



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

Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1993

Libertarian Party National Headquarters ♦ 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue SE ♦ Washington DC 20003 ♦ (202) 543-1988

Convention '93: Unity and Progress

More than 600 people attended the national Libertarian Party convention in Salt Lake City in early August, and most seemed to agree afterward that the event was productive and free of acrimony.

"I have never seen a convention that started out with so many divisive issues, and ended up with so much unity," said newly elected National Chair Steve Dasbach.

Leading the list of hot issues that were resolved peacefully was the debate over the pledge and platform.

"The delegates defeated the proposals to eliminate the membership certification and change the platform," said outgoing National Director Stuart Reges. "The membership certification has been retained, and the platform remains virtually unchanged, although the delegates did adopt a plan for a separate 'campaign platform' to be developed by the presidential candidate that would serve as an outreach tool."

In LP officer elections, Dasbach was elected Chair on the first ballot with 57% of the vote, beating Natalie Lloyd of Ohio who won 25%, and NOTA with 17%.

Dasbach said one of his goals as Chair will be to double the number of Libertarians elected to public office by 1995.

"Opportunities lie before us like never before," he said. "Voters are increasingly frustrated, and they are more willing to consider alternatives. We want to be that alternative. By building an even stronger network of state and local parties, we can elect more Libertarians to public office."

Karen Allard was elected Vice Chair, John Famularo won as Secretary, and Hugh Butler was elected Treasurer.

Gene Cisewski was approved by the National Committee as new National Director. Currently the Vice Chair of the Wisconsin LP, Cisewski will join the national office in November, with former National Director Perry Willis helping out during the transition.

The convention received considerable local media attention, but disappointingly little national coverage. C-SPAN later broadcast only one seminar, which featured four elected Libertarians from around the country.

One of the most popular presentations was by U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), who blasted the FDA for their ongoing attempts to ban or restrict the sales of vitamin and herbal supplements. "It's the FDA that needs a warning label, not a bottle of vitamins," said Hatch to spirited applause.

Shadow Cabinet Praised by Virginia Newspaper

The Libertarian Party's Shadow Cabinet won praise last month from a Virginia newspaper — which suggested it was such a good idea that the Republicans and Democrats ought to steal it.

In an August 19th editorial, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* wrote: "Every once in a while the feisty Libertarian Party scores some points for the good guys. Last spring the party announced the formation of a Shadow Cabinet."

The newspaper went on to note that the British use such a system of "shadow government," but speculated that in this country, Republican and Democrats might not be able to adopt such a program because of political pressure.

Despite this, the idea has "advantages," wrote the newspaper, and "...the Libertarians are on to something."

"From time to time, third parties throw a scare into Republicans and Democrats fearful of losing even a small percentage of their usual vote. Historically, the major parties have met the threat by stealing the third-parties' best ideas. If the Republicans and the Democrats pinched the Libertarians' Shadow Cabinet, few voters would press charges," said the *Times-Dispatch*.

Libertarian Contests Special Election in WI

A Libertarian candidate is contesting a special State Senate election in Wisconsin, and could hold the balance of power in that legislative body if he wins.

Jim Rustad, 35, is gathering signatures to get on the ballot to replace Donald Stitt, who reportedly reigned from the State Senate because he was "bored with his job." His resignation left the Senate split 16 to 16 between Republicans and Democrats.

"The voters can pick a Democrat or Republican and get the most junior member of the Senate's freshman class, or they can elect me and get the power that comes with being the tie-breaker in every partisan fight," said Rustad.

Rustad, the Secretary of the Wisconsin LP, blasted Stitt's resignation as "an incredible waste of taxpayer money."

The election is scheduled for September 21st. The Wisconsin LP is soliciting volunteers and funds to help put Rustad "in a powerful position to change state government."



Lynn R. Johnson/The Salt Lake Tribune

GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch rails against government regulation and receives a standing ovation from Libertarians.

Hatch Finds Common Ground With Libertarians

Political Party Shares Views With Republican Senator on Shrinking Government, Taxes

By Tony Semerad
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch appeared to be among soul mates Friday when he spoke to the National Libertarian Party convention in Salt Lake City.

Delegates cheered and applauded Hatch's hourlong speech, as the Republican lambasted recent attempts by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate the vitamin industry.

The event gave a telling indication of the wide range of beliefs Hatch shares with one of America's most radical political parties.

"We have much more agreement than disagreement," Hatch told the nearly 800 Libertarian delegates from 44 states. "I respect you for your activism and for playing a noble and significant role in the political process."

Party officials said it was the first time a seated U.S. senator has addressed members of Libertarian Party, the country's third largest.

"There isn't another politician in the big parties that would do it," said Bob Waldrop, party chairman for Salt Lake County.

The convention runs through Sunday at the Salt Palace.

Libertarian candidates won more than 3 million votes across the country last November. Party members advocate free-

dom for individuals and an end to virtually all forms of government authority.

The senator's views coincide with the party's on rolling back taxes and shrinking government, judging from a lively question-and-answer period after Hatch's morning speech. And both want an end to all gun control and believe the national media is biased against them.

"You're acting like conservative Republicans," Hatch said at one point. "I've enjoyed this as much as anything I've done."

Hatch also shares a Libertarian suspicion of the FDA's recent push for regula-

■ See A-3, Column 2

■ Platform Stays the Same: A-3



Al Hartmann/The Salt Lake Tribune

Lady Libertarian? A Statue of Liberty replica stares across a roomful of delegates at Salt Palace, where Libertarians are holding their national convention this week.

Libertarian Reformers Want to Turn Down Heat In the Party Platform to Attract More Voters

By Tony Semerad
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

A critical battle for the soul of America's third largest political party unfolded Thursday in a Salt Lake City assembly hall.

Delegates to the six-day Libertarian Party convention at the Salt Palace launched into a struggle to drastically alter their radical party platform in hopes of widening voter appeal.

Frustrated with a lackluster showing by Libertarian candidates in the 1992 federal elections, a faction among the 800 party delegates wants to remove large portions of the platform and eliminate a party oath.

Others, many of them veteran Libertarians,

fear the proposed reforms will dilute party principles and risk an exodus of hard-liners — just as dissatisfaction with mainstream political parties is growing.

The dispute has emerged as the hottest issue in the biannual political convention, which continues through Sunday.

A platform vote is expected today.

Established in 1971, the Libertarian Party supports the rights of individuals, free of interference from government authority. Among other things, it favors the abolishment of taxation and most government agencies, le-

■ See A-2, Column 1

■ Continued from A-1

In Utah, the party's candidate for attorney general, J. Michael Coombs, won 17,690 votes, 2 percent of the ballots cast. Libertarians also joined a successful campaign that blocked a tax to fund light rail in Salt Lake Valley.

Members of the reform group, Committee for a Libertarian Majority, believe the party platform is outdated and, in places, inflammatory. Requiring prospective party members to go along with all details in the position paper makes it difficult to build membership, these delegates argued.

The party fielded 750 candidates around the country in 1992 and drew more than 3 million votes. Its presidential hopeful, Andre Marrou, finished a distant fourth behind Bill Clinton, George Bush and independent candidate Ross Perot.

Hatch, Libertarians Find Common Ground

■ Continued from A-1

tory control over dietary supplements. He told delegates the move threatens to rob Americans of the right to decide how they pursue good health.

While the three-term senator has proposed a bill to kill the FDA's efforts, Libertarians want to abolish the FDA outright.

Said Oregon party delegate Paul Smith: "This beast cannot be reformed. It must be slain."

Hatch has taken a high profile in fighting the FDA's attempts to toughen testing and labeling rules on a host of high-potency vitamins, amino acids and herbal remedies. His bill would let supplement manufacturers regulate themselves.

Consumer advocates say the FDA oversight would prevent harmful supplements from flooding the market.

Vitamin and herbal supplements are a \$700 million industry in Utah. Hatch owns a share of Pharmics, a Salt Lake City-based real-estate company that also sells vitamin products.

While they may agree on some issues, Hatch and Libertarians clash on abortion and the government's so-called "war on drugs."

Libertarians favor a woman's right to seek an abortion. Hatch is staunchly against that right.

While Libertarians oppose narcotic use, they want drugs legalized. They see the latest anti-drug campaign and laws that allow seizure of suspected drug dealers' property as serious threats to liberty.

Libertarian Reformers Fail to Get Convention to Tone Down Radical Platform

By Tony Semerad
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Veterans of the Libertarian Party managed Friday to stave off an attempt to tone down the party's radical platform, but would-be reformers promised not to go away.

A faction of mostly younger party delegates sought unsuccessfully to cut out large parts of the platform in hopes of widening appeal to voters and getting more party members elected to office.

Party conservatives argued the

platform is radical for a reason.

"If we didn't have these idealistic principles, who would be here?" asked Ed Clark, the party's 1980 presidential candidate. "There is a great opportunity for us because we have the right ideas and the other parties are weak."

Utah has six convention delegates. Five favor the reforms.

Reformers hoped to do away with a mandatory party-membership oath and eliminate tough language the platform uses to de-

scribe party goals.

Oregon party chairman Richard Burke called the dispute "growing pains." He said the struggle is not over ideology, but rather over how the party presents itself.

He and others vowed to push changes at the party's next convention in 1996.

"The old guard is having difficulty passing the torch to the new guard," he said. "It might not happen now, but it's going to happen."

Libertarians Elect Union Member To Lead Party, Boost Labor Image

By Michael Phillips
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

The Libertarian Party has elected a teachers' union member as its new national chairman, and it's hoping the move boosts the party's image with organized labor.

Steve Dasbach, a high school physical and chemistry teacher from Indiana, said Sunday he will work to dispel the nagging perception that Libertarians are anti-union.

"We're misunderstood," said the 40-year-old member of the National Education Association and former president of the NEA's Fort Wayne, Ind., chapter. "It's government intervention we don't like. We're all for working men and women."

America's third-largest political party ended its six-day national convention at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City on Sunday, with nearly 800 delegates heading home for Labor Day parades and barbecues.

Mr. Dasbach, 40, said he was reared in a pro-labor family and his father still works as a plumber. The new chairman says he joined the union shortly after taking a job at the rural high school where he has taught for 14 years.

Mr. Dasbach says the party does not keep track of how many of its members belong to a union, although he estimated there were hundreds.

"People just assume we're anti-union," said Bill Evers, a Stanford University professor and veteran of the party's platform committee. "But there's much more diversity here than that. Officially, we've adopted a live-and-let-live attitude with labor."

The party, which was established in 1971, supports the rights of individuals and wants to abolish virtually all forms of government authority.

Libertarians support a person's right to join unions, but believe an employer also should have the right to recognize or refuse to recognize unions as collective bargaining agents.

The party believes governments should stay out of labor relations. For instance, it criticizes the use of police during the Great Depression to break strikes and disperse boycotting workers. Nowadays, it opposes state mandates requiring school districts to bargain with teachers' union representatives.

The party also urges the repeal of the National Labor Relations Act and state right-to-work laws, including Utah's, which prohibit employers from making voluntary contracts with unions.

"Utah's right-to-work law is really a right-to-fire law," said Bob Waldrop, Salt Lake County party chairman.

"We're the only major political party working to repeal it."

All Articles: Salt Lake Tribune,
Salt Lake City, Utah
September 1-4, 1993

"Ours is an attempt to bring this party into the '90s," said Joe Hauptmann, an Indiana delegate and political director of the reform movement.

Utah has six delegates to the convention. Five support reform, with the sixth undecided.

Utah delegate Gene Bauman favors stripping the platform to a basic statement of principles. "I

believe in KISS," said the West Valley City trucker and former Salt Lake County party chairman. "Keep It Simple, Stupid."

Party founder David Nolan predicted that discontent with mainstream parties — harnessed in 1992 by Perot — will lead to revolutionary change in this country within the next 10 years.

"This is not the time for us to back down from our radical positions," said Nolan. "If we do that,

we might as well dissolve as a party and go back to being Republicans and Democrats."

He said a lack of professionalism on the part of party members, not radical ideals, is the chief impediment to recruiting members. Often blinded by their passion for ideology, Libertarians can be rude, unkempt and disorganized.

"Our people skills are real bad," Nolan said. "Literally, we need to clean up our act."

The Telegraph

Friday
August 27, 1993
35 cents

A 1993 New England Newspaper Association Newspaper of the Year

S
Souther
* W

► CONCORD

Luce poised to shake up liquor industry

By PAUL TOLME
The Associated Press

CONCORD — Privatization efforts are sweeping the former Soviet republics and prying loose the fingers of government worldwide, but up to now have been unable to crack New Hampshire's liquor industry.

Proponents of turning over jobs traditionally run by government to private industry say New Hampshire, with its small-government bent, is just the place where privatization would take hold.

That hasn't been the case in the liquor industry, over which the state has kept a tight monopoly.

But the winds of change are blowing.

See LUCE, Page 11

Luce

■ From Page 1

Miriam Luce, a Libertarian, has been nominated by Gov. Steve Merrill to the state's Liquor Commission, a powerful state agency that runs liquor stores, sets prices and brings the state hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

Although she hasn't been confirmed, Luce's nomination and Merrill's statements that he wants her to consider privatization "in the mix of issues facing the commission" indicate the liquor industry could be in for at least a fine-tuning.

However, Merrill isn't in favor of a "full-scale" overhaul, said his spokesman, Jim Rivers.

Luce says she wants to be confirmed before predicting what she will do on the job.

"I'm not a revolutionary," she

said. "I'm not going to be pushing any agenda until I know what sort of entity I'm dealing with."

To those who feel the state has no business in an industry that is privately run in many other states, even the hint of change gives hope.

Doug Harrigan, chairman of New Hampshire's Libertarian Party, says the changes could take many forms.

"Certainly I don't have a file that says 'Libertarian Secret Plan for the Privatization of the Liquor Industry,'" Harrigan said. "It's a concept."

A "soft version" could be one where the operation of stores is put out to bid, such as many communities have done with their trash removal.

"But the hardcore advocate would say 'I want government completely out of the business,'" he said.

Dartmouth College professor Dennis Logue might be considered

among this group.

"There is no compelling reason why the government should be in the liquor business," said Logue, who is teaching Western business practices to Russian officials.

"Sure it works fine now," he said of the state's liquor monopoly. "But the fact it works now is not a reason to ignore the alternatives."

Another scenario could be one where the state rents its liquor stores and facilities, keeps tight control of revenues, but lets private industry handle the day-to-day management, he said.

"There is a tremendous body of evidence that shows private industry does these things better," Logue said.

The key for change will depend on whether Luce gets "boxed in" by the political powers that be," Harrigan said.

The state employees union has opposed calls for farming out aspects of the liquor industry to pri-

vate businesses, citing the enormous profits and 450 employees change could jeopardize.

"Why touch the golden goose?" Denis Parker, executive director of the State Employees Association, has said in the past.

Rather than turn over the industry to the private sector, the state could do things such as introduce management tactics used by businesses to increase efficiency, said Chris Henchey, the SEA's chief negotiator.

Others say that's not going far enough.

"The role of the liquor authority is to make money, not employ people," Logue said. "If we start re-deploying our workforce in a more efficient way, I think the economy of the state would benefit."

Harrigan says the union would have no argument if a plan was laid out showing private industry could increase jobs and raise state revenues.

Libertarian chief will go national

Clark to resign state chair to take on marketing chores for growing party

By David Clayton

LAS VEGAS SUN

The chairwoman of the Nevada Libertarian Party will resign to devote more time to national responsibilities.

Tamara Clark said she will step down during the party's state convention this weekend in Tonopah. During her 18 months as chairwoman, the Nevada Libertarian Party has grown from 800 members to nearly 3,000.

Arisingstar in the Libertarian Party nationally, Clark has accepted responsibility for marketing the party throughout the United States. Her new tasks will include testifying on select issues before Congress, supervising all major media functions nationally for the party, and oceans of public speaking.

"My job will be to sell our party to the public," Clark said.

Clark, 29, will continue to live in Las Vegas. In fact, she said, she anticipates another run at the state Senate next year. She received almost 45 percent of the vote last fall in a campaign against Sen. Ray Shaffer, D-Las

"People very much want to have control of their money."

Tamara Clark
State Libertarian chairwoman

Vegas. Next year, she said, she plans to file again in Senate District 2, this time for the seat now held by Sen. Thomas Hickey, D-Las Vegas.

Additionally, Clark said she plans to be active locally next year in a statewide petition drive. The petitioners will represent a coalition of people and political parties who believe taxes have gotten out of control, she said. The petition will seek a law requiring that no tax may be increased without first being approved by the people it affects, through a direct vote.

The petition drive formally will be announced in September and begun in earnest in January.

"People very much want to have control of their money," Clark said. "The government says it isn't imposing new taxes. Maybe, but they're sure raising all the old taxes."



STAFF

TAMARA CLARK says she will be spending time testifying before Congress for the Libertarian Party.

Libertarians believe that a robust, market-driven economy is the key to freedom and that achieving it is possible only by decentralizing and downsizing the government, while simultaneously exalting the entrepreneur.

Clark said if she were to win a seat in the Nevada Senate, she would quit her national duties and, for the four years of her term, devote herself full time to

bringing a Libertarian tilt to the statehouse.

A supporter of term limits, Clark said she would serve only one term and then devote herself to training other Libertarians to go where she had been. She said that next year's race will build on the race she ran last year, in which she raised \$70,000 from mostly individuals, without relying on political action committees. She predicted

a 1994 war chest of \$150,000.

On the national level, she said, the party is on the rise with 500 elected officials and an electorate showing more and more tendency to vote along Libertarian lines.

"I want people to join the party, but what I really want them to do is vote Libertarian," she said. "Many of our principles, once thought so far out, are now becoming common-day beliefs."

Las Vegas Sun, Las Vegas, Nevada
July 22, 1993