

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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DECEMBER 1998

JUDGMENT DAY . . .

LP Political Director speaks at Washington impeachment rally

Libertarian Party Political Director Ron Crickenberger spoke at a Clinton impeachment rally on December 5, telling the crowd that the LP “was the first political party to officially demand the impeachment of President Clinton” — but did so on Constitutional grounds only.

Crickenberger was one of about a dozen speakers at the so-called Judgment Day Rally on the west steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. The event, sponsored by FreeRepublic.com, attracted several hundred people.

Unlike other speakers, Crickenberger did not focus on the Clinton/Lewinsky sex-and-lies scandal, but instead focused on the president’s habit of violating the Constitution.

“At the national convention of the Libertarian Party on July 5, our delegates passed overwhelmingly by voice vote a resolution calling for Clinton and Gore to be removed from office for violation of their oath of office, specifically their failure to uphold and defend the United States Constitution,” he said.

Crickenberger said Clinton’s affair with a White House intern was “probably the least harmful thing he has done to us while in office.”

Instead, he said Libertarians were outraged by how Clinton had violated the Constitution and Bill of Rights — and cited dozens of

specific examples.

Deliberately echoing language from the debate over Clinton’s recent behavior, Crickenberger also told the crowd: “We’ve watched [Clinton’s] ongoing inappropriate relationship with the Constitution, and the fact that he routinely cheats on the Bill of Rights while trying to expand the political power of the federal government.”

Later, Crickenberger said he had received a surprisingly good reaction from the crowd, despite making many Libertarian comments that a more conservative group might not have been expected to agree with.

“There was cheering and interruptions for applause” throughout the speech, he said. “There seemed to be a high propensity of libertarian-influenced folks in the crowd.”

Rally sponsor FreeRepublic.com is an anti-Clinton website that focuses on the president’s moral failings and legal violations.

UPWARD TREND . . .

LP registration jumps by 12.3%

Libertarian Party registration has increased by at least 12.3% over the past two years — a number that could grow significantly if more states reported their post-election registration figures.

From 1996 to 1998, Libertarian registration jumped to 182,481 from 162,545, according to figures compiled by Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News* and one of the nation’s leading experts on third parties.

The correct number is actually larger, since six states have not released Libertarian registration numbers, and Wyoming and New Mexico have released only partial figures.

Even more impressively, since 1994, Libertarian Party registration has grown by 67%, from 109,100.

“Libertarian Party registration continues on a solidly upward track,” said Steve Dasbach, the LP’s national director. “This is good news, since it means more voters want to be identified as Libertarians.”

Randall to file Bill of Rights Day bill

Brand-new Libertarian State Representative Neil Randall of Vermont has announced his first legislative action: He will file a bill naming December 15 “Bill of Rights Day.”

The bill will require the Bill of Rights to be read to the General Assembly on the first day of each new legislative session, and at all government meetings and courts in session on December 15.

Randall was elected on November 3 from Vermont’s Orange County District 3. He was the ninth State Representative voted into office in LP history.

What is a Libertarian?

by ALBERT D. MCCALLUM

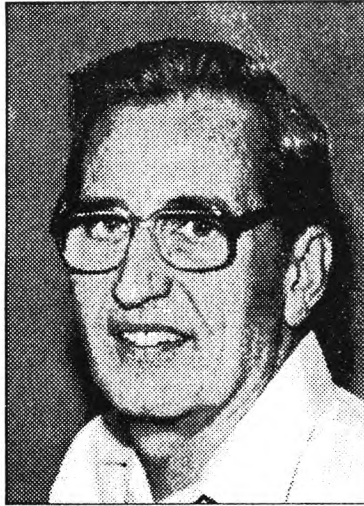
Every election season the Libertarian Party raises its voice to a near audible level. What would we hear if we listened? Polls show that 20% of our fellow citizens subscribe to libertarian views. Even most of that 20% are frightened by the "L" word.

Why do people find libertarians scary? The root word for libertarian is liberty. Is liberty scary? For many it is. Millions of Russians long for return of the order and predictability of totalitarian Communism. The transition to freedom can be scary. Rivers must be crossed to reach the other side.

How many know what libertarians believe? Anyone can call himself a vegetarian, even if he doesn't eat vegetables. Should we judge vegetarians by the conduct of self proclaimed vegetarians who don't eat vegetables? Should we judge libertarians by self proclaimed libertarians who promote ideas that have nothing to do with liberty?

Every group has its fringe and misfits. Democrats have Lyndon LaRoach. Republicans have David Duke. Evangelism has the Jims, Baaker and Swagart. Should we judge these institutions by their misfits? Most of us know enough about these institutions to recognize a misfit when we see one. The person who knows only one or two people called libertarians is likely to judge all libertarians by the one or two.

Libertarians have another smear on their image. Liberty in the Land of the Free has slipped to the point that a return to liberty would require major changes. It is human nature to resist change. Many would find the changes proposed by libertarians frightening, even if they understood the proposed changes. Even changes that eventually gain near universal acclaim were unwelcome when they burst



upon the scene.

The Luddites destroyed machines and factories because they felt threatened by industrialization. Would we be better off if the Luddites had aborted the industrial revolution? Would you trade your lifestyle for that of an 18th century weaver?

Most reporters don't understand or report libertarian views. Libertarians are frozen out of most political debates. For most people, libertarian goals are well kept secrets.

The basic libertarian principle is that it's wrong to initiate the use of force — except when necessary to defend ourselves and others. Libertarians seek to advance their causes by persuasion. Libertarians don't force others to join their parade — or pay for it.

Libertarians believe that most of the problems we seek to correct with force are caused by misuse of force by government and its cohorts. Libertarians seek to eliminate the misused force, rather than trying to balance it with more force.

If a balance beam is out of balance, it can be as easily balanced by removing weight from the heavy end as by adding weight to the light end. Also, the added weight might

break the beam. It takes new resources to add weight. Removed weights can be put to other uses.

Libertarians appear to be revolutionary because force and coercion by government are so much a part of our lives that restoring freedom would be revolutionary.

The Founding Fathers fought a war for freedom. Today millions of government enforcers fetter our freedom far more than George III restricted the colonists. Should we hesitate to send our masters into retirement? The answer to this question depends on our answer to another question. Is freedom desirable?

Libertarians passionately believe that true freedom will achieve the good things government promises but never delivers. Freedom will not bring a perfect world — only a better one. Libertarians also see that government usually accomplishes the opposite of its stated goals.

Attempts to increase the productivity of our economy reduce productivity. Government "aid" to education increases the cost of education and reduces the quality of education. The War on Poverty binds the poor into poverty. The War on Drugs breeds crime, corruption and death, while failing to cut drug use.

What if freedom would provide the solutions that government force and coercion doesn't? What if we never get the chance to find out?

Whether you believe in freedom or not, might it be well to at least understand those who do? Shouldn't we all learn as much as possible about the benefits of liberty before giving final consent to live the lives forced onto us by whoever has the power and ruthlessness to climb to the top of the slippery power pyramid we call government?

Libertarian Party a growing force

By Diane Wagner-Price
Staff Writer

If you're fiscally conservative and socially liberal, you might be a libertarian.

With candidates in every state race except labor commissioner, the Libertarian Party is a small but growing force in Georgia politics.

• Gubernatorial candidate Jack Cashin has bullied his way into this year's televised debates between the Democrat and Republican candidates.

• Lloyd Russell, the party's Lt. Gov. choice, is building up name recognition by matching his opponents, campaign commercial for campaign commercial.

• Zebulon attorney Walker Chandler, who is campaigning for Attorney General while wearing a kilt and playing bagpipes, pulled in 32 percent of the Central Georgia vote during the Georgia Student Mock Election on Wednesday.

"I think I would have polled

See LIBERTARIAN, Page 2A

▲ *The Griffin Daily News*
Griffin, Georgia, November 1, 1998

▼ *The Pacific Business News*
Honolulu, Hawaii, November 2, 1998

Libertarian

From page 1A

even higher if I could get my message out more," said Chandler. "But we're making headway. People are saying they've had enough of the same old thing."

The Libertarian Party platform focuses on personal and economic freedom through individual responsibility and limited government.

Simply put, under a libertarian government, taxes would give way to user fees and, if someone wanted to abuse drugs, he'd be free to make that choice as long as he didn't harm anyone else.

"The proper role of government is to protect its citizens from those who would deprive them of their rights, not to protect them from their own stupidity," Chandler said.

Some famous people who have publicly supported libertarianism include Nobel Prize-winning economists James Buchanan, Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek, Texas Congressman Ron Paul and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Dave Barry.

In the entertainment industry, Kurt Russell, Drew Carey, Clint Eastwood and John Popper of

Blues Traveler are a few who back the cause.

Chandler said Friday he believes most Americans want a libertarian world for themselves but there is an arrogance that makes them think their neighbors can't be trusted to handle it.

"The hardest thing we fight against is the 100 years of socialism deeply ingrained in our society. There's the concept that, if there's a problem, the government should fix it," he said.

By "socialism," Chandler said he means the Democrats and Republicans who have effectively kept third party candidates from getting a wedge into the political process.

Post-election plans for the Libertarian Party include following up on the interest they've sparked while campaigning and pushing for changes to campaign laws across the country that would make it easier to get a candidate listed on the ballot.

Oh, and why does Chandler, a member of the Mercer University Pipes and Drum band, wear a kilt while campaigning?

"Entertainment," he said. "It's the television age and people demand it. But I also do it to show I'm different and I've got guts. I do and they don't."

Libertarian Party makes a statement with 150 members

By MALIA ZIMMERMAN
PBN Staff Reporter

The chairman of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, Roger Taylor, is credited with "phenomenal leadership" by party members. His friends and associates consider him to be straightforward, committed to his beliefs and ideals. A man dedicated to the Libertarian cause and educating the public about the party philosophy.

Taylor is the elected chairman, an unpaid position, and oversees the 150-member Libertarian Party. He has run for office three times in Hawaii: in 1990 for U.S. Congress against Neil Abercrombie; in 1992 for state House of Representatives; and again in 1994 for U.S. Congress against Neil Abercrombie.

The local Libertarian party is dwarfed by the Democratic Party of Hawaii (29,000 members), and Hawaii Republican Party (17,000 members), but Taylor is not put off. In fact, these figures just make him more committed to spreading the word about the party's ideals.

Taylor said, "We go door to door to talk with people about our party and our candidates. We have fliers and brochures that discuss our positions. And we are putting out infor-

mation on Olelo Community Television."

Taylor has not always been a Libertarian, but in 1989 he was drawn to the party because of the beliefs he shared with other members.

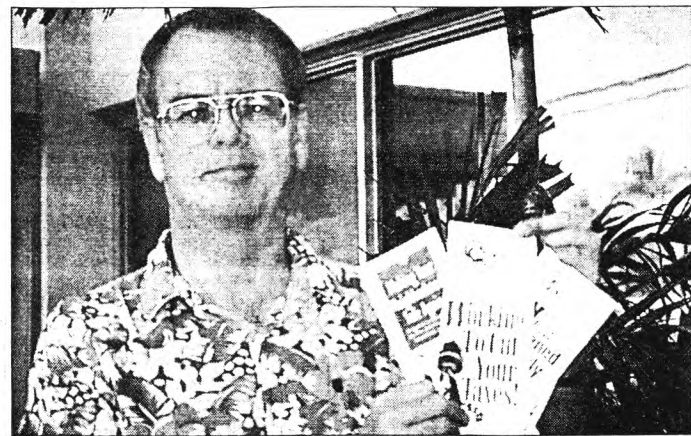
Roger said, "Libertarians advocate total personal freedom, and encourage people to read and think. Libertarians

believe in more personal responsibility and less government intervention. Libertarians don't tax and spend, and they want people to keep their money ... And they are against the drug war. And that is attractive to me."

There are 13 Libertarian candidates running for office this year, and getting ballot status for them is a feat not easy in Hawaii.

"The political powers that make it so hard to get on the ballot," said Libertarian Dick Rowland. "There are all sorts of restrictions. And Roger was able to collect the 7,500 signatures that allowed us to be on the ballot." Rowland, who chaired the Libertarian party last year, said Taylor is a workhorse and a phenomenal leader.

And Taylor's persistence may be paying off. There is at least one candidate in a closely contested race with a Democratic incumbent. Guy Monahan, a Libertarian running in the 34th House district (New Town, Waimalu, Pearl Ridge, Royal Summit), is up against Mark Takai, the Democratic incumbent. If Monahan wins, he will be the first Libertarian to hold office in Hawaii, and the third in



PBN PHOTO BY MALIA ZIMMERMAN

Roger Taylor fought to get Hawaii Libertarian candidates on the ballot this year by soliciting more than 7,500 signatures. There are 13 Libertarian candidates in the Nov. 3 election.

the nation. Two other Libertarians were elected to legislative positions in New Hampshire and Alaska.

Born in New Jersey, and raised in Florida, Taylor wanted to live where he could be near the ocean,

and enjoy warm weather year round. He moved to Hawaii 17 years ago from Minnesota.

He is a math teacher at Aiea High School, a producer of community programming, and a tax preparer. Taylor has had a

long teaching career, including seven years at Waianae High School. He has also taught at Hawaii Loa College, for the University of Hawaii community colleges on Oahu and to deployed U.S. military personnel.

RÉSUMÉ

CAREER

- Current position:** Math teacher, Aiea High School
- Past positions:** Teacher, Waianae High School
- Professor, Hawaii Loa College
- Professor, Kapiolani College
- Professor, Windward Community College
- Professor, College of Continuing Education (UH)

PERSONAL

- Family:** Daughter, Stacy Taylor, 27
- Hobbies:** Swimming, computers, bridge
- Last book read:** *How I found Freedom in an Unfree World* by Harry Brown
- Favorite restaurant:** The Well Bento on Beretania St. (serves organic plate lunches)

Libertarians near major status

Party clears hurdle, one remains

DAVE BURGE
STAFF WRITER

One down, one more to go. That's the way local Libertarian Party activist Joseph Knight described his organization's bid to gain major-party status in New Mexico.

To qualify as major, a political party must get at least 5 percent of the total votes cast in either the gubernatorial or presidential race in at least one statewide contest. It also needs to meet certain voter registration requirements.

The Libertarians easily cleared the first hurdle during the Nov. 3 election, Knight said.

Maurice McDonald, the Libertarian candidate for state public lands commissioner, finished third in a three-person race. McDonald's vote total of 36,056, however, was enough to meet the 5-percent bench mark.

Approximately 460,000 votes were cast in the gubernatorial race, and McDonald's numbers represented roughly 8 percent of the total votes cast for governor.

Now, all the Libertarians need to do is register enough voters so the party has one-third of 1 percent of the total registered voters in the state.

"That's a piece of cake," Knight said. "If we can't do that, we don't deserve to be a major party."

The Libertarians are bidding to become New Mexico's fourth major party — joining the ranks of the Republicans, Democrats and Greens.

Roughly 1,300 voters are registered as Libertarians in New Mexico. Knight estimated it would probably take between two to three times that amount to meet the second requirement for major-party status.

To meet hurdle No. 2, Knight said the Libertarians have until Gov. Gary Johnson issues his proclamation calling for the next state election.

The next regularly scheduled state election will be in 2000, and the Libertarians should have most of 1999 to meet the voter registration requirement, Knight said.

Usually, the governor signs his proclamation for the state primary sometime in January or February of an election year, a good four to five months before the traditional June primary.

The one fly in the ointment, Knight said, is if New Mexico decides to join with seven other Western states in a regional primary. If that comes to fruition, New Mexico would hold its primary in March and the "window of opportunity" for the Libertarians would shorten by several months, Knight said.

"But I'm confident," Knight said.

The Libertarians are already starting a grassroots initiative to register voters under the party moniker.

"I don't want to put off to the last minute what needs to be done now," Knight said.

Instead of waiting for an organized voter registration program from the state Libertarian Party, Knight is urging party members to take it upon themselves to get started.

"During the next six weeks, it will be hard to get the party to focus on a program, because of the holidays," Knight said. "While we plan a program, individuals need to start now. Libertarians are good at that.

"More than any other political subset, we tend to be individualists."

A political party has to requalify for major-party status every two years, Knight said.

Knight, a Flora Vista resident who has been involved with the Libertarian Party for 10 years, said there are three main advantages to major-party status.

Libertarians

(Continued from Page A1)

First, it becomes easier to get on the state ballot. Also, major party status gives the party increased credibility.

"A lot of people agree with us philosophically," Knight said. "But I don't know how many times I've heard people say, 'I agree with you on almost everything, but I don't want to waste my vote.'"

"So, they wind up voting for a candidate that they agree with only 5 or 10 percent of the time."

The final benefit, Knight said, is an "expanded candidate pool."

"Many people who are in the Libertarian Party are reluctant to run with the odds so stacked against them," Knight said. "Now, we should get well-qualified candidates who are more open to running, and it will draw more well-qualified candidates."

Knight said the main thrust of Libertarian philosophy is "the individual is the highest form of government."

◀ *The Daily Times*,
Farmington, New Mexico,
November 20, 1998

■ See **Libertarians** Page A7.