



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

# Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

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

## Gingrich challenged by LP member on property forfeiture

*Offers to repeal bill if he gets "details"*

A prominent Libertarian Party member has publicly challenged Newt Gingrich about the unfairness of drug-related asset forfeiture laws — and got the Speaker of the House to agree to “act to remove” the laws if the evidence proves that Americans are having their property seized without being convicted of any crime.

Michael Emerling Cloud, the Projects Manager for the Harry Browne for President campaign, confronted Gingrich following a speech at the Atlanta, Georgia Investment Conference on April 1st.

Before an audience of hundreds of investors, Cloud said, “House Bill 4079, which you introduced in 1990, allows the federal government, under the guise of drug laws, to seize property and to violate financial privacy of people when no crimes have been committed. In 86% of these cases, there is no criminal conviction — and the property is kept by the government. When are you going to remove this law?”

There was “sustained audience applause,” Cloud noted later. “I went for Newt Gingrich’s political jugular.”

Gingrich responded: “If you can get my office a list of examples, I’ll look into it. I’m not aware of an allegation that [in] 86% of cases property is seized without charges. If you want to give me details, I’ll look into it.”

Cloud shot back: “If that’s true, would you act to remove the laws?”

Gingrich: “Sure, if it turns out to be true, I’ll act to remove it.”

LP National Director Perry Willis said the headquarters would be sending evidence about Emerling’s allegations to the Speaker’s office immediately.

“We have a new book written by Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL), which states that 80% of property seized is from people not convicted of any crime, which is very close to number Cloud cited,” said Willis. “Members of Gingrich’s own party *already* know about the unfairness of these laws. That is pretty convincing evidence, so now we’re going to publicly demand that Gingrich live up to his promise, and repeal his asset forfeiture bill.”

## Editors announce: They’re Libertarian!

In a sudden flurry over the past month or so, four editors or columnists at disparate publications around the country have announced that they are Libertarians, or have joined the Libertarian Party.

In the February 1995 issue of *Food R&D*, a food industry trade publication, editor Wendy Kimbrell wrote: “I’ve been a libertarian for most of my adult life. [And] as more Baby Boomers become disillusioned with the role of government, particularly in business, libertarian beliefs are becoming more mainstream.”

In the weekly newspaper *The Journal* in Berlin, New Jersey, editor Jeanne R. Smith wrote on March 17th: “I began listening to and reading about Libertarianism. Then came the election and there were precious few Libertarians on ballots anywhere. Probably because of people like me, who like what we hear but don’t help promote it. So, my dear readers, I’ve become a card-carrying member. I’ve paid my dues and vowed to get out at election time and work for more Libertarians to win seats in Congress and the state legislature.”

In the March issue of the Chicago-based magazine *Surplus Record*, Assistant Editor John D. Scanlan wrote: “In November, the voters made it clear their desire to see government restructured and reduced. If progress is not evident by the next election, the Republicans will lose seats, perhaps to an independent party like Ross Perot’s or (it’s possible!) a rejuvenated Libertarian Party.”

And writing on March 22nd in the *Jackson Hole News* (Nevada), columnist David Swift outlined his political philosophy: “Frugally, I’m a political conservative. Socially, I’m a benevolent anarchist.” In the last election, he noted, “I voted Libertarian. Always have.”

## Libertarians in office up to 143

The number of Libertarians in public office has jumped to 143 this month — another all-time high — with the election of two more LP members in New Hampshire.

Former State Representative Andy Borsa returned to office as a member of the Pelham Town Budget Committee, coming in second in a four-way race. And former LPNH Vice Chair Danielle Donovan won a seat on the Goffstown Budget Committee last month.

# Libertarians seek stadium referendum

## Party official sues county clerk over petition handling

By Victoria Harker  
The Arizona Republic

An official with the Maricopa County chapter of the Libertarian Party has filed a lawsuit against the county clerk for refusing to accept and file a petition seeking a public vote on a stadium issue.

The petition seeks to set a minimum charge on tickets sold for games played in the proposed baseball stadium. It also calls for adding a surcharge of \$6 to each ticket sold. Proceeds from the surcharge would be

used to reduce property taxes.

Tim McDermott, vice chairman of the county chapter of the Libertarian Party, said the rationale for the proposed initiative is to reimburse the taxpayers, in part, for the \$238 million they will pay for the stadium if the county receives a Major League Baseball franchise. The money will be collected through a quarter-cent sales tax, which was approved last year by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, sitting as a stadium district.

McDermott said County Clerk Fran McCarrol refused to officially accept the petition, file it and issue a petition number.

McCarrol, however, said she accepted the petitions for review by the

Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

Deputy County Attorney Jessica Funkhouser said McCarrol was advised not to file the petitions and issue a number because the stadium district is not subject to a county referendum or initiative.

A similar lawsuit was rejected by a judge last year after the Sun City Taxpayers Association tried to seek a referendum through the County Clerk's Office to fight the quarter-cent sales tax.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Marilyn Riddel concluded that the sales tax was authorized by state law and cannot be subjected to a referendum. The tax would be imposed if an investment group, led by Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo,

is awarded a franchise by April. The investors include Phoenix Newspapers Inc., publisher of *The Arizona Republic*.

Riddel also found that the Sun City group failed to use proper legal procedures and did not have standing to challenge the tax.

But McDermott isn't put off by the Sun City defeat.

He said he hopes to find a more-sympathetic judge and one who is "not a baseball fan."

"The thrust here seems to be to freeze the public out to get the franchise at all costs," McDermott said. "The thrust of my position is to show all parties involved, including Major League Baseball, that the people are still in charge."

### SPECIAL REPORT

#### AND THEN THERE'S . . .

## 'Stealth' Candidates Begin Maneuvers

By Chi Chi Sileo

Dissatisfaction within the electorate toward both the Republican and Democratic parties has created an opportunity for third-party candidates to emerge as viable alternatives.

Finally, with all the talk of forming third parties, Harry Browne wants to remind American voters that there already is one. Browne, an investment expert and entrepreneur, is likely to be named the Libertarian presidential candidate at the party's nominating convention in July 1996. If he gets the nomination (and according to a party spokesman, "he's at the No. 1 spot right now"), he can be expected to campaign for the standard Libertarian position: "pro-choice on everything."

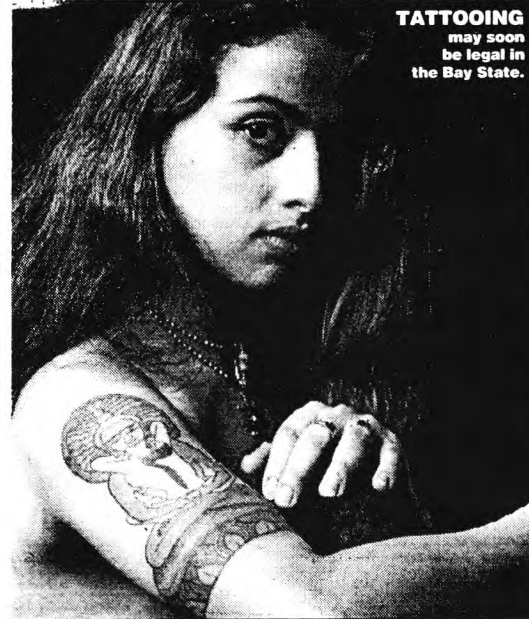
Browne, a Californian, is an investment adviser and author of several best-selling books with titles such as *You Can Profit From a Monetary Crisis* and *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World*. His platform is a solid Libertarian one: He favors drastically reduced government, major cuts in federal income taxes, an end to most business regulations and licensing requirements, unrestricted gun ownership and school vouchers.

There is much talk recently about American voters' increasing frustration with the rigidity of the two-party system and with the antics of parties that don't seem all that different from one another once in power. Whether that conventional wisdom will be reflected at the polls remains to be seen. In the meantime, however, it means that these "fringe" candidates are in a better position to find receptive audiences, laying the groundwork for future success. •

▲ *The Arizona Republic*  
Phoenix, Arizona, March 6, 1995

◀ *Insight Magazine*  
Washington, DC, April 3-10, 1995

► *The Boston Phoenix*  
Boston, Massachusetts, March 10, 1995



**TATTOOING**  
may soon  
be legal in  
the Bay State.

## TO TATTOO OR NOT TO TATTOO?

If you want either "Mom" or a fire-breathing dragon tattooed anywhere on your person, you have to drive to New Hampshire or Rhode Island to do it legally. Since 1962 it's been against the law in Massachusetts.

But maybe not for long. Two bills have been introduced in the legislature this session aimed at legalizing the tattoo business. The proposed laws have the enthusiastic backing of Mass Ink Link, a new lobbying group. Its members include both punk rockers and political conservatives who regard the tattoo ban as an example of big government run amok. Kate Sherrod, executive director of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party and co-chair of Mass Ink Link, says, "It's a perfect example of a personal-freedom issue. . . . It's a decision for the individual."

Mass Ink Link's other co-chair is Joe Bonni, the mohawked editor of the *Pit Report*, a local magazine about punk rock and politics. Bonni says the tattoo ban, which makes it illegal for anyone but a doctor or a dentist to practice the art, was intended to reduce the spread of disease.

But Bonni claims it has had the effect of forcing competent tattoo artists underground or out of state, as well as encouraging amateurs to try to ink themselves.

The proposed new law would provide for state regulation to ensure safe and sterile facilities. "Basically," he says, "the artists want to set up a situation where . . . insurance companies don't have to be afraid of them, the medical community doesn't need to be afraid, and the public doesn't need to be afraid."

The Alliance of Professional Tattooists, a Maryland-based trade group, says Massachusetts is one of only three states with outright bans on tattooing. (The other two are Oklahoma and South Carolina.)

While Sherrod sports only the skin God gave her, Bonni wears one tattoo that he had to travel to New York to get. He plans to celebrate the return of legal tattooing to the Bay State by getting another. "I'm not going to get inked again until it's legal in Massachusetts," he says.

(Mass Ink Link meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at Café Liberty, 497B Mass Ave. in Cambridge.)

— Peter Carbonara

# Libertarians Critical of Ballot Law Change

By **DONN TIBBETTS**  
State House Bureau Chief

**CONCORD** — The woman gubernatorial candidate who earned ballot status for the Libertarian Party in 1990, Miriam Luce was critical yesterday of a proposed law change where her party would subsequently have to achieve 1 percent of the state's registered voters or lose its on ballot position.

"I don't think the citizens feel that it's necessary to have less choice," Luce told The Union Leader. She questioned the additional costs to the taxpayers for an additional party primary that had been cited by Secretary of

State William Gardner. "There may be some incremental costs but that's one of the costs that you incur in a democracy."

"Our reason for being the third party is to remind Republicans what the word Republic means and to remind all politicians that there are other options for voters. I would really hate to see any law that decreases the probability of that option remaining viable, insisted Luce.

Currently, there are 3,330 registered Libertarians out of the state's 665,021 voters. The pending legislation would require the Libertarians and any third party organization that attains on ballot

status by capturing 3 percent of the gubernatorial vote to subsequently attain 1 percent of the registered voters, or about 6,650, to retain on ballot status.

But another former Libertarian gubernatorial hopeful, Calvin Warburton, said he doesn't think that the 1 percent requirement "means an awful lot."

"I think the Libertarian Party needs to increase its base and if it doesn't, it won't be on the ballot," said Warburton.

A retired clergyman and retired U.S. Army officer, Warburton, in 1991, decided to bolt the Republican Party, bringing the Granite State Libertarians national recog-

nition as he at that time became the only Libertarian state representative in the country.

Warburton said he became disenchanted when a bid to kill an income tax failed 170-188 "and 100 of the 188 were Republicans who voted against the party platform."

"The thing is that the time is coming that unless the Libertarian Party increases its registration, it's going to lose its ballot status. I've already told the party that it needs to organize at the town level and that it needs three times the number suggested in this legislation," said Warburton yesterday. He is a former eight-

term state representative.

"In the 1990 election in which Miriam Luce got five percent of the gubernatorial vote and made us a party, there were a lot of Republicans that voted for her. I was one of them. I wasn't intending to become a member of the Libertarian Party at that time, but Republican (Judd) Gregg was a shoo-in and he didn't need my vote," said Warburton.

In the 1990 balloting, Gregg defeated Democrat Joe Grandmaison 177,773 to 101,923 while Luce attracted 14,348 votes.

"The second time around in 1992, it was a closer gubernatorial contest."

## City to host Libertarians

### Annual convention starts here next week

By **STEVE HAAS**  
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

Oshkosh will be the host city for the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin's annual convention April 8.

"This is one of the most important Libertarian events of the year," Ron Emery, state party chairman, said Monday.

Emery said the convention at the Pioneer Inn will begin at 9 a.m. with a business meeting to elect new party officers. The convention will also include speakers on topics including political advertising and private management of municipal services.

The convention will end at 5 p.m.

Robert Poole, publisher of Reason magazine, will be the featured speaker at the banquet at 6:30 p.m. Poole will discuss alternatives to government services as well as efforts to privatize public airports.

Reason magazine and its parent organization, the Reason Foundation, are among the country's leading advocates of privatization of services now provided by government, Emery said.

"With privatization sweeping the country, we're proud to have Poole as our guest

speaker," Emery said.

Jeff Engelmann, chairman of the Fox Valley chapter of the Libertarian party, said having Oshkosh host the convention is the state organization's way of recognizing what Fox Valley Libertarians have done for the party.

He noted that last November's election had Oshkosh Libertarians running for U.S. Senate and for the 53rd state Assembly district seat.

Admission for the entire convention is \$60. Admission for just the dinner and Poole's speech is \$35.

More information can be obtained by calling Engelmann at 235-4587.

#### ▲ *The Manchester Union Leader*

Manchester, New Hampshire

March 8, 1995

#### ◀ *Oshkosh Northwestern*

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

March 28, 1995

#### ▼ *The Journal*

Berlin, New Jersey

March 17, 1995

## ▼ A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

BY JEANNE R. SMITH

### Now it's official

Sister Josephine would be shocked.

Back in my high school history classes, she taught us all about how government works.



About the checks and balances.

The three distinct and separate branches.

The two-party system.

Now, about a billion years later, I've decided she didn't know what she was talking about.

Neither, I'm afraid, do any of the so-called civics

or history courses our kids take today.

The government doesn't check or balance itself.

The branches blend into one another so smoothly it's hard to tell where one's authority begins and the other's leaves off.

And the two-party system???

Poppycock!

I used to refer to them as the Derivocrats and the Republicrats.

That's because beneath all the rhetoric that supposedly separates the two, they are leopards of the same spot.

Beneath all the filibustering and inter-party squabbling, the bedfellows aren't strangers at all.

They conspire together to enrich their own interests and keep their comfortable little nests feathered with tax dollars.

They skirt the real issues that keep Americans struggling to survive economically by putting up phony-baloney smoke screens to keep us sidetracked.

Things like the crime bill.

National health insurance.

Cuts in Social Security.

Cuts in school lunch programs.

Gun control.

Any one of a slew of things that get us all riled up so that we miss what's really going on underneath it all.

Our corporations are still being encouraged to set up shop overseas.

Our currency continues as nothing more than notes of debt.

We continue to flush billions of your money and mine down a bottomless sewer on programs that benefit the few and functions that don't belong in government at all.

And behind it all is the venerated two-party system.

For a long time now, I've wanted to find a better way.

During the 1992 campaign, I almost believed Ross Perot when he claimed to be the salvation of American politics.

Then, I got a good look at where he made his fortune and how, and decided he was just another representation of the bombastic rich guy trying to pass himself off as one of us common folk.

His billions came from government contracts his company procured.

My money and yours made him wealthy, and that easily blew him away.

Then I seriously began to study my alternatives.

Not the wacky, off-the-wall people who believe in everything from white supremacy to no law at all.

But something meaningful that might yet rescue this Republic from the ruin toward which it is hurtling.

I began listening to and reading about Libertarianism.

I found myself nodding in agreement with most of its tenets.

I found myself getting excited about the thought that these people might actually someday be in a position to do what they say they would do.

Protect the Constitution.

Protect Americans' rights against their own government.

Make America strong and sovereign as it once was.

Then came the election and there were precious few Libertarians on ballots anywhere.

Probably because of people like me, who like what we hear but don't help promote it.

So, my dear readers, I've become a card-carrying member.

I've paid my dues and vowed to get out at election time and work for more Libertarians to win seats in Congress and the state legislature.

Someone has to change this country, folks.

And, believe me, the two-party system won't do it.



# Critics: Private sector can do public TV's job

By ELIZABETH LEE  
Journal staff writer

So what would happen if public broadcasting lost its federal subsidy? Could it stay on the air?

Citizens for a Sound Economy, a conservative think tank based in Washington, addressed those questions in a report titled "Time for Big Bird To Leave the Nest: Privatizing Public Television." The report's author, Bryan Riley, argued TV channels like Arts & Entertainment and The Learning Channel have made public broadcasting unnecessary.

"With the explosion of cable television in recent years giving Americans more choices than ever, public television's original rationale no longer exists," the paper, published March 6, states.

But according to PBS research estimates, the most widely viewed cable network, ESPN, only reaches 60 percent of the public with television sets. Public television signals reach 99 percent, according to the Public Broadcasting Service.

The questions about funding go deeper than whether public broadcasting is populist or elitist. Some argue that the government has no business funding public broadcasting in the first place, regardless of its merits.

Richard Sincere said he has been a con-

tributing member of WETA for at least six years.

But Sincere, formerly chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia, said, "I think the government should get out of the business of funding broadcasting."

"They can do quite well getting their funding from members of the public voluntarily, rather than taking it involuntarily from all taxpayers," Sincere said. "There's no reason they should have to take money from taxpayers at a time of rising [national] debt."

According to a report by Ronald D. Utt for the conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's fiscal 1995 funding of \$285 million had increased by 94 percent since 1985. That compares to a 60 percent increase in the overall federal budget, the report said.

Depending on whom you ask, CPB's budget is either the equivalent of the "entire income tax payments of more than 50,000 Americans," according to Citizens for a Sound Economy, or the equivalent of \$1.09 per person per year, according to CPB.

Regardless of how you slice it, the federal government can no longer afford to fund public broadcasting, said Libertarian Party member John Buckley. (Buckley is related to William Buckley, whose program "Fr-

ing Line" appears on PBS.)

"Even if you say, 'Well, [the subsidy] is only 5 cents [per person] . . . when you come up with a million federal programs, it adds up to a lot of money," John Buckley said. "It's not paltry. When they're running billions of dollars of deficit, something's got to give."

One option is liberalizing advertising rules for public broadcasting. In 1982, about 10 public television stations were chosen from a pool of applicants to participate in an 18-month experiment, which allowed advertising on air. No area stations were selected.

The stations that advertised found they could raise "substantial revenues," according to Edward Colman, director of policy development and planning at CPB. But he said that it was not clear whether advertising would be an adequate substitute for underwriting if stations were privatized.

WETA (Channel 26) did not apply to participate in the experiment, said Elizabeth Campbell, founder and vice president of community affairs. "We felt it would put us in competition with commercial television, getting ads," she said. "We didn't want to be tainted. And we've made it all these years without it."

"I would prefer not to have [commercial clusters]," she said. "The mission of public

broadcasting is so important . . . we must keep it as pure as we can, free from advertising."

With its strong membership base, foundation grants and corporate underwriting — together they make up more than 60 percent of the budget — WETA can afford to be pure, more so than others.

Ed Jones, general manager at WHMM (Channel 32) at Howard University, said he would like to see looser restrictions on corporate underwriting — changing the rules so that his television station could run "image spots" at the beginning and end of programs or even offer plugs for underwriters.

"If there was some language that would allow an advertiser or company to talk about their services in more detail, that opens up opportunities," he said. "That's going to make public television more attractive to potential underwriters or advertisers."

So, public broadcasting stations may soon find themselves confronted with the same dilemmas as commercial broadcasters and the print media.

"The thing they don't want to do is run commercials inside programs," said Roger A. McIntosh, general manager of WNVN and WNCV television in Northern Virginia. If that is done, he said, "you destroy the difference between public and commercial

television. We're not looking to be in that business."

WNVN and WNCV would be forced to consider reducing its membership in PBS, reducing its on-air time and reducing staff if federal CPB funds were completely withdrawn, he said.

Tim Graham, associate editor of the conservative publication, "Media Watch," calls the Big Bird/Barney appeals "side issues."

"It's obviously the first refuge of people who want to preserve the funding," Graham said. "Pointing to the heavy sales of licensed products from these television shows, Graham said that public television needs to use more business savvy to reap greater profits from popular programs. Name recognition gained from public broadcasting has helped fuel the careers of political pundits and journalists, he said, who have gone on to make money through speech fees or book sales."

"What they should be doing is saying, 'OK, Bill Moyers, you pay us to put your show on the air,'" Graham said. "Withdrawal of federal funding is the only thing that's going to force them to explore these avenues."

"In this debate . . . I'm even pessimistic that the puny cuts they've passed are going to get through," Graham said.

▲ *The Montgomery Journal*  
Rockville, Maryland, March 16, 1995

► *The National Review*  
New York, New York, April 3, 1995

▼ *The Wall Street Journal Classroom Edition*  
Princeton, New Jersey, March 1995

■ Roger MacBride, who died on March 5, the only man ever to cast a vote for the Libertarian Party in the Electoral College, was also the guardian of Laura Ingalls Wilder's series of "Little House" books. As America pulls back from forty years of liberalism, the Libertarians may do better at the polls.



Van Hower