



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

The Liberty Pledge Newsletter is a monthly publication for the contributors in the National Libertarian Party's Liberty Pledge Program and the Torch Club. It is also distributed to current National Committee Members and State Party Chairs in appreciation of their involvement and to serve them as a regular update on Libertarian activities at Headquarters and in the news.

Clippings and other stories of interest are appreciated.

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JUNE
1986

Dear Supporters of Liberty,

Liberty Pledge News is an internal publication, your "insider's" line to what's in the press concerning your party. Some of this material is not for the faint of heart, but those of you who receive it are the core - the "inner circle", so to speak - of the LP, and if **you** don't know what's going on, who does? Last month's issue drew a little negative feedback, so I'm asking you: Do you think major contributors, National Committee members, and State Chairs need to know what Libertarians are doing around the country, and what kind of coverage they are getting? Where would you get the news, if not here? I want to know what you think; feel free to write and share with me your feelings on this.

It looks like the lawsuits are piling up around the country as the State LP's are taking the ballot access laws to the courts. Michigan is starting to tighten the ballot-access screws again, and the state LP isn't going to let this go unchallenged. Go for the throat, Michigan LP!

Robert LeFevre died last month. A sad loss. I've heard that the character, Professor De La Paz, from the Heinlein novel *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, was based on his personality. Good-bye Robert; you'll be missed.

In New York state, some county LP's are concentrating their efforts on "winnable" races, and leaving the "educational" candidacies to the State LP. We wish all NY LP'ers well in '86.

From California, an interesting article, somewhat critical of Libertarian politics and candidates. (see: Odd Thing About California Politics) The author makes some observations that we should pay attention to. As a Party we have fielded wide variety of candidates, some of whom are "barely libertarian", others who do not express their principles as clearly to reporters as to friends, neighbors and nominating conventions. The talk of "abolition" of government, it's agencies and/or programs, is alienating to a population that has grown up dependent on crutches; but "replacing" or "privatizing" those same programs means a "new and improved" future. Example: "coercive taxation" could be "replaced" with a voluntary "use-specific" funding of those programs that don't more rightly belong to the private sector. (I personally would willingly contribute to help feed the hungry, if my discretionary dollars were not already forcibly taken from me to build fighter-planes and then **give** them away!) At any rate, Marshal Fritz and David Bergland are holding individual programs designed to "polish" the image and rhetoric of would-be candidates, or other prosletizers of Libertarianism. I think that every Libertarian desirous of putting their name on a ballot or going in front of the media should attend these programs; if for no other reason - the good of the Party. We're not kooks or dreamers. Let's be sure we express ourselves as principled **and** practical.

To contact Marshal Fritz, write:

Word Skill
Advocates for Self-Government, Inc.
5533 East Swift
Fresno, CA 93727

To contact David Bergland regarding programs for candidates, write:

David Bergland c/o
Orpheus Publications
1773 Bahama Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

As long as we're taking media, here's a couple of new books **every** would-be office-holder, candidate or executive committee member would do well to read:

Talking Back to the Media
author: P. Hannerford
publisher: Facts on File

Good-bye to the Low Profile
author: Herb Smertz
publisher: Little Brown

Thanks for all your clippings. Keep in touch.

See you next month!

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

We've just received word that the Libertarian City Council of Big Water, Utah, has put their Libertarian philosophy to work by doing-away with the city's property tax! Now we're cooking!

Oregon needs to make it easier for minor parties

Portland, OR

By TONIE NATHAN

Sunday Oregonian
May 18, 1986

WHEN TWO LYNDON LaROUCHE converts from the Democratic nominations for lieutenant governor and secretary of state in Illinois in March, it caused a national uproar. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Adlai Stevenson III called his running mates "bizarre and dangerous extremists" and vowed not to run on the same ticket. But what were his options?

Stevenson found himself in the same position as other candidates who wish to run separately from the two major parties. He ran smack into his own state's arbitrary election laws.

It was only March, but it was already too late for Stevenson, or any other citizen, to run as an independent. And, as a third-party candidate, Stevenson would be required to field a full slate of nominees, a difficult, costly and time-consuming task, even for a well-known person with a large constituency already on hand.

Tonie Nathan is a Eugene businesswoman and free-lance writer. She ran for vice president on the Libertarian Party ticket in 1972 and for the U.S. Senate in 1980.

Some 26 states, including Oregon, have LaRouche followers as official candidates on their ballots. Democrats and Republicans can no longer be sure that those seeking office in their parties' primaries are committed to their parties' moderate platforms. But how could they guard against this?

Perhaps the answer lies in easing ballot-access laws so that extremists, dissenters and radicals will be encouraged to develop their own constituencies by running for office outside the major parties. This has been an answer for George Wallace, Eugene McCarthy, John Anderson and numerous ideologues from both the extreme right and left.

Throughout history, third parties have consistently been the source of new, creative social visions often embraced later by mainstream politicians. Yet, generally, Republicans and Democrats, who are in control of such things, discourage competition from third parties and independent candidates by enacting stiff ballot-access laws. Oregon, for example, has some of the most restrictive ballot-access laws in the nation.

Oregon requires more signatures (more than 60,000, based on the 1984 election) than any other state, except California, to get a third-party presidential candidate on the ballot with the party label. Oregon was one of only four

states in the nation in which no third-party presidential candidate appeared on the November 1984 ballot.

In 1980, the Libertarian Party, the nation's largest minor party, became the first minor party to get on the ballot statewide in Oregon by meeting signature requirements. One of its candidates for state treasurer in the general election drew 57,338 votes, 5.1 percent of the total, which qualified the party to stay on the ballot statewide in 1982. But there was a catch.

Even though the party could run candidates for statewide offices without petitioning, its members still had to petition for 55,322 more signatures to run candidates for Congress, 55,322 signatures to run candidates in all state representative districts, 28,000 signatures for state Senate districts, and another set of petitions to run for partisan county offices — for a total of more than 160,000 additional signatures. This was necessary despite the fact that the party had the acceptance of more than 5 percent of the electorate in a statewide general election.

In other states, once the threshold vote is polled (5 percent in Oregon), the party is qualified to run candidates for every partisan office in the state. Oregon's requirements create a formidable barrier to third-party development,

thus encouraging some extremist candidates to run as Democrats or Republicans, hiding their true beliefs until after winning office.

The Libertarian Party is suing to overturn the state's election laws so that other political choices may be expressed more easily at the ballot box.

The party is also engaged in an intense nationwide effort in favor of House Bill 2320, which would reform the difficult ballot-access requirements for federal elections in most states by setting a cap on the number of signatures required on petitions. The bill provides that signatures required for the election of federal candidates could not be more than 0.1 percent of registered voters during the previous federal election. To stay on the ballot, a minor party would need to win only 1 percent of the votes cast or at least 20,000 votes.

In view of the Illinois LaRouche incident, it certainly behooves the political leadership of Oregon to support a relaxation of ballot-access laws so that independents and minor parties can mount campaigns more easily. As it stands now, ambitious extremist candidates have little recourse other than to seek office from within one of the major parties, where they tend to dilute that party's image and become a source of mischief and divisiveness.

Minor party ballot access debated

EAST LANSING, MI / MICHIGAN STATE NEWS / APRIL 25, 1986

By MICHELLE WOROBEC
State News Staff Writer

LANSING — A proposed increase in signature requirements for third-party candidates threatens those candidates' chances of gaining ballot access, the state director of the American Civil Liberties Union said Thursday.

Howard Simon, appearing before the Senate Rules Committee, said legislation which includes a provision to change petition requirements for minor party and independent candidates was unwarranted and would invite future litigation.

Currently, the committee is mulling over the House-approved bill which would allow names of candidates without political party affiliation to appear on the election ballot.

Under existing law, major party candidates are required to gather

19,000 signatures to secure ballot access. The bill stipulates 30,000 signatures must be submitted by minor parties.

"THE BILL (with the signature requirement) is a threat for third parties to appear on the ballot," Simon said. "There should be fair and open access to the ballot."

Michigan is the only state in the nation without a mechanism allowing independent candidates and minor parties ballot access, Simon emphasized. Because of that, minor parties and independent candidates are rejected since they lack major party affiliation, he noted.

"It is unfair to require a candidate to have access to a political party to be on the ballot," Simon said.

While the federal government in 1976 demanded states begin implementing statutes giving minor parties ballot access, Simon called

the Michigan Legislature's action 10 years later "embarrassingly overdue."

At a Capitol news conference, Denise Kline, head of Michigan Libertarian Party said her group spends a great deal of time lobbying around the state to lower the current requirement to 1,000 signatures.

"THE IMPACT of huge signature requirements is great," Kline said. "Half of our resources go into ballot drives."

Although they support the bill, Kline and members of minor parties at the conference said they disagree with the measure's supporters who say "frivolous candidates, parties and platforms" will gain ballot access.

Rep. Michael Bannane, sponsor of the bill, said he would not support eliminating the signature mandate.

"I looked at the history of minor parties in the state," said Bannane,

D-Detroit. "They get the signatures, but they don't get enough votes to get on the ballot."

"I question their viability, and I think reasonable people would also," Bannane said. "I question laws and rules of which they are able to get on the ballot."

SEN. JOHN ENGLER, R-Mt. Pleasant, who heads the committee, said he expects the bill will move out of committee Tuesday with final legislative action also next week.

However, he said he could not speculate whether the committee would agree to amend the signature requirement.

"It is my sense the committee would not vote for less than the current standard of the law," Engler said.

Libertarian suit threatens primaries

BLOOMINGTON, IND. / HERALD-TELEPHONE / MAY 2, 1986

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The day before the Indiana May 6 primary, a federal judge will hear a lawsuit by the Indiana Libertarian Party that could effectively cancel 11 primary races.

The suit was filed Thursday by two Libertarian candidates who contend they were denied a place on the ballot. It asks that results of congressional contests be set aside and that the Republican and Democratic parties be ordered to choose their congressional candidates at

state conventions.

The suit was filed by Bradford L. Warren and Frederick C. Peterson, Libertarian candidates for U.S. senator and 10th District congressman.

Defendants are the Indiana secretary of state, the State Election Board and Marion County Election Board.

The Libertarians claim constitutional rights of their candidates are violated by Indiana laws that limit primary elections to the Republican and Democratic parties.

The lawsuit states that primary elections are open to only two of the

parties that enjoy automatic ballot status, while general elections are open to all four, including the American Party of Indiana.

Under the current system, American and Libertarian candidates are denied the approval, sanction, legitimacy, honor and prestige of being in a primary, according to court papers obtained by The Indianapolis Star.

The lawsuit could affect races in the 10 House districts and the campaign for Senate.

"Having been excluded from the

primary election, those persons seeking to run (in November) for the offices of U.S. Senate and U.S. representative on the American and Libertarian tickets are not elected, but can only be merely selected for such candidacy by their parties' state conventions," according to the lawsuit.

Spokesman for Secretary of State Edwin J. Simcox and Attorney General Linely E. Pearson said the state officials refused to comment because they had not seen the court documents.

Libertarians fail to qualify for ballot; may go to court

Honolulu, HI / Advertiser / April 24, 1986

Hawaii's tiny Libertarian Party failed to qualify for the 1986 election ballot yesterday, but said it may go to court to overturn what it believes to be restrictive rules aimed at "third parties."

Yesterday was the deadline for certification of new parties by petition and Libertarians fell substantially short of the roughly 4,200 names required. If the party fails to overturn the petition law, it will be the first time in 10 years that Libertarians won't be represented on the Hawaii ballot.

The Libertarians, who generally garner a mere handful of votes, espouse a limited government, free enterprise philosophy.

The party was disqualified following the 1984 elections because no Libertarian candidate managed to win a sufficient "threshold" number of votes.

One outside possibility for the party is a legal challenge to the

wording of the party-qualification petition, which gives the (incorrect) impression that those signing have agreed to take part in forming the new party.

On another front, a bill passed final reading in the Legislature yesterday that makes it easier for Libertarians and other third parties to remain on the ballot. But party ballot status co-chairman Dale Pratt said the wording of the measure as it finally emerged is such that it might not be good enough to help the party this year.

The idea was to say any party that has qualified for three general elections would be automatically kept on the ballot for a decade.

In its final form, the bill says a party has to qualify by petition three elections in a row to make it into the 10-year permanent status. The Libertarians don't fit.

Libertarians blame deadline for absence of candidates

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. / POST HERALD

No Libertarian candidates will be on the Alabama ballot in this year's election.

"The already burdensome requirement of 12,000 signatures to get our party on the ballot has been made doubly difficult with the filing deadline moved up from July to April," Bob Chapuis, chairman of the Alabama Libertarian Party, said yesterday.

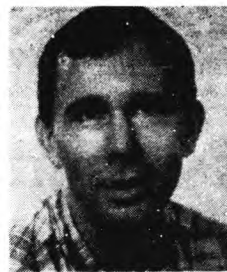
"The state has systematically deprived our supporters of the right to vote for candidates of their choice," he said.

Chapuis said Libertarian Party members, at their state convention in June, will decide whether to protest the "unfair" ballot requirements by filing a lawsuit, by launching a write-in campaign or by other means.

THE SPOTLIGHT
WEEKLY / MAY 5, 1986

WRITE HIM:

Rep. Al Swift chairman of the Election Subcommittee of the House Administration Committee, says he will probably hold hearings on H.R. 2320 if he hears from at least 2,000 people around the country. H.R. 2320 is the bill that will make ballot access easier for all "third" parties. Libertarian Party activist Richard Winger, the nationally known authority on election law, is encouraging SPOTLIGHT readers to write Swift care of the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and urge him to hold hearings as soon as possible.



RICHARD WINGER
... Suggests letters.

ACLU files lawsuit to help Libertarians get spot on '86 ballot

By KRISTIN MILLER
United Press International

Las Vegas, NV / Sun
April 22, 1986

RENO — Calling Nevada election laws onerous, burdensome and vague, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer filed a federal court suit Monday to get the Libertarian Party on the November ballot.

Randall Edwards, representing the Libertarians, told a news conference the laws violated constitutional equal protection and due process guarantees.

Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Stern, in Reno to file a response to the suit, disagreed. "It's constitutional." She said the Supreme Court has upheld a similar Georgia law.

For a political party to get on the ballot, it has to file a petition at least 90 days before a primary election. The petition must have a number of signatures equal to 5 percent of the total votes cast in the last general election for Congress. The signatures are verified in the counties. Parties can stay on the ballot if one candidate gets 5 percent of the vote at the general election.

The Libertarians need 13,200 signatures to qualify. They have between 6,000 and 7,000. The petitions were due in the counties for verification on April 1.

Edwards said, "These requirements make it almost impossible to get on the ballot."

Stern disagreed. "It's not impossible to obtain ballot access in the state of Nevada," she said, pointing out the Libertarians had been on the ballot before.

The Libertarians were on the ballot in 1975 and 1978. The party retained ballot access until 1984, state Libertarian Party chairman Dan Becan said.

Edwards said the Supreme Court has ruled anything more than 5 percent as burdensome to the political parties.

He also said the language required on the petition requires signers to declare they believe in the principles of the party and want to select candidates in the primaries.

"This violates the secret ballot," Edwards said. "People who want to help can ignore the language, pretend they don't understand it or lie."

Edwards said the language of the statute is unclear. "(Secretary of State) Bill Swackhamer said to me 'I'm not sure the party has qualified but I have people who want to sign up.'"

Edwards said the signature verification period overlaps with the filing deadline for state office.

Libertarian defends principles

San Antonio, TX
Express & News / April 26, 1986

The Democratic Party has itself to blame for the damaging intrusion of extremist Lyndon LaRouche candidates, says a Libertarian candidate for president of the United States.

"The two parties have made it so hard for a third party to exist. They'll either have to loosen up or be totally neutralized," said Richard Boddie.

Boddie was in San Antonio this week to help raise funds for the Libertarian Party's effort to get on the November ballot.

Boddie noted that Libertarians are fighting an uphill battle to get on the Texas ballot and exist now only as a third party, but Libertarians are not trying to quietly infiltrate either of the major political parties because principles are more important.

"Lyndon LaRouche has been dishonest enough to infiltrate the Democratic Party," said Boddie, a California man who operates a speakers bureau.

Some 200 LaRouche candidates are running for office in Texas on the Democratic ballot, including Donald Varela, who is seeking the Bexar County Democratic chairman's post.

Boddie added, "Through infiltration, which they (the Democrats) justly deserve, the LaRouches have been able to cause a lot of flak. It never would have happened if they (Democrats and Republicans) had not had such a monopoly on getting on the ballot."

In order to get on the Texas general election ballot, the Libertarians must collect signatures from 32,000 registered voters who did not participate in either the Republican or Democratic primary.

Diane Pilcher, executive director of the Texas Libertarian Party, estimated that it will cost from 50 cents to \$1 per signature to collect the needed signatures. She said the Libertarians expect to contact 500,000 people to find the needed 32,000 signatures.

Robert LeFevre, R.I.P.

Santa Ana, CA / Register / May 16, 1986

He was more than a writer, philosopher, thought-provoking lecturer and pioneering teacher. He was a courtly, gentle man in an age when such qualities sometimes seem anachronistic. He was warm, with a twinkle ever in his eye and a joke or snappy comeback seldom far from his lips. He loved people, he loved life, he loved liberty. He was devoted to persuasion and was an eloquent practitioner of the art. To so many of us, he was a friend who will be missed deeply.

Robert LeFevre, who died in his sleep Tuesday, was familiar to readers of these pages as a regular columnist for many years. His gentle, prodding style combined open-mindedness to new ideas and new insights with an unwavering devotion to first principles. He thought things through carefully and expressed himself with wit and eloquence.

It was as a teacher and lecturer that Mr. LeFevre really came into his own. His breadth of learning was astonishing, and he remained interested in everything, always hungry to learn something new. He loved to impart knowledge, but most of all he loved to strike the spark of curiosity in others, inspiring the life-long love of learning and the desire to root out the truth for yourself that is the only path to genuine education. As a public speaker or a raconteur he sparkled with insight and humor, serving up what were sometimes heavy intellectual dishes with lightness and verve.



Robert LeFevre was born in Gooding, Idaho in 1911. When he went to Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., the authorities told him that the courses he wanted to take would not lead to a degree. No problem. "I wanted an education instead," said Bob.

After college Mr. LeFevre worked at a variety of jobs, then volunteered to serve four years in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He spent a year with the occupation forces in Paris after the war.

Following his military service Mr. LeFevre came to California and went into real estate, achieving notable success. It was in this business that he encountered personally the many restrictions placed on the right to own and dispose of property by government. He was able to take a year off in 1948 to read and think as deeply as possible about the issues such restrictions raised and about the philosophy of society proper to civilized human beings.

In 1950 Bob ran in the Republican primary for the 14th Congressional District in the Los Angeles area. He lost the election, but during the course of campaigning he came into contact with R.C. Hoiles, editor and publisher of what was then the *Santa Ana Register*.

Cured of politics, he worked with United Taxpayers of California for a while, then for radio station WQAM in Miami and as news director for WFTL-TV in Fort Lauderdale. In 1954 he became an editorial writer for the Colorado Springs *Gazette-Telegraph*, a Freedom Newspaper, and began the work that was to make him one of the most prominent of American libertarians.

Freedom School, at the base of the Rampart Range near Larkspur, Colorado, began as three dilapidated cabins in 1956. Mr. LeFevre began it as a part-time endeavor, to offer concentrated courses in the fundamental principles of liberty — an interdisciplinary approach embracing philosophy, economics, history and political theory. He conducted courses there until 1966, when the school, renamed Rampart College, was moved to Santa Ana.

Over the years Mr. LeFevre welcomed hundreds of students to the gentle, informed persuasion that was his trademark. The Freedom School experience — marked by communion with the beauties of nature, vigorous physical activity and an intellectually challenging and liberating curriculum — was to make a lifelong mark on many who became warm friends and enthusiastic supporters of the concepts of liberty, peace and cooperation he promulgated. He also traveled the country giving courses and seminars.

When he moved to California, Mr. LeFevre plunged into the intellectual and political ferment surrounding the rediscovery of libertarian principles by so many Californians during the latter part of the 1960s. He became mentor, friend and guide to many young enthusiasts who were warmed by the discovery that one can remain true to one's principles throughout one's life — providing they are appropriate principles. He was a co-sponsor of the first Future of Freedom conference in 1969 and a speaker, counselor and friend at many subsequent conferences.

He was a prolific and graceful writer. Among his published books were *This Bread is Mine*, *The Nature of Man and His Government*, *The Philosophy of Ownership*, *Lift Her Up Tenderly* and *The Libertarian*. At the time of his death, Mr. LeFevre had just completed *The Fundamentals of Liberty* and was at work on a science fiction novel.

He founded Rampart Institute in 1980 to carry on research into the fundamental principles of liberty.

Bob LeFevre's great heart finally gave out in the high altitude of Flagstaff, Arizona last Tuesday morning, where he and his wife, the beloved and beautiful Loy, were staying during a trip from the East Coast. A memorial service will be held at Fairhaven Mortuary, 1700 Fairhaven Drive in Santa Ana at 3 p.m., Friday May 23. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Rampart Institute (P.O. Box 26044, Santa Ana, CA 92791), earmarked for publication of *Fundamentals of Liberty*.

When we write tributes to pioneers who have passed into what we hope is a better place, it is usually about people whom we know primarily through their writing and activities. But for many of us, Bob LeFevre was a colleague and friend of long standing. He has left a legacy through his writing and teaching. His most enduring legacy may be the warmth we will always hold for him in a special place in our hearts. He will be missed, perhaps more than he would have believed. But he will be remembered.

Libertarian seeks governor's chair in upcoming vote

Tempe, AZ / Tempe Daily News / April 12, 1986

By Rosemary Schabert
Staff writer

Calling for legalized marijuana and cocaine — and no laws governing pollution — Arizona Libertarian candidate Jim Walters said Friday he is running for governor.

Walters, a bail-bond agent and former restaurateur whose resume includes a felony marijuana conviction, talked about his candidacy at the state Capitol in Phoenix. Walters passed out copies of an

underground-style comic book he plans to use to publicize his campaign — at 10 cents a copy plus a 90-cent donation to his effort.

At a press conference, the 45-year-old Walters explained he plans to print a series of comic books that will serve as his position papers on issues while helping raise campaign funds.

"Why should the governor be bought and paid for by the people who have all the money at the expense of those who don't?"

Walters asked.

He said his basic political goal as governor would be to "create a mood or a climate of deflation of government."

"The biggest job a governor should have in this state is to come in with a scoop shovel and start shoveling these laws out and deflating them," he said.

Asked about air and water pollution, Walters said government rarely uses the scientific standards that pollution regulations should be based upon. For that reason, he said, government shouldn't impose any limits on pollution.

"It should be allowed to find its own level in the free market, and we should allow class-action suits to be filed against pollution," Walters said.

He also said he favors allowing market forces to rule the drug market, which he argued would put

an end to "SWAT teams kicking in doors and violating people's rights."

"The cost of heroin, for example, would be \$1 a gram instead of \$100," he said.

Among other things, Walters' resume lists him as a "salesman — real estate, marijuana."

Asked if he still sells marijuana, Walters bristled.

"No. No, but I'm saying what I have done," he replied. "I'm not in the restaurant business anymore, but I used to be."

Other announced candidates for governor include House Republican Leader Burton Barr of Phoenix; Democrat Carolyn Warner, state superintendent of public instruction; Democrat Tony Mason, a Phoenix lawyer and developer; and Phoenix businessman Dave Moss, also a Democrat.

Libertarians follow tactics of local group

Binghamton, New York
Press & Sun-Bulletin / Apr. 17, 1986

By E.J. CONZOLIA II
Political Reporter

Members of the Libertarian Party throughout New York state have apparently decided their Broome County colleagues have the right idea.

Delegates to the party's nominating convention in Albany last week voted not to run a slate of candidates in this year's races for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and comptroller.

The vote marks a reversal in party philosophy that called for running candidates in what party leaders have called "educational campaigns" — campaigns designed to familiarize the public with Libertarian ideals, but campaigns which party officials realize they have no chance of winning.

Libertarians have had gubernatorial candidates the past three elections.

Broome County chapter officials said last year they would no longer be involved in unwinnable campaigns, opting to concentrate resources on races in which the Libertarian candidate was a viable candidate.

The Broome decision last year flew in the face of the stand taken by state party leaders who said they felt continued educational campaigns were needed.

Mounting a statewide campaign — even one doomed from the start — is important not only to spread Libertarian philosophy, but to show rank-and-file party members the party is active throughout the state, state Chairman William P. McMillen said last year. McMillen yesterday repeated his conviction.

Other party leaders decided against that stand. "They're tired of failed efforts," said Edward Jowett of Binghamton, one of the founders of the local Libertarian organization who attended the weekend convention. He said he does not believe Libertarians need a statewide slate to help interest people in party activities locally, but local successes are essential to build the party on a larger scale. "If you just have a flagship and no support, you get shot out of the water," he said.

The philosophy espoused by the Broome group calls for "a predominant focus on organization building from the bottom up," Jowett said. New York City Libertarians have been particularly effective in building their organization, more than tripling their numbers in less than a year, he said.

Jowett said Broome Libertarians will continue to look for winnable races and stay out of those that appear hopeless — even if that stand means two years without a candidate on the ballot.

McMillen said the party must continue to make its presence known, and only that continued presence in the eyes of the voters will lead to victories. Some local of-

ficials in the New York City area apparently support that belief. They will be putting up candidates for state Assembly, although there is widespread belief among party officials that those candidates cannot win, he said.

Odd thing about California politics

Long Beach, CA / Press Telegram / May 21, 1986

You would think California would have more and livelier political parties than it does.

This is the "I Gotta Be Me" state. This is where, according to popular American belief, all the nut cases come to get some respect. Signs in some little restaurants back East say, "Watch your hat and coat." In California, the signs say "Shoes and shirt required."

But this is actually a politically stodgy state. Sure, in every major election Los Angeles County registers a few members of the Silly Party, the Let's Party Party, and political preferences stated as "Cosmic Freedom" and "Peace, Freedom and Tunes."

But most of those parties were formed in the middle of an all-night party and do not survive many sunrises. Their few members often forget to vote.

The majority of Californians are a pretty strait-laced bunch of Republicans and Democrats. The only relief from political monotony of the two major parties are the three major minor parties: Libertarian, American, and Peace and Freedom.

Readers were introduced to the so-called "third party" candidates for California governor in a Monday story by Dorothy Korber. The Libertarian platform and its candidate appealed to me most.

It reminds me of an old used car with dual exhausts that I once bought on impulse: I knew it wouldn't work for long, but I kind of liked the jazzy sound of it.

The Libertarians oppose the income tax and any military draft on their basic political precept that most things that have been mandatory should be voluntary.

Their candidate for governor, Joseph Fuhrig, would make taxes voluntary by the simple act of pardoning tax offenders; with no threat of jail time or fines, anyone who



George Robeson

paid taxes would do so because he wanted to.

I think you lose the corporate tax base right there, followed by just about everybody else.

The Libertarian mixed creed crosses back and forth across the party lines of the most conservative Republican and the most liberal Democrats. At times, it gets too far out for many Libertarians.

A Long Beach lawyer who had been a very conservative Republican for many years but decided to try on Libertarianism once told me he was having a terrible time chewing and swallowing some of their ideas: abolition of all government restrictions on the marketplace, and no prosecution of so-called "victimless" crimes, such as narcotics offenses. (Dope use and discriminatory hiring practices — both are bad, they'll say, but both are matters of individual freedom of choice.)

Some Libertarians oppose voting for their own candidates, in the belief that politics corrupts everyone in it, sooner or later — Libertarians not excepted.

Candidate Fuhrig probably wouldn't get close enough to politics for much of it to rub off on him: If elected, he says, he would spend only one day a week in Sacramento, vetoing bills.

Even so, it's not much of a radical-departure party for a state like California.

Not when you consider that in supposedly stiff-upper-lipped England, there is more than a spot of popular support for the Official Monster Raving Loony Party. Its slogan is "Give a vote for insanity — you know it makes sense."

HOCH says Libertarian strength growing:

Juneau, AK / Alaska Empire
May 8, 1986

Ed Hoch of Fairbanks, initially a lieutenant governor candidate now running for governor, says Libertarian voter registration is growing at a rate over twice as fast as the other two major parties.

Still Libertarians make up a small total statewide. Based on seven-month voter registration totals by the state's Division of Election, Libertarian voter registration grew at an annual rate of nearly 12 percent through February of this year, compared to 4.1 percent for Democrats and 6.8 percent for Republicans.

As of February, however, there were 65,905 registered Democrats in the state, 59,347 Republicans and 2,571 Libertarians. Non-partisans outnumbered all party members at 149,945.

HEADQUARTERS SURVEY / REPORT CARD

In a constant effort to improve the efficiency and productivity of your National Headquarters, we ask you to complete this survey and return it to us ASAP.

Please feel free to answer these questions in as detailed a manner as you wish. We will be studying your responses, criticisms and suggestions with an eye toward ending problems, streamlining procedures and improving wherever possible. Thank you.

-
1. Do you believe the HQ has enough staff to meet its commitments?

 2. Do you believe that HQ receives enough money to carry out its tasks?

 3. What do you think is our greatest expense:
A. rent B. utilities C. postage D. salaries
 4. Are HQ employees:
A. overpaid B. underpaid C. paid just enough
 5. What do you think the average salary of HQ personnel is?

 6. Have you ever asked to have your pledges automatically transferred from your bank account to the Party's account each month?

 7. If you have requested such transfers:
A. Was there an unnecessary delay in starting your Pledge? _____
B. Do you prefer it over sending monthly checks? _____
 8. Were you ever contacted about renewing your Pledge? _____
If so, when:
A. Before it expired
B. After it expired
C. Way after it expired
 9. When you order materials from us, are you usually:
A. Satisfied with what you receive
B. Feel that the materials are dated or poorly designed

C. Frustrated by the time it takes to receive what you ordered

comments: _____

10. In regards to your State or local LP's problems, do you believe that the HQ staff is:

A. Genuinely concerned

B. Indifferent

C. Could care less

comments: _____

11. When you talk to us on the telephone, are you treated:

A. Courteously

B. Informally

C. Given the "bum's rush"

comments: _____

12. When you send contributions, do you like to receive "Thank-yous" or other acknowledgements?

13. Do you think "Thank-yous" are a waste of money?

14. How many, of each of the following, do you think we receive monthly:

A. Phone calls _____

B. Requests for information _____

C. Changes of address _____

D. Membership renewals _____

E. Changes in Pledge status _____

F. Orders for supplies _____

G. Prank phonecalls _____

15. What improvements could you suggest to make dealing with HQ more efficient:

16. Why do you think the Headquarters office was created?

17. Do you think the HQ has become too bureaucratic? _____

18. Do you think that there are too many computer related problems at headquarters?

19. Describe what you think goes on at HQ:

20. Describe what you believe the offices of LP HQ look like:

21. How do think staff personnel dress?

22. What project(s) do you think the HQ should give the highest priority?

23. What project(s) do you think the HQ should give the lowest priority?

Interfering with Alaskans' lives through over-regulation

EVERY YEAR millions of our state tax dollars are spent to regulate nearly every aspect of our lives — by people we usually don't even know. These are the governor-appointed members of the 110 boards and commissions currently in existence. One potential problem is that a governor could secure hundreds of political favors for naming people to these positions.

There are two basic, real flaws with the concept of boards and commissions. First, their members are not elected as legislators are and thus cannot be removed by the voters. Second, since the members are not hired as bureaucrats are, they literally cannot be fired.

Therefore, they serve almost as judges do — with a guaranteed term despite any wrongful acts. The members tend to stay on the board or commission for at least their first three- or four-year term and in some cases for several terms. This gives them immense power in writing regulatory law — without having to answer for it — and in deciding who gets which licenses and permits for what kind of activities in which locations. By and large, their decisions are not appealable except by filing a lawsuit.

NOT ONLY are there lots of boards and commissions producing lots of regulations, but they also spend lots of money on travel, expenses, staff salaries, office rent, telephone calls and on and on. Of the 110 boards and commissions, 53 have their own "line items" in the state budget. (The other 57 generally have appropriations buried in larger departmental budgets.) The 53 are currently spending \$57,602,900 yearly — or about \$1.1 million each — not even counting pass-through funds for, say, dams and water projects.

As an example of excess boards and commissions, the education field takes the "most" award with nine:

- Block Grants Advisory Committee
- Board of Education
- Education Commission of the States

In my opinion



by Rep. Andre Marrou

- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- Professional Teaching Practices Commission
- University of Alaska Board of Regents
- Alaska Teachers' Retirement Board
- State Council on Vocational Education
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- Another prolific field for boards and commissions is commercial fishing, with six:
 - Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
 - Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank — Board of Directors
 - Board of Fisheries
 - Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council
 - Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

NO WONDER there is so much confusion in the fishing industry. With six assorted boards and commissions delving into every nook, corner and cranny of their business, fishermen are often confused as to who's in control of what. Most fishermen only know that they are by far the most regulated industry in Alaska — possibly in the entire United States.

Many of the boards and commissions have very similar titles and overlapping or even conflicting duties. For

example, the medical field is regulated by seven (not even counting the five for nurses, optometrists, opticians and psychologists):

- Catastrophic Illness Committee
- Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services
- Medicaid Rate Commission
- State Medical Board
- Medical Indemnity Corporation of Alaska
- State Physical Therapy Board
- Statewide Health Coordinating Council

NOT ONLY do some boards' responsibilities overlap, but several members sit on multiple boards. Thus, when a member's purpose is not reached through one board, he/she can try to achieve it on another.

For example, the 110 boards and commissions have 899 membership (voting) positions. Of these separate positions, 137 are held by only 50 persons. In fact, one person holds membership on eight boards and commissions, one holds seven, one holds six, two persons hold five each and five persons hold four positions each. Is this true representation by a broad cross-section of the public? Of course not. It is over-representation by a favored few.

On April 24 a joint legislative session (House and Senate) met to consider the governor's recent appointments. These included 68 persons to 33 different boards and commissions. Of these, 26 were re-appointments of persons already serving.

All appointments were confirmed, although one received only 39 votes out of 60. It is rare that somebody is not confirmed — in fact, I don't remember the last time. In 1985 there was some talk of not confirming the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation — the prime allegation was that he admitted being a socialist — but nonetheless he received 37 votes or six more than necessary.

HERE'S A QUESTION: why should electricians be the only trade regulated by board or commission? It is regulated so badly that the Division of Legislative Audit in 1981 stated, "in our opinion, the continuation of the board and the licensing of electrical administrators is not necessary to protect the public's health, safety and welfare."

In October 1985 the Division of Legislative Audit recommended with regard to the Alaska Public Utilities Commission: "Areas of regulation we recommend be eliminated from APUC's jurisdiction are garbage/refuse collection, radio common carriers and cable television." Also, "Areas of regulation we recommend be limited are electric generation and transmission cooperatives and utilities..."

The next month the Division of Legislative Audit reported on the Board of Pharmacy: "We question whether State registration by the Board of Pharmacy is necessary to effectively carry out the Board's responsibilities... due to the following: 1. Duplication of effort... 2. Unnecessary for litigation..."

Just about every group or activity you can think of is regulated by some sort of board or commission: senior citizens, drugs, safety — employment alone is regulated by at least six. Even history is over-represented on boards and commissions — with the Historic Sites Advisory Committee, the Alaska Historical Commission and the State Historical Records Advisory Board. For water we have the Mining Water Use Review Committee, the Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Board and the Water Resources Board. Is it any surprise that we have so many problems with water?

THEN, OF COURSE, there are those which don't fit any particular category but stand alone — sometimes in bewildering profusion:

- Athletic Commission
- Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas in Alaska

- State Geographic Board
- Martin Luther King Committee
- Alaska Humanities Forum
- Litter Reduction and Resource Recovery Advisory Council
- National Park and Park Monument Substantive Resource Commission

To add insult to injury, even more boards and commissions have been suggested. Obviously the desire to solve a problem by appointing a commission is strong in Alaska. However, history shows that these boards and commissions only occasionally achieve whatever they were created for. By and large, they are a repository for friends of the governor, heavy contributors to political campaigns and partisan ex-candidates who did not get elected. In some cases — such as the Local Boundary Commission and the Alaska Public Utilities Commission — they repeatedly take actions contrary to the desires of Alaska citizens as expressed in local elections.

With all these 110 boards and commissions regulating, restricting, licensing, permitting, overseeing and in general interfering with every aspect of life, it is amazing that we Alaskans have any time for work and play or anything except responding to their myriad edicts. Unfortunately, that is, more or less, the way of life in Alaska.

We should quit wasting millions of dollars on excess boards and commissions. If, for example, we kept only one board or commission in each field of medicine, education, employment and fishing we could eliminate 24 boards and commissions. This would save millions of tax dollars, simultaneously helping free enterprise and increasing individual liberty by reducing over-regulation of Alaskans' business and private lives.

It is simple: fewer boards and commissions equals more personal responsibility. Doesn't that make sense?

Libertarian Andre Marrou represents Homer in the state House of Representatives.

Election briefs

Bloomington, Ind. Herald-Telephone
April 16, 1986

Libertarian proposes tax collection change

INDIANAPOLIS — The Libertarian Party's candidate for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Dan Quayle has proposed a change in the way the federal government collects taxes.

Bradford Warren, a 37-year-old Indianapolis tax attorney, said all federal taxes, including the Social Security tax, should be repealed and replaced by an annual levy on each state, based on its population. State governments should collect taxes for the federal government and then pass the money along, eliminating the Internal Revenue

Service. "The U.S. Treasury should simply bill each state for its share of the amount budgeted," said Warren. "How Indiana raises the money is none of the federal government's business."

Warren, who says his plan merely reflects "the way the nation collected revenue until after the turn of the century," will discuss it at the Libertarian state convention in the Indianapolis Holiday Inn North at Interstate 465 and U.S. 421 on April 26-27.

Proposed bill bad news for working people

State Columbia, May 3/86

On April 15, members of the Libertarian Party presented a petition to Sen. Joe Wilson and Rep. Jarvis Klappman that contained more than 2,000 signatures of persons opposed to the Local Government Finance Act. This press conference was covered by two local TV stations, but there was no mention of it in *The State*, which claims to cover news "in depth, in detail."

The Local Government Finance Act would authorize cities and counties to impose numerous types of new taxes (local income tax, local sales tax, admissions tax, etc.) on their citizens. The Libertarian Party has spearheaded a campaign to defeat this bill, which has little support among individual South Carolinians. The bill has both Republican and Democratic sponsors, but at least one of these

sponsors backed down after a Libertarian Party member pointed out that the bill would raise taxes.

Supporters of the Local Government Finance Act claim that it is a "property tax reduction" bill, but this is a myth and a lie. The bill does not even mention property taxes and does nothing to reduce any kind of tax. If passed, it will increase the tax burden on the working people of South Carolina and will make it more difficult for small businesses to offer new jobs. It will hamper economic development, and it will create an even more unwieldy bureaucracy.

In summary, the Local Government Finance Act is bad news for South Carolinians.

DAVID MORRIS
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Columbia

Libertarian joins race for U.S. Senate seat

Salt Lake City, UT
Deseret News

5/8/86

Libertarian candidate Hugh A. Butler has formally announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

Butler, 33, a past chairman of the Libertarian Party of Utah, ran for the Salt Lake County Commission in 1982 and for the 2nd Congressional District seat in 1984. He believes he made a difference in that race because his vote total was four times the margin separating Democratic Frances Farley and the eventual winner, Republican Dave Monson.

He said the Senate race this year won't be his last one.

"We've got a great campaign organization, built over the years as, one by one, my friends grow further alienated from the current back-slapping, money-grubbing and horse-trading, which is misnamed a democratic process," Butler said.

John Rasmussen will serve as campaign manager, and Jim Bateman is campaign treasurer.

Butler said his campaign started with the theme "Enter the Young," a reference to the emerging young majority that he says is "about to make a big statement in 1986." He renamed his theme "Move Over, It's Our Turn Now," predicting that, "What you'll



hear from us in 1988 will make your head roar."

The candidate graduated from Utah State University in 1973 and has

founded a firm, Computer Consultants, which specializes in creating software for credit union accounting systems.

Steiger Backs Privatization

Flagstaff, AZ / Arizona Daily Sun / Apr. 27, 1986

BY MARY TOLAN
Sun County Reporter

People in the public sector often fear the growth of the private sector's responsibilities, Sam Steiger told a group of people involved in probation, parole and corrections.

The former Arizona Republican congressman - turned - Libertarian - told members of the Arizona Probation, Parole and Corrections Association Friday that privatization — changing the management of traditionally public sector to private enterprise — was a definite wave of the future.

"This is not a dirty word," Steiger said. "You should look at privatization as an opportunity."

Steiger sprinkled his speech liberally with jokes about lawyers and often the audience was still laughing loudly when Steiger switched back to the topic of privatization.

Why are lawyers preferable to rats in medical experimentation, he asked the group.

"There are more of them and you don't get so emotionally attached." What is 4,000 lawyers lost at sea? "A fair start," he quipped.

Steiger, who told the listeners he sympathized with their job because "after all, you have to deal with lawyers everyday," warned them in a more serious tone not to "fall over dead if somebody discusses privatization with you."

"As a people, we're not inclined to change the status quo," Steiger cautioned. "But in the not very distant future, like the next legislative session, (there will be) a serious push for privatization of the correction system."

He advised his listeners not to react with a "knee-jerk no."

Turning much of the correction system, particularly the probation and parole departments, over to the private sector would be good for the economy, he told the group.

Steiger said that by moving those services to the private sector, he had no doubt that more would be accomplished.

He said that people moving from the public to private work world would likely work longer hours, but would also make more money.

"I think privatization offers you a tremendous opportunity," he said. "It is not a threat."