



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

Published exclusively for members of the Libertarian Party's Monthly Pledge Program

APRIL 1990

Larry King Show Hosts Walter, Hess

LP National Chair David Walter and Libertarian Party News Editor Karl Hess were recent guests on the nationally syndicated "Larry King Live" radio talk show. Walter and Hess were the lead guests Friday, April 13, on the popular nightly call-in show which airs 11pm to 4am, Eastern Time.

To take full advantage of the nationwide exposure, National HQ staff and volunteers manned phone lines throughout the show, and Larry King gave the LP's "800" number several times. National Director Nick Dunbar said phones rang continuously during the appear-

ance and for several hours following. He estimated they received about 500 calls. A mailing is being prepared to go out to these prospects.

TAX DAY PROTESTS: Just Say NO!

Thanks to all who participated in local Tax Day Protests on April 16. At press time, plans were underway across the country for many exciting events. As last minute filers rushed to local post offices to beat the midnight filing deadline, members of the LP were there.

Last Minute Note: On the Friday, April 13 "Oprah Winfrey Show" featuring people who haven't paid taxes, an articulate man in the audience stood up and attacked the tax system. When one of the panelists asked him what we could do about it, he suggested voting for only Libertarian Party candidates in the next election!

Census Project Gains Support, Media Attention for Libertarians

The LP's Census resistance project has seen great success, garnering support, funds, and a great deal of media exposure.

LP Activists Don Ernsberger and Bill Evers, and Media Relations Director Toni Nathan participated in numerous radio talk shows and interviews in cities across the country, including Cincinnati, New York, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

The Census mailing brought in hundreds of responses and over \$10,000 to help fund those who are prosecuted or fined for failure to cooperate with the 1990 Census.

At least 14 local LP affiliates held Census resistance demonstrations which received media coverage, including three fairly large protests in Illinois, Maine, and New Hampshire.

And Other Items of Note . . .

- The LP is now recruiting petitioners for work on upcoming petition drives in Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Interested persons should contact the National HQ.
- National LP income for the first quarter of 1990 was approximately \$145,000, well over budget. At that pace, we would be running \$80,000 over budgeted income figures by the end of the year. Paid National LP membership is now at about 8700 members, its highest point ever.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Libertarians decry drug war in Colombia ad

By SCOTT REEVES
Bee staff writer 302

The Libertarian Party is taking out an advertisement in Colombia's largest newspaper today to tell citizens of that beleaguered country that not all Americans support President Bush's war on drugs.

Tonie Nathan, national director of media relations for the small political party, said the ad underscores "similarities" between the current war against South American cocaine suppliers and Prohibition in the United States, which sparked alcohol-related violence during the 1920s and early 1930s.

"Many Colombians are unaware of how gangsterism in the streets disappeared when Prohibition was repealed," Nathan said Wednesday. "We want to let Colombians know that not all Americans are in sympathy with U.S. intervention in their lives."

The full-page advertisement cost about \$4,400 and will run in *La Tiempo*, Bogota's largest newspaper

with a circulation of 250,000. It will appear the day President Bush arrives in South America to meet with the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, the world's three main cocaine-producing countries.

In part, the advertisement reads: "Members of the Libertarian Party of the United States want people to be free of drug abuse and addiction. We want people to live in peace, without fear of death at the hands of the narco-terrorists..."

"The United States government is repeating the same mistake [made during Prohibition] and has declared substances illegal that for many centuries were cultivated and used peacefully without violence and murder in North, Central and South America... To make the situation even worse, since this problem cannot be solved internally, the government of the United States is exporting this war to Central and South America, with the terrible consequences we are all aware of for the people of the Americas."

The ad also announces the creation of a Coalition to End Drug

Violence that plans to hold a "peace summit" later this year in an effort to end drug-related violence.

Nathan said she hoped the ad will force the international press corps to recognize "that we have a valid point" and give "greater recognition" to the Libertarian Party.

The advertisement was signed by about 100 people, including Marshall Fritz of Fresno.

Fritz is president of Advocates for Self-Government, an independent,

See Drug, Page B4

Drug

Continued from Metro page

non-profit organization that is not affiliated with the Libertarian Party. However, he said his group "cooperates" with the Libertarians on "educational matters" and shares similar ideas.

"Other countries shouldn't be intimidated by the U.S. Government into criminalizing drugs," Fritz said Wednesday. "Colombia should resist the violence foisted up it by the U.S. government."

Fritz called for the legalization of drugs.

"I'm concerned about the children in America that are being harmed by drugs," he said. "The solution to the drug problem will require legalization. If your child gets hooked on drugs, are you going to call the police? No way! any

loving parent would say. 'I'm going to call a therapist, counselor or a minister.' That kid needs love — and love doesn't come out of the barrel of a gun."

Nathan said Libertarians call for the legalization of all drugs, including marijuana, cocaine — and its derivative, crack — heroin and LSD.

"I don't condone drug use," she said. "I was raised a vegetarian — I don't use coffee, smoke or drink or anything. I don't allow drug use in my house. In a free society we have to tolerate things we don't like as long as they don't endanger us."

Nathan said the Libertarian Party has a paid membership of 8,500. It received about 1 million votes in the 1980 presidential election; 250,000 in 1984 and 500,000 in 1988. Nathan said she was the party's 1972 vice-presidential candidate and received an electoral vote from a "disgruntled" Virginia Republican.

Oceanside, CA Blade Citizen, Jan 18, 1990.

Guns our right

Editor: 302
Recently, to the frustration of firearm owners and all liberty-minded citizens, the California state Senate passed A.B. 497. This oppressive bill will require a 15-day waiting period for the purchase of all rifles and shotguns. Our representative from the 38th district, the "Honorable" Mr. William A. Craven, a Republican, voted for this useless bill. This "professional politician" will also be trying to get re-elected again for his fourth term this November. We, the voters of the 38th district, can prevent this.

There are two things all North County gun owners and all law-abiding citizens can do to protect our rights that Mr. Craven and the Senate want to take away. First,

sign the Ownership of Firearms Constitutional Amendment Initiative. This initiative would bar the "professional politician" from denying us the right to keep and bear arms, with the exception to the convicted felons and the mentally incompetent. All state laws and local government ordinances that are inconsistent with this would be repealed, including this ridiculous 15-day waiting period that Mr. Craven voted for. The second thing we can do to protect our rights, or should I say to get them back, is to vote for the Libertarian candidate for Senate district 38, Scott Olmstead, in November.

The Libertarian National Committee has passed a resolution that in part states, "The Libertarian Party opposes any registration, and

all restrictions in firearm ownership, manufacture and sale." As you know, the Democratic and Republican parties don't agree with that statement.

Once again, I ask you, the voters of North County, to sign the Ownership of Firearms Initiative to amend the state constitution and, second, vote for Scott Olmstead, the Libertarian candidate for state Senate. Sign now, and vote in November before ownership of all firearms is made illegal in the state of California.

DAVID L. TORIKELSON
North County Vice Chair
Libertarian Party
Oceanside

Fresno, CA Bee, Feb. 15, 1990.

Bucks Co. Courier-Times, March 11, 1990.

Just count us out, say opponents of '90 census

By Charles McCurdy
Courier Times Staff Writer
BUCKS COUNTY

The census itself doesn't alarm members of the Committee for Census Privacy, many of whom belong to the Libertarian Party. But the questions, especially those about property value and marital status, concern them greatly.

"This prying outrage is the 1990 Census!" barks committee literature. "This is government gone berserk!"

And Libertarians are not alone. Minorities, recent immigrants and illegal aliens are traditionally the most undercounted segments of society. They usually resist being counted because they do not believe pledges that all information is confidential, said assistant regional census manager Harold Hayes recently.

According to census literature, every census since the first has been viewed with suspicion by some. Census bureau editors wrote in 1908 in more subtle tones than the Committee for

Census Privacy about skepticism among the 1790 citizenry:

"The inhabitants having no experience with census taking, imagined that some scheme for increasing taxation was involved, and were inclined to be cautious lest they should reveal too much of their own affairs," wrote the officials in their publication "Heads of Families."

The spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based privacy committee is Don Ernsberger, a philosophy teacher at Council Rock High School and a Warminster resident who ran for Congress on the Libertarian ticket in 1988.

Ernsberger spoke about the committee's intentions early last week, saying information provided to businesses by the census bureau violates individual rights.

"In general, I don't believe government should be using its resources to do for the business community what the business community should be paying for itself," he said.

"Our basic point is that the census was established for the

enumeration of congressional districts. But it has become part of the welfare-state approach to government."

He said the committee is encouraging people to fill out "action cards" and staple them to their census forms. The card gives the respondent three options: to answer the census under protest, to refuse to answer all questions except those to do with the number of residents in the household, or to refuse to answer any questions.

Those who don't respond to the census face \$100 fines, and those who only answer some of the questions may be visited by a census taker.

Frederick Bohme, a historian with the census bureau, said some 1790 citizens took an even stronger stance than the Libertarians.

"There was no organized opposition, but some (opposed) on religious grounds," he said. "There were fundamentalists who pointed to (the census) King David did in his day. A plague followed his."

Palo Alto, CA Peninsula Times
Feb. 23, 1990.

From Columnist
Jack Anderson

MINI-EDITORIAL — The national paranoia about destruction of the flag is already inhibiting freedom of expression. In Fairfax, Va., a high-school play was canceled because the script called for a character to cut up an American flag. Ironically, the play, "The Children's Story" by James Clavell, is about what happens when Americans become complacent about their freedoms. The new law making it illegal to destroy the flag was a bad idea that is already bearing bad fruit.

quently repealed the increase.

In a written statement, Genis acknowledged that her chances of unseating an incumbent from a major party are slim, but noted that her candidacy can have "a major impact on shaping San Mateo County politics in the decade to come."

She said Lantos has not faced serious challengers in recent elections. "This free ride has allowed Lantos to avoid debating the issues facing our county and our nation," Genis added.

Her campaign will focus on defense spending, drug policy and gun control, she said.

Genis said she favors a 50 percent re-

duction in President Bush's 1991 defense budget. The cuts could be made by closing military bases in other countries and by drastically reducing military aid, particularly to Latin America and Middle East countries.

She also called for legalization of drugs. "Drug abuse is bad, but prohibition is worse," Genis said, criticizing Lantos for supporting increased use of the American military to fight drugs.

In addition, Genis condemned recent gun-control measures, especially those adopted in the name of fighting drugs.

The war on drugs, she said, has quickly turned into a war on civil liberties.

Civil Rights infringe on Property Rights

Libertarians for Gay & Lesbian Concerns (LGLC), which was established in San Diego in 1980, is an alliance of Libertarian Party members whose purpose is to address political issues of concern to the Lesbian and Gay community from a Libertarian perspective. The Libertarian Party is the nation's third largest political party.

Although we have been rather low-key for the most part, with the height of our activity being that of promoting our party candidates during election season, we wish to take the opportunity to address a current issue which warrants our response. That issue is the proposed San Diego Human Dignity Ordinance.

Although we agree with the proposed ordinance in part, certain segments are unacceptable in relation to individual and property rights, the latter which we regard as an extension of the individual.

Specifically, we are opposed to those segments which could prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in private employment, and privately owned housing, accommodations and services. If implemented, Lesbian and Gay employers, for example, who own Gay-oriented business and who prefer to hire Gay employees, would be just as subject to discrimination in employment suits as heterosexual employers. Such was the case of a Lesbian bar in New York in 1981.

Likewise, Lesbian and Gay apartment owners who prefer to rent to Lesbians and Gays would be equally subject to discrimination in housing suits, as would straight landlords.

Those who argue that this "sexual orientation" ordinance is simply an extension of anti-discrimination laws already on the books in regard to race and gender are not awakened to the fact

that such laws as applied to the private sector are actually ineffectual.

Private employers and landlords who wish to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., can always find another excuse for not hiring or renting to an individual to cover up their real motive. Such laws are mainly aimed at White heterosexuals anyway, since for example, there has never been any racial discrimination suits filed against Chinese restaurant owners who prefer to hire only Asian waitpersons.

On the other hand, Libertarians have always been opposed to any government entity discriminating on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., which includes private individuals and firms while they are performing contractual services for a governmental entity, since the source of those contract

dollars come from taxpayer dollars. We thus do not oppose those segments of the HDO which apply to public employment, services, etc.

The bottom line is that the Lesbian and Gay community must learn to differentiate between "civil rights" and "individual rights," with private property rights and freedom of choice, association, being under the umbrella of the latter.

Homophobia may violate the emotions of Lesbians, Gays, and open-minded straights, but it does not violate the rights of anyone if it is peacefully expressed or practiced by private individuals on private property. Lesbians and Gays must not be guilty of attempting to impose their version of morality through the force of Big Brother, which we are quick to condemn conservatives and religious fundamentalists for.

Ricardo Duenez
San Diego

Youngstown, OH Vindicator
Jan 24, 1990.

Libertarian Party turns attention to local races

The Libertarian Party will not field candidates for statewide offices in Ohio this year but instead will focus on local races.

The party's national executive committee decided earlier this month not to nominate candidates for Ohio governor and attorney general, Milt Norris, chairman of the newly formed Mahoning Valley Libertarians, said Tuesday night.

"There really isn't quite enough time to do the job up right," Norris said before the group's quarterly meeting at the Quality Inn motel in Austintown.

David Macko of Solon, secretary of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, said the party has in the past spent much money, time and energy campaigning for statewide offices — with little success. "We're being more realistic," said Macko, who ran for a seat in the state House of Representatives in 1972 as the American

Independent Party candidate. He said the Libertarian Party's absence from major state races is not an indication of the party's failure but a "retrenchment."

"What we're going to do is concentrate on the lower-level offices," including precinct committee positions, Norris said.

Tuesday's meeting was attended by 16 people. Norris said about six expressed interest in running for office, but he said he would be pleased with one solid candidate.

Jack Labusch, east-central regional representative of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, said that for the Mahoning Valley Libertarians to be "more than a discussion group," it must "get people into office or at least make a good showing."

The Mahoning Valley Libertarians will meet next on April 10. Norris urged members to attend the 1990 state party convention to be held April 20-21 in Columbus.



June Genis
... favors big defense cut.

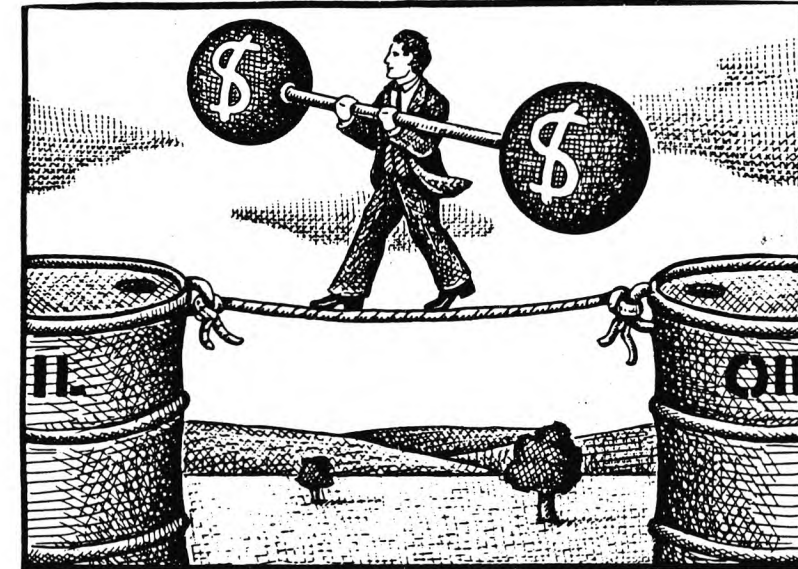
Pay-raise foe will run against Lantos

MARIO DIANDA / STAFF
REDWOOD CITY

June Genis, who led a drive last year that prompted San Mateo County supervisors to repeal a 24 percent pay raise, announced Thursday that she is running for the 11th Congressional District seat.

Genis will seek the Libertarian Party's nomination in the June primary for the seat, which is held by Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Burlingame.

In her bid, Genis said, she hopes to mobilize members and supporters of a group she helped found to fight the supervisors' self-given pay raise. Supervisors subse-



Charles Walter / INX

Market will regulate price of oil

Politicians seem to be falling over each other in their zeal to attack oil companies over the so-called heating oil crisis. Attorney General Clarence M. Riddle, U.S. Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, Gov. William A. O'Neill and others hope to make bushels of political hay by railing against those "conspiring, price-gouging" oil companies.

To refute these charges, oil company spokesmen brag about the minuscule profit margins and investment returns associated with heating oil production. This pathetic defense only encourages their opposition.

The real goal of government inquiries into oil-pricing decisions is to provide a pretext for the regulation of prices. Price controls, enacted by the supposedly conservative Nixon administration, enjoyed broad support throughout the 1970s. The results, namely the rise and predominance of OPEC, ensured that the decade was characterized by a threefold increase in prices, gas lines, freezing homes and power brownouts.

How anyone could urge a return to these failed policies is beyond my comprehension. Short-circuiting market processes through political intervention never produced anything except shortages for consumers and windfalls for special interests.

As to the issue of price gouging, let's look at the facts. According to the Department of Energy, the average retail price in 1980 for home heating oil in Connecticut was \$1.01 per gallon. By the end of 1988, the price had dropped to less than 80 cents. By the fall of 1989, heating oil could be bought for as little as 69 cents per gallon. I heat with oil and

bought some at that price. From the period of 1980 to the fall of 1989, consumer prices in general went up almost 70 percent. If oil prices had risen at the same rate, we would have been paying more than \$1.70 per gallon by now. Instead, as the last vestiges of price controls were lifted, oil prices fell 20 percent. Meanwhile, personal income in Connecticut rose by more than 130 percent.

With the advent of record-breaking cold in December 1989, demand for heating oil accelerated. Accidents at key production facilities inhibited supply. The result was a short-term burst in prices to an average level of \$1.42 per gallon in January. Already prices are dropping, with some local distributors advertising rates as low as \$1.19 per gallon. The crisis, such as it was, is over.

Markets are a mechanism for facilitating exchange between buyers and sellers. The relative prices of the various commodities help people make choices and conserve resources. If oil prices rise, consumers are encouraged to conserve or switch to other fuels, and producers are motivated to make investments to increase capacity. This is precisely what has happened. Those who assert that consumers are forced to buy oil at any price do not seem to notice the millions who switch to wood, gas or coal if the price of oil becomes too dear.

Michael C. Stamper
Windsor

Editor's note: The writer is chairman of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut.

Four Local Libertarians Vying For Election

By SAM BLACKWELL
Weekly News Staff

A Redwood City woman who will try to abolish the state Board of Equalization if she is elected to it is one of four local Libertarian candidates running for state and federal office.

Lyn Sapowsky-Smith, chairwoman of the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County, epitomizes the strain of individualism that runs through the Libertarians, perennial also-rans in the U.S. election process.

She's not candidate material, she says. "I'm blind in one eye, I'm over 45, I have a long name and I don't like being in the public eye."

But Sapowsky-Smith is running because she's "irritated." She doesn't think California needs its tax collections divided up by a Board of Equalization, which is composed of four members paid \$97,000 each annually. California and Texas are the only states in the nation that have such agencies, Sapowsky-Smith said. Usually the work is done by county tax assessors, she added.

Sapowsky-Smith contends the board only provides cushy jobs for political has-beens, noting that her opponents in the 2nd District race are Republican Bill Duplissee and Democrat Lou Pappan. Both are former assemblymen who lost their most recent races.

Owner of an accounting business, Sapowsky-Smith is the chairwoman of the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County and is an alternate on the Libertarian National Committee.

"Better me than Eu" is the slogan software engineer Kennita Watson of Belmont is using in her attempt to become California's next Secretary of

State. The other local candidates include June R. Genis, who is seeking Tom Lantos's 11th District seat in the House of Representatives; and Chris Inama, challenging Ted Lempert in the Assembly's 20th District.

Watson claims the Secretary of State's office, owned by March Fong Eu for six terms, is "overpaid, overstaffed, over-bureaucratized and under-productive." She ran for Congress in the 10th District in 1988 and received 14 percent of the vote.

Holder of a master's degree in computer science from Stanford, she proposes turning state record-keeping over to private companies.

Genis, a 43-year-old computer programmer at Stanford, acknowledges the implausibility of unseating Lantos but is not unaccustomed to a fight. When county supervisors voted themselves a 28

percent raise last year, the organization she founded successfully lobbied them to give it back.

She wants to cut the 1991 defense budget in half and favors putting more money into local AIDS and drug abuse programs. She supports legalization of drugs, saying "A sentiment against the war on drugs is clearly growing."

The people who most need help are being driven away from drug abuse programs by the war, she says. And recent tightening of gun control restrictions and loosening of search and seizure laws are part of that war, which has become "a war on our civil liberties," she says.

"We are so paralyzed by what we see . . . we are letting the end justify the means," she said.

Inama, a San Carlos attorney who graduated from Woodside High School in 1970, is running on a platform of no

new taxes or increases unless voters approve, and proposes a sunset provision which would kill any tax after two years unless reenacted.

He is up against Lempert, the San Mateo Democrat who upset Duplissee in the last election, and Republican James Rinehart of Menlo Park. "I probably have a better chance to win the Lotto," Inama admits, but he says simply fielding a candidate is an important way for Libertarians to disseminate information.

A former Republican, this is Inama's first run for public office. He is skeptical of Lempert's attempts to reform the Legislature, calling the freshman assemblyman "a fox in the henhouse."

"We cannot legislate morality," Inama said. "It's developed in the course of one's life."

Wilmington, DE News
Feb. 8, 1990.

Libertarian seeks attorney general's job

By CELIA COHEN
Staff reporter

A Libertarian Party member who believes in the legalization of drugs and the "Aluminum Rule" — not the Golden Rule — has declared her candidacy for the 1990 election for attorney general.

K. Kay Shearin, a 43-year-old lawyer from Elmere, is running on a platform of getting government out of people's lives and living by the "Aluminum Rule," so called because it is "light, malleable and doesn't corrode." "Do not do unto others what you would not want them to do unto you."

Shearin also thinks drugs should be legalized, and recently filed a lawsuit against Sgt. Robert J. Durnan, the 1987 Delaware State Trooper of the Year, for drug busts he made on Interstate 95.

As a minor-party candidate, Shearin brings a new dimension to a campaign that already is shaping up as spirited.

The incumbent is Democrat Charles M. Oberly III, who is leaning toward seeking a third four-year term. The Republicans have settled on F.L. Peter Stone as their candidate, but Oberly has prosecuted fellow Democrats and also could face a primary. One possible Democratic opponent is Catherine S. Mulholland, a lawyer who works for Democratic Insurance Commissioner David N. Levinson.

A minor-party candidate could have an impact on a tight race, and Oberly is known for close calls on Election Day. In 1986, Oberly beat his Republican opponent by 915 votes, while David S. DeRiemer, an American Party candidate, collected 1,133 votes. In 1982, Oberly won by 1,177 votes, while an American Party candidate and a Libertarian Party candidate combined to get 1,565 votes.



SHEARIN

Topeka, KS Capital-Journal
Feb. 6, 1990.

Senate panel approves small parties legislation

By the Associated Press

A legislative panel endorsed a bill Monday that would make it easier for small political parties to get their candidates on the general election ballot.

The Senate Elections Committee voted to send to the full Senate a measure that cuts in half the number of signatures a political party must gather to be recognized. It represents the latest chapter in a continuing battle for organizations such as the Libertarian Party.

The committee's endorsement came on a unanimous voice vote and after little discussion.

Bill Earnest, a lobbyist for the Libertarians, said the party was pleased with the legislation.

The bill would force minor political parties to file with the state petitions containing the number of sig-

natures equal to 1 percent of the state's eligible voters — about 8,400. The current requirement is 2 percent of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election, or about 16,800 signatures.

Small parties have been fighting to change the law since 1984, when the Legislature passed new requirements that worked to keep third-party candidates off the ballot.

Under the 1984 law, all statewide candidates of officially recognized political parties have to gain at least 1 percent of the total vote cast in a general election.

If a party fails to nominate someone for a statewide office, or if any of their candidates fail to get 1 percent of the vote, the party's spot on the ballot is terminated.

In effect, small parties are forced to keep petitioning for official recognition from the state.

to be reviewed by voters.

The people who signed the argument against the bond measure include Marion McEwen of Hayward, who is a Canyon View Court neighbor of Councilman Matt Jimenez; Wayne Nygren, Libertarian candidate for the 14th District Assembly seat; and William McCord of Piedmont.

McCord, an unsuccessful 1986 Assembly candidate, also was an opponent of the successful 1986 Measure B sales-tax surcharge, which was championed by Hayward Mayor Alex Giuliani.

Hayward, CA Review
Feb. 8, 1990.

Anti-bond argument will stay

By Karen Holzmeister
Staff writer

HAYWARD — Despite City Council apprehensions, an argument asking voters to turn down a \$15 million bond measure on the April 10 ballot will be distributed with pre-election materials.

The council is endorsing the bond measure.

If the measure succeeds, money from new property taxes will be used to either replace or reinforce city buildings against a large earthquake. The buildings covered in the ballot measure include the City Center, police station, six fire stations and the city corporation yard.

Councilwoman Shirley Campbell questioned whether "Citizens United on Taxes of Alameda County" — the name under which three Libertarian Party members filed the opposing ballot argument — is a bona fide group.

The council, during its Tuesday afternoon work session, directed City Clerk Judy Vonada to verify that the citizens group is an authentic organization.

By the 8 p.m. regular meeting, Vonada had substantiated that the citizens organization is genuine and the three people who signed the ballot argument are members.

Had the citizens group not been verified, the council could have pursued ways to keep the argument against the bond measure out of the handbook that is mailed to voters before the election.

That would have left the council argument supporting the ballot measure as the lone argument