

November 3, 1988

Dear Liberty Pledger,

By this time, most of you have already been wondering where October's Liberty Pledge News has been. Well this letter will answer that question, with a mixture of both good and bad news.

The bad news first. The cost of ballot access, which brought the Ballot Access Fund down to virtually zero, also brought the General Fund to nearly zero at the end of August. Since then it has been a daily consideration of which bills took priority in payment. With almost all of them overdue except rent and salaries, this was not an easy process.

Added to this is part of the good news: the phenomenal increase in inquiries. In the past two months we have received as many inquiries as we had in almost the prior six months. Along with this increase in requests for information, though, were associated increases in the 800-line phone bill, postage and distribution material purchases.

Obviously cost-cutting measures had to be taken, the most drastic of which was my decision not to print the Liberty Pledge News for the months of October and November and to combine these two months into this one mailing. This means a savings of approximately \$700 in printing costs and \$125 in postage costs. While this is a small percentage of the contributions received from the monthly pledge program, I decided to divert it to meeting the expenses of the new inquiries.

This decision to combine two months of the Liberty Pledge News means a possible burden for some of you who pay by mail, as I am going to risk the effrontery of asking that you could send in two months payments at the same time (October and November), or partial payment if your pledge starts or stops in one of these months. For those who use credit cards, EFTS or self-initiated bill-payer services through your banks, October and November payments have and will be credited as usual.

Now for the good news. At the request of Mr. B. Smith of Michigan, I will do my best to give a run-down on current Party statistics. Most of these figures must be considered tentative until official statistics are produced later this year.

Are inquiries on the increase? Yes, as I have already mentioned above. Inquiries are of two major types, persons who have called or written, and persons who have returned the new "instant" membership card. The latter indicates that they wish to be registered with the Party as oath-signing members, although they are not required to pay dues (which means they are non-voting). All of these persons are sent an outreach edition of the Libertarian Party News with a regular membership application and