

LP National Convention Draws Over 1,000

by Alan Bock

The 1977 LP National Convention was too complex to be treated in a single article. It would also not do it justice to describe it from a single point of view. Therefore we are presenting a series of articles — on the speakers and the general ambience, on the platform, and this overview.

The most significant thing about this gathering was its ability to "charge the batteries" of libertarian activists. It was the largest gathering of committed libertarians in the modern history of the libertarian movement in America. It followed a presidential campaign which gave the movement more publicity and more votes than ever before, and established the LP firmly as the third largest political party in America. The question, following this success, was whether it would prove to be the "peak" of libertarian activities or the foundation and beginning of new triumphs to come. Most of those who attended the 1977 National Convention emerged with the conviction that the best is yet to come.

A survey of articles on the convention in state LP newsletters confirms our impressions. The Convention answered the question of future growth in the affirmative. It made participants damned proud to be libertarians and part of this growing and vital movement. It let delegates and others know, by personal contact with hundreds of live, flesh-and-blood libertarians from around the country that we are real, we are growing, we are exciting, and just maybe we're gonna win. We all know how easy it is to get dis-

couraged, to feel that the growth of the State is inevitable, that we are alone in our beliefs and our battles. Getting together at a gathering such as "Turning Point — 1977" was enough to warm up a lot of tired libertarian blood, and keep it circulating faster.

Another aspect of the convention was the diversity of other libertarian groups which participated in one way or another. The Association of Libertarian Lawyers, the Center for Libertarian Studies, Libertarians for Gay Rights, Society for Individual Liberty, the Young Libertarian Alliance, the Libertarian Health Association, the Association of Libertarian Feminists and many others participated actively in the convention. Each of these organizations has some ties to the LP, but to one degree or another it also has its own constituency, its own program and its own method of fighting the growth of statism. From this diversity the movement as a whole gains strength, experience and understanding.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Besides the fine speakers and the constructive platform and workshops, there was some business to be done at this convention. The new national officers, all elected without opposition, are: Chairman: David P. Bergland of Huntington Beach, CA; Vice-Chairwoman: Mary Louise Hanson of Denver, CO; Secretary: Gregory J. Clark of Warren, MI; and Treasurer: Paul S. Allen of Washington, D.C. Subsequent to the convention, the National Committee chose Joe Cobb of Chicago as Chairman of a newly-created Judicial Committee.



Former LP presidential candidate Roger MacBride, left, and former independent presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy, right, are congratulated by well-wishers after the Libertarian Party National Convention Banquet. MacBride and McCarthy were featured speakers.

The regions were changed, and regional representatives elected as follows:

Region 1 (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska): Tonie Mathan

Region 2 (California, Hawaii, Guam): Bill Evers and Bill Webster, of California

Region 3 (Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico): John Mason of Colorado and Rick White of Nevada

Region 4 (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri): Ben L. Olson of Iowa

Region 5 (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas): Porter Davis of Oklahoma and William J. Howell of Texas

Region 6 (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana,

Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky): Bernie Losching of Wisconsin and Steve Mariotti of Michigan

Region 7 (Tennessee, N. Carolina, Virginia, W. Virginia, D.C., Maryland): Vacant

Region 8 (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, S. Carolina, Florida): James U. Blanchard, III of Louisiana

Region 9 (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware): Roy Childs of New York and Michael Fieschko of New Jersey

Region 10 (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island): Nathan Curland of Massachusetts

(Continued on page 12)

New Director for LP

Chris Hocker, an activist with the Libertarian Party of California, has been appointed National Director of the Libertarian Party to succeed Bob Meier.

Hocker, 26, moved from his San Francisco home to Washington, D.C. in early October. He will be working with Meier in what is expected to be a smooth transition period.

Hocker was appointed National Director by the National Committee of the Libertarian Party.

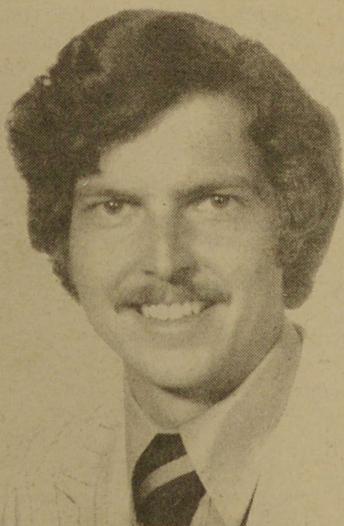
A graduate of Stanford University, he earned his Bachelor's degree in English and Communication. While at Stanford, he edited an independent student newspaper and wrote a libertarian column in the Stanford Daily.

He ran for student body president twice on explicitly libertarian platforms, finishing second on both campaigns.

Later, Hocker obtained direct political experience as press secretary to a congressional candidate, and as Precinct Director for the San Mateo County (California) Republican Central Committee. Both were full time paid positions.

After becoming disillusioned with the possibilities of fusing libertarian principles with the Republican Party, Hocker became active with the Libertarian Party in California.

He was a member of the California MacBride for President steering committee. In this capacity he wrote



CHRIS HOCKER

press releases, brochures and fundraising letters, one of which raised over \$8,000 for the California petition drive.

He also assisted the 1976 campaign of Leon Steinhardt for Assembly, the only Libertarian Party candidate for local office in California, writing fundraisers and brochures.

Hocker was Vice-Chairman of Region 4 (San Francisco Bay Area) of the Libertarian Party of California, and a member of the State LP Executive Committee. He was editor of CALIBER,

the LP newspaper which was sent to approximately 1,100 people each month.

Hocker was instrumental in establishing the Libertarian Registration Effort (LIBRE) in California, an attempt to obtain permanent ballot status by encouraging voters to register Libertarian. He was Chairman of LIBRE, helped to raise a monthly budget of \$1,200 for a full time office, brochures, and assistance to other California activists in the registration effort, which is still under way.

At the 1977 Libertarian National Convention in San Francisco, he participated in two seminars, on community organizing and on direct mail techniques.

A native of Los Angeles, Hocker was a San Francisco Bay Area resident for eight years. Before his appointment as National Director he was a sales administrator for a private transportation company for 2½ years.

Hocker considers his role to be that of a mechanic. "Between now and 1980 is a critical period for the LP," he says. "The National Office should keep things running smoothly and facilitate communication among the states."

"Libertarians have so much to learn from each other," he continues, "and I hope to channel this information to build a strong network for the next Presidential election."

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From the Chair

David P. Bergland

Join Us On The Barricades

As I take the National Chair, I realize that because there are so many people to thank for so many things, it is difficult to know where to begin. But all of you are in the same boat. Just a few moments reflection on the history of the LP for the last two years makes us realize that very many worked very hard — and the results were fabulous.

In answer to questions about the LP's growth, I have often said that during the 1976 Presidential campaign the LP developed into a viable nation-wide political organization. Before the nomination of Roger McBride at the 1975 Convention, there truly were a mere handful of experienced political activists and campaigners in the LP. That is not surprising because libertarians by nature tend not to be group-oriented and, before the LP, not many had any interest in working as activists for any political party. But during the presidential campaign, hundreds of novice libertarian political activists hit the bricks, and we now have a cadre of experienced campaign workers. In addition, the campaign was a catalyst for developing state party organizations, some of which virtually did not exist before.

Now it truly can be said that newcomers to the libertarian movement *do* have an organization in which they can become active in the cause of liberty. I want to thank all of you who worked in the campaign and to congratulate you on its success. Becoming the nation's number three political party, in spite of all of the impediments created by the establishment politicians, was one hell of an achievement.

I find it impossible to express satisfactorily my gratitude to Roger McBride, but I hope all of you understand as I do the magnitude of his contribution to the libertarian movement. Roger literally took a year out of his life, and a small fortune from his own pocket, to bring the libertarian message for the first time to millions of Americans. As part of the campaign, he wrote his book, *A New Dawn for America*, which is one of the best introductions to libertarianism in existence.

But Roger and I would not have been on the ballot in those 32 states if it had not been for our Executive Director and McBride for President Committee Chairman, Bob Meier. Because of his expertise in political organization and in particular, organizing petition drives to qualify for

ballot status, Bob literally "put us on the map."

It is only moderate exaggeration to say that during the last year and a half, the Libertarian Party National Headquarters was Bob Meier. Bob is stepping down from his position as Executive Director but will be staying on board as a fundraiser. Many thanks, Bob.

After the conclusion of the 1976 Presidential campaign, one might have expected that the interest of libertarians in their movement and the Party's Activities would decline. But the opposite has occurred. This might be our greatest cause for optimism. The 1977 National Convention in San Francisco was the largest gathering of Libertarians anywhere, ever, with approximately 1,500 people in attendance for the various activities. Again the results were fantastic.

I especially want to thank the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee for their efforts and the convention delegates for their serious consideration of all the matters raised on the convention floor.

I became the National Chair of the Libertarian Party at the July, 1977, Convention. I did not "replace" Ed Crane. Nobody could. If Dave Nolan is the person who brought the LP into existence, Ed Crane is the person who nurtured it and made it into a reality during his three years as the National Chairman. In a recent discussion on the subject of setting goals for the LP, Ed commented to me: "Hell, David, when I was Chairman, I took the Party from 10th place to 3rd place. You only have two to go." Ed wasn't smiling when he said it, but then, he never smiles.

Ed is continuing as a member of the National Committee to participate in the leadership of the LP and I am confident there will be many more occasions for me to express my gratitude to him for both his past contributions and what I expect he will do in the future.

Speaking for the future, I am reminded of the lines from Wordsworth:

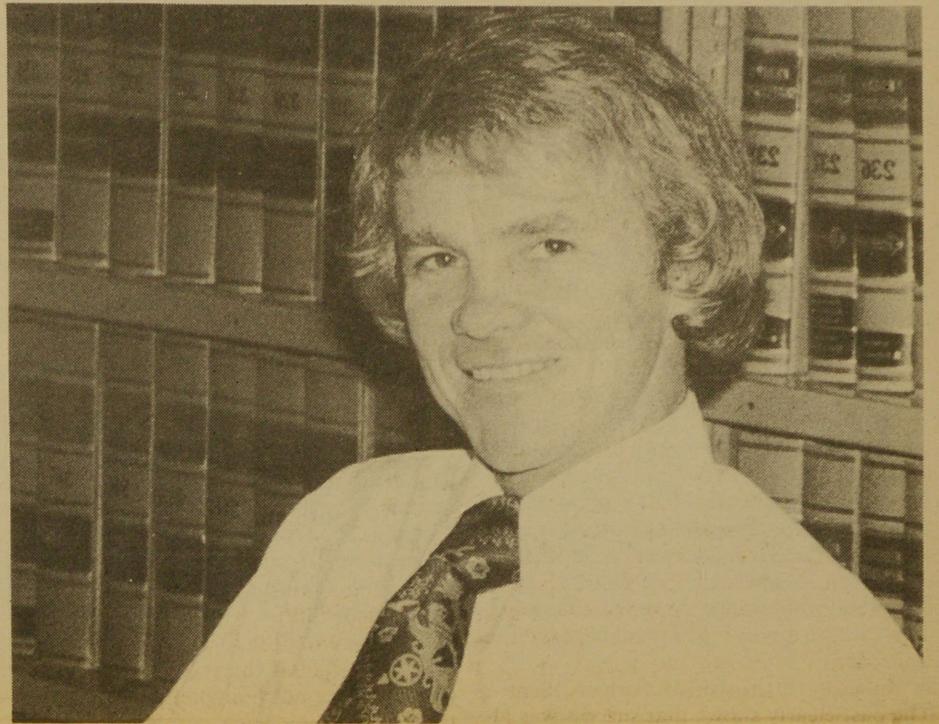
"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, But to be young, 'twas very heaven."

Wordsworth was speaking of the early days of the French Revolution in 1789. I have a similar enthusiasm for the revolution which we libertarians are making. I do not believe I am naive or unrealistic in my

enthusiasm and optimism. The membership of the Libertarian National Committee is sufficient evidence to persuade me that things are definitely looking up for the cause of freedom.

The National Committee is simply loaded with talent. The people who comprise it

these issues. Libertarians can then educate non-libertarians and urge libertarian solutions to these specific problems. In the same general area is the identification of constituencies who will be amenable to libertarian ideas and the participation in coalitions, such as anti-tax groups and gay



DAVID BERGLAND

are intelligent and each has a demonstrated record of competence and achievement. In addition, there are many others who sought National Committee positions who are also of the highest caliber. The members of the National Committee, and the other willing activists in the Party, are at once "pure" in their commitment to libertarian principles and realistic in their assessments of what programs and projects the Party must undertake to translate those principles into changes in the real world of the 1970's.

The National Committee will be taking a much more active role than it has in the past. Rather than functioning merely as an absentee board of directors who meet twice a year, all of the National Committee members will have a number of functions and responsibilities which will keep them working on party activities year round. It would be a little silly to have this great pool of talent idle when there is so much they can do by sharing their expertise both within and without the LP organization.

Ultimately, the setting of the Party's policies, strategy and specific goals is the responsibility of the National Committee. Following are some of my own preferences regarding the Party's goals and priorities.

As we all recognize some state party organizations are not as large and dynamic as they could be. I hope to see the development of a strong organization in every state, evidenced by such things as a state party newsletter, speakers bureaus, candidates in local elections, Libertarian conventions or conferences for education recruiting, and familiarity with the state's election laws so that party activists can be organized to qualify the party for the ballot or otherwise put libertarian candidates on the ballot.

I hope to see in every state a program for recruiting substantial numbers of new principled activists.

We must identify the current issues which concern large numbers of people, both on a nationwide and local level, so that libertarians can take positions of leadership in groups which form around

rights movements, to steer them in the right direction.

We must participate in identifying target local elections and assist in the preparation of campaigns so that our resources are most efficiently used in election campaigns: (1) which will receive substantial attention, (2) where a Libertarian candidate may constitute the "swing" factor, or (3) where a libertarian candidate may make a substantial showing or even win.

Campus organization is of primary importance. The young Libertarian Alliance Program must have continuing support because the young people on the campuses constitute the future of this movement in the short term, the campuses are a great place for recruiting working activists.

The support of the media must continue to receive our attention. On the whole, the people in the media who already know us tend to be very supportive. We must continue a program of contacting people in radio, television and local and national newspapers with a well-thought out program for keeping their interest and making them believe that Libertarian Party activities are worthwhile and newsworthy.

A program to keep the pressure on local state legislatures is quite important. By pressure I mean, letters to the editor, appearances at city council meetings and legislative committee hearings, etc. These tactics will serve to educate the public about libertarian solutions, to educate the legislators (some of whom might even be sold on libertarian solutions to government problems) and finally, to cause legislators to believe that many voters support libertarian solutions.

I plan to be very busy on behalf of the LP during the next two years. I don't see how it can be any other way. I hope you will see the wisdom of joining me and the thousands of other libertarian activists in the struggle for liberty. If you presently find yourself in an area where not much is happening, feel free to write or call LP National Headquarters for information. There is a place for you on the barricades.

Listed below are the officers and members-at-large of the LP National Committee.

A list of Regional Representatives on the National Committee may be found in the lead article of this issue.

Chairman

David Bergland
Huntington Beach, California

Vice Chairwoman

Mary Louise Hanson
Denver, Colorado

Secretary

Gregory J. Clark
Warren, Michigan

Treasurer

Paul S. Allen
Washington, D.C.

Members-At-Large

Edward E. Clark
San Marino, California

Edward H. Crane III
San Francisco, California

Carol Cunningham
New London, Connecticut

Eric Garris
San Francisco, California

John Hilberg
Boston, Massachusetts

Charles Koch
Wichita, Kansas

Richard Randolph
Fairbanks, Alaska

Murray N. Rothbard
Palo Alto, California

Meier Calls For More Practical Politics

(Editor's Note: Bob Meier retires from the National Directorship after having been involved in Libertarian Party activities since 1972. He has served in various state offices, on the National Committee, and as Chairman of the McBride for President Committee, in addition to his tenure as National Director. He has traveled to almost 40 states on behalf of the LP, and has had an active role in virtually every major project the party has undertaken since its founding.)

Looking back over the brief history of the LP, I think we can all take pride in the accomplishments of the Party, particularly those of the last two years. We established ourselves as third largest in the U.S. and simultaneously earned a reputation for consistency and professionalism. Particularly impressive is that this was all accomplished in six years without any existing constituencies to ease the early growing pains.

But these accomplishments will have no consequence whatever - even a year from now - unless we use our current size and strength to begin an energetic attack on the two major parties, taking our ideas to mainstream America where the necessary votes lie to put libertarians in office.

Government's disruption of people's lives has now reached the point where almost everyone is willing to listen to new ideas which, no matter how "radical," offer a reasonable hope of solving major problems. We have those answers; taking them to the public in an in-depth, wide-ranging way is our challenge. This will require a complete commitment to practical politics and a sensitivity to good marketing techniques.

The prospects for success are excellent. - The past clearly shows that success was almost always attained whenever libertarian groups faced challenges by setting realistic goals and pursued them with common sense and conscientious efforts. There is no reason why that precedent should not continue.

In the future, as in the past, the most important project for any LP organization will continue to be running candidates for public office. Like it or not, during elections people pay more attention to "ideas" than at any other time. Normal media coverage, even in the smallest of mayoral campaigns, can result in literally thousands of dollars of free publicity for our ideas. - Political action is not only the most cost-effective educational approach, but it also serves to build the kind of organizational muscle needed to dismantle government - something that education alone can never do.

However, there is one important advantage of political campaigns that libertarians have almost consistently failed to capitalize on: Recruiting. By that I specifically mean the process of signing up new members, and gaining their financial support and commitment to Party activities. I am convinced that in 1976 alone literally thousands of potential new members were lost because recruiting was not systematized: Party contacts were not listed in the phone book; sign-up sheets and membership application blanks were not distributed at rallies and speeches; and inquiries were not aggressively followed up.

Further, and tragically, those potential activists were senselessly put off by libertarians themselves; specifically, the down-in-the-mouth, the world-will-end-tomorrow; "what-is-your-stand-on-the-legal-status-of-land-claims-on-the-moon?" types that, though decreasing in number, still plague our house.

In addition, when the problem of recruiting is met and overcome, much of our ongoing fundraising problem will also be solved. As the membership base expands, so will the amount of available funds and fundraising expertise. From now on, recruiting and vote totals must receive equal attention in all future campaigns. - When they do, party organizations will grow and flourish at an amazing rate.

Beyond the problems of recruiting and fundraising, three criticisms of the LP so frequently surface that I seriously doubt that any further increases in vote totals will be possible until they are dealt with. These are: that our ideas, even though they may be right, are not practical; that they do not take into account the real needs of people (that they are not humane); and that libertarians always seem to be "against" everything.

Technically inaccurate as these criticisms are, it is still easy to understand why they are made. Concern over practicality has come because we have not yet made an adequate transition from discussion of general principles to specific issues and policy recommendations, and because many libertarians have a propensity to stress the exotic over the "bread and butter" issues that concern most Americans. It is vitally important that "real world" issues become our primary concern and that positions be taken on important questions that are consistent with our basic principles.

The charge that our ideas do not take into account the "real needs of people" are made because we have never made it clear in our literature and campaigns that our message is profoundly humane and that statism is the source of most human suffering

in the world. Libertarians tend to stress dry recitations of facts and figures and forget to appeal to the emotional concerns of the voter.

From now on, libertarians must make every possible effort in every possible forum to stress the human suffering and misery caused by the heavy hand of government so that Americans can quite properly begin to hate and fear what they now tend to revere and trust - government. Then the revolution can really begin.

Libertarians will cease having the reputation of being exclusively "against" everything when the movement becomes known for taking active roles in referenda and other issue-oriented activities that promote changes that will clearly benefit people. The antiwar movement of the 1960's was not against something *per se* but rather was *for* peace and *for* the survival of thousands of human beings that would have otherwise died had the Vietnam war been allowed to continue; that was an important part of the message that the American public finally got. There is no reason why we cannot do the same thing with other, equally evil activities of the state.

Fortunately, all these problems (I view them as the most important the party faces) can be easily dealt with and should present no major problems in the future once the simple, indicated solutions are implemented.

The Party is now clearly entering a new period of growth and is doing so under the guidance of an energetic and highly competent slate of National officers, the most experienced, mature National Committee we have ever had, and a new National Director who has an amazing array of skills and excellent libertarian credentials.

When I reaccepted the National Directorship after the 1976 elections it was for the purpose of guiding the Party through what everyone knew would be an extremely difficult, but critical post-election period. - Happily, I can now report that this period is over. In taking leave, I invite everyone to carefully ponder the following words. - More than any I have ever read, they clear-



Bob Meier announces official status of the LP as the third-largest party in the United States.

ly define the nature of the task we are about:

THOSE WHO PROFESS TO FAVOR FREEDOM, AND YET DEPRECATE AGITATION, ARE MEN WHO WANT CROPS WITHOUT PLOWING UP THE GROUND.

They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters.

This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will.

Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both.

The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

YLA Focus On Campus

The Young Libertarian Alliance (YLA) is advancing on its ambitious goal of organizing libertarians on campuses throughout the country.

The YLA, organized in 1975 under the direction of the Libertarian Party National Headquarters, coordinates the activities of students to further the libertarian cause.

Groups of campus libertarians are encouraged to form YLA chapters and become centers of libertarian activity. Chapters receive *Outlook*, the new campus recruiting tabloid, and other material for general distribution.

Heading up the YLA operation at National Headquarters in Washington is Jay Hilgartner. Hilgartner's responsibilities include responding to requests for information, providing organizing aid, sending material for distribution, and representing the YLA at conventions and libertarian conferences.

According to Hilgartner, there are now 125 approved YLA chapters across the country, with more requests for affiliation coming into Headquarters each week.

"Our goal is to have a network of active libertarian students on every major campus," says Hilgartner. "That way, the LP can count on a number of activists in every state to supplement the regular party organization."

"Not only is this important for election years," he continues, "but it also allows a constant exposure for libertarian ideas on

campus, and unlimited opportunities to recruit more activists."

The National Committee of the Libertarian Party shares Hilgartner's belief in the importance of the YLA. "Getting students involved in the LP is probably the best project we could undertake between now and 1980," says National Chairman David Bergland. "The best source for new libertarians is the campus community."

To help organize on campus, the National Headquarters has developed a package of information material. Foremost in this is the YLA Organizing Manual, a step-by-step "how to" booklet for the neophyte political organizer.

The booklet systematically explains procedures for setting up a YLA chapter: how to publicize activities, how to run a meeting, how to attract new members.

Successful YLA chapters are often centers for discussions of libertarian ideas, introducing these ideas to students often for the first time.

In addition, YLA chapter members are often eager to tackle "real world" politics, helping state LP's to run petition drives and election campaigns.

As David Bergland puts it: "Campuses are our greatest opportunity to forge a libertarian majority for the future. I hope all libertarians will support YLA activities, because the potential rewards for the libertarian movement are so enormous."



Arizona LP member David MacNeill is running for City Council in Phoenix. MacNeill's supporters collected over 5,200 petition signatures to win ballot status - only 3,200 were required.

Washington Watch

Alan Bock

Energy, Airlines, and Banks

The "damage" done to the fascist Carter energy plan by the barons of the Senate is not so extensive as a superficial reading of the newspapers would have you believe. The energy issue continues to be important as the cutting edge of the drive to build a mega-State exercising minute control over our going-out and our coming-in.

Carter's presidency suffered a great deal during the Senate energy debate, but there was little philosophical opposition to most of the principles which underly the energy plan. The impudence and incompetence of the Carter White House are more responsible for the setbacks Carter suffered than any deep-seated opposition to the notion that the way to solve the energy crisis is to give the government more and more control over various aspects of energy production and distribution. With a few rare exceptions most of the debate in the Senate was over *how* the government ought to intervene, not *whether* it should intervene at all.

Even the vaunted Senate majority in favor of deregulation of the price of natural gas contained much more opportunism than principle. It is still the case that certain Senators from oil-and-gas-producing states have disproportionate amount of personal power within the Senate, carrying influence beyond the one vote they cast. The natural gas situation has gotten so bad that it takes powerful ideological blinders not to see that the price has to be allowed to rise. Most gas-state Senators are more interested in getting those higher prices than in fighting for the principle of deregulation. The compromise, in which the deregulation side came out the losers, since the principle of regulation remains, was predictable. What most oil companies are interested in (and by extension many Senators) is higher prices, not more freedom. They got them, but no gains were made for liberty. Perhaps the only reason the deregulation coalition stuck together for so long before striking the compromise was out of personal pique at the effrontery of Sens. Abourezk and Metzenbaum in conducting their filibuster.

(A side note: why has it not been more widely remarked that Sen. Abourezk, of Lebanese descent, is just about the only U.S. Senator who, over the years has been blatantly and consistently pro-Arab in his sympathies. His favorite past-time has been to junket to the Middle East, have smiling pictures taken with assorted sheiks and potentates, and be quoted a pledging undying loyalty and determination to fight for the Arab interests in the Senate. The relationship between this and natural gas prices is clear. As long as domestic prices are controlled and domestic production is kept to a minimum

thereby, the Arabs are in a stronger position both economically and in the power-politics-imperialism game. De-control prices and you weaken the Arab position vis-a-vis the United States. Abourezk is no dummy, and he's at least been straightforward and persistent in his pro-Arab sympathies. How come so few people have made the connection?)

AIRLINE REGULATORY REFORM NEXT YEAR?

The Senate Commerce Committee has finally reported out an Airline Regulatory Reform bill. While it is far short of the abolition of the C.A.B. which libertarians would prefer, and has some questionable provisions (guaranteed employment for displaced airline employees for five years), it is remarkably close to the original Cannon-Kennedy proposal (S. 689) which was a good bill, as these things go.

This legislation has been the subject of heavy but largely unpublicized lobbying on all sides. Several airlines and their unions have urged employees to engage in intensive letter-writing campaigns against reform, sometimes with devastating effect. Each time members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Airline Regulatory Reform (consisting of Common Cause, American Conservative Union, Americans for Democratic Action, National Taxpayers Union, Libertarian Advocate, State Aviation Officials, several Nader groups and Sears-Roebuck, among others) thought that the bill was a cinch, the airlines would launch another letter-writing campaign, and new delays would develop.

This reform legislation will probably be considered by the full Senate in January. Meantime the House Aviation Subcommittee of the Public Works Committee had hearings, and most of the key chairmen favor reform. If the Senate acts the House should come along fairly quickly.

What this means is that letters to Senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and Representatives (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) are needed again, in favor of quick action on comprehensive airline regulatory reform. If you have already written, it would help to write again on this issue. If you haven't written, let's start exercising that libertarian political muscle.

The frustrating delays in getting airline reform legislation passed are only a prelude to the heavy opposition which is certain when we go after the Interstate Commerce Commission. The truckers' lobby is more united and better organized than the airline lobby. There doesn't seem to be a leader with the clout of a Kennedy to take on trucking reform. Nonetheless, a potentially powerful coalition of consumer and industry lobbyists is committed to seeking I.C.C. reform *if we are successful with*

airline regulatory reform. In the last month that has become a very big "if" indeed.

I have long held that the powerful economic interests which benefit from regulation and thus have strong incentives to make their case before Congress can best be counteracted by the ideological commitment of libertarians. Common Cause and Naderite groups may endorse reform, but their membership doesn't have the powerful commitment to deregulation which should motivate libertarians to write letters and send telegrams.

So far this commitment has not been tested in a large-scale lobbying effort. The results of small-scale efforts have been gratifying but not conclusive. I urge you to start writing on airline deregulation, and send copies to Libertarian Advocate (P.O. Box 3117, Falls Church, VA 22043). We've found it's very effective to be able to wave a sheaf of letters at a wavering Congressman or legislative assistant. But the sheafs need to be bigger.

NEW BANKING REGULATIONS?

One result of the Bert Lance inquiry may be to give new life to a sadly coercive piece of legislation which has been limping its way through hearings. S. 71 would give federal bank regulators powers to deal with "problem" banks and "unsound management policies." This new intrusion into business affairs has had lukewarm support, but that is likely to change.

S. 71 would give federal agencies regulating banks wider powers to issue "cease and desist" orders, including the power to issue orders to individuals

(directors, officers, employees, etc.) as well as individuals. It would also give the federal bureaucrats the power to order regulated banks to fire certain employees who have been "negligent" in the eyes of the feds.

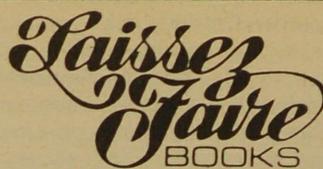
This new intrusion into business relationships should be opposed. You might write to your Senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) or Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515).

RELATED ENERGY MATTERS

S. 977, the Coal Conversion Act, is a modified version of part of Jimmy Carter's energy plan. It would prohibit new industrial plants from burning oil or natural gas and phase in coal for existing plants (with the help of \$1 billion or so in Federal loans.)

This act, which is receiving serious consideration, by the Senate, is but one more example of the irrationality of legislators and the blindness of most consumers to the costs imposed on them by government. Legislative committee reports estimate that this legislation alone would force electric utility rates up 2.5% and the cost of industrial goods up 1.4 to 2.1% (with petrochemicals going up 6.2 to 9.3% and aluminum up 4 to 7%). Those estimates are probably biased downward, and don't include the direct cost to taxpayers of all those loans. Yet they're trying to tell us the government is helping us out of the energy crisis? How blind to they think we are?

Letters to Senators on this bill could help remove some blinders.



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13 essays covering a wide range of arguments defending the free market.		
CAPITALISM AND FREEDOM	Milton Friedman	3.25
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LP Booklet To Tackle Local Issues

A new era in political effectiveness is expected to follow the release of a new Libertarian Party booklet, *Local Problems: Libertarian Solutions* by William Burt. For the first time anywhere, Bill Burt is taking common local government issues which befuddle city officials and plague taxpayers to one extent or another all around the country, and applying libertarian theory to them and coming up with solutions. These are not theoretical constructs, but practical measures designed to alleviate real problems which real people understand. It is an exciting breakthrough in the application of libertarian principles to real-life political and social problems.

This booklet will be an invaluable handbook and sourcebook for local LP candidates, a means of introducing skeptics to the practical benefits of freedom and a goldmine for elected officials grappling with day-to-day municipal problems. It should go a long way toward demonstrating that libertarianism is not only morally superior and theoretically more elegant than government-imposed "solutions," but that it can solve problems in the real world more effectively than coercion and public spending.

"If libertarian theory is practical in the real world — and I believe it is — then it should provide down-to-earth, logical and compelling solutions to the problems which face and often confuse local government officials and citizens of local areas. I believe this booklet is one step toward

demonstrating that the libertarian ideal is not just pie-in-the-sky rhetoric, but a guideline to practical approaches to everyday nitty-gritty issues."

Bill Burt believes in the project he has undertaken for the National LP. And he has a background which gives him an unusual perspective into just how practical the philosophy of freedom can be when it is applied to issues which affect citizens at the local level. For the last five years he has been research director for a number of local taxpayer groups in upstate New York, investigating the practical effects surrounding such issues as zoning, flood insurance, local taxes, municipal services and education.

Bill earned a B.A. degree in political science at State University of New York - Geneseo, and is now pursuing two Masters Degrees — in Transportation Planning & Engineering and Management Science — at the Polytechnic Institute of New York, where he is also employed as a researcher. He has also been employed as an intern and a full legislative assistant in the Capitol Hill office of former Rep. James Hastings of New York, where he got some good insights into how government doesn't work while researching legislation for the Transportation and Health and Environment subcommittees.

Bill Burt's booklet offers sometimes startling and pragmatic application of libertarian principles to many of the problems besetting most small and large

American municipalities. For example:

--**Crime** -- substituting restitution for punishment, court reform, elimination of victimless crime and gun control, policy technology alternatives, privatization of police and courts — and how all this would work in the real world, with examples drawn from experience.



WILLIAM BURT

--**Education** -- Failures of present system, class bias in public schools, State indoctrination, tax credits, elimination of taxes, free market education alternatives.

--**Land Use** -- Urban and rural zoning, building, safety and sanitation codes, esthetics and sign controls, rent control, private vs. public urban renewal, experiences of private planners.

--**Water & Sewers** -- Role of subsidies in encouraging waste of water and sewer resources, placing regulation of water and sewer systems on a property-rights basis, non-water sewage concepts.

--**Fire Protection** -- Experiences and cost/service differences between private and public provision of services.

--**Garbage Collection** -- Superiority of private services, experiences of numerous municipalities, encouraging recycling.

--**Transportation** -- Local highways, transit and taxi, role of regulations in reducing transportation services, transfer of local streets to neighborhoods and effects of such transfers, transit plans for large cities, paratransit.

Much of this material has been previously available, but the sources have often been obscure, specialized journals and unpublicized experiments. For the first time, Burt has collected the most relevant and contemporary material on these issues and informed them with a preference for individual liberty and an understanding of both the problems and libertarian philosophy. You may have heard or read about some of these alternatives, but here they are all collected together in a comprehensive yet concise treatment of the issues which most vitally affect local voters and taxpayers.

(Continued on page 11)

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State News

State Parties

Alabama

The Alabama LP is now publishing a regular newsletter, and simultaneously stepping up activities in anticipation of running several candidates for office in 1978. The party is now being formally chartered in the state, with the volunteer assistance of an attorney member. The LP is also cooperating with Alabama NORML in an effort to get marijuana use decriminalized in the state.

Party membership is growing, with several professional people joining in the last several months. And Recording Secretary Franki de Merle, a classical guitar artist, recently gave a concert before a large audience at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville.

For information on these and other Alabama LP activities, please contact Harvey N. Crumhorn, Box 3204, Huntsville, AL 35810, (205) 859-1705 (h).

Alaska

The LP in Anchorage has successfully placed on the municipal ballot an initiative petition to repeal the city's personal property tax (on non-real estate possessions), arguing that it provides only 3% of the city's revenues, costs the most of any tax to collect and amounts only to a nuisance tax. The LP successfully gathered 2,102 valid signatures for the initiative measure, and fought the city's temporary restraining order against placing the measure on the ballot (on the grounds that the Alaska state constitution says they *can't not* tax personal property, though several Alaska cities don't). Thus the measure will be before the city's voters October 4. If successful it will probably face a court test brought by frustrated municipal officials.

Alaska LP members active in the effort have included State Chair Carl Whitson, Chuck Green, Kelly McLaughlin, Jill Rodgers, John Beirne, Rod Colver, Bob Westmoreland, Roger Pickles, Carol Mallicoat, Marsha Korpi, and Doug Cracraft. LP attorney George Trefry also was important in seeing the legal battles through to a successful conclusion.

Thanks to the city's efforts to keep the issue off the ballot, the initiative received almost daily coverage in Anchorage papers through the month of August, including at least one front-page article.

The LP of Anchorage has also reorganized itself along state House electoral districts. The new chairpeople include Carl Whitson, John Beirne, Jill Rodgers, Dana Anderson, Andre Marrou and Carol Mallicoat. Precinct organizations are expected to follow in the near future in at least some districts.

Among Alaskans attending the national LP convention in San Francisco were Tom Olson, Dick Randolph, Carl and Judy Whitson, Jill Rodgers, Doug Cracraft and Doug Garrett.

For further information about Alaska LP activities, please contact Tom Olson, 534 Craig Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (907) 452-555 or 452-3480 (h).

Arizona

Arizona libertarians have been busy the past several weeks, succeeding in obtaining enough signatures to place their candidate, David MacNeill, on the November ballot for Phoenix City Council.

Almost 550 signatures were gathered, more than sufficient for the 3300 signature requirement. MacNeill, a telephone repairman, plans an active campaign as one of 10 candidates for 6 positions on the Council.

Preliminary plans are being made for the ALP state convention to be held in Phoenix on Feb. 19 and 20, 1978. Libertarians in other states will be invited to the convention, which will center on practical politics.

For more information on ALP activities, contact John Kannarr, 4348 W. Maryland, Glendale, AZ 85301 (602) 934-3050 (h) or 264-7892 (o).

Arkansas

The Arkansas LP held a state meeting in August, at which it was decided to hold monthly meetings and step up political activity in a state which has heretofore had little libertarian activity. Reports were given on the LP National Convention and the film "The Incredible Bread Machine" was shown.

In September an annual convention was held at which Warren Massengill was re-elected as state chair, and future activities were planned.

Much credit for this renewed activity in Arkansas belongs to chairman Massengill and Sylvia Slayden, who did much of the logistical work involved in holding the convention.

For information on future Arkansas LP activities, please contact the Arkansas Libertarian Party, P. O. Box 26, Little Rock, Ar, 72203, or call Warren Massengill, (501) 562-0312.

California

The big news in California was the LP National Convention in San Francisco and the Libertarian Registration Effort (LIBRE), which aims to qualify the LP for permanent ballot status. But California LP members have been active on other fronts as well.

In Los Angeles, LP members Bill Webster, Edward Clark and Linda Rader had been elected to the Health Systems Agency Criteria Committee, part of an agency formed by Congress to allow "public input" into health-care decisions. Following that success, Ed Clark has been elected to the Governing Board of the HSA in Los Angeles County's Fifth Supervisorial District, and Linda Rader was appointed to the same Board of Rep. Carlos Moorhead (R-L.A.).

In San Francisco LP members have been involved in numerous community activities besides the Convention and registration efforts. Many libertarians participated in the Gay Freedom Day parade in late June and handed out thousands of leaflets. Chris Hocker, editor of *Caliber* (the state LP newspaper) appeared on a late-night talk show on a major FM station, and the host extended his one-hour slot into two and a half hours.

In Santa Cruz LPC activists have set up a storefront office on the main street to attract interest. LPC Chairman Ray Cunningham recently gave a talk to nearly 100 people at an LP function and received major coverage in the Santa Cruz *Sentinel*.

In Sacramento libertarians manned a booth at Cal Expo, the California State Fair, regularly attended by over a million people. In Orange County a mailing was sent to all registered Libertarians who are not LPC members, urging them to join the Party. And in Santa Barbara LPC member

Alan Bedkober, formerly chairman of Australia's Workers Party, was the guest of a political science class at Santa Barbara City College.

LP members are also working with several local taxpayers' groups on issues of mutual interest, and circulating a petition for an initiative on the California Ballot which would limit taxes on property to 1% of value.

For information on LP California activities, please contact P.O. Box 2617, San Francisco, CA 94126 (northern) or P.O. Box 71383, Los Angeles, CA 90071. State Chair is Ray Cunningham (415) 285-3113 (h), 544-1200 (o) or 285-2886 (LP).

Colorado

Denver was host to the National Executive Committee meeting held the weekend of October 1. Colorado activists planned a two-day public conference around the meeting, featuring Dave Bergland, Murray Ronhbar, Bill Evers, Eric Garris, and Dick Randolph.

The conference generated considerable publicity, including major newspaper stories in the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*, as well as televised coverage.

The Colorado LP recently opened an office/headquarters in downtown Denver, and the rewards have been exciting. Many have contributed to the financial and logistical burden of keeping the office operating, and the effect on volunteer morale has been gratifying. The office has been used to gather research data and literature, as well as for day-to-day operations and gatherings. It also lends an aura of professionalism and tangible evidence that the LP is "here to stay".

For information on LPC activities, please contact the LPC office, P.O. Box 1557, Denver, Colo. 80201, (303) 320-4344.

Connecticut

In its annual convention October 29, the CLP held workshops and panel discussions on equal rights, political tactics, Carter's energy policy, and LP history. Speakers and panel participants include constitutionalists Andy Melchinsky and Irwin Schiff, David Walter and Donald Ernsberger from the Society for Individual Liberty, and Joan Kennedy Taylor from the Association of Libertarian Feminists.

The convention was held at the Holiday Inn in Meriden. For further details on CLP activities, please contact Bob Loomis, Box 252, East Granby, CT 06026 (203) 653-3939 (h).

Delaware

The most recent activity for the LP in Delaware was a gathering to hear Prof. Burton Abrams, a specialist on Austrian economics.

For information on Delaware LP activities, contact William E. Morris, 2124 Brandywood Dr., Wilmington, DE 19810 (302) 475-7060 (h) or (601) 299-5000 Ext. 2039 (o).

District of Columbia

New LP national chair Dave Bergland and vice-chair Mary Louise Hanson, along with *Reason* editor Robert Poole, Jr. were featured speakers at the September

Libertarian Supper Club meeting. The meeting also featured a presentation by Jarret Wollstein on military defense without the State. For information on Libertarian Social Club activities, please contact Jarret Wollstein, 2605 Duxbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308 (703) 780-7605.

For information on DCLP activities, please contact the national office, 1516 P St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 232-2003.

Florida

The Florida LP was represented at the national convention by Fred Miley and Tony Parker, both active participants.

Fred Miley was recent guest of talk show host Larry King on Miami's WIOD. He spoke in favor of voluntaristic approaches to mental health and in opposition to compulsory psychiatric incarceration.

C. Richard Farmer, running for Congress in the 15th District against incumbent Democrat Dante Fascell, has been holding "coffees" at which he speaks and answers questions and the film, "The Incredible Bread Machine" is shown.

Libertarians recently held a picnic at Hollywood's TV Park and a dinner party and auction for fundraising at the Mileys' residence.

For further information regarding Florida LP activities, please contact Thomas E. Nay, P.O. Box 1727, Orlando, FL 32802 (305) 489-0111 (o) or (954) 761-3082.

Georgia

Georgia libertarians plan to participate in an effort now underway in the state to place a constitutional limit on state taxes, based on a percentage of personal income in the state.

For additional information on GLP activities, contact Jim Clarkson, 4 Coral Avenue, Rome, GA 30161 (404) 235-2181 (h) or 291-9471 (o).

Guam

Guam LP chairman Jim Joyner, who lobbied at the National Convention for a platform change which makes the LP's call for the U.S. to divest itself of colonial territories more specific, has announced that he plans to begin publishing a newsletter in the next few months, hold regular meetings and work actively to recruit new members. His activity at the National Convention was featured in a long news story with picture in the *Pacific Daily News* in which a capsule description of the libertarian philosophy was given favorable treatment.

For further information on LP activities in Guam, please contact: James L. Joyner, P.O. Box 3417, Agana, Guam 96910.

Hawaii

The LPH met August 25 to hear a report from Mark Coleman and Mike Rossell on the LP national convention. At that meeting Mike Rossell was elected to succeed Mark as LPH state chairman.

Over July 4 LPH activists set up a booth at a two-day rock festival to collect about 500 signatures for the party's ballot drive.

(Continued on page 7)

Keep Growing

(Continued from page 6)

Ron Fox, Kay Larsen, Ed Hope, Bruce Anderson, Abby Coleman, Mark Coleman and Pete Larsen spearheaded the effort.

The LPH continues to be active in planning and organizing for the upcoming state constitutional convention to assure a libertarian voice in the proceedings.

For further information regarding LPH activities, please contact Mike Rossell, P.O. Box 4541, Honolulu, HI 96814, (808) 949-2947.

Idaho

For information on Idaho LP activities, please contact Larry Fullmer, P.O. Box 4106, Pocatello, ID 83201, (208) 232-2306 (h) or 233-6146 (o).

Illinois

The big news in Illinois is a tax strike in Chicago's North Shore suburbs, organized and coordinated almost exclusively by libertarians. The flap has created headlines across the country, protests by thousands of property owners, and hundreds refusing to pay their tax bills.

The action started when citizens in the northern quadrant of Cook County got their tax bills based on "Fair Market Value," most of them reflecting increases of 50-60%, with some as high as 120%. National Taxpayers United chairman Jim Tobin, LPI state chair Milton Mueller and LPI members Mike Hepple and Jean McJohnston met with outraged property owners and offered assistance in organizing a protest. At the first mass meeting over 200 people showed up (50 were expected) and the pro-tax strike sentiments were strong.

Since then, four mass meetings, with a total of 800 participants, have resulted in unanimous votes to strike. Illinois Gov. Thompson met with protestors, Jim Tobin has debated taxes with the President of the Cook County Board and the legal counsel of the assessors' office. Gov. Thompson intervened to ask the Assessors' office to delay seizures of homes of those who refused to pay. Finally the County Assessors' office announced a new policy, under which homes would not be reassessed until they were sold.

Among the libertarians who worked long and hard to turn an angry reaction into an organized and effective action were Milton Mueller, Jim Tobin, Mike Hepple, Richard Suter, Ken Jameson, Joe Maxwell and Bonnie Kaplan.

One key to success was noted by editor George O'Brien in the *Illinois Libertarian*. "It is clear that a more moderate approach would not have accomplished as much. Government officials could easily ignore milque-toast appeals for 'fairness' and 'reasonable' taxation. But the tactic of a tax strike was so dramatic that it ignited the interest of the people and scared the politicians into action. In short, radicalism works."

In other Illinois news, Alida Jatich has been chosen the new LPI secretary, following the resignation of Joe Cobb. The LPI is holding a fundraising dinner October 15 to kick off its 1978 campaign. A libertarian speakers bureau is being set up, and Nathaniel Branden will be appearing in Chicago in October.

The LPI has acquired a new mailbox. It is: P.O. Box 313, Chicago, IL 60690.

For information on LP Illinois activities, please contact state chair Milton Mueller at the above address, or (312) 525-6231 (h) or 925-1111 (LP.)

Indiana

For information on the Regional Libertarian Conference being held in Indianapolis November 5 and 6, and information on other Indiana LP activities, please contact Sally Heistand, 1430 N. Capitol, Indianapolis, IN 46202, (317) 923-9227 (h) or 639-6579 (o).

Iowa

Research by Jeff Alexander of Marshalltown into Iowa's election laws has unearthed the fact that if the LPI has 250 members attend its state convention with at least 25 counties represented, it can obtain ballot status for any political offices without going through the petition process. Thus the LP is bending every effort to increasing membership before the January, 1978 convention. Since delegates must have been party members for at least two months prior to the convention, the key period is now.

The ExecComm is meeting every other month, planning for membership recruitment and the convention, as well as coordinating party support for candidates in 1978. Present plans call for concentration on the 1978 race for a U.S. Senate seat.

County coordinators have become active in many counties, and a Speakers Bureau is being formed. Emphasis is being placed on campus recruiting through the Young Libertarian Alliance, with Dale Roewe (Laurens, IA 52317) in charge of this project.

For further information on LP Iowa activities, please contact state chair John Ball, Rte. 4, Marshalltown, IA 50158 (515) 754-3117 (o) or 753-5269 (h).

Kansas

The Kansas LP will be holding a business meeting September 24 in Wichita to elect new officers and to plan the party's activities for the coming months. Presentations will be made by the issues, finance, membership, and education committees and members encouraged to join one or more of the committees.

For further information on Kansas LP activities, contact Gus Campuzano, 8201 East Harry No.402, Wichita, KS 67207, (316) 681-2793 (h) or 265-7701 x 63 (o).

Kentucky

Kentucky libertarians are in the process of establishing YL chapters on the four largest campuses in the state. Jim Gullett is coordinating the activity.

The party has met the legal requirements for operating a lobbying organization at the state capitol in Frankfort and will be studying legislation once the legislature is in session.

A libertarian supper club continues to meet in northern Kentucky, meeting jointly with a Cincinnati group and alternating programs with them each month. Another supper club has just been organized in the Lexington-Richmond area and a third is

planned for the Louisville area.

For more information about Kentucky LP activities, contact Ernest McAfee, 20 Spurlin Ct., Richmond, KY40475 (606) 623-0196 (h).

Louisiana

Prior to the National Convention the New Orleans LP held its first annual picnic at the home of Bill Freeland in Covington. Plans were discussed to hold a Supper Club meeting after the Convention to allow those who attended to report to those who did not. Other plans to form a speakers bureau and increase libertarian campus activity were also forwarded.

For additional information on LPL activities, contact Dr. Jeremy Millett, 112 Hampton Road, Lafayette, LA 70503 (318) 984-6012 (h).

For information on the Vogel campaign and other party activities, contact Chairman Ramon Baumgartner, 4927 71st Ave., Glenridge, MD 20784, (301) 459-1075 or 459-0003 (LP).

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts LP provided the national convention with some of its most active participants, including David Long on Rules and Bylaws, Joan Kennedy Taylor on the Platform Committee, Nathan Curland, the new Regional Representative, and Daniel Kotlow.

In Massachusetts, the LP is active in promoting a Tanstaaf Dinner Series. The speaker for September 20 is Irwin Schiff, Connecticut tax resister and author of the book *The Biggest Con*. The August speaker was tax rebel Hank Hohenstein.



Pictured above is the storefront office opened in Santa Cruz, California by Libertarian Party activists there. Santa Cruz area libertarians have registered hundreds of libertarians and have become a focal point of political debate in the area.

Maine

For information on LP activities in Maine, please contact the LP National Office, 1516 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 232-2003.

Maryland

The Maryland LP State Central Committee has been holding monthly meetings through the Summer, planning for campus recruitment in the Fall and a state candidate selection planned for October 1 to select LP candidates for public office. At the August 28 meeting Ramon Baumgartner was re-elected state chair, with Mark Doherty elected vice chair and James Spriggs as solicitor. Douglas T. Hawes resigned as Secretary and Peggy Boyd-Bobick was elected to replace him.

Dr. Hawes, who is associate professor in the Institute of Applied Agriculture, recently received the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture "Excellence in Teaching" Award. He has also recently presented a paper at the Third International Turf Conference in Munich, Germany.

The Maryland nominating convention was held in Laurel on October 1. Erwin Vogel was nominated to represent the LP as candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates. Membership in the MLP has increased 30% since the convention.

Massachusetts Liberty, the LP newsletter, began a policy of including a draft letter on an issue before Congress (airline regulatory reform) which LP members could photocopy, sign and mail. The result was a good number of letters with a decidedly libertarian slant sent to House Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Glenn Anderson, with copies to Libertarian Advocate.

National Committee member John Hilberg is coordinating a series of regional meetings designed to bring together LP activists from all over New England to initiate joint projects and learn from one another. For information write to John Hilberg, 141 Milk St., No. 743, Boston, MA 02109. or phone (617) 482-8201.

For information on these and other Massachusetts LP activities, please contact state chair Lee Nason, 929 Massachusetts Ave., No. 11D, Cambridge, MA, (617) 573-8555 (h).

Michigan

Primary efforts of the LPM currently are directed toward gathering the 22,000 signatures needed for ballot status in the 1978 elections. Members have gathered 6000 so far and have until the end of the year to obtain the remainder. The party has planned its convention for January.

For additional information on LPM activities, contact James Hudler, 308 1/2 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (313) 665-4343 (LP) or 662-4049 (h).

(Continued on page 8)

State News

Local Campaigns

(Continued from page 7)

Minnesota

For its fourth annual convention, to be held October 22 and 23, the LPM has assembled an impressive line-up of speakers from both inside and outside the libertarian movement. Heading up the list are David Bergland, newly elected LP chairman, and tax rebel Karl Bray.

Other speakers include Joe Cobb, research economist with Standard Oil of Indiana and head of several economic/libertarian organizations; Richard Suter, publisher of National Hard Acid Reporter and author of a syndicated financial investment column carried by more than 100 newspapers; Rebecca Rand, a leading advocate of sexual freedom in the Twin Cities area; L. Van Grassek, campaigning chairman of ten successful election campaigns; James Williams, attorney for Donna Schuster, a leader in the fight for laetrile legalization, and Edwin Elmer, an attorney fighting sign control.

The conference will be held at Nino's Steak Roundup, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

The name of the Minnesota LP's excellent newspaper, formerly "The Reasonable Answer," has been changed to *The Minnesota Libertarian*, and with the name-change comes an expansion of purpose. Rather than being just an LP house organ, the *Minnesota Libertarian* is designed to reach beyond the Party to potential sympathizers who seek information, entertainment and pleasant graphics in a newspaper of ideas. The goal is to make the paper self-supporting, and it is already going to over 60 news media outlets and 75 public libraries.

For further information on the convention and other LPM activities, please contact LPM, Box 774, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440 or Dale Hemming (612) 561-1234.

Mississippi

A new organizer/coordinator has been appointed to spearhead LP activities in the Jackson area. He is Joe Vernon, 157 E. Woodcrest, Jackson, MS 39212 (601) 373-4411 (h) or 372-9413 (o).

For further information about other Mississippi LP activities, please contact state chair Charles Clark, Box 143, Perkinson, MS 39753 (601) 928-5211 (o).

Missouri

The LPMo has developed and printed a 4-page brochure which explains the libertarian position on a wide variety of issues. The brochure was sent to over 600 Missouri news outlets in June. In July, a news release to those same outlets proposed a libertarian solution to the prison problem (about which a special session of the Missouri Legislature was being held) consisting of repeal of victimless crime laws, restitution, no gun control and an

unfettered capitalist system to create more jobs.

The two news releases have created a flurry of media coverage, including radio interviews with LPMo leaders, an 8-minute session on a TV talk show and a 3-column story in the *Kansas City Star*. Plans are now in the works to follow-up on the success of this media campaign and help convert it into more LP members and more LP votes.

Weekly discussion meetings are now being held in the home of state chair Tony Haenni, and plans are being considered to reactivate the St. Louis Libertarian Club as a supper club.

For information on these and other LPMo activities, please contact state chair Tony Haenni, Box A, Grover, MO 63040, (314) 227-1477 (h).

Montana

For information about Montana LP activities, or to get involved in leadership positions, please contact National LP Headquarters, 1516 P St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 232-2003.

Nebraska

The Nebraska LP had a booth at the 10-day Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln. A number of people signed the list for further information, and many picked up literature and discussed issues with the LP stalwarts.

Plans are now underway for a state convention to be held sometime in the Spring, and for establishing a YLA chapter in the Omaha area.

For information on these and other Nebraska LP activities, please contact Gale Arch, 3510 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68131, (712) 232-4550 (h) or (402) 344-2411 (o).

Nevada

Thousands of pieces of literature were distributed and 400 ballot petition signatures obtained at an LP booth at the state fair. Other Nevada LP projects include revising the state LP constitution and bylaws, answering TV editorials, and showing "The Incredible Bread Machine" on the UNLV campus.

To obtain the 12,000 signatures needed to assure ballot status, the party has decided to hire a full-time petition drive coordinator, and pay 30 cents per signature obtained. Interested persons should contact Jim Burns, 809 Cartier #K, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030 (702) 642-7717 (h).

New Hampshire

For information on LPNH activities and plans, contact Bill Huscher, Box 48, Milford, NH 03055, (603) 889-5152 (o) or 673-8283 (h).

The New Hampshire LP has hired a full time Executive Director to coordinate and organize statewide. He is Marc Travis, a long time libertarian activist. Expectations are high for the LPNH to make a major political impact in the 1978 elections.

New Jersey

NJLP's 29 candidates for state and local office are continuing their campaigns, writing letters to the editor, distributing bumper stickers, and even—in at least one local race—canvassing door-to-door.

Leading a particularly active race is Frank Primich, a practicing obstetrician running for governor. Among other issues, Primich has campaigned against govern-



New Hampshire LP Chair William Hunscher, left, congratulates Marc Travis, right, upon Travis's appointment as full time, salaried director of the New Hampshire LP. Hunscher and National Committee member John Hilberg are responsible for funding a projected four year LP program in New England, to include Travis and the automobile, also shown above.

ment interference in the health care field. He has received a fair amount of newspaper coverage, and made at least three tv appearances, one of which was a 15-minute spot.

A Primich for Governor cocktail party was held September 17 in North Brunswick. A gala picnic—BBQ was scheduled for Oct 9 at Tom and Jan Palven's home in Howell.

Also campaigning hard is Jeanne Macron in her bid for a position on the Township Committee in Freehold. She has set a goal to visit every home in her district.

Planning ahead, NJLP leaders are already lining up candidates for the 1978 elections and beginning preparations for the state convention in February.

For additional information on the campaigns and other NJLP activities, contact Walter Swirsky, 7 Maxfield Lane, Englishtown, N.J. 07726 (201) 431-4491 (h).

New Mexico

Libertarian Bob Walsh is running for a city council position in Albuquerque. He is the first libertarian to run for local office in the state, and plans for the campaign have new Mexico libertarians excited.

Walsh and State Chair Robert Foster recently spoke on the campus of the University of New Mexico, and are hoping to form a YLA chapter there in the near future.

For information on these and other New Mexico activities, please contact Robert Foster, 2417 Zena Lona, N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87112 (505) 296-8262 (h).

New York

New York City Mayoral Candidate Bill Lawry will be on the ballot, and plans a campaign centered around individual responsibility, cleaning up the city, opposition to victimless crimes, taxes, rent control, etc. Fundraisers Jenny Graf, Carl Hastings, Eleanor Rosenblatt, Bob Flanzer, Len Rubin, David Kahn, Larry Leff, Pete Wilson and others have helped to get the campaign off the ground. To help in any way, please contact NYC Free Libertarian Campaign, 15 W. 38th St., #201, N.Y., N.Y. 10018, or call (212) 354-0292.

In Nassau County the Savadel for County Executive Campaign is rolling along successfully. In Queens, Al Cappalazzi barely lost a seat on the school board, but will be running for councilman-at-large from Queens.

Regular meetings and election activities are proceeding in the Capital District (Albany, contact Mike Kessler, (518) 371-1718), Genesee (contact Dave Hoesley, (716) 671-2077), Kings County (Bob Flanzer, (212) 332-6466), Queens County (Gary Greenberg, (212) 478-5619), Suffolk County (Virginia Walker, (516) 924-3794), Syracuse (David Saum, (315) 422-6015), Ulster County (Mark Bolden, (914) 382-1949), and Western New York (William Barzel, 154 Windmere Blvd., Eggertsville).

For further information, please contact state chair Carl Hastings, 200 Madison Ave., #1904, N.Y., N.Y. 10016 (212) 686-9182 (o) or 378-6494 (h), or call, write or visit FLP headquarters, 15 W. 38th St., #201, N.Y., N.Y. 10018 (212) 354-0292.

North Carolina

For information on LPNC activities, contact Rick Posatto Box 3280, Charlotte, NC 28203.

North Dakota

For information on North Dakota LP activities, please contact Lowell Anderson, Route 1, Grafton, N.D. 58237 (701) 352-1072.

Ohio

Recent Ohio LP activities have included development of an Ohio LP recruitment brochure, setting up a speakers bureau headed by Melody Bookwalter, several showings of "The Incredible Bread Machine," including the Cleveland Exchange Club, and strategy and ExeComm meetings to determine whether future organization should be along Congressional District Lines and setting up Target districts for 1978.

Northeast chairman Bob Lehman and Northwest chairman John Rako have challenged Southwest chairman Bob DeBrosse and Central chairman Jim

(Continued on page 9)

And Organizing

(Continued from page 8)

Higgins to match the membership totals from the northern half of the state by the end of the year. The two winners will present the two losers with a pie in the face at the New Year's Eve Party.

A flea market held July 24 for the northeast Ohio LP netted \$138, which will be used for printing letterheads and campus recruiting flyers. Northeast chairman Bob Lehman has appeared several times recently on City Club comment (WCLV-FM), discussing private ownership of an airport and the threat of a new draft or national service.

For further information on Ohio LP activities, please contact Tom Brown, 114 Willowood Dr., Dayton, OH 45405, (513) 278-9094 (h) or 223-7215 (o)

Oklahoma

Principal activities of the LPO at this time will be maintaining booths at state fairs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, beginning September 23 and 30 respectively. The fairs, which last 10 days, each draw about two million people annually. This is the fifth year the party has been at the Oklahoma City fair and the second year at Tulsa.

Additional information on LPO activities and plans can be obtained from D. Frank Robinson, 330 SE 26, Oklahoma City, OK 73129 (405) 634-6661.

Oregon

State Chair Vivian Baures is working actively on a petition drive to get the LP on the ballot in Oregon in 1978. 44,000 signatures are required by August, 1978 to reach this goal, and the help of every LP member in Oregon is crucial.

Regional Director Tonie Nathan is seeking a spot as a Libertarian delegate-at-large to the Houston International Womens Year Conference in Houston. Letters of support may be sent to the IWY Conference, Dept. of State, Washington, D.C., or to Senators and Congressmen, requesting that Tonie be included as a delegate.

For further information on Oregon LP activities, please contact Vivian Baures, 33 N. Central, Medford, OR 97501 (503) 776-7525 (o), 846-6628 (h) or 028-5271 (LP).

Pennsylvania

LP Western Vice-Chair William A. Lewis is running for the position of Borough Councilperson in Elizabeth, Allegheny County. He has already filed his petition with twice the number of signatures required. Support and financial assistance may be sent to him at 210 — 5th St., Apt. 36, Elizabeth, PA 15037.

For information on other Pennsylvania LP activities, please contact state chair Tony West, 6409 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143, (215) 727-6463 (h) or 483-0735 (o).

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island LP has a new chairman, Anthony Fiocca, who is presently concentrating on plans to establish YLA chapters at college campuses. For further information on Rhode Island LP activities,

please contact: Anthony Fiocca, P.O. Box 657, Bristol, R.I. 02809 (401) 253-4027 (h) or 253-8228 (o).

South Carolina

State Chair Charles Blackwell, a York furniture dealer, is running in a special election for State Senate in District 6. The election is to be held October 25, and an aggressive campaign, including a well-received talk to the York Rotary, is already underway. On Sept. 16-18 the campaign held a camp-in at Kings Mountain State Park at which volunteers planned, philosophized, obtained petition signatures and posted material. For information, or to volunteer your time or money, please contact campaign manager Charles Wimberly, 506 Garrison, Camden, S.C. 29020, (803) 432-3447.

The SCLP discussion club has changed its meetings from Saturday to the Third Tuesday of each month at Scrooge's Bar and Grill, Main Street, Columbia, at 6:30. The September program features members of the New Banner Institute led by Randy Holcombe. The August program featured Drs. Tate, Koale and Dimsdale from the Carolina Patriots, a tax resistance organization.

The SCLP will have a booth at the South Carolina State Fair, to be held October 14 at the State Fair Grounds in Columbia.

John Harlee is organizing a speakers bureau and contacting organizations which need speakers to "match up mouths to ears."

For further information on these and other SCLP activities, please contact Charles Blackwell, Box 732, York, S.C., 29745, (803) 684-6455 (h).

South Dakota

For information on South Dakota LP activities, please contact Dave Ellis, 3914 W. Maine, Rapid city, S.D. 57701, (605) 394-4839 (o) or 348-5107 (h).

Tennessee

For information about Tennessee LP activities, contact Mary L. Joyner, 404 Meadow Lane, Kingsport, TN 37663 (615) 239-9394 (h).

Texas

LP member Allan Vogel is the LP candidate for Mayor of Houston. LP activist David Hutzelman is campaign manager, the two predict a "lively and interesting campaign" centered around crime (and the silliness of victimless crime laws) and transit, (centered around planners' attempts to impose a centralized transit system on the Houston area. To help, write Harris County Libertarian Party, Box 5202, Houston, TX 77012.

LP members have also been prominent in organizing a group to oppose centralized transit plans in Houston. David Hutzelman is chairman and former Congressman Ron Paul is vice-chairman of SHIFT (Support Houston's Independent Forms of Transit) which announced in August that it would oppose implementation of a state law which city fathers are interpreting as forcing Houston to adopt mass transit

though Houstonians have voted against it repeatedly at the local level. The organization has received good local publicity.

Texas LP activists were pleased by the unexpected passage of a bill which will liberalize petitioning processes for third parties in Texas. Dallas chair Margaret Bosse had spearheaded lobbying efforts for the bill, but it had been considered "dead" due to a personal-legislative impasse until it was attached as an amendment to another bill. See details on this successful lobbying campaign elsewhere in this issue.

For information on these and other Texas LP activities, please contact William Howell, P.O. Box 12618, Dallas, TX 75225, (214) 522-3574.

Utah

The admission price to a Utah LP picnic September 10 was a ballot petition with 25 signatures affixed or \$3. Signatures gathered earlier that day at a Salt Lake City state fair brought the total to something over 300, several hundred shy of what the party needs for ballot status in the 1978 elections. Party members aren't worried—they can continue gathering signatures until May 1978, a number of picnic-weather days away.

For further information on ULP activities, contact George A. Chapman, Box 15506, Salt Lake City, UT 84115 (801) 485-2485.

Vermont

Vermont libertarians and anyone else interested in working on party projects are encouraged to get in touch with George Traks, Hearthstone Village, S. Londonderry, VT 05155 (802) 824-6893 (h).

Area Director Nathan Curland of Massachusetts is also planning to get together with present and potential libertarian activists to help them increase their effectiveness in Vermont. He may be contacted at 51 Halcyon Street, Newton, MA 02159, (617) 332-3184 (h), or 861-0820 (o).

Virginia

The Virginia LP will be holding a one-day convention Saturday, October 15, at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond. Convention speakers and topics are: Bob Meier, national LP Executive Director on "The LP Between Conventions," David Friedman, assistant professor of economics at Virginia Polytechnical Institute on "The Production and Enforcement of Law," Jarret Wollstein, Director of the Society for Individual Liberty on "Public Services Handled by the Private Sector," and Dick Cheatham, Richmond newspaper, on "Effective Media Relations."

There will also be showings of the "Incredible Bread Machine" and "Adam Smith and the Wealth of Nations."

For further information on the convention, contact Carolyn M. Paulette, (804) 232-6644. Registrations made by October 10 are \$5 and should be sent to Libertarian Speakers' Bureau, Box 882, Richmond, VA 23207.

Washington

The LPWS will hold a state conference September 24 in Seattle to help areas

outside of Seattle develop regional organizations and set up political action programs. Subjects to be taken up include starting discussion groups and supper clubs, taking the initiative on local issues and how to select them, the non-partisan approach to getting political experience, forming coalitions, procuring speakers, YLA groups, and special interest groups.

Washington's chapter of the Association of Libertarian Feminists has become very active. In September the chapter sponsored a ALF convention in Seattle that featured Regional Representative Tonie Nathan, and in July three of its members attended the Washington State Conference for Women. Setting up a libertarian table at the women's conference resulted in a list of 60 interested women and, so far, three new party members.

Party officers have been encouraged by the number of people calling them or the office, five to seven a week, expressing interest in libertarianism or the party's activities.

For further information about LPWS activities, contact Pat Artz, 1258 Weiland St., -12, Kent, WA 98031 (206) 852-0585 or 285-0704 (LP).

West Virginia

For information on West Virginia LP activities, please contact Harold E. Harvey, MD, 214 Professional Bldg., Beckley, W.V. 25801, (304) 52-5343 (o) or 253-6254 (h).

Wisconsin

Plans were finalized at a September WLP executive meeting for a membership drive. Recruitment efforts will include speaking before various groups, publicizing through the media, and sending out mass mailings.

It was also decided at the meeting to run a candidate for governor and candidates in as many state and local races as possible in the 1978 elections. Two LO members have already announced their intentions to run for local offices in the spring.

Janesville libertarians combined with ACLU and other groups to help defeat a proposed pornography ordinance which would have banned from the city even such magazines as *Vogue* and *Cosmopolitan*. Art Jackson was one of the main speakers against the ordinance.

State chair Dan Endsley received live TV coverage when he spoke before the Madison city council against spending \$8 million to convert a downtown theater into a civic center. Several hundred signatures were collected in a three-day drive to stop the spending, but the spending was agreed to in the council, by a one-vote margin.

YLA chapters are being formed on two campuses by state coordinator Dan Hanson.

WLP membership is at its highest point ever, having risen almost 50 per cent since the beginning of the year. In one week seven new memberships were submitted, including those of a statewide campaign manager for George Wallace and a county organizer for Eugene McCarthy.

Wyoming

For information on Wyoming LP activities, please contact Gary Roberts, 230 E. Jefferson, Cheyenne, WY 82001, (307) 638-3077 (h).

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Libertarian Solutions

(Continued from page 5)

The booklet will be illustrated with photos, charts and graphs, to permit readers to digest its contents quickly or to pursue them in more detail through the references and footnotes provided.

Bill Burt has spent most of the summer doing the research and writing on the local issues book, which is expected to provide LP members and candidates with a wealth of down-to-earth information on issues of genuine concern to voters. He has used material on file at the LP headquarters as well as his own research material collected over the last five years. He has also contacted government agencies and private associations in Washington to get the most up-to-date material available for this booklet.

"It hasn't always been pleasant," Burt notes with a smile, "delving into issue after issue and identifying just how the government has managed to make a mess of things. But I have noticed some common threads. Most governments provide services by granting state monopolies or state franchises. These almost always lead to high prices and poor service."

A draft version of each chapter of the booklet has been sent to several experts in the particular field covered (some libertarians, some not) and comments solicited. The final version of the booklet will thus incorporate the criticisms and suggestions of several individuals with expertise in the field covered.

Why is all this important? Bill Burt explains: "I have kept a clipping on the wall over my typewriter all summer. It is a column by a writer in Phoenix who is basically sympathetic to the LP. But he concludes that 'its purity seems unleavened by contact with political reality ... (and) this tiny party seems doomed, for the moment, to serving the essentially ineffective, though socially important, role of gadfly on the body politic.' At the present time, that's a fair comment from a sympathetic observer. Until we demonstrate to our potential sympathizers that we can deal with genuine, down-to-earth issues in a practical and constructive manner, I'm afraid the prophecy may prove true."

Bill Burt's booklet on local issues goes a long way toward defusing that criticism. It takes these issues and deals with them in a manner which is consistent with libertarian principles, yet applicable to the real world.

Most LP members will be interested in this booklet, for it will provide them with countless facts, statistics and concrete examples of the superiority of a system of choice rather than government coercion in providing the services and protection which concern local citizens. It should also be useful to LP candidates, providing them with ready-made approaches to local programs which they can adjust to fit their own local conditions.

It is also expected that this booklet will find an audience among local government officials who are not libertarians. Not only will it give them concrete information on how the fastest growing political movement in the country approaches local problems, but it offers alternative solutions to local problems which many will want to investigate not just because they offer more freedom, but because they work better than current approaches.

The LP Local Issues booklet is one of the most exciting developments in the LP's history, another sign of our growing maturity, sophistication and serious approach to problems which genuinely trouble many citizens.

In the 1976 elections, the Libertarian Party was not on the ballot in Texas, the fourth largest state in the country, primarily because of handicaps imposed on minor parties by the state's election code. Now, as the result of a long lobbying effort by LPT members, the most hindering and inequitable provisions of the code have been removed, making ballot status for the party much more likely and more easily attained in 1978 and future election years.

The election code provision that proved the most burdensome during the ballot petition drive was one mandating petition carriers become notaries public. Notarizing all the LP petitioners consumed time and considerable dollars. In addition, petitioners were permitted to collect signatures only in the county where they had been notarized.

LPT efforts to have the election code

revised began with Chairman Bill Howell's preparation of a leaflet on the subject and the contacting of other groups in the state to solicit support. Howell's leaflet helped pave the way to adoption by the Texas Women's Political Caucus of a resolution calling for the end to the discriminatory provisions of the election code. The resolution was introduced at the women's caucus by Dallas County Chair Margaret Bosse.

Howell then drafted a legislative bill incorporating the changes Texas libertarians wanted to see in the election code, among them a repeal of the notary provision.

Primarily through Bosse's efforts, Howell's bill obtained sponsorship in both the Texas House and Senate.

Many Texas libertarians joined in the lobbying effort, sending letters and telegrams and telephoning the legislators.

David Helber, Don Stockwell, and Martin Gibson testified in behalf of Howell's bill before a house committee.

In spite of these efforts, the bill was killed in committee toward the end of the legislative session, and Texas libertarians thought they would have to pursue their fight through the courts.

Meanwhile, however, the Secretary of State's Office, convinced of the importance of Howell's bill by the ever-persuasive Margaret Bosse, succeeded in having the bill's contents added as an amendment to another election code bill being considered in the senate. This bill, amended to contain the wording of Howell's bill, passed both houses and became law.

Bill Howell, Margaret Bosse and the other Texas libertarians who worked in this lobbying effort are to be congratulated on their fine work.

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format with its sharp, modern graphics.

As for coming issues, you can look forward to provocative essays on the suppression of political ideas in America, the decline of New York City, pornography and the law, American foreign policy, the "energy crisis," the libertarian movement and many more. Plus regular columns and features like "Crosscurrents" and "Washington Watch," hard-hitting editorials, and crisp, in-depth reviews of books and the arts.

LR continues to boast a roster of contributors that includes the top names of libertarianism. People like Murray N. Rothbard, Roger MacBride, Ralph Raico, Joan Kennedy Taylor, Walter Grinder and Earl Ravenal and many others.

As always, LR guarantees to aggravate, stimulate and infuriate. It raises questions you've wondered about for years—and some you never dreamt of considering. It may challenge many of your most firmly held beliefs. But—and this is a promise—it will *never* bore you.

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LP

Platform Updated To Reflect New Issues

Editor's Note: One of the most diligent members of the Platform Committee at the 1977 LP National Convention was Joan Kennedy Taylor, platform delegate from Massachusetts. She participated actively in the proceedings and kept copious and accurate notes. We asked her to write a brief overview of the issues handled and changes made in the 1977 Platform. We believe she has given a concise and accurate description of what the 1977 Libertarian Party platform is and how it came to be. Complete copies of the 1977 Platform will be available soon from the National Office.

By Joan Kennedy Taylor

The new Libertarian Party platform retains and expands its application of libertarian theory to American politics, and has added strong statements on such currently topical issues as the energy program, terrorism, the Panama Canal, the fiscal crises of states and localities, children's rights, round-ups of illegal aliens, and recombinant DNA research.

The platform committee, meeting for two days and two evenings in San Francisco, went through the 1976 platform with a finetooth comb, proposing eight new planks and a major rewriting of several others. Of the 45 planks and 4 preambles in the 1976 platform (adopted at the 1975 New York Convention), only 11 planks and 2 preambles had no suggested changes.

New planks were proposed by the committee and adopted in convention on Human Rights, Children's Rights, Undocumented Aliens, Southern Africa, Public Utilities, None of the Above, and Sovereign Immunity. An eighth suggested

new plank on the Executive and the Legislature failed to pass the Convention.

The continuing emphasis on concretizing libertarian principles in terms of current issues led to a total rewriting of previous planks such as those on Energy, Education, Amnesty and the Military (now The Draft, National Service and the Military), Medical Care (now Health Care), Colonial Independence (now Colonialism), and Unions and Collective Bargaining. All were adopted in convention with two exceptions: a new version of the existing Postal service plank was voted down, and an expansion of the Civil Service plank which would have been retitled *Government Employees* was tabled and never made it back to the floor.

During the time set aside for the presentation of views to the platform committee by non-committee members, several people expressed strong concern about the '76 foreign policy section. The Florida LP had drawn up and adopted a substitute section on foreign policy which was not only presented to the platform committee but was later handed out to all delegates by two different lobbying groups, one of which included a covering letter of endorsement by past presidential candidate John Hospers. It seemed as if there might be a floor fight during the convention on this issue, but any such possibility was apparently defused when the new plank on Human Rights (criticising American government spokesmen for hypocrisy on this issue) was amended from the floor to include a condemnation of terror tactics.

The foreign policy section was expanded and concretized in other ways. An opening paragraph setting forth foreign policy



Ray Cunningham, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of California, speaks at the National Convention. Cunningham and other LPC members were largely responsible for the success of the 1977 Convention.

goals of peace and the defense of the American people was added to the preamble. The plank on foreign aid now specifically opposes the government underwriting of arms sales, the Commodity Credit Corporation, and the participation of the U.S. government in international commodity cartels. The former Law-of-the-Sea plank is now entitled *Unclaimed Property*, includes broadcast bands and planetary bodies, and calls for the application of homesteading concepts in such areas. The plank on military policy now calls now only for nuclear disarmament, but for "international negotiations toward general and complete disarmament down to police levels," and specifically calls for the withdrawal of air force as well as ground troops from Korea.

In addition, this section of the platform calls for a constitutional amendment limiting the Presidential role as Commander-in-Chief, an end of both intervention and trade restrictions with respect to South Africa, and the end of U.S. financial support for the United Nations.

In the first section of the platform (Individual Rights and Civil Order) there is one totally new plank: a plank on Undocumented Aliens. It condemns federal round-ups of Hispanic-Americans and others, calls for the lifting of all immigration restrictions, and the abolition of the Border Patrol, while reiterating that libertarians oppose welfare payments, to aliens or anyone else.

The planks in this section on the draft and on unions have been heavily revised. The new draft plank opens with a general paragraph opposing not only the draft but any form of national service, and specifies the Youth Conservation Corps. The previous wording on amnesty has been retained, as has the call for the retraction of all less-than-honorable discharges for homosexual conduct. The recasting of the plank on unions was mainly for purposes of clarity and involves no substantive change.

Elsewhere, this section expands existing planks to oppose anti-trust suits against the media, government-required identity cards, and the use of conservatorships to forcibly attempt to change religious views; it also calls for the abolition of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The second section of the platform deals with Trade and Economy. It contains one new plank on Public Utilities, which advocates the end of all government monopolies and franchise privileges, and one extensively rewritten plank, on Energy.

Saying that recent and proposed energy interventions by government amount to "total regimentation of the American economy and society," the plank condemns in detail the proposal to create a Department of Energy and some of the powers that it may invoke, including mandatory conversion to coal, the "strategic storage" program, and the breaking up of

large companies, favoring instead repeal of all controls and "a system of full property rights in underground oil."

Two changes in the taxation plank call for the termination of all sanctions against tax evasion, and a controversial statement favoring default in the current fiscal crises. This provision was appealed, during the Convention, to the Judicial Committee, as possibly violating the Statement of Principles, in that it might be construed as calling for the violation of property rights in municipal bonds. However, it was held not to contradict the Statement of Principles.

Two new planks were added to the Domestic Ills section of the platform, one suggesting the addition of the phrase "None of the Above" to all ballots and the other advocating the end of the doctrine of "Sovereign Immunity" whereby the State may not be sued without its permission.

Several planks in this section were revised and expanded. The former Land-Use plank now deals with water and other natural resources as well, and calls for the privatization of inland waterways; an end to government water rationing and dam construction; the abolition of the Bureau of Reclamation, the civil functions of the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management — as well as condemning the government practice of reserving surface mining rights on homestead property.

In the plank on Health Care (formerly Medical Care), the terms *health care* and *healthcare practitioner* were substituted for *medical* and *doctor* throughout. Also, an opposition to government financing of abortions was added, and a paragraph discussing the opposing attempts to suppress recombinant DNA research while also opposing limiting liability for injuries arising from such research.

Explanatory paragraphs now explain the libertarian position in more detail in the planks on Education, Poverty and Unemployment, and Campaign Financing Laws. In line with the general emphasis on topicality, laetrile and artificial sweeteners were included in the list of substances that consumers should not be protected against; the platform condemns not only forced busing but corporal punishment within the public school system; dollar-for-dollar tax credits for charitable contributions are advocated as an interim measure; and the wording of the plank against OSHA was changed to reflect recent Supreme Court decisions.

The 1977 platform committee consisted of ten delegates elected by the national executive committee and ten delegates elected by the ten largest state LPs. It was chaired by Walter Grinder, the Director of the Center for Libertarian Studies in New York.

Convention

(Continued from page 1)

The Convention also adopted a new method of apportioning delegates among states at future conventions. Instead of the previous system of basing delegates on state party membership, the future convention delegations will be based on a formula combining number of national party members, amount of vote attained for the LP presidential ticket in the last election, and delegate status for elected Governors, U.S. Senators and Representatives who are LP (and no other party) members.

The basic news from the 1977 Convention is that the Libertarian Party is alive, well and growing, that it's part of a larger libertarian movement which is spreading the message by diverse means and to diverse constituencies.

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