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Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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Quick action from LP Headquarters wins retractions on LaRouche stories

A quick response and firm demands from the national LP headquarters helped squash another outbreak of the perennial "Lyndon LaRouche is a Libertarian" rumor last month, following LaRouche's release from jail.

The incident occurred on January 26th, when ABC Radio news broadcast a UPI story identifying the convicted felon as the "Libertarian Party leader."

"Some of our members called and warned us," said Bill Winter, LP Director of Communications. "I immediately called the Chicago UPI, where the story originated, and talked to the reporter who wrote the story. She apologized, and said a corrected version of the story was being sent out.

"I also called ABC Radio; they said they were aware of the mistake, and would broadcast the corrected version."

Not content with this response, National Chair Steve Dasbach urged further action.

"The next day, National Director Perry Willis faxed a letter to UPI and ABC Radio, requesting that they issue a retraction — stating that the previous stories were incorrect, and that LaRouche was *not* a Libertarian," said Winter.

In the letter, Willis wrote: "For the record, let me state: LaRouche is not a Libertarian Party member. He has never been one. And, given his views and character, he will never become one. He has never run for public office as a Libertarian. He holds no leadership position in our party."

Good journalistic ethics

The letter to ABC radio news went on to say: "It is your journalistic duty to publicly correct this error — in as 'loud' a voice as when the error was first disseminated. Specifically, we would like you to broadcast a correction stating that your previous story was in error, and that LaRouche is not in any way associated with the Libertarian Party. We believe this action is the only one consistent with good journalistic ethics and common decency."

On January 28th, on their nationwide 12:00 noon report, the ABC Radio networks broadcast the following correction:

"Two days ago we reported that political extremist Lyndon LaRouche was released from prison. We mistakenly identified him as a Libertarian. Lyndon LaRouche is not in any way associated with the Libertarian Party."

UPI did not respond to the letter.

Winter and Willis said they plan to follow this up with a letter to hundreds of media outlets across the country, re-

minding editors and reporters that LaRouche is not associated with the LP.

Almost simultaneously with the ABC Radio and UPI incidents, the *Detroit News* printed a small story on January 27th identifying LaRouche as the "founder of the Libertarian Party." Immediate phone calls that day by Winter to the *News'* Washington and Detroit offices resulted in a retraction, which was printed the next day.

Shadow Cabinet members blast Clinton health plan

Two members of the Libertarian Party Shadow Cabinet garnered nationwide publicity as co-signers of a document opposing President Clinton's health care plan.

Richard Vedder, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Labor, and Thomas Gale Moore, Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Transportation, were just two of 562 prominent economists who signed a public letter to the president warning against the consequences of the Clinton Plan.

The letter — patterned after a 1930 letter by economists warning President Hoover about the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act — was printed in the *Wall Street Journal*, and sparked newspaper articles around the country. The letter warned that under the Clinton plan, "we will end up with lower-quality medical care, reduced medical innovation, and expensive new bureaucracies to monitor compliance."

Five LP'ers appointed to office

In an unprecedented surge over the past month, five more Libertarians were appointed to public office around the country.

> Michael Pierone was appointed to the Sussex County Economic Advisory Committee in New Jersey.

> Ed Wiessman was appointed to the Sussex County Solid Waste Advisory Council in New Jersey.

> James Dan was appointed to the Sparks Charter Committee in Nevada.

> Sam Edelston was appointed to the Metuchen Financial Advisory Committee in New Jersey.

> Bruce Martin of Middle Island, New York was appointed to the Districtwide Facilities Task Force.

10 MANNIES ON POLITICS

Libertarians 'Arrive' — With Baggage

THE PARTY HAS battled allegations that its presidential candidate was a womanizer and accusations that it is controlled by extremists. Even so, leaders predict great things for 1994.

I'm speaking, of course, of the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party, particularly in Missouri, is still celebrating. Besides a respectable showing in the 1992 elections, the Missouri party helped persuade the Legislature last spring to approve a bill that makes it easier for third-party candidates to get on the ballot.

But these days, Libertarian leaders say their party no longer qualifies as a third party. Even without the new law, Libertarians no longer would have to collect signatures to get on Missouri ballots. Their candidates got enough votes last year to qualify the party under the old law, which allowed parties to put up candidates automatically once the party garnered a certain percentage of votes. (One state candidate last year got close to 7 percent.)

"Now, we're the smallest of the established parties," says Ken Bush, president of the St. Louis Area Libertarians, which covers the metropolitan area.

The state Libertarian Party now has another distinction — it is the only party with a public "800" number. Who does the party want to hear from? Maybe you.

"The Libertarian Party is looking for a few good men and women . . . with libertarian ideals to run as citizen-politicians in the '94 elections," says the party's recent press release. Interested people may call 1-800-838-1776.

By the end of January, the state Libertarian Party hopes to have candidates for next fall's U.S. Senate and state auditor races, Bush said.

Libertarian candidates must share the party's anti-government principles. One of the keystones of the Libertarian Party is its opposition to the federal income tax. "Taxation is equivalent to theft," Bush said.

The party advocates abolition of the Internal Revenue Service. It wants to get rid of most government programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and make Social Security voluntary. Its presidential candidate last year, Andre Marrou, also advocated elimination of public education and the legalization of all drugs.

Like the other two established parties, the Libertarian Party has its share of internal strife. The most recent battle involved "the pledge."

A card-carrying member of the Libertarian Party must sign a pledge that says, "I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

The pledge has been around since the national Libertarian Party formed back in December 1971. But some state chapters, including Illinois, oppose it and have dropped it. Dissidents tried unsuccessfully at September's national convention to get the pledge killed off.

"Some believe that a political party shouldn't have a pledge, whether good or bad," Bush explained, noting that the Missouri party still had it. "It turns some people off. They may want to join the party, but aren't sure what this means."

Still others, he said, quibble with the wording. Some see it as a statement of anarchy. Others believe the pledge runs counter to the party's anti-tax position. "Some see taxation as use of force," Bush explained.

Bush said the party had created the pledge to protect Libertarians against J. Edgar Hoover, still head of the FBI in the early '70s. The pledge made it clear that the Libertarian Party did not advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Rather, the party hopes the public will increasingly flock to the Libertarian banner out of disgust with the Democratic and Republican parties.

Libertarians have a way to go. In the last presidential election, Marrou got 500,000 votes out of about 101 million cast. He had hoped for 1 million, but Libertarians believe Ross Perot's independent candidacy cut into their support. They say Marrou also was hurt when officials barred him from the three major presidential debates.

If Perot had not been around, Marrou probably would have got more public attention. Like Perot, Marrou was an outspoken candidate with a flair for the quotable quote.

To get his party's nomination, for example, Marrou battled internal debate over his four failed marriages. Some were concerned that his marital history might hurt his bid. He later gave me my best unpublished quote of 1992. While discussing the topic, Marrou said he did not understand the fuss about his ex-wives. "I was faithful to each one of them."

The Libertarians are an established party, all right.



Libertarians file petitions to regain status on state ballot

The Libertarian Party has taken the first step toward regaining ballot status for the 1994 elections.

Party officials last week delivered more than 40,000 petition signatures to the state Elections Commission, with 25,646 valid signatures needed for party candidates to appear on the ballot.

State election law requires third party "top of the ticket" candidates to receive 1 percent of the vote cast in order to stay on the ballot and Libertarian presidential candidate Andre Marrou failed to get that number in 1992.

That forced the party, which believes in drastically reduced government and extensive personal individual freedoms, to petition for ballot status.

Topping its ticket in 1994 will be U.S. Senate candidate Jon Coon, of Henderson, who has announced his candidacy for the seat now held by Donald W. Riegle Jr. and has raised about \$40,000 in contributions and pledges.

Barbara Goushaw, Coon's campaign manager, said she expects his campaign "to be the most visible and active Libertarian campaign in Michigan history."

Battle Creek Enquirer
Battle Creek, Michigan
December 13, 1993

St. Louis Post-Dispatch ♦ St. Louis, Missouri ♦ December 22, 1993

Libertarians aim lower and hope for municipal posts

By **BILL SWAYZE**
Herald Staff Writer

NEWTON — The Libertarian Party will shift gears and run candidates in municipal races this year, the chairman said Tuesday.

The Sussex County chapter of the party, which has about 40-50 members, is about 4 years old in Sussex County. It has in the past focused all of its attention on races for Congress, state Senate and Assembly, and county freeholder and clerk, said party Chairman Michael Pierone of

Vernon.

Pierone, who ran unsuccessfully against Rep. Marge Roukema, R-5, said municipal government will be the proving grounds for Libertarians and will allow the party to build a strong political base.

"We have to give people a chance to see what Libertarians do when they get in office."

The local party claims that it can dismantle government and cut spending and taxes, but its candidates have never been successful at the polls, falling behind Republican and Democratic candidates.

At the municipal level, getting

elected may be even more difficult as every municipal governing body is dominated by Republicans. Out of 127 municipal officials, 113 are Republicans, 13 are Democrats and one is an independent.

Pierone said the party wants private industry and supply and demand to determine whether services are provided — instead of government "bureaucrats and politicians."

Though Pierone and other Libertarian candidates have been unsuccessful, the number of county voters who have backed Libertarians indicate "signs of

life."

About 41 percent of the county's 65,000 registered voters are registered Republicans. About 14 percent are registered Democrats and 45 percent are not affiliated.

Libertarian Ed Wiessmann of Sparta received 3,319 votes in a third-place finish for county clerk in 1992, and 2,225 votes in a third-place finish for freeholder last year.

During the 1993 campaign, Wiessmann was even endorsed by Republican Freeholder Dick Durina as the candidate voters

should support if they do not support him. Both candidates supported privatizing Sussex County Community College.

Libertarian Bill Dundas received 19 percent of the vote, or 8,823 votes, in an bid to unseat Sen. Robert Littell, R-24, last year. Littell captured 38,106 votes.

Out of the county's 24 municipalities last year, two, Sparta and Wantage, gave Dundas 1,000 or more votes — two of 12 municipalities that gave him 300 or more votes — a sign of life, Pierone said.

New Jersey Herald ♦ Newton, New Jersey ♦ January 5, 1994

Libertarian candidate to challenge McCloskey

By Dan Armstrong
Staff reporter

A Libertarian software engineer says a "revelation" prompted by a news report led him to run for Congress.

"I don't know how other people are, but I often find that when I hear news reports of some of the shenanigans that are going on in D.C., I get livid," Paul Hager said last night.

Hager yesterday announced his candidacy to replace Frank McCloskey as 8th District congressman. Hager lives just east of Bloomington, which McCloskey served as mayor before his election to Congress.

"I kind of had a revelation as I was driving home one day a few months ago," Hager said.

He was listening to a news report, he said.

"And I began fuming, as I often do, at some of the idiocy that comes out of Washington," he said. "And I suddenly realized, 'There's something you can do about this. You can actually run. You can actually run for political office.'"

Hager, 43, said he is making his first bid for public office.

He said he's a Charleston, W.Va., native who has a master's degree from Indiana University and manages a team of scientific and technical workers at Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, a large military reservation southwest of

Bloomington.

A citizen can "continue to fume impotently at what's going on" or find a candidate to support, Hager said.

"But to be quite honest, there are no candidates out there who I feel I could support," he said.

He thinks McCloskey is a "nice man," he said, but doesn't see him or any other candidate coming to grips with the "somewhat shaky" economy and the federal government's inability to control its spending.

A member of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union Board, Hager said he joined the Libertarian Party because of its focus on individual liberty and its commitment to resist the growth of governmental power over individuals.

Hager plans to make a campaign issue out of federal entitlements — food stamps, Medicaid and other aid.

"Something like 80 percent of all entitlements don't require that the recipient demonstrate financial need," Hager said. "Yet entitlement spending is a major contributor to the budget deficit. We can't possibly make real progress on the deficit without examining that."

Despite his job at a military center, Hager supports further defense cuts. He also favors a "national carry permit" that would allow law-abiding citizens to carry guns.

The Evansville Press
Evansville, Indiana
January 15, 1994

Rider seeks nomination for governor

By Michael J. Williams
Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — Libertarian Party member Richard Rider of San Diego announced Wednesday he plans to seek his party's nomination for governor.

Acknowledging that his chances of winning the 1994 race are unlikely, Rider said in his campaign announcement that his goal is to help the Democrats defeat Gov. Pete Wilson, the probable Republican candidate.

"What makes my candidacy different from other Libertarian races is that I'm not running to educate the public or gather Libertarian Party converts," Rider said. "I am running with the express purpose of draining off as many conservative Republican voters as possible



File Photo

Blade-Citizen
Oceanside, California
December 23, 1993

► See Governor, Page B-2 **LIBERTARIAN RICHARD RIDER**

Governor

► From Page B-1

from Pete Wilson, thus ensuring the election of the Democratic candidate."

Rider is most well-known as the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit that overturned the county's half-cent sales tax intended to support jails and courtrooms.

The state Supreme Court's deci-

sion to strike down the sales tax because it conflicted with a provision of Proposition 13 cost the Regional Justice Facility Financing Agency more than \$300 million in tax revenues.

A scathing critic of county government, Rider ran in the June 1992 primary for the 3rd District county supervisor seat.

Though Libertarians are known for entering campaigns aware that they have no chance of winning, Rider ran a serious campaign

based on his criticism of the county's spending policies.

He finished third with 19.2 percent of the vote. 7 percentage points behind Pam Slater, who won the seat in a November runoff election against San Diego City Councilwoman Judy McCarty. He also campaigned unsuccessfully as the Libertarian candidate for the 41st Congressional District in 1986 and 1988.

Rider said he wants to aid in dumping Wilson because he believes his policies are the same

as those of the Democrats in the state Legislature. The Libertarians philosophically oppose the Democratic Party's traditional support for government social services.

"It's time the Republican Party stopped running 'stealth Democrats' for governor," Rider said. "The Republican Party should offer the public a clear alternative to the big-government advocate selected by the Democrats. The public is tired of the present choice of 'Tweedledumb and Tweedledumber.'"

Libertarian Party gaining strength

By MARY JANE LORTON
Staff Writer

While the Libertarian Party is rarely referred to in political discussions on the major networks or in passing conversations at local coffee shops, the local chapter of the national party is hoping to change that.

Commenting that he believes the Democratic and Republican perspectives to be "seriously off track," Sean Frick, coordinator of the Elkhart County Libertarian Party, said that the local group is working to attract a broader base and to get the tenets of the Libertarian philosophies out in front of the public.

Beginning to get things going in November, Frick said that the county party held its first meeting Dec. 2. Future plans include reaching out to other groups that are already in line with the philosophies of the Libertarian Party. "We've been talking to some guns rights groups," Frick said.

In addition, Frick said the group is looking into getting a cable access show.

"Locally, we will hold a health care public policy forum around March 1," the coordinator said. During the forum, the organizers will introduce Project Healthy Choice, the Libertarians answer to the health care crisis. "We really want to get citizens interested in the health care issue," Frick said, adding, "Clinton's plan is one of the biggest invasions of economic and civil liberties to date."

The Clinton plan which sup-



SEAN FRICK

ports the notion that everyone has a right to health care, Frick said, perpetuates the backing of a false right. "The right to health care is a false right because it gives someone the right to the production of someone else," Frick explained. "Every individual is free as long as he doesn't initiate force against someone else," the coordinator added.

The overall hope of the local group, Frick said, is to return to the basic ideas in governing. "It just escapes being no government at all where individuals are free," Frick continued. "It would be nice to see a time when the lead stories in the media aren't about what people are doing in Washington, but about science and business."

In the last election, 107 people voted Libertarian in Elkhart County. "We really don't expect a candidate to be elected yet," Frick admitted, "Right now we're more philosophically oriented than election oriented."

"But we hope someday to have a Libertarian Congress and president," Frick said.

The county organization has been researching the idea of fielding local candidates. "But that possibility would take a massive effort to just get on the ballots," Frick said. The county party will work on the 1994 campaign for the state secretary of state post, supporting candidate Steve Dillon.

Frick joined the Libertarian Party in July of 1993. Believing that the two major parties had no philosophical or rational approach to the way government should be run, Frick said his membership in the Libertarian Party was a logical move given his feeling that it had the right philosophy with respect to the role of the government and the protection of rights.

Investigating how active Libertarians were locally, Frick was brought in contact with the state chair who named the Elkhart Central High School senior the coordinator of the county organization. "We don't have officers yet, but once officers are elected my job as coordinator is done," Frick said.

Those wishing more information about the Libertarian Party can address their questions to P.O. Box 872, Bristol, Ind. 46507.

The Paper (Goshen Edition)
Goshen, Indiana
January 18, 1994

The Modesto Bee
Modesto, California
December 28, 1993

The way we deal with drugs

DeGroat, of Modesto, is a member of the Libertarian Party.

By DON DeGROAT

As one of the "few libertarians" referred to in your editorial about Dr. Elders' controversial idea of treating drug abuse in other than criminal terms, I would like to ask how you came to your conclusion that "decriminalizing use of drugs seems to offer more peril than promise"?

Did you walk into your news room and ask in a loud voice, "How many in here would become drug abusers if it were not criminal?" Then did you ask, "How many would become drug abusers if it were not criminal and was affordable?"

I DOUBT your conclusion was based on even that much research.

A study of recent history shows what happens when government tries to regulate morality as they did with the 18th amendment. Crime and killing became a way of life as fortunes were made by selling something that

Another View

A study of recent history shows what happens when government tries to regulate morality...

costs pennies to make for hundreds of dollars.

Additional lives were lost because of wood alcohol and other substitutes. Normal citizens lost liberties and families due to selective prosecution. Entire police departments and court systems were corrupted due to the amount of money that could be made.

Hello! Does this sound familiar?

As a recent episode of "60 Minutes" showed, your government is the largest drug dealer and the biggest benefactor when it comes to making it and

keeping it illegal.

IT'S GREAT job security and you can make all sorts of side money by confiscating virtually anything you want by declaring it was bought with "drug money." The Rambos of these organizations can bust down your door on a tip from seemingly any source and start shooting.

If it's the wrong house they simply try to get it right the next time.

Many illegal drugs were at one time legal. George Washington grew cannabis to make rope.

HEROIN and cocaine have been around for years and available to the general public in various concoctions.

Countries that treat drug abuse medically rather than criminally (England is a good example) have citizens who go to work each day and contribute to society rather than break into homes and eventually rot in prison.

How about some facts instead of opinions and let your readers decide which offers more solutions?