

Minnesota Libertarian

The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota

Libertarians gain in Twin Cities

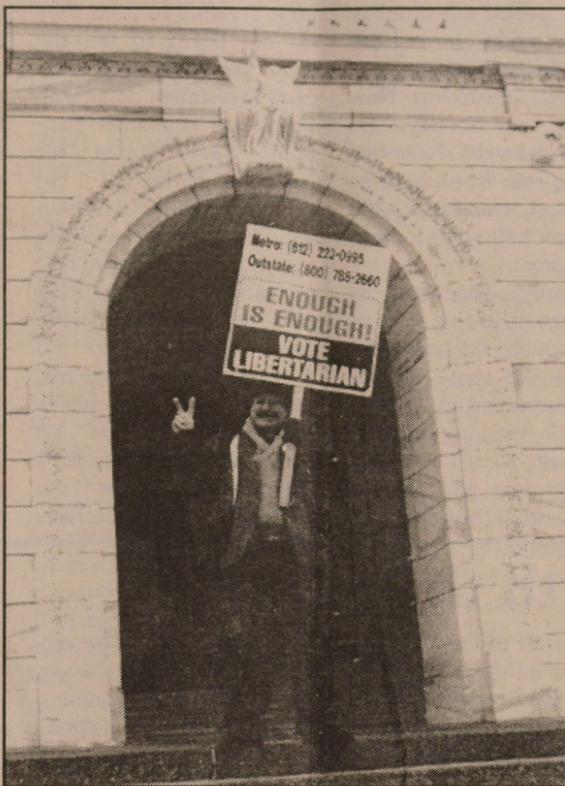
Three Libertarians (Sam Huston, Bob Odden and Anthony Sanders) have run for Minneapolis or St. Paul City Councils in the last few months. In the September primary Bob Odden and Anthony Sanders were on the ballot. Anthony came in a close third in his Hamline University neighborhood Ward 4 in St. Paul. He lost to a DFL challenger by 1% (12% to 13%) and beat the Socialist Worker by 2 to 1. Anthony benefited from extensive *Pioneer Press* and local cable access coverage of the primary races in St. Paul.

In Minneapolis Bob Odden came in second in a four way primary race against DFL incumbent Kathy Thurber,

Republican, and Green Party candidates. He got 17% of the vote in Ward 9. In Ward 2, Sam Huston and the incumbent had no other challengers and both went on to the general election.

In the general election Bob Odden got 33% and Sam Huston 19% of the vote in their wards.

In 1996, for Minnesota Senate District 62, Bob got 3% of the vote, in the 1997 primary, he got 17% and in the general election he got 33% of the vote. Bob's percentage sets a recent LP of MN record. Member Frank Germann reports he got 39% of the vote back in the 1988 for West St. Paul City Council which is the all-
(Please turn to page 8)



Libertarian activist Colin Wilkinson keeps vigil on the Capitol steps during the November Twins stadium special session.

LP MN convention 1998, a sure bet

Discovering freedom is the theme of the 1998 Libertarian Party of Minnesota state convention. The convention is Saturday, April 18th, 1998 at the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, in Prior Lake.

The convention will be geared to introducing interested people to the Libertarian Party.

The convention will start later in the day and there will be an evening banquet with Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party's 1996 Candidate for President, best-selling author of 10 books, public speaker, and world-renowned investment advisor. Ed Contoski, author of *Makers and Takers* will be speaking.

We will have other speakers too. There will be an introduction to libertarianism during the business session for prospective members. Check the LP of MN web site for up to date convention news.

Please look on the back page 16 for special new member discounts for The LP of MN convention and Libertarian Party membership. The January/February 1998 *Minnesota Libertarian* will have more convention details.

Please make your reservations as soon as you can. Save money. Space is limited. Order early.

(See back page 16 for special offers)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Global warming is baloneyP5
- What about the children?.....P6
- NO taxpayer-funded stadiums.....P11
- LP of MN conventionP16

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Libertarian Forum
at the Hamline University Learning Center
Call Anthony Sanders for details: 612 917-2722

Next executive committee meeting
For exact date and details, call Charles Test 612 874-8531

Outreach and Cable access
Meetings are the first Monday of each month
Contact Eric Johnson at 612 436-8183

Monthly member telephoning
Ken Poe at 612 893-2398

April 15, 1998
Annual Income Tax Protest at Main Minneapolis Post Office

April 18, 1998
Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention

July 2-5, 1998
Libertarian Party National Convention in Washington, DC

July 7-21, 1998
Ballot access petitioning

August-Labor Day
Minnesota State Fair

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Libertarian Party of Minnesota
The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota
P.O. Box 580774, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0774

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What government really costs: over 94.2 trillion and counting

By Rod D. Martin

In the book of First Book of Samuel, God's people of Israel decide that they want a king, "to be like the other nations." Up until that point they had had very limited, decentralized government, but as in our own day, the ancient Israelites were increasingly enchanted with what big government could give them. Having been out of Pharaoh's Egypt three hundred years, they had forgotten the truth of Gerald Ford's famous statement that "any government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take from you everything you have."

In granting their wish, we are told, God first warned the Israelites of the tyranny that would be possible if and when they someday had a king who was evil. It should be a huge eye-opener for most Americans that one of the things listed as tyranny was

a tax rate as high as ten percent.

My, my, those must have been the days.

Today, we live in an America where the average taxpayer works until July 2 just to pay the government; less than half of what he makes is his own. It was not always so: a hundred years ago, the average American faced a tax burden of around five percent.

The cost of this taxing spree is just beginning to come to light.

A study by University of Texas at Dallas economist Gerald W. Scully, completed last year, described the effect of our over-high tax rate on the U.S. gross national product since 1949. Rather than looking at the method of tax collection, as does most current debate over flat tax versus sales tax vs. whatever, Scully merely looked at the disincentive effects

of the average tax rate, the overall amount of tax paid by each family as a share of

their income. Regardless of how it was collected, the damage to the economy was, in the words of the report, "staggering."

Scully used an economic model which assumed the sort of government spending we've had in post-World War II America, but which assumed an average tax rate of 21.5% to 22.9%, and compared this to reality. This tax rate range was not merely pulled out of a hat: Scully's model showed this to be the optimal range of taxation to support New Deal/Great Society era spending levels. Note that this tax rate is still high by historical standards, but less than half what we currently pay.

Scully's discovery? By 40 years of taxing at more than double this rate, successive U.S. governments have succeeded in stunting the U.S. economy by more than half. Actual U.S. GNP in 1989 was \$6.2 trillion; Scully shows the proper fig-

ure should have been a whopping \$13.6 trillion.

Cumulative GNP loss from 1949 to 1989 was \$94.2 trillion, or \$750,000 in lost income over the lifetime of every American family. And most ironic of all, all that extra GNP growth would have funded all government programs during the period, AND wiped out every deficit since 1949.

These numbers are enough to make you catch your breath, but even they do not begin to tell the story. What would all those extra investment dollars, all that extra consumer freedom, have meant for American industry? For American jobs? For technological advance? For cancer research? For improving education and fighting poverty? The mind cannot begin to imagine it: all these things work together, and the synergy between them is unpredictable. Yet we can look at today's America, compare the material blessings we have

and the quality of life they create to a time when we had half our present GNP -- the late 1950s -- and begin to get some idea. Anyone who would rather have an Edsel than a new Mustang, please step right up.

Even assuming Scully's tax rate and government spending numbers, both of which this column will vigorously fight as long as it exists, our government has stolen the equivalent of forty years of progress from us.

But America's government is truly of, by and for the people: it did nothing we didn't ask it to do. The medical treatments we don't have, the homeless people who would have been middle class, these are both attributable to our votes.

And it is on that note that the question must be asked: at that Biblical tax rate -- and formerly American tax rate -- of less than 10%, how much richer would we all be? And

would an America that rich need all these government programs in the first place? Scully's study certainly points the way. ■

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RodDMartin@aol.com

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Rod D. Martin

Vanguard of the Revolution

P. O. Box 1022

Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Truth is elusive, but worth the effort

By Rich Osness

My father was fond of saying, "It's not what we don't know that hurts us. It's what we think we know."

With the explosion of information in the past few decades we have been inundated with false, misleading or contradictory information. Many have become skeptical, as we should be, of much of the new information that comes our way.

It has become common knowledge that massive doses of just about anything will cause tumors in a laboratory rat. So, when we are told that our favorite food has just been "found guilty", we stock up before it gets banned.

In many court cases we are treated to dueling

"experts" stating exactly opposite conclusions from the same information. They can't both be right.

This skepticism is good. It protects us from being misled too easily.

But we have to believe something. How do we decide what?

Most of us instinctively question anything that we think is not in our best interest. We are most vulnerable when someone is telling us something we want to hear. This is when we should be on guard the most, when we are being told something we really want to believe. (Yes, Dear. The Twins will win the pennant this year.)

A quick way to judge the validity of the information is the known interest of the presenter of the information.

As an example, if the tobacco industry came out with a study saying second-hand smoke was harmful, it would be credible. If their study said it was harmless, the study should automatically be suspect. We can assume that the tobacco industry would desire a result that showed their products to be as benign as possible.

If the EPA came out with a study that showed no need of a regulation, it would be credible. If an EPA-backed study showed a need for regulation, the study should be suspect. It can be assumed that the EPA would want a study to show the need for its services.

We can't assume that because a study "proves" what the sponsors of the study want that it is wrong,

only questionable. We can usually assume that a study that shows a result contrary to the interests of the sponsor is valid. We seldom hear about these.

A good example of this is a recent EPA-funded study to determine the health benefits of EPA regulations. There were no benefits found. This makes the study believable. The EPA buried the study. This confirms the validity of the study.

However, we are usually not this lucky. Usually we are left with contradictory studies sponsored by competing interests.

If Dr. McKetta with the University of Texas says that ethanol takes more energy to produce than it is worth, he is automatically suspect. If the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

says that ethanol is more efficient to produce than gasoline, they are automatically suspect.

Who do we believe? Obviously, we need to look closely at the information provided by each of these competing interests. One of them is wrong; at the very least deluded, at the worst deliberately deceptive. Discovering who made the error and whether it was deliberate

or inadvertent can be useful.

When an inadvertent error is found, information from that source should always be suspect. If the error is obviously deliberate, information from that source should always be ignored.

That is another thing I first learned from my father. Those who will deliberately deceive you once will likely do it again.

Appointed and/or elected to political office Libertarians in Minnesota 10/30/97

David Buelow (Elected)
School Board,
Waubun School Board
RR 2 Box 225
Waubun, MN 56589-9329
(218) 734-2262

Maynard Meyer (Elected)
City Council-member,
Madison City Council
P O BOX 70
Madison, MN 56256
Work: (320) 598-7301

Larry Fuhol (Appointed)
Planning Commissioner,
Isanti Town Planning Commission
515 County Road 5 W
Isanti, MN 55040-9305
(612) 444-9008

Eric M. Johnson (Appointed)
Alternate-Park Commissioner,
City of St. Croix Beach Park Commission
1795 Queens AVE South
Lakeland, MN 55043
(612) 436-8183
75624.100@compuserve.com

Paul Streeter (Appointed)
Charter Commissioner,
Minnetonka Charter Commission
15331 Excelsior BLVD
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(612) 934-0093



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Our goal is to distribute the newsletter at the beginning of the even months. Because we depend on volunteers to submit articles it may come out later. Your submissions are much appreciated.

Charles Test Managing Editor
Larry Hubner Senior Editor
Production Test Studios - South Minneapolis

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Articles do not necessarily imply official Libertarian Party positions. Articles may be reprinted if the writer and this newsletter are credited.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIR

Sorry for the late *Minnesota Libertarian*. The September/October issue got postponed because I was desk-top publishing campaign material for the Bob Odden campaign. We need more desk-top publishers, let me tell you. Lots has happened since the State Fair.



Charles Test

Our State Fair booth was more popular than ever. We had more new people sign up for free *Minnesota Libertarian* newsletters than ever before. This is on top of all the new prospects from the county fairs we attended. During my duty at our booth it seemed to me that many people had heard about us and were curious. On the scary side, more people than previously seemed to test authoritarianism on the quiz.

Our penny-a-vote for or against taxpayer funding of another Twins sports stadium was very popular. Thousands of people made a point of voting. We followed up with a press release. During the October and November special sessions at the Legislature the Libertarian Party held press conferences and joined in the protesting and lobbying against such schemes. I was interviewed by the Minnesota News Network in October representing the opposition to taxpayer funding of professional sports palaces. Many thanks to Forrest and Colin Wilkinson for their diligent organizing and attendance at these events.

I've also been active in the Bob Odden for Minneapolis City Council Ward 9. Before the primary we had to identify

issues, produce a campaign brochure and start door-knocking. The theme of the campaign was Basic Services First. It rang true with a lot of voters. Bob worked very hard pounding the pavement meeting his constituents.

In Ward 9 the big issues were the re-route of Highway 55 (Hiawatha Avenue) through Minnehaha Park. The 4 lane highway plus two-lane bus-way plus maybe light rail will cost \$50-\$80 million dollars and take out the southern end of Minnehaha Park and some wild land between the Bureau of Mines and the Mississippi River. The purpose of the highway is to shave a few minutes off the commute time for people driving from the airport, Mall of America or southeastern suburbs to downtown Minneapolis. The Minneapolis City Council has refused to hold public hearings on the issue and acts as if it's a done deal. I see it as an abuse of power by the government to benefit non-city residents at the expense of affected neighborhood city residents and a great waste of money.

I did a fair amount of literature-dropping during the fall campaign. I walked lots of healthy miles, saw lots of beautiful urban front yard gardens and met a lot of nice cats. There were some nice dogs too, but several ferocious barkers too.

The campaign had two fund-raisers. Thank you Bill Collins for your hospitality. Thank you Julius De Roma for the use of your Nokomis Beach Coffee Shop extra room. We learned what it takes to run a campaign.

The political establishment's insistence on trying to ram another professional sports stadium down the taxpayers' throats gave the LP of MN an opportunity to join with a very diverse coalition of groups to condemn this blatant example of corporate welfare. Thank you Forrest and Colin Wilkinson for producing the LP of MN's first press

conferences at the Capitol. They took place in the state office building. They attracted a Minneapolis Star/Tribune reporter, a WCCO camera-man and a DFL observer. It's a start.

In the "I wonder what it will take department," I'm disappointed to report that that Minneapolis City Council passed additional new regulations on home-based businesses, yet the leadership of the some home-based business people feels success. In spite of there being no public outcry against these businesses being a problem; in spite of evidence they are good for neighborhoods as day-time eyes and ears; in spite of them offering individuals flexible working situations the politicians and some home-based business owners feel they should be regulated. Before they do something.

At the public hearing, I was frustrated to hear everyone, except Libertarians, say 'as long as you don't do this one little thing that affects me, I don't care about my home-based business brothers and sisters.' Only Libertarian Party members, including candidate Bob Odden, spoke to the presumption of guilt, possible abuses and the needless complexity and harm the regulations would place on previously law-abiding working people.

Theses are just some of the things that are going on. Look for new taxes on energy in Minnesota and in Minneapolis inspection fees on real estate. There's all kinds of mischief going on.

The Libertarian Party is getting ready for 1998 elections too. We need you to run for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor or the Legislature. We have a few candidates who have announced for other offices and others talking about it, but we need candidates for Minnesota's constitutional state-wide offices in order to earn major party status with 5% of the vote. We need you. ■

One political party is different

By Rich Osness

One of the most common questions Libertarians are asked is "What is a Libertarian?" or "How are Libertarians different from the Republican, Democrat or Reform Parties?" Sometimes we haven't answered these questions well.

There is, of course, the dictionary definition that we believe in the greatest amount of personal freedom practical. We also have the stock answer that we believe in less government interference in our lives or very limited government. These answers don't adequately spell out the uniqueness of the Libertarian party. After all, who could not be for freedom or limited government? Isn't that what all political parties embrace?

All political philosophies advocate the same worthy goals, a better, safer life for all citizens. The differences are in the methods advocated to achieve these goals. The means to achieve this better life is the difference between political philosophies. What political philosophy would

want to create the chaos and poverty that exists in North Korea?

The difference in methods that Libertarians advocate is not simply more freedom or less government. The difference is that almost every Libertarian position involves the absence of force. The Republican, Democrat or Reform Party solutions to every problem involve force with its implicit threat of violence.

Support this cause with your tax dollars or else. Send your children to this school or else. Don't sell drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, penicillin or flu vaccine or else. Pay your employees this much or else. Give up the means to defend yourself or else. The "or else" is the use of force to compel compliance.

We do need government. We need a government that protects our property and our persons from harm by others. In addition, a good government should provide a court system for peacefully settling civil disputes. To accomplish this the use of force is sometimes neces-

sary but it should be very strictly limited. When government goes beyond these limited roles, Libertarians believe government exceeds its moral authority and its practical capabilities. Even if our leaders knew what was best for us (they don't), they abandon any pretense of morality when they advocate the use of force to achieve their goals.

Libertarians advocate a free marketplace for services, goods, thought and speech. The other three parties advocate force to the restricting of or subsidizing of thought, speech, services and trade in goods.

Libertarians believe that if there is a charitable need people will voluntarily serve that need at an appropriate level. The other three parties believe that people should be forced to serve charitable needs at the level they think appropriate.

The difference is the Libertarian Party does not advocate force to solve every problem. The others do. ■

Help needed:

Hosts for informal libertarian pot-luck get-to-know-each-other parties. Detailed instructions upon request. This is a proven method of growing party membership and activity. Please consider hosting a get-together in your home, back yard, local park or public hall, today.

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Items needed

Cheap MAC or PC computers with color monitors to run the Advocates for Self-Government *world's smallest political quiz* at outreach events.

A VCR/TV combo unit for playing libertarian video tapes at outreach events.

Multi-pocketed wire pamphlet holders for outreach events. Wire should be much more durable than plexi-glass.

A 6 - 8 foot Statue of Liberty for a trailered LPMN float for parades.

A snowmobile or motorcycle sized trailer for future LPMN float.

We need you to run

Contact your LPMN candidates

Eric Johnson US Congress 6 Lakeland, MN 612 436-8183
75624.100@compuserve.com

Larry Fuhol US Congress 8 Isanti, MN 612 444-9008

Rich Osness MN House 27B Austin, MN 507 433-5734

Bob Odden Minneapolis 612 721-7649

Anthony Sanders St. Paul 612 917-2722
asanders@piper.hamline.edu

If the IRS is so terrible, why did Congress increase its budget?

WASHINGTON, DC —
The IRS is a "troubled agency" that is "terrorizing innocent Americans and wrecking our lives," Congress says — so why did it just vote to increase the agency's budget by \$600 million?

That's the question Libertarians are asking today as politicians listen to three days of Congressional hearings about IRS abuses. "You don't increase a bully's allowance just before you spank him," said the Libertarian Party's national chairman Steve

Dasbach. "But that's exactly what Congress has done."

"Politicians just voted to give the Internal Revenue Service \$600 million more — so IRS agents can file more erroneous tax assessments, target more defenseless mom-and-pop businesses for harassment, use more fake names to cover their crimes, and drive more taxpayers to suicide," he said.

Those are the kinds of tragic and outrageous stories that the Senate Finance Committee is hearing from abused taxpayers — stories that are being corroborated by IRS agents wearing hoods to protect their identities, he noted.

"America is hearing in

graphic detail the crimes committed by the IRS," said Dasbach. "They are also seeing Republican and Democratic politicians pretend to be outraged about how the IRS breaks the law, tramples our rights, and rifles through our pockets."

"But just one week before they held this public hearing, these politicians voted to increase the budget of the agency they are now criticizing."

Libertarians want to know: If Congress wants to rein in the IRS, why did Congress give it more money to terrorize more Americans and wreck more lives?"

And while the hearings go on, the IRS continues to grow, Dasbach noted. It

already has 102,000 employees — who are busy investigating, prying, fining, filing criminal charges, and seizing property. Last year alone, the IRS filed 750,000 liens against taxpayers, imposed 3.2 million fines, and seized 10,000 pieces of property.

And the IRS is also busy keeping lists of Americans who exercise their First Amendment rights by criticizing the agency, according to new testimony.

IRS historian Shelley Davis testified that the IRS illegally maintains files of so-called "tax protesters" — people whose only "crime" might have been to write a letter to a newspaper criticizing the IRS or the

income tax. For IRS agents, "criticism of the IRS or the income tax equals tax protester," she testified to the Senate Finance Committee.

Ironically, if that accusation is true, the IRS now considers several U.S. Senators criminals, noted Dasbach.

For example, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Republican Senator William Roth, said the IRS engages in "abusive and illegal acts," and Republican Senator Don Nickles said the IRS has an "unbelievable power to wreck lives."

Yet, despite all the hash criticism, Dasbach predicted that the hearings will end without any significant reforms to the IRS.

"Once the cameras are turned off, not one dollar will be cut from the IRS budget, not one IRS supervisor will be fired, and not one IRS lawbreaker will be sent to jail," he said. "Politicians say they want to protect us from the government agencies they've created. But don't believe them."

"When these IRS bullies are finished testifying about their criminal acts, they will take off their hoods and go back to work, terrorizing American taxpayers. It will take more than one grandstanding Congressional hearing to make politicians realize that the only way to protect us from the IRS is to abolish it," he said. ■

Only criminals don't support concealed-carry laws

WASHINGTON, DC --
If you want to reduce crime, allow more people to carry more concealed guns, the Libertarian Party said today.

And that opinion is confirmed by a new Cato Institute study, which found that violent crime rates dropped dramatically in the 24 states that have passed "concealed-carry" laws — which allow ordinary citizens to carry concealed weapons.

"At this point, the only people who don't support concealed-carry laws are criminals," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

In those 24 states, concealed-carry laws force local police to grant most citizens a concealed weapon permit after meeting certain qualifications. Usually, that includes getting fingerprinted, passing a criminal background check, and taking a gun

safety course. "For years, gun-control advocates claimed that laws allowing concealed-weapons would lead to murder and mayhem," said Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarian Party. "But the exact opposite is true: Concealed weapons actually save lives."

The Cato Institute study, timed to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of Florida's controversial concealed-carry law, found that in the 24 states with concealed-carry laws, murders dropped by 7.7%, rapes fell by 5.2%, robberies decreased by 2.2%, and aggravated assaults were reduced by 7%.

And in states where politicians continue to outlaw concealed weapons?

"There's blood in the streets," Dasbach said. **"After accounting for all other factors, the study calculated that in 1992 alone, 1,414 more people were murdered than would have been if concealed-carry laws were in effect."**

And the carnage doesn't end there: An additional 4,177 people were raped, 11,898 more were robbed, and 60,363 more assaulted solely as a result of the increased criminal activity that apparently comes with concealed weapons bans, the study said.

"But who is surprised that violent street thugs prefer to prey on people who can't shoot back?" Dasbach asked. "By refusing to approve concealed-carry laws, politicians in

other states have painted a target on the back of America's most vulnerable citizens."

The study also shoots a hole in two other gun-control myths, Dasbach said. One is that concealed-carry laws will resurrect the "Wild West," turning ordinary Americans into trigger-happy gunslingers.

"The study found that the number of concealed-carry permit-holders convicted of murder committed in public is exactly zero, and less serious crimes are extremely rare," he said. For example, only one in 5,000 Floridians have had their permits revoked for crimes involving a firearm.

The other myth: That accidental shootings will

become commonplace.

"The number of accidental deaths increased so slightly (less than half of 1%) that implementing concealed-carry laws in every remaining state would result in less than one additional death per year -- far less than the number of lives saved because of the reduced murder rate," said Dasbach.

"In other words, the real danger comes not from concealed weapons, but from the lack of them," he said.

Dasbach emphasized that although concealed-carry laws are a major step in the right direction, they're not the perfect solution for Libertarians.

"Right-to-carry laws are only a partial victory because Americans shouldn't have to seek government permission to exercise any Constitutional right. Imagine what would happen if politicians dared to require every journalist to pass a writing test to get a permit to cover city hall, or tried to force ministers to demonstrate a basic knowledge of religion before giving a sermon," he said.

But requiring a permit is better than the alternative, he said: Sentencing innocent people to death because they can't legally defend themselves.

"Denying terrified Americans the right to carry a gun is like putting them at the front of the line on Death Row," he said. "At the very least, politicians should have the decency to stop disarming America's most vulnerable citizens: Crime victims." ■

Sneaky Congressional "money-laundering" salary increase

WASHINGTON, DC —
With the speed and craftiness of a cat burglar, the House gave itself a pay raise Wednesday without even taking a vote on that specific issue, the Libertarian Party pointed out today.

"Our Congressmen are each \$3,072 richer today — but most taxpayers still don't know what hit them," said Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party. "And just as a good thief wipes his fingerprints from the scene of the crime, these politicians wiped their fingerprints from this pay raise by not even officially voting on it."

In a lightning-fast 75 minutes, the House passed

a bill funding the Treasury and general government operations Wednesday by a vote of 231-192.

Buried in the mammoth bill was a provision to raise the pay of Congressmen to \$136,672 a year. That's four times the median income of American families, Dasbach noted.

The sneaky part: In previous years, such spending bills contained cost-of-living increases for federal workers — with a specific exemption for Congress. If Congressmen wanted to raise their own salaries, they had to go on the record and vote to waive that exemption.

But this year, noted Dasbach, the exemption was quietly removed. So by approving the bill,

Congressmen were able to give themselves a raise — while claiming they were "forced" to do so in order to fund general government operations.

"This stealth strategy is contemptible and cowardly," Dasbach said. "If politicians really think they're worth \$136,672 a year, they should stand up and be counted — and see whether taxpayers agree."

Even more outrageous: The sneaky maneuver was a bipartisan effort. Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Democratic Minority Leader Richard Gephardt collaborated to devise a parliamentary "money

laundering" scheme to pocket the cash, said Dasbach.

"They hatched a plot to insert the raise into the bill, but use a parliamentary procedure to block any vote on removing it. This enabled them to vote on the overall Treasury bill without voting for the raise itself," he said. "This proves that Republicans and Democrats are perfectly capable of working together — as long as they personally benefit from the deal."

The sneaky strategy also proves that Congress learned something from its last attempted pay heist, said Dasbach.

In June, the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations

Committees boldly announced their intention to raise their pay. But after a flurry of calls and letters from outraged voters, the Senate removed the provision, he noted.

"The last time Congress demanded a raise, angry taxpayers rose up to defeat them — so they've resorted to a sneak attack to get the loot," said Dasbach.

The good news: It's not too late to stop the salary grab. Because the Senate rejected the pay raise in June, the bill goes to a House-Senate conference committee, where the salary increase could still be squashed, he said.

The last time Congress demanded a raise, the Libertarian Party joined a coalition with the

Glo-bull warming. Are temperatures rising?

Veritas Vos Liberabit

The Federalist Digest

FREE by Email

Volume #97-49 now online and in distribution. This week's Second Opinion feature:

Are temperatures rising?

The truth is, our global climate is changing, though scientists disagree on whether the planet is in a long-term warming or cooling trend. But, to assume human enterprise drives that change is, typical of Al Gore, beyond arrogance. Many scientists believe that the only significant global climate impact that man could muster would involve a massive nuclear weapons exchange. And it is postulated that even that catastrophic scenario would result in a "nuclear winter," not a solar burn-off.

So why all the noise

about global warming? The obvious answer is the existence of an Orwellian political agenda which re-energizes global government via environmental regulation. Transnational interrelatedness and interdependence, transnational treaties, and international governing authorities are music to the Sociocrats' ears! Sound familiar?

Perhaps the "one-world" conspiracy nuts have accidentally bumped into the truth. The real agenda is the revitalization of the United Nations, and global warming is a "Trojan Horse," the strongest salvo for one-world government since WWII.

Now that all the "experts" are talking about lowering the industrialized world's standard of living via a "global warming" treaty, and promoting macro-nationalism, let's review some recent findings about our global climate.

Among legitimate scientists who think the global climate is warming, a

growing number believe that solar activity could account for almost all global warming. The "warming" scientists believe that global temperatures have increased about one degree Fahrenheit since 1880, but find that most of that warming occurred before 1940, which would rule out industrial activity as the culprit.

Some of the most significant "warming" science involves three solar variables which impact temperature trends. They are evaluating the Sun's overall brightness, the Sun's ultraviolet rays, and the Sun's storms of magnetic fields and subatomic particles.

Dr. Sallie L. Baliunas, an astrophysicist at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, has concluded that the Sun is responsible for up to 71% of the Earth's temperature shifts. When other factors are added to the research model, that figure rises to 94%.

Supporting solar-based global warming the-

ories, a recent study sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that the current Arctic warming trend began in 1840 as a result of natural factors. Evidence that by 1945 Arctic temperatures were about 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than in 1910, led some scientists to conclude that industrial greenhouse gases triggered the warming.

The NOAA study concludes that changes in sunlight levels and volcanic activity most likely caused the warming trend. Jonathan T. Overpeck, the study's coordinator, said a tremendous amount of natural variability occurs in the Arctic climate, and that temperatures in the 18th Century were close to those recorded today.

Recent studies suggest that atmospheric temperatures have been rising for the past 300 years, but still remain well below the estimated temperature average over the last 3,000 years. And according to new data

evaluations, temperatures actually seem to be in a cooling trend during the last 20 years.

Oh, and about the "experts":

"These so-called experts on global warming have some rather interesting backgrounds. One is a hotel administrator. Another is a gynecologist. There's also a shrink. Seven sociologists. A linguist. Two landscape architects. A philosopher. Even a guy with special knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine. In fact, nearly 90 percent of the people signing that letter...don't have the training or experience to be considered experts on global warming." -- CSE's Paul Beckner on Mr. Clinton's 1600 "experts."

Al Gore, who stands to gain a political windfall in the global warming debate, recently pointed to a "receding" glacier at Glacier National Park as proof of industrial based global warming causing the glacier meltdown.

Scientists were quick

to rebut that the world's glaciers aren't melting, but have expanded and retreated over past millennia. It was noted that Mr. Gore's suggestion that glaciers are rapidly retreating because of global warming is borderline absurdity. Sound scientific evidence has established that for perhaps millions of years, our global climate has experienced intermittent cooling (ice-ages) and warming trends.

Unfortunately for Mr. Gore, the only thing "receding" is his political capital in global warming. At the core of his theory's meltdown is a large quantity of his own hot air. It becomes more clear daily that the real Clinton/Gore objective in Kyoto and beyond, is not about global warming solutions, but global government solutions. ■

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Reject Kyoto global warming treaty

WASHINGTON, DC --

The U.S. government should refuse to confirm the new global warming treaty, the Libertarian Party urged today, because it represents a massive increase in government power and a huge cost to American consumers -- all based on questionable science.

"There is a strong case to be made that global warming is science fiction masquerading as science fact," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman. "And the global warming treaty is crisis management at its worst -- where politicians declare a crisis, and then use it as an excuse to further micro-manage our lives and the nation's economy."

The treaty, drafted in Kyoto, Japan, on Thursday by 159 nations, would bind the United States to reduce so-called "greenhouse gases" such as carbon dioxide by 7% below their 1990 levels by 2012.

If the U.S. government confirms the treaty, it could enforce the agreement by imposing heavy taxes on energy or by mandating increased energy efficiency for automobiles and industry.

Such actions could result in a 50c a gallon hike in gasoline prices and a doubling of electricity bills for most Americans -- and could cost the economy upwards of \$3.3 trillion and throw hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work, critics charge.

"Because of the poten-

tial threat posed by global warming tomorrow, politicians are willing to do real, measurable damage to our economy and our standard of living today," said Dasbach. "That's not an acceptable response."

It's the theoretical nature of the dangers of global warming that has Libertarians -- and numerous other scientists, economists, and climate experts -- so worried about the treaty, said Dasbach.

"Global warming is a theory based, at this point, on speculative science, imprecise computer models, and a lot of doom-and-gloom rhetoric," he said. "Despite what the politicians would have you believe, the scientific case for global warming is tenuous, at best."

In fact, Dasbach pointed out:

* The scientific evidence doesn't support the theory that the earth is warming because of human activities. Since 1979, satellites and weather balloons have recorded a slight cooling trend, with global temperatures falling by .04 degrees. That decrease coincides with a dramatic increase in greenhouse gases.

* There is no scientific consensus that global warming is a fact. Earlier this year, Science magazine noted: "Many climate experts caution that it is not at all clear yet that human activities have begun to warm the planet."

* Despite a worldwide increase in industrial activity, human beings still have

only a minor impact on the atmosphere. In fact, only 3% of CO2 in the atmosphere comes from human activities, while 97% comes from natural causes like plants, volcanoes, and oceans. While human beings produce about 10 billion metric tons of CO2 emissions every year, Mother Nature produces almost 200 billion metric tons annually.

* Global temperatures normally fluctuate by wide margins over the centuries. Over the past 3,000 years, there have been at least five extended warmer periods and two significantly cooler periods -- including the so-called Little Ice Age that started in 1450. Temperatures today are still lower than the 3,000-year average, according to scientists at the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine.

* The slight increase in global temperatures that has occurred over the last 100 years may very well be caused by other factors besides human activities -- such as fluctuations in solar activity, according to the London-based Institute for Economic Affairs.

However, the lack of conclusive scientific evidence hasn't stopped the Clinton administration from calling global warming skeptics "un-American" -- a statement that should raise a red flag of caution, said Dasbach.

"In fact, it is very American behavior to question what our leaders tell us -- especially when

their so-called solutions would cost us trillions of dollars and dramatically increase the power of government," he said. "We're talking about questions of science here -- not blind patriotism or unquestioning obedience to environmental dogma."

Whatever the facts, the good news is that individuals who worry about global warming -- and especially the 57% of Americans who say they are willing to make "economic sacrifices" to protect the environment -- can take action immediately to address the issue, said Dasbach.

"If you are concerned about the environment, you don't need bureaucrats from 159 nations to force you to do something about it," he said. "Every American can make a personal commitment to reduce energy consumption, to drive more fuel-efficient cars, and to boycott businesses that pollute. We don't need a global treaty to put the environmental concerns of 263 million Americans to work to help build a better, cleaner future for our children." ■

Some Other Opinions About Global Warming

"There is not a shred of persuasive evidence that humans have been responsible for increasing global temperatures. During the past 50 years, as atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen, scientists have made precise mea-

surements of atmospheric temperature. These measurements have definitively shown that major greenhouse warming of the atmosphere is not occurring and is unlikely ever to occur."

-- Arthur Robinson & Zachary Robinson, Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine (Wall Street Journal, December 4, 1997)

"Unfortunately for the [global warming] theoreticians, computer models they have constructed predict one thing, while the climate keeps doing other things. Although temperatures have gone up something more than one degree Fahrenheit over the past century, the increase took place prior to the spewing of so-called greenhouse gases from cars and the like, meaning that the rise is most likely natural. During the past 20 years, weather satellites inform us, atmospheric temperatures have actually cooled some."

-- Jay Ambrose, Chief Editorial Writer, Scripps Howard News Service (August 2, 1997)

"The blame for global temperature rise in the last century is often laid on civilization and its genius for generating clouds of greenhouse gases that trap sunlight in the atmosphere. But another possible culprit is fast emerging.

"For centuries, scientists have known that the

sun is less steady than sunbathing and casual observation suggest. It has seasons and storms and rhythms of activity, its sunspots and flares appearing in cycles roughly 11 years long. But only in the past decade or so have these and other kinds of solar variations begun to be tied to climate shifts on Earth -- first tenuously, but more solidly of late.

"Today, a growing number of scientists contend that the sun's fickleness might rival human pollution as a factor in climatic changes. And some research, although sketchy and much debated, suggests that the sun's variability could account for virtually all of the global warming measured to date."

-- William J. Broad The New York Times (September 28, 1997)

"The climate warming of the past 100 years, which occurred mainly before 1940, in no way supports the results of computer models that predict a drastic future warming. Even [the U.N.'s] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Chairman Bert Bolin has admitted that the pre-1940 warming is likely a natural recovery from a previous, natural cooling."

-- S. Fred Singer, President, The Science & Environmental Policy Project (The Wall Street Journal, July 25, 1997)

But what about the children?

By Ken Iverson

As Democrats try to upend Republicans on social issues, some of the same arguments are hurled at Libertarians. "What about the children?", they shout.

Libertarians are extreme in their reliance on people to help others in need and see no reason to apply the strong hand of government to ensure that children are properly fed, clothed, and cared for. That's what parents are for. But why the terse response?

Children, it seems, are often caught in the middle of an ideological wrestling match. Democrats use children at every opportunity as the prime example of why big government is necessary in nearly every aspect of our lives. Those who see government action as the solution to just about any problem usually begin their argument with a basic truth.

Children of poor families, in fact, are presented with fewer opportunities for success as their standard education feebly initi-

ates them for adulthood. Too many poor children are below average achievers.

Democrats and socialists point to this fact and declare that more government resources must be directed toward preparing poor children to become responsible adults. All sorts of programs and untold billions of dollars are necessary, they say, to bring about a leveling of the chances all children must have for long term success. And the programs must be wide ranging, from education to health to social service oriented, with preference given to certain groups of people.

But the twentieth century has shown, not surprisingly, that government is the poorest manager of money, resources and programs. The undeniable truth is that the programs have not worked. Instead, they have made all taxpayers poorer while providing a negative return on social engineering investments.

Yes, a fraction of the transfer payments have reached poor parents directly. And some parents, it can be assumed, have wisely

employed the new resources to save their children from all sorts of mental and physical danger.

But what have these social transfer payments signaled to young people and their parents? They have signaled that there are other, much easier ways of becoming financially comfortable than making an honest living, that personal responsibility is an antiquated notion, that the individual is helpless without government safety nets, and that people obviously must be made subordinate to the state.

Libertarians knew that all of these social experiments would fail, that they would amount to a huge waste of money, and that they would do more harm to children than good. Libertarians understand that parents know better than the state what is good for their families.

Libertarians know that government cannot create wealth; government only takes wealth from others.

So if poor, disadvantaged children are to receive government help, every taxpayer must oblige, every transactor must feel the economic strain, and the children themselves must be presented with an unreal vision of how goods and services are best acquired. And all along, this coerced transfer of wealth is based on the presumption that the wealthier among us will not voluntarily help needy children. The fact that people, out of kind heart, help others every day in many ways decimates any notion that to have is to be selfish.

Democrats and socialists demand acknowledgment for countless initiatives such as the enactment of child labor laws early in the twentieth century. They will gladly accuse others of favoring a return to the days when children were forced to work under grueling conditions in factories, shops and other places of production. Most libertarians would argue that much of this did, in fact, constitute child abuse. However, as in many other cases, when government generates a "one size fits all"

solution of child laws, many are hurt in the overkill and the fallout.

National preemptive programs, however well intentioned, tend to regulate and constrict the economy ever more and refocus efforts from enforcement to restriction. As an example, the focus is shifted from child abuse to one dictating, as a parent might, where or when a teenager may seek employment.

Our national government doesn't care about specifics. "Better to keep teenagers unemployed than risk an unhealthy workplace situation", it would respond.

There are many forms of child abuse. Children must be protected from illicit drugs, for instance. But that need not mean that these drugs must remain illegal for adults. Putting street drug dealers out of business can only make streets safer for everyone, including children.

Parents know what's best for their children, and families with a gainfully employed parent are already caring for them in a constructive, wholesome

manner. For parents to be redirected to any degree from their primal responsibilities is to be made disoriented, cynical, angered, and depressed at the thought.

Parents who know their hard work will pay off with better lives for their children will continue to work hard. But if their labor produces much in transfer payments with few rewards at home, parents will begin to lose the necessary sense of responsibility that comes with child rearing.

Therefore, no part of a child's development should rest in the hands of the state. Providing a safe and healthy environment for one's child is what parents are created to do. So why take away a parent's financial resources in the name of some lofty, platitudinous goal like "helping the children"?

Parents, with their own resources, can plan for their children, offering them safer and more rewarding lives than government programs ever could. ■

The Taxpayers' Orgy (condensed from Vanity Fair (June, 1932))

The following is from the "The more things change..." department. - From Mike Strand

By Marcus Duffield

The cost of government in this country has been shooting upward at the rate of a half billion dollars a year for the last decade. In the boom days, nobody paid much attention, but the present lean times have made the orgy of governmental spending stand out in high relief.

The total of expenditures today is about nine times what it was in 1902. This increase is entirely out of proportion to growth of population, and to expansion of national income. Here are the comparative figures; including local, state, and federal governments:

Government take in:		
1903	1913	1931
Total, in billions of dollars		
\$1.5/1903	\$3	\$13.5
Per capita, in dollars		
\$19/person	\$30	\$108
Per cent of national income		
6%	11%	22%

Obviously, much of the increase is inevitable because of the increasing complexity of civilization the multitude of new problems created for government by modern inventions, the crowding of population into smaller areas in cities, the more exacting social conscience, and the rising standard of living. Yet there is today a virtual

unanimous outcry against the extravagances of government.

The root of the attitude lies in America's attitude toward government: we regard it as a sort of mystic identity unto itself - apart from, and not comparable to, any other manifestation of life. We have not yet learned to regard government as a business - a business to be conducted by experts to supply certain unromantic common services. The result is that the most fantastically unbusinesslike methods are prevalent, and calmly accepted.

To begin with, our entire government system is one of the most unmodern institutions of the 20th century. The form of local and county administrations dates back to the Duke of York's laws of about 1670, and has not been seriously remodeled since then.

Changing conditions have been met, not by scrapping or adapting existing units, but by

sentimentally clinging to the old and superimposing new ones. Aside from villages, townships, boroughs, counties, cities, and states, there are innumerable independent administrative districts to take care of schools, fire protection, water, lighting, sewers, and sidewalks - in all some 500,000. Perhaps half, perhaps two thirds,

could be eliminated.

Large cities have underneath their municipal structures, like old suits of underwear, from two to five county governments each, with a musty set of officials who fiddle around with duties that often have shrunk largely to gestures.

In less thickly populated districts there are half a dozen county governments where with modern communication facilities only one or two are necessary.

There is where the rub comes: the taxpayers have to support so many officeholders. One person in every ten is working for the government in some form or another in the United States now; if we keep on at the present rate, according to one estimate, every other person will be working for the government by 1953.

Not only have time and tradition piled upon us many governments, but the chaos and cost is exaggerated in the great majority of them by the utter absence of up-to-date methods of running them.

Government budgets are made on the wish fulfillment principle. Officials wish they had a given amount to spend, and budget accordingly, then pass laws spending somewhat

more than they budgeted for. At the end of the year there is, of course, a deficit, so a loan is floated and the tax rate raised for next year. The process continues until in time of depression the administration is teetering on the edge of insolvency.

But always the officials are allowed to follow such a policy, if not pressed into it by the voters.

The matter of the New York subways affords a perfect illustration of how the responsibility for utter ignoring of business principles is shared by the people.

Subways obviously ought to be a self supporting enterprise. But New York's are not, because the voters insist upon a five-cent fare. Since a five-cent fare will not run the subways, the deficit has to be made up out of taxes.

The comptroller estimates that the subways will cost the taxpayers \$200,000,000 in the next five years. The subway riding five-cent fare voters probably think they're getting something for nothing, overlooking the fact that they pay taxes too, even if they do not own property, whenever they pay rent or buy food.

In the average city of more than 30,000 population, the government cost is \$70 a year to every resident. Civics experts estimate that the same services could be rendered for \$50 if efficiency were introduced. It is within possibility that our sentimental conception

of local, including state, government is costing us a billion dollars a year sheer waste.

And to that must be added the toll of waste in federal affairs - variously estimated at from \$200,000,000 a year to half a billion.

Early in this century the "independent establishment" was invented. This is an independent governmental unit created by Congress and responsible, in so far as it has any responsibility, to the President.

By 1913 five of them had cropped up and were timidly spending \$3,000,000 a year. In 1931 there were 42 gaily spending \$1,200,000,000. The two largest spenders are the Veterans' Administration and the Farm Board.

The Corn Borer Bureau began to war on worms that eat corn in 1919 with a \$10,000 appropriation and this year asked for \$750,000, although the Bureaus keenest borer hunters sometimes spend a whole summer without finding a single worm.

To ban and destroy the Mediterranean fruit fly the government has spent \$7,000,000, but, according to Senator McKellar, no man has ever seen a living Mediterranean fruit fly in the United States. The bureau once found a dead one and has him in a glass case.

A recital of the complete absence of business like method could be continued indefinitely. An

ordinary public highway is built by the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture; if it runs through a national forest, then the Forest Service builds it; if through a National Park, the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior builds it; if in Alaska, the Engineer Corps of the War Department builds it.

Hawaii is governed by the Department of the Interior, the Philippines by the War Department, and Guam by the Navy Department.

If a man shoots a fox in Alaska he must settle accounts with the Department of Agriculture, but if he traps it he must settle with the Department of Commerce.

The Secretary of the Interior protects grizzly bears, and the secretary of Commerce protects polar bears, and the Secretary of Agriculture protects brown bears. If a brown Kodiak bear has twins, one brown and one black, they are under the auspices of two different federal departments.

For the past thirty years Presidents and Congresses have trying to get each other to do something about government waste. But the politicians can be trusted to follow whatever policy gets them the most votes; in the last analysis the onus returns to the national fuzzy-mindedness that tolerates such fabulous waste. ■

Minimum Wage laws, a great civil wrong

The following is an excerpt from *The Concise Guide to Economics* (2nd edition, 1997, published by Savannah-Pikeville Press, ISBN 1-57087-292-9.

Chapter 5. The Minimum Wage Law

Minimum wage legislation is one of the great civil wrongs perpetrated against the low-skilled who need the opportunities which middle class workers, future professionals and the self-employed can legally take for granted. What the minimum wage law does to the poor is to deny to them the same freely chosen opportunities that others follow for their own well-being.

A middle class 20-year-old college student, for example, can work part time at \$5.00 an hour for half the hours in a work week and attend classes to better his future employment prospects the other half. In effect, such a student is earning not \$5.00 per hour for his efforts but a sub-minimum wage of only \$2.50 per hour for the full work week of 40 hours (20 hours on the job at \$5.00 and 20 hours in class and study time at \$0).

And if the costs of tuition, books and gas are included, the student is possibly earning an effective wage which is negative! This is done by the student voluntarily — a subminimum wage effort is freely chosen as a civil right and not denied by government.

An up and coming 30-year-old doctor chooses a similar route of economic well-being. The hours spent not only in under-

graduate school as in the case of the 20-year old, but in medical school as well, pay no wage. In fact, both are paying to learn now in order to earn a much higher income later. Again, the future doctor exercises this option as a civil right — there are no laws preventing him from doing so.

An enterprising individual starting his own business will often lose money for months, even years, prior to earning a profit on a new venture. Again, he is earning a wage much less than that mandated by minimum wage legislation. But, he is perfectly free, as an entrepreneur, to engage in such behavior — it is not illegal.

But what of the low-skilled citizen with no prospects of college training or a medical career or of starting his own business? Here the heavy hand of government literally outlaws an option freely available to, and chosen, by others. A worker whose production is worth only \$3.00 an hour to an employer is denied the opportunity to accept this low wage for the opportunity to learn, not in the formal setting of a college classroom or a training hospital or as an actual business owner, but in the workplace itself.

It's a safe bet that most readers of this page have made wage gains once on the job, not by way of formal training but by way of learning and proving themselves on their jobs.

Anyone doubtful that the minimum wage law is a civil rights issue need only look at the unemployment statistics to see the truth of this question. The unemploy-

ment figures below make it clear that identifiable segments of society are being legally discriminated against — discriminated against because their low productive value places them in a position where they cannot legally choose the combination of wages and job training they may prefer.

August, 1996 National Figures

Overall Workforce 5.1% unemployment

all, 16-19 yrs of age 17.2% unemployment

Blacks, age 16-19 37.6% unemployment

all, 25-54 years of age 4.1% unemployment

Source: Monthly Labor Review, October, 1996

Given this analysis, it must be asked: "Why are what I'll call 'effective-wage rights' denied to some segments of society?" The answer is that denying such a right to the low-skilled has no negative political consequences. Unlike other groups, these populations generally don't vote, don't contribute to campaigns, don't write letters to the editor, and generally don't make themselves heard politically — these people can be denied a civil right the rest enjoy, because they do not count politically.

The minimum wage law is a cruelty inflicted by government on a group of people who can afford it least, while politicians reap the benefits of appearing to be kinder and gentler. It is a clear violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In the name of the poor themselves, it is time to abolish this shameful wrong. ■

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Inflation and taxes

WASHINGTON, DC --

Don't worry about the stock market plummeting 554 points -- it's nothing compared to the damage that the government inflicts on your money on a regular basis, the Libertarian Party said today.

"A 7% drop in the Dow Jones industrial average is chump change compared to the destructive power of inflation and the capital gains tax," charged Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

"Why? Because inflation -- even at today's low levels -- costs you the equivalent of a major stock market crash every few years, and capital gains taxes are like three stock market crashes when you make a profit or finally cash in your portfolio," he said.

Dasbach's comments came 48 hours after this year's "Black Monday" -- when the stock market plunged a heart-stopping 554 points. The massive sell-off received front-page newspaper coverage and dominated all the network news broadcasts.

However, the devastation government wreaks on the value of your money through inflation and taxes is much worse, said Dasbach -- but doesn't generate the same coverage.

"According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cumulative inflation rate from 1995 to the present day has been 7.6%," he said. "That means that over the past several years, your money lost more in value from inflation than it lost from the stock market's 7.2% drop this week. In other words, inflation is a slow, silent, relentless financial crash that nobody seems to notice."

Even worse, inflation has eroded 29.7% of the value of your money since 1989, he noted -- which is the destructive power of four major stock market

crashes.

"But politicians claim that the problem of government-caused inflation has been solved -- while Americans continue to pay its silent cost," he said.

Equally destructive, he said, are capital gains taxes, which kick in when you sell your stocks or mutual funds.

"If you're in a higher tax bracket, 20% of the value of your investment is wiped out immediately by the capital gains tax. That's a financial loss equivalent to three stock market crashes -- except your money disappears into the pockets of politicians.

"When it comes to costing you money, a bearish stock market is just a cub compared to the federal government," he said.

Another point, said Dasbach: Within 24 hours of the stock market's free-fall, the Dow Jones had regained 337 points, and within two days had recovered almost two-thirds of its previous value.

"But the same isn't true of government: When the value of your money declines because of inflation, it's gone forever," he said. "And after you pay capital gains taxes, the IRS won't refund most of your money two days later."

And despite the crash on Monday -- and the Dow Jones fluctuations through the years -- the stock market has produced an average annual return of about 10% over the past 70 years, he noted.

"Yes, the free market has its risks -- but in the long run, it continues to generate gains, while the government continues to generate losses," he said. "That's why, for investors, playing the stock market can be like playing roulette -- but relying on the government to protect your money is like playing Russian roulette." ■

But they will listen to your heart

By Mike Strand

If the Libertarian party is such a caring, people-oriented party, why do we get such a bum rap from public opinion? Well, in the true spirit of the individual, "we've only got ourselves to blame." I'm as guilty as anyone.

When we talk to most people the rhetoric is often the same, "the government is taxing my livelihood at gun point and giving it away to ingrates..." Whether or not this is true is irrelevant because the fact of the matter is that it's all negative and that drives people away. If we want to be successful, we should just be able to play our strong suit, solutions, and get results.

Unfortunately, having

the right answers is not enough. In fact, we all know there is nothing quite so annoying as someone who is right all the time. I have learned that what we need to do is capture people's hearts.

We will not grow our party if we are right all the time. Right does not win elections; our current status quo is proof of that. Candidates who win elections don't win by being right; candidates who win elections don't win by having solutions. Candidates who win peoples hearts win elections. You have to reach beyond the mind and down into the hearts of the electorate to lift them off the couch and get them into a voting booth. Most people know they should vote, They just don't feel like it.

The solution I have found is to speak from the heart. People may doubt your logic, they may be confounded by your reasoning, They mistrust your statistics, . If you don't speak from the heart then you won't sound genuine and people will not listen to you.

I believe that libertarians do speak from the heart, but the message gets garbled in translation and lost amid a sea of verbiage. Language is an imprecise tool.

Mathematics is pure precision and yet even mathematicians disagree (2+2=5) for moderately

large values of 2). We must learn to use language as the wonderful medium it is for capturing hearts. Integrity, principle, and truth have always been hallmarks of libertarians.

The unfortunate fact is that we can no more change the way people hear our message than we can turn back the hands of time and erase a legacy of socialist rhetoric. I have noticed a marked difference in the way people receive the promises of liberty when I made a few basic changes.

First of all, whenever I would say "individual(s)" or "the individual(s)," I now say "people." This has a very humanizing effect (I don't say "the people" or I would sound very socialist). "People helping people," is much friendlier

sounding than "The individual helping the individual." Even though they have essentially the same meaning. When a libertarian says "individual" people infer that it means at the expense of society. Most libertarians don't think like that. When a libertarian hears someone say "society" we usually infer that they mean at the expense of the individual, even though most people don't think that way.

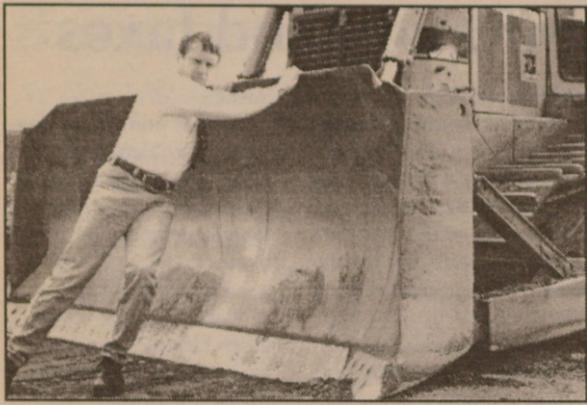
Secondly, I have learned not to focus on what government forces people to do; I talk about what government should allow people to do.

Combining the above two points you would not say "the government forces the individual to pay taxes at gun point," rather,

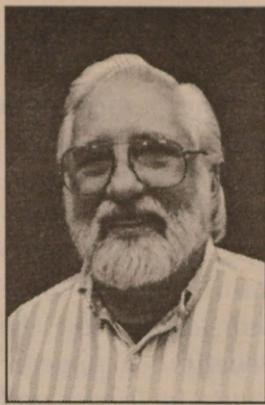
"People should be allowed to keep the fruits of their labors."

LP presidential candidate Harry Browne is a master at communicating the philosophy of freedom. Read or reread his book *"Why Government Doesn't Work"* and note how he phrases libertarian positions. If we could learn to communicate libertarian ideals as well as Harry Browne we could all expect our freedoms back much sooner.

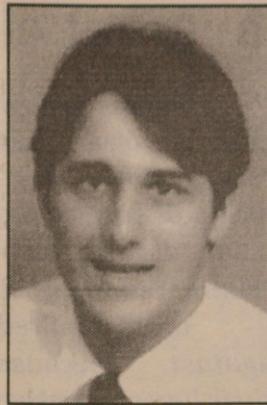
They say that wanting is sweeter than having. I for one, happen to believe that being free is better than yearning to be free. ■



It's No Bull. Bob Won't Doze.



Sam Huston



Anthony Sanders



Bob Odden, Dean Barkley of the Reform Party and Ken Bradley of STOP the Re-route at the Odden campaign Nokomis Beach Coffee Shop fundraiser

(Continued from page 1) time record. Sam Huston running for the first time got 19% of the vote against DFL incumbent Joan Campbell. He ran a low key campaign.

Bob ran an active campaign. Five hundred lawn signs were displayed throughout the ward. The

campaign produced three different pieces of literature and distributed almost 37,000 pieces of it. The final piece *It's No Bull. Bob Won't Doze* piece was distributed to the entire ward over the last weekend. Bob and/or other volunteers door-knocked almost the entire ward too.

The two main Ward 9 issues were the Twins stadium and the \$50 million dollar Highway 55 re-route through Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. Because Bob opposed both of these boon-doggles he was able to build a coalition with people fed up with the DFL cow-towing to organized

labor and downtown/suburban interests.

Bob Odden was also endorsed by the Reform Party of Minnesota and appeared on the ballot as Libertarian/Reform Party. This may be a first for fusion in Minnesota. It is the first Libertarian/Reform Party

fusion in Minnesota.

Bob Odden has made a good start building a future campaign organization to overcome the many advantages incumbents have. Libertarian candidates have begun to be the alternative challengers at the local level in the Twin Cities. ■

Minneapolis Ward 9
Bob Odden
33% (2,442 votes)
Incumbent DFL
67% (5,028 votes)

Minneapolis Ward 2
Sam Huston
19% (813 votes)
Incumbent DFL
81% (3,367 votes)

22 Libertarians elected in Campaign '97 nation-wide

WASHINGTON, DC—

At least 22 Libertarian Party candidates were elected or re-elected in Campaign '97 — the largest number of wins in party history in a single election cycle.

Leading the charge was Pennsylvania, where 14 LP members were elected. Libertarians also won in Ohio, Connecticut, Washington, Idaho, Michigan, California, and Massachusetts.

"Our record number of candidates and victories for an odd-year election shows that the Libertarian Party is coming of age," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger. "These elected Libertarians will save their constituents millions of dollars by fighting taxes and government waste."

Plus, he said, "We are developing a farm team of candidates and managers who will have the skills necessary to go on to win State Representative and Congressional races in the future."

Campaign '97 boosted the number of Libertarians serving in public office around the country — elected or appointed — to more than 230, an all-time high.

Here's a state-by-state list of LP victories:

Pennsylvania: Libertarians are celebrating a record number of candidates and a record number of victories for an off-year election — with more than a dozen LP members in the winner's circle.

"1997 was a high-water mark for the party," said State Chair Tim Moir. "[It

was] not the breakthrough some had hoped for, [but] if we continue at this intensity, the breakthrough will come."

Libertarian candidates picked up wins in several uncontested races for Inspector Of Elections, which they targeted as "stepping-stone" positions to higher offices — victories which Moir predicted would eventually come from "hard work, smart campaigning, and a little luck."

* In Allegheny County, Tim Lloyd was elected as Inspector Of Elections (Ward 14 Division 13).

* In Berks County, Mark Wicks won a seat on the Upper Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors. In the three-way race, Wicks won 198 votes to the Republican's 131 and the Democrat's 31.

* In Chester County, Catherine Collins was elected to the Coatesville Area School Board.

* In Montgomery County, six Libertarians were victorious: Larry Goulart (Inspector Of Elections, Abington 11-2); Stephanie Heckman (Inspector Of Elections, Abington 6-2); Dianna Reiser (Inspector Of Elections, Upper Moreland Ward 7-2); Sharon Shepps (Inspector Of Elections, Upper Providence Oaks District); Chris Zabala (Norristown Borough Inspector of Elections, 3-1 District); and Obie Mild (Norristown Borough Inspector of Elections District 2-2).

* In Philadelphia, four more Libertarians were winners: Tim Moir, (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 5, Division 14); Phil Janusz, Inspector Of Elections, Ward 12,

Division 14); Jim Pratt (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 58, Division 40); and Dan Sarandrea (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 56, Division 31).

Also in Philadelphia, a Libertarian candidate for District Attorney finished in third place — but less than six percentage points behind the Republican. Leon Williams won 14.18% in a three-way, partisan race, just behind the GOP candidate who had 19.82%.

"We did have a good showing and earned some respect" with the race, said Moir — and the LP picked up "three times the amount [of votes] needed to guarantee majority party status to the Libertarian Party in the city of Philadelphia."

* In York County, Chad Lucabaugh was elected Constable in Conewego Township.

Overall, Moir said the party was very pleased with the results — and is hoping that late vote totals will push the number of LP winners even higher.

"We had 53 candidates for election in 1997, a record for the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party in an off-year election," he said. "When the dust settles, we will probably have elected between 15 and 20. We have learned a lot and polished a lot of candidates."

Idaho: Ron Wittig made history by becoming the first Libertarian to win public office in that state.

Wittig was elected to the City Council in the small community of New Meadows, about 100 miles north of Boise. He placed second in a three-way race, with the top two vote-getters winning a seat.

The leading candidate won 130 votes, Wittig won 80 votes, and the losing candidate got 54 votes in

the non-partisan race.

Wittig has been an LP member for over 20 years. He ran for State Representative on the LP ticket in 1996, and has been a vocal opponent of efforts by the City Council to expand planning and zoning laws in New Meadows.

"One of Ron's first goals will be to undo the damage done by the Planning & Zoning Board in New Meadows in recent years, if not abolish it outright. He expects to succeed because the 5-seat council will now have a pro-freedom majority," said Chris Struble, State Chair of the Idaho LP.

"This is an excellent example of what any dedicated person can achieve over time by being active in their community," he said. "We hope this will be the first of many more victories for Libertarians in Idaho."

Michigan: In one of the biggest races of the year, Fred Collins won a seat on the Berkley City Council — coming within a whisker of the leading vote-getter in the race.

Collins finished third in a six-way race, and earned one of the three open seats. He won 2,072 votes (20.22%), less than a percentage point behind the winner (who won 20.97%), and the second-place finisher (20.74%). Two incumbents went down to defeat in that election.

"Please forgive me for shouting it from the rooftops, but... we won!" said Campaign Manager Barbara Goushaw, who had run Jon Coon's campaigns in 1994 and 1996. "And [we] fulfilled my personal fantasy of attending a Libertarian victory party that actually is a victory."

Goushaw attributed the victory to Collins' aggressive campaign, which included door-to-door campaigning at every one of the city's 6,700 households,

lawns, two city-wide literature drops, a special mailing to absentee voters, a full-page ad in the local newspaper, reminder postcards to registered non-voters, get-out-the-vote phone calls in the last two days, and poll workers at every precinct on election day.

"While this was a non-partisan race, our message was pure Libertarian," said Goushaw. "Taxes, regulation, and turning one particular city-sponsored activity over to volunteers and out of the hands of the government. I believe this proves that our message can and does resonate with voters."

Connecticut: John Joy won a two-year term on the Oxford Zoning Board of Appeals, running unopposed.

Now that he's in office, Joy said, "I plan to remind my fellow board members that the United States and Connecticut constitutions supersede Oxford's regulations. I have always been particularly disturbed when it comes to matters involving someone else's property. Last I looked, the Takings Clause was still part of the Bill of Rights."

Massachusetts: Ron "Rocky" Jepson was elected as a Town Meeting Member in Saugus with 247 votes. He becomes the fifth Libertarian to win public office in Massachusetts.

Washington state: John Gearhart was elected to one of six seats on the City Council in Palouse in a non-partisan, non-contested race.

The major issue he stressed in his campaign, he said, was opposition to the City Council's attempt to draft a "comprehensive" plan for the city that would tell residents "things like where we should plant our flowers."

"I told voters this is an Orwellian plan, and I want to kill it," he said.

Gearhart said he's now eyeing a possible run for State Representative in 1998, and urged other Libertarian candidates: "Look for an opening and go for it. If you want to have someone on the ballot that you can vote for, it just might be you."

Ohio: Libertarians chalked up two wins in Election '97 — both in re-election campaigns.

Bob DeBrosse was returned to the Piqua City Council for a second term by a narrow margin.

"DeBrosse plans to run for the Ohio State House in 1999, and he's an excellent candidate whom we're watching closely," said Dena Bruedigam, the editor of the Ohio state newsletter.

Also winning re-election was Richard Shelter, as a Bethlehem Township Trustee.

"He has already served eight years, and is the closest thing we have to a career politician," quipped Bruedigam. "He was also instrumental in getting a proposed township zoning [law] defeated at the same time he was running his campaign."

California: In Salinas, Mark Dierolf "coasted to an easy victory for his second term" as a Trustee for Hartnell Community College, according to State Chair Mark Hinkle.

Dierolf won 48.2% of the vote in the non-partisan race, beating four challengers for the position.

"I asked him how he did it, especially since he beat a Hispanic candidate in a Hispanic district," recounted Hinkle. "His answer: He spent about \$4,000 and walked door-to-door, twice. So I told him he won the old-fashioned way: He earned it." ■

What do Libertarians want?

By Harry Browne

As with any other group of people, Libertarians don't agree on all political issues. But compared with the prevailing political order, they are very much in unison on the main issue that brings them together: they want a lot less government.

Libertarians recognize that force is the least efficient means of handling social and political questions. Any successful businessman can tell you that you achieve very little by trying to intimidate your employees; you accomplish much more by providing the proper incentives to motivate them to do voluntarily what you want them to do.

In the same way, political force breeds resistance,

injustice, and inefficiency; it is vastly inferior to arrangements that allow each individual to make his own decisions.

Libertarians may argue in their spare time about the details of a free society we haven't seen yet, but probably most of them have the same objective — to reduce the use of force to the absolute minimum possible, whether that means a society with no government or very little government.

The objective of reducing force is neither radical nor unpopular; undoubtedly a vast majority of the population, if asked, would agree with the objective and, if any thought is given to the matter, wouldn't fault us for being more consistent in striving toward that objective than they are.

Of course, there are

many politicians — Democratic and Republican — who say they stand for smaller government, but they never do anything to try to make government smaller. Even more telling, what separates them from Libertarians is their



response to newly discovered social problems. No matter what a Libertarian's ideology tells him about the final goal for society, he thinks initiat-

ing force is the "last resort."

But the standard Democratic and Republican politician thinks of force as the "first alternative." Do some people have a problem getting health insurance? Don't question whether government has brought this about, instead immediately propose a law to force insurance companies to do your bidding.

Is there a problem in Bosnia? Send troops to enforce "our" solution. These are the standard political responses of both old parties.

Libertarians may disagree about how much force might be required to maintain an orderly society, but none that I've ever encountered considered force to be the first choice.

It doesn't really matter whether a society can survive without government.

Today, that's an academic question with no practical application. What matters is that society would be far better off with much less government than we have now.

If we can reduce government to a fraction of its present size, it will become profitable for the best minds in the world to discover and offer methods of replacing the remaining governmental programs with non-coercive market institutions. We don't have to devise those solutions now, and we

don't even have to wonder whether it's "possible" to devise such solutions. It simply isn't relevant — and it won't be until we've moved much closer to our goal of reducing government to a much smaller size. ■

HARRY BROWNE 2000
Exploratory Committee
2556 Virginia Ave,
NW/Suite 101
Washington, DC 20037

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address, e-mail:
<LibertyWire@HarryBrowne2000.org>

Outreach report 9/24/97

By Eric Johnson
Outreach Chair

This summer was another busy one for Libertarian Party outreach. We managed to continue our momentum from last year with information booths at Cedarfest in Minneapolis and the same county fairs: Hennepin, Anoka, Ramsey, Washington and Dakota. Next year we hope to add several more counties. If you would like to have a booth at your county fair next year, let me know and I will give you the contact for your county fair association.

Our State Fair booth

went really well, considering it wasn't an election year. More people have heard of us, and we are starting to get noticed!

Our work is beginning to pay off, but we need to continue growing. Information booths are key to our growth. Meeting people face to face is the best way of spreading our ideas, plus it's fun! And we can always use more help! If you want to make a lasting contribution to regaining our liberty, this is one of the best ways of doing it.

Thanks to everyone who helped at the county fairs and the State Fair: Bob Smith, Mike McCarty, Frank Germann, Charles Test, Patrick Gromeck,

Dave Wahlstedt, Ken Iverson, Nick Nelson, Mike Strand, Anthony Sanders, Jeff Pounds, Colin Wilkinson, Jeff Penrod, Dennis Kurk, Paul Lindemann, Owen Strand, Larry Fuhol, Mike Neitzel, Brent and Deby Jass, Jonathan Wirth, Ted Ellingson, Ken Poe, Larry Christianson, Eric Olson, Kyle Vraa, Rich Kleinow, Lise Dossi, Paul Streeter, Tyrone Babione, Robert Babione, Rich Putman, Amy Volk, Jim Davis, Rich Osness, Ron Helwig and anyone else who I regretably may have overlooked. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

REFOCUSING OUR OUT-

REACH STRATEGY

The Libertarian National Committee is beginning its most ambitious membership drive ever. Using targeted mailing techniques successfully used by mail order companies, the LNC hopes to eventually send direct mailings to 8 million people. This membership drive could result in tens of thousands of new members. But to make such a membership drive effective, all those new members should have a local Libertarian Party organization to get involved with. This is where YOU can make a big impact on the future political landscape in America.

Libertarian county affiliates are being formed nationwide. This is the next logical step towards creating a truly grassroots political party. Each affiliate should have an executive committee: chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. How would you like to make history as the first chair of your county LP?

Rather than having the State LP organize a limited number of information booths, a county LP affiliate would be better prepared to have booths at local events, gun shows, festivals, shopping malls and fairs to familiarize people with the Libertarian Party. The county affiliates would also recruit and assist candi-

dates, organize fund raisers, and generally do the things political parties do.

Every member should anticipate a phone call asking if they would like to become active in their county affiliate. I know what the most common objection will be: "I don't have enough time." Perhaps it's because the government steals 4 or 5 months of your time every year. Will things improve if you do nothing? Please consider devoting a few hours a week to your local Libertarian Party. ■

Campaign countdown: Election '98

By Eric Johnson

You and the influential minority of your fellow Libertarian Congressmen have been in the limelight for weeks as several controversial bills you co-authored wend their way through committees and public hearings.

One bill eliminates the payroll deduction for income taxes, putting the requirement to pay income taxes directly on each individual taxpayer. If this bill passes, the stage will be set for a constitutional amendment repealing the 16th Amendment. Other bills eliminate the Departments of Energy, Labor, Agriculture, the SBA, TVA, DEA and numerous other wasteful government programs that have outlived their usefulness, if they had any real use at all. The government workers employed by the condemned agencies have had plenty of time to

find truly productive jobs in the booming private sector. Many people are furious, but in time they will thank you for the 20 hour work week, leisure and prosperity that will result from your dismantling of the welfare state.

Time to wake up from the daydream and face reality. Republicans and Democrats can't be depended on to cut the size of government. Most members of the old parties are addicted to the power and money of a redistributive government. If liberty is to have a chance, it is up to us Libertarians to become as big as the Republicans and Democrats. We must grow the party, attract the people who agree with us, run credible campaigns and win them. Every candidate and campaign we run now is a building block for future victory.

Where will we find candidates? You, the members of the Libertarian Party

will be the candidates. Next year's campaigns will attract more members. Some of those members will be our future candidates.

If there is another way to dismantle the welfare state many of us would like to know what it is.

Now is the time to plan ahead for next year's election. First you should identify what office you are interested in running for: local, state or federal. How much time are you willing to invest in your campaign? Do you truly have an aching desire to be the first Libertarian Party candidate to win a state or federal office? Or do you just want to be on the ballot to give voters the opportunity to vote for a third party candidate?

The Libertarian Party is a minor party as defined by Minnesota Statute, therefore all of our candidates must file for office by nominating petition. In 1998, the petitioning period is from July 7

to July 21. Petitioning is the most critical point in the campaign; if you don't get enough signatures, you won't be on the ballot.

The Campaign Manual from the Minnesota Secretary of State will give you the guidelines of financial reporting and fair campaign practices. If you are seeking a federal office, contact the Federal Election Commission.

General campaign advice is in your local library. If you want to run an active campaign, write a multi-page campaign platform. This will help you to clarify the issues, so you can present them in a credible manner to the voters. You may even want to put your platform on your personal Internet website. Condense your platform into a one-page brochure and distribute it door to door to voters. Give the platform to people who are more interested in your positions. Remember to focus on the issues that

are important to the voters, not necessarily your pet issues.

Checklist:

- Identify the office you want to run for.
- Contact the LP of MN executive committee for an official endorsement.
- Contact the Secretary of State for a copy of the Minnesota Campaign Manual.
- Check your local library for books about how to run a campaign.
- Find volunteers to help you with petitioning and campaigning.

All candidates will need volunteers for petitioning. If you want to run an active campaign you will need volunteers to help going door to door, passing out your campaign brochure. The LPMN executive committee can give you the names of party

members in your area who may be interested in helping your campaign.

There are millions of people waiting for something new in politics, waiting for someone to boldly proclaim the truth about the failure of the welfare state. The country needs you more than ever to run for office as a Libertarian Party candidate. ■

Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW,
Washington, DC 20463
(800)424-9530

Secretary of State Election Division
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55155-
(612)215-1440

**Weekly
TV
Show
LIBERTY**

Libertarian Party of MN's 1/2 hour cable access show on Metro Cable Network (MCN) Channel 6. Weekly on Sundays at 11:30 AM (repeated at 4:00 PM on Sundays).

Libertarian World Wide Web Sites:

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's World Wide Web (WWW) Home Page is at:

<http://www.lpmn.org>

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's listserv:

minnlib-announce@esosoft.com

National Libertarian Party World Wide Web site:

<http://www.lp.org/lp/>

Online Libertarian Party News:
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lpn/>

Libertarian State Party Information:
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lp-aff.html>

Online Libertarian Party Platform:
<http://www.lp.org/lp/platform/>

World's Smallest Political Quiz:
<http://www.self-gov.org/lpquiz.shtml>

There's still plenty of room

From Ken Nebel

Here are some "statistics" to give you an idea of the relationship between global population and land area.

1. If every family in the world had a "typical suburban lot", you could still house the entire world population in an area the size of Texas, leaving quite a bit for agriculture.

2. Allowing 3 sq. ft. for every man woman and child, you could fit the entire global population within the city limits of Jacksonville, FL.

(I don't know the specific citations for the above two; I simply remember getting them from pretty credible sources).

3. This one is from Dr. Normal Borlaug, Nobel Prize winning agronomist, chief apostle of the Green Revolution:

If we were simply to "undo" agriculture back to the technology and per acre yields which were common in the late 1930s, in order to feed the current U. S. population, we would have to plow under an additional acreage equal to the entire U. S. east of the Mississippi River less Wisconsin and Illinois.

More productive agriculture has allowed us to "fallow" hundreds of millions of acres of "marginal" crop land, which has allowed for the expansion of forests and dramatically cut down on the acreage

plowed (thus dramatically cut the amount of wind and water erosion). BUT: THIS IS GOOD NEWS. YOU'LL NEVER HEAR ABOUT IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS OR ON TV.

4. If you are interested in property ownership in your area, visit your county courthouse, and purchase a "plat book". Every parcel in the county outside of platted city limits, down to blocks a few acres in size, is mapped and identified as to who the owner is. I cannot speak for other counties, but I have plat books for St. Louis County, MN and Douglas County, WI, and I see as much evidence of fragmentation of ownership as I do of concentration. The average rural ownership is probably around 100 acres. ■

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**Libertarian Party of Minnesota
upcoming events**

April 15, 1998
Annual Income Tax Protest
at the Main Minneapolis Post Office

April 18, 1998
Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention

July 2-5, 1998
Libertarian Party National Convention in Wash., DC

July 7-21, 1998
Ballot access petitioning

July -August 1998
County fairs

August 1998
Cedarfest in Minneapolis

August-Labor Day 1998
Minnesota State Fair

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"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; [or] if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today can guess what it will be tomorrow."
The Federalist No. 62

Government nearly doubles its take in 7 years

According to the Tax Foundation, local, state and federal governments will extract a whopping \$2.465 trillion in 1997 from unfortunate taxpayers. That figure is an increase of 5.3% over just last year — and a mind-boggling 46.4% increase over 1990.

That averages out to \$24,357 for every household in America — or \$9,205 for every U. S. resident. A bit over one third of the money will come from individual income taxes. (The rest comes from corporate income taxes, sales taxes, real estate taxes, excise taxes, payroll taxes, and miscellaneous other larcenous schemes of governments)

The original article was in THE LIBERTARIAN, a quarterly publication of the Advocates for Self-Government.

Just one drop of

poison in this vast reservoir wouldn't do anyone harm," he reasoned, holding out a vial to me. For \$50, would you throw it in?" I laughed at him. I didn't want to risk polluting the water we all must drink from. How about \$500?" Was this serious? Even though a tiny bit of the noxious fluid couldn't really hurt, it was a sort of a crazy thing to do. \$5,000?" \$15,000?" \$100,000 a year plus paid vacation?

Think of all the people you could help with that kind of money."

Now he was starting to make more sense. Could it, perhaps, be worth a minor compromise, a small infraction, to be able to give aid to many? Weren't there causes when the end did justify the means?

Besides, it was just one, insignificant, little drop of poison - easily diluted by so vast a reservoir.

But it was only after I emptied the eyedropper that I noticed all the other people walking away from the water's bank just like me with empty poison vials and pockets full of the wages of sin. ■

Cable access systems running LIBERTY

Metro Cable Network Ch. 6: Sundays 11:30 AM & 4 PM

St. Paul: Mondays 9 PM & Saturdays 10:30 AM

Stillwater: Wednesdays 7 PM & Fridays 10 PM

Minneapolis: Channel 33 (Check local listings)

Richfield-Edina-Eden Prairie: (Check local listings)

Austin/Albert Lea: (Check local listings)
Cloquet-Carlton: (Check local listings)
Cottage Grove: (Check local listings)
Duluth: (Check local listings)
Madison: (Check local listings)

Minnesotans put in their two cents worth on "Should tax money be used for a stadium?"

"Well, actually it's a penny a vote and we supply the pennies. We counted one vote to the coin and one vote-per person-per day," explained State Chair Charles Test. The public voted "yes" or "no" by putting a penny in a "yes" jar or a "no" jar, answering the Libertarian Party of Minnesota's question:

"Should tax money be used for a stadium?"

Visitors to the State Fair voted on that question at the Libertarian Party booth, on the first floor, west end of the

Visitors to our Libertarian Party booth cast a total of 4,282 votes on the question:

A whopping 88% voted NO

**Of 4,282 votes
3,767 voted NO
515 voted YES**

Grandstand.

Across the political diamond, rank and file voting Minnesotans repeatedly said 'hell no' to the idea of using tax money for another stadium. Yet the Governor, legislative leadership, local Twin Cities politicians and big business leaders are playing a deaf-dumb-blind game with the voters. Incumbent politicians are claiming direct democracy through referendums is dangerous. Political elites claim they are supposed to decide for you and me, what the elites think is best, even if an ultra-super majority of the people say otherwise.

"What part of NO don't you

understand?," Libertarian Party of Minnesota Chair Charles Test asks the DFL and Republican leadership. President Dwight Eisenhower warned Americans, in the 1950s, of the Military-Industrial Complex, today we have the Big Government-Big Business Complex to contend with. Hopefully, the political establishment will finally listen and give up this ransom paying to their pro-sports icons.

Minnesotans may once again be on the leading edge of a new attitude of rejection for government picking the winners and losers in our society. If they don't heed the will of the people the

Libertarian Party will be there to remind the voters in 1998.

FINAL State Fair polling results:

* The fine print: These are the results of a straw poll, not those of a scientifically valid survey. The sample was self-selected, not randomly selected; the results were not verified by an independent auditing firm. Even so, these results are similar to other stadium straw polls, especially with respect to the fact that none of them (as far as I know) has ever shown a majority in support of a taxpayer-funded stadium. ■

What part of NO don't they understand about another stadium?

At 2:00 PM on Thursday October 23, in State Office Building, Room 181, the Libertarian Party of Minnesota held a press conference where they and other interested groups could announce, one more time, the people of Minnesota's rejection of any public financing for the Twins new playing field.

A diverse coalition of opponents of public financing for another stadium were invited, including FANS, Fund Kids First, MAPA, Progressive Minnesota, Green Party, Grassroots Party and Reform Party representatives.

Charles Test, who chairs the Libertarian Party of Minnesota spoke on behalf of the Libertarian Party. He was joined by Minneapolis City Council candidate Bob Odden, who was the challenger for the city's Ward 9 seat. Philip Fuehrer of the Reform Party and St. Paul City Council candidate also spoke.

"The people of Minneapolis and the people of Minnesota deserve better," said Odden. "Our cities are failing to keep our streets safe and failing to provide basic services, our leaders have no business spending our money on



LP of MN staff lobbyist & protester Forrest Wilkinson joins other Libertarians and FANS, Fund Kids First, MAPA, Progressive Minnesota, Green Party, Grassroots Party and Reform Party representatives protesting at the Minnesota Legislature's special sessions on October 23

entertainment. If they want to support the Twins, they can buy tickets and go to the games. The rest of us are busy working instead of taking in ballgames, and we plan to keep our money."

"Opposition to the stadium is growing from all corners," Test said. Whether in left or right field, in the libertarian corner or the populist one, the people all see very clearly what's happening. The Twins' ownership isn't playing by the rules. They're getting big government to pinch hit for them. We're here to show big business and big govern-

ment that the public can play hardball, too."

"We'd all be better off if politicians would just say no to bullies who threaten to take their marbles and leave if you don't play by their rules," Test said. "Blackmail is illegal for the common citizen, but not government and its special monopolies."

"Our government officials know what the people want, and they know what's right. We're here to remind big business and big government that we are watching what you do with our money, and we are not about to forget." ■

The answer is still NO about another taxpayer funded stadium

At 2:00 PM on Thursday November 13, in the Minnesota State Office Building, Room 181, the Libertarian Party of Minnesota held a press conference where they and other interested groups will discuss their opposition to any public financing for another professional sports stadium.

"The mandate from the people is clear. The popular understanding of the issue is clear," Test

said. "The Legislature's attempts to persuade us that only the Twins can generate tax revenue have been seen for what they are: smoke and mirrors. Nothing in the new proposals is new, which is why nothing in the people's views has changed. The answer is still no."

"The Minnesota Legislature is still not addressing the fundamental question of the Twins-Vikings-Hockey-Basketball sub-

sidy/ownership business: Why should the state of Minnesota be in the entertainment business," asked Charles Test, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota. "The people have repeatedly voted that they can live without unprofitable professional sports teams. They seem to be saying that pro sports have become too expensive to be fun anymore. The people are ready and willing to rearrange their entertainment

dollars and give their full support to a new mix of entertainment possibilities. This de-concentration of sports spending will spark a resurgence in small, affordable sports event spending. The answer is still no."

"The only way for the Legislature to pay to keep the Twins is to reduce annual spending by at least a billion dollars," Test pointed out. The figure came from House Minority Leader

Steve Sviggum, in his estimation of the costs of new spending that is stemming from backroom deals. "The price tag on the new stadium is not just the stadium itself, but also all of the related pork-barrel spending, as stadium proponents attempt to grease the palms of skeptical legislators. We know how the people feel about new stadiums and new pork-barrel spending. The answer is still no." Test added. ■

Everybody Loses With Corporate Welfare

By Rich Osness

It can't be corporate welfare. Corporate welfare is generally thought of as taxpayer funded subsidies for a business or industry. A broader definition of corporate welfare is any special benefit for a business or industry. This could include tax breaks, loans, regulatory advantages and even outright mandates that some products be offered or that competing products not be allowed.

The special favors that are widely touted by their sponsors are meant to get votes. The ones that are kept secret are intended to get money such as donations to a campaign fund.

All of these special favors that politicians buy and sell injure our economy in two ways. First, they expand the role and cost of government, raising the price of everything we buy and reducing the funds left to pay employees in the private sector. Much of the taxes raised to pay subsidies are soaked up by the government administrators. Increased regulation requires more taxes to pay the regulators and results in higher costs of operation by those who are regulated. Everything we buy costs more and we are paid less because we are producing less of what our customers

and sell injure our economy in two ways.

First, they expand the role and cost of government, raising the price of everything we buy and reducing the funds left to pay employees in the private sector. Much of the taxes raised to pay subsidies are soaked up by the government administrators. Increased regulation requires more taxes to pay the regulators and results in higher costs of operation by those who are regulated. Everything we buy costs more and we are paid less because we are producing less of what our customers

want to buy. Special tax breaks encourage businesses to engage in activities that otherwise would make no economic sense. This reduces productivity, raises prices and lowers wages. In addition to all of this, our economy operates less efficiently. Rather than attempting to prosper in the marketplace, by producing goods and services their customers want, businesses try to prosper in the halls of our legislature lobbying for special treatment and simply buying favors.

At first glance industries and businesses appear to benefit when they receive money, loans and tax credits and when government may ban their

competitors products or require the use of their own products.

Government agencies benefit when the size and budget of their agency expands. In reality, we are all poorer. Even those who seem to be receiving the most political favors are poorer. We all suffer when the marketplace is subverted.

Even those receiving the special favors end up paying more in taxes and more for everything they buy. They, too, will forego the benefits of products left undiscovered or undeveloped because of diverted resources. Even the most favored will live in an overall poorer world.

The economic loss is the least of our problems. The greater problem is what it does to our character and system of values, particularly that of our legislators. Corporate welfare is easy to define. When we think we are the beneficiaries it is less easy to acknowledge. ■

-Rich Osness

"A Different Point of View"

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Kolorkraft

PO Box 186

Austin MN 55912

(800) 631-6247

Rich Osness operates a

small business in Austin,

Another land grab announced: the Heritage Rivers Act

From Ken Nebel

Here is a story about a government program that stands to very significantly (and adversely for the most part) affect anyone and everyone who owns any lake or river frontage, or lives in or near a town that has lake or river frontage. The degree of federal control over local landowners, businesses and politicians that is envisioned in this process is truly fearsome.

Ken

CONGRESS ACTION:
September 21, 1997

" 10 American Heritage Rivers, to help communities alongside them revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution in the rivers, proving once again that we can grow the economy as we protect the environment." - President Clinton, State of the Union Address, February 4, 1997.

There they go again, with another extremist scheme to grab more control over private land for the federal government. Bill Clinton and the Washington bureaucracy don't believe that people who live near a river care about the condition of that river and its surrounding environment as much as the do-gooders in Washington.

And make no mistake: this Initiative isn't limited to rivers, as bad as that would be. A designated site can include riverbanks, river tributaries, and an entire watershed area. The President was led to his Initiative as an attempt to further the principles embodied in the effort to reinvent government in accordance with the National Performance Review. "The National Performance Review, directed by Vice President

Gore, seeks to create a government that works better and costs less through focusing on customer service, developing partnerships and delegating power to the front lines. The Administration believes that a successful initiative will be community-led, flexible, coordinated, broad, partnership-based, and action-oriented."

Thus this "community-led" Rivers Initiative was born. An argument can be made that this Initiative is "community-led" and voluntary, because local groups must submit an application to have their area designated as an American Heritage River, and receive recognition by a presidential proclamation. Such an argument would be false, however, because no provision is made for actual local referendum to see if a majority of the local community supports the application. Local activists, always a minority, can move the process by themselves, without any consensus of the local communities involved.

And once this "community-led" process begins, what follows? Federal bureaucrats by the horde will descend on any plan to develop or use the designated river, riverbank, or watershed area. "Each designated river will be assigned a 'River Navigator' to help implement the community's vision and provide a single contact/liason for all federal resources."

An interagency task force will be created to coordinate the massive federal involvement. How massive? According to the Council on Environmental Quality at the White House, the following agencies will have input and exercise control: the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, the

Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Energy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

It will be argued that local communities have been notorious in the past for polluting their local rivers, and it cannot be denied that this is true to some degree. The argument logically proceeds that the federal government should therefore take over.

Setting aside for the moment the large number of federally controlled facilities which have been designated as dangerously polluted Superfund sites, there is a fundamental issue which must be debated in the context of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative: that some degree of pollution is a necessary handmaiden of human progress, industrial development, and a rising living standard. Can we preserve rivers, riverbanks, and watershed areas in their pristine condition?

Certainly: simply stop all development, shut down every factory and other modern human activity, and force everyone to return to an agrarian lifestyle as it was during the middle ages without chemicals, fertilizers, or mechanical equipment. Of course, many in the extremist environmental community would think this is a wonderful idea. The massive starvation, human death, disease, and misery which would follow would be of no concern to them.

They believe the world is vastly overpopulated anyway, and that population density determines poverty levels, both among the dumbest and least defensible beliefs held by the environmental community (among a vast array of dumb and indefensible notions).

The fact is that the federal government, driven by the extremist environmental community, approaches environmentalism in precisely this way: top down mandates to place land beyond the reach of human use and development. Despite the administration's claim that it is creating the American Heritage Rivers initiative to "help communities restore and protect their river resources in a way that integrates natural resource protection, economic development, and the preservation of historical and cultural values", does anyone doubt the low priority "economic development" will take in their scheme?

The administration opened their Initiative to public comment from May 19 to August 20, 1997 and say they received over 1700 comments. This remarkably small response should itself raise red flags about how poorly advertised this Initiative was, how disinterested the administration truly is in obtaining citizen input, and why they are taking such pains to keep the whole scheme secret.

"Many respondents wrote in favor of the initiative, citing increased coordination of federal services, the attention to environmental, economic and cultural/historic values in the design of the initiative, the integrated method to river restoration and revitalization, and the community-driven approach. Many appreciated the fact that no new regulations would be imposed as a result of the

initiative. Many of the respondents wrote in opposition to the initiative. Many were opposed to federal involvement of any kind in restoring and revitalizing rivers and often expressed concern about property rights and the role of the United Nations along designated rivers." President Clinton has vowed to forge ahead with his Heritage Rivers designations anyway, despite the objections which have the White House "baffled and confused". Never let it be said that this administration might be swayed from their agenda by objections from mere citizens.

On June 10, 1997, Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth introduced in the House H.R. 1842, "To terminate further development and implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative".

Chenoweth's bill is masterful in its simplicity, getting right to the point: "None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to a Federal agency...may be used to develop, implement, or carry out the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, as described in the proposal of the Council on Environmental Quality published in the Federal Register on May 19, 1997 (62 Fed. Reg. 27253), or any similar initiative."

On the day it was introduced, the Chenoweth bill was referred to the House Committee on Resources. There has been no floor action, no companion bill introduced into the Senate, and the bill only has 34 cosponsors (33 Republicans, 1 Democrat — Sam Gibbons — and only one member of the Republican leadership, Majority Whip Tom DeLay).

So now we have one more administration initiative to grab regulatory con-

trol over additional vast tracts of private property, doing further damage to the Constitution, states rights, and individual freedom, and expanding federal bureaucratic machinery in the process.

Where is the Republican party, the party which claims to seek smaller government and expanded freedom? Of the 282 Republicans in Congress, a mere 33 see fit to challenge Clinton's totalitarian scheme. That's 11.7% who think freedom and private property rights are worth defending.

Granted, that's better than the 0.4% of Democrats who are willing to stand up for freedom and private property rights. If, some day, the Republicans close the gulf between their conservative speeches and their liberal actions, we might actually have a two party system in this country.

"The only guide to man is his conscience; the only shield to his memory is the rectitude and sincerity of his actions. It is very imprudent to walk through life without this shield, because we are so often mocked by the failure of our hopes and the upsetting of our calculations; but with this shield, however the fates may play, we march always in the ranks of honor."

Winston Churchill

1996 Marijuana arrest record year

The total number of marijuana arrests was higher in 1996 than in any year in U.S. history, according to an FBI report released on October 4. There were 641,642 marijuana arrests last year, 85.2% of which were for possession.[1]

[See <http://www.mpp.org/arrests.html> for a graph of marijuana arrests over the last seven years.]

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports division's annual report, *Crime in the United States*, provides the number of arrests made by state and local law-enforcement agencies.

"This is a tremendous

waste of criminal justice resources," said MPP Director of Communications Chuck Thomas. "Police are filling our courts and jails with marijuana offenders, without making a dent in the availability of marijuana to children."

According to government-sponsored surveys, the availability of marijuana among high school seniors has remained high and steady for decades. With little variation, every year about 85% of high school seniors consider marijuana "easy" to obtain.[2]

"Marijuana prohibition has failed," said Chuck Thomas. "It creates danger-

ous criminal markets and takes police resources away from violent crime. It is time to stop arresting adults who grow and consume their own marijuana at home, and put the current enforcement resources into effective drug education. Public safety and children's health are at stake."

1. Numbers derived by multiplying the percentage of all "drug abuse violations" that were for marijuana "sale/manufacture" (6.3%) and for marijuana "possession" (36.3%) by the total number of arrests for all drug abuse violations (1,506,200). These percentages and numbers appeared in Table 4.1, page

213, and Table 29, page 214, respectively.

2. *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1995*, L. Johnston, J. Bachman, and P. O'Malley, (HHS, National Institute on Drug Abuse); Washington, D.C.: USGPO, 1996.

Marijuana Policy Project (MPP)
P.O. Box 77492
Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C. 20013

M P P @ M P P . O R G
<http://www.mpp.org>

Medical marijuana bill in Congress

H.R. 1782, which would allow states to determine their own policies regarding medicinal marijuana, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) on June 4, 1997.

For the House to take action, it will probably be necessary for a few dozen U.S. representatives to co-sponsor the bill.

* Write a letter to both of your U.S. senators asking them to introduce a bill in the U.S. Senate that uses the language of H.R. 2618, the medicinal marijuana bill now pending in the U.S. House of Representatives.

U.S. Representative [NAME] U.S. Senator [NAME]
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20510

True Christians are Libertarians

By Ken Iverson

The Christian Right is one of the largest voting blocks in the United States. One of their main missions is to increase the influence of "God's Laws" into our justice system. But true Christians stop short of attempting to create a theocracy, because true Christians understand the intent of the gift of free will. And as a divine gift, free will was not given to be thwarted by humankind.

Before the Ten Commandments were handed down from on high, there were no institutionalized societal laws based on one universal God. The Ten Commandments conveyed God's wisdom of how peo-

ple should live their lives in civil society. But the Commandments contained no reference regarding the implementation of His laws into an earthly legal system.

Our legal system, with its Biblical origins, was initially designed to protect individuals from harm done by others. Though that has profoundly changed, still those Commandments dealing with force or fraud against another are translatable into our common law. Stealing, physically harming others, and committing fraud or misrepresentation (bearing false witness), are the Laws which translate directly into our criminal justice system. However, the remaining Commandments are of a

different genre.

They deal with a person's relationship to God. One of the clearest messages of the Bible is that believers should go forth and persuade others to accept its teachings as completely true. Persuasion exclusively involves non-coercive interaction with others. Communicating with and helping others are included as acts of persuasion. Religious persuasion is no different in that respect.

Excluded are acts of aggression, even if designed to convince others of the worthiness of our beliefs. According to the Bible, this is as intended by our Creator.

With no divine mentioning of any requirement to create earthly laws

which would reflect the Ten Commandments, we might be led to conclude that God leaves it up to people to create them. But numerous Biblical references insisting on persuasion over coercion unmistakably point to God's message of keeping His Laws on the civil side of society, with the exception of those involving force or fraud against others. The reason that society is granted the right to create laws against force and fraud is that the Bible instructs us to help those who have been harmed by others.

This is different than simply helping people. We are free to help others at any time, independently of common law. This is an unalienable, God given right, as are the rights to

life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as the Constitution's framers understood well.

However, helping those who have been harmed by others ultimately requires a system of judicial reparation, a set of laws and enforcement, in order to redress the victim and provide a deterrent against other such occurrences. This theoretically provides society with common and equal security of people and possessions, which cannot otherwise be attained. We cannot, on a broad scale, help persons who have been harmed by others without such a system of laws.

Equally important, we cannot deter the aggression of people against people without such enforceable

laws.

The Bible implores that we love one another, which manifests as helping our fellow human beings. This we must do benevolently and without the agency of government, where humanly possible.

The only case where government is needed in fulfilling our individual obligations to help one another is in protecting people from harm by others. The Bible leaves this discovery to us. Hopefully, the Christian Right will soon discover this fact, thereby ceasing its attempts to translate the remainder of God's Laws (or interpretations of such) into legal code. And when discovered, "the truth will set you free." ■

Look us in the eyes and tell us how much they are for families.

By Larry Fuhol

The respected Grace Commission on Government Waste estimates that Congress allows \$167 billion in government waste each year. The government's own GAO (General Accounting Office) puts that figure at \$156 billion.

Were you aware that last year, Congress took \$74 billion from Social Security to spend on non-Social Security purposes? Millions of Americans believe that there is something called

the Social Security Trust Fund, and that it contains all of the Social Security taxes they've paid in over their lifetime. But in fact there is no such fund. (source National Tax Payer's Union)

Here's what U.S. Senator Ernest Hollings said about the Social Security outrage: "Every last dime in this de facto slush fund is being siphoned off to cover the general operating expenses of the government. At best, this is an outrageous hoax. At worst it is simple criminal fraud."

(Congressional Record-Senate, April 18, 1991, p.s 4681)

According to a recent study done by the National Taxpayers Union U.S. House members who held their seats more than eight years voted for an average of 55% more spending than members with less than eight years service. Congressional spending could be cut by 45% simply by having term limits or by voters voting the incumbent out of the office.

Not to be forgotten are the hundreds of millions of dollars spent each year on



Larry Fuhol

perks, pay raises and gold-plated pensions that Congress lavishes on itself.

Congressional salaries are \$136,673. (with the latest \$3, 100 pay raise they voted for themselves). Senator Bob Packwood, who was thrown out of the Senate, for sexual harassment, got a lifetime pension of \$2.9 million.

I n c u m b e n t Congressman Jim Oberstar of the 8th District in Minnesota has an estimated \$3.4 million lifetime pension and its still growing.

Yet these incumbent congressmen will look us in the eyes and tell us how much they are for families. And at the same time steal

from the family paycheck with high taxes and an over bloated government. Can this sort of "public servant" hypocrisy be stopped?

It doesn't seem fair that you work all your life for a modest retirement and they become wealthy the day they leave office. It's time the American people start voting for someone other than the incumbent. ■

Larry Fuhol for U.S. Congress 1998 8th District

Are Libertarians liberal or conservative?

Libertarians are neither. Unlike liberals or conservatives, Libertarians advocate a high degree of both personal and economic freedom. You might think of it this way: Libertarians "borrow" from both sides to come up with a logical whole.

For example, Libertarians agree with conserva-

tives on the need for freedom in economic matters; in favor of lowering taxes, slashing bureaucratic regulation of business, and charitable rather than government-welfare.

But Libertarians also agree with liberals on tolerance in personal matters- in favor of people's right to choose their own personal habits and life-styles. ■

What's a Libertarian?

To put it simply, Libertarians believe that you have the right to live your life as you wish, without the government interfering-as long as you don't violate the rights of others. Politically, this means Libertarians favor rolling back the size and cost of government, and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices. ■

The NEA Actually Stifles Artistic Achievement

By Rich Osness

Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts should not be reduced. It should be eliminated.

Believing this causes some people to label me as a Neanderthal. Considering who is doing the labeling, I am quite proud of that designation.

I should mention that I am an artist. I have supported myself, my family and the government through a field of the visual arts for most of my life. In fact, more than twenty years ago, I was offered an NEA grant.

There are a lot of reasons for eliminating the NEA. It's a waste of money. It's not allowed by the U.S. Constitution. It

gives too much control over a very personal part of our lives to a bunch of stuffy bureaucrats.

Nobody "needs" art. We will all be "poorer" without artistic influences in our lives but it is hardly the place of government to dictate what that influence should be.

More important than all of these good reasons for eliminating the NEA is the damage it does to the arts.

If I had not backed out of that NEA grant application, hundreds of thousands of people might have been deprived of the contribution I have made in my field. (I can hear the people who know me well saying, "Oh yeah? So what!")

Rather than doing what I knew would make both myself and my cus-

tomers happy, I was actually trying to please the chairman of the Colorado Council of the Arts (or something like that). I was subordinating the desires of those who really mattered, myself and my customers, to the desires of someone else.

My reasons for even considering the offer of a grant were partly the money and mostly ego. Wow! I got a federal grant. I have arrived!

Then I came to my senses. I would spend the rest of my days trying to please this or similar persons of authority, rather than myself or those who actually valued my work enough to buy it. It also became apparent that the application process and pleasing this person was

going to be more trouble than it was worth. What could I have been thinking?

The two best reasons to create art are for the pleasure it gives the creator and for the pleasure it gives others. The ideal situation for the artist is to find pleasure in creating something that others value highly enough to support him.

Artists constantly strive for approval. The pleasure of a patron is vindication for spending one's life producing something that is not functional. Although a government grant may be considered evidence of approval, it is not the same as someone spending their own money.

Art needs to compete in the marketplace to be judged. Subsidizing artists deprives them of this vali-

ation.

Subsidized artists are less satisfied and less creative.

There is an even more compelling reason to eliminate the NEA. It is but a short step from our government deciding what we should appreciate as art to government officials telling us what to think and say.

If artistic expression is directed by government officials now, will other forms of expression be subsidized and directed by government committees next?

If it is wrong for government to ban some art, is it no more wrong for government to decide which art should be produced by

offering subsidies?

The only reason to continue the NEA is to massage the egos of those who think they are qualified to tell us what to think but are not willing to spend their own money. ■

"A Different Point of View"

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Kolorkraft
PO Box 186
Austin MN 55912
(800) 631-6247

Rich Osness, of Austin, Minnesota, has been a portrait photographer for 28 years.

It's time to scrap the federal income tax code

By Rich Osness

Congress has been touting what a great service they have provided with The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

Both the Democrats and Republicans agree that this is a boon to society. Maybe they should have read it before voting. In fact, it is unlikely that the Conference Committee staffers that wrote the 225,000 word Conference Committee Report actually understood the Act. 225,000 words is more than 300 times the length of this column.

Nevertheless, we know it is a "good bill".

Somebody, that had not read the bill in its entirety and did not understand all of what was in it, told our Congressmen and Senators that it was a "good bill". They, in turn, told us. Now we know.

If you thought the Federal Income Tax Code was bad before, you should see it now. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 added 285 new sections. It included 824 amendments to earlier sections. That's a new section for

every two words in this column. That's more amendments to existing law than this column has words.

Calling this tax relief is just plain silly. Even those most likely to benefit the most, lawyers and accountants specializing in taxes, had to sigh when this was passed.

There is a better way.

Real tax relief is reduction AND simplification, not an unintelligible swamp of regulations and complications. The Federal Tax Code was already so

complicated that it was impossible to administer. It didn't need to become more complicated.

Tax relief would be reducing the rate, like cutting a 28% rate to 25%, or eliminating a tax, like the Corporate Income Tax. (It costs more to administer than it collects.)

Tax reform should be scrapping the whole system and starting over with something that it would be possible for one individual to read and understand.

Our Congressmen and Senators did not know what was in the bill because none of them had read it. If they had read it, it is quite likely that few, if any, of them would have

understood it. None of them even read the much easier to understand conference committee report.

Yes, there were some tax breaks for many of us. We should be happy for those people. There may even be a tax break somewhere in this mess for me. I doubt it. I did the math that was suggested by the Republicans and came up with zero.

Even though the Federal Income Tax Code is too lengthy to comprehend much less reform, there is a solution. Eliminate the current Federal Income Tax Code entirely and start over.

If we must have an income tax, write a new

law. The only ones who object will be those who currently have special favors built into the current law.

To do this we will need new federal legislators. The current ones won't do it.

They all agree that our income tax laws are too complicated. But they will never eliminate the sections that get them money and votes.

Instead they try to get more money and buy more votes with their version of "reform" and call it "taxpayer relief". ■

Campaign hearings miss the point

By Rich Osness

U.S. Senate committee hearings are currently exploring what most of us already know. Much of our government is in the business of buying and selling political favors.

Hearings are being conducted on violations of current campaign laws. The Senate is investigating whether or not foreign contributions made their way into political campaigns last year. In the end, new laws regulating campaign contributions may be passed. We may even have more public funding of campaigns.

Nothing will change. Politicians will continue selling political favors and violating the basic law of the land, the U.S. Constitution.

Campaign finance reform will not change a thing. Government control

of the marketplace does not produce the desired results even when the results we want are desirable.

That's right. There is a marketplace for political favors. This is a problem in all governments. It is particularly true of democracies.

Elected or appointed officials sell special favors. They treat some people differently than others either through the actual laws enacted or the way the laws are enforced. Buyers (that's the rest of us) bid for these special favors with our votes, campaign contributions or even bags of

unmarked bills.

As long as government has such great favors to sell, somebody will try to buy these favors. No law passed by Congress is going to stop it. If cash payments become illegal, illegal cash payments will be made.

Although it is not desirable for foreign special interests to buy special favors and treatment from politicians or political parties, that is not the problem. U.S. politicians have been selling political favors to all comers, foreign and domestic, for decades.

Most politicians campaign and govern with the stated goal of helping each of us at the expense of our

neighbors. To their credit, they do try to keep their promises by taking as much control of our lives as possible.



Rich Osness

What they are doing is entirely natural. They are responding to the marketplace. The voters demand. The politicians supply.

The politicians cannot solve the problem because we, the voters, are the problem. The problem is what we the voters demand.

Whether we pay for it with votes, campaign contributions or large numbers of unmarked bills in brown paper bags is immaterial.

The authors of the Constitution knew this was likely in any democracy. They went to great lengths to prevent it from happening. They greatly restricted the power of the federal government to grant special favors to the citizens.

The Constitution allows for national defense, a system of courts and the resolution of disputes between the states and nothing else. The voters (buyers) have created a demand for special advantages that have been supplied by the politicians (sellers).

Listen to the campaign speeches of political candidates. It's obvious they are selling.

It's only a problem if someone is buying. ■

Are Libertarians having an Impact on politics? Yes.

Tax reduction:

The Libertarian Party was instrumental in repealing the income tax in Alaska, and Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire were leaders in the fight to roll back higher business taxes.

Health care reform:

During the national debate over health care in 1993, the Libertarian Party released a comprehensive health care reform proposal which harnessed the power of the free market to reduce costs and increase consumer choice. The party also organized grassroots lobbying and public debates, and held private meetings with Congressmen to help turn the tide against any government takeover of America's health care system.

Choice in education:

The Libertarian Party has vigorously fought for free market reform in education to increase educational opportunities for all children. We've worked for referendums and sponsored legislation to return tax money to parents so they can choose the best school for their children - instead of being at the mercy of failing government schools.

Civil Liberties:

Libertarians are working to defend civil liberties. For example, a Libertarian State Representative in New Hampshire co-sponsored a bill to restrict the state's ability to seize property from people not convicted of any criminal offense.

On issue after issue, Libertarians are successfully defending the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, free trade, private charity, and individual liberty. ■

New federal child-care program is "Big Mother"

WASHINGTON, DC --

Hillary Clinton wants more children. Specifically, she wants your children, the Libertarian Party warned today.

"Forget about Big Brother watching you -- it's time to start worrying about Big Mother watching your kids," charged Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

"The First Lady wants to be the nation's Babysitter-In-Chief -- and she's not going to stop until she gets an army of government-paid, government-trained day-care bureaucrats taking care of America's children."

At last week's White House conference on child care, Bill and Hillary Clinton unveiled a new \$250 million federal program to "solve" the prob-

lem of day-care. It included taxpayer-financed scholarships for day-care workers and day-care subsidies for low-income parents.

While Hillary stopped short of endorsing a large-scale federal child care program, at least one of her guest experts at the conference advocated a \$100-billion-a-year, tax-subsidized federal day-care program.

"The 'Village' people are back," said Dasbach, referring to the coercive communitarianism espoused in Hillary's book, *It Takes a Village*. "Hillary and her friends seem to believe that a parent's love can be replaced by an army of government-trained day-care bureaucrats -- paid for with our tax dollars."

The White House conference was called to discuss possible solutions to

the problem of affordable day-care. According to a 1994 Census report, 13% of preschool children are cared for in day-care centers.

Dasbach acknowledged that child care costs - which average \$74 per week -- can pose a hardship for many working parents.

"But it's simply not fair for politicians to punish parents who stay at home with their kids by saddling them with other people's babysitting bills," he said. "And getting the federal government more involved in raising our children is not a responsible solution."

"After all, do we want government day-care centers that have the efficiency of the Department of Motor Vehicles; the compassion of the BATF; the reliability of the Post Office; and the customer service of the IRS?"

he asked.

Ironically, government can play a role in making child care more affordable, Dasbach said -- but not the way Hillary thinks.

"Politicians can make day-care bills disappear overnight for millions of American families simply by lowering our tax burden," he said. **"If the government quit seizing half of the average American family's income, millions of mothers or fathers who wanted to stay home to care for their children could afford to do so, instead of having to work."**

"It's perverse for the same government that caused this problem in the first place to offer to solve it by sending our children off to government day-care warehouses -- and making us pay for the privilege."

Dasbach acknowledged that despite his criticism, Hillary was right about one thing.

"Raising children sometimes does take a village," he said. "But it's the kind of village that we have already: Voluntary villages of families, friends, and neighbors who care for each others' children. In America's village, we don't need tax-subsidized compassion, federal baby-sitting diplomas, or Big Mother watching our kids." ■



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Are you a Self-Governor on PERSONAL issues?	20	10	0
• Military service should be voluntary. No draft.	Y	M	N
• Government should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet.	Y	M	N
• Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults.	Y	M	N
• Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.	Y	M	N
• Let peaceful people cross borders freely.	Y	M	N
PERSONAL Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

Are you a Self-Governor on ECONOMIC issues?	20	10	0
• Businesses and farms should operate without government subsidies.	Y	M	N
• People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.	Y	M	N
• Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal.	Y	M	N
• End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.	Y	M	N
• All foreign aid should be privately funded.	Y	M	N
ECONOMIC Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

How to use the Self-Government Compass:

Mark your PERSONAL score on the left and your ECONOMIC score on the right. See example: 20% Personal and 10% Economic. Now, follow the grid lines, until they meet at your political position. The compass measures self-gov. - 100, 80, 60, 40, 20, 0. Authoritarians are against both. For example: M. Thatcher, right; F.D. Roosevelt, left; Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson, top; Stalin and Hitler, bottom. Free info about libertarian ideas. Call self. 223-0995, metro. Or, 1-800-788-2660, in greater Minnesota. Or write: Libertarian Party of MN, P.O. Box 580774, Mpls., MN 55458-0774

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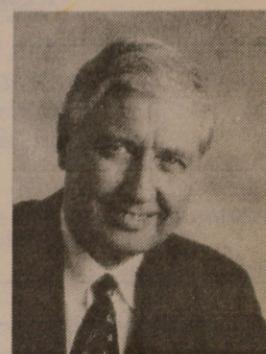
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