



Santa Clara Libertarian

April, 1993

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A government big enough to give us everything we want is also a government big enough to take from us everything we have.
Gerald Ford, in the closing statement of the Presidential Debate, September 23, 1976



I WANT YOURS

TAX PROTEST

Eric Harlow is coordinating tax protest activities this year. If you'd like to participate in a protest, you may contact him at 415 964-3655.

You Be The Judge

from LORD v. KELLEY
240 F.Supp.167 (1965)
District Judge Wyzanski

"More than once the judges of a court have been indirectly reminded that they personally are taxpayers. No sophisticated person is unaware that even in this very Commonwealth the Internal Revenue Service has been in possession of facts with respect to public officials which it has presented or shelved in order to serve what can only be called political ends, be they high or low. And a judge who knows the score is aware that every time his decisions offend the Internal Revenue Service he is inviting a close inspection of his own returns. But I suppose that no one familiar with this Court believes that intimidation, direct or indirect, is effective."

After making this apology as part of his decision, Judge Wyzanski ruled in favor of the IRS. A complete transcript of the decision is available on request.
-Sam

In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one class of citizens to give to the other. —Francois Marie Arouet, 1694-1778

A New Private School

by Stuart Williams-Ley

A new private school is being planned for San Jose. The school, will consist of grades 6-12, will be college preparatory, and secular. It will be a for-profit enterprise, called the Collegiate School of San Jose.

Despite the shortcomings of public schools, about 90% of all students attend them. The main reason, of course, is that public schools are free. Another reason is the lack of private alternatives. This is especially true at the high school level. Students seeking a private high school education in San Jose and its adjacent communities have no alternative to the four Catholic schools. These schools are relatively good but do not satisfy the needs of many students and parents. In the Palo Alto area, in contrast, there are four secular private high schools.

The secular private schools in Palo Alto and the rest of the country are highly effective schools. However, such institutions educate only 0.8% of the nation's students. Since they are non-profit, they have little incentive to grow further. The Collegiate School of San Jose will emulate the qualities that make these schools successful, such as important goals, engaging teaching methods, and dispersed power. Furthermore, unlike non-profit schools, the company owning the Collegiate School of San Jose will have an economic incentive to grow. The company expects to have eight schools in operation in northern and southern California by 2002, thereby providing quality education to thousands of students.

Parents and students should be attracted by the school's curriculum and teaching methods. Advanced placement courses will be offered in key subjects. Technology will be thoroughly integrated into the curriculum. Teachers will lead discussions, organize students into project groups, and coach individuals, as well as lecture.

Once educational alternatives such as the Collegiate School of San Jose are available, parents who can afford private education will increasingly choose it. Once the Collegiate School can demonstrate its capabilities, the correct choice will be clear.

If you'd like additional details concerning the Collegiate School of San Jose, call 408 370-1635

Convention Tapes

by Vicki Hargrove

For those of you who missed the LPC Convention in February 1993, or missed some of the talks or events, we highly recommend the audio tapes produced by Jim Turney at the convention. You can purchase audio tapes for each speaker or event at the price of \$7.00/each. Video tapes (\$24.00/each) are also available for many of the talks. Vicki Hargrove & Dave Thomas have copies of the order form available if you want to obtain tapes of the great Libertarian convention speakers.

Voter's Choice

(To Be Or Not To Be)

by Sam Aurelius Milam III

Libertarian belief includes an objection to the initiation of force. This position approximates one of the fundamental characteristics of a contract: mutuality of consent. That is, the consent of all parties to a transaction is necessary to create obligations while the objection of even one party will prevent obligations. This facet of contract theory is a complement to the Libertarian belief, and more overtly declares the voluntary nature of obligations.

Obligations incurred in dealing with government must be as voluntary as those between individuals. Otherwise, there's no difference between citizenship and slavery. This means that you can decide whether or not you will be a part of the body politic. However, it's a package deal, and if you voluntarily join, you take the good with the bad. You get the benefits, but you have a legitimate obligation to obey the laws, even if you don't like them.

Most Libertarians have joined this system, but it leaves them in a bad position as the political situation deteriorates. The government doesn't care if people complain about its increasingly coercive laws, just so long as they obey them. Libertarians could participate with their fingers crossed behind their backs, but this compromises their integrity. If it's a bad deal, the honest choice is to avoid the obligation. A consideration of the nature of obligations will affirm this as a legitimate option, yet anyone who tries it may learn the ugly lesson that the pen isn't always mightier than the sword.

The fact is that the Libertarian statement of belief doesn't solve the problem of coercive government, but only recognizes it. The problem remains to be solved. Our job is to learn methods of defeating the use of force that will succeed without coercing us into our own use of force, without seducing us into a likeness of the very institutions that we oppose, and without landing us in jail. We must invent a whole new remedy, perhaps a whole new way of life. No one knows for sure what the new remedy will be, but we do know the first step. To begin, we must learn to say no to government.

Libertarian in Print

This letter by **Johann Opitz** was printed in the San Jose Mercury News on February 22, 1993

Since President Clinton wants the American people to make "sacrifices" and "contributions," shouldn't he first insist that all of our country's elected politicians and their political appointees demonstrate that they are true leaders by setting personal examples of sacrifice and contributions?

Wouldn't that example best be set by the total elimination of all adjustments, deductions and exemptions to the personal income of all elected and appointed office holders, at all levels of government, so that they pay federal, state, and local personal income taxes on their gross income? And then add a surtax to that?

After all, it is the politicians and their appointees that have created the fiscal problems of government; they, not the middle class, should be penalized first for their irresponsibility, and possibly, an extreme dose of their own medicine will change their immature behavior.

—Johann Opitz, San Jose

Top Five Survey

by Dante DeAmicis

One of the big questions in determining what an organization accomplishes is what is most important to its members. Simple agreement with a policy just doesn't get people as stoked up as the "strength of preference" factor.

So in the interest of enlightenment as well as amusement, I would like to tabulate the Libertarian Party of California's members responses to the following question: "What is your own personal top five (in any order) priorities, objectives, or specific law changes you would like to realize in the political sphere?"

Send your short-lists to me at 15 E. Younger Avenue, San Jose, California 95112, by April 30, 1993. The results will be available to whoever wants to publish them.

Activists' Corner

by Vicki Hargrove

Seat Belt Choice Initiative

Alice Lillie, LP'r from southern California, is now working on a Seat Belt Choice Initiative and is recruiting people to help in this effort. Specifically, she is seeking help from experienced initiative authors in drafting the wording; information about obtaining free/or paid time on local radio/TV stations, talk shows, etc.; contacts among other groups who would also be interested in supporting this initiative; and many, many, many signature gatherers. Also, watch the Liberty Bell for more information on the Seat Belt Choice Initiative.

If you, or someone you know, want to help in this important effort, please contact Alice Lillie, 11423 Ohio Ave., #8, Los Angeles, CA 90025 or call Vicki Hargrove (Voice Mail# 408/236-2070).

Special Elections

Some recent special elections saw a number of parcel taxes and school bond issues passed. Many, if not all, of these ballot issues had no opposition printed in the ballot pamphlets. The Libertarian Party tries hard to prepare arguments against ballot measures proposing tax increases (and other measures expanding government's role in our private lives); however, it is sometimes impossible to keep up with all the local issues and deadline dates for special elections.

If your city is going to hold a special election or if you are aware of a proposed tax measure (or any other proposed legislation you think the Libertarian Party should oppose), please call the Santa Clara Libertarian Party office and give us whatever information you have - as far in advance of the election as possible. We want to be prepared, and we want to continue our fight for lower taxes and less government.

We're Cornered (and apologizing)

In the March newsletter, we made a few (DARN few!) errors.

We misspelled **Jonathan Steele's** last name. Sorry about that, Jonathun.

We incorrectly listed **Scott Lieberman** as Publicity Chair. We should have listed **Alan Hoffman**. That's kind of bad publicity, so we'll try to be more careful this time.

We reported that David Bergland received the Sons of Liberty award at the recent Convention. Actually, he did receive such an award, but that was several years ago. The award at this particular convention went to **Gene Berkman**.

Calendar of Events

Mid-County Discussion Group (Sunnyvale)

Wednesday, April 14, 7:00-9:30 P.M.

These "second Wednesday" meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about libertarianism or who is interested in libertarian ideas. They're held at Coco's Restaurant, 1209 Oakmead Parkway (at Lawrence Expressway, one block south of 101).

Save Our Liberties Meeting (Mountain View)

Thursday, April 8, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

Location: Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue. For More information, call S.O.L. at 415 964-3655

LPSC Business Meeting (Sunnyvale)

Thursday, April 15,

Dinner—7:00 P.M.; Meeting—8-10 P.M.

These "third Thursday" meetings cover what's happening in the LP in the county, the state, and around the country. They're held at Coco's Restaurant, 1209 Oakmead Parkway (at Lawrence Expressway, one block south of 101). If you want to have dinner or a snack and

participate in the pre-meeting discussion, please arrive promptly at 7 P.M.

North County Discussion Group (Mountain View)

Thursday, April 22, 7:00-9:30 P.M.

These "fourth Thursday" meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about libertarianism or who is interested in libertarian ideas. They're held at Harry's Hofbrau, 399 W. El Camino Real (about 3/8 of a mile north of Grant Road and Highway 85).

Libertarian Hike (South Bay)

Second Saturday in April

For details, contact Dave Wolen at 408 378-3041

Donald Cormier and **Jonathan Steele** are co-hosts of *Free and Clear* from 6:00-8:00 AM on alternate Wednesdays on KKUP, 91.5 FM.

Gene Burns is now on the air in Northern California, from Midnight to 2 AM, Monday thru Friday, on KST, 650 AM.

Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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San Jose, CA 95117

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