

LP NEWS

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

NUMBER 26

National Convention Plans Set

NEW YORK CITY — The 1975 National Convention of the Libertarian Party appears well on its way to becoming the largest libertarian gathering in the modern history of the movement. Officials here estimate that the Convention, which runs from Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, will involve 600 delegates and alternates in addition to attracting 400-600 registered spectators.

John Doswell, who is coordinating the pre-convention organizational activities, has developed a schedule of activities which begins on Monday, Aug. 25, and is designed to stimulate interest in the event among non-delegates and even non-LP members. "We want to make this a true libertarian happening," he said, "something to which all elements of the libertarian spectrum can come and enjoy themselves."

The site for the Convention (which is being billed as the Presidential Convention) is the Statler Hilton Hotel in mid-Manhattan. "The Hilton has what we regard as the best convention facilities in New York City," says Doswell. "It will be able to comfortably accommodate over 1000 people in the main business room and with our unique projection system everyone will be able to stay on top of what is going on."

Doswell, who heads his own multi-media production company, has developed a system especially for the Convention which will enable all motions, amendments and votes to be instantaneously shown on a huge screen at the front of the hall. This will allow

spectators as well as delegates to stay better informed and, it is hoped, will speed the proceedings of the meeting.

Highlight of the Convention will be Saturday morning when the LP's 1976 Presidential ticket will be selected. To date,

Roger MacBride of Virginia, Guy Riggs of New York and Kay Harroff of Ohio are the announced candidates for the Presidential nod and Jim Trotter of California has announced for the Vice Presidential spot. A special Sunday night banquet featuring

entertainment from the talented New York Free Libertarian Party contingent will honor the Presidential team.

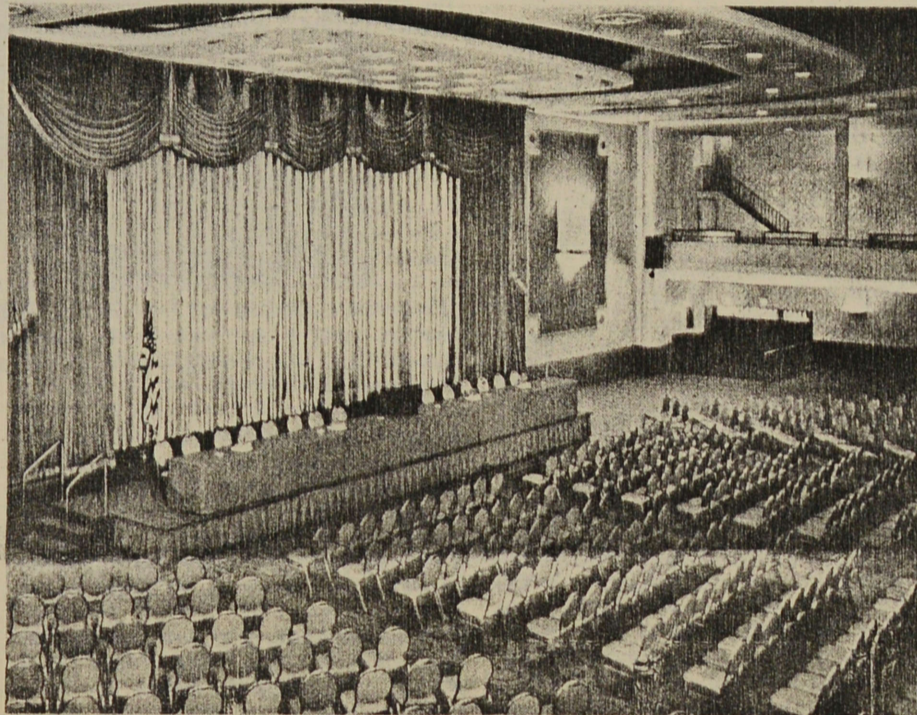
Committee activities get underway on Tuesday, Aug. 25, and wind up Wednesday evening. The three standing committees will be chaired by Ed Clark (Platform), Bill Howell (Constitution, By-Laws and Rules) and newly elected National Secretary Greg Clark (Credentials). Particular interest has been developing over the "star-studded" Platform Committee and its deliberations will be in a room large enough to accommodate 200 people.

Among those on the twenty member Platform Committee will be Murray Rothbard, John Hospers, Ralph Raico and LP News editor Bill Evers. Numerous individuals are being asked to testify before the Committee, including Sen. William Proxmire; Kremlinologist Antony Sutton; former CBS News head Fred Friendly; economist D.T. Armentano; Ernest Fitzgerald, Pentagon cost-overrun expert fired by Nixon; and land-use expert Bernard Siegan.

While the committee meetings are in progress, a series of political action workshops will be held for those delegates and spectators who have arrived early. These workshops will cover a wide range of topics including newsletters, campaign management, direct-mail advertising and state party organizational strategies.

Throughout the Convention speeches will be given by leading libertarian activists,

(Please turn to page 7)



CONVENTION SITE — The Grand Ballroom of the Statler Hilton will be set up with tables and chairs for the LP convention.

New Candidates Seek LP Nominations

Riggs

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. — Guy W. Riggs, longtime political activist and twice a libertarian candidate for the New York State Assembly, has announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party.

Riggs received attention in Libertarian circles when, in 1972 and 1974, he sought the 99th District Assembly seat representing the Poughkeepsie area in upstate New York.

A former Republican committeeman and Goldwater volunteer, Riggs has been a Libertarian Party member since its early beginnings. He has been employed by IBM for twenty-three years and is a World War II veteran.

Salesman Concept

In his announcement of candidacy, Riggs stated that he would like to be considered "the man the LP hired to be its salesman of liberty."

Riggs further called for "politics the libertarian way," and proposed a contract between himself and the Libertarian Party should he obtain the presidential nomination.

The contract would provide living expenses, life and disability insurance, and full reimbursement of campaign expenses from September 13, 1975 to November 7, 1976.

In addition, Riggs would receive an

incentive bonus of one cent per vote up to a total of 250,000 votes.

Harroff

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL — Kay Harroff, 1974 candidate for U.S. Senator from Ohio, has announced her candidacy for the LP nomination for President. She made her announcement June 7 at the Minnesota LP State Convention.

Harroff became active in Republican politics in the early 1950s, read Atlas Shrugged in 1960, and founded the Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) Draft Goldwater Committee. After Goldwater's defeat, she left the Republican Party. She joined the LP in 1972, and was founding Chairperson of the Ohio LP. In 1974 she ran for U.S. Senator as an independent (due to harsh ballot laws she could not appear as LP) against John Glenn and ran an active campaign that yielded about 80,000 votes. Harroff was recently elected to the National Executive Committee of the LP, is once again state Chairperson of the Ohio LP, and is currently a businesswoman in Cleveland.

Harroff says she decided to seek the nomination because, "I was concerned that the Libertarian Party put forth candidates with a clear-cut, unique, libertarian image. I hope to put to rest, once and for all, that conservative, right-wing label the news media have tried to stick on us." She feels

that the LP can expand its appeal to groups which only the left has in the past appealed to: blacks, chicanos, gays, feminists, prisoners, and students.

Harroff is the third declared candidate for the nomination. Others are Roger Lea MacBride, the Virginia elector who supported Hospers for President in 1972, and Guy Riggs, a former LP state assembly candidate from Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Anyone interested in Harroff's campaign should contact her at P.O. Box 6176, Cleveland, OH 44101.

Trotter

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Jim Trotter, a libertarian activist here, has announced his intention to seek the Libertarian Party nomination for Vice President. He is the first candidate to announce his interest in this post. The party's nominee will be designated at the LP national convention in New York City on Labor Day weekend.

Trotter has been involved with community organizing and politics on the left side of the spectrum for several years. He was a member of a libertarian faction within Students for a Democratic Society in the late 1960s, and was involved in the Southern California anti-war movement. "I became an economic libertarian in 1970 when I discovered the A is A Directory through an ad in the Whole Earth Catalog,"

Trotter says.

For the last two years, Trotter has been selling gold and silver coins and giving seminars on hard money investment. He is a member of both the Santa Barbara Libertarian Party and the Peace and Freedom Party, and is involved with the University of California at Santa Barbara Society for Individual Liberty. He was a precinct worker for the school board campaigns of libertarians Lynn Kinsky and Ruth Sutton earlier this year. He is an ex-marine and a member of the National Rifle Association.

Trotter says he is running to help the LP appeal to liberals and leftists. For example, he says, "There are a lot of former New Leftists who feel alienated from the socialist dogmatists; who are just looking for something like libertarianism to come along. It just has to be presented in the right way." He says that if he gets the nomination, he wants to do most of his speaking to local groups: libertarian, left-wing, and conservative. He says that the key to organizing any political movement is at the local, grass-roots level. "In order for libertarians to be successful they must concentrate on local organizing. People will more readily listen to a local-based movement than to a national movement."

Anyone who is interested in Trotter's campaign can write to him c/o Santa Barbara Libertarian Party, P.O. Box 6274, Santa Barbara, CA 93111.

From The Chair

A Look At Conservatives' Plan

Ed Crane

With apologies to Sam Husbands who will criticize me for being too insensitive to the libertarian potential on the Right, I dedicate this column to those among us who might still hold on to a glimmer of hope that a Conservative third party will rescue this country from the onslaught of statism.

Such wishful thinking presupposes that Conservatives truly desire a free society. History, of course, teaches us otherwise. Unfortunately, much Conservative rhetoric is clothed in phrases that would indicate a strong strain of individualism and a healthy mistrust of government.

But rhetoric is all that it is. For 25 years Conservatives have been competing with their Liberal brethren to harness the power of the state to serve their particular brand of intervention into voluntary human action.

Now comes William A. Rusher, publisher of *National Review*, with a book to uncloud minds and forever (hopefully) distinguish Conservatives from libertarians. *The Making of the New Majority Party* (Green Hill Publishers) is a most remarkable opus. Not so much because it was written in an unstructured, sloppy, stream-of-consciousness style — Mr. Rusher would probably admit to these indelicacies. (The book is a last minute effort to breathe life into the idea of a Conservative third party, presumably to start such a party, but also quite possibly to provide leverage to boost Ronald Reagan into the Vice Presidency.)

Inconsistencies

The book is remarkable because here, at last, is a document that lays bare all the inconsistencies of the Conservative mentality and does it proudly. It was written by a Conservative and recommended by the likes of Bill Buckley, Stan Evans and Cliff White. The New York State Conservative Party chairman calls it "an exciting blueprint for a complete realignment of our political system."

Here, then, is a brief outline of what the Conservative movement proposes as an alternative to the Republicans and Democrats. The basic thesis is not a new one: so-called "economic" Conservatives in the Mid-West and West should join forces with the "social" Conservatives in the South to create a plurality (if not a majority) in the 1976 Presidential election.

Rusher spends the first half of the book trying to convince us that such a coalition *will*, in fact, work. The key here is the Conservatives' pragmatism and willingness to "compromise." Over and over again we are warned not to underestimate the Conservatives' willingness to cast all principle to the wind if such belief stands in the way of the Great Coalition. "It is up to Conservatives to surprise [Liberals] by their willingness to compromise."

Overkill!

In my case, of course, this was an instance of overkill. I *know* conservatives compromise — to the point that it is now unclear which position they are compromising *from* and which position they are compromising *toward*. Cease! I believe, I believe.

Which brings us to Chapter VII: The Platform. When I first described the platform to our distinguished Editor, Bill Evers, he was convinced I was talking about the New Deal. This is a platform to be read to be believed! It's as if Rusher studied the libertarian position on domestic, economic and foreign policy and then recommended the exact opposite.

The proposed Conservative third party recognizes "as an absolute axiom of American social dispensation that no one in this country ever need go without adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care." They are, of course, in favor of food stamps. Social Security and Medicare are "solemn obligations" of any future government of the United States.

In the area of economics we have here people who clearly have not read Mises. The energy "crisis" will be solved because "it goes without saying that huge windfall profits by the oil companies ought to be taxed appropriately." You see, large profits might result in increased production which would alleviate the "crisis" and with it the need for government "action." To top off the economic program of the Conservatives is a call for legislation that "will entail protecting certain industries and their workers from foreign competition..."

In the sphere of civil liberties, the proposed Conservative platform endorses the recent Supreme Court decision that upholds local censorship. [Conservatives are firm in their conviction that individual rights should be abridged at the local, not federal, level.] Further, "the fairness



CHAIRMAN AS TRAVELING ORGANIZER — LP National Chairman Ed Crane (at rear on right) is seen here at the New Orleans Monetary Conference with National Director Bob Meier (on left) and new Executive Committee member James Blanchard (lower right).

doctrine should be vigorously enforced... along with the equal time requirement in order to insure equal coverage of [the new party's] views and activities." Hell, when they get elected they can just nationalize the television networks and get all the equal time they want.

For now, however, they will be content with enforcing "the antitrust laws... to prevent any single individual [is there another kind?] or corporation from acquiring a monopoly position through multiple ownership of newspapers, radio and TV stations in a given area."

The foreign policy section of the platform starts out by arming our "allies" to the teeth and calling for an increase in the budget of the Pentagon. This is followed by an endorsement of the concept of foreign aid ("to strengthen our friends for the common benefit") and a defense of the CIA. Further, we are told of

the need to "strengthen" NATO and to provide "both Britain and France with up-to-date nuclear information."

Let you think this escalation of the nuclear arms race potentially dangerous to your health and/or wealth, be assured that there is method in their madness. For if the Arabs try to mess with Uncle Sam again "and the United States does in fact embark on a military venture in the Middle East, the project will deserve and predictably receive the support of most conservatives." If you think *Mayaguez* was a great political triumph, wait!! we took some of those Arab oil fields!

Vietnam Bitterender

The foreign policy section was apparently written a week or two prior to the fall of South Vietnam because Rusher makes another last-gasp Conservative cry to pour more of our tax dollars down the Vietnam rat hole. "If South Vietnam can be sustained by its own military efforts, supported by American supplies and economic aid — and it can — then American taxpayers should by all means do so.

A footnote to the above thoughts that will be of interest to the readers of LP News is the book's only reference to libertarianism. As a former Conservative who gnashed his teeth along with Bill Rusher whenever the media referred to us as "ultra" or "arch" conservatives, I was mildly amused to find that Mr. Rusher has taken up the habits of the despised liberal press. "This is a pluralistic society," he says, "and it is simply not to be expected that such specialized movements as ultralibertarianism... will win national power strictly on their own."

At any rate, Rusher's "strawman" attack misses the point. Libertarians recognize that America is a society of many groups and interests. Our job is to weld enough groups and individuals together to support the full and free flourishing of voluntary pluralistic and individualistic activities (not some puritanical, Conservative-imposed uniformity). At the same time, we are out to close down the institutional channels whereby interest groups can create governmental privileges and tyranny (taxes, welfare state, policing the world), activities that Rusher's opportunistic relativism only serves to foster.

Best-Written Letter To Editor

The LP News awards \$10 to the author of the best recent letter to the editor published in a newspaper. The letter must mention the Libertarian Party and should list the local or national address or telephone number of the party.

Runner-up letters were by Bill Stanley in April 21 Thousand Oaks News-Chronicle; James Jerry Jones in the May 2 (Boise) Idaho Statesman; and Ronald L. Darrah in the May 22 Indianapolis Star. The best letter appeared in the May 1 Caldwell (Idaho) News-Tribune. Here are some excerpts:

To The Editor:

The Libertarian party asks applicants for membership to sign the following statement: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." This expresses the basic principle of political morality of the Libertarian party.

Why would anyone "believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social

goals?" What are the reasons or motives for doing so? Why use force instead of reason?

Initiated force is always and only used, in human relationships, for the purpose of attempting to control the actions of other humans by compelling them to accept, in practice, opinions contrary to their own judgments. Politics is the art of the use of initiated force in human relationships and politicians are the artists or practitioners of the art.

Most people believe in the use of initiated force in human relationships because it is a dominant aspect of our semi-civilized cultural heritage and has not been effectively challenged or even questioned or acknowledged. It is merely generally accepted without being identified. Most people seem to subconsciously feel that the use of initiated force in human relationships is both effective and efficient. They are motivated to use it because they feel it is faster and requires less effort than explaining. They feel that reason is less effective than force because some people will challenge their

reasoning and possibly logically refute it, while a superior force cannot be refuted. (Government is a social institution for amassing force superior to all other possible forces.)

We are so indoctrinated by our culture that the threat of the use of initiated force by government is sufficient to get most people to acquiesce and accept, in practice, the politicians' opinions, even though they are convinced those opinions are harmful to the country and to the people... Politics can be said to be the art of limiting the choices of the people as much as possible. The politicians continually add more and more restrictions on the choices of their victims until the victims are totally limited or revolt...

Your support of the party of principle — the Libertarian party can be an effective way of withholding your sanction of the use of initiated force in human relationships. The address is P.O. Box 5012, Boise, Idaho 83705.

Dale G. Green
Caldwell

Capitol Commentary

Deregulated Transport Ahead?

The strongest drive in recent years to substantially deregulate surface and air transportation is now underway in Washington. Last fall's "pre-summit" and "summit" conferences on inflation didn't result in much agreement on or improvement in the government's macroeconomic policies, but they did yield a near-unanimous opposition to regulation of microeconomic market processes, in general, and transportation, in particular.

Subsequently, the Ford Administration has publicly committed itself to an effort to decrease the regulation of surface and air transportation. The extent to which the railroad, airline, and trucking industries will actually be deregulated remains to be seen. Thus far, only legislation to reform rail regulation has been introduced. Bills promised for this year on trucking and airline regulation are being fought over within the Administration and should be sent to Congress within the next few months.

Within the Administration, the Justice Department, the Treasury Department, the Council of Economic Advisers, and the Council on Wage and Price Stability are generally strong supporters of deregulation. Their opposition typically comes (in varying degrees) from the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), and the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

Ford's Commitment

Partly as a result of Ford's public commitment and partly because of the force of their arguments, the "deregulators" (as the more free-market types are known within the Administration) have, thus far, been able to set the tone of the policy debate.

Outside of the Administration, support for deregulation has primarily come from economists, ideological libertarians, and, increasingly, consumer groups. The railroad, trucking, and airline industries are generally strongly opposed to any movement aimed at ending the regulation which has fostered their cartels. Most of the Congress is apparently waiting to see where the cookies are.

The railroad legislation which was introduced in Congress at the end of May does not go as far as the deregulators would like. In light of the traditional Big Brother attitude of Congress toward railroads and in light of the other alternatives proposed, however, the rail bill is probably about as good as can be expected at the present time.

Nineteenth-Century Villainy

The prices, entry and exit criteria, and general operating rules of railroads have been regulated by the Interstate Commerce Commission since 1887. The result is a national rail system which is now generally in bad financial condition and which has virtually collapsed in the Northeast.

The proposed legislation would gradually increase railroad pricing flexibility and would make it easier for firms to abandon unprofitable routes which the government currently forces them to serve. The best solution to the problem of (Northeast) bankruptcy is a policy which permits entrepreneurs to buy up bankrupt lines. The proposed bill, however, would provide \$2 billion in Federally guaranteed loans for capital

improvements to struggling lines. This provision is a method of appeasing Congress — which can't understand how railroads could operate without their support.

The only politically-likely alternative to a loan program apparently is outright nationalization of at least the Northeast lines under a quasi-government monopolistic corporation ("Conrail") proposed by the U.S. Railway Association (USRA) in its "Preliminary System Plan" released in February. The USRA plan was prepared under the authority of a 1973 Congressional act designed to find a means of saving the Northeast railroads.

Debunking Efforts

Deregulators within the Administration as well as many academic economists have worked strenuously to discredit USRA's nationalization plans. Whether the Congress will accept the Administration's alternative will depend upon the effectiveness of lobbying efforts, perceived voter opinion, and the traditional desire of governments to expand their powers.

Route structures, fares, and entry/exit requirements in domestic air transportation are set by an industry cartel acting through the Civil Aeronautics Board. Prices are fixed above market-determined levels, routes are awarded in a manner which minimizes competition, and entry into the industry has historically been completely closed by the refusal of the CAB to award "certificates" (operating rights) to new airlines.

Internationally, prices are fixed by the International Air Transport Association and sanctioned by the CAB and foreign government equivalents. Entry/exit standards, route structures, and (to an increasing extent) flight frequencies are established through intergovernmental negotiations.

Domestic Effect

Air transportation legislation being drawn up in the Administration is primarily aimed at the domestic industry

and seeks to remove the CAB's power to disapprove fares which arise in the free market and to increase the ability of firms to enter and leave a market at will.

Pricing flexibility will be introduced by either restricting the CAB's power to disapprove fares above some "variable cost" floor or by restricting the CAB's disapproval powers within gradually widening zones. Entry flexibility would be promoted by prohibiting the current CAB practice of considering the effects of entry on existing firms in its awarding of routes and certificates, by prohibiting the CAB from indefinitely postponing action on a request for a certificate, and by making certification automatic in the case of slow CAB action on a request. Ease of exit from a market would be promoted by only requiring that a firm post advance public notice of its intent to abandon a route.

Not surprisingly, the airline industry is strongly opposed to a free enterprise approach to air transportation, arguing that if firms could charge any price the market would bear and fly anywhere and anytime it became profitable to do so, the industry would be "destroyed."

Political Arguments

The argument that some cities (enclaves of voters) which are currently served by scheduled airlines might not be served under deregulation is particularly persuasive to Congressmen. Fortunately, however, important Congressional support of airline deregulation has come from Sen. Edward Kennedy, who has held hearings on airline regulation before his Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure.

Trucking regulation is administered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, which fixes prices, bars entry and exit, and controls output in typical cartel fashion. Although economists and libertarians have supported deregulation of trucking for many years, the trucking industry has proven to be extremely adept at thwarting reform.

Ford's public criticisms of trucking regulation have increased the possibilities for the deregulators to successfully take on the ICC and the truckers. Moreover, consumer groups have been becoming more vocal — particularly since the airing in February of an ABC Television program on truck regulation (in which the ICC and its Chairman came away looking like evil, albeit dumb, cartel enforcers).

In hammering out trucking legislation to be sent to Congress, the major debates apparently center around the easing of entry and abandonment requirements and ICC price-fixing powers. Most probably, the legislation finally proposed will at least reduce the ICC's control over entry by prohibiting it from finding that entry would adversely effect incumbents. In addition, the legislation may allow completely free entry to new routes and may gradually phase-out entry controls altogether — at least, these provisions are being sought by the deregulators. Route abandonment would become a mere technicality in most circumstances under the proposal.

The ICC's price-fixing powers would be reduced by specifying "zones of reasonableness" within which market determined prices cannot be disapproved — with these zones widened over time until the effective price-fixing powers are eliminated. As in the case of the airlines, the trucking industry is opposed to the deregulation efforts on the publicly stated grounds that deregulation would "destroy" the truck-transportation industry and on the privately-recognized grounds that deregulation would destroy the cartel of existing truckers.

Any legislation sent to Congress will inevitably be changed from its original version. Most likely, such changes will be away from an ideal, free-market solution. There is some hope, however, that positive movement will be taken toward deregulation as its political popularity continues to increase.

The Party Line

National LP Items And Events

There is no Order Form included with this issue of the LP News because there will be a mailing that will go out to our entire list in two weeks which will include the form. That mailing will also include membership applications and a sample of our new recruiting card, an item that has been very well received. We hope you will judiciously spread the word with these materials. A "recruiting kit" consisting of 10 membership forms, 10 platforms and 25 cards is available from National Headquarters for only \$2.00. Send for as many kits as you can effectively utilize... Newest addition to our national staff is Tom Palmer, former California YAF Executive Director who left that organization because of its "overwhelming conservative financial and policy influences"... Largest delegations at the national Convention will be from California, New York, Texas, Michigan and

Illinois... The Virginia delegation has been challenged by Dave Long, chairman of the Massachusetts LP. The Credentials Committee will settle the dispute... National Director Bob Meier recently has toured North Dakota, Georgia, Nebraska, Minnesota and Mississippi to speak and/or organize in those states... Executive Committee member Brian Donerly has been active in helping to organize the states of Alabama and Mississippi... The National LP sponsored suites stocked with libertarian literature at the following conventions in June: National Federation of Independent Business (Washington, D.C.), Million Dollar Roundtable (San Francisco), Mensa (Dallas) and Monex International (Los Angeles)... The recent fundraising drive received an amazing 30 percent response from the LP mailing list. It's not too late — send all contributions to the Libertarian Party, 550 Kearny St., San Francisco, CA 94108... Most recent state LPs to affiliate with National are Alabama, Nebraska, Idaho, North Dakota and Iowa... Newest Life Sustaining (\$250) member is Executive Committee member Bill Susel. New Life (\$100) members are Ann Clark (Brockton, Mass.), Madison A. Davis (Millbrae, Calif.), Emmett S. Watson (Jupiter, Fla.), William Ward (Port Heiden, Alaska), and Jean L. Scott (Portland Ore.)... The Supreme Court has agreed to "consider" reviewing Karl Bray's conviction, thereby giving Karl three or

four more months of freedom... *Against the Wall* (P.O. Box 444, Westfield, N.J. 07091) has an excellent issue out now that provides a libertarian analysis of life in the armed "services"... Murray Rothbard has been active in speaking to groups in California during his recent stay with the Institute for Humane Studies in Menlo Park... Coming to California for your vacation? Stop by the National Headquarters and say hello!... Those individuals interested in speaking to groups about the Libertarian Party should write to our Speakers Bureau at the National Headquarters... Students who would like to join the Young Libertarian Alliance or have a chapter on their high school or college campus should write to Tom Palmer at National Headquarters... Former LP Vice Presidential candidate Tonie Nathan has formed an organization called the Association of Libertarian Feminists. Those wishing information should write to ALF, 2251 McMillan Street, Eugene, OR 97405... The leading libertarian magazine is *Reason*, which has excellent articles by William Marina and by Murray Rothbard in its June issue. For a one year subscription, send \$12.00 to Reason Enterprises, 294 Via El Encantador, Santa Barbara, CA 93111... Any LP member who intends to run for a national office or the Executive Committee should send us biographical data and a brief platform or policy statement as soon as possible.

LP NEWS

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Edward H. Crane III National Chairman
Bill Evers Editor
Chris Hocker Managing Editor

New Units Affiliate With National

ALABAMA

Real congratulations are in order here for the Alabama LP. The recent national Executive Committee meeting accepted Alabama's affiliation petition. New state party officers are: Harvey Crumhorn, Chairman; Beatrice Crumhorn, Vice-Chairman; Lowe Johnston, Secretary; and Geoffrey Leach, Treasurer. Again, congratulations!

ARIZONA

The Arizona Party is working hard toward achieving ballot status, but was set back by a Republican legislator who blocked a bill permitting the placement of new parties on the state ballot. This move was blasted in a press release by Chairman Michael Thompson. Roger MacBride's June visit received extensive coverage by all three network affiliates and a major article in the Arizona Republic in Phoenix.

ARKANSAS

More good press coverage was received here when the state LP went all-out for National Tax Protest Day in April. A photograph of the demonstration's "John Q. Public" mannequin in a coffin was printed in the Arkansas Gazette. An excellent, detailed LP press release on taxation led to a good-sized preview article on the protest in the Arkansas Democrat.

CALIFORNIA

Recent elections have shown the effectiveness that libertarian electoral activity can have. Charles Barr, Research Director of the state LP, wrote the ballot argument and rebuttal to a Los Angeles school tax increase. The result? The proposal lost.

Official write-in vote tabulations made it clear that last November's write-in leaders were all Libertarian Party candidates. Leading the list was gubernatorial candidate John Hospers. All Party candidates soundly led the Trotskyists, their main write-in opposition. San Diego libertarian activists have one of the best-organized local groups we know about. They leafleted a postal customers' conference in May, had a booth at the county fair, and have stepped up their campus activities (meetings, outside speakers, literature tables) at San Diego State and the University of California. Their tax protest activities were covered on local TV.

The San Diego LP has an established file of clippings and articles to be used for writing issue papers and running political campaigns. The group's sparkling local newsletter also shows thorough awareness of current political events and items in the news. San Diego activists have set up a regularly-manned telephone number through which area residents can obtain information on upcoming libertarian activities and legal advice on difficulties they have with the government.

The Ventura County LP stirred up controversy by writing the ballot argument against a park district bond issue. The Thousand Oaks News-Chronicle declaimed against the intrusion of partisan politics into debate on bond issues. LP regional chairman Bill Stanley debated a park proponent before the local Rotary Club and received newspaper coverage for his arguments.

Santa Barbara libertarian activists are an example of a local group whose skill in obtaining news coverage should be emulated by LP groups everywhere. The Santa Barbara LP generates about one newspaper, TV, or radio story a week. They do it by sending out advance announcements on meetings and events and then making follow-up phone calls to reporters with whom they have dealt in the past. When Murray Rothbard visited the area he was interviewed by the two local daily newspapers. Tax protester Karl Bray received coverage in the same two newspapers, on three radio stations, and on one TV station.

Almost 200 tax protesters gathered at the Los Angeles Federal Building on April 12, to hear a variety of speeches, man a picket line, and protest the practices of the IRS. Tax protesters Bray and Henry Hohenstein spoke. Two TV stations and two radio stations in Los Angeles gave the event coverage.

Three libertarians have announced their candidacy for positions in San Francisco city and county government. State vice chairman Ray Cunningham is running for mayor (contributions to P.O. Box 2617, San Francisco, CA 94126, and Lloyd Taylor (555 California Street, No. 4890, San Francisco 94104) and Dorothy Conley (2453 Lombard Street, San Francisco 94123) are in the race for the San Francisco board of supervisors.

The May issue of the California state newsletter *Caliber* provides its readers with excellent and up-to-date coverage of political happenings in the state capital (legislation on victimless crime in general, on consensual sex, on petition requirements for independent candidates, on milk price controls, etc.). Awareness of such matters is part of being an effective political party.

COLORADO

LPers here sheared a live sheep to underscore the message of National Tax Protest Day, and, in the words of the Denver Post, "won the battle of attention ratings" in the face of rival protests. The party is continuing its efforts to attract new members and keep up with social and political issues in its newsletter. For example, the June newsletter had a perceptive critique of the *Mayaguez* incident.

FLORIDA

The state LP reports that Wayne Harley, LP member, received 412 votes, or 7.4 percent, in a three way race for Gainesville City Commission. Not much? It represented an increase from 2.8 percent by an LP member in the same race last year. The most libertarian precincts were those containing students and blacks. Harley appeared on local TV over ten times; he also obtained good radio and newspaper coverage.

GEORGIA

The LP in Georgia joined with the local Society for Individual Liberty to present the second annual Southern Libertarian Conference in May. Speakers included

Roger MacBride. LP meetings have included speeches on attaining ballot status and gaining access to the media.

HAWAII

Free!, the libertarian newsletter, has expanded its format to include book reviews and solid news items. A recent issue was devoted exclusively to the Tax Protest, with several valuable items of ammunition against the IRS and Big Government.

IDAHO

The state LP's petition for affiliation is currently pending and the growing party group now has an attractive two-color membership card. The state organization has sent out a mailing to those participating in recent local libertarian educational events. Talks are being given to audiences that range from high school student to working class. The party has released a position paper on the Idaho Power coal-fired power plant proposal.

Activity here has been distinguished by two articulate letters to the editor in leading newspapers. These letters explained and clarified the position of the LP to readers.

ILLINOIS

LP attention in this state was focused on the tax protest, the appearance of economist Friedrich von Hayek in neighboring St. Louis, and the electoral results of the mayoralty race in Carbondale, in the southern part of the state. This last item featured libertarian Irene Altschuler running against an entrenched party machine. She finished second, with nearly 25 percent of the vote.

The Chicago-area tax protest lasted from five o'clock until midnight. It was covered by two TV stations, three radio stations, and both the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Daily News*. The Illinois LP tax protest literature handed out at the demonstration is the best-researched and most attractively presented quick overview of the subject that we've seen.

IOWA

Iowa joins Alabama as a newly-affiliated state LP, having been confirmed by the Executive Committee in April. Congratulations to all Iowa Libertarians and to Dr. William A. Bockoven, Chairman; Karl F. Spahn, Treasurer; and John H. Ball, Recorder.

LOUISIANA

Lots of good news from Louisiana. Membership has increased, and the state chairman appeared on an hour talk show on a Baton Rouge radio station. The LP reports that a new state law now permits filing for ballot status for only five dollars. And the party has nominated a professional educator, Dr. Dick Trinko, to run for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Trinko is a nuclear physicist and a member of the board of directors of a Montessori School.

MASSACHUSETTS

State LP chairman David Long has launched his candidacy for mayor of Boston. Not only did Long get a good-sized story in the *Boston Globe*, but he was also the subject of a nationally-syndicated column by libertarian-conservative commentator David Brudnoy. Contributions should be mailed to Committee to Elect David E. Long, P.O. Box 26110, Boston, MA 02208.

MICHIGAN

This state has an energetic, active party which, aside from a successful tax protest, helped take on the pro-rent control forces in Ann Arbor... and won! Rent control was soundly defeated and, more significantly, the percentage of the student vote against rent control increased from 10 to 34 percent over a similar referendum only one year ago. This was due, at least in part, to a well-organized LP educational campaign.

MINNESOTA

Gun control is a central issue for party members in Minnesota, with all-out attempts being made to counter the current regulatory proposal. Petitions and information are being circulated. In addition, Claudia Jensen, last year's LP candidate for Lieutenant Governor, spoke before the State Ethics Commission on campaign reforms and urged that the Commission abolish itself. National Tax Protest Day in Minneapolis-St. Paul was covered by three TV stations and local radio stations and newspapers.

MISSISSIPPI

This state may be the next one to have a newly-affiliated state LP. An organizational meeting is being held on June 21 in Jackson.

NEBRASKA

Another state LP joins the fold, as Nebraska submitted its petition for affiliation to the national party. Officers are: Dale Bails, Chairman; H. Wade Terman, Vice Chairman; Marcia Bails, Secretary; and Dave Danielson, Treasurer.

NEVADA

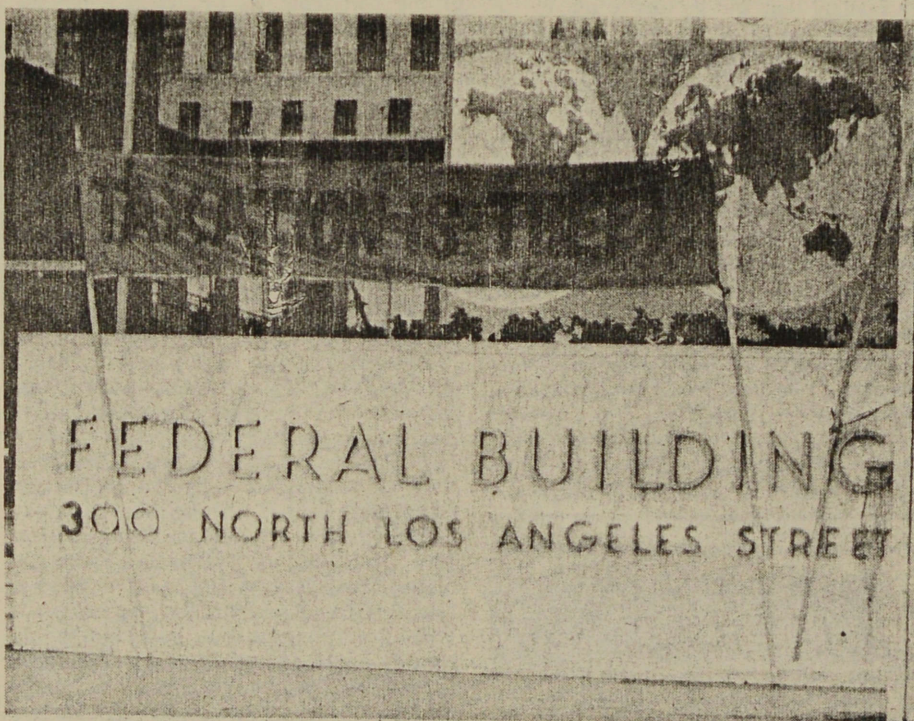
Reports from Las Vegas show that Libertarian Party candidate James Burns finished sixth in a field of nine. His outspoken and uncompromising platform won a great deal of media attention for Burns and the party.

NEW JERSEY

The state LP has selected five candidates to run for state assembly in the November general election. A spirited group of anti-tax demonstrators from the LP assembled at George Washington's headquarters in Morristown to protest taxation in April. They were joined by various taxpayers' and conservative groups. The protest was specifically directed against the controversial proposed state income tax, a major issue in local politics. The Morristown Daily Record reported on the event.

NEW YORK

National Tax Protest Day activities in New York City and Albany received extensive media coverage. The picket in Albany was covered on two TV stations, a



—Photo by Bruce Lagasse

A SCENE AT LOS ANGELES PROTEST

(Please turn to page 5)

New Members Join National LP Execom

CHICAGO — James Blanchard, Greg Clark and Kay Harroff were elected to the National Executive Committee at its meeting here May 24-25. Twenty-two of the 25-person committee met for the two days to work on various party projects and elect new members to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Karl Bray, Bill Westmiller and Eric Royce.

Blanchard is head of the National Committee for Monetary Reform in New Orleans (which sponsored the highly successful Conference on International Liquidity and Monetary Reform earlier this year). He replaced Royce, who has left the LP to work in the Republican Party. Blanchard has numerous contacts in the financial community and is experienced in direct mail fundraising. "The potential for the Libertarian Party is tremendous," said Blanchard, "and I hope I can lend some expertise to developing our membership through professional direct mail techniques."

Clark (no relation to Execom member Ed Clark) became the new National Secretary after Bill Westmiller resigned to devote full time to his new post as Chairman of the LP of California. Said National Chairman Ed Crane, "I'm pleased to have an individual with Greg's background as Michigan Chairman and his knowledge of parliamentary procedure for our new Secretary. At the same time, I'm sorry to lose Bill, who was one of the hardest working members of this Committee."

Harroff, Ohio Chairwoman and former Senatorial candidate filled the spot left by Bray who intends to devote most of his time working on his defense in his legal troubles with the IRS. "I hope to be back on the Executive Committee as soon as these Constitutional questions are settled," said Bray, who received a long round of applause from his fellow committee members.

In other action the Execom voted to retain the Libersign as the LP symbol for the time being. The slogan "Toward Liberty" will be attached to the Libersign in a yet to be determined manner. The committee also voted to finance all Headquarters expenses (other than salaries) out of general party revenues.

Phil Manger of Maryland spent some time discussing the background of possible problems with the Virginia LP. Because the new party organization had inadequate records available to it, there may have been errors in or problems with the size and make-up of the Convention delegation. The matter was referred to the Credentials Committee.

Elections of new standing committees



—Photo by David Long

FRAN YOUNGSTEIN

took most of the day on Sunday. Results were as follows:

—Platform Committee: Ed Clark, Chairman (California); Bill Evers (California); Ralph Raico (New York); Jerry Millett (Louisiana); Charles Breeden (Virginia); Joe Cobb (Illinois); Murray Rothbard (New York); Bobbi Jahn (Kentucky); JoAnn Chernio (Pennsylvania); Richard Kenney (Washington State). There are ten other delegates to be chosen by the ten largest state parties. At press time only John Hospers of California had been added to the ten Committee members elected by the Execom. (Hospers was passed over by the Execom because of a recognition that the California Execom had agreed to select him as their state representative).

—Constitution, By-Laws & Rules: Bill Howell, Chairman (Texas); Fran Youngstein (New York); Bill White (California); Bill Westmiller (California); Kurt Germann; Lee Schubert (New York); Jan Croxton (Indiana); Phil Manger (Maryland); Sylvia Sanders.

—Credentials: Greg Clark, Chairman (Michigan); Bill Susel (California); David Nolan (Colorado); Martin Jahn (Kentucky); Porter Davis (Oklahoma).

On Saturday night the Illinois LP hosted a banquet in honor of the Execom that was attended by 150 people. Speakers included former New York City Mayoral candidate Fran Youngstein, Karl Bray, LP co-founder Dave Nolan, Vice Chairwoman Andrea Millen and Chairman Ed Crane. Master of ceremonies was Illinois Chairman Steve Nelson.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be prior to the National Convention in New York City on Wednesday, August 27.



—Photo by David Long

NEW LIFE SUSTAINING MEMBER — Execom member Bill Susel is congratulated by Chairman Ed Crane on becoming the LP's newest Life Sustaining Member at the Execom meeting in Chicago.

Campaign Controls Contested

LP And Other Plaintiffs Submit Legal Arguments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Libertarian Party and eleven other politically active groups and individuals on June 2, filed a brief containing their arguments in a suit challenging the constitutionality of the new federal campaign finance law.

According to the New York Times, the case, now before the U.S. Court of Appeals, is eventually "expected by legal scholars to produce one of the significant Supreme Court decisions of recent decades."

The plaintiffs' legal argument focuses on the new law's intrusion upon what the courts have called fundamental rights (in this case, rights to freedom of speech, press and association). According to current legal doctrine, it is constitutionally permissible to impinge directly or indirectly upon such fundamental rights only if the government shows that some compelling governmental interest justifies the legislation.

"Compelling interest" is a somewhat vague standard. In practice, it usually means that the government must show either that its own self-preservation is threatened or that but for the legislation some major customary governmental activity could no longer continue.

Defendants' Reply

In reply to the plaintiffs' argument, the Justice Department, Common Cause, and other parties to the defense contend that "the Constitution is not an instrument for its own subversion" and that the enacted electoral reforms are a necessary way of preserving democratic processes.

The suit by the LP and other plaintiffs challenges the campaign finance law in many areas, but the most important legal challenges fall on six matters: disclosure, contribution limits, independent expenditure, expenditure ceilings, public

financing, and the Federal Election Commission.

The law's requirement of the disclosure of all contributions over \$1000 (and registration of those giving smaller amounts) will chill the exercise of First Amendment rights, the plaintiffs argue. The right of associational privacy has been threatened by governmental disclosure requirements aimed at communist and racial equality groups in the past, it is now threatened once again.

Political Publications

The campaign law will also require that political publications like *Human Events*, the *New Republic*, the *Nation*, and *National Review* to turn over subscriber lists to the Federal Election Commission. Policy-oriented legal action groups (like the ACLU) and ideological groups (like the American Conservative Union) will likewise be forced to make available lists of their members.

The regulation of expenditures also blocks the exercise of First Amendment rights. The exercise of civil liberties must, to be meaningful, rest upon economic liberty. The plaintiffs' brief quotes Justice William Douglas on this point: "No one would seriously contend that a limitation on the expenditure of money to print a newspaper would not deprive the publisher of freedom of the press."

Under the enacted limits on independent expenditures, no person or group acting independently of a candidate or official political committee can spend more than \$1000 per year advocating the election or defeat of a candidate. This, the plaintiffs contend, is a direct and obvious infringement of the free-speech rights of independent political actors. One of the leading... Congressional... Republican

advocates of campaign finance controls admitted as much when he said that the measure "allows every individual \$1000 worth of free speech."

Equal Communication

Yet such efforts to equalize the means of political communication are clearly doomed to come into conflict with the realities of life. As Washington columnist David Broder has pointed out, legislation that cuts down the dollar influence on politics automatically enhances the influence of those who can provide manpower or publicity.

The brief cites the findings of economist Lester Telser showing that a high level of advertising accompanies major launchings of new brands of products. The newcomer obtains more value out of his initial spending than the familiar product does by spending an equal amount on advertising. "Similarly in politics," the brief notes, "a low limit on expenditure will generally work to the advantage of incumbents and discriminate against challengers."

The brief points out how the limits on candidate expenditures constitute an abridgement of the freedom of the press. The plaintiffs argue that the unconstitutionality of candidate expenditure limits should be recognized since analogous abridgements via licensing taxes were found unconstitutional.

Government-Approved Parties

According to the plaintiffs, government financing of election campaigns amounts to an official establishment of the two major parties (analogous to governmental establishment of religious groups), requires an allocation formula which necessarily discriminates invidiously against some candidates, leads to further entanglement

(Please turn to page 8)

... Local Groups Protest Taxes

(Continued from page 4)
radio station, and in the Schenectady Gazette. The Manhattan demonstrators were interviewed at length by WBAI, a radio station whose listeners are largely politically-conscious left-liberals.

LP National Chairman Ed Crane spoke in April both to the Free Libertarian Party convention and to libertarians in Ithaca. On the Cornell campus, his talk dwelt on the continuing demise of the Republican party. A witness claims that the following is an actual quotation from Crane's remarks: "Let me list the states where the Republicans control the executive and legislative arms, (pause) Kansas." Crane was also interviewed by the Ithaca TV station.

Carole Cohen, FLP candidate for mayor of Poughkeepsie, is continuing the Cohen family tradition of frequent press releases and an issue-oriented campaign. For example, an early May release took the announcement that some local businesses were leaving Poughkeepsie as the jumping-off point for comments on the destructive effects of taxes and regulations. A release later in the month pointed in detail to places to cut the city budget. In April, a film crew from *Newsweek's* syndicated TV news service came to Poughkeepsie and filmed hours of the campaign in action.

Ellen Davis, FLP candidate for Dutchess County Executive, has also been issuing press releases analyzing the issues. She has decried the ban on smoking in public places, suggested demunicipalization of garbage disposal, and blasted tax-funded dial-a-ride transit. Donations to the Cohen-Davis campaigns should be sent to Candidates for Liberty, P.O. Box 1776, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

The new state party organization under the leadership of Gary Greenberg is in the process of expanding its stock of available literature. The FLP is commissioning the writing of three general leaflets (an introduction to the FLP, the FLP in the news, and suggested reading) and a series of issue papers (inflation, victimless crimes, taxation, energy, free trade, and land controls).

The state party is also exploring ways to increase internal and external educational activities. The selection of the porcupine as the party mascot was explained by Greenberg in a statement to the press. After observing that political writers and cartoonists enjoy using a symbolic animal to represent a political party, he said: "The porcupine is a non-aggressive animal that minds its own business. Its quills are used solely as a defensive weapon. Contrary to popular belief, porcupines do not shoot their quills. . . . Only an attacker can be harmed by the porcupine."

A resolution passed by the recent state convention called for "immediate and unconditional amnesty for deserters from the American Armed Forces and resisters to service therein."

NORTH CAROLINA

This state, keeping up with the nationwide drive to affiliate LPs in every state, will be holding its organizational meeting June 21. Bert Weiner is the new state Chairman.

NORTH DAKOTA

Affiliation is pending for the LP in North Dakota, with Dave Saunders as the Chairman of the new party. Libertarians in Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, and Bismarck, had the opportunity to speak with Robert Meier, National Director of the LP, last month while he visited the area in an effort to aid organizing the state group.

OHIO

The LP here reports the election of new officers for the coming year. They are: Kay Harroff, last year's candidate for U.S. Senate, Chairman; John Rako and John DeJager, Vice Chairmen; James E. Higgins,

Treasurer; and Linda Bunyan, Secretary.

OKLAHOMA

June 14 was the date of the LP organizational meeting at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. A tax protest staged in Oklahoma City, resulted in a good article from a newspaper there. John Vernon, a prolific writer of letters to local newspapers, was able to publicize libertarian principles during his unsuccessful election campaign for an Oklahoma City municipal council seat.

OREGON

June 14 was also the date of the Oregon LP convention, held in Eugene, to elect officers and delegates. A Eugene newspaper also ran a long, descriptive interview with National Chairman Ed Crane, explaining the LP position.

PENNSYLVANIA

The "Libertas '75" convention of the state LP will be held in York on June 21, to prepare for upcoming ballot drives as well as the national convention Labor Day weekend.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Old South is falling into line, as South Carolina is on the verge of affiliating with the national party. Charles T. Blackwell of York is the chairman.

TENNESSEE

Libertarians here have concentrated most of their effort in lobbying in the state legislature. Their successes have not been many, but they have been promising, as several legislators have been in communication with Tennessee libertarians. In the Memphis area, libertarians are gearing up for the state convention and monitoring events on the national scene.

TEXAS

The Texas LP newsletter reports that they are gaining new members and increasing their range of activity throughout the state. Two libertarians appeared on a Dallas-Ft. Worth area radio show, generating considerable interest.

Texas libertarians are distinguishing themselves by addressing concrete issues

that are relevant in their area. One of these is the question of "illegal" aliens. A letter to the editor of a Houston paper defended the right of such immigrants to enter this country and hold jobs.

Another LPer has suggested the inclusion of a Freedom of Religion plank in the national LP platform, and correctly warns us to guard against projecting the image that religious persons do not "belong" in the Libertarian Party.

UTAH

Freedom Express is the Utah LP newsletter, and it regularly features articles dealing with current issues, as well as state party items. Recent articles have dealt with monetary theory, federal energy policy, the mood of the nation, and suggestions about ways to communicate libertarianism.

WASHINGTON

The state LP was the subject of a long article in the Washington State Daily Evergreen, the campus newspaper for the Pullman area. The article outlined the basic goals and philosophy of the LP, aiming at the student audience.

1976 is too late to begin raising money for the 1976 Presidential campaign.

It's going to take about \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to conduct an effective campaign in 1976. And our chances of raising that kind of money are directly proportional to the amount we start out with in September of 1975.

A realistic estimate is that we'll need a minimum of \$50,000 by Labor Day if we're going to raise the rest in the following fourteen months.

That's why the national Libertarian Party has established the Liberty '76 Fund . . . to serve as an accumulation point for that \$50,000. All money contributed to the Liberty '76 Fund — above the expenses incurred in raising that money — will be put into a special account, and turned over to our national candidates' campaign fund in September. It will not be spent on anything else.

If every state and national LP member will contribute just \$10, we'll have \$50,000. But since some folks are simply unable to help, we're asking you to contribute \$25 . . . either all at once, or \$5 per month, April through August of 1975.

Do it today! Make your checks payable to Liberty '76 Fund, and mail them to LP national headquarters, 550 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

Libertarian Party
550 Kearny Street, Dept. A
San Francisco, CA 94108

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

OCCUPATION _____

Enclosed is a one-time contribution to the Liberty '76 Fund, as indicated.

I hereby pledge to contribute the following amount to the Liberty '76 Fund each month, from now through August, 1975. Enclosed is my first month's contribution.

\$500 \$250 \$100

\$50 \$25 \$10

\$5 \$ _____

Liberty '76 Fund.

Political Perspective

Things May Be Getting Better

David Nolan

It is fashionable, in Libertarian circles, to be a doom-sayer. Almost any time Libertarians get together, they begin regaling each other with predictions that within six months, or a year, or two years, there is going to be a terrible economic collapse, a violent revolution, or a Hitlerian dictatorship in the United States.

I'm not quite sure why this is the case, but the phenomenon is indisputably there. And I will confess that I have helped fuel the fires myself, on occasion.

I think that perhaps our tendencies towards playing Cassandra were acquired from our erstwhile comrades-in-arms, the Conservatives. Conservatives are always promulgating gloom and despair, and considering the fact that political history in the last four decades has recorded little but defeats and retreats for their cause, they are probably justified in their pessimism.

I will submit, however, that *we* are not justified in taking such a bleak outlook. In fact, I will assert that from our viewpoint, things are getting better rather than worse on balance, and that prospects have never been brighter for a renaissance of liberty.

Strong Assertion

A strong assertion? Perhaps, but let us look at some facts. And, to grab the bull by the horns, let us begin with the economic situation.

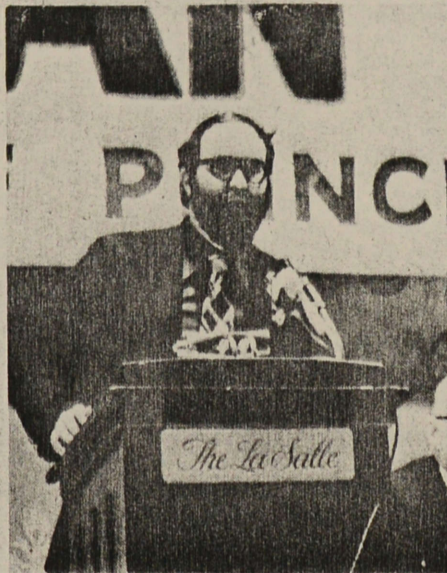
Now I am the first to admit that there are a lot of things wrong with our economy. Thanks to the Feds, we have both inflation and recession at the same time. Uncle Sam is ripping off over \$300 billion from the American people each year. And meddling bureaucrats are regulating the American businessman to a fare-thee-well.

Nonetheless, I will maintain that our economic system is still basically in reasonably good health, and that a lot of Libertarians are getting gulled by people who want to scare them into buying coins or freeze-dried food or shares in island utopias that disappear at high tide.

Let's look at some facts.

Item one: The great hyper-inflation that certain Libertarians are always seeing "just around the corner" has not materialized. To the contrary, the inflation rate today is well below that of a year ago. Admittedly, it may well rise again, but the continuous, accelerating exponential inflation predicted by the prophets of doom has not materialized.

Item two: Four years ago, The Great Pretender imposed wage and price controls on America, and many Libertarians



—Photo by David Long

DAVID NOLAN

predicted that "this will be the end." It wasn't. The controls didn't work and almost everyone realized it, so they were abandoned. Now again, I will admit that there are still far too many regulations shackling our productivity, but the point is that the American economy today is *less* controlled than it was in 1972, and there is no evidence that we are ever going to have broad-scale, Nixon-type controls as a permanent policy.

Item three: The legalization of gold ownership. Three years ago, when the LP held its first convention, Americans were forbidden to protect themselves from inflationary monetary schemes by purchasing gold. Today, they have that right.

Item four: Government taxes and spending. If you look back twenty years, to 1955, you will find that the Federal budget consumed approximately 18 percent of the GNP, while state and local spending took another eight percent or so, for a total of about 26 percent.

By 1965, ten years ago, the Feds were taking 19 percent and their little brothers about 10 percent, for a total of 29 percent. Today, the figures are approximately 23 percent and 12 percent, for a total of 35 percent. In sum, the share of our productivity that is being stolen from us by government has increased less than 10 percent — from 26 percent to 35 percent — in twenty years.

To be sure, that's far too much. In

theory, as you become wealthier, you should spend proportionately less on "basics," and if it confined itself to protection — government would be taking well under 15 percent of our productivity rather than 35 percent. Yet the trend toward proportionately larger government is accelerating.

However, we have a long way to go before we reach the point of no return. Most other industrialized nations are far more heavily burdened in this respect than we are, and so far, they've survived. And at the rate we are going, I submit that we have adequate time to turn things around. With the government's share of the GNP increasing by less than one percent per year, we are not yet on the verge of the final takeover by Big Brother.

Far From Rosy

So much for the economic situation. It is far from rosy, but I think I have demonstrated that it is nowhere near as bad as many doom-sayers make it out to be, and that in some respects it is actually improving. And that's the *bad* news; the *good* news is that in almost all areas *other* than economics, things are getting visibly better with every passing year.

Consider foreign policy, and look where we are today versus the situation only three years ago. Today the United States is not at war, there is no draft, and we have less troops overseas than at any time since 1941. In sum, we now have a foreign policy that is *de facto* closer to isolationism than it has been for 35 years — and the American people have made it "perfectly clear" that that's the way they want it.

Next, let's look at what might be called "the erosion of authority." Thanks to Watergate and Vietnam, we have seen a President forced from office, hitherto-clandestine operations of the FBI and CIA exposed to the light of day, and the creation of a massive public distrust of

government... All of which are eminently desirable developments from a Libertarian viewpoint. The liberal pundits are bemoaning the fact that it is now damn near impossible for anyone to "govern effectively," but as far as I'm concerned, that's just peachy. Government should be kept as weak as possible, and a good healthy distrust of those who govern us is to be encouraged.

Two-Party System?

But perhaps the most important development, from our standpoint, is the change in the political situation. Three short years ago, the two-party system appeared to be an almost impregnable fortress. Nixon was riding high, and nobody paid much attention to new-party advocates.

Today, the Republican party is a shambles and it seems that everyone is talking about a possible major third party. And increasingly, a lot of that talk is about us. In less than four years, the Libertarian Party has grown to the point where we are one of only two so-called "minority" parties that are treated seriously by the national communications media.

And I will suggest that this is because they sense that Libertarianism is an idea whose time has come. They sense it because we are *not* kooks or paranoids, we do *not* make outrageous statements and accusations, and we *are* the only political group in the country that is *consistent* in its positions.

In sum, the Libertarian Party has what it takes to be a winner — the ideas, the people, and a receptive audience. Let us therefore abandon the defeatist rhetoric of the conservatives, and speak instead of the Libertarian future that is surely coming.

For the question is not *whether* we will be victorious, but *when*. And I firmly believe that if we show confidence in ourselves and in our cause, we *will* achieve freedom in our time.

Convention Will Name 1976 Election Slate

(Continued from page 1)

the first of which will feature David Friedman, author of *The Machinery of Freedom*. His talk will be at the Thursday morning kickoff breakfast. Murray Rothbard is scheduled to deliver the Convention keynote address Thursday evening. Other breakfast speakers will be D.T. Armentano, John Hospers and news commentator Jeffrey St. John.

The official opening of the Convention will be Thursday morning with the report of the Credentials Committee. That will be immediately followed by consideration of the report of the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules Committee. A significant proposed change in the LP Constitution would provide for Convention delegates to be allocated on the basis of state population rather than LP membership. Discussion of the Constitution will continue through Thursday evening.

On Friday morning, the Convention is scheduled to begin debate on the new Libertarian Party platform on which the 1976 Presidential ticket will run. This year, the Platform Committee has already begun corresponding with one another in an attempt to develop a thorough and well-thought-out document to submit to the Convention. Since some of the foremost libertarian thinkers in the country are on the committee, many are anticipating an outstanding LP platform to come out of the Convention.

Platform discussion and debate

continues through Friday evening. After the nomination of the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates Saturday morning a press conference will be held at the hotel. In the afternoon any remaining business concerning the Constitution and By-Laws will be completed.

A social gathering is planned for Saturday night if time permits. Sunday will feature the election of new LP officers and the new Executive Committee. In the afternoon, the delegates and spectators will hear acceptance speeches from the two new national candidates.

The Convention floor will be arranged to provide for classroom-style seating with tables and chairs for delegates and auditorium seating for spectators. A very large exhibit hall will be set up outside the main meeting room to accommodate those with services, products or campaigns to promote.

Among the *many* extra events to be held in conjunction with the Convention are a tour of Manhattan and a moonlight cruise around the Statue of Liberty. In addition, there will be several multi-media presentations on such subjects as the 1776 Revolution and the events of the 1950s through the 1970s that led to the libertarian movement and the Libertarian Party. Similar presentations at last year's Dallas convention received tremendous praise.

Convention Pre-Registration

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME, AND WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OVERALL 5% DISCOUNT, PRE-REGISTER NOW BY SENDING \$7.50 TO:

LINDA OSBORNE BLOOD — THE PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION.
30 E. 9TH ST., #5 EE, NY, NY 10003

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

SEND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BOOTHS
 CONVENTION SERVICES

DO YOU WANT TO CONDUCT A WORKSHOP OR SEMINAR? _____

(If so, enclose your idea when you return this coupon.)

World News Notes For Libertarians

TORRID ZONE: Miami has been shaken recently by a zoning scandal in which three Dade County commissioners were indicated by a grand jury for conspiring to accept bribes for casting their votes on zoning changes. Coverage in the May 13 New York Times quoted a Miami lawyer as saying, "Zoning is the single biggest corrupter of the nation's local governments."

* * *

NOTHING DOING: Jubal Hale, executive secretary of the Federal Metal and Non-Metallic Safety Board of Review in Washington receives a \$19,693-a-year salary for reading and listening to recordings of Beethoven's music in his office. The board has never had anything to review in its four years of existence. "We have been expecting to be abolished for over two years," Hale says, but Congress has not acted on the matter.

* * *

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: The Federal Communications Commission has announced that it will ask Congress for tougher and more specific laws to combat obscenity on television. According to the FCC, current laws pertaining to indecency on the radio are too vague to prohibit televised indecency effectively.

* * *

SEARCHES & SEIZURES: A Maryland gun collector who was shot and permanently disabled by Treasury agents three years ago, has lost his \$5,000,000 damage suit against the Federal Government. The judge ruled that the gun collector and his wife, who were innocent of any criminal activity, had acted "imprudently" when they tried to defend themselves as the disguised government agents burst into their home.

An Illinois couple that sued Federal narcotics agents for damages from a mistaken raid that left their house in a shambles have lost in court and now have been hit with a \$5,950,000 slander suit brought by the agents, who were temporarily suspended from duty.

* * *

CALLING A HALT: There is a new breed of liberal Democratic politicians on the scene who are attending to the put libertarian concerns of the masses. The most prominent such liberal is California Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr. Brown recently told *Newsweek*: "Action has been the catchword. But people feel that things are being done to them, not for them. Sometimes non-action is better. Sometimes we need fewer programs, less planning, more space to live our lives."

Brown has taken a seven percent salary cut, refused to live in the newly-built

governor's mansion, said that prisons are for punishment not rehabilitation, and said that the state has no business interfering in people's private sex lives. He recently told the graduating class of the University of Santa Clara: "You have to depend on yourself — your own energy, your own creative potential. Don't think government is going to provide it for you."

"People are always looking for a laundry list of government programs that are going to unwind the future. That isn't going to happen." Brown's views are similar to those of Maine's independent governor, James Longley, and Illinois Gov. Daniel Walker ("More often than not, it's better for government to stay out of problems.")

* * *

THE VISIBLE HAND — In mid-May, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) introduced legislation to create a system for more thorough-going central economic planning.

Backing this measure is an organized group of business executives and social-democratic intellectuals. The same elements that in the 1930s pushed for a planned corporate state are at it again. Some big businessmen (like auto executive Henry Ford II and banker Robert V. Roosa of Brown Brothers, Harriman) have joined

a united front with moderate social democrats (like Harvard economist Wassily Leontief and labor leader Leonard Woodcock). Next thing you know, they'll propose bringing back the old Blue Eagle, symbol of the New Deal's NRA.

* * *

FAR AND YON: Uganda leader Idi Amin has sentenced a British lecturer to death for writing a satire ridiculing Amin. . . . The leftist military government of Portugal has banned Maoist and conservative groups and permitted the seizure of the official Socialist party newspaper. Why don't they do something constructive next time, like wrecking NATO? . . . Torture, raids by the secret police, and rampant inflation continue to plague Chile. Things were bad enough under Allende.

* * *

BATTLING TAX-EATERS — Six Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee joined the vanguard of the budget-cutting crusade with a recent suggestion that the Pentagon's weapons request be cut by \$6 billion. The group was led by Les Aspin of Wisconsin and included Bob Carr of Michigan, Ronald Dellums of California, Thomas Downey of New York, Jim Lloyd of California, and Patricia

Schroeder of Colorado. . . . A set of economists at Ford Motor Co. have found that there are more people being supported by taxes (80,655,000) than there are workers in the private sector to support them (71,650,000). . . . In fiscally-troubled New York City, the June 9 New York Times notes that the 400,000 municipal employees, their spouses, parents, children, relatives, and friends account for a large share of the 900,000 voters who turn out for the Democratic primary and the 1.7 million who vote in a general election.

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GOOD NEWS — South Africa's urban blacks are being permitted some limited property rights. Black city-dwellers will be allowed to purchase "occupation rights" to houses, sell such rights, buy urban land and build on it, or bequeath their rights. Urban black merchants and traders will be allowed to handle a wider range of goods than heretofore. Urban doctors and other professionals will be allowed to own their own offices and consulting rooms. . . . A panel of judges ruled that California's pharmaceutical board may not prohibit the advertising of prescription drug prices. . . . The California legislature repealed a law barring females under 18 from selling newspapers on the streets and a law restricting the employment of female messengers.

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JUDICIAL REVIEW — The Alaska supreme court recognized the legality of private marijuana use. . . . The highest court in Massachusetts ruled that the state's anti-sex laws don't apply to sex acts between consenting adults in private, while the legislature in California passed a law legalizing all such private consensual sex.

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NIGHTMARES COME TRUE — Sen. Proxmire disclosed the fact that the national government spent \$500,000 over seven years to find out what causes rats, monkeys, and humans to clench their jaws. . . . An issue of *Time* with Cher Bono on the cover was banned in Tampa, Fla. as "offensive sexual material". . . . In New York, a law requires that children's pajamas contain a fire retardant which washes out in any soap but phosphate detergent, but phosphate detergent is illegal in New York. . . . A company was fined by an OSHA inspector for possession of an "unsafe" piece of equipment — even though it was in a storeroom and hadn't been used for twenty years. . . . The latest report of the President's Council of Economic Advisers estimates that government economic regulations take a penny out of every dollar.

Campaign Regulations

(Continued from page 6)

of the government in the affairs of political parties, and encourages continuous struggles within the government over who will control the vital allocation and supervision connected with government financing.

The brief also points out that while any financing scheme will be discriminatory, the current law severely hampers minor parties and independent candidates.

The plaintiffs' brief says that the legislative history of public financing shows the major-party bias of that scheme and says it is part of a deliberate design aimed at protecting those in power.

The brief notes that Sen. Pastore (D-R.I.), one of the sponsors of the measure, inadvertently revealed this bias

when he criticized a proposal to allow taxpayers to designate their choice of the recipient of their tax check-off dollars. Pastore said, "That would not be fair. What we are trying to do is to give both sides the same amount of money."

Election Commission

The suit challenges the Federal Election

Commission on the ground that its operations violate the separation of powers between Congress and the Executive branch as set forth in the Constitution.

It also points out that wide discretion is given to the commission (an agency dominated by many of the very interests it is supposed to regulate) to regulate speech, while appointment provisions place commission membership in the control of the major-party leadership in Congress. The commission looks like a vehicle whereby government officials can silence criticism of them and their activities.

The Justice Department agrees with the plaintiffs that the Federal Election Commission violates the separation of powers. However, the commission itself in a separate defense brief says that previous examples of shared legislative-executive power provide a precedent for the commission's format.

If the Federal Election Commission is struck down as unconstitutional, as appears likely after the Justice Department's newly declared position, the campaign finance controls will be without an enforcement mechanism.

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