few months -- but the Director cannot do it alone. Our new Chair has taken up the challenge with his new team. I know it can be done as we did it in 1983. I continue to be impressed with the loyalty and generosity of our membership; and I remain confident in and will continue to work for the future of the Party."

Wrong praise

It's one thing that Paul Jacob of North Little Rock should lead a raggle taggle of draft-registration resisters on a protest march, as he did Sunday. After all, Jacob is headed for trial in federal court for refusing to register for the draft, and, if convicted, he can be fined \$10,000 and imprisoned for five years. Think-alikes give him the kind of positive re-enforcement he needs.

But what's the chairman of the Arkansas Libertarian Party Alan Lindsay doing calling Jacob a "real patriot" for "following his conscience"? That's not libertarian talk.

Libertarians champion individual freedom -- and the constitutional liberties and immunities that guarantee it. And as a political movement they also attack laws that punish or limit individual freedom. All that's to the good.

But Lindsay evidently believes, as some others of his party do, that military service -- or even registration for it -- is coercion of the individual's conscience. Armies, they believe, should be manned by volunteers. That's carrying the gospel of the individual too far. Not only that, there's no constitutional base for any automatic claims of conscience.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to "raise armies" -- and that means Congress can enact a draft or draft-registration. Period. Those who have religious scruples against doing actual military service can indeed argue that military service would violate their religious scruples. But in the face of Congress' power to conscript, they must convince federal judges of the genuineness of those scruples.

Many don't -- in part because conscience grew into a racket when the draft was last in force -- a racket fed by "counseling services" that schooled slackers in the art of pleading conscience.

Jacob may indeed entertain religious scruples against doing military service -- but now isn't the time to assert them. Current federal law requires only that he register for the draft, not serve. The proper procedure was for him to obey the law and register. Then, should a draft be instituted and his name called, he could state his scruples in court.

As a Libertarian, Lindsay should have been the last one to praise Jacob's lawbreaking as a patriotic exertion of conscience. Jacob exercised no right in refusing to register.

Besides that, civil liberties have few enough declared friends in this country -- and the Libertarians should be one of them. All praise is due the party for its efforts to maximize individual freedom in ways that "liberate" the individual from needless statutory restraints -- which, while they don't deny us our enumerated freedoms, do limit our individual options for no readily defensible reasons.

But it's no defense of our real liberties to praise Jacob's lawbreaking, as Lindsay does. Jacob has no conscientious right not to register for the draft -- only the right, if called to serve, to have a court weigh his scruples against Congress' overriding right to enact a draft and enforce it with criminal penalties. The security needs of the state come first; cases of conscience second.

Nobody needs to be told why. That's how it is constitutionally -- especially at a time when this free country is locked in a global struggle with the great enemy of all human freedoms -- communism.

To declare, in the name of individual freedom, as Lindsay does, that a draft-resister's conscience is sovereign is to say that he doesn't owe his own personal freedoms -- let alone those of others and the country that protects them all -- even the weight of his name.

That makes no libertarian sense -- or moral sense -- in a world where the alternatives are human freedom and human slavery.

Two council candidates are Libertarian

By JOE McDONOUGH

WALDWICK -- The Libertarian Party announced that two candidates have filed for the Borough Council race.

Richard L. Duprey, 22, of 2 Ida Lane, is making his second try for councilman. Duprey is a dispatcher for the local police department and is attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

Duprey is joined this year by Daniel M. Karlan, 34, of 97 A Manhattan Ave. Karlan is a computer systems analyst with a local firm and is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a BS degree in biology. This is Karlan's first try at elective office. He has been associated with the Libertarian Party and its affiliate organizations for nearly 20 years.



MERCURY NEWS - SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA - APRIL 29

The Libertarian alternative

I just joined the Libertarian Party. I'm leaving a big establishment party because I discovered the major differences between Democrats and Republicans. One party wants rapid growth of government power, the other wants less-rapid growth of government power.

But government has already grown too powerful. Is my choice only to pick the lesser of two evils? Doesn't anyone uphold the self-evident truths that everyone has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness anymore?

Libertarians do. Libertarians know that everyone's right to enjoy different lives at their own expense must be respected, that self-government is superior to Big Government, and that happiness is achieved through friendship and cooperation -- never through force and coercion.

It takes an agonizing reappraisal of personal convictions to change political parties, but the Libertarians have an idea whose time has come.

— Michael Iddings
San Jose

Libertarians back secession movement

MONTANA STANDARD - BUTTE, MONTANA - APRIL 30

GREAT FALLS (AP) — The Montana Libertarian Party concluded its annual convention here Sunday after electing new officers and going on the record in favor of secessionist movements in Missoula County.

Della Scott, 29, of Kalispell, was elected party chairman. She has been active in the Libertarian Party since the state chapter was organized in 1979. In 1983, she was elected as a delegate for Montana, Wyoming and Idaho to the party's national committee.

"People would be better off making their own decisions with as little government as possible," Scott said, summing up the party philosophy.

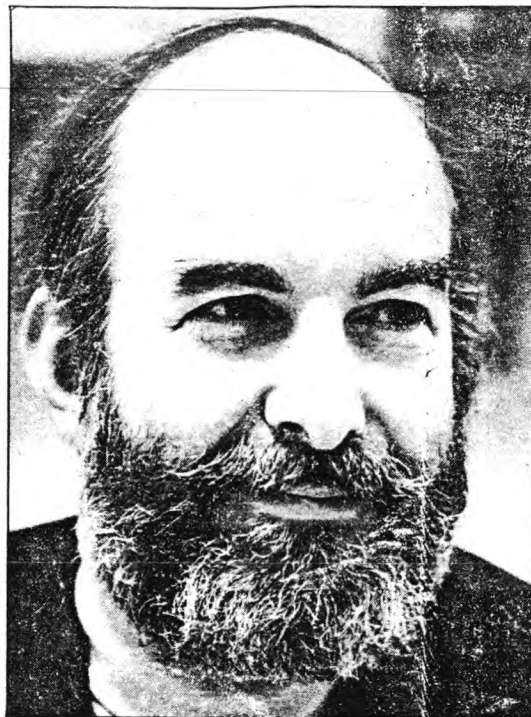
She succeeds Clifford Thies, an economics professor the past four

years in the University of Montana master's of business administration program at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The secession resolution, adopted by the 32 Libertarians attending the convention, supports efforts by groups who may wish to secede from one county and become part of a neighboring county.

Some residents of the Lolo area south of Missoula want to secede from Missoula County and join Ravalli County. Meanwhile, some residents of the Clinton-Turrah area about 20 miles east of Missoula in Missoula County want to become a part of Granite County.

The Legislature last week passed a bill establishing a procedure for such transfers of territory.



Rep. Andre Marrou: Tilting at the two-party system.

Cracked Pots Awards

Libertarians Spotlight 'Sensationally Bad Legislation'

By VIVIAN PRICE

Libertarians realize that what they are doing strikes some people as funny, but they are motivated by a serious concern for personal freedoms.

Members of the political party annually watch the Georgia General Assembly and present the Cracked Pot, the Golden Handcuffs, the Road to Hell and the Jesse James awards to legislators whose bills "most violate the principles of individual liberty and economic freedom."

Libertarian Party awards chairman James Harris noted that a "virtual flood" of terrible bills made the award committee's task particularly difficult this year.

"I didn't think the General Assembly could ever come up with more sensationally bad legislation than they did last year, but they've topped themselves," he said.

Winning the Golden Cracked Pot for the worst posed (but not posed) by the state's Rep. Ruda whose bill would all advertisements beverages.

"It's unbelievable said. "It's anti-free consumer."

"But, it's fascinating how we would end could just go across advertise whatever and bring it back. have to create a (time a truck came zines and books, through every page beer ads. We'd hanging towers all or monitor all radio

A second-place Silver Cracked Pot in the "proposed" category went to Macon Rep. David Lucas, whose name has become well-known in newspaper circles for his idea to make it a criminal offense for a newspaper to publish unsigned editorials.

"If there is any more basic freedom than freedom of the press," Harris said, "I don't know what it is. And, the amazing thing is that anyone standing up and saying these things should be denounced, but the House passed it overwhelmingly. They (House members) are completely incapable of defending personal liberties."

Rep. Paul Coverdell of Atlanta also receives a Silver Cracked Pot for his bill requiring the wearing of seat belts in automobiles.

"That is a personal decision," Harris said. If passed, he added, it would be a "terrible precedent"

bureaucracy that caused the problem in the first place."

A Silver Cracked Pot for approved legislation went to DeKalb Rep. Betty Aaron, who sponsored the bill to raise the state's drinking age.

"It penalizes everybody in that age group for the actions of a few," Harris pointed out. "What is particularly shameful (about the bill's passage) is that the legislators are saying (to young people) 'sure, this is a bad bill, it violates your rights, but we are going to sell your rights down the river in exchange for a few billion dollars from the federal government."

Sen. Ed Perry of Nashville also got a Silver Cracked Pot for his bill increasing penalties on the possession and sale of cocaine.

Libertarians, Harris said, believe that the government has no business being in the area of vic-

includes a mask, symbolic of the camouflaged aspect of the bill. "From now on there will be no public debate on salary increases," he predicted. "Their salaries will go up as state employees receive cost-of-living increases. We'll probably see drastic increases in the salaries of state officials."

The award for the worst offense against civil liberties, the Golden Handcuff Award went to Rep. Joe T. Wood of Greenville, whose bill requires the Georgia Department of Public Safety to turn over information about draft-age men to the Selective Service.

Harris called the bill "slavery, contrary to the principles this country was founded on and a step toward resumption of the draft."

Although Harris said the Libertarians feel this session was particularly detrimental to personal freedoms, they say looking at a broader picture is even worse.

Trade war casualty THE STAR - KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - APRIL 14

Battle losses can be measured in shirts and gin

Why is the Congress of the United States mad at me? What have I done to cause them to act as they are? The Senate (92-0) and the House (394-19) passed a resolution urging the president to impose quotas and tariffs on trade coming from Japan. Once a trade war with Japan begins, you can bet it will expand to include China and Korea. "Retaliate" is the cry, but who will be made to suffer? I will. I will have to pay that tariff or I will have to pay extra to "Buy American."

For example, as I write this I am wearing a shirt made in China, a nice enough shirt for my purposes, looks good, fits well and costs only \$5 at the discount store. If I am made to "Buy American" my shirt would cost \$15 for one made in North Carolina. It has been my plan now for several months to buy another shirt in June. I had thought to take my \$15, buy a \$5 China

shirt and a \$10 bottle of gin. Now the prospect of that happy occurrence is dimming.

I have been told I should be more patriotic and support the shirt fellow in North Carolina by sending him the extra \$10 in the price of his shirt. Would it not be just as patriotic to send the \$10 to the guy in Plainfield, Ill., who does such a good job in the gin business? Would it be any more patriotic to keep the money closer to home, like maybe buying from the distillery right here in my hometown which makes a passably good gin?

Also, what about my wife Marjorie, who, I have reason to suspect, occasionally takes a nip or two from my bottle when I am not looking? What is her interest in all this?

It seems to me that I should be able to buy my shirts and gin wherever it most benefits me and let the follow in

North Carolina do the same. The argument that he might go broke and get on welfare simply does not fly. That poor fellow has it made either way. I must pay him my \$10 direct in the price of the shirt or the government will take it in taxes and pay him indirectly as welfare. Because his union has a great contract with the company and because both company and union paid heavily into the political action committees and own Congress, I must pay him either way.

What I want to know is why is the Congress so mad at me? Is it because I am a Libertarian follower of Thomas Jefferson and Adam Smith toward a free marketplace? What did I do so bad that they are now trying to do me out of my gin?

Douglas N. Merritt

Atchison, Kan.

Lib rtarian builds m untain of bills

Marrou lays siege to government regulation with the government's own weapons

By BRUCE SCANDLING

The Associated Press

J UNEAU — The man whose political party espouses less government has unleashed a blizzard of bills this session that far surpasses the output of any other lawmaker.

While it might seem an ironic twist, Libertarian Rep. Andre Marrou said there's method behind his mountain of ever-growing bureaucracy.

And the barrage of get-government-off-our-backs legislation is just beginning, according Marrou, a freshman legislator from Homer who has sponsored 42 bills and resolutions so far this year.

That's 20 more bills than any other lawmaker has introduced.

Another 10 bills are likely to be unveiled before the end of the session, Marrou said — all in the name of less government. And he promised there'll be plenty more to come next session.

"Unless you're the governor . . . the only way to get less government is to introduce bills to do away with statutes," said Marrou, a first-term legislator.

While he leads the pack in generating bills, Marrou is undoubtedly at the bottom when it comes to getting his measures through the legislative process.

NEWS - ANCHORAGE, ALASKA - MAY 4

Only three of the 42 bills and resolutions have passed any standing committee.

Realistically, only one of Marrou's measures has a chance of passing the House this year: a proposal to eliminate regulations on concert promoters.

Marrou attributed the lukewarm reception paid his bills to a two-party system that's been functioning for years.

"The society we live in has been fashioned by the Democrats and Republicans, they see it as almost perfect," Marrou said. "They only want to tinker with the laws we have now."

While Marrou takes credit for promulgating legislation to reduce government interference, he also gets the blame for introducing bills some observers simply call a waste of time and money.

He offered resolutions Wednesday, for example, urging the federal government to declare national holidays on the birthdays of Thomas Jefferson and Hellen Keller.

Admirable, perhaps, but not likely to rivet the attention of Congress.

Then there's the cost of processing bills and resolutions.

Although Marrou said he's heard "through the grapevine" that it costs up to \$1,000 to prepare a bill, staffers say it's impossible to put a pricetag on legislation.

"There are so many factors that have to be added in, you can't really tell," said Pam Calhoon, director of administrative services for the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Some bills require extensive legal preparation and research, while others are simple resolutions demanding little time, Calhoon said.

However, at a minimum, every piece of legislation requires legal work, typing, printing, filing and processing.

Then, if the measure makes it to committee hearings, the time of lawmakers and staff assistants must be factored into cost calculations.

Although Marrou's prolific production tops the output of all lawmakers this year, it's far from a record.

According to state documents, former Bethel Sen. George Hohman plopped 115 bills on the table in 1981, the year state riches rose to unprecedented heights on a tide of oil-fueled growth.

Almost all of Hohman's measures were requests for special budget appropriations.

Former Rep. Pappy Moss, D-Delta Junction, introduced 54 bills and resolutions the same year.

In 1982, former Rep. Tony Vaska, D-Bethel, followed suit, introducing another 54 pieces of legislation.

H.R. 2320 -- A bill introduced in May into the House of Representatives by John Conyers (D-Michigan) would dramatically open up the federal election ballot to third parties and independent candidates. H.R. 2320, which has been referred to the Subcommittee on Elections of the House Administrative Committee, has received the enthusiastic endorsement of Libertarian Party ballot access specialists.

The bill would require the states to allow federal ballot access with party affiliation for candidates submitting a petition of the greater of 1,000 signatures or a number of signatures equal to one-tenth of one percent of the number of registered voters on the date of the last federal election.

The other major section of the bill would require states to grant continuing ballot status in federal elections for parties receiving 20,000 votes or one percent of the votes cast in the last election for President or Senator in that state, whichever is less.

David Bergland, the 1984 LP presidential candidate and current Ballot Access Committee Chair, said that "support for this bill should be a top priority for all LP activists." He suggests "setting up letter-writing parties at the local level as one way to improve our total effect."

Ballot access consultant Richard Winger calls H.R. 2320 "a great bill." He recommends every supporter write two letters: 1) to your own Congressional representative, asking that he or she co-sponsor the bill (House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515), and 2) to Representative Al Swift, Chair of the Subcommittee on Elections, 802 House Office Building, Annex 1, Washington, D. C. 20515, asking him to hold hearings on the bill in the fall. Without hearings the bill cannot be expected to get out of committee.

The bill was introduced through the efforts of Rainbow Confederation lobbyist Nancy Ross and New Alliance Party attorney Gary Sinawski. Ross is working in Washington as a lobbyist for the bill and is eager to have Libertarian and independent support. She can be reached at 202-737-1020, or 1010 Vermont Avenue NW #315, Washington, D. C. 20005.

TORCH CLUB GROWING -- The 1985 Torch Club, announced last month by National Finance Chair Dr. Matt Monroe, has added six new members, bringing the current total membership to 26. The new members are Michael J. Norman of California, Paul O. Woodard of Oklahoma, Richard E. Gardiner of Virginia, Hugh H. Sprunt of Texas, Bo Adlerbert of Vermont, and one anonymous member.

The Torch Club is a special group of Libertarian Party supporters who are each contributing \$1,000 or more to the Party during 1985. The original founding members are: Sharon A. Ayres (Director), Ed Clark, Alicia G. Clark, Burt Blumert, Paul A. Daley, Vickie L. Daley, and Craig Franklin, all of California; Matthew T. Monroe, M. D., Honey S. Lanham, Roger V. Gary, John Kormylo, David L. Buelow, and Gary Edward Johnson, all of Texas; David Hoesly of New York; Dale R. Hemming of Minnesota; David W. Saum, James Jordan Hainer, and S. Dallas Cooley, M. D., of Virginia; and Gerry Walsh and Roger L. Hosbein of Illinois.

JULY FOURTH DEADLINE -- Substantial discounts can be obtained for early registration for *Freedom Reborn*, the 1985 National LP Convention in Phoenix August 14-18. For full details see *LP News* or the special convention tabloid.

National Chair Randy T. Ver Hagen has appointed Sharon Ayres of California to serve as Interim Chair of the Platform Committee following the resignation of David Nolan on June 11. Because of the time constraints, Ayres said that it would be impossible for the Platform Committee to meet two months prior to the convention as required by the Bylaws. She has scheduled the committee meeting for Phoenix on Wednesday, August 14 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Additional committee appointees from the states are Jeff Hummel of California, Scott Bieser of Texas, Dean Grimes of New York, Dr. Bette J. Erwin of Michigan, and Bob Vogel of Florida. Members from Alaska, Ohio, and Colorado have not yet been announced.

Additional appointees to the Credentials Committee are Richard Arnold of California and Peter Elloway of Texas. New York and Michigan will also appoint members.