

Apr 1993



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# LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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

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## Congressman Penny Introduces Libertarian-Friendly Bills

Congressman Tim Penny (D, Minnesota) introduced two bills on April 20th that are of great interest to the Libertarian Party. One would increase participation of third party candidates in presidential debates while the other would ease ballot access restrictions.

The "Democracy in Presidential Debates Act of 1993" (HR1753) would include third party candidates in presidential debates without coercing private individuals or groups. It places the burden on those candidates who accept federal funds for their campaigns.

During the primary season, any candidate receiving matching funds would be required to debate all other candidates receiving matching funds. During the general election, candidates who receive public financing would be required to debate all significant candidates at least twice ("significant" meaning those who have raised \$500,000 and are on the ballot in 40 states). Thus, in the last election, Bush and Clinton would have had to debate Andre Marrou twice. Perot could have stayed away and the Commission on Presidential Debates could have refused to sponsor the debates, but Bush and Clinton would have had to debate us somewhere.

The "Fair Elections Act of 1993" (HR1755) would require states to place on the ballot any House candidate who has obtained signatures equal to one-half of one-percent of the number of persons voting in the previous election and any Senate or Presidential candidate who has obtained one-tenth of one-percent (in both cases, there is a 1000 signature minimum). This would significantly open up the ballot to all candidates.

The debates bill has a hearing scheduled for May 20th. According to ballot access expert Richard Winger, this is the first time Congress

has ever held a hearing to consider a bill whose primary intent is to benefit third parties.

We encourage you to contact your representatives in Congress to express your support. LP leaders are discussing other ways that we can help lobby for the passage of these bills. Expect to hear more soon.

## LP Opposes FEC Regulations

In letters written by General Counsel Bill Hall and Treasurer Bill Redpath and in testimony provided by National Director Stuart Reges, the Libertarian Party expressed its strong opposition to new burdens the Federal Election Commission proposes to place on political committees.

The FEC proposes that treasurers be required to report all employer and occupation information known to them, even if it is not provided by the donor. Bill Redpath pointed out that this would estrange him from his fellow libertarians who would resent him for supplying information that they wished to keep private.

The FEC also proposes that parties make a separate follow-up with donors who give over \$200 in a year without providing employer and occupation information. Stuart Reges explained how the current requirements are already too burdensome and provided data that suggests that such follow-ups would produce few results.

The Commissioners voiced concern about the issues raised by the LP and offered to explore them further. Vice Chairman Trevor Potter invited Stuart Reges to set up a follow-up meeting to discuss ways the LP can reduce its workload under the existing regulations and steps the FEC might take to reduce the burden on third parties in general.

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# Third-party candidate wants equal exposure

By John Patrick Hunter

Associate Editor, *The Capital Times*

Jeffrey D. Friebert of Oregon, the Libertarian candidate in the April 6 race for the state Senate 27th District seat, says his third-party status has caused the Madison media to largely ignore him.

Newspapers and broadcast stations have focused attention on Republican Jonathan Barry and Democratic state Rep. Joe Wineke, Friebert says.

The 40-year-old UW-Madison Law School graduate said that even though he does not expect to win, the Libertarian Party in Wisconsin deserves notice.

Friebert said he comes from a left-wing Democratic Party background and his platform reflects that heritage — he favors legalization of drugs, judicial reform, improvement of educational opportunities and protection of the environment.

He also supports the National Rifle Association's position on handgun restrictions and opposes Mayor Paul Soglin's gun ban plan.

"It is the right of American citizens to bear arms without restrictions from government. I think an outright confiscation and criminalization of law-abiding gun owners is not only unconstitutional but unworkable," he said.

Eighty percent of the street crimes stem from drug use, Friebert said, explaining that his platform advocates legalization of drugs.

"Not because drugs are wonderful or good or safe, but because they do far less damage than what the laws are doing right now," Friebert said in a



RICH RYGH/THE CAPITAL TIMES

**Libertarian candidate Jeffrey Friebert doesn't expect to win a seat in the state Senate but he hopes to raise issues of individual freedom.**

telephone interview from his Janesville office.

The drug laws, he said, are resulting in an 80 percent increase in crimes related to drugs. Street crimes are escalating into an increase in gun use from handguns to automatic weapons, he added.

Friebert said the solution to street crimes is not to take guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens. It is the "illegalization" of drugs that is responsible for the vast increase in street crime violence, he said.

The Oregon lawyer works for a Janesville-based non-profit corporation that provides prepaid legal services for the General Motors union workers at the Janesville auto plant.

Friebert said he cannot pre-

dict whether Barry or Wineke will win the election. He said both of them have spent most of their time talking about property taxes.

"That's the only issue I have heard discussed. I haven't heard how they intend to do it or what their plans are outside of property taxes," he said. "I think I am the only one who has talked about anything outside of property taxes."

Wineke, Friebert said, has been talking about property taxes ever since he first got into politics a decade ago, "and nothing has changed. My property taxes have gone up every year. And so have the taxes of people in the rest of the district."

The Capital Times - Mar 20, 1993  
Madison, WI

# Agreement Temporarily Keeps Libertarian Party Alive in N.C.

■ Group challenges laws that would have allowed changing voting status to unaffiliated

By Ian Hoffman  
JOURNAL REPORTER

GREENSBORO

A federal judge signed an agreement yesterday that temporarily protects the Libertarian Party from official extinction in North Carolina.

"At least for now, the state cannot strip us of our voting rights," said Scott McLaughlin, the party's candidate for governor in 1992.

McLaughlin said that the agreement clears the way for Libertarians to file for election this year to city councils and other municipal seats.

The state and national Libertarian parties mounted a constitutional challenge Monday to state laws that, in part, would have allowed the State Board of Elections to change Libertarians into unaffiliated voters yesterday.

Attorneys for the party and the state elections board reached an agreement, however, that temporarily bars elections officials from changing the voter registrations.

The agreement, signed yesterday by Judge Eugene A. Gordon of U.S. District Court, effectively preserves the party's official recognition for 90 days or until a federal judge decides the suit.

Under state law, the state Libertarian Party — first certified last May — ceased to exist in November by failing to garner 10 percent of the votes in the 1992 elections for governor or president. The law says that the state board can "terminate" a political party 90 days after the board certifies the election results.

Libertarians are fighting that law but are taking aim in particular at another provision that they say puts them at a financial and political disadvantage.

A state law that E. Clarke Dummit, the party's attorney, has likened to a poll tax requires that the party pay fees for local elections officials to verify the voter registration of people who sign petitions for the creation of a political party.

Libertarians paid more than \$70,000 for the verifications last spring. McLaughlin said that the expense depleted the party treasury at a time when it most needed money to challenge Democratic and Republican candidates.

McLaughlin said he plans to return as a candidate but did not say for what position. He said that the party plans to be active in 1994 and probably will focus its resources on one statewide race.

Winston-Salem Journal - Feb 25, 1993

## Protesters condemn ATF raid on sect, call for investigation

By David Jackson

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

About two dozen protesters called Thursday for an investigation of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms over its deadly raid on a religious sect near Waco.

During a lunchtime march at the federal courthouse in Dallas, members of various political organizations contended that the ATF violated constitutional protections of gun ownership and religious freedom and also mishandled the raid.

"It's not against the law to have religious views, and it's not against the law to protect yourself," said Karen Tegtmeier, a Dallas computer programmer who ran for the Legislature last year as a Libertarian.

In addition to the Libertarian Party, the march included members of the North Texas Arms Rights Coalition and the Associated Conservatives of Texas. But several of the pla-

card-toting marchers said they were representing themselves, not an organization.

Four ATF agents died Sunday during the shootout with members of the Branch Davidian sect at the group's compound near Waco. Federal agents have since been involved in a standoff with the group, which has an undetermined number of casualties.

ATF officials said they were trying to serve a warrant as part of an investigation into allegations of illegal weapons possession. Agents have said that the bloodshed occurred because sect members learned of the raid in advance.

Protesters argued that agents could have found a more peaceful way to arrest members of the group.

Some said their concerns stem from constitutional opposition to any laws restricting possession of firearms and freedom of religion.



The Dallas Morning News: Beatriz Terrazas

**Protesters Honey Dodge (left) and David Eagle talk for a moment Thursday outside the federal courthouse in Dallas. The demonstrators said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms violated the constitutional rights of the Branch Davidian sect in Waco.**

"I consider the First and Second amendments absolute," said Jay Manifold, a Libertarian.

An ATF spokesman in Dallas said the agency would have no comment on the protest.

"It's a free country," he said.

"They can protest if they want to."

# Libertarian's view of what's in store for America

By Andre Marrou

**O**K, so now that we have elected the "Double Bubba" ticket, what can we expect during the next four years?

Without going into any long political discourse, which would only glaze your eyes and tire my fingers, let's look at the characters (so to speak) involved:

■ **Bill Clinton:** Received part of his education at Oxford University in England. This is good, because it shows that he is a fairly decent scholar. But it is bad because he was indoctrinated as part of the ruling elite, or the upper-crust caste, old chum.

Most of us Americans are neither elite nor upper crust, so there's going to be a sort of unspoken distance between us and him. Also, he was thrown out by the voters of Arkansas the first time he ran for re-election as governor. So he harbors a certain distrust of us poor folks who might throw him out again.

Not only that, but he's a capital-D Democrat, as in New Deal, New Frontier and Great Society. In other words, if you like leftist socialism, you'll love Bill Clinton. As an aside: Mister Bill cottons to peanut-butter-and-banana sandwiches. You can take the boy out of Arkansas, but you can't . . .

■ **Hillary Rodham Clinton:** If you think Nancy Reagan was domineering, wait'll you get a load of Hilla the Hun (as Bill calls her when they're arguing). This alleged lady brings to mind the words "dominatrix" and "black leather." As you cogitate that, keep this in mind: they're BOTH lawyers.

erate large, complicated machinery (as drivers and pilots). If she had half a chance, she'd nominate herself for Supreme High Arbiter of Musical Expertise (SHAME, for short).

So there we are. Or, to be more precise, there we shall be. The C2G2 Administration will be socialistic, aloof, domineering, expensive, self-righteous, and anything but what we need — which is less bureaucracy, lower taxes, and (thereby) more individual liberty.

But enough about paradise, what about next year's issues?

■ **Foreign affairs:** This president knows little about other countries except England. (Heck, when you're in Little Rock, even Chicago looks pretty exotic.) Expect good relations with England and Europe, but so-so elsewhere.

■ **Health care:** This issue is the worst of the worst. Clinton advocates unlimited health care for everybody at no cost to anybody. In fact, I think he actually said that. But any fool smarter than a fence post can tell you that's impossible. How can you get something for nothing? That's exactly what the Canadians are now asking themselves. Their "universal, free" national health-care system is so bad and so backed-up that Fargo, N.D., has become a mecca for Canadians seeking high-quality, low-cost (i.e., private-sector) health care NOW instead of vaguely in the future. Despite the almost-certain problems of low availability and low quality, national health care will probably pass in year one or two at a cost of — sit down for this — \$500 billion annually and

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*The C2G2 Administration will be socialistic, aloof, domineering, expensive, self-righteous, and anything but what we need — which is less bureaucracy, lower taxes, and (thereby) more individual liberty.*

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■ **Al Gore:** Semi-retired senator from Tennessee, soon to become East Arkansas. There's nothing wrong with him that a large dollop of common sense wouldn't cure. He was the member of Congress who went to Brazil recently to participate in the "Save-the-Planet-at-Any-Cost-and-Never-Mind-the-Side-Effects" conference. Other attendees included such down-to-earth personages as Shirley MacLaine, who reincarnates (often) and who travels outside her body. (This latter must really save on air fares, but does she get "frequent flyer" credits?)

■ **Tipper Gore:** She's crusaded to prevent under-18 persons from listening to certain types of music, even if those persons can die for their country in combat (as soldiers), can bear children (as legal wives), or can op-

prising. I guarantee your taxes will go up.

■ **The military:** As an experienced (and successful) draft dodger, Clinton knows less than nothing about the military. However, some of what he'll do will be good — such as finally ending anti-homosexual discrimination and bringing a few troops home from poor, helpless countries like Japan and Germany. By the way, why not bring ALL the troops home — as required by the Constitution — and save \$50-\$100 billion per year?

■ **Drugs:** Now here is an issue that Clinton is acquainted with. So, will he stop the unwinnable, hate-your-neighbor, misbegotten, stupid "war on drugs"? No. He doesn't possess the courage for that. But he might (hallelujah!) short-change the Drug Enforcement Administration in its continuing efforts to convert the country into a police state.

■ **Abortion:** You can count on more tax money (as in you and me paying) for more abortions on demand. This will, of course, infuriate the right-wing Christians but then most of them are diehard Republicans, anyway. Also, RU-486 — the French-made pill that would enable women to abort their own pregnancies — will be allowed to be sold in this country, but via prescription only.

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*Andre Marrou was the Libertarian nominee for president in 1992, for vice president in 1988, and was elected (as a Libertarian) to the Alaska House of Representatives in 1984.*