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Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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100 hosts say: Include Browne in prez. debates

The number of radio talk show hosts demanding that LP presidential candidate Harry Browne be included in the debates has climbed past the 100 mark — with new support coming from industry heavyweights like syndicated radio personalities Michael Reagan and Hugh Downs.

“Momentum is building,” said Browne’s campaign director Sharon Ayres. “It’s still an uphill battle to get into the debates, but we’ve got more support than we expected at this point — and the pace seems to be accelerating.”

By the latest count, 36 talk show hosts have endorsed Browne for president and an additional 64 have called for his inclusion in the presidential debates.

“These endorsements are creating a drumbeat of demand to see Harry Browne in the debates,” said Ayres.

The list of talk radio hosts rallying behind Browne reads like a “Who’s Who” of the industry: David Brudnoy on WBZ (Boston); “Lionel” on WABC (New York); syndicated host Lowell Ponte; Zoh Hieronimus on WCBM (Baltimore); and Carl Wigglesworth on WOAI (San Antonio).

Influential hosts calling for Browne to be invited to the debates include Gene Burns on KGO (San Francisco); syndicated hosts Oliver North, Art Bell, and Michael Reagan; Mary Matalin on the CBS Radio Network; Neal Boortz on WSB (Atlanta); Irv Homer on WWDB (Philadelphia); Lee Mirabel on KMPC (Los Angeles); and the nationally syndicated humorist “GreaseMan.”

Hugh Downs from 20/20

Another recent addition to the list is Hugh Downs, a host of the popular 20/20 TV news program and commentator on the ABC Radio Network. He said on August 2nd: “Some Americans who have read [Harry Browne’s] book *Why Government Doesn’t Work* are wondering why they ever voted for those other two parties. Let’s hope the debates in October include people like . . . the Libertarian candidate Harry Browne.”

Republican Mary Matalin ended her syndicated show by chanting, “We want Harry Browne in the debates!”

Browne’s full-tilt pace on the talk-radio circuit — up to 10 shows a day — also propelled him into the July *Talkers* magazine “Talkers Ten” as the fifth most talked about man in America. Browne placed just behind Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Ross Perot, and Richard Lamm on the list of individuals most often discussed on radio talk shows.

Three more talk radio hosts are Libertarian Party members

Three new voices have joined the growing chorus of libertarian talk radio show hosts — but unlike some hosts who merely expound the libertarian philosophy, all three are card-carrying members of the Libertarian Party.

Most prominent is Zoh Hieronimus, a long-time talk show host in Baltimore, MD, who joined the party in July. Moving in the other direction — from Libertarian to talk show host — were two LP State Chairs, Wayne Parker in Louisiana and Robert Jones in Arkansas, who parlayed their Libertarian beliefs into radio programs.



> **Zoh Hieronimus** made the loudest splash as a new Libertarian talk show host. Broadcasting from the floor of the party’s national convention in Washington, DC, she joined the party on the air on July 5th.

To her listening audience, Hieronimus said, “I hope that many of you will realize as I have that this is *the* third party.” Hieronimus can be heard on WCBM AM-680 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, M-F.

> In Louisiana, **Wayne Parker** took a more convoluted route to the job. The Chairman of the Louisiana LP since 1994, Parker became a full-time talk show host in early 1996, following a successful career as an instructor at a nuclear power plant. Although becoming a radio talk show host on a small station in a small market was a financially risky move, Parker said he has no regrets.

“I realized that I had a unique opportunity to do more with my life than [make] money,” he said. “I figured I would much rather look back on my life and feel I’d accomplished something meaningful.” His show can be heard on KTLD AM-1110 in Alexandria from 4:00 to 5:00 pm M-F, and 7:00 to 8:00 am Saturday.

> In Arkansas, **Robert Jones** said his entree into talk radio was a series of phone calls to a local radio program.

Jones, the State Chair of the Arkansas LP since 1995, said, “I had been a caller to a show [on KFAY in Fayetteville]. I got very friendly with the host, and he asked me to fill in for him. The response was so good, they asked me if I wanted my own show.”

Keeping his full-time real-estate job, Jones accepted the offer for a daily one-hour show, starting on July 3rd. Jones said he takes a non-confrontational approach as a talk show host. “What I do is pick up a hot story and put a Libertarian spin on it,” he said. His show can be heard on KFAY AM-1030 from 7:00 to 8:00 am, M-F.

CHUCK
SWEENY

Trying to turn down Uncle Sam isn't easy

To Harry Browne, Uncle Sam is like the bartender who insists on buying you a free drink, even though you've told him no.

Browne is the presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party. He would abolish the income tax and limit the government's role to supplying a military force and some judges here and there. Libertarians disdain both major parties, saying the Republicans try to regulate behavior while the Democrats pick pockets.

IN SOME STATES, Browne had difficulty getting on primary ballots this spring because the Libertarians, with just 175 elected officeholders nationwide, aren't seen as major political players in most precincts. Browne also has had trouble getting included in presidential debates. The nongovernment commission regulating those debates is chaired by former leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties, and Browne considers it biased against third parties.

Browne figured that if he could get Uncle Sam to certify him qualified to receive federal matching campaign funds, it would signal to debate planners that his campaign had significant support throughout the country.

To qualify, a candidate must have raised a minimum of \$100,000, collected from donors in at least 20 states. Browne has raised \$800,000 from throughout the country, his campaign says.

Browne told the Federal Election Commission he didn't want the money; it was the certification that was important to him.

But the FEC turned Browne down, said Bill Winter, director of communications for the na-

tional Libertarian Party.

"They said if they were to certify Harry Browne as qualified, he must take the money and at the same time become eligible for their high level of auditing scrutiny," Winter said.

"They said he couldn't give the money back."

When Browne asked if he could take the money, then distribute it directly to taxpayers, "they deemed that illegal."

The FEC bureaucrats were amazed that a candidate would actually ask to become qualified to receive money he did not want, Winter said. When a Browne campaigner asked FEC staffers about not taking the cash, "they couldn't understand the concept. They said no candidate had ever done that," Winter said. Indeed, FEC records show that Pat Robertson, who also fashioned himself as an anti-government candidate, took \$9 million in matching funds when he sought the GOP nomination in 1988.

BROWNE HAS not formally requested FEC funds, Winter said Monday, "and his campaign is examining its legal options."

The election commission doesn't necessarily oppose what Browne wants to do, FEC spokesman Ian Stirton said, "but the law says candidates who apply for public funds must agree to set up their books in a certain way so they can be audited, and they also have to agree to overall spending limits. (Browne) did not want to do that."

The FEC matches, dollar-for-dollar, individual contributions up to \$250 per donation, Stirton said.

The most a presidential candidate can possibly get is about \$30 million.

The money comes from a \$3 check-off on income tax forms. In 1980, nearly 29 percent of tax filers checked the box; by 1994 just 13 percent did.

Of course, if Harry Browne were to become president, the tax check-off would disappear, along with the tax return and Mr. Stirton's job.

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America already has third political party

It is too early to say whether Dick Lamm will get the presidential nomination of the Reform Party or whether Ross Perot — who now eagerly says if he's asked, he'll run — will reclaim what has been very much Lamm's personal creation. But it is clear that Lamm will not be mounting a "third party" candidacy. America already has a third party, the Libertarian Party. A Lamm-led Reform Party would be a fourth.

The Libertarian Party is 25 years old but has finally grown from a debating society to a serious forum from which to challenge the Democratic passion for income redistribution and the Republican ardor for controlling the personal lives of the citizenry. Its candidate, Harry Browne, has already qualified for the ballot in 33 states and seems able to qualify in all 50.

It seems unlikely that the Reform Party can qualify for federal matching funds with Lamm as its nominee. Yet the Libertarians have already qualified for such funds. But though they have earned matching funds, they have scorned them as a "federal handout." However, that principled favor to the taxpayers in no way undermines the fact that they have met this key standard of political legitimacy.

We are not suggesting Browne has a realistic chance to win this election — but then, we doubt that Lamm does, either. We are saluting the Libertarians for doing what establishment voices have always urged dissenters to do — work within the system. The Libertarians have done the grass-roots work in 50 states to win the right to be heard and to place about 100 Libertarians in state and local offices. They have proven reasonably strong in New Jersey.

In contrast, while its ranks are filled mainly by supporters of Perot's 1992 presidential bid, the Reform Party has existed under that name only for about one year. If it nominates Perot, he will be eligible for federal matching funds based upon his performance on 50 state ballots in 1992 — not the performance of the then non-existent Reform Party. That also explains why Lamm would probably not be eligible for federal funding if he is the Reform Party candidate in 1996 — unlike Perot, Lamm has no personal electoral record to make up for the lack of a national Reform Party in 1992.

These facts should be borne in mind when it comes time to set this fall's presidential debates. As a party, the Libertarians have clearly earned inclusion in those debates. The fledgling Reform Party has not. It would be fair to set 1996 debates between Clinton, Dole, and Browne as representatives of the only parties to meet the present yardsticks for national recognition. If Perot is the Reform Party nominee, it is equally clear that the debates should be four-way — again, because of Perot's personal showing in 1992.

If Lamm is the Reform Party nominee, the argument for including him in a four-way debate is considerably weaker — since neither he nor his party would have a national track record. But in any event, it would be a travesty to put a relative dilettante like Lamm into three-way presidential debates with Clinton and Dole while excluding a candidate — Browne — who has played by the rules he sincerely seeks to change.

▲ *The Rockford Register Star*, Rockford, Illinois, July 9, 1996

► *The Bridgeton Evening News*, Bridgeton, New Jersey, July 13, 1996

You say you want a revolution?

■ The Libertarian Party wants to free Americans from the tyranny of the federal government.

By HOWARD TROXLER
Times Political Editor

You say you're conservative? Then how would you like a political party that supports:

Pulling out of the United Nations. A balanced-budget amendment. Cutting off tax money for the arts and PBS. Repealing the capital-gains tax, all gun laws and the minimum wage.

Not enough?

How about abolishing OSHA, the departments of Energy, Education and Agriculture and the Postal Service? How about getting the government out of education:

Now, *that's* conservative.

As for you liberals out there — how about a political party that acknowledges the "war on drugs" is a farce that needs to end? A party that supports the absolute right to abortion?

A party that supports wide-open free speech (yes, including flag-burning), open borders, the repeal of all obscenity and gambling laws? The repeal of all laws governing consensual sex between adults, including prostitution?

Now, *that's* liberal.

Both of these descriptions fit the Libertarian Party, which gavel its national convention to order on Independence Day in Washington, D.C. Preconvention ceremonies begin tonight.

Just like the Republicans and Democrats, the Libertarians will nominate a candidate for president and adopt a party platform. The party was on the presidential ballot in all 50 states in 1992 and hopes to be the first third party to do it two elections in a row in 1996.

The likely nominee is Harry M. Browne, 62, of Nashville, Tenn., a financial consultant who has never run for public office. He is the author of a book titled *Why Government Doesn't Work*.

"Libertarians love the Fourth of July," said Bill Winter, party director of communications. "It's our favorite holiday."

Just as the founders threw off the tyranny of the British, Libertarians want to launch a peaceful revolution to "free the country from the tyranny of the federal government," Winter said.

The central theme of Libertarianism is the reduction of government power and the return of personal responsibility. Instead of a liberal-conservative spectrum, Libertarians use a four-cornered test: liberal, conservative, authoritarian and libertarian.

For example, a liberal who favors strict laws against guns would be authoritarian. But so would a conservative who favors

strict laws against abortion.

It's hard to break the habit of relying on government, Winter said. "Even if someone hates the terrible job the government is doing in one particular area, they have an almost religious faith the same government can do a good job somewhere else," he said.

Although Libertarians like to describe themselves as "America's most successful third party," they have a long way to go.

In 1992, the party's candidate for president, Andre V. Marrou, finished a distant fourth. Bill Clinton got 44.9-million votes, George Bush 39.1-million, Ross Perot 19.7-million and Marrou 291,627.

In 1994, Libertarians ran 89 candidates for the U.S. House, 15 for the U.S. Senate and 15 for governorships. None was elected, but in all they drew 2.2-million votes.

Nationwide, there are about 125,000 voters registered as Libertarian, Winter said. In Florida, there are about 4,500, compared to 3.6-million Democrats and 3.2-million Republicans.

Some 731 delegates from all 50 states will gather for the convention, which will be televised on C-SPAN starting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, 4 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday, when the delegates will officially nominate their candidate for president.

The Libertarian Party platform, a "self-test" to determine your political philosophy, is on the World Wide Web at <http://www.lp.org/lp/>

Talk it up

The Libertarian Party is touting a list compiled by Talkers Magazine that shows Harry Browne, the party's presidential candidate, as ranking fifth among individuals most often discussed on radio talk shows.

Topping the list were President Clinton, Bob Dole, Ross Perot and Richard D. Lamm, in that order. The magazine counted references from hosts and callers from June 17 to July 15.

"Isn't it odd that Harry Browne is dominating talk radio while his campaign continues to be overlooked by mainstream newspapers and television news?" Browne campaign director Sharon Ayres said in a press release.

▲ (TOP) *St. Petersburg Times*
St. Petersburg, Florida
July 3, 1996

▲ (BOTTOM) *The Washington Times*
Washington, DC
July 31, 1996

► *The Lima News*
Lima, Ohio
July 16, 1996

Libertarian offers principled choice

For months I've been searching for that rarest of creatures: a Republican who really wants Bob Dole to be president. Plenty oppose Bill Clinton. I'm looking for someone who is truly and genuinely convinced that a President Dole is just what America needs.

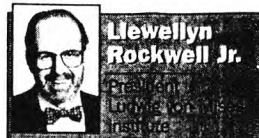
Guess what? That person doesn't seem to exist. Positive that four years of Dole would not save the world — nor four more years of Clinton end it — lifelong party boosters have shifted their attention toward keeping the Congress. After all, Dole backed Clinton's worst court nominees. He's supported higher taxes his whole life. He's backed every major expansion of government power, and bragged about it. And on foreign policy, he's largely indistinguishable from Clinton, except that Dole wants to spend more money.

In retrospect, even Bob Dole's decision to leave the Senate was a mistake. As a "private citizen," he's practically a non-entity: no principles, no passion, no persuasiveness. Even his technically correct pronouncements (e.g. on tobacco) seem to be scripted by enemies.

If there's no good reason for average Republicans to walk a block for Dole, and no moral justification to vote for Clinton, what to do? Some are thinking of declaring their independence at the presidential level.

That's where the Libertarian Party comes in. In its two-day nominating convention, broadcast on C-SPAN, the delegates picked best-selling investment author Harry Browne. It's immediately obvious that this man is no crank. He looks and sounds like a senior senator, and his message fits the political mood of the times.

Alone among candidates, Browne



points to the federal government as public enemy number one. And his opposition is not selective. He's as opposed to the warfare state (by far the biggest in the world) as he is to the welfare state.

The current U.S. budget is \$1.6 trillion; Browne would like to cut it across the board by 90 percent, just for starters. But is that too little to run the government? In 1967, LBJ fought Vietnam — and made the welfare state permanent — on a federal budget of \$157 billion.

The word libertarian sometimes alarms people because it makes them think of sex and drugs. But Harry Browne is just an old-fashioned constitutionalist. He favors the Bill of Rights as it was originally written: to restrict the power of the feds to invade our homes, businesses and towns.

In his acceptance speech, he emphasized the 10th Amendment as the key to understanding the proper role of the federal government. It should do only what the Constitution allows it to do; all else should be left to the states and the people.

By now, every president promises to cut government, but as Browne shows in his latest book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, the budget still goes up year after year, even with the present

"revolutionary" Congress. This is partly due to a lack of political will, and to the immense power of special interests.

In Browne's view, the failure is also due to strategic error. We'll never cut government, he says, so long as Washington legislates taxing and spending as distinct categories. Tax cutters get blasted for increasing the deficit; some people panic at the loss of benefits.

As president, Brown would tie spending cuts directly to tax cuts. People could see that in giving up benefits, they would also be gaining tax breaks. He would institute a dollar for dollar swap: Give up your benefits and never pay income tax again.

That still leaves the deficit. Here Browne focuses on something no one else wants to discuss: federal assets worth \$12 trillion. In his "Freedom Budget," these would be put on the market. Then we could balance the budget immediately, abolish the income tax, privatize Social Security, bring the troops home and reduce the government to a constitutional size.

No pie-in-the-sky ideologue, Brown spells out some extremely practical steps toward the goal nearly all Americans vote for but never get: smaller government. You know he's serious: He says he will use the power of the presidency to pardon all tax resisters.

There's a bracing quality to Browne's campaign, and with the Internet and talk radio he's garnered unexpected attention. He could pick up suburban free enterprisers who backed Steve Forbes in the Republican primaries. If they leave Dole in any numbers, it would send just the message the Republicans need to hear.

Libertarian faces long odds — and she knows it

Greenville's Jorgensen wants at least to get out her message

STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

COLUMBIA — Jo Jorgensen says if it weren't for the Libertarian Party, she wouldn't bother to vote. "I was offended even in high school that a few elected elite got to make decisions for the rest of us," said the 39-year-old Greenville woman.

Now Jorgensen, owner and president of a computer software duplication company, hopes to make a difference.

Recently, the Libertarians nominated her for vice president. She knows her party doesn't stand much of a chance, but she intends to get out her message: Government is best that governs least.

Jorgensen and presidential candidate Harry Browne are on the ballot in 33 states. They hope to be on all 50 ballots in a month or so.

The Libertarians' philosophy suits many conservative voters,

who swept Republicans into Congress and state offices in 1994 on a platform of shrinking government.

Some, like Jorgensen, admit to astronomical odds against winning this year. But Jorgensen — who captured 2.2 percent of the vote in her 1992 congressional race against Bob Inglis in South Carolina — pursues the dream to help it come true in four years, or eight, or 20.

"People out there want what we have to offer," Jorgensen said. "As people begin realizing Republicans do not deliver on their promises, we'll be the only ones offering it."

Libertarians, however, have never won more than 1.1 percent in a presidential race. Their zeal for minimal government regulation leads to positions that scare off mainstream voters. They would:

- Abolish the IRS and income taxes.
- Legalize drugs.
- Allow gay marriages.
- Allow unlimited gun ownership.
- Eliminate or privatize about 95 percent of the federal government, which they say should operate only courts, police and the military.

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Libertarians promising

What do John Quincy Adams, William Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore and Andrew Johnson have in common? All were elected president and none of these six men were members of either the Democratic or Republican party.



Joseph Perkins
OPINION

The most serious of all the third-party candidates is author-turned-politician Harry Browne, who tops the ticket for the Libertarian Party.

Browne is different because the 25-year-old Libertarian Party is here to stay. It is the first third party in American history that has managed to appear on all 50 state ballots two presidential elections in a row. And not only are Libertarians vying for the highest office in the land, but they're also running for more than 1,000 other state and local offices around the country.

The Libertarian Party is determined to have a meaningful and lasting influence on the American political system. And while candidate Browne hardly expects to best Clinton or Dole at the polls, he hopes to win enough votes to make the Libertarians a viable third party.

Browne hopes to be Rupert Murdoch's political equivalent, muscling his upstart party in with the big boys. And much like Murdoch carved out a niche for his fourth network by counter-programming against the three older networks, Browne is building a voter base for his third party by offering a platform that is radically different from those of Republicans and Democrats.

Indeed, in his acceptance speech at the Libertarian Party convention earlier this month (which C-SPAN brought to millions of viewers), Browne posed a question that would never be uttered by candidates Clinton or Dole. "Would you be willing to give up your favorite government programs if it meant you would never again have to pay income tax?"

That's right. While the Republicans and (less so) Democrats promise to slow the growth in certain government programs, and to "flatten" the tax system somewhat, Browne and the Libertarians aim to "get the federal government out of everything not specified in the Constitution." That would enable the party to deliver "huge tax cuts now, huge spending cuts now, (and) a balanced budget now."

The Libertarians believe that the only way to save the federal government is to strip it bare. Indeed, says Browne, "Government has failed. Government reforms have failed. Government politicians have failed. Government doesn't work."

"So we don't want to reform the federal government. We don't want to slow its growth. We don't want to improve management of it. We want to reduce it to the absolute minimum possible."

To Republican and Democratic party incrementalists, the Libertarians sound like political revolutionaries. But that's precisely the point, says Browne. To return to the same philosophy of governance that this nation's founders fought and died for.

While most Americans would consider the Libertarians' economic policies a little too radical for their taste, and many would consider their social policies (like drug legalization and homosexual marriages) much too libertine, surveys show that millions of Americans support the party's positions on a range of issues.

That's why it will be quite interesting to see what will happen if candidate Browne can get his poll numbers up to maybe 10 percent. That would merit an invitation to participate in the fall presidential debates with Democrat Clinton and Republican Dole.

And who knows, by the next presidential election, in 2000, the Democrats and Republicans might very well find the Libertarians a third party to be reckoned with.

Joseph Perkins is a columnist for The San Diego Union-Tribune.

CANDIDATE

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"I was raised with this individualistic mentality. You do it yourself. You don't wait around for a hand-out. You take matters into your own hands," Jorgensen said.

There may be a place for today's minor parties to influence American political discourse, even begin electing a candidate or two, "but not in 1996," said Ricky Hill, chairman of the political science department at South Carolina State University.

"For them to become a significant social force, they'll have to develop over the long run, coalescing into more broad-based participation," Hill said of today's Libertarian, Reform, Natural Law, and Green parties, which will be sprin-

kled across November's ballots.

"The party system is so ingrained in America," Hill said, that "voters automatically genuflect to it," making the impact of minor party contenders a short-lived element at best.

Such predictions don't bother Libertarians like Jorgensen. She was a virtual unknown in the Libertarian Party two years ago. But in the past 18 months, she has attended party conventions in 31 states, shaking hands and giving speeches, slowly persuading party members to support her.

"Some of the states I'd call would say, 'Who are you, and why should we have you come talk to us?'" Jorgensen said. "But after the first few conventions, I made a name for myself, and I had states calling and wanting to book me."

▲ *The Bucks County Courier-Times*, Levittown, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1996

◀ *The News*, Greenville, South Carolina, July 14, 1996